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Errata

Reference: March 1992 *THE AZALEAN*, Page 16, Column three.
Ridgway "Begonia Rose" should have been identified as deep yellowish Pink, not deep purplish Pink.

Reference: December 1991 *THE AZALEAN*, Page 74, Column one.
The correct description of 'Furbelow' should have been:
Furbelow (PI 163970)
2-1/2 to 3 inches, White, Viridine yellow blotch (greenish).
Mid- to late May. □

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On the Cover: Koromo-Shikibu

Photographer: Ajit K. Thakur

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Some Old Azaleas: Opening Pandora's Box

Ajit K. Thakur, Ph.D.
Springfield, VA

Evergreen azaleas are gifts of the Orient, particularly Japan and China, to the Western World. With so many species, cultivars, and hybrids introduced in the West during the last two centuries, confusion regarding the origin and names of many of these azaleas is abundant in books and other records. Often the individuals involved in the acquisition of these plants either misunderstood or were misled regarding their history due to language barriers. Of course, once an error is made, it seems to linger on, especially in the azalea world. The main theme of this article is to revisit two such errors.

Recently William C. Miller III wrote an article (1990a) and a Letter to the Editor (1990b) in *THE AZALEAN* in response to my presentation at the 1990 Azalea Society of American Annual Convention on Satsuki azaleas and two articles on the same topic (1989, 1990) published in the same journal. In one of my two articles (1989) and at the Convention, I mentioned the fact that 'Koromo Shikibu', a beautiful and unusual evergreen azalea, is erroneously sold as a Kurume hybrid by many growers even though enough has been said to point out its origin. Mr. Miller (1990b) disagrees with that and adds another of the "Kurume" introductions named 'Ho Oden' in the controversy. There were several other points in those two articles which also require close examination.

Since my knowledge of Kurume azaleas is limited, I decided to seek help from the experts in the field and study their English and Japanese sources. This article is the result of sort of a group research involving Hideo Suzuki, Masaaki Kunishige, Yuji Kurashige, my wife Yoko, and myself. Mr. Suzuki, Mr. Kurashige, and Dr. Kunishige provided me with information from Japanese literature search and sharing their knowledge and expertise in the field through letters and notes. Finally, Yoko played a very important role in translating Japanese literature and notes. Without their collaboration, this work would not have been possible.

A few words of introduction of the above Japanese experts may be in order. Hideo Suzuki is a retired businessman, amateur botanist, and internationally acclaimed rhododendron expert. He is a founding member and Vice President of the Japanese Rhododendron Society, Director of the Board of the International Rhododendron Union, and an honorary life member of the Seattle Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. He collected large numbers of plants from all over the world which he recently donated to a botanical institute. He has published frequently on rhododendrons and assisted Fred Galle in correcting and revising his work on azaleas (1987). Yuji Kurashige is a plant specialist in the Botanical Institute at Gunma and in charge of construction of Akagi Nature Park. He is a plant collector and has been donating seeds of species azaleas and rhododendrons to people all over the world. Masaaki Kunishige is an internationally recognized author and expert on species azaleas and rhododendrons. He has written various scientific articles on the genetics and origin of the Kurume as well as other azaleas. Dr. Kunishige was for many years a scientist at the Kurume Agricultural and Ornamental Research Station. Recently he was transferred and promoted to become the Director of the Botanical Institute in Miya Prefecture.

'Koromo Shikibu': It seems that controversy still exists among the azalea experts in the United States regarding the origin of 'Koromo Shikibu', a beauti-

ful and unusual evergreen azalea. As a result, a little historical background is in order.

A plant under the name 'Koromo Shikibu' was introduced in America in 1929 by R. K. Beattie under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture Plant Introduction Section. The plant came from Kurume Agricultural and Ornamental Research Station. The description given for this plant at that time in the published Plant Introduction Records was as follows (bold face type indicates emphasis added by the present author to indicate differences among the sources through this article):

P.I. 77142. *Rhododendron Obtusum Japonicum* Wilson

No. 600. Koromo shikibu. Kurume; flowers white with corolla tipped purple.

No other description was given about plant habit or any special flower or leaf characteristics. Later, Frederic P. Lee in his famous work *The Azalea Book* (1958) gave the following descriptions of this plant on different pages:

Under "R. K. Beattie Kurume Introductions":

KOROMO-SHIKIBU (P.I. 77142): White with corolla tipped purple (strap-like petals).

Under "Kurume Hybrids":

KOROMO-SHIKIBU (P.I. 77142): upright, tall; early midseason; flowers single, petals are narrow and strap-like and widely separated, distinctive, does not have appearance of an azalea flower, 2-1/2, reddish violet (mallow purple, HCC 630/1) with darker blotch, long sticky sepals, may be a macrosepalum hybrid.

Lee then showed a plate of the flowers in black and white, which, of course, does not tell us which description fits the flower correctly.

Under "Evergreen Species and named Varieties", Lee once again lists 'Koromo Shikibu' with the description same as the second one quoted above. Lee here reiterates that it is

"perhaps a macrosepalum hybrid". Here Lee describes *R. macrosepalum* Maxim. (*R. linearifolium* var. *macrosepalum* (Maxim.) Makino (Mochi tsutsuji)) and mentions form *linearifolium*, P.I. 274890 and provides a black-and-white plate (Plate No. 40) of the same plant. Based on Lee's description, the flowers are "slashed petals of reddish violet (mallow purple, HCC/1)". The pictorial descriptions in black-and-white are identical to the one for 'Koromo Shikibu'.

Since then, there have been numerous publications on azaleas in America, and all the authors basically gave the same description for 'Koromo Shikibu'. To quote Galle:

'Koromo Shikibu' (P.I. 77142): usually listed as a Kurume Hybrid is more like a *R. macrosepalum* hybrid. The hairy leaves are of normal size; petals are divided and strap-like, 1/2" wide, 1-1/2" long, light purplish pink with darker tips and dark spots at the base.

Galle's color plate shows the plant which is sold here as 'Koromo Shikibu'.

The International Rhododendron Register (1958) (Royal Horticultural Society) describes 'Koromo Shikibu' as:

'Koromo Shikibu' Cl. [Kurume]; (introduced to U.S.A. by R. K. Beattie 1929); Single, petals narrow and strap-like and widely separated, distinctive, does not have the appearance of an azalea flower; 2-1/2 in., reddish violet (mallow purple H.C.C. 630/1); perhaps a *linearifolium* var. *macrosepalum* hybrid.

Most of the descriptions do not mention that the flowers are very sweetly fragrant, just like *R. macrosepalum* and *R. ripense* (Kishi tsutsuji). Also, the color descriptions and sizes vary from one source to another, and within the same source. (Perhaps our color perception depends on the mood we are in!)

A few notes about *R. macrosepalum* Maxim. (Mochi Tsutsuji) are in order here. According to Jisaburo Ohwi

(1984), this species is indigenous to Honshu (Izu, Kai, and westward to eastern Chigoku District) and Shikoku. It is very common on the hillsides with numerous cultivars grown in gardens. Ito Ihei in his famous *Kinshu Makura* (1692) described Mochi ("Birdlime") and many of its strap petal and other irregular forms. Experts believe that these unusual forms are produced by mutation. *R. indicum* and *R. kaempferi* are two of the other evergreen species where we find these types of variations often. There are several divided corolla forms of *R. macrosepalum* that are popular in Japan currently. They are: 'Saigyō', 'Shide Guruma', 'Gin (Kin) no Zai', 'Hanaguruma', and 'Shiro Hanaguruma' (Kurashige-letter to the Author). The name Mochi came from the fact that the leaves and the petals have a sticky substance on them. This azalea is not a native species on Kyushu island where Kurume is located. Also, there is no fragrant evergreen species azalea indigenous to Kyushu island.

Kurume Agricultural and Ornamental Research Station is one of several agricultural research stations in Japan like their American counterpart at the U.S.D.A. Their role is to preserve the flora of Japan. They propagate, distribute, and hybridize new plant materials. Western horticulture owes a great deal to the Station in Kurume. Many of the azaleas we enjoy were obtained from Kurume. They were not all Kurume azaleas. Many Satsukis, 'Mucronatum', Kuwana and Hirado azaleas, *R. kiusianum*, *reticulatum*, *ripense*, *sataense*, *tamurae*, and others were introduced in the U.S.A. from Kurume. Surely, one does not want to lump them all under the name "Kurume Azalea." Miller's analogy between the Glenn Dale and Kurume azaleas fails to reach me.

Let me give now my description of 'Koromo Shikibu'. The plant attains medium-to-large size; is about 3-5' tall and 4-6' wide in ten years. Leaves are slightly narrower than the ones on *R. macrosepalum*, about the same width as the ones on *R. ripense*; otherwise,

rather large, reminding one of many 'Mucronatum' forms. The plant is generally semi-deciduous around Washington, D.C. area and farther north. The leaves are hairy and dull green with some folding, rough and hairy underneath. Unlike the Kurume and the Satsuki azaleas, the leaves and the plant are not attractive. The flowers are light purplish pink, with big sepals as in *R. macrosepalum* and are very fragrant. In the winter time, 'Koromo Shikibu' and *R. macrosepalum* cannot be distinguished from one another. Also, both plants bloom almost exactly at the same time in early spring. In other words, along with many others, I maintain that the plant introduced as 'Koromo Shikibu' is one of many forms of *R. macrosepalum* (possibly 'Hanaguruma'). The cover of this issue of THE AZALEAN has a color photograph of the plant.

