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Azalea

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



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Post Office Box 34536
West Bethesda, Maryland
20827-0536

President's Letter

Robert W. Hobbs

As fall approaches, our cherished azalea plants are forming buds in preparation for a beautiful display of flowers next spring. Most of our azalea plants are attractive all year long, but it is the spring bloom that excites us all and that typically drives us to buy a different cultivar, or to propagate a favorite one. At the risk of being a little too "cute", I would like to suggest that it is by blooming that the azalea really gets INVOLVED with its environment. The act of flowering, while it serves the very real physiological purpose of reproduction, need not be as flamboyant as in our beloved azaleas. When we admire an azalea covered in brilliantly colored blooms, we are admiring its involvement in nature.

As azalea fanciers, and members of the Azalea Society of America, let's all do an imitation of an azalea in bloom and get INVOLVED. If you are a member of a chapter, support its activities. If you are a member At-Large, promote azaleas, the ASA and ASA membership to your friends and neighbors. Consider writing an article for **THE AZALEAN**. Write a letter to the Editor. Attend the convention in 1991. The ASA will be better for your involvement. □

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Election of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and three members of the Board of Directors will be conducted in 1991 by mail ballot as it was in 1990. Nominations for these offices should be sent to the Chairman of the Nomination Committee, L. Malcolm Clark, 545 South Bennett Street, Southern Pines, NC 28387 by November 15, 1990. This somewhat early date is due to the fact that the 1991 Convention and Annual Meeting will occur in March 1991. According to our by-laws, the Nominating Committee shall include in the slate of nominees any name(s) supported by petition signed by forty (40) or more members and forwarded to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Those submitting such petitions shall include biographical profile(s) for the nominee(s). Normally, terms of office are two years, but in this transition period, the Secretary and Treasurer elected in 1991 serve for one year only. □

On the Cover: 'Ben Morrison'

Photographer: Robert W. Hobbs

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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THE AZALEAN
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1990 Convention and Annual Meeting

Robert W. Hobbs

North Beach, Maryland



Attendees enjoy more than azaleas at the Louer garden.



Members enjoy the picnic lunch at the garden of Frances and Philip Louer.

The Twelfth Annual Convention and Membership Meeting was held at the Westpark Hotel at Tysons Corner, Virginia, May 17-19. The meeting combined formal talks and garden tours while providing time for informal discussions, "azalea talk", and fellowship. The convention began on Thursday evening with a talk by Dr. Ajit Thakur and Malcolm Clark entitled "Rare and Unusual Satsukis". The talk was, of course, illustrated by excellent color slides. This presentation complemented the two-part series on Satsukis by Dr. Thakur which appeared in the December 1989 and March 1990 issues of **THE AZALEAN**, and the article by Mr. Clark in the March 1990 issue.

On Friday, those attending the convention enjoyed a tour of the garden of Frances and Philip Louer at Haymarket, Virginia, on a five-acre wooded site purchased ten years ago. Clearing of undergrowth and planting of ornamentals has progressed from one area to the next. Although the entire area is not yet developed, over 5,500 azaleas representing some 1,500 varieties have been planted. In addition, over 100 varieties of bearded iris, nearly 100 varieties of daylilies and hybrid lilies, perennials, ferns, hostas, some rhododendrons, tulips, and wildflowers complement the groups of azaleas. In the spring,



Mal Clark and Bob Stelloh engage in "azalea talk".

the front of the wooded area is surrounded with thousands of daffodils. An outdoor living area includes decks, a garden pond containing many goldfish and waterlilies, as well as an arbor that connects the house with the garden.

On Friday evening, James (Tony) A. Dove presented an illustrated talk "Selectivity: Key to Successful Landscaping". Tony Dove is Chief of Environmental Facilities and Programs for Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He was formerly Horticulturist at London Town Publick House and Gardens, which convention attendees toured on Saturday. London Town Publick House and Gardens is located on the south shore of the South River near Annapolis. The gardens are arranged in areas that feature particular plant groups: for example, the Azalea Glade, Native Azaleas, and Rhododendron Slope. The Spring Walk contains 20,000 narcissus, magnolias, early-blooming azaleas and rhododendrons, primroses, and other perennials. The large collection of native azaleas includes all species native east of the Rocky Mountains. Many unusual and exotic ornamentals are found throughout the gardens. Plants are labeled for easy identification.

The Convention concluded Saturday evening with a banquet, the an-



James (Tony) A. Dove speaking on Friday evening.

nual membership meeting and a talk by Don Hyatt, "Azaleas: A Look Toward the Future". An article based on his talk appears in this issue.

During the annual meeting, the results of our first mail ballot for the election of members of the Board of Governors were announced. Governors elected for the Class of 1992 were: L. Malcolm Clark, John L. Creech, William C. Miller III, Robert T. Stelloh, and Donald H. Voss. The members present voted unanimously to accept the new by-laws, which were synopsised in the December 1989 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. During the meeting, the membership voted in favor of holding our 1994 Convention and Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina in conjunction with the American Rhododendron Society.

Board of Governors Chairman Don Voss and President Bob Hobbs pre-

sented information on the status of the Society. Two potential national projects were described: An azalea display garden at the American Horticultural Society Headquarters near Mt. Vernon, Virginia, and an azalea test program which will involve chapters and individuals as appropriate. Treasurer Glenn Taylor presented the treasurer's report.

Our thanks to the Northern Virginia Chapter and their convention committee for a job well done:

Glenn W. Taylor, Chairman
Betty Jones, Registration/Information
Donald W. Hyatt, Tours
Bruno A. Kaelin, Plant Sale
John C. Krogmann, Treasurer
Robert J. Trayhern, Air Transportation. □

Photographs by William C. Miller III



Board of Governors Chairman and Northern Virginia Chapter President Don Voss serves as auctioneer.



More opportunity for "azalea talk".

Azaleas: A Look Toward the Future

Donald W. Hyatt

McLean, Virginia

We have just started a new decade, and in ten short years we will begin a new century. As members of the Azalea Society of America, it is fitting that we take some time to look to the future and assess our directions. Before we do though, we should take a moment to look at the past and appreciate our heritage. Then we can decide what course we will take, and what we will leave as a legacy for future generations. This is a time for introspection and self study.

Professionally I am a teacher, and for most of us in education, we spend our whole careers trying to train the leaders of tomorrow. We are looking to the future. In my garden, it seems, I do much the same thing. Throughout the year, I am always anticipating the next spring display, even though the current one might still be at peak bloom. I continually think of what new crosses I would like to try and what new plants I should grow or propagate. I am constantly checking to see if seedlings are setting flower buds, always imagining that the next crop will produce the prize azalea that will meet my hybridizing goals.

When we look at past achievements of azalea enthusiasts, there is really much to praise. Plant collectors have discovered some truly beautiful species in the wild, and hybridizers working with this raw material have made many exciting advancements in flower color, size, plant habit, and hardiness. But we owe the greatest debt of gratitude to the gardening enthusiasts and nurserymen who over the years have managed to preserve so many of these fine clones. It is true that some cultivars have been lost, but the fact that so many varieties are still available is indeed a tribute to the gardeners of past generations. I am proud to say that we have people in our society who are working on all 454 Glenn Dales, Wilson's Fifty, and all the Robin Hills. There are others specializing in the Satsukis, Backacres, Linwoods, Polly Hills, and many other hybrid groups. Even though there is no central repository for genetic material, the perpetuation of specific clones has been accomplished through a sincere dedication to the genus and the willingness to share. As we look to the future, we should find ways to maintain these collections in complete form so that we may pass the rich legacy on to another generation.

