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President's Letter

Robert W. Hobbs

You have all heard many "good news—bad news" stories I'm sure. In this case the good news is really good—as a Society we are moving ahead. First, at the May 19 Annual Meeting, the new by-laws were approved unanimously. These revised by-laws, which were summarized in the December 1989 issue of **THE AZALEAN** are intended to make the Society more responsive to the membership and to simplify the management structure of the Society. The new by-laws provide for direct election of officers by the membership at large and for a two-year term for the officers. Furthermore, the office of Chairman of the Board of Governors is eliminated, and the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are specified as members of the Board. Under the new by-laws the functions of the Chairman of the Board of Governors are included as functions of the President. The new by-laws will become effective at the Annual Meeting in the spring of 1991.

Second, the annual award for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN** has been established by donations from three chapters (see *ASA News* in this issue). Funds are still needed to bring the annual monetary award to the desired value, but we are definitely on our way.

Third, several national projects are being considered by the Board including establishing a formal test program for azalea cultivars (new and old). More details will follow in the report of the Board of Governors meeting in the September issue (which will feature the May 1990 convention).

But now some news which is not as good. Our current membership does not reflect the growth for which we had hoped when we set our goals last year. Some slowing of growth was to be expected following our dues increase for 1990. However, such a slowing in growth, with the help of all members, can be a very short-lived phenomenon. After all, gardening is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States. I wish to issue the challenge to all ASA members to reach out to neighbors, friends, fellow gardeners and horticultural professionals to convince them that they should belong to the Azalea Society of America. If each one of us could bring in just one new member our membership would double! Please accept the challenge. □

On the Cover: Satsuki 'Amagasa'
Photographer: George S. Switzer

Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of the series *Azalea* (subgenus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the *Heath* family (Ericaceae).

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Named Satsuki Sports

Malcolm Clark

Southern Pines, North Carolina

Several ASA members have requested a list of Satsuki sports and the following is a preliminary response based solely on the first line of the descriptions in the "Large Dictionary" (3-1/4-in. x 5-3/4-in., + 850 cultivars). This seems to be the standard reference both here and in Japan. Occasional discrepancies with other sources have not been resolved at this time.

Putting this list together fortunately required no understanding of the language, just accuracy in matching sets of symbols in the first line of the text with those in the index, then turning to the given page for the transliteration. In only two cases is the base plant not in the index, and then only the "Wa" of Wako requires "outside help".

In this listing sports are simply indented after the base cultivar. In the extreme case 'Sakura no Homare' is a sport of 'Sakura Kagami' is a sport of 'Meikyo' is a sport of 'Shinkyo' is a sport of 'Yata no Kagami'. Base plants are followed by dots out to the page number to help keep one's place. As a base plant 'Kozan' is "the champ" with an intimidating 33 cultivars being derived from it. The point of the list is to offer a helping hand and to that end let me pass on some personal experiences with it together with a few tentative summary judgments.

I believe that our true-to-name/label troubles remain serious. Though some progress has been made it is still prudent for the serious collector to be skeptical of all labels, including his own. In the present case a mainly inaccessible foreign language greatly increases the risk, e.g., one wrong letter often gives the name of a very different cultivar. Even kindly Japanese who are less than expert in this narrow field occasionally cross us up. Add to this that the plants themselves are often quite variable, put it all in the context of our own true-to-name history, and one can almost expect disaster. As a defense I am forced to believe that the Japanese authorities do have these plants perfectly straight and my main operating rule is "if it doesn't look like their picture(s), e.g., fit their description, get it out of the pile and negate the label". Strict application of this rule has divided my recent assemblage of about 4,000 Satsukis under some 500 names roughly 70:30 (30% of labels incorrect, ed.). The truth is probably 60:40 for in too many cases I have no Japanese picture/description to go by. There is also a pile of obviously bogus/impossible names, but these are mostly one of a kind and the pile does not exceed 50 plants. Finally, dreamer that I am, there is a pile of 30 or so wonderful things with no label at all.

The list of sports offered here has not much changed the above partition, but it has provided what seems a reliable source for filling some piles emptied by it. Let me give a few examples.

- (1) A large pile of 'Kagetsu' and its Muji (self) was emptied under the above rule. 'Haru Gasumi' bailed me out with a husky reversion branch just like the 'Kagetsu' pictures. (The "not Kagetsu" pile contains at least four seemingly unrelated things. One of these is like plants under the label "Glenn Dale Progress", but to label them as such opens a different can of worms.)
- (2) 'Aikoku' pile: four things, all wrong. Here unpoliced "normal" leaves on 'Shira Fuji' provide a good source of cuttings (See (7) below.)

(How can these two otherwise common plants be all wrong in my garden only?)

- (3) 'Honen': two types, both wrong. Reversion on 'Mansaku' to the rescue. ('Hoko #1' also occur occasionally.)

- (4) A large pile of the important 'Nikko', all alike and very pale. Certainly no jiai (dark stripes on light pink). (I believe these to be 'Kozan' itself.) Fortunately both 'Aoi' and 'Sachi no Hana' occasionally revert with the latter, the safer cutting source for 'Nikko'.
- (5) Twenty or so large 'Meikyo' with no fleck on any flower. Genetically correct, perhaps technically admissible, my best source of "proper" 'Meikyo' cuttings is still a reversion branch on 'Sakura Kagami'.

Occasionally I have found things that weren't supposed to be out there, but this is more dangerous.

- (6) 'Hikari' reversion to white, etc., has to be 'Soko'. ('Hikari' must, of course, have been correct in the first place.)

Finally there are some simple corrections:

- (7) 'Shira Fuji' with only picotee flowers is 'Murasaki Fuji'. Solids should develop light centers with age, but its 'Murasaki' in any case. (With normal leaves it should be 'Shugetsu', not 'Aikoku'.)
- (8) "Pink Joga" is reversion to 'Izayoi', not something new.