The name 'Koromo Shikibu' indeed is a Japanese name meaning "court lady's dress", but there is no record of any Kurume hybrid by this name in Japan. (Kurashige checked lists of 700 varieties of Kurume azaleas from the Edo to the Meiji periods, Kunishige checked 803 published Kurume names). In fact, there is no azalea by that name in Japan. According to Kunishige, the closest sounding name of an azalea, which is not available today, is 'Koromo Kaye (Gaye)' ("Springtime Dress Change") which was described in an old book on azaleas named *Meikan* (Meiji 18, 1885). Its description is not known. Kunishige thinks the flower form indicates that 'Koromo Shikibu' may be related to 'Hanaguruma' or 'Seigai' (*R. macrosepalum* var. *linearifolium*), but the plant habit is weaker (spreading). Both 'Hanaguruma' and 'Seigai' seem to be strong (upright) growers, but the picture of my 'Koromo Shikibu' shows more spreading habit. Dr. Kunishige was surprised to hear that there is still controversy here (is there really?) regarding 'Koromo Shikibu' after what Galle said on p. 124 of *Azaleas* (p. 129 in the Revised Edition) (1987) regarding this plant. Let me here quote from Kurashige's letter to me:

...Anyway, the picture which you sent to me looks like *Rh. macrosepalum* 'Hanaguruma'. It is not a Kurume azalea at all...In my opinion "Koromo Shikibu" is Hanaguruma. I do not know why it was classified as a Kurume azalea. Perhaps by some mistake. But the name "Koromo Shikibu" (which is a true Japanese name) is mysterious.

Just when we were about to close the chapter on 'Koromo Shikibu', the plot thickened. Miller recently retrieved and published some notes from files at the U.S.D.A. Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland (1987). These notes taken on the Beattie Azalea Collection, were attributed to B. Y. Morrison. According to these:

77142. 'Koromo-shikibu'. Stamens 5, stigma green, white with corolla tipped with pinkish purple, very flat flower, good but small (3/4"). 3/22/29.

Morrison always paid attention to detail. Supposing these notes were made by him, why would he not notice the unusual strap petal form or the fragrance of the flowers, the sticky nature of the leaves (and flowers), and the loose plant habit with rough moderately large leaves? Why did he note that the flowers were white? Why did he note that the flowers were "good but small (3/4")" when other sources list the size anywhere between 1-1/2" and 2-1/2"? Or was this a different plant altogether than the one being sold in the United States as 'Koromo Shikibu'?

In conclusion, I agree with Masaki Kunishige, Hideo Suzuki, and Yuji Kurashige—the name 'Koromo Shikibu' is still a mystery to us. It is possible that some local nurseryman in Kurume named a particular selection of 'Hanaguruma' as 'Koromo Shikibu' and Beattie got specimens of that named plant. Furthermore, it is quite possible that there was a mix-up in Beattie's notes at the time of introduction. All three Japanese experts I contacted think that possibility is there. After all, the "Wilson Fifty" included

several azaleas that were Satsuki, Hirado, or other types, and they were all introduced as Kurume (Kurashige, letters to the author).

'Ho Oden': The second plant, 'Ho Oden', was also introduced in the United States by Beattie. The Plant Introduction Section described it as:

'HO-ODEN'. P.I. 77112. Probably a garden hybrid. Hose-in-hose; flowers about 1-1/2 inches in diameter. Thulite pink (Ridgway) irregularly edged with pure white. Beattie—Collected at Agricultural College, Imperial University Komaba, Tokyo, February 1, 1928.

Galle (1987) described it as:

'Ho oden' (Beattie, P. I. 77101): white flushed moderate purplish pink 70D, white edges and dark stripes, hose-in-hose, 2", often listed as a Kurume, but possibly a 'Mucronatum' x *indicum* hybrid.

The description does not quite match the one in Lee (1958):

'Ho-oden' (P.I. 77102): thulite pink, RSC, edged pure white, hose-in-hose, flowers 1-1/2".

Both Lee (1958) and Galle (1987) had wrong P.I. numbers, P.I. 77102 and P.I. 77101 respectively, for 'Ho Oden'; it should be P.I. 77112.

[In the 1980 reprint of the Second (1965) edition of Lee, the description of P. 141 is: 'Ho-Oden' (P.I. 77112): thulite-pink RCS, edged pure white, hose-in-hose, flowers 1-1/2". On page 257 however, the description is: 'HO-ODEN' (P.I. 77012): spreading low; early midseason; flowers single, hose-in-hose, 2 1/2", violet red with white edges and blotch and flecks of same color; possibly a 'Mucronatum' x *indicum* hybrid, ed.].

The International Rhododendron Register (1958) describes 'Ho Oden' as:

'HO-ODEN' Cl. [Satsuki]; possibly *indicum* x *mucronatum*; (R. K. Beattie, 1929); single, hose-in-hose, 2-1/2 in., violet red (Solferino purple H.C.C. 26/3) with white edges and blotch or flakes of same color.

B. Y. Morrison, who was painstakingly thorough, studied 'Ho Oden' and made the following observations (1987):

77112. 'Ho-oden'. Cameo Pink (Ridgway) with tips of petal white. Throat approaching Thulite Pink (Ridgway). Stamens 5, stigma pink but deformed. Pollen apparently good. Very good. 1/12/29. This is a hose-in-hose clone with 2" flowers. Suggests a Kurume x "indica" or better reverse. The ovary is swollen and the style often split. Seed sterile but pollen fertile. Progeny frequently show same sterility.

Let me quote from letters from Hideo Suzuki and Yuji Kurashige:

Ho Oden (pronunciation-wise this should be Hoh Ohden: "Palace", "Classical and Elegant House", "A Fictional Bird", or "Beautiful and Felicitous") does not belong to Kurume azalea group and is said to be a strain of *R. transiens*, which is a very close kin to *R. kaempferi*. It has large corolla, 4" or 5" across. Some of them have dark stripes and others do not. It is hose-in-hose or double. More or less the flowers are large. (Suzuki—letters to the Author).

Ho Oden does not belong to Kurume azalea group, but *Rh. x transiens* (Ohyama tsutsuji) which is natural hybrid of *kaempferi* x *macrosepalum* (Chamberlain, Edinburgh J. Botany, Vol. 47, No. 2). The description by Beattie about Ho Oden is much better. Pale pink flushed purplish pink, white edges, hose-in-hose, sometimes purple stripes. Also there are many cultivars and forms found in the wild. (Kurashige—letter to the Author).

A recent publication from Japan, Kurume no Tsutsuji (Azaleas in Kurume, 1989) lists 'Ho Oden' (listed as 'Houohden') under *R. x transiens* (printing error makes it "Onyama" instead of "Ohiyama" in this work). Three other azaleas of this group, Edo-hanabi, Komurasaki, and Fure-daiko, are also shown in this publication with color plates. Among these, Komurasaki (P.I. 77127) (deep purplish pink flower) is available in the

United States. Unfortunately, this plant too was mistakenly introduced as a Kurume hybrid by Beattie. This book has an extensive list of Kurume, Satsuki, major Japanese species, and other hybrid group azaleas with color plates.

I did not have 'Ho Oden' at the time Miller's letter (1990b) appeared. Since then I acquired a plant last spring and studied its flower and plant forms thoroughly. It is an outstanding, compact, and upright plant that blooms in the midseason. Its leaf form is similar to Satsuki (*R. indicum*), but the time of bloom is unusually early even for any early blooming Satsuki or its hybrid with another group. Also, except for its early blooming nature, this plant does not seem to possess any Kurume characteristics. 'Hoh Ohden' (author's spelling, ed.) has 'Mucronatum'-sized large flowers. They were not quite 4-5" on my plant as suggested by Hideo Suzuki, unless he implied that width after one flattens the flower with pressure. In any case, the flowers are too large and of heavy substance to be of the Kurume hybrid group. From all indications, the plant (or plants?) propagated under the name 'Ho Oden' is a very old cultivar, preceding the Kurume hybrids credited to Sakamoto. It seems to be a selected natural hybrid, possibly a *R. × transiens* form, definitely not a Kurume hybrid. Further, interestingly enough, 'Hoh Ohden' was not introduced from Kurume, indeed not even from the same island where Kurume is located (Kyushu).

Contrary to Miller's disagreement with typical foliage characteristics of Kurume azaleas, there indeed are some common features of these azaleas with the Kirishima azaleas and *R. sataense*. Some cultivars may have some vague *R. kaempferi* similarities, but there are no *macrosepalum* and *ripense* characteristics in the Kurume cultivars, unlike what one sees in the so-called Southern Indian hybrids.

Let me add another item to the "Kurume confusion." A fine azalea named 'Cattleya' was introduced by

the Domoto Brothers as a Kurume in the early twenties. It is a beautiful "lilac tinted white, semi-double" (Lee, 1958) azalea that is an all time favorite with gardeners in America. A search through old and new lists and descriptions of Kurume azaleas fails to identify it with any published Kurume azalea name. This is probably another case of mistaken introduction. I will not be surprised if this cultivar too turns out to be of *R. × transiens* form.