For the collector, each year becomes a search for the few plants that will make that specialty collection complete. I have not succeeded in narrowing my interests down to a few groups yet. For some reason, I feel that I must have at least three of everything that exists. I need one plant to grow and enjoy, one plant for cuttings, and one plant as a spare should something happen to the others. My technique leads to some serious space problems, though, which I have not yet been able to reconcile. I also have three copies of Fred Galle's *Azaleas*; similar reasoning I guess.

There are also some very nice varieties that are not associated with the major hybrid groups. Some of my most favorite plants are not well known, and

many of them have been developed by friends and local hybridizers. I am particularly fond of Dr. Sandra McDonald's 'Blushing Angel', a delicate white hose-in-hose brushed with soft pink. It is a beautiful landscape plant and combines perfectly with the blue *phlox divaricata* and the white *Rhododendron yakushimanum*, variety 'Mist Maiden'. And then there is Dave Wagner's 'White Spider #1', which is similar in flower and habit to a white 'Koromo Shikibu'. For a show stopper, try Ruth Harrington's 'Highlander' which reminds me of a ruffled purple *Cattleya* orchid with its prominent flare. Among the many azaleas that I have admired but haven't grown yet is 'Tracy T', a plant hybridized by a Mr. Thompson in Maryland. I saw the plant in bloom at Londontowne Gardens in 1982 and was impressed with its long lasting, hose-in-hose flowers of soft pink. I must be sure to get 'Tracy T' one day. A favorite this spring was from Thais Spencer, a lavender/blush hybrid of 'Elsie Lee' and 'Laura Moreland' that she has raised from a cross that I had made. She gave me a cutting after it took top honors in the flower show. Yes, it is important that we find a way to preserve these cultivars also.

If I have specialized in anything, perhaps it would be the Knaphill azaleas. These deciduous azaleas have a magnificent color range which includes a full spectrum of artist's shades not typically available in woody ornamentals. The plants make excellent accents in the landscape, or can be tucked among plantings of evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons for added color interest. I have found that most varieties will do well for me, provided they are given plenty of morning sun, some afternoon shade, and ample moisture. A few clones object to our summer heat and humidity, but most are hardy to -20° F and can withstand any winter abuse that we might see in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Among the many Knaphill hybrids available, there are old reliables

such as the brilliant orange 'Gibraltar', or the salmon pink and yellow blend of 'Cecile'. One of my favorite landscape plants is a delicate pale yellow Exbury variety, 'Marina', which is now over eight feet tall in my yard, even after some top pruning. Then there are brilliant golden yellows like 'Brightstraw' and 'Goldflakes' which are relatively slow growing and have remained short and compact for me. And of course, there is the famous 'Yellow Cloud', one of my own introductions with four-inch fragrant flowers in huge trusses of clearest yellow. Another one of my hybrids is 'Mandarin Maid', a large flowered Knaphill with striking blossoms in blends of orange, pink, and gold. Currently, one of my favorite Knaphill hybrids is 'Sweet Christie', a frilled, pale lemon yellow introduction by Dr. Roy Magruder. Of course, my very favorite plants each year seem to be the first-bloom seedlings, but they must pass several seasons of critical judgement to see if they are worthy of introduction.

What can we expect from science in the future? Perhaps we will have better solutions to the standard problems of petal blight, mildew, rust, and bugs. Of course, I already have a solution for most of these problems. I call it tolerance of neglect. For instance, I just tell myself that the Knaphill azaleas with mildew are rare indumented forms with flocked white foliage. Green leaves are rather ordinary; white leaves are special.

With respect to advances in breeding, there will still be the quest for a yellow evergreen azalea. I doubt if we will ever see colors approaching those found in the deciduous azaleas unless we resort to biotechnology. Through genetic engineering, the genes which control the development of the strong orange and yellow carotene pigments found in the Knaphills could be transferred to a hardy evergreen azalea, but I imagine current laboratory costs would offset any potential commercial gain possible today. Perhaps resistance to petal

blight could be handled by similar techniques.

Because of obvious space limitations, I am currently interested in dwarf azaleas. I feel there is great potential for breeding compact forms using various selections of *R. kiusianum* and *R. nakaharae* for parents. Two *R. nakaharae* hybrids I have tentatively named and plan to introduce include 'Ginny Grina', a full double soft pink, and 'Cardinal's Crest', a prostrate, petaloid coral red. Both are hybrids with 'Anna Kehr'. As for my other hybridizing goals, I would like to develop a plant with the magnificent red and white bicolor double flowers of 'Leopold Astrid', with the plant habit of 'Gumpo' and the hardiness of 'Elsie Lee'. I will let you know when I get that one. There is also room for experimentation with interesting foliage forms and variegation. I hope to try some crosses next year with the strap leaf *R. linearifolium*.

My final point relates to our most urgent need to protect the oldest and most valuable collections of azaleas on earth: the native azaleas and their natural habitat. Last June, I had the opportunity to visit Dolly Sods, a wilderness area in West Virginia where I spend one glorious day roaming among the native stands of *R. roseum* (prinophyllum). I was overcome with the incredible beauty of the display as well as the remarkable genetic variation. The entire mountain top was awash with color. Flowers ranged from very pale rose to deepest pink, and the strong spicy fragrance was everywhere. Some plants were early blooming, other were obviously later. Foliage variations ranged from bright green to deep burgundy. Some plants were upright and open, other were dense and compact. Surely I could identify more distinct varietal forms than there are named hybrids in Galle's *Azaleas*. I thought of the native stands of *R. calendulaceum* down the Blue Ridge mountains, the other natives scattered throughout the east, and *R. occidentale* on the west. We really can-

not save just a few clones to represent the species. We must preserve the genetic diversity of the full population. I wondered how different many of our hybrids might be today if different varietal forms of the primary species had been used. Maybe all Knaphills would be mildew resistant. Perhaps there are plants in the wild resistant to petal blight.

Protection of natural habitats should be an international concern not only in the rain forests, but in our own backyards. Over the past 30 years, I have watched a native stand of *R. nudiflorum* (periclyminoides) disappear behind my home. Urban development has claimed not only the azaleas, but also stands of native orchids, such as lady's slippers, rattle snake plantain, and isotrias. Gone are the mosses, ferns, chestnut and chinquapin seedlings struggling back after the blight, dogwoods, oaks, hollies, huckleberries, and kalmia. The woods that I enjoyed as a child is now a neighborhood of quarter-acre lots, chemically treated lawns, silver maples, and Bradford pears. The genetic diversity of this population is lost forever.