Et cetera!

This sort of thing only makes a dent in my own troubles. Shiko here remain muji not jiai, shirofukurin ("sekidera") abound to the point of distaste and the already large "not" pile continues to grow. Hopefully, your own situation is better than mine. In any case, this list of sports should be of use to many. Keep in mind, however, that it too, may not be free of errors. Please report any you find and we'll try another compilation.

I hope that you will find this information as useful as it has been for me, and please, report any errors you find.

Satsuki Sports

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Malcolm Clark is a former president of the Azalea Society of America and is currently a member of the Board of Governors. A former public school teacher, he currently owns and operates Chandler Gardens, a nursery specializing in azaleas. □

Notes on My Azalea Growing Experiences

George W. Harding

(Recorded and Transcribed by Ryon Page)

Over the past several years I have had the pleasure of visiting, at intervals, with the late Mr. George W. Harding, of Germantown, Maryland. On such occasions we strolled through his gardens, lunched at his favorite restaurant, and chatted about anything and everything, including azaleas.

In late June, 1989 I talked at length with him about his azalea gardens, recording his observations based on years of azalea growing and experimentation. We walked systematically through his Bicentennial Garden, making notes on the characteristics and "history" of each azalea. A few days later, to put the notes in perspective, we followed up with a broader review of his experiences. This article is the result, with the latter review presented first. It was our intent to do the same with his other two gardens, in late winter or early spring, to pass along information about other varieties.

Although he still enjoyed his gardens in July 1989, eyesight problems limited George's gardening activities. The same difficulty interfered with writing. He and I worked together toward documenting his azalea experiences. He has given generously of his time to make this article possible.

With the exception of height and width estimates of the plants, the account is in George's own words, with only such editing as he would have done for himself in different circumstances. Interim versions were read to him for needed adjustments, to arrive at the finished product.

The estimates of plant sizes are mine. Incidentally, George thought me too generous in a number of these. However, for the sake of others whose knowledge of plant sizes may be as limited as my own I have persuaded him to include the figures. The reader is free to scale down any heights or widths that seem overly robust.

For those who are not directly acquainted with Mr. Harding, we cite something of his background in the horticultural world.

Entering Government service as a horticulturist, he rose to become Chief of Maintenance, National Capitol Parks, in charge of laying out and caring for the plantings. Much of the structure of plantings on the White House grounds, and that of other parks, small and large, in the Washington area, were established by Mr. Harding during his 28 years of service. He retired in 1959, having earned The Distinguished Service Award, the highest that the Department of the Interior could bestow.

Upon retiring, he operated a nursery at his estate, near Germantown. In retirement he remained highly active in horticultural circles, with an interest in a wide range of trees and shrubs but with emphasis on azaleas and the rest of the rhododendron family. A collector rather than a hybridizer, Mr. Harding was one of the foremost azalea experts in the country.

Ryon Page
Silver Spring, Maryland

I look at my garden as three. The first was the Old Garden, and the things around the house, which we did in 1965. There were roughly 750 different varieties at that time, the plants averaging ten to twelve years old. The second garden I always referred to as the Nixon garden. In 1974 we planted 200 varieties, which included the Satsukis. Primarily they were in long straight rows, above and to the west of the old garden. The Bicentennial Garden was started in 1976, and has more than 500 varieties not previously used.

The elevation here is approximately 550 feet, with the land sloping to the north and east. The soil is heavy clay, with some rock in it; hostile land, it is called. My friends told me that I should not put azaleas here, but I didn't pay any attention to them.

The greenhouse was built—I don't know what year, probably between 1968 and 1970. Most of it is still there. I have used it primarily for propagation.

The lath house, 70' x 80', was built over a plot where plants from the old place had been heeled in. We had quite a time getting sufficient lumber to finish it. After buying all the 2-inch stripping we could find in Montgomery County, we had to go to Alexandria for enough to finish the job.

The lath house has served its purpose. I depreciated it for 20 years. Almost exactly 20 years later it just caved in. When it did cave in there were hundreds of azaleas in there, mostly small ones. And I just let Azalea Society members come out and help themselves. Quite a few of the members did, but they were never able to get everything out. Now that space has grown up mostly in blackberries and poison ivy.

The major collections in the lath house were Back Acres, Greenwoods and Satsukis. Of the Back Acres, 51 or 52 were named and about another 60 numbered, the latter largely out of Corrine Murrah's garden, in Memphis, part of an attempt to preserve some of Ben Morrison's plants which he never named.

The Greenwoods, given to me as 15" plants by Ronnie Palmer, included

69 varieties. It seemed that these plants deserved a sound test in the Washington area.

The Satsukis on hand included about 150 which were there as a back-up to the Brookside Gardens efforts with cuttings brought from Japan by Barry Yinger in 1978 and 1979, and some 150 varieties that I had previously collected. I planted the Brookside cuttings in two beds, in a small space, and never got around to spreading them out as they grew. By the mid-1980s they were closely packed.

All of these plants I got out before the lath house caved in. The Brookside Satsukis I gave to David Sauer. The Back Acres I gave to Malcolm Clark, who carried them to North Carolina. Some of the Greenwoods I planted in the '76 Garden, and quite a few of them right around the house here. Several of the white ones were left in the lath house.

There were odds and ends, all sorts of collected plants, in there. For five years my good friends insisted on bringing me plants that I didn't have. But I had reached the stage where I couldn't read my labels and couldn't do the work to take care of them. Some of these the club members salvaged.

In some ways it is sad to see these things deteriorate, but in other ways you have to look at it from the standpoint that you did enjoy them when you had them. They are reminders of that enjoyment. Some say, "Oh, it must make you sick to see this die, or that die." I say, "No. I had fun with them, enjoyed them."