Some Loose Ends: In one of my articles on Satsukis (1990), I made an error in color description of 'Sa Otome', whose lack of flowering is well known. I was told by a good friend, who had both 'Sa Otome' and another *indicum*, 'Flame Creeper', growing next to each other, that he saw a reddish orange flower on 'Sa Otome'. 'Flame Creeper' is true to its name and has reddish orange flowers. I think what probably happened was that one of its branches crept into my friend's 'Sa Otome' and bloomed. Hideo Suzuki writes in one of his letters to me:

...'Sa Otome' ("Rice Planting Girl") is deep pink in flowers but usually hesitant to bloom. People grow it for its small foliage and compact habit.

I can suggest a trick I read in a book by Menninger (with Foreword by B. Y. Morrison) (1962) on how to induce certain trees and shrubs to flower. Apparently, plants which have extremely dense and luscious growth, spend too much of their energy for maintaining foliar growth. It may be necessary to thin out such plants or severely root prune them to induce flowering. When I acquire a second 'Sa Otome', I might try that trick. Incidentally, I have several other *indicums* and at least half a dozen Beltsville Dwarf hybrids which have never bloomed in 11 years. These are well grown mature plants now. They are all extremely dense.

The author thanks Miller for pointing out that *R. kaempferi* selection 'Tubiflorum' also has persistent and changing flower color as does 'Choju-

ho', a rather unusual Satsuki. Hideo Suzuki (1976 and letters to the author) writes about this and other unusual forms of *R. kaempferi* growing in the wilderness. The unusual forms are mostly due to mutation. The small rose-like fully double *kaempferi* 'Tachisene' is also a persistent bloomer. It generally starts to bloom in the middle of May and lasts through July unless the plant is exposed to direct sunlight. The problem I encountered with 'Tubiflorum' is that the plant is not very winter hardy even in Springfield, Virginia. Also, if the plant survives a mild winter, it tries to bloom too early and starts developing new leaves at the same time. As a result, it is subject to severe damage by spring frost. After having three plants killed, I am trying to protect the fourth 'Tubiflorum' I acquired from Malcolm Clark last spring.

Several other issues raised by Miller such as the appropriateness of the "Satsuki" name for some Satsuki cultivars, their variations in flower colors and forms, and "What is a Satsuki" will be addressed in the future.

Finally, before ending this discussion, let me point out an error in a very recent description of a species azalea by Miller (1991). He refers to *R. tashiroi* (Sakura Tsutsuji) as "This delightful deciduous azalea...". *R. tashiroi* is a monotypic evergreen azalea. In fact, in Zone 7 it is more evergreen than *R. poukhanense*, *R. tosaense*, *R. komiyamae*, *R. kiusianum*, and even most *R. kaempferi*. Let me quote from Ohwi's *Flora of Japan* regarding *R. tashiroi*:

...Evergreen or partially deciduous erect shrub...

Lee (1959) and Galle (1958) also have similar descriptions for this rare azalea. Suzuki and Kurashige write about different forms of this azalea. Kurashige grows seedlings of these different forms. The rather rare white form of this large azalea is spectacular at its maturity when it can get to be over 25' in height like a small tree. *R. tashiroi* is considered by many experts as the "link" between evergreen

and deciduous varieties and crosses rather easily with both. I have two plants of this species from two different sources, and they are both evergreen (or should I call them partially deciduous?).

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The George Harding Azalea Garden at River Farm - Part II

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Germantown, MD

Background

The previous issue of *THE AZALEAN* gave the background and an overview of the plan for a George Harding Azalea Garden at River Farm. The garden is to be a memorial to George Harding, one of our foremost and best-liked azalea experts, who died in February 1990, and a means of continuing his efforts to educate the public about the beauty and variety of azaleas. This article discusses the garden design, lists the candidate azaleas for the garden, and describes how you can participate in building the garden.

Purpose

The purposes of the garden are:

- to be a permanent memorial to George Harding;
- to be an attractive and educational display of azaleas; and
- to be the focus for future annual "Azalea Days," for the public to see the azaleas at their peak, to meet with members of the Azalea Society of America to have their questions about azaleas answered, to learn about the Society goals and activities, and to sign up as new members.

To accomplish these purposes, we will use natives, other deciduous and evergreen hybrid azaleas in a woodland edge setting at the River Farm headquarters of the American Horticultural Society.

After the garden is installed, the American Horticultural Society will work with other plant societies to augment the azaleas with companion plants such as ferns, bulbs and wildflowers to be provided by those plant societies.

Status Update

With Leslie Nanney joining us from the Northern Virginia Chapter, all three ASA chapters near the River Farm site (Ben Morrison, Brookside Gardens, and Northern Virginia) are now represented on the garden committee. About \$1000 has been donated toward the garden expenses, against a budget of \$4000 for materials and supplies.

The committee recently reviewed a conceptual plan for the garden, as shown by the drawing titled George Harding Memorial Azalea Garden. The scale of the drawing is about 1"=50' and shows an overall garden area of about four tenths of an acre, with 500 circles representing azaleas spaced at four foot centers. As shown, the plan is to have a number of planting beds among the existing trees, along with a few new ornamental trees, with frequent paths to allow closer examination of the plants, and with several benches and interpretive signs along the outside edge of the garden. The committee decided that the plants had to be selected before we could refine the design.

The committee also settled on the spring of 1993 for the garden dedication. To have a garden by then, first we need to pick the plants for the garden, and then we can refine the plan around those particular plants.

Plants

The approach we took to begin selecting the plants was to have members of the committee suggest the varieties they felt would be most appropriate to meet the garden purposes, and then work from that plant list. The list of our choices is shown below, along with the plants mentioned by George Harding in the articles in *THE AZALEAN* (vol. 12, nos. 2, 3) and along with a few other "good doer" plants from Galle's *Azaleas*. The list omits bloom form, the color and bloom time, and the plant height and habit, which is the information we'll use in deciding where to place the plants in the beds. Overall, the garden can probably hold around 150 varieties of azaleas, including a collection of natives at the request of the American Horticultural Society.

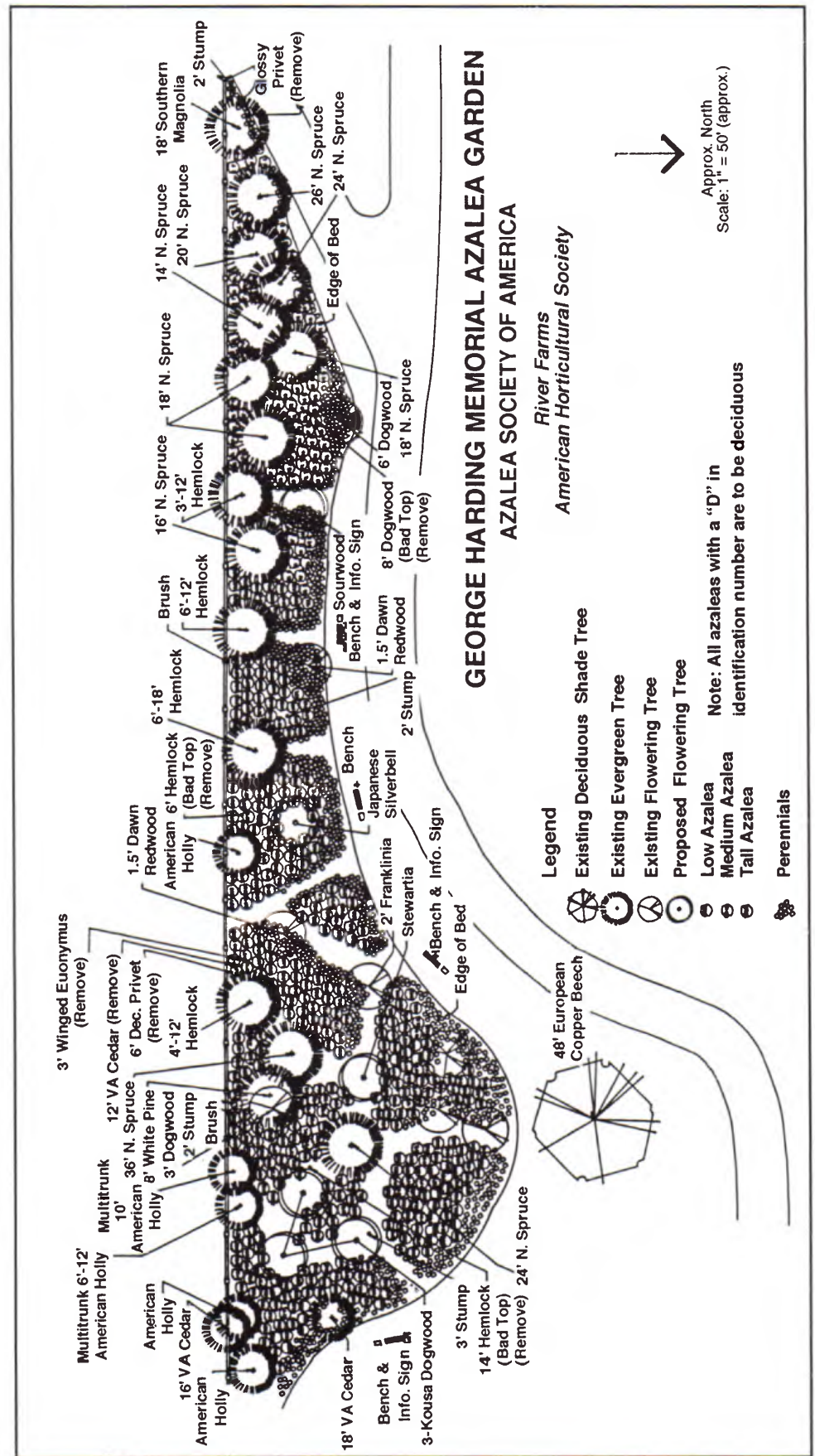
Since the list currently includes over 500 varieties, we need your help in narrowing the possibilities down by voting on them. You can either do that on paper, or, preferably, you will do it by committing to donate the plants you think should be in the garden:

- you can vote on the plants you feel should be in the garden by writing down their names (or copy the list and mark the ones you like), along with *why* you picked them to make your vote count even more, and mail your list to Bob Stelloh at the address below; or

- you can suggest other plants instead of the ones on the list, in which case please tell us which plants your suggestions should replace (in other words, while we don't want to make the list much longer, we're open to suggestions about superior plants); or, best of all:

- to make absolutely sure your favorites are included, call or write Bob Stelloh and commit to provide the plants themselves - in this case, you can vote early and vote often!