Not long ago, our nation celebrated its two hundredth birthday. Yet, by comparison, azaleas in the wild have enjoyed 70 million years of evolution. I doubt if there will be any remnants of my garden two hundred years from now, much less after a thousand or a million years. I feel we have a responsibility to return the stewardship of such diverse biological populations back to a proven and reliable manager, the delicate balance of nature. Certainly we should propagate outstanding forms of the species and protect natural populations from catastrophe. We should treat this rare resource with the same reverence as we would any other treasure of antiquity.

As we look to the future, let us look far into the future. We should make it our goal to preserve the best and finest plant material that we have, so that others might enjoy. □

What is a Satsuki?

William C. Miller III

Bethesda, Maryland

For a number of years, I owed my basic understanding of this incredibly large group of evergreen azaleas to *The Azalea Book* by Frederic P. Lee, now out of date by more than 25 years. Given that rather limited perspective, one could easily be excused for concluding that the Satsuki hybrids consisted of the one hundred and sixty-some hybrids therein listed. To its credit, the section in Lee largely reflects the gospel according to Ben Morrison, whose personal experience with Satsukis was extensive for his time. His attention to detail is legendary, and his many drawings and notes, which serve to document his remarkable powers of observation, provide a valuable resource for understanding Satsuki behavior. Today, thanks to Galle, Thakur, Clark, and others, more of the "iceberg" has been revealed, and we begin to appreciate the complexity of this evergreen hybrid group that must presently number in the thousands and is getting bigger all the time.

It is my impression that most Satsukis were developed for pot culture and bonsai applications rather than landscape. Our primary application for Satsukis in this country is in the landscape which means that we are using Satsukis in a manner for which they were never intended. This could account for the hardness problems that many have experienced. The qualities that make a good bonsai specimen are not necessarily the same qualities that make for good landscape material. The Satsukis that I saw used in landscape in any real scale during my recent trip to Japan were typical *Macranthas* which were shaped as large green hedges or small green mounds. In both cases, the shaping was at the absolute expense of flowering, a peculiar practice to those who value the flowers, but a worthwhile effect once one becomes accustomed to the idea.

The several Satsuki books (dictionaries) that I have acquired as references along the way are all very nice, but they all led me to the same uncomfortable and inescapable conclusion — that my working concept of what a Satsuki was did not hold up. Given my limited ability with *kanji*, *hiragana*, and *katagana* (the several forms of the Japanese alphabet), the pretty pictures (even with the cultivar name in *romaji* or English characters) were of limited value, and none of the dictionaries, in my judgment, qualified as an "excellent guide for selecting Satsukis."

It was not until I noticed a peculiar trend in many of the catalogs that I began to appreciate the magnitude of the conceptual problem. Some of the cultivars that had previously been described as selections of *Rhododendron indicum* (e.g., 'Flame Creeper', 'Balsaminaeflorum') now were simply being listed as Satsukis. The term *satsuki* has no botanical standing, so the explanation for the departure from past practice was not obvious. Subscribing to the notion that we should endeavor to increase the power of our definition and description, this trend seemed to be in the wrong direction; that is, in the direction of reduced precision. In an effort to satisfy my curiosity, I wrote letters to people who I thought had the credentials to respond to the question "What is a Satsuki?" Based on the responses that I got, I concluded that (1) there was little consensus, (2) a lot of people (plant professionals and nurserymen included) were not fully comfortable with their own definitions, and (3) this was going to take some sorting out.

It is problematic that, by definition, "any azalea that has a Satsuki as at least one of its parents, is called a Satsuki in Japan" (1). This does not seem like a use-

ful convention, since it can only serve to increase the number of Satsukis that bloom at times other than those generally accepted as representative or appropriate. If the term Satsuki, a reference to a blooming period, is to have any meaning, then "outliers" should not be called Satsukis. Further, I resist the suggestion that we should not concern ourselves with or tamper with this issue simply because it is derived from another culture. To the contrary, we have a responsibility to ensure that the terms we use, adopted from other societies or not, are useful. In that vein, I find merit in the suggestion put forth by John Creech which calls for dividing the Satsukis into two types (2). Type One would consist of the *R. indicum* forms, like the *Macranthas*, while Type Two would comprise the various hybrids with *R. tamurae* (formerly *ericarpum*). This, it seems to me, is logical and would distinguish between two very different subsets of Satsukis.

After his retirement to Pass Christian, Mississippi, Ben Morrison continued his study of Satsukis. At the "Back Acres", Ivan Anderson's home, Morrison reportedly had perhaps the finest Satsuki collection in the country. His love of plants was not diminished in retirement, and participating as a cooperator for the Glenn Dale Station, he received many plants for evaluation. Among these was a group of 24 Satsukis that were distributed in the late 1950's. In May 1962, Dr. Joseph J. Higgins, a plant physiologist at the Glenn Dale Station, requested feedback from the cooperators regarding those Satsukis. In an effort to maximize the response, a simple check list was developed which only required the evaluator to place checks in columns marked "Yes" or "No". The questions asked were: Did the plants overwinter and are they desirable for the trade? Finally, the form provided a narrow column for "Comments." Morrison dispensed with the check list, preferring to respond in letter form, and apologized saying that his answer was not the kind that could be tabu-

lated in columns. He admitted to being "biased in favor" of the Satsukis and reported no winter injury with the exception of P.I. 226144 'Miyuno no suki' (probably 'Miyuno no Tsuki'), which showed bark splitting the first winter. He noted that there had been some loss of flower buds but was unable to determine a pattern and thus attributed it to his "changeable winter climate" in Pass Christian. Ben Morrison knew of the problems with Satsukis and was not typically given to half answers. Despite his appreciation for Satsukis, he was of the opinion that they were not desirable for the trade. In Morrison's words, "Now, for the trade. I should say NO!!!!!!!" (his emphasis). He cited the trade's preference for plants that do not require special treatment or handling, the problems associated with sporting, and the trade's lack of interest in anything but "foolproof" items.

George Harding once told Mal Clark that the surest way to the poor house was to try to raise Satsukis for a living. That was likely an allusion to the fact that many Satsukis are slow growing and take longer to develop into a presentable or saleable size. But there is really more to it than that. The tendency for many Satsukis to "sport" places an additional burden or responsibility on the nurseryman or the propagator. The nature of "sporting" is such that propagation from randomly selected cuttings from a highly variable cultivar can be expected to produce a large population of "rogues", or plants under label, which do not resemble the official description. It does not take much imagination to appreciate the confusion that can result from the distribution of even one generation of sports. The Satsuki producer then has two alternatives to address this problem, and both of them entail additional labor or time. When the plants are in bloom, the appropriate branches from which cuttings should be taken can be identified and labeled. In this manner, cutting material unlikely to produce "rogues" is identified, and the problem is avoided by inspection. Alternatively, the propagator could take

cuttings without regard to the nature of the wood as long as the resulting plants were grown to sufficient size to enable the unrepresentative plants to be culled. This means that the producer would have to carry the plants longer than usual, thereby incurring additional costs. While neither approach totally does away with the problem of sporting, either method improves (1) the producer's chances of selling the plant true to tag and (2) the consumers' chances of getting the plant they think they are buying. Given that the sale and distribution of "rogue" Satsukis is a major problem and that few nurserymen go to the trouble described above, it is little wonder that the prudent collector should only buy Satsukis when they are in bloom so that the true character of the cultivar can be demonstrated prior to acquisition.