And often times those that died just made room for others to develop better. If you have collected as many plants as I have, over 1500, many will have died. I tried everything I could get my hands on. Some just weren't hardy enough for this situation. You get reconciled to the fact that not everything is going to live.

If you have a garden similar to mine, your observations and comments are based on your experience, on your land, and in your climate. You can't be an expert for people who live a hundred miles away, or

even for some that live 20 miles away, because climatic conditions differ.

One of the pleasures out of my azalea experience is the many good friends I have made, and the wonderful arguments we have had over whether this name was correct, or that one correct. Someone would say: "My plant down in Richmond doesn't look like the one you have here." I would say: "I know this is correct because I got it from Mrs. Murrah, (or from Mr. Morrison, or another recognized expert)." The answer would come back: "But I got mine from an expert too!" We have had some very interesting debates as to whether our names were correct or not.

Along that line I always think of old Joe Gable. I knew him for quite a few years, but I never knew him to be positive in his identification of anything. He was a mild-mannered fellow. He would say, with a twinkle in his eye: "Well I think this is so-and-so!" If someone tried to argue with him on the point he would listen very patiently, then say: "Well, I don't know, but I think this is so-and-so!" It takes a smart man to realize that you can't be right all the time.

Of the numbers he had, and of course many of them were named, like the Glenn Dales, there was only slight variation in some of them. In cases like this, once you've lost the label you've lost it.

I never would change a label when a question arose and when it was reasonable to suppose that the name was correct. I would add to it. Someone else could come along and say: "Oh, this is not right." Quite often I have found that I was right to start with.

Malcolm Clark and I have had some arguments on Back Acres, along with Dave Sauer. Dave and I have convinced him that many Back Acres are just not fixed, in form of flower, or even in color. Morrison described blotches in some of those with margins and white centers; and quite often you might find that it had the blotch once but didn't have it later.

Temperature has a lot to do with the type of flower you get on any of the Back Acres, particularly the doubles. All of his double Back Acres range from a full, formal double, which he described, to a common, five-petal, single flower. I could take one of them described as a double, and up here it might never flower for me as other than a five-petal single flower, with maybe an occasional petaloid, whereas down at Richmond the same plant would produce the described form.

Among the Glenn Dales, 'Wildfire', probably one of the loveliest orange colors of flowers I've ever seen, was killed back here every winter. And the strangest thing with it! I have an old friend, I don't know if she is still living or not, at Hagerstown, Maryland. I went to see her collection one time. Her plants were in an open field, similar to my planting here except that the ground was level. She had been interested in azaleas for many years, and started off with Kurumes.

She got her Kurumes up, some of them, six and eight feet tall. She started planting Glenn Dales. She got a 'Wildfire' of hers to a six-foot spread and five feet tall. It was in a wind-swept situation, except for companion azaleas around it. I couldn't understand why she could grow it up there and I couldn't grow it here. I still have a stub of one, 30 years old and maybe 18 inches tall. It has now been smothered out by other plants.

I had at one time over 400 of the Glenn Dales. I searched, literally, all over the country for them. I was able to get quite a few that the Arboretum no longer had, and shared them there.

We are not sure of having the right thing as 'Tanager'. I've never been able to find one. We had a bunch of them down at McCrillis' place that were labeled 'Tanager', but they weren't 'Tanager'. They were a different red.

I had peculiar experiences with Glenn Dales described as white with stripes and sectors, either pink or lavender sectors. They tended to be very tender in the lath house as cuttings or small plants. I put them as small

cuttings in the lath house, and got them up, in spite of everything, to maybe 18 inch plants. They would kill back or the buds would blast every year. I was disgusted with them, and in the '76 garden I said, well, I'll put them in the full sun and if they die they die. Almost without exception they survived, and did much better fully exposed to the sun.

'Cinderella' was one I could never do anything with. I tried it under all sorts of conditions and never had any luck with it. One plant got large enough that I got a gorgeous slide of the flowers on it. But the plant itself was always very poor. 'Bettina' was another problem. It wouldn't die, but it wouldn't do anything.

'Helen Fox' has been very difficult to grow here. Dr. Magruder said it was a weed, and would grow eight feet tall in a hurry. I still have the stub of one, but the bluegrass has taken it over. It never grew like 'Surprise' and another similar to it. I don't see any color in 'Treasure'. It has been quite successful up here, has grown well.

'Glacier' has been poor here—bud tender. And in the years when it did flower, the foliage tended to hide the blossoms. An interesting experience I had with that one: I went to buy a collection from Al Reid. Al was showing me around the place. Out in front there was a plant three or four-foot tall, with a five-foot spread. He said: "This is one of the parents of some of my plants." He called it 'Glacier'. I said: "Al, there is no way that's 'Glacier'. I haven't seen this in bloom, but I would guess it is 'Treasure'." He said: "Well I'll be darned! All these years people have been up here looking at this thing and I tell them it's 'Glacier', and no body has ever argued with me." I made a positive statement that it could not be that. We think it turned out to be 'Treasure'.

'Helen Close' is a gorgeous thing, but it's slow in making up to a plant. You can have it around for 20 years before you come to appreciate it. But as a small plant it's just lost in the shuffle as another white. It is very compact; would be an ideal plant for a small garden. Dr. Magruder recommended it very highly. But nobody grew it, and you couldn't find it.

Nobody has ever come up with a 'Meteor' that was petaloidy. The book describes it that way. I think that's entirely a weather situation. I haven't contacted anyone in the South who has grown it, to find out if it has petaloids there. Certainly in this area, and in the Norfolk area, nobody has the described form of 'Meteor'.