When you vote on the plants or suggest other plants, consider that the garden is a memorial to George Harding, so it's probably not appropriate to



include plants he didn't like. From the comments George made in **THE AZALEAN** articles, he seemed to prefer dense plants over leggy ones, heavy bloomers over sparse ones, good winter foliage over semi-deciduous ones, and consistent bloomers over bud-tender ones (but note that his Damascus, Maryland garden was about 10 or 15 degrees colder than the River Farm garden site, so plants that were bud-tender at his garden might be perfectly hardy at River Farm). Also consider that when people visiting the garden see plants they like and want to have, they should be able to buy those plants somewhere, so it's probably not appropriate to include plants that aren't commercially available. While the plants don't have to be available from the corner garden center, they should be regularly available from somebody, such as by mail order from our advertisers in **THE AZALEAN** or other specialty nurseries. Finally, the plant should have been around long enough that landscape size specimens are available.

When you vote by committing to donate some plants, consider that this garden is going to be very much in the public eye as soon as it's planted, so it has to look good immediately. To make the garden look as much as possible like it will when the plants are mature, all the plants should have about the same relative sizes as they will as they mature. In other words, tall plants should look taller than medium plants at the time they're planted, so we can't use little specimens of tall varieties with big specimens of medium varieties. To achieve this, each plant should be at least one-third of its mature size, and not more than about one-half of its mature size, at the time it's planted in the spring of 1993. If you want to donate larger plants, you can prune them shortly after they bloom this spring, or they can be pruned when they're planted. (On the other hand, if you have some spectacular specimens that you feel absolutely must be in the garden, and you feel they shouldn't be cut back, we can probably be persuaded to in-

clude them as is – this is particularly true for low spreading varieties.)

Also consider that we would like to plant at least 2 or 3 of each dwarf and groundcover variety; however, the same person doesn't necessarily have to provide the two or three plants. Our current thinking is that one of each is alright for medium and tall plants, and we can arrange similar plants together so they would appear from a distance as a related group. For example, a number of different medium height red cultivars that bloom at about the same time could be arranged to appear as a drift of red azaleas from a distance, and not be seen as distinct and different plants until you inspect them closely.

With regard to the actual plants, please don't send them right now – we'll let you know about our staging area and when we can accept the actual plants – but do send your commitments to provide the plants. Send your ideas, votes and commitments to **Bob Stelloh, 15241 Springfield Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874, or call at 301-840-1714.** And do it now, so the committee knows which plants we'll have to work with, and so someone else doesn't get there first with your favorite plant!

Design and Preparation

After we know which plants we'll be working with, the committee will do the creative part. We'll decide how to arrange each of the plants in the garden by their mature size (generally low beside the paths, and grading up to tall in the center and rear of the beds), by color, and by bloom time, and we'll decide appropriate spacing to allow the plants to grow to maturity without being a tangle of plants, and without requiring constant pruning. This should be several long and interesting meetings! While I don't think we could withstand much extra help at these meetings, we are completely open to design suggestions before and after the meetings.

The principal goal of the garden is to make visitors aware of the beauty of azaleas, the wide variety of colors,

bloom time, and plant habits that azaleas offer, and how azaleas can be interplanted to form attractive combinations in the garden. To accomplish this, the garden must be attractive enough as the visitors drive by (at about 10 miles per hour on their way to the parking lot) to encourage them to walk over to it on their way to the main building entrance. Then, as they approach the garden more closely, the plant combinations must encourage them to walk into the garden to discover and appreciate the individual plants. The final plan will have fewer plants than the preliminary design shown here, and more paths to encourage this closer inspection.

The hard part will be this coming October and November, when the garden site will be tilled several times to prepare the planting beds. If you have a heavy-duty tiller, or if you can help with garden carts, rakes and shovels to help spread the sand and other amendments, contact Bob Stelloh at the telephone number or address shown above. The current schedule is:

- 8/8/92 outline the planting areas and paths, and spray the area with herbicide;
- 8/15/92 remove brush and stumps;
- 9/5/92 initial tilling of the garden site;
- 9/12/92 add 4" leaf compost, 1" sand, gypsum on the planting area, and till again; and
- 10/10/92 add 4" leaf compost to overwinter.

The best part will be next spring, when we plant the prepared beds, and get to see the garden appear. You can volunteer for that too. We'll plant and mulch the beds and finish up the garden on the first few weekends in April of 1993. Our goal is to dedicate the garden on Sunday, May 16, 1993, when the midseason bloomers will be at their peak.

Money

Besides the plants, the garden needs money for materials, signs,

and brochures. In particular, we have budgeted \$4000 for these purposes, and we currently have only \$1000 committed. This is an excellent way for the other chapters to participate in the garden, and it's an excellent way for each of you reading this article to participate individually.

Send your checks to **Glenn Taylor, ASA Treasurer, 5203 Queensbury Avenue, Springfield, Virginia, 22151**, payable to the Azalea Society of America, and write "George Harding Memorial" on the memo line. If you wish, you can also identify your donation as being for a specific activity. And don't worry about sending too much – we'll put the extra money aside to handle future maintenance, replacement and printing costs. River Farm is going to be there for a long time, and we intend for the George Harding Azalea Garden to be there for a long time as well.

Recognition

Unless we're asked not to, we'll acknowledge each contributor as a Guarantor (\$1000 and up), Benefactor (\$500-\$999), Sponsor (\$250-\$499), Associate (\$100-\$249), Patron (\$50-\$99) and Friend (\$25-\$49). For that purpose and for tax purposes, plants will be valued at their approximate retail value (or your valuation – just let us know), and labor will be valued at \$75 per day. (According to the IRS regulations, money, plants, equipment rental costs and the travel costs associated with the labor are tax-deductible contributions, while the labor itself is not.)

With your help, this garden will be an outstanding memorial to George Harding, and will continue his goal and our Society goal of educating people about the beauty of azaleas.

It's exactly the right location to do it – 10,000 people interested in plants are going to see it each year. All we need is your ideas, your plants, your money, and your efforts, to give these visitors an opportunity to see a wide variety of azaleas at their very best. As Mal Clark wrote in his President's letter in the previous Azalean, let's all support "Proposition Harding", and make this garden a great garden!

Bob Stelloh and his wife, Denise, knew George for a number of years, and have a number of plants from George's garden, along with many fond memories of time spent with him. Bob recently retired from a career of computer programming, and is currently marketing a garden information management computer program he has developed for public gardens. □