'Kagetsumuji', a sport of 'Kagetsu', is an excellent example of what can happen when any error is made in propagation. The extreme variability of Satsukis, the quality that some find so desirable, contributes to the production of rogues, which under certain circumstances and in the absence of some mechanism for quality control, can cause the original cultivar to be replaced by a sport. If you have 'Kagetsumuji' in your personal collection, the odds are very good that you do not have the correct plant. In the fall of 1965, shortly before his death early the following year, Ben Morrison noted a problem with the description for 'Kagetsu-muji' ('Kagetsumuji', 'Kagetsumuji', you get the idea) found on page 45 of Tingle's catalog. The description in the catalog matched the plant that he (Morrison) had received from Glenn Dale in 1961, but differed from the plant that he had received in 1959, a self purple with an occasional white eye. It was evident to Morrison that something was seriously wrong. On September 9, 1965, he wrote to Tingle and recommended that the incorrectly named 'Kagetsumuji' be withdrawn from the trade until it could be identified (3). On the same day, he also wrote to Dr. Bill Ackerman, then the Superin-

tendent at Glenn Dale, and alerted him to the problem. He wrote:

"During the years, I have received from the Station two sendings of Kagetsumuji, P.I. 226147.

"They are not identical and I brought this to the attention of Dr. Creech, after the flowering of the second lot. He wrote me, that the suffix muji if I may use the word suffix, indicated that the flower was a purple self with no variations. I took this up also with Dr. Kato in Japan and he indicated the same, and said that IF other forms or patterns appeared the plant had to be called Kagetsu.

"Now, the first sending to me, answers that description perfectly and the only sport that has appeared in all the years, has been the type of self purple with a white center, a type of sport that does appear on Kagetsu itself, which I have had for many years" (4).

A check of the records at Glenn Dale revealed that two major distributions of P.I. 226147 had taken place. On October 27, 1959, 'Kagetsumuji' was shipped to 14 cooperators including Tingle and Morrison. During October and November of 1961, it was shipped to 56 cooperators, again including Tingle and Morrison. Finally, the record shows that in October of 1962, a single plant was given to Mr. Tingle. An examination of the evaluation cards that were returned from the people on the 1961 distribution list provided additional evidence that something was wrong. The flower descriptions ranged from "white-purple stripe, rose, lavender, dark pink to rose white." The conclusion was that the propagation that resulted in the second distribution must have been badly mixed up. Old inventories indicated that 'Hosai' P.I. 226146 and 'Tochi-no-hikari' P.I. 227111 were next to Kagetsumuji when cuttings were taken. On September 17, 1965, Dr. Edward G. Corbett of the Glenn Dale staff wrote to Mr. Kaname Kato for help. In his response dated September 25, 1965, Mr. Kato, in his excellent but broken English, confirmed that the word "muji" was reference to a self colored flower,

that if the flower was white with rose purple stripes but resembled 'Kaghetsumuji' in all other respects, that it was the "converted" 'Kaghetsumuji', and that if the main characteristics differed from 'Kaghetsumuji' then it was a result of a mixup in the course of propagation. He went on to say that:

"We Japanese Satsuki lovers prefer the clones which bear the variable patterns than the fixed single pattern clones. For the clones which bear the flower of variable patterns they have a care of not make the mistake to take the cuttings from the branches which bear self colored flowers only. But if it happened the plant bear only colored self flowers it is usual to di[s]card it or degrade it to a lower rank as a '_____ muji'. And it is seldom the self colored clone in the list. 'Toki-gumpo' is one of the rare example which is a fine sport of 'gumpo' (5).

Attached to his letter, Mr. Kato provided the following descriptions for several cultivars that Dr. Corbett had requested:

'Kaghetsumuji' (Flower and Moon)

Parentage: 'Murakumo no Tsuki' X 'Kyokko Nishiki'

Pure white ground with vivid Rose purple stripes, flakes or rays [sic] and white center. Medium size, early season.

'Kyokko Nishiki' (Brocade of Rising Sun's Ray)

Parentage: Unknown, old clone.

Snow white ground with deep red stripes. Large size.

'Murakumo no Tsuki' (Moon with masses of cloud)

Parentage: Unknown, old clone.

Deep purple with white center. Large size.

'Ho-sai' (Fruitful year)

Parentage: Unknown, old clone.

Deep red with white center. Vigorous grower. Round leaves which is good substance.

'Tochi no Hikari' (Light of Tochighi Prefecture)

Parentage: Seedling on 'Ban-ka'

White ground with heavy stripes of flakes and freckles of Rose pink. Margin of lobes ruffled. Large size, early season.

'Haru-ghasumi' (Spring Haze)

Parentage: Sport of Kaghetsumuji (Pale color ground clone)

Pale lavender ground with stripes or rays [sic] of deep purple and white center. Medium size.

In a September 23, 1965 letter to Dr. Ackerman at Glenn Dale, Morrison wrote:

"Your letter of September 20 came this morning and I have been over the plantings here and my records.

"I still stand by my claim that your first introduction or rather distribution of Kaghetsumuji was the correct one, and if I can find, in my Kato file, his replies to me on this, I will inclose a copy.

"The 1961 shipment is the disputed plant as far as I am concerned, but I think you have solved it, as Tochi no Hikari."

It is very evident that Morrison appreciated the variability of Satsukis. In the same letter he continued:

"...While I very much doubt that any Japanese will go along with me, my own observations incline me to be arbitrary and state any striped clones with white or light colored base color, can produce all types of sports, see page 282-283 in Lee's list. Lee altered my text a little as any editor would do, and made it less snappy!!!! I inclose a sheet of sketches to show what I meant in that paragraph [See Pattern of Sporting, THE AZALEAN, March 1985, Ed.]6 I have sent just such sketches to Kato but no comment follows. All I can say, is that I have seen this happen time and time again, with my first experience of it with the old P.I. introduction of Mai Hime!

"A rather similar type of sporting will come from the use of the old Southern Indica, 'Fortunei from Vittata!' This plant is itself, a striped flower, and behaves just as the satsukis with stripes, behave" (7).

Morrison had his answer. He was satisfied that, in the second "sending" (1961), he had inadvertently been sent "Tochi no Hikari" labeled as 'Kaghetsumuji'. What the other 55 cooperators received is open to speculation, and what the geometric result has

been of the subsequent propagations, now some 25 years later, is worth considering. To get a representative measure, the reader has only to sample some of the present day catalogs to find 'Kaghetsumuji' described as white with purple stripes (possibly a reversion to 'Kaghetsumuji' due to careless propagation) or flat-faced, white with rose pink stripes and flakes (possibly 'Tochi no Hikari' from the 1961 distribution). One can only guess how many cultivars, not just Satsuki cultivars, have been supplanted by their sports. Hopefully, the Azalea Society represents a mechanism or a means by which mislabeled cultivars that come to light can be publicized.

You perhaps have noticed that I have not provided an answer to the central question. I am still not sure what a "Satsuki" is — but I am working on it.