The Glenn Dales can change color. 'Zephyr' is described as a white, multi-striped lavender, with heavy sanding of purple, and my original stock plant was of the described form. I took some cuttings from it when I moved over here, and for ten years it was a solid lavender, no white in it. I talked with Henry Skinner about it. He said: "Oh, you shouldn't be surprised at that. On these striped flowers the whole plant can go solid. They never come back." I said to myself: "Well, Henry, I'm not going to believe that. My experience differs from yours in that respect." For 12 years this plant was solid color, and for three years it threw a branch of the prescribed form. I have been watching it now for three years. The prescribed form has occurred only on one branch. I think the weather has something to do with. The described form is often not completely hardy. It dies back and the sport, or whatever you call it, takes over.

Several of the Glenn Dales are that way. 'Moirá', is described as white with red stripes. My plant of it was red, all the time I had it. Agnes Gatreux came out one day. She looked at the plant and said: "I know what that plant is!" And a few years later it did throw the white with stripes in it, right in the top of the plant! That part froze out.

'Delight' is supposed to be white with striping. My plant has gone solid purple, and has been that way for quite a while.

'Martha Hitchcock', when it's young, will have a solid flower. After that it develops a white center, and as far as I know retains that form. There are two or three others that as small plants produce solid color lavender flowers, but with age get white centers. Some of them will alternate from year to year, from solid to a white

center. 'Bold-face' is one. One of the outstanding doubles that Morrison produced was 'Kenwood'. It always produced a double flower.

The Glenn Dales are now some 30 years old. 'Temptation', 'Chloe', 'Dream', 'Ambrosia' are good. 'Marionette' has an exceptional flower, a beautiful thing. 'Red Bird' is unusual in that the top bloom on the plant always freezes. The plant gets up to three or four feet tall, and makes sort of a flat top.

In the above, and in the associated listing of individual plants, I have mentioned the Glenn Dales only as they occurred in the Bicentennial Garden. The Old Garden and Nixon Garden, which were planted predominantly in Glenn Dales, will be covered in a later article.

Almost without exception, the Gables are hardy. A few of them not only are not hardy, but are poor plants. One is 'Rosebud'. Gable told me at one time that there was not a real 'Rosebud' left in the country, that it was such a weak, poor plant that he doubted that it had survived. Neil Campbell had one. It was a poor sick thing and never amounted to anything. He gave it me to see if I could do anything with it. It lasted two years here, and died.

There is a plant sold as 'Rosebud', but it is not the real 'Rosebud'. There are two others, 'Lorna' and 'Cameo', that are similar.

There are non-hardy Gables that were introduced by other people, not Gable himself. He would send a flat of small plants to someone who might give one or more of them a name. I have several of them in my garden that are hose-in-hose, some of them double, pink, red, or rose color. They are all borderline cases, not Gable's first class types. One that I've heard has a reputation for being tender was 'Swan'. I don't know whether Gable named that or not. Up here it has been perfectly hardy.

I think Gable was the outstanding producer of hardy azaleas in the United States. Morrison produced more showy flowers, and more variety of colors; but for someone in this climate who is not too persnickety on shades of color the Gables are good.

I had 69 varieties of Greenwoods. This group offered to fill a gap here between the April and the mid-season bloomers. Most of them I grew in the lath house until they got to 24 or 30 inches. One that stands out, in my opinion, is 'Su-Lin', a deep red that compares in color with Harris' 'Rain-fire'. The second set of petals projects beyond the first set. It seems to be an upright plant.

'Showboat' has been good, as have 'Showtime', and 'Cheri'. Another outstanding one of the group is 'Linda Jean', a pink, double. The plant is very compact, a slow grower, and one that could be placed with 'Helen Close', for instance.

The Greenwoods, in flower size, are between the Kurumes and the Chisolm-Merritts. They are beautiful flowers; though as with other groups, lots of them are similar. But we are spoiled in this part of the country by the Back Acres, the Robin Hills, and such, with so many exotic flowers.

I got the Greenwoods partly because I was interested in their parentage. Without exception, the parents are ironclad hardy plants. But most of them, for me, were not nearly as bud hardy as their parents.

As to hardiness generally, if you put a plant out too small it is likely to have trouble. I get them to about 18 inches or more, then put them out in the garden.

People will ask: "How come you can grow some up here that I can't grow. I can't grow 'Opal', or I can't grow 'Hardy Gardenia'". Those people get cuttings or very small plants, stick them out in the garden, and the small plants just can't take it. They don't have space like I have had.

You have two systems. Mike, in his greenhouse with plastic over it and shade over that has one situation. Practically any plant, and young rooted cuttings, will survive the coldest of winters. This includes three-inch pots. We have had them in his cold frames over there with no heat at all. He lost maybe 20%; but the balance of them took off and did all right.

There is no group that you could pick out that tended to die more than others. We would make cuttings from

the 10th of June until December. Well, that's under protection; most anything will survive.

For the other situation, you can take the same size plant and put it in a cold frame, two feet into the ground, with some cover and a little shade, and for most winters you get a good survival rate.

A plant like 'Martha Hitchcock', a Glenn Dale, you could put out when six inches high, in the sun, and it would thrive. Others will just die. The Linwoods need to grow good roots before going into the ground. Here they need to be at least 18"; they can't be put out as tiny plants. The complaints I have heard from people about their hardiness all go back to the fact that they just planted them too small.

When you take plants out of a pit and put them in the lath house, generally speaking, most of them survive—except, the Belgian Indians and Indicum. Most of those wouldn't take it. I would buy three-foot and four-foot plants of the Southern Indians. Those would last for two or three years and then die. There are only three that I can recall off-hand that survive and do well; 'Criterion' was one.

I had an interesting experience with regard to fertilizer. Art Johnson, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, apparently could use it freely. Once when I was there he wrapped up a plant of 'Linda Jean' in burlap and put it in the back of my car. I said: "Art, this isn't going to live. I'm going on to the West Coast from here."

When he pulled it out of the ground, I guess a pint of osmocote dropped off the bottom of it. He could put a shovelful of osmocote under a plant when he planted it and never have a bit of trouble. His plants were above ground, in mulch. Once home, I shook out the pellets as best I could and planted the thing. It survived! It's hard to draw conclusions.