Name	Group	Name	Group	Name	Group	Name	Group
2-1-62	Huang	Bacchus	Beltsville	Camelot	Glenn Dale	Cleopatra	Kaempferi
4-2-75	Huang	Baiho	Satsuki	Campfire	Gable	Comet	Beltsville
166-49-8	Back Acres	Balsaminaeflorum	R. indicum	Caprice	Gold Cup	Content	Glenn Dale
19-G	Gable	Bayou	Belgian-Glenn Dale	Carillon	Beltsville	Conversation Piece	Robin Hill
250-49-3	Back Acres	Beacon	Glenn Dale	Carla	Carla	Copperman	Glenn Dale
55-?-5	Back Acres	Ben Morrison	Glenn Dale (?)	Carnival	Glenn Dale	Coquette	Glenn Dale
Acme	Glenn Dale	Beni Kagami	Satsuki	Carrara	Glenn Dale	Cora Brandt	Back Acres
Acrobat	Glenn Dale	Beni Kirin	Satsuki	Carrie Amanda	Holly Hills	Coral Ace	Back Acres
Adriatic	Holly Springs	Beni Kirishima	Satsuki	Catawba	Glenn Dale	Coral Sea	Glenn Dale
Advance	Glenn Dale	Benigasa	Satsuki	Cavalier	Glenn Dale	Coralie	Glenn Dale
Adzuma no Hana	Satsuki	Betty Anne Voss	Robin Hill	Cavatina	Glenn Dale	Corrine Murrah	Back Acres
Afternoon Delight	Holly Springs	Betty Hemming-way	Harris	Cavendishi	Southern Indian	Corsage	Gable
Amagasa	Satsuk	Betty Layman	Robin Hill	Cayenne	Back Acres	Cream Cup	Glenn Dale
Ambrosia	Glenn Dale	Big Joe	Gable	Celestial	Glenn Dale	Cremona	Glenn Dale
Amoena Coccinea	Amoena	Blaauw's Pink	Kurume	Cha Cha	Gold Cup	Crinoline	Glenn Dale
Andros	Glenn Dale	Blue Danube	Vuyk	Chanson	Robin Hill	Criterion	Southern Indian
Angela Place	Glenn Dale	Blushing Maid	Glenn Dale	Chanticleer	Glenn Dale	Cupid	Glenn Dale
Ann Lee McPhail	Harris	Bohemian	Glenn Dale	Cherie	Gartrel (?)	Cygnets	Glenn Dale
Annamarie	Kaempferi	Boldface	Glenn Dale	Cheri (Cherry?)	Greenwood	Daiseiko	Satsuki
Antares	Glenn Dale	Bopeep	Glenn Dale	Cherokee	Gable	Daisetsuzan	Satsuki
Antique	Glenn Dale	Boudoir	Gable (?)	Cherokee Squaw	Gartrell	Damask	Glenn Dale
Antoine	Robin Hill	Bouffant	Back Acres	Cherry Spot	Glenn Dale	Darkness	Glenn Dale
Aphrodite	Glenn Dale	Bourdon	Back Acres	Chikyu no Haru	Satsuki	Dauntless	Glenn Dale
Apricot	Gable	Boutonniere	Beltsville	Chinook	Gable	Daviesi	Ghent
Apricot Honey	Back Acres	Bravura	Glenn Dale	Chinzan	Satsuki	Dayspring	Glenn Dale
Argosy	Glenn Dale	Brazil	Exbury	Chloe	Glenn Dale	Debonaire	Back Acres
Asahi no Hikari	Satsuki	Buccaneer	Glenn Dale	Christie	Robin Hill	Delight	Glenn Dale
Astronaut	Holly Springs	Burgundy	Glenn Dale	Chugai	Satsuki	Delos	Glenn Dale
Aviator	Glenn Dale	Cadenza	Glenn Dale	Cinderella	Glenn Dale	Dimity	Glenn Dale
B. Y. Morrison	Glenn Dale (?)			Cinnabar	Glenn Dale	Disco Dancer	Holly Springs
Bacchante	Glenn Dale			Circe	Glenn Dale		

Name	Group	Name	Group	Name	Group	Name	Group
Old Faithful	Gable	<i>R. calendulaceum</i>	<i>R. calendulaceum</i>	Sappho	Glenn Dale	Tochi no Hikari	Satsuki
Olga Niblett	Robin Hill	<i>R. canadense</i>	<i>R. canadense</i>	Sara Holden	Robin Hill	Tracy White	Harding
Opal	Linwood	<i>R. canescens</i>	<i>R. canescens</i>	Sarabande	Glenn Dale	Treasure	Glenn Dale
Orangeade		<i>R. flammeum</i>	<i>R. flammeum</i>	Satellite	Belgian Indian	Tropicana	Holly Springs
Oriflamme	Glenn Dale	<i>R. oblongifolium</i>	<i>R. oblongifolium</i>	Satrap	Glenn Dale	Trouper	Glenn Dale
Osaraku	Kurume	<i>R. periclymenoides</i>	<i>R. periclymenoides</i>	Satrap (sport)	Glenn Dale	Tsuyu no Hikari	Satsuki
Oshidori [?]		<i>R. prinophyllum</i>	<i>R. prinophyllum</i>	Saybrook Glory	Girard	Tunis	Slocock
Paladin	Glenn Dale	<i>R. prunifolium</i>	<i>R. prunifolium</i>	Scarlet Picotee	Sonoma	Twinkles	Glenn Dale
Palestrina	Vuyk	<i>R. schlippenbachi</i>	<i>R. schlippenbachi</i>	Scherzo	Glenn Dale	Uho	Satsuki
Papineau	Robin Hill	<i>R. serrulatum</i>	<i>R. serrulatum</i>	Scott Gartrell	Robin Hill	Ungetsu no Hikari	Satsuki
Paprika	Glenn Dale	<i>R. vaseyi</i>	<i>R. vaseyi</i>	Scott's Lavender		Velvet	Glenn Dale
Paradise	Glenn Dale	<i>R. viscosum</i>	<i>R. viscosum</i>	Seattle White		Vespers	Glenn Dale
Parfait	Harris	RachelCunning- ham	Back Acres	Sebastian	Glenn Dale	Vibrant	Harris
Pat Erb	Robin Hill	Radiance	Glenn Dale	Seigai	North Tisbury (?)	Violetta	Glenn Dale
Pat Kraft	Back Acres	Rain Fire	Harris	Seigetsu	Satsuki	Virginia Baroness	Ring
Patriot	Glenn Dale	Ranger	Glenn Dale	Seneca	Glenn Dale	Virginia Prince	Ring
Peach Blow	Kurume	Red Bird	Glenn Dale	Shanghai Susie	Holly Springs	Virginia Princess	Ring
Peach Fuzz	Linwood	Red Red	Shammarello	Sheila	Glenn Dale	Virginia Vines	Holly Springs
Pearl Bradford	Glenn Dale	Red Robe	Glenn Dale	Shichifukuju	Satsuki	Vuyk's Rosyred	Vuyk
Roehr's Peggy Ann	Roehr	Red Ruffles	Rutherford	Shiryu no Homare	Satsuki	Vuyk's Scarlet	
Peggy Vines	Holly Springs	Red Slipper	Back Acres	Shiyo	Satsuki	Wakaebisu	Satsuki
Pequeno	Beltsville	Red Tip	Robin Hill	Shosho no Har	[?]	Walter Kern	Linwood
Peter Pan	Glenn Dale	Redmond	Robin Hill	Show Time	Greenwood	Wanderer	Glenn Dale
Ping Pong	Beltsville	Redskins	Holly Springs	Showboat	Greenwood	Warai Jishi	Satsuki
Pink Cascade	Harris	Redwings	Brooks	Signal	Glenn Dale	Warpaint	Gartrell
Pink Elf	Beltsville	Refrain	Glenn Dale	Silver Mist	Glenn Dale	Watchet	Robin Hill
Pink Ice	Belgian-Glenn Dale	Reid Red	Linwood	Simplicity	Glenn Dale	Whipped Cream	Holly Springs
Pink Pincushion	Linwood	Reward	Glenn Dale	Sir Robert	Robin Hill	White Find	<i>R. vaseyi</i>
Pink Rosette	Gable (?)	Rhapsody	Glenn Dale	Slim Jim	Linwood	White Jade	Back Acres
Pirate	Glenn Dale	Rising Sun	Glenn Dale	Snowclad	Glenn Dale	White Lights	Johnson & Pellett
Pixie Petticoat	Kurume	Rivermist	Harris	Snowdrop	Beltsville	White Moon	Robin Hill
Pleasant White	Girard	Roberta	Girard	Snowwhite	Beltsville	White Rosebud	Kehr
Pocono Pink	Swell	Robin Dale	Robin Hill	Spring Bonnet	Back Acres	Whitehead	Robin Hill
Polar Sea	Glenn Dale	Robin Hill Congo	Robin Hill	Springtime	Gable	Whitney	Beltsville
Polaris	Gable	Robin Hill Frosty	Robin Hill	St. Moritz	Holly Springs	Wild Cherry	
Portent	Glenn Dale	Robin Hill Gillie	Robin Hill	Starfire	Back Acres	Wildfire	Glenn Dale
Presto	Glenn Dale	Robin Hill	Robin Hill	Sterling	Glenn Dale	Winedrop	Glenn Dale
Pride of Lawrenceville	Harris	Palmyra		Stewartstonian	Gable	Winter Hawk	Greenwood
Printemps	Chisolm-Merritt	Robin Hill Wendy	Robin Hill	Stormcloud	Back Acres	Wintergreen	North Tisbury
Progress	Glenn Dale	Robinhood	Glenn Dale	Su-Lin	Greenwood	Witchery	Glenn Dale
Prosperity	Glenn Dale	Rose Elf	Beltsville	Swan	Gable (?)	Yamato (Witches Broom)	Satsuki
Puck	Glenn Dale	Rose Greeley	Gable	Swansong	Glenn Dale	Yaye Hiryu (syn. Yaye Giri)	Kurume
Purple Pride	Holly Hills	Rosebud	Gable	Swashbuckler	Glenn Dale	Yellow Cloud	Hyatt
Purple Splendor	Gable	Royal Robe	Greenwood	Sweetpea [?]		Yeoman	Glenn Dale
Quakeress	Glenn Dale	Royalty	xGable	T-24-2	Gartrell	Youth	Glenn Dale
Quest	Glenn Dale	Ruby Glow	Girard	T-28-1	Gartrell	Yuka	North Tisbury
<i>R. alabamense</i>	<i>R. alabamense</i>	Ruth May	Kurume	T-45-9	Gartrell	Zephyr	Glenn Dale
<i>R. arborescens</i>	<i>R. arborescens</i>	S-39-9	Gartrell	Templar	Glenn Dale	Zodiac	Holly Springs
<i>R. atlanticum</i>	<i>R. atlanticum</i>	Safrano	Glenn Dale	Temptation	Glenn Dale	Zulu	Glenn Dale
<i>R. austrinum</i>	<i>R. austrinum</i>	Sagittarius	Glenn Dale	Tharon Perkins	Back Acres		
<i>R. bakeri</i>	<i>R. bakeri</i>	Saint James	Back Acres	Tina	Greenwood		
		Samite	Glenn Dale	Tiny	Linwood		
		Sandra Ann	Girard				

The Massed Glenn Dale Azaleas on Mt. Hamilton at the National Arboretum: A Commentary and a Call for Action

William C. Miller III, *Bethesda, MD*
Richard T. West, *Columbia, MD*

The results of an investigation of the massed Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas planted on the southern slope of Mt. Hamilton at the U.S. National Arboretum (NA) were reported in the March 1992 issue of *THE AZALEAN* [1]. The investigation found the massed planting to be an important and valuable germplasm collection, contrary to popular belief, comprising some of the very best azaleas selected from some 70,000 seedlings produced in the Glenn Dale hybridizing program of B. Y. Morrison. Donated to the NA for its permanent collection by Morrison's Division in the Bureau of Plant Industry, the more than 15,000 azaleas are arranged mostly in groups of twelve, representing about 1,200 individual selections.