1. Thakur, Ajit, The Enchanting Satsuki, THE AZALEAN, 12:65, 1989.

2. Creech, John L., Small and Sheared Rhododendrons Can Enhance Gardens, THE AZALEAN, 9:65, 1987.

3. Morrison, B. Y., Letter of September 9, 1965 to Mr. Ringle, from the files of the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland.

4. Morrison, B. Y., Letter of September 9, 1965 to Dr. William Ackerman, Superintendent at Glenn Dale, from the files of the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland.

5. Kato, K., Letter of September 25, 1965 to Dr. Edward G. Corbett, from the files of the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland.

6. The referenced sketches were previously published and are not reproduced here. An individual interested in understanding sporting (somatic cell mutations), as it relates to flower behavior, should take the time to become familiar with the drawings which represent Morrison's understanding of flower behavior.

7. Morrison, B. Y., Letter of September 23, 1965 to Dr. William Ackerman, from the files of the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland. □

Notes on My Azalea Growing Experiences

George W. Harding

(Recorded and Transcribed by Ryon Page)

In the June issue of **THE AZALEAN**, we presented comments on the azalea growing experiences of the late George Harding as recorded and transcribed by Ryon Page. In this issue we present Mr. Hardings comments on individual plants, likewise recorded and transcribed by Ryon Page.

166-49-8

Back Acres 2' by 2'

This is one of the few numbered ones that I thought should have been named. It is red, and in the center there is a little coronet of petaloids, only about a quarter of an inch long, a very attractive flower. I have discarded most of the numbered Back Acres, but keep this one.

250-49-3

Back Acres 4- 1/2' by 5- 1/2'

There's 250 dash 1, 2 and 3, all semi-double. Never blooms.

55-?-5

Back Acres 5' by 3'

Semi-double white. I saw it bloom in my cold frame. Barry Yinger thought it was gorgeous and had to have some of them, so we rooted some. But it rarely blooms here. The plant itself is quite hardy, but it is bud-tender. Foliage is shiny, looks good all year.

'Argosy'

Glenn Dale

I assumed it was quite tender; but it is taking off now!

'Betty Ann Voss'

Robin Hill 30" by 3'

It improves with age. I planted it here, in the open, as barely a 12-inch plant, which I should not have done. But it survived, and is coming along. It is superior, in my opinion, to 'Nancy of Robin Hill', certainly in plant form, foliage, and such.

'Catawba'

Glenn Dale

I don't care much for it.

'Cayenne'

Back Acres 30" by 6'

The branches hold up through winters, but it is very bud-tender. The foliage isn't as handsome as some of the others. It's another of those orange-reds. There are about half a dozen of them.

'Celestial'

Glenn Dale 5' by 6'

A pretty nice azalea; beautiful bloom. It is pinkish, and I think on rare occasions it will have a white center to the flower. A very loose and open grower, too leggy for my taste.

'Cherry Spot'

Glenn Dale 4' by 6'

I don't think much of it. It is too open.

'Christie'

Robin Hill 18" by 3- 1/2'

Compact, green foliage. I compared this with 'Wendy' and 'Watchet', assuming they would all be low and mounding. This was the best of the three. I believe 'Wendy' is better known; but this has the green base for the pink flower, which is very attractive!

'Cinnabar'

Glenn Dale 4' by 7'

Pretty nice, big flower.

'Cleopatra'

Kaempferi 5' by 6'

Growing about ten feet from a large white pine. It likes full sun. Capable of growing to eight or ten feet.

'Coralie'

Glenn Dale

It's run of the mill.

'Corinne Murrah'

Back Acres 4- 1/2' by 6'

One of my favorites. Some years the flowers are enormous. A lot of people say that it is not hardy, that they have trouble with it, but it has been excellent up here; has bloomed dependably.

'Crinoline'

Glenn Dale 2- 1/2' by 5'

Very good; beautiful, and quite often with a white eye.

'Debonaire'

Back Acres 2' by 5'

Bright green foliage. Very compact, usually, and quite reliable.

'Dolores K'

Kaempferi 5' by 6'

One of the few Kaempferis that carry a lot of foliage over winter.

'Edward M. Boehm'

Linwood 30" by 3- 1/2'

Leggy in its growth.

'Elsie Lee'

Shammarello 4' by 3'

It's hard to say too much for that. The flower isn't especially attractive; but it is a good double, very hardy—has been through 24 below zero and still bloomed.

'Epilogue'

Glenn Dale 4' by 6'

Open and leggy. It blooms all right, but I am not so crazy about the color.

'Extravaganza'

Back Acres

It has been excellent up here; very showy, large flower, white with red stripes and sectors.

'Fedora'

Kaempferi 5' by 6'

Rose color. Very hardy; blooms every year.

'Felicity'

Glenn Dale 3' high

Broad and open. This year's bud is blasted. I think the buds get blasted regularly. It has never amounted to much.

'Frosted Orange'

Harris

Does very well here; blooms fairly dependably.

'Garden State Glow'

Linwood 40" by 6'

A beauty, just covered with blossoms! Gorgeous winter foliage, dark bronze all winter.

'Garden State Pink'

Linwood 3- 1/2' by 4'

Compact. Very outstanding! This is the second plant to carry that name. Al Reid gave another plant that name. It didn't prove to be hardy, so he withdrew the name and gave it to this one. Because of this, 'Garden State Pink' has gotten a bad name; but it is a very hardy plant.

'Garden State Red'

Linwood 4' by 4'

Those large leaves are new, not overwintered. This is not as nice as the other Garden States. 'Garden State Glow' has superior foliage and is more heavily flowered.

'Garden State White'

Linwood 5- 1/2' by 7'

Very open. A big, floppy flower; not one of my favorites.

'Garden State White'

Linwood 4' by 6'

Nice, bright green foliage, characteristic of most of Al Reid's plants. A good evergreen.

'Giant Pink'

Linwood 30" by 3'

Large flower, but floppy. It has a large leaf. The plant is a little bit tender; doesn't appeal to me too much.

'Girard's Rose'

Girard

That's disappointing. It has been very bud tender up here. When it first came out I bought 300 of them, from Appalachian Nursery. Everybody was talking about them, and buying them. But as far as I am concerned it didn't pan out. The fall foliage is beautiful, now turned green.

'Girard's White'

Girard

An off-shoot of 'Snow'. Until the last few years it was one of the best whites I have; but it has been going off.

'Goblin'

Glenn Dale 4-1/2' by 7'

That is white with red stripes. It will take the whole place!

'Grace Freeman'

Glenn Dale 3- 1/2' high

With some protection, that's one of the finest azaleas grown. There are some remarkable sports! You get a perfect 'Shinnyo No Tsuki' bloom on this, on a whole branch; and in a severe winter that branch will freeze off. There is a sport of it with a pink margin and white center that is sold down south as a Back Acres.

'H. W. Anderson'

Gable

Quite nice! White with lavender.

'Habanera'

Back Acres 2' by 3'

Most years I get no bloom from it. Last year it was poor. With this past mild winter it may do very well. Its foliage isn't very attractive.

'Hardy Gardenia'

Linwood 2' by 3'

Compact. This plant has been "whacked on" quite a bit for cuttings. As with some of the other Linwoods, it likes fertilizer. Every couple of years I like to throw a couple of handfuls of fertilizer around it. Ordinary 10-6-4 is sufficient.