As to Polly Hill's plants, up here 'Evergreen', 'Gunjo' and 'Yuka', did very well. I got them from Covington Nursery. Most everything else I got of hers just wouldn't take it, even in the lath house. They seemed to develop only when overgrown by other

plants. I got them as cuttings and grew them into good sized plants before setting them out to the elements. I suspect it was the clay; they seem to prefer sandy soil. Some of her creepers did survive, but bloomed sparsely.

The Shammarellos seemed to be slow in making, up in the garden. A plant in a gallon container, maybe an eight-inch plant, took three or four years to make up its mind to do something. But once they got started they were good, slow-growing plants. 'Elsie

Lee' is a good one. This is the first time in all the years that it has been without flowers. 'Helen Curtis' is a flop up here.

The Girards are usually pretty good. I think I already mentioned that 'Girard's Rose' was good.

A general observation: As to blossoms fading in the sun, I believe that some of the reputation for this is not deserved. If there is a shower followed by bright sun, anything will fade.

Notes on Individual Plants

George W. Harding

Recorded and Transcribed by Ryon Page

Those who have walked through the Harding gardens may wish to follow the route which was used in recording the notes on the individual plants which will appear in a later issue. For this reason, we show in Table 1 the plants in the order that they appeared on the tape recording. Read downward in column 1, to the top of column 2, etc.

The conclusion of this article including each individual plant description will be continued in the September 1990 AZALEAN. □

Table 1

'Tracy White'	429-49-1	'Cleopatra'
'La Roche'	'Mary Blaine'	'Templar'
'Mildred Mae'	41-54-5	'Pink Boudoir'
'Old Faithful'	'Margaret Douglas'	'Radiance'
'Snowwhite'	250-49-3	'Epilogue'
'Stewartstonian'	'River Mist'	'Meteor'
'La Lumiere'	'Signal'	'James Gable'
'Pink Rosette'	'Springtime'	'Satrap', sport
'Girard's White'	'Pink'	'Rising Sun'
'Pink Rosette'	'Hino Supreme'	'Cawtaba'
'Linda'	'Swan'	'Mother of Pearl'
'Cherry Spot'	'Improved Poukhanense'	'Felicity'
T-24-2	'Poukhanense'	'Momo Zono'
T-17-2	'Linwood Lavender'	No. 31
'Madrigal'	'Linwood Lustre'	'Puck'
T-39-6	'Progress'	No. 8
'Ruth May'	'Garden State Red'	'Cinnabar'
T-45-9	'Garden State White'	'Sandra Ann'
'Palmyra'	'Mrs. Edward Boehm'	'Crenalin'
'Lillie Maude'	'Garden State Glow'	'H. W. Anderson'
'Little Beauty'	'Garden State Pink'	'Oshidori'
'Spring Bonnet'	'Garden State White'	'Sara Holden'
'Habanera'	'Giant Pink'	'Christie'
'Corinne Murrah'	'Tiny'	'Lady Robin'
'Silver Bay'	'Peach Fuzz'	'Argosy'
'Debonaire'	'Opal'	'Goblin'
'Cayenne'	'Parfait'	'Juneglow'
'Coralie' ?	'Garden State Pink'	'Girard's Rose'
'Dolores K'	'Hardy Gardenia'	T-28-1
'Extravaganza'	'Slim Jim'	'May Belle'
'Frosted Orange'	'Louise Gable'	'Grace Freeman'
'Pride of Lawrenceville'	'Betty Ann Voss'	'Hexe De Saffalere'
166-49-8	'Kenwood'	'Kozan'
'Ivory'	'Fedora'	'Shosho No Haru'
166-49-8	'Celestial'	

One of the Interesting "Azalea People" I Have Met

John U. Rochester
Franklinton, Louisiana

My travels to different parts of the country seeking azaleas has brought me in contact with some very interesting people. One of these persons I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know was Ivan Anderson, a colleague and close friend of the hybridizer Ben Morrison. It was during my search for the Back Acre azaleas and my association with Gus Elmer, an azalea enthusiast, that the opportunity presented itself.

Gus realized my sincere interest in this hybrid group and suggested that I go see Ivan Anderson the next time I was in the Pass Christian vicinity. He would arrange for a meeting and give me directions to Ivan's place.

About two weeks later I was to be in the area and decided to call Ivan to see if I could meet with him. Back Acres is located north of the small town of Pass Christian, Mississippi, just south of Interstate 10. I later found out Ivan was an only child and had come to live with his father at Back Acres when he left the Washington, D.C., area. Ivan was in ill health and decided to recuperate on the farm. He liked it so much that he decided to stay. After his father's death, he inherited the estate called Back Acres.

Ivan was a landscaper when he lived in Washington, D.C., and he knew Ben Morrison at that time. They became close friends and when Ben retired he went to Ivan's to continue his hybridization program. Ben introduced these new hybrids and he called the group "Back Acres". Ben established a nursery at Back Acres but decided to discontinue it a few years later.

I arrived at Ivan's early one summer morning, and a tall rather slim elderly man greeted me. I assumed he was in his 70's but surprised when he later told me he was 83. He had difficulty breathing and suffered from emphysema. Due to his condition he could not talk for any length of time. We went into his home, stopped in the living room, and settled into a comfortable chair. Ivan immediately started telling me of his association with Ben Morrison. As Ivan was talking, I noticed one whole wall of the room was shelves from floor to ceiling with quite an assortment of books and journals. I asked if this was Ben's library. Ivan replied that it was both Ben's and his material but over 80% was Ben's. I fingered through the many books ranging in topics from music and languages to botanical and scientific journals. I was impressed, to say the least, and felt as though I was in another world.