The development of the massed planting was no accident. It was totally consistent with the reasons for which a national arboretum was established. Under Public Law 799, passed by the 69th Congress on March 4, 1927, the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized and directed to establish a national arboretum "for purposes of research and education concerning tree and plant life." In support of that legislative mandate and from the beginning, the NA intended to establish permanent living collections of plant material for the purpose of scientific research and education — or, in the words of Dr. Frederick V. Coville, first acting director and the father of the National Arboretum, to create a "bureau of standards for horticulture" [2]. The NA has served and continues to serve professional botanists and horticultural researchers by maintaining such collections, which constitute valuable sources of germplasm.

The report of the investigation, coauthored with Barbara L. Bullock, Curator of Azaleas and Rhododendron at the NA, supports our hypothesis that the massed planting contains virtually all of the named and unnamed azaleas selected in the Glenn Dale program, including the unique group of hybrids that produced the color-bordered and white-edged flowers (e.g., 'Martha Hitchcock' and 'Surprise', respectively). Morrison candidly referred to the massed planting as the "cream of the hybrids that were produced" [3]. The report states that the massed azaleas have historic and research value, but it does not state whether conditions and accessibility make research activities possible or elaborate on that research value with specific examples.

We are very concerned about the general condition of the massed azalea planting. While the azaleas on the hillside are a testament to the durability of azaleas in general and to the quality of the Glenn Dale hybrids in particular, nevertheless, the hillside azaleas are in a threatened state due to many years of neglect. The lack of basic maintenance has taken its toll. The mistaken belief that the contents of the hillside were rejects and castoffs has understandably contributed to their present condition. In places, the azaleas have been invaded by vines and all manner of weeds, and existing or volunteer trees need pruning or removal. Access to some parts of the planting is not now possible. Erosion and drainage problems persist, and over the years we have watched as sections of the planting have declined and died. Unless steps are taken to improve the situation, the rate of decline and loss will increase.

The picture is not entirely negative. The Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) has come to recognize the problem and has committed funds (non-federal) for the creation of a four-month fellowship to aid the curator in the execution of her responsibilities. This is an important and symbolic first step to address problems with the azaleas, but much more needs to be done. As recently as last year, the National Arboretum's Advisory Council recommended that additional "support positions be provided, particularly new curators for the conifer, azalea/rhododendron, Fern Valley and holly/magnolia collections..." [4]. The take-home message here is that the Arboretum's Advisory Council, like FONA, has recognized the problem and has formally reported that the Council gives "high priority" to the recommendation that full-time permanent staff be added to the azalea/rhododendron collection for the immediate care of the gardens.

We urge the NA to move quickly in response to the FONA action and the Advisory Council's recommendations. A comprehensive status report on the entire azalea collection is needed as a beginning. From it, a plan of action for improving the hillside, specifically, and the complete azalea collection in general should be developed. Priorities of action should be indicated, and the key problem of assuring the viability and continued maintenance of the azaleas should be clearly addressed. How the NA is to meet stewardship responsibilities for existing collections with available resources should be answered before any new and grandiose demonstration garden projects or initiatives are undertaken.

In order to assist the NA in developing an action plan, we recommend that an advisory group of outside experts be established to help address the need for an immediate remedial intervention, as well as to identify the resource level (as measured in committed staff) necessary for on-going

maintenance. Membership should include azalea experts and horticulturists knowledgeable about azalea collections and landscaping, as well as representatives from FONA and the NA Advisory Council.

Once maintenance and access are assured, the massed hillside azaleas can provide a research resource from which many important developmental and research endeavors are possible. For reasons that have never been explained, there is no longer an active research program in azaleas at the Arboretum, despite the fact that there are numerous research opportunities of both a basic and applied nature that cry out for attention. The development of a yellow evergreen azalea has never been realized, although this probably is achievable using modern technology (vectors and recombinant DNA) that was not available to Ben Morrison or Robert Pryor. Petal blight, root rot, powdery mildew, and other conditions of fungal origin are major problems in the azalea and rhododendron trade for which the development of resistant cultivars would be a major advance and contribution to the horticultural community and industry.

The NA should be a repository of complete azalea collections, and starting with the Glenn Dales would be fitting [5]. We would welcome the creation of a complete, accurate collection of the 454 named Glenn Dale hybrids. A priority task should be the identification of as many of the hillside azaleas as possible. Once identification is well underway, other studies would become feasible, and the NA should assist and encourage azalea re-

searchers. An update of the descriptions of the Glenn Dales (Monograph 20) based on mature plants is needed and would be of tremendous benefit. Of equal value would be the creation of computer databases and photograph files for the Glenn Dale and other azaleas. The hillside azaleas can be an important germplasm resource for hybridizing to create improved varieties. Other examples of research include a study of "sporting" and the identification of the origins of certain Glenn Dale cultivars, such as 'Grace Freeman' and the assumed Glenn Dale, 'Ben Morrison'.

The Curator of Azalea and Rhododendrons at the NA, our colleague Barbara Bullock, has overseen many improvements to the hillside planting in a short period of time. The progress, when compared to the total task at hand, must be considered as prologue. She will barely be able to maintain the improvements made so far with her present resources, let alone work on more of the hillside. The azaleas have been an outstanding and prominent feature of the Arboretum since the beginning of its collection development. Their place of value and importance to the NA and to horticulture needs reappreciation, and their maintenance must be assured.

References and Comments

1. West, R. T., Miller III, W. C., and Bullock, B. L. *The Massed Glenn Dale Azaleas on Mt. Hamilton: A Valuable Collection at the National Arboretum*. *THE AZALEAN*, March 1992, Vol. 14 No. 1, pages 8-13.

2. *Science*, December 25, 1925, Vol.

LXII, No. 1617, pages 579-581.

3. A quote from a Morrison letter dated May 13, 1947 that was written to Robert Pyle who asked about the origin of the hillside azaleas. Robert Pyle was President, Conard-Pyle Nursery Co., West Grove, PA; Chairman, Botanical Gardens and Arboreta Committee of the American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; and a member of the Arboretum's Advisory Council.

4. Report to the Honorable Clayton Yeutter, Secretary of Agriculture from the National Arboretum Advisory Council. January 18, 1991.

5. The idea of having a complete Glenn Dale azalea hybrid collection at the NA was Morrison's goal originally, but it was never achieved. Dr. Roy Magruder, Ron Bare, and others over the years have tried to complete the Arboretum's Glenn Dale azalea collection without success.

Bill Miller is vice president of the Azalea Society of America, co-chairman of the Membership Committee, chairman of the Public Information Committee, and a chairman of the Glenn Dale Preservation Project. He is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter and has served as Chairman of Horticulture for the chapter's annual flower show for many years. He is as interested in the historical aspects of the azaleas as he is in the horticultural aspects. He is a frequent contributor to THE AZALEAN.

Dick West, a native of Washington, DC, is a long-time member of the Azalea Society and is interested in the Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas. He is an occasional contributor to THE AZALEAN. □

Using Velcro® for Plant Ties

Robert Stelloh
Germantown, MD

When you stake a plant, you have a couple of choices: you can tie the plant loosely to the stake so that the plant has room to grow; or you can tie the plant tightly to the stake. If you tie tightly, you have to remember to loosen the tie as the plant grows, or it's going to girdle the plant.

We've lost a number of very small azaleas and other plants to the deer. What seems to happen is they pull the plants out of the ground in the course of taking a nibble. If you don't see this pretty quickly, the roots dry out and you have lost the plants. This can also be caused by frost heaving, but our plants seem to be pulled out rather than pushed out. In either case, tying the plant very tightly to a stake can solve the problem, but at the risk of girdling the plant in a year or two.