'Hexe De Saffelaere'

Belgian Indian

I moved it to this spot 23 years ago. It is now twelve inches high. Definitely not winter hardy, but will not die! Its leaf resembles a mouse ear.

'Hino Supreme'

Kurume 30" by 2'

About a third of the plant has died back. The plant was perfect a year ago. I believe much of this dieback has been caused by last summer's dry weather. Too, these white pines have taken up some of the water that the azalea plants normally would have gotten.

'Improved Poukhanense'

Gable 4- 1/2' by 6'

Dome shaped. Nice foliage. In my book, one of the finest azaleas. The blossom is fragrant. I don't know what he crossed the species with to get that foliage. The species foliage is terrible.

'Ivory'

Glenn Dale 3- 1/2' by 7'

Bright green foliage. White flower; fairly large leaf. Where planted, it gets all the hot sun of the day.

'James Gable'

Gable 6' by 8'

A little bit of dieback. The plant has a tendency to be leggy. It is a gorgeous red!

'Juneglow'

Glenn Dale

Seedling sister to 'Jubilee'. Morrison's comment on it was its only distinction is that it is covered with flowers in June.

'Kenwood'

Glenn Dale 5' by 4'

Open. One of the few of Ben Morrison's doubles that does not have split calyx. As I recall, it is an old rose; not too popular a color, but very reliable. It blooms every year.

'Koster's Pink'

A beautiful plant. I find that Koster and other people in New Jersey and Delaware won't use the word salmon. They describe blooms like this as pink when to me they are pure salmon. There's another one there, from the same source, 'Louis Koster'. Both have been excellent, hardy plants.

'Kozan'

Indicum

It is found in the wild; has another name. It came from Polly Hill, through John Creech??

'La Lumiere'

Gable 6' by 6'

One of my favorites. I believe he selected it as an improvement on 'Flame'. He has a 'Flame', I think he calls it an 'Improved Flame', but this is a darker color, more brilliant. And the foliage on this is gorgeous, too. It's a pretty good evergreen; very upright growing, but compact. Covered with bloom.

'La Roche'

Gable

This blooms before 'Springtime', and is a more attractive plant; very hardy, has never been hurt by the weather.

'Lady Robin'

Robin Hill 3-1/2' by 6'

This one is a pink sport of 'Lady Robin', a huge flower. It is somewhat bud tender, but worth growing.

'Lillie Maude'

Glenn Dale 3' by 5'

A nice bronze foliage. One of my favorites. It's beginning to open up a little. A year or so ago it was compact. Good foliage. But what fascinates me about this is the variation of its bloom. Now and then it has a white center, not just one bloom but the whole plant.

'Linda'

Greenwood 18" by 3'

Most outstanding of the Greenwoods. The foliage is very nice. That plant was pulled out of Art Johnson's garden in Oklahoma. I saw it in bloom and was admiring it. Art just reached over and pulled it up. Very slow growing, very compact, an excellent plant.

'Linwood Lavender'

Linwood 4' by 6'

Another of my favorites. It blooms every year; has good foliage.

'Linwood Lustre'

Linwood 30" by 4'

About a third of the plant lost to die-back. A gorgeous flower, similar to but larger than the flower of 'Hardy Gardenia'. Note that this one is under a dogwood. It seems to do better in a milder climate, inside the [Washington] Beltway.

'Little Beauty'

Kurume 4-1/2' by 5'

I've had that described several ways. I think it's an old Kurume, and that it originated along the Gulf Coast. It has done pretty well; usually has some bloom every year. This year's die-back doesn't make the plant look good now.

'Louis Koster'

Kurume 4' by 6'

An old-time Kurume that is excellent. Years ago there was a commercial variety. It is compact; blooms every year; sort of a rose-colored flower; good evergreen foliage.

'Louise Gable'

Gable 4' by 3'

Compact. This plant should have high shade. Here it is in full sun, so the blossoms tend to burn more than they would normally.

'Madrigal'

Glenn Dale 4' by about 5'

I can't say much about it.

'Margaret Douglas'

Back Acres

There are two of them, side by side. One has lost its top, the other is in good health. The better one is about 5 feet high by 5 feet across. One of the most outstanding plants in the garden. When it's in bloom your eyes are just drawn to it! It's far more spectacular than Ben Morrison's 'Martha Hitchcock', certainly a better grower, and a tighter plant.

'May Belle'

Shammarello 4' high

I can't make up my mind which is the better plant, this or 'Girard's Pleasant White'. They bloom three or four days apart. Both are very nice plants. I kind of like the 'Girard's Pleasant White' foliage better.

'May Blaine'

Back Acres 5' by 5'

A semi-double, lavender, floppy flower. A vigorous grower but very bud-tender. I'd just as soon dig it up and throw it away.

'Meteor'

Glenn Dale 5' by 7'

I used to wonder why the plant was named 'Meteor'. There was nothing in

the blossom to suggest that name. But in the last couple of years I have decided it was from the way it grows. It's a top one, pink like 'Chloe' and 'Dream'. But this is a much better shaped plant than either of those two.

'Mildred Mae'

Gable 40" by 6'

Beautiful flower, but the plant doesn't carry enough foliage over winter. What you see now has just greened up. I have a plant of it 35 years old that is eight feet tall and has a ten-foot spread.

'Momo Zono'

Kurume 3' by 5'

Mounded. There is another plant, in a small group, by that name. Nice salmon flower, good foliage. With a little more sun it would be a better shaped plant.

'Mother of Pearl'

Glenn Dale 4' by 6'

It has been a very difficult plant for me to get in the right place. Apparently I have now found it, between a dogwood and a white pine. A beautiful flower. Plant-wise it's nothing to rave about.

'No. 31'

Back Acres 2' high

That 31 is Ralph Pennington's number, not Morrison's. Pennington got hold of a lot of the numbered Back Acres and put his number on them, keeping the Morrison number for reference.

'No. 8'

Back Acres

I grafted two plants of 'Momo Zono', and had them in gallon cans. I got cuttings from Mrs. Murrah, and grafted sixteen varieties.

'Old Faithful'

Gable

I wish I hadn't planted this on a corner. As you can see, it is nearly deciduous. I'd prefer to have an evergreen here on the corner. But it is iron-clad hardy; blooms every year.

'Opal'

Linwood 30" high

My most favorite. In eleven years it has failed to bloom just twice in the fall of the year. Mal Clark and I were

commenting on it yesterday. He thinks, as I do, that there is nothing among the fall bloomers that will compete with it. It's a gorgeous pink bloom even when it blooms in the spring; double and semi-double.

'Oshidori'

4' by 7"

A good plant. Reasonably hardy. Runs a little late.

'Palmyra'

Robin Hill 2' high

A beautiful plant; blooms after minus 20 degrees. A healthy looking plant. It would do better in a little shade.

'Parfait'

Harris 30" by 20"

It has been through minus 24 degrees Fahrenheit here.

'Peach Fuzz'

Linwood 30" by 3- 1/2'

A very good one, and hardy.