I thought, what a treasure this would be for the Society if Ivan would see fit to donate the library after his death! Gus told me later that he discussed this matter with Ivan and had the feeling he would consent to it. Unfortunately, Gus passed away several months later and nothing had been settled concerning the fate of the library. I saw Ivan only twice after Gus's death and only for a short time. Ivan hadn't decided on how he would dispose of the library when I asked him about it on my last visit with him. I've often wondered what became of the library now that Ivan is gone.

Ivan's special interest was mushrooms and he showed me much of the material he had collected through the years. Ivan was also a good photographer. We later viewed the many slides he had taken of Ben's plants through the years. It was the first time I had seen many of the Back Acres azaleas in flower. In the collection was a picture of 'Lost Chord', a Back Acre azalea no one seems to have these days. Ivan later consented to let the Azalea Society of America make copies of the Back Acre slides and these are in the Society's library today.

I could see he was tiring and didn't want to overdo my first visit. Accordingly, I made arrangements to come back later. Even at the age of 83, Ivan was still alert and had an uncanny memory of past events. I asked if he would consent to my taping our next interview. He agreed and we set a date for my return.

On my next visit we toured the yard and gardens which at one time had been very well maintained. Hurricane Camille did quite a bit of damage to the large pecan trees that lined the vista in the garden. There were only two left, the rest had been blown down. I have several slides that Ivan had given me showing the vista with all the original Back Acre hybrids in full bloom. The shade cover for the azaleas was the huge pecan trees which are now gone.

It was obvious there were very few azaleas in the garden. I asked what had become of the original plants. "It's quite a story", he said, "Let's go back to the house for some refreshments and I'll tell you about the fate of the original Back Acres." I turned the tape player on and he proceeded to tell me the story of Sarah Groves and the azalea plants. Sarah Groves was a lady of means from

northern Georgia who bought the complete collection of original Back Acre azalea plants from Ivan and Ben's sister. Most of these stock plants did not survive the less than favorable conditions under which they were moved and transplanted. I could tell from his comments he was very disappointed in the outcome. If he had it to do over, he never would have sold the plants to her.

During our conversation, Ivan talked about how he had helped nurse and care for the original seedlings of the Back Acres. These were sent to him by Ben before Ben finally moved to Pass Christian. From this, I gathered the crosses had been made when Ben was still in the Washington, D.C., area. Ivan also talked, and I have it on tape, of why Morrison named certain Glenn Dales as well as Back Acres after women. It seems the wealthy widows donated funds to the American Horticultural Society and to stay in their graces, he named plants after them. He told of 'Martha Hitchcock' and the reason behind naming that azalea. Ivan didn't really appreciate Mrs. Hitchcock. He had a run in with her over a landscape job, and there was no love lost between them after the incident.

At lunch-time we drove over to Gulfport, met a friend of Ivan's and all had lunch together. Dan, Ivan's friend, invited us to see his garden and the recent plantings he had made. His garden was too small for the many plants he had put in. I know in the future as they grow he is going to have problems. Dan came back with us to Back Acres. During the conversation, Ivan mentioned that Dan had Ben's diaries and was reviewing them with the possibility of writing some articles about them for **THE AZALEAN**. Dan was a member of the Society at that time, had good

intentions, but never followed through with them. I often wonder what became of the diaries after Ivan's death.

I visited with Ivan on two other occasions, making tapes of our conversations and also making cuttings of the few remaining azaleas in the gardens. Ivan could identify a few, but the name tags were gone on most. I took cuttings of all the azaleas in the gardens, named as well as unnamed. These azaleas are now in my garden and I treasure their having come from Ben's stock plants.

Ben had named one of the Back Acres after his friend Ivan. The only Back Acre azalea on the place was a plant of 'Ivan Anderson'. It was near the front entrance and was given to Ivan by Gus Elmer. Gus Elmer knew Ben Morrison very well at the time Morrison was living at Ivan's. In fact the Back Acres Gus had in his collection came from the original plants in Morrison's garden.

Several times afterwards I tried calling Ivan but never could catch him home. A year passed and I regretted that I hadn't visited with him more often. Having a nursery of my own, I'm quite busy and don't get away as much as I'd like.

You tend to put things off that later you wish you hadn't. I got a call from a friend of mine in Gulfport saying that Ivan had passed away. The place was later sold and fenced off with "Keep Out" signs. I have no knowledge of who the new owner is but believe them to be absentee wanting privacy.

I have the slides Ivan gave me, along with the tapes of my interviews with him. These mementos remind me of yet another person I've met who also liked azaleas as much as I do. □

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Azalea News

Azaleas Wanted

Mr. Dino Joseph Drudi is looking for azalea 'Dr. E. A. Merritt' (also known as 'China'). If you have this available please contact Mr. Drudi at 938 Perry Place, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Mr. Ajit K. Thakur of 7723 Viceroy Street, Springfield, VA 22151 is looking for the following:

- (1) R. rubropilosum
- (2) R. Kaempferi (June-July blooming form)
- (3) R. Kaempferi (hose/hose-Komatsu)
- (4) Akita Shibori (Satsuki)
- (5) Rinpu (Satsuki)
- (6) R. tashiroi □

Rhododendron and Azalea Cultivars-Disease Susceptibility and Resistance

The following list was provided by Ethel M. Dutky, Department of Botany, University of Maryland in conjunction with a talk that she presented at a meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

A. Rhododendron hybrids:

Resistant to *Phytophthora Root Rot
Caroline
Martha Isaacson
Professor Hugo de Vries
Red Head

Moderately Resistant to *Phytophthora Root Rot

Brick Dust
Broughtonii Aureum
Disca
Dr. A. Bloik
Dr. Arnold W. Endtz
English Roseum
Lucky Strike

Madame Carvalho
Mrs. A. T. de la Mave
Mrs. C. B. Van Nes
Prize
Bosley Dexter 1020
Rocket (Shammarello)
Wilbrit Van Veen