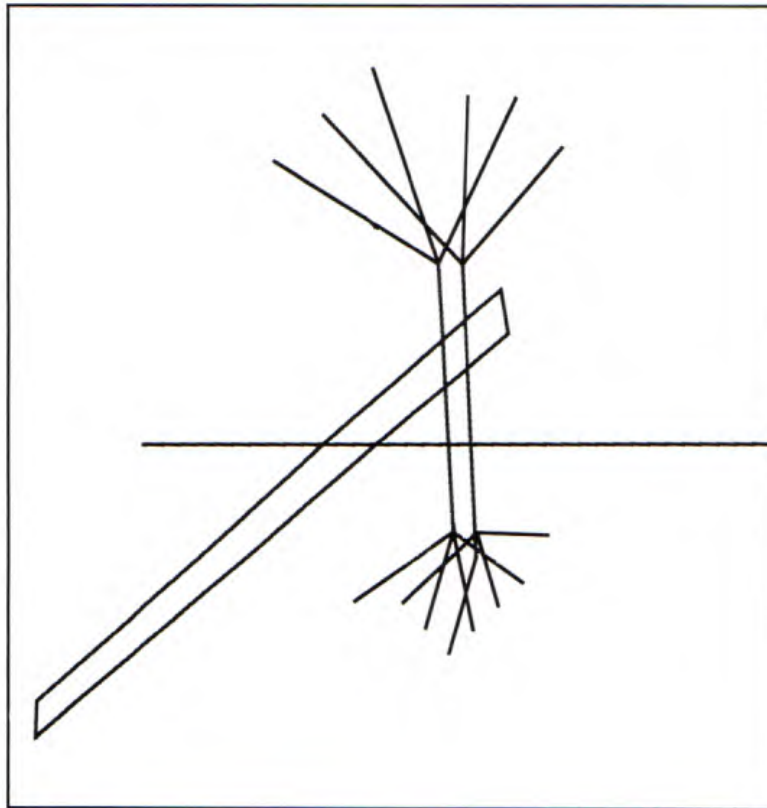


Figure 1. (TOP) Stake Placement

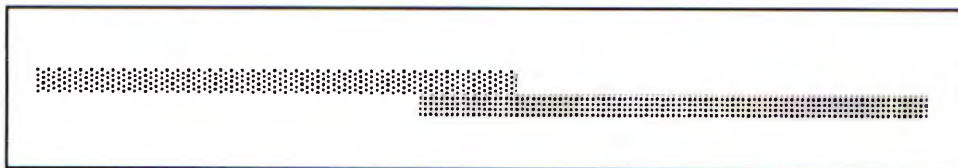


Figure 2. (BOTTOM) Velcro Arrangement

The solution that seems to be working for us is to use Velcro®, the familiar "hook and eye" fabric, for the tie. I brought a 15-yard roll of 3/4" wide sticky-back Velcro® for about \$15. The hook side and the eye side are on separate tapes on a paper backing. I split each tape lengthwise with a scissors as I use it, and use about six inches of each tape per plant. The narrow width seems to be enough, and keeps the cost down to about 15 or 20 cents per plant.

You can either press an inch or two of the sticky-back sides of each of the tapes onto each other to make a single eight- to ten-inch tape, or you can press an inch or two of the Velcro® sides onto each other to make the long tape. The difference is that if you put the sticky sides together first, the sticky side will be toward the plant after you use the tape; if you put the Velcro® sides together first, the sticky side will be toward the outside. The general idea is shown in Figure 1.

I put the stake (usually a 1/2-inch piece of a cedar roof shingle) into the ground at a 45° angle to the main stem of the plant, and push it in until the end of the stake is just even with or slightly overlapping the stem of the plant (see Figure 2). Then I wrap the Velcro® tape as tightly as I can around both the stake and the plant at the point where they overlap, and put the Velcro® hook and eye sides against each other. The resulting tie binds the plant extremely tightly to the stake, and forms a triangle with the ground. It takes a great deal of force to pull the combination out of the ground, much more than it takes to pull either one out separately.

The big advantage of Velcro® over other plant tie materials is that the tie is going to stay tight until the steadily increasing pressure resulting from the growth of the plant eventually forces the hook and eye to separate. Thus, I can tie it as tightly as I can and still forget that I staked the plant—if it needs to, the plant is going to break the tie rather than being girdled by it. □

Letters to the Editor

A friend of mine propagated and sold azaleas for a few years. I believe that his Glenn Dales may have come from Dr. Coe or Fred Lee. In the 50s, I saw young plants for sale—labeled 'Furbelow' and they were white striped red. The 'Furbelow' that I obtained in the 60s from Kingsville was white and later, on subsequent inquiry, Mr. Hohman said that he did not now have 'Furbelow'. By that time my friend had ceased propagating azaleas, but I located his stock plant of 'Furbelow': a five-foot plant with white flowers except one branch at the base had the white striped flower. I put this branch under a rock but next year the flower on this branch was also white. My 'Furbelow' has always been white; where did the striped flowered plant that reverted to white come from? 'Furbelow' means—showy, useless trimming or ornamentation—and should never be applied to any-white-flowered plants!

PS: I told Bill Miller about my experience given above. My 'How-raku' was sectored and striped—now white! □

Dr. Neil Campbell
Washington, D.C.

The following will be of interest to those of our members who use the R.H.S. Colour Chart, together with the ISCC-NBS color names in the Huse and Kelly pamphlet published in 1984 by the American Rhododendron Society (A Contribution Toward the Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture). Mal Clark has called my attention to a discrepancy: the color name associated with color chip RHS (66) 19B does not make sense in relation to the colors and names of the adjacent chips.

The CIE x,y,Y coordinates for chip 19B as published by the Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) in a pamphlet accompanying the color chart appear to be wrong. Repeated measurements with a colorimeter have yielded results placing 19B in the ISCC-NBS color-name block "light Yellow". Conversion by formula of the RHS-published coordinates into Munsell notation gives a result differing by only 0.1 chroma step from the notation derived by the National Bureau of Standards' computer program and published by Huse and Kelly.

Thus, the name "light yellowish Pink" published for 19B by Huse and Kelly is a correct translation of the coordinates published by R.H.S.—but an erroneous name for 19B! Additional evidence of the error appears when the x,y,Y coordinates are translated into the CIELAB system. One measure, called hue-angle, arrays the hues (red, orange, yellow, green, etc.) around a circle and associates them with angles from 0 to 360, as on a circular protractor. The colorimeter measurements, which convert to "light Yellow" show a difference of only two degrees in hue-angle between the 19A and 19B chips. But the data published by R.H.S. in 1966 imply a (clearly erroneous) hue-angle difference of 15 degrees toward red.

The methods employed above will be used to examine the other chips and their ISCC-NBS names as published by Huse and Kelly. If additional discrepancies are found, I will seek to convey them to fellow members. □

Don Voss
Vienna, VA

(The following is a letter originally to Bill Johnson, printed here by permission of the author, ed.)

It was a pleasure working with you on the Azalea Society Auction this year, sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter. Your planning and perseverance in obtaining plant material paid off. Well done!

On behalf of the National Arboretum Azalea Collection, I, my supervisors, and FONA would like to thank you for your generous contribution. The money will be put to use where it will do the most good the fastest. Since the National Arboretum is here for the purpose of science and education, I intend on purchasing signs to place in front of plants which are easy to read. These signs will help the public to identify the plants we have. This will greatly speed me to the goal I have for the Azalea Collection here at the USNA.

Also, I would like to tell everyone about the wonderful assistance I've been receiving from several members of the Azalea Society. First and foremost is the weekly appearance of Brookside Gardens member, Jean Cox, since May 1991. Complete with tools, books, knowledge, and warm conversation, Jean is out there with me, rain or shine, uncovering and exposing our buried treasures from the past. Thank you, Jean! Then, there are the people behind the scenes: Frank Sobieski, At-Large member, has been assisting me with putting together a map of the collections (this does not include the Mt. Hamilton Hillside or Valley; I'm afraid we're not ready for that yet), to scale, with plant locations, grid markers, and contours. This will be the most complete map of the collection since 1960. Frank is also helping me to improve my record-keeping by doing some computer work at his home. Thank you, Frank! Then there's the never tiring inspiration to find the truth, from Bill Miller, Brookside Gardens Chapter, and Dick West, Ben Morrison Chapter. Together with some luck, we may someday eventually find that hidden file cabinet somewhere out there. Thank you Bill and

(Letters to the Editor Cont.)

Dick! Finally, Don Voss, Northern Virginia Chapter, for all his leads into the old records, the sharing of his knowledge and expertise of the history of the Robin Hill azaleas. Thank you, Don.

And thank everyone else for your energy and input. □

Barbara Bullock
U.S. National Arboretum

I have been following the history of the North Tisbury azaleas history carefully for a number of years and have heard mixed success stories from those in my area who have tried to grow them. The fascinating article by Ms. Hill in the December issue reinforced my nervousness since the background of the *R. nakaharae* hybrids is not in very hardy azaleas. We are zone 6 here, but really zone 6a. Ms. Hill refers to her area as zone 6, but I wonder what her temperatures actually are, especially with the modifying effects of the sea nearby. Does anyone have records from those in the Northeast who are growing these azaleas? □

Margaret Boehm
Wilton, CT

Azalea Calendar

June	Follow-up meeting by the Ben Morrison Chapter on the 1992 Convention
June 13	Dallas Chapter "Cuttings Party" at Burnett Landscape Nursery @ 7:30AM
June 21	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library
August 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the September issue of THE AZALEAN
August 8	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
August 15	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
August 16	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library
September 5	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
September 12	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
September 19	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
October 10	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
October 17	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
October 18	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library
October 20	Dallas Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM at the Highland Park town hall.
November 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
November 21	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
December 13	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library

Azalea News

Request for Information

The Royal Horticultural Society is planning a complete revisions of The (RHS) *Rhododendron Handbook 1980*, covering all species known to be in cultivation. I have been asked to assist in obtaining a list of names of those who have made numbered collections of seeds, plants, or cuttings in the wild. The RHS is interested in numbered material that is likely to be

in cultivation, whether collected in North America or overseas.