'Pink Boudoir'

Gable

This is the real 'Boudoir'. For 20 years a man at Appalachian Nursery, in Pennsylvania, grew a plant he called 'Boudoir', which had a lavender flower. I bought a hundred plants of it. When I saw it bloom I called and told him that was not 'Boudoir', that it should be a watermelon pink. We argued for twenty years about it. I took the book up there and showed him the description. He said: "Well we are going to call it 'Purple Boudoir'".

'Pink Rosette'

Gable

One of my favorites.

'Poukhanense'

Species 15" by 30"

Tiny leaves over-wintered. A lousy lavender bloom; not worth having in the yard. This plant is the same age, about 20 years, as Gable's 'Improved Poukhanense', alongside it.

'Pride of Lawrenceville'

Harris

Does poorly here.

'Progress'

Glenn Dale

A shy bloomer. I have had at least four plants of 'Progress', from differ-

ent sources, and most of them are different. The real 'Progress', I believe, has a fuzzy leaf, like 'Mucronatum', and should have a purple border and white center, as I recall. But that pattern is not fixed. One year you might find a flower without the pattern.

'Puck'

Glenn Dale

That's one of the white-striped Glenn Dales. It was in a group in the lath house that I considered tender. I moved them out here and this one just took off and did fine.

'Radiance'

Glenn Dale 4' by 6'

I would say that's a nice plant! Good foliage; a rose colored flower.

'Rising Sun'

Glenn Dale

I don't care much for it.

'River Mist'

Harris 30" by 30"

A very nice plant, younger than most of these up here. Very hardy.

'Ruth May'

Kurume 40" by 5'

One of its parents is 'Pink Pearl'. Its color is a little deeper than that of 'Pink Pearl', but it is more compact and a better grower than 'Pink Pearl'.

'Sandra Ann'

Girard 2- 1/2' by 4'

It has been very slow in making a plant.

'Sara Holden'

Robin Hill 18" by 6'

One of the best, in my opinion. It should be ideal for slopes.

'Satrap', sport

Glenn Dale 5' by 7'

Open. This is another of my favorites. 'Satrap' in its original form is predominantly white, with stripes and touches of red. This is a sister seedling of 'Cinderella' and, I think, of 'Refrain'. 'Cinderella' I have no use for, it's impossible to grow; but 'Refrain' is a pretty nice plant.

'Shosho No Haru'

Satsuki 2' by 3'

Green foliage. To my knowledge, this is the only witches broom derived plant that hasn't gone hay-wire. Every

other witches broom I have gotten hold of has reverted back in four or five years to its original form. This has a larger flower, not a normal witches broom flower; but you see occasional traces of a witches broom in it. Five years ago a branch came out on the ground and I cut it off and gave it to someone. I thought then that the whole plant was going hay-wire; but after I cut off that shoot there has been no other to come out like that.

'Signal'

Glenn Dale 30" by 4'

Foliage a bright green. I couldn't say anything for it.

'Silver Bay'

That's another one from the Gulf Coast. I think it was from an old nursery of the same name. The plant is not reliable.

'Slim Jim'

Linwood 30" by 5'

Last year it failed to bloom. A freakish wind comes through the garden, getting the bloom in streaks.

'Snowwhite'

Beltsville 5' by 6'

In every sense of the word, another 'Snow'. One of the few that Henry Hohman ever named, as far as I know. He named maybe two or three others.

'Spring Bonnet'

Back Acres

One of the few Back Acres that does very well up here.

'Springtime'

Gable 5' by 6'

Three-fourths of the plant lost from dieback. Normally it is quite an upright grower; should be taller.

'Stewartstonian'

Gable 40" by 5'

An old stand-by. A true evergreen. The foliage turns a beautiful bronze, that comes about early December and stays until flowers come.

'Swan'

Gable 5' by 6'

Has no dieback. That's reputed to be bud tender, but it has never missed blooming up here; has done fine every year.

'T-17-2'

Gartrell 5' by 5'

I don't know whether that was named or not. A lot of these I got from Bob Gartrell before they were named. I have numbers on them but not the names. This one is very loose and spreading.

'T-24-2'

Gartrell 2' by 4'

I think that is named. When I first put it out here, several years ago, it was notable for 4 1/4" flowers, of rose color. It was a beautifully formed, rounded flower. The heat didn't bother it at all, and I thought, boy, this was one of the prettiest things on the place! It has bloomed that way once; the flowers are reduced in size. I am not so sure

that it has bloomed every year. But it was a beautiful thing.

'T-28-1'

Gartrell 18" by 3'

This is Malcolm Clark's favorite white. He says it did fine for him in New Jersey and is doing fine in North Carolina. But here it has never bloomed outside. It did fine in the greenhouse. The plant itself is nice.

'T-39-6'

Gartrell

Nothing to say about it.

'T-45-9'

Gartrell 5' by 4- 1/2'

Very similar to 'Scott Gartrell'; semi-double, pink, a very sturdy plant.

'Templar'

Glenn Dale 5' by 7'

Fairly open. It's nothing to get excited about.

'Tiny'

Linwood 14" by 20"

The name is apt. It has small flowers. The foliage is bronze.

'Tracy White'

Seedling 3' high

I found it under a bed of Satsukis, and named it for a granddaughter. I liked the appearance of its foliage. It was only about three or four inches tall; I potted it. It is white, with stripes and clusters of red; the earliest one of the type on the place. I thought for a while it was a Glenn Dale; but went through all the Glenn Dale descriptions, and there was no early hose-in-hose Glenn Dale of this color. □

Prize for Best Article in The Azalean

Robert W. Hobbs

North Beach, Maryland

In 1989, the Board of Governors authorized the editor of **THE AZALEAN** to establish an annual prize for the best article to appear in **THE AZALEAN**. The concept was to acquire through donations a fund which, when invested, would provide an annual prize of about \$100.00. The prize was to be named after the donor (or donors). I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Society that donations have been received and that the prize, to be named "The Chapters Prize", has been established. Funds have been donated by the following chapters:

Tri-State
Richmond, Virginia
Ben Morrison
Northern Virginia

Donations so far amount to \$900.00, which is somewhat short of our goal. We therefore encourage other chapters to consider additional donations to increase the fund by about 50%.

The best article each year will be selected by a poll of the membership. The prize will be announced and awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

The Society and the editor of **THE AZALEAN** are extremely pleased to be able to establish this prize. We wish to thank the Tri-State, Richmond, Virginia, Ben Morrison and Northern Virginia Chapters for stepping forward and donating the funds which we have so far. We continue to encourage other chapters to consider making additional donations. □

Ben Morrison Chapter

Members of the Ben Morrison Chapter met at the home of Sue and George Switzer in Calvert County, Maryland on July 15 for their annual cutting picnic and chapter meeting. New officers were elected: Robert Benbow, President, Sue Switzer, Vice President, Carol Flowers, Secretary, and Dale Flowers, Treasurer. Plans for future meetings in October and December were discussed. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Denise Stelloh, *President*

The Brookside Gardens Chapter held their annual plant auction meeting on August 6, 1990 at the Bethesda Library (a last minute change from the Davis Library—sorry, but they told us the room was unsafe and under reconstruction). About 30 members attended, and the bidding was spirited under the gavel of William Miller III, our auctioneer. The auction raised almost \$700.00. Thanks, Bill, and thanks to the bidders, and special thanks to Mike White, Buck Clagett, Jan Midgely, Debbie Emory, and the Stellohs for donating the plants that made the auction possible.