B. Azalea Cultivars:

Good Resistance to *Phytophthora Root Rot

Formosa	(I)	Chimes	(I)
Fakir	(GD)	Alaska	(R)
Merlin	(GD)	New White	(I)
Corrine Murrah	(BA)	Shinkigen	(S)
Hampton Beauty	(P)	Rachel Cunningham	(BA)
Higasa	(S)	Pink Gumpo	(S)
Glacier	(GD)	Eikan	(S)
Rose Greeley	(G)	Sweetheart Supreme	(P)
Polar Seas	(GD)	Pink Supreme	(I)
Redwing	(I)	Morning Glow	(K)
**Fred Cochran	(N)	White Gish	(R)
Barbara Gail	(P)	White Gumpo	(S)
Rentschler's Rose	(W)	Dorothy Gish	(R)
Pink Hiawatha	(P)	Margaret Douglas	(BA)
Gaiety	(GD)	Gloria	(R)
Kingfisher	(W)	White Christmas	(W)
Sensation	(P)	Prince of Orange	(I)
White Jade	(BA)	Copperman	(GD)
Hexe	(K)	Massasoit	(K)
Martha Hitchcock	(GD)	China Seas	(I)
Warbler	(W)	California Sunset	(I)
Amaghasa	(S)	Pride of Summerville	(I)
Hindodegri	(K)	Flanders Field	(P)

Highly Susceptible to *Phytophthora Root Rot

Robin Hood	(GD)	Hershey Red	(K)
Herbert	(G)	Fortune	(P)
Catawba	(GD)	Marion Lee	(BA)
Snow	(K)	Royalty	(G)
Kow-Koku	(S)	Rosebud	(G)
Mrs. G. G. Gerbing	(I)	Coral Bells	(K)
Treasure	(GD)	Pat Kraft	(BA)
Saint James	(BA)	Carror	(N)
Purple Sendor	(G)	Pinocchio	(GD)
General MacArthur	(K)	Pink Pearl	(K)
Johga	(S)	Sunglow	(N)
Hino Crimson	(K)	Elaine	(N)
Emily	(N)	Pink Cloud	(N)
Adelaide Pope	(N)	Jane Spaulding	(N)

* = Root rot caused by the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

** = Recently introduced in 1989 (See Azalea News in the March 1990 issue of THE AZALEAN , ed.).

BA = Back Acres G = Gable
 GD = Glenn Dale I = Indian
 K = Kurume N = NCSU
 P = Pericat R = Rutherford
 S = Satsuki W = Whitewater

C. Deciduous Azalea Cultivars

Reports of cultivar susceptibility to rust caused by the fungus *Pucciniastrum myrtilli* and powdery mildew caused by the fungus *Erysiphe polygoni*.

	Rust		Powdery Mildew	
Gibraltar	*highly suscept.	(M,N)	resistant	(M)
Red Velvet	resistant	(M)	mod. susceptible	(M)
Old Gold	mod. resistant	(M)	susceptible	(M)
Buzzard	resistant	(M)	highly resistant	(M)
Rapture	resistant	(M)	mod. susceptible	(M)
Red Letter	resistant	(N)		—
Balzac	resistant	(N)		—
Brazil	mod. susceptible	(N)		—
Clarice	mod. susceptible	(N)		—
Exbury Crimson	mod. susceptible	(N)		—
Homebush	mod. susceptible	(N)		—
Oxydol	mod. susceptible	(N)		—
Peach Sunset	mod. susceptible	(N)		—
Klondyke	highly suscept.	(N)		—
Peachy Keen	highly suscept.	(N)		—
Pink William	highly suscept.	(N)		—
Primrose	highly suscept.	(N)		—
Rufus	highly suscept.	(N)		—
Sunrise	highly suscept.	(N)		—

M = based on tests in Maryland

N = reported in "Diseases of Woody Ornamental Plants and Their Control in Nurseries" published by NC State Extension Service.

* = In Maryland I found Gibraltar to be highly susceptible, but it is reported as resistant in the above publication. □

News Flash from May 19 Annual Meeting

At the May 19, 1990 Annual Membership Meeting held in conjunction with the 12th Annual Convention at Tyson's Corner, Virginia, the new society by-laws were approved. These were the by-laws synopsised in the December 1989 issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

The results of the mail ballot were announced at the meeting; the slate of Governors as presented in the September issue of **THE AZALEAN** was elected. The Governors for the Class of 1992 are as follows:

Malcolm Clark
Donald Voss
William Miller III
John Creech
Robert Stelloh

At the Board of Governors meeting which followed the annual meeting the officers for 1990-1991 were elected as follows:

Chairman of Board of Governors

Donald Voss

President

Robert Hobbs

Vice President

William Miller III

Secretary

Carol Flowers

Treasurer

Glenn Taylor

More information on the Convention and Annual Meeting will be presented in the September issue. □

Ben Morrison Chapter

Ed Rothe, *President*

The garden tour on April 29 included the gardens of Bob and Cheyenne Benbow and Dale and Carol Flowers.

The Ben Morrison Chapter Azalea Flower Show and Plant Sale held at Londontowne Publik House and Gardens on May 12-13 was quite successful despite the fact that the azalea season was considerably earlier this year than on a more typical year.

The next chapter meeting will be held July 15. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Brian Barr, *President*

The April meeting of the Brookside Garden Chapter was held at McCrillis Garden on Sunday, April 8, 1990. Plans were set for May activities. There were 25 members in attendance.

As mentioned in the last chapter news, the chapter had planned an educational display garden for the flower show at the Landon Azalea Festival. Planning began last year for the garden and the installation started Thursday morning, May 3. It took eight hard hours to put the display together. Special thanks must go to Ralph D'Amato and Denise Stelloh. The time and effort of all the people who took part in this project was greatly appreciated. This display was absolutely beautiful. It will be hard to top.