Those who have made such collections since the 1980 lists were published, and believe the material to be in cultivation, are asked to send me their names and addresses for forwarding to the RHS.

Jay W. Murray, Registrar
21 Squire Terrace
Colts Neck, NJ 07722-1021 □

In Memory

ASA at-large member Mr. John Peter Miller of Camino Avenue in Sacramento, California passed away on June 21, 1991.

Oconee Chapter member L. S. Jones of Conyers, Georgia passed away recently. □

Ben Morrison Chapter*Sue Switzer, President*

The Ben Morrison Chapter had their final planning meeting for the 1992 Convention on April 26, 1992. The Convention and Annual Meeting was held May 14-17 at Solomons, MD. Eighty-nine members of the Society registered. A complete report on the convention will be giving in the September issue of *THE AZALEAN*. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

At the April 7 meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter the speaker was Karen Russ, head gardener of informal gardens at Brookside Gardens.

The chapter's 13th azalea flower show was held May 1 through May 3, 1992, in conjunction with the annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival. One of the most popular springtime events in the Washington area, the Landon Azalea Garden Festival attracts thousands of visitors to the beautiful campus of the prestigious school for boys. The open, standard flower show is one of the featured highlights of the festival. This year, fifteen exhibitors, from all over the Washington area, submitted 178 horticultural entries. The seven judges, all azalea experts and drawn from as far away as North Carolina, awarded 33 blue ribbons, 35 red ribbons, 22 yellow ribbons, and 18 white ribbons (honorable mention). Ten green ribbons (best blue in a section) were awarded, and from that group, after considerable deliberation, Bill Miller's specimen of the Glenn Dale 'Festive' was selected as "Best-in-Show." The Sweepstakes Ribbon (a point calculation based on the number and value of ribbons) was also won by Bill Miller.

Beautiful invitational artistic designs with the theme "Strictly Native" were provided by Gi Adams, Frank Sharpnak, and Dorothy Now-

ers. The stylistic blends of plant material and accessories demonstrated the skill and creativity of the designers and graphically illustrated the value of azaleas as cut flowers.

With great excitement, the Landon community has come to look forward to the flower show. For the third year, their reading room on the lower floor of the Banfield Academic Center was transformed into a garden panorama featuring a professionally-designed landscape consisting of hundreds of specimen trees, shrubs, perennials, and wildflowers as a centerpiece surrounded by the flower show entries. Under the leadership of Ralph D'Amato, work on the central landscape creation began midday on Thursday, April 30th and was completed in about eight hours. More in keeping with what one would expect to see in the great outdoors, one could not fail to be moved by the transition. Observing the expressions of surprise when people discovered the perfectly natural outdoor creation, where none had existed the day before, was a lot of fun. Many people could not believe that it was real or, for that matter, temporary. The design this year depicted the varied uses of native azaleas and companion plants. A collaborative effort, the list of participants who made the landscape project possible included: Country Casual, Ralph D'Amato & Associates, Landscaping by Aronica, the Landon Wildflower Committee, Layfield Landscape Construction, the Potomac Garden Center, Tri-State Stone Company, Poplar Hill Design (Carol Allen), Wildflowers (Jan Midgely), Denise and Bob Stelloh, Janet and Bill Miller, Gretchen Minners, Bill McIntosh, Jean Cox, Bill Johnson, Barbara Bullock, and Buck Clagett.

The chapter had the distinction of being selected as the 1992 official honoree of The Landon Azalea Garden Festival in recognition of the role that the chapter has played in the festival

for the last six years. Bill Johnson, the chapter president, accepted the honor on behalf of the chapter at the Festival Preview Party on April 30, 1992 which was the opening event of the festival. The next day, at the Mondzac Performing Arts Center, the chapter presented a symposium for Landon's Garden Lecture Series entitled, "Capital Azaleas!" The three speakers were Mal Clark, ASA president; Tony Dove, a past ASA president; and Bill Miller, ASA vice-president. The topics presented included: the development of azaleas; trends from native to future hybrids; planning for color, size, and bloom time; and problems encountered when growing azaleas. The chapter's association with the annual Landon festival provides a good example of the sort of public outreach activities and relationships that the Brookside Gardens chapter has sought to develop. □

Dallas Chapter*Steve Brainerd, President*

The Dallas Chapter has had a very active spring. The Membership was supplemented by volunteers at the Dallas Arboretum for spring azalea evaluations of the 2,000+ cultivars. The chapter worked one Saturday at Calloway's Nursery in conjunction with a visit by Fred Galle, donating the \$250.00 proceeds to the Friends of the National Arboretum for maintenance of the Glenn Dale Azalea Collection. Our booth at Neil Sperry's All Garden Fair in Arlington introduced many people on the west side of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex to the Azalea Society. Membership today is at its largest since the chapter was chartered. In addition to the May meeting, we will have a "cuttings party" on the second Saturday in June at the Burnett Landscape Nursery where 800 varieties will be available for vegetative propagation.

An early freeze in November 1991 has had a detrimental effect on the

quantity of blooms of many azalea varieties. Late flowering Satsukis seem to be affected as well as some early varieties such as 'Coral Bells', 'Fielder's White' and 'King's White'. A mild winter extended azalea blooms during November, December and January. A freeze to 29 degrees on March 9, 1992 killed open azalea flowers of light substance but others such as 'Hershey's Red' were unaffected. □

Oconee Chapter

The Oconee Chapter has 71 members as of May 1992. Their goal is to have 100 members by October 1992. The chapter met on March 22 and May 31, 1992. The program on March 22 included a slide presentation by Dr. Joe Coleman on deciduous azaleas. Nurseryman and hybridizer James Harris talked on proper azalea planting habits, and Jim Thornton talked on companion plants.

The chapter presented a show "Azaleas in Bloom" on April 4 at Goldkist in Conyers, Georgia. A special thanks goes to Allison Fuqua and Ray Goza for their plant donations which brought in \$50.00 and a very special thanks to Goldkist who contributed the door prizes plus a \$100.00 donation to the chapter!!! □

Report of the Public Information Committee for 1992

William C. Miller III, *Chairman*

For the period beginning May 1, 1991 and ending April 30, 1992, I submit the following report. One hundred and thirty-four requests for information were received from 26 states and the District of Columbia, two Canadian provinces (Quebec and Ontario), and one foreign (non-North American) country (Columbia). This figure is comparable to the 136 cards and letters that were reported for the previous period.

The most requests for information came from the state of Virginia (15) with Florida (13) following close behind. May of 1991 was the busiest

with 15 letters received, July of 1991 was least busy with only five letters received. This averages out to a little more than 11 responses per month and a whole lot of time in the line at the post office over the year.

The transition to the new box at the West Bethesda address continues as expected. For those who may not be familiar with the post office box story, the ASA changed its formal address to West Bethesda several years ago. The establishment of a new address was necessitated by the fact that the old Silver Spring box (located in Aspen Hill actually) had long since ceased to be convenient to anyone willing to be responsible for it. It was felt that we could not just discontinue the old box without a transition period since the old address was so well established and had been published extensively. As a courtesy, the plan is for the old box to be continued as long as the volume warrants. Presently, the old box is checked weekly at considerable inconvenience. An effort is made to monitor the West Bethesda (official) box daily to provide the best coverage possible.

I would like to thank the many nurserymen who mentioned the Azalea Society in their catalogs. All such help in getting the "word" out is appreciated. Regrettably, several such references this past year cited the old address and a dues figure less than the current dues. Obviously, this does not contribute to the transition to the newer address, and it results in additional work. While the receipt of requests for membership accompanied by insufficient checks provided a measure of the positive effect of such references, it was necessary to return the checks and to provide an explanation... not my favorite kind of letter. In most cases, however, people were quite understanding, \$20 checks followed in close order, and we had new members — basically a happy ending for all concerned.

Phone call referrals to the Azalea Society is an aspect of the public in-

formation activity that is beginning to grow. It is gratifying that azalea questions from graduate students, nurserymen, cooperative extension specialists, and the entire spectrum of landscape professionals are being referred to the ASA by other horticultural societies and institutions.

As has been reported before, I am sometimes asked where or how someone might find or buy a particular cultivar. This usually takes some digging through catalogs since I do not know precisely who is specializing in what. If you have a nursery, whether you ship or not, it would be a good idea to make sure that I receive a copy of your catalog or list. That would simply be good business. While I am committed to being as fair as possible, I am inclined to first look very closely at those folks who advertise in THE AZALEAN. □

At the National Arboretum

On April 15, 1992, ASA members Dick West and Bill Miller of the Brookside Gardens chapter addressed the staff of the U.S. National Arboretum. Dick West presented on the work that he, Bill Miller, and Barbara Bullock had done in studying the massed azalea planting on Mount Hamilton at the Arboretum. He summarized the article published in the March 1992 issue of THE AZALEAN which put to rest the widely held belief that the azaleas on Mount Hamilton were castoffs from the Glenn Dale program. Bill Miller presented an introduction to the life and accomplishments of Benjamin Yoe Morrison, the first director of the National Arboretum. □

1993 Convention and Annual Meeting

The 1993 Convention and Annual Meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas April 1, 2, and 3, 1993. The Dallas Chapter will host the meeting. □

ASA New Members

At-large Members

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Helen Fowler Library
Denver Botanic Gardens
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Vail Alpine Garden
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Cilla Cartwright
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Susan Dodd
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