Planned activities include:

- **October 1** meeting at the Potomac Library, with Pete Vines speaking to us on old and new azaleas. Pete and Peggy, the proprietors of Vines Horticultural Gardens, are moving soon to Amelia Island, Florida, and this may be one of your last chances to see some of Pete's extensive slide collection, including the Holly Springs hybrids he has recently begun to introduce.

- **October 21** fall foliage trip to Longwood Gardens, to be hosted by Brian Barr. Brian was our chapter president this year through June, at which time he started working under a fellowship from the University of Delaware-Longwood Gardens Graduate Program. This will be an all-day tour of Longwood Gardens, at a re-

duced rate. Anyone is welcome to participate—call Denise Stelloh at (301) 840-1714 or come to the October 1 meeting for more details.

- **December 3** meeting at the Potomac Library, with Ralph D'Amato speaking about the very successful display garden we had as part of our annual flower show at the recent Landon School Azalea Festival. Ralph is a landscape architect who has been quite active in our chapter, and was responsible for the display garden. After a discussion of the design principles involved, he will lead a discussion of the design and planning of the display garden for next year. This is also our annual meeting, which will include the election of officers for 1991 and the presentation of the Frederic P. Lee award for service to the Society in 1990. □

Delmarva Chapter

The Delmarva Chapter met on August 26 at the Art League in Rehoboth, Delaware to discuss the Polly Hill Garden, and to make plans for their October meeting and the 1992 Convention which their chapter will be hosting. □

Northern Virginia Chapter

Glenn Taylor, *Convention Chairman*

POSTSCRIPT

The Northern Virginia Chapter of ASA wishes to thank all of the members of the Society who attended the Annual Meeting in May. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed your stay with us and that you will plan to return at a later date. We certainly enjoyed having all of you and getting to know you better.

We also wish to express our thanks to some special people in the Society. We learned there are people "out there" ready to lend a helping hand and share with chapters in other parts of the country. Out-of-state members who cooperated very generously with their time and plants were—Mary Beasley, Transplant Nursery, Lavo-

nia, Georgia; Eleanor Stubbs, Stubbs Shrubs, West Linn, Oregon; Harold and Nancy Greer, Greer Gardens, Eugene, Oregon; and Dr. Philip Waldman, Rosyln Nursery, Dix Hills, New York. □

Richmond, VA Chapter

Barbara McKeever, *President*

Despite the capricious weather we had this spring, the gardens which were so graciously opened to members of this Society on Sunday, May 6, were truly beautiful and filled with flowers. The garden of Dr. and Mrs. Irving Roberts gave us a view of what newer gardeners can anticipate in a few years as plants grow to maturity. Their older azaleas and rhododendron, mixed with a variety of other plant material, were lovely and gave us all encouragement to continue gardening. The visit to the home of Teresa and Stephen Hutchinson presented a view of how to lay out and plant a NEW garden. There were good examples of what organization and preplanning can accomplish in a garden. The last stop was at the beautiful garden of Nancy and Herbert Hargrove which completed the picture for us. The plantings in this garden are neither brand new nor fully mature, about four years old, and we were able to see what dedicated, hard work and good selection, care and knowledge can produce. Our thanks to all of our hosts for their hospitality and to our Chairman, Page Calisch, who put it all together and gave us this wonderful opportunity to enjoy such a variety. The refreshments at the end of the tour were delicious and much welcomed. Thanks to all who participated and attended. □

Executive Committee Meeting

The ASA executive committee met on March 25 and August 12, 1990 to discuss Society issues and operations. Plans are under way to print a new membership brochure and to

produce the 1990 Membership Directory (Roster). Finances continue to be an issue; costs of printing **THE AZALEAN** continue to consume most of the budget. □

Board of Directors (Governors) Meeting

The new by-laws designate the governing body as the Board of Directors in order to conform with the Articles of Incorporation. The Board met on May 17, 1990 in conjunction with the Annual Convention and Members Meeting. The current membership of the Society is about 750, about 10% less than in 1989. The dissolution of the Northwest, Mobile, and Pennington Chapters was discussed: funds from dissolved chapters which revert to the ASA will be placed in the general endowment fund. Status of current and planned projects was discussed. □

1991 Convention and Annual Meeting

The 1991 Convention and Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Louisiana Chapter on March 21-23 1991. Convention headquarters will be the New Orleans Airport Hilton Hotel and Convention Center. Registration will begin the afternoon of Thursday, March 21. Thursday evening a bonsai collection featuring azaleas will be on display. On Friday a selection of optional tours of the New Orleans area will be available. Saturday will feature a tour of local gardens and nurseries. Special presentations will include a breeder's roundtable featuring Robert Lee, Dr. Larry Brown, and Dr. R. J. Stadtherr. Naud Burnett will speak Saturday evening at the banquet and annual meeting. His talk will deal with Azaleas at the Dallas Arboretum. Thanks to the Louisiana Chapter for their efforts in organizing this meeting. We hope to see many of you there. □

1990 Azalea Calendar

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|---------------------|--|
| 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 1 | Brookside Gardens Chapter meeting at Potomac Library. Speaker Pete Vines on old and new azaleas. |
| 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. |
| October 21 | Brookside Gardens Chapter trip to Longwood Gardens. For more information contact Ms. Denise Stelloh at (301) 840-1714. |
| October 28 | Richmond Chapter Annual Social Dinner and Plant Auction. |
| November 1 | Deadline for receiving chapter news for ASA Chapters for December 1990 issue of THE AZALEAN . |
| 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. |
| December 3 | Brookside Gardens Chapter meeting at Potomac Library. Speaker Ralph D'Amato on Landon School Azalea Festival display. |
| 1991 | |
| March 21-23 | Convention and Annual Meeting hosted by Louisiana Chapter in New Orleans and Vicinity. |

ASA NEW MEMBERS/1990

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Australian Rhododendron Society, Inc. V. Marshall, Librarian P. O. Box 21 Olinda Victoria, Australia 3788	Dr. John H. Hawthorne 96 Corral De Tierra Terrace Salinas, CA 93908 (408) 484-9242	Mr. Lou Scaparo 2730 Peppertree Drive Oceanside, CA 92056 (619) 758-5442
Dr. Robert Drewry 3504 Ridgeroad Place Lawton, OK 73505 (405) 357-0341	Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Koontz 9 Carolina Shores Pky. Calabash, NC 28467 (919) 579-4937	Mr. Robin Zugar 104 White Oak Forest Porter, TX 77365 (713) 354-3567
Ms. Margaret Hall 4039 St. Monica Drive Baltimore, MD 21222-3512	Mr. Robert L. Odom 231 Hillbrook Drive Spartanburg, SC 29301 (803) 585-5013	U.S. Natl. Agriculture Library Current Serial Records Room 002 10301 Baltimore Blvd. Beltsville, MD 20705
	Mr. Arthur H. Pearsall, DDS 1215 Ashby Lane Hendersonville, NC 28739 (704) 692-2360	

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