

Native Azalea Study Group

On November 3, 2013, under the auspices of the Azalea Chapter, American Rhododendron Society, an organizational meeting was held at the Alpharetta First United Methodist Church library at 2:00 p.m. The attendees were

Charlie Andrews
Reds Broadhead
Joe Coleman
Ken Gohring
J Jackson
Lindy Johnson

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss organizational issues relative to forming the study group. A study group concept paper had been prepared earlier and sent to members of the Azalea Chapter and some people who might be interested in participating.

It was a consensus of the participants of the organizational meeting that

1. The purpose of the study group is to further understanding of this group of plants for the benefit of all.
2. The scope of the study group will not be limited to native azaleas of Georgia or the Southeast, but continental in breadth, i.e., American azaleas.
3. Membership in the study group will not be limited to Azalea Chapter ARS members.
4. Meetings would not be the primary means of communication; two meeting a year may be sufficient. Business would normally be conducted via email and Internet forum. Members may participate from all over the globe.
5. The members present at this first organizational meeting would function as the initial steering committee.
6. Study will be organized by projects. Projects could include field studies, lab studies, literature research, methodology, surveys/interviews, etc. Each project must be limited (not open ended) with specific objectives. Subsequent follow-up projects can carry the research further.
7. Any member can submit a project proposal. On a periodic basis, received project proposals will be sent to study group members for obtaining each member's recommended priorities. With this member input and as resources allow, the steering committee will approve projects to implement. Each approved project will have a project manager responsible for managing the implementation of the project.
8. Project proposals (one page) must define the goal, related projects, and specific objectives.
9. Before approval can be given, required resources and budget estimates must be determined for the project.
10. For approved projects the next step is a project plan, identifying the project manager, primary participants, tasks, schedule, and deliverables.
11. Certain projects may be placed at the top of the initial project list because the output from them would be crucial to future projects. These include developing a generic data

collection methodology, a digital imagery plan, documentation methodology, and a plant and site database.

12. Study group information and data will be available on the new (coming soon) Azalea Chapter website (if in digital form and with no copyright restrictions, of course). Results from the study group may be presented in articles, reports, pamphlets, identification guides, programs, seminars, and conferences.

A handout for the study group, slightly updated with name corrections and added project ideas brought up at the meeting is attached. About forty project ideas were discussed. Many ideas may involve more than one project (e.g., plant distribution). These ideas must be reviewed and broken down into separate projects.

Participants, if you find errors or omissions in these meeting minutes, please let me know.

Next steps? Some sort of charter document. Initial project proposals.

Charlie Andrews
acting secretary

encl: meeting handout, updated