The chapter's next activity was the Azalea Mart. As in years past, this sale was extremely successful. Almost 2,000 dollars was realized for the sale. Thanks must go to Theresa Dannington and Buck Clagett for their work on this year's mart.

Chapter President Brian Barr has accepted a Fellowship to attend the University of Delaware-Longwood Graduate Program (see below). Denise Stelloh has agreed to complete his term of office as President of the Chapter. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

President Honored

Brian Barr, President of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, has been awarded a fellowship to participate in the University of Delaware-Longwood Graduate Program. This is a very prestigious award, with a maximum of five granted each year. The two-year program includes summer courses at Longwood Gardens, as well as attending the University of Delaware at Newark, Delaware. Graduates of the Longwood program receive a Master of Science Degree in Public Horticulture Administration, and are trained for leadership roles in

public horticulture. The graduates of the Longwood program include Dave Schied, Director of the U.S. Botanical Garden, and Barry Yinger, former curator of the Asian Valley Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Brian received a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from the University of Kentucky, and has been working the past five years as the head gardener of McCrillis Gardens, which is part of the Brookside Gardens of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission. He has been instrumental in raising the public consciousness and awareness of McCrillis Gardens by a number of innovative public relations activities, including initiating local newspaper publicity, arranging over 15 education programs, and arranging an open house and shuttle bus service in conjunction with the nearby Landon School Azalea Festival. At the same time, he has increased the maintenance and care of McCrillis Gardens to a very high level, through detailed planning and by attracting help from local retirees.

We will miss Brian's industriousness and initiative, his planning and organizational skills, and particularly his infectious enthusiasm and can-do attitude—some of the same things that caused him to be selected for the Longwood Gardens Program. We wish him well in his studies, and know he will succeed. He will be leaving to begin the program in July. □

Dallas Chapter

Naud Burnett, *President*

The azalea collection of over 2,000 varieties at the Dallas Arboretum opened on March 10.

Chapter meetings were as follows:

- March 27 at the DeGoyer Library at the Dallas Arboretum. "More About the Azalea Collection in the Johnson Color Gardens and Palmer Fern Dell".
- April 6 at the Highland Park

City Hall. "New and Old Deciduous Azaleas" by Fred Galle, author of 'Azaleas'.

- May 7 at the Highland Park City Hall. Topic: "Late Blooming Sat-suki Azaleas".

The chapter's fall meeting will be in late October—date open.

Another meeting of interest to azalea lovers was scheduled for April 24, under the auspices of Dodd Series at the Dallas Arboretum. John Rochester is a past president of the Azalea Society of America and was a grower for many of the specimen azaleas in the garden at DABS. His talk will be "The Magic of Azaleas", with emphasis on the newer hybrid varieties featured in the garden. □

Delmarva Chapter

Dr. Cyril Schulman, *President*

The Delmarva Chapter has elected new officers for 1990-1991 as follows:

President: Dr. Cyril A. Schulman
Vice President: Martha Jean Addy
Secretary-Treasurer: William B. Holman. □

Northern Virginia Chapter

Donald Voss, *President*

Approximately 72 members of the ASA attended our annual convention May 18-20. There will be an expanded report in the next issue of THE AZALEAN. □

Annual Prize for Best Article in THE AZALEAN

At the May 1989 meeting of the Board of Governors, an annual prize for the Best Article in THE AZALEAN was authorized. The concept was to acquire donated funds in order to create an endowment fund, the interest from which would serve as the annual monetary award. The purpose of the award is, of course, to encourage potential authors to submit manuscripts for publication in THE AZALEAN. Early this year, chapters were requested to consider contributing to this endowment fund. The Tri-State, Richmond, Virginia, and Ben Morrison Chapters have responded and we are on the way to our goal of having an endowment fund which would

1990 Azalea Calendar

July 1	Northern Virginia Chapter cutting exchange at Pimmit Hills Regional Library
July 5	Northern Virginia Chapter Plant Auction at Pimmit Hills Regional Library
July 8	Richmond Chapter Propagation Meeting at the home of David and Debbie Sauer
July 15	Ben Morrison Chapter cutting picnic.
September 15	Glenn Dale Preservation Project Workday. 9:00AM-1:00PM. For directions and more information contact Mr. William C. Miller III at (301) 365-0692
October 20	Glenn Dale Preservation Project Workday. 9:00AM-1:00PM. For directions and more information contact Mr. William C. Miller III at (301) 365-0692
November 17	Glenn Dale Preservation Project Workday. 9:00AM-1:00PM. For directions and more information contact Mr. William C. Miller III at (301) 365-0692

provide an annual prize of \$100.00. Other chapters are encouraged to contribute to this project in order for us to achieve this objective. Thanks to the Tri-State, Richmond, Virginia, and Ben Morrison Chapters for your support in getting this project off to a good start. □

Report of the Public Information Committee for 1990

William C. Miller III
Silver Spring, Maryland

For the period beginning May 1989 and ending April 21, 1990 I submit the following statistics:

- 76 letters from 27 states, three Canadian provinces, and one foreign country (Sweden) were received and answered for an average of 6.3 per month.
- If The U.S. is divided into North and South, roughly equal numbers of letters were received. If the country is divided into thirds (East, Mid, and West), the percentages are 55%, 32%, and 13% respectively.
- Letters ranged from simple "How

can I join the Azalea Society?" to requests for specific information which required research. Letters were received from home owners, nurserymen, cooperative extension officers, horticultural groups, and magazines. Responses ranged from simple cover letters for the membership brochure to multi-page letters with attachments.

- The heaviest months were June of 1989 and March of 1990 with ten each. While one year is not a large enough sample on which to base any predictions, it is my belief that the number of inquires will increase substantially in the coming year. We are already ahead of last year. □

Society Loses Two Chapters

The Mobile and Pennington Chapter have ceased to function and the chapters have been dissolved. Members of the dissolved chapters will become members AT-LARGE. □