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## Letter to the Editor

I am sending you the following contribution for a future issue of **THE AZALEAN**. I trust you will find my observations to be of use to the membership.

Fred Galle's article in the September 1992 issue of **THE AZALEAN** makes several references to deer problems. I have found a cheap, effective, and safe means of keeping white-tailed deer from munching on my vegetables and young hollies (the deer haven't tried my azaleas—yet!). We have plenty of deer too. I use one raw egg mixed up in a gallon of water and sprayed on the foliage. I use a kitchen electric mixer to blend two jumbo size raw eggs in a little water before putting the egg-water mix in my two-gallon pump sprayer. Perhaps smaller-sized eggs and/or fewer would work as well. I don't know. We have jumbo eggs so I use them.

The deer tracks have led right up to my snap beans and purple hull beans, but not a nibble was taken. I apply the egg-water spray after each rain but weekly if it doesn't rain. Many are surprised to hear that it works. I'm sure many of **THE AZALEAN** readers will be too. All I can say to them is "Try it. You'll like it!"

I can't reference the method, but I remember reading somewhere years ago, that a woman forester for the US Forest Service discovered it and used eggs in the water when setting out seedling trees in reforestation. The nursery seedlings were too succulent for the deer to pass up. The egg solution kept the deer at bay until the seedlings had hardened off and the deer were no longer tempted.

Robert J. Miravalle

*On the Cover:* *R. occidentale* Idyllwild 1323

*Photographer:* Mike McCullough

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# The Availability of Evergreen Azaleas in Western Europe

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Tijs Huisman  
*The Netherlands*

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For many years I have been growing evergreen azaleas in my garden. Each year I have bought some new cultivars in Holland and especially in Germany. They just fit into my garden of about two acres, full of conifers, and Ericaceae like heathers, *Rhododendrons*, *Pernettya*, *Cassiope*, *Vaccinium* and *Gaultheria*. I have always liked the evergreen azaleas (in Holland we call them all Japanese Azaleas) but I never was really excited about them. Most of them are red, pink, purplish or white; some hose-in-hose. Now I have about 40 different forms, which are growing very well in the sandy soil, mixed with peat, leaf mold and shredded pine needles. So far, so good.

Last year I attended the National Convention of the ARS on Long Island. Before the convention I stayed several days in the Boston area, and I bought Fred Galle's book. On Long Island I visited some beautiful gardens and Roslyn Nursery; this opened my eyes for the real greatness and beauty of evergreen azaleas: forms and flowers (large), which I never had seen before. I looked in the Galle book and admired the 'scrumptastic' and 'supernificent' flowers (as Harold Greer would say it).

I asked myself, and you now: why are those beautiful flowers not in Holland or Germany? Must we miss these fine plants now and in the future? Has nobody tried to import them from the USA—and why not? Is our climate so different from the places where they grow in the USA?

Before I will try to find some answers myself, I will indicate which "European" azaleas are available here. I will first start with the azaleas which I have in my garden:

'Allotria'	'Gabriele'	'Multiflora'
'Arabesk'	'Georg Arends'	'Nordlicht'
'Amoenum'	'Gorbella'	'Rosa'
'Adonis'	'Hino Crimson'	'Rosalind'
'Blaauws Pink'	'Kermesina'	'Rubinetta'
'Corbella'	'Kermesina Rose'	'Santa Maria'
'Diamant Rosa'	'Maike'	'Thiery'
'Diamant Purpur'	'Mme. Albert Van Hecke'	'Vuyk's Scarlet'
'Else'		

As far as I know, nearly all of these azaleas are of European origin. At first I thought that 'Herbert' for instance was of European origin as well, but now I know it is a Galle hybrid.

I studied a lot of catalogues here and I can mention the following cultivars, which are available here in Western-Europe, and which are popular and "good-doers" here (in addition to what I have):

'Anne Frank'	'Labe'	'Rosebud'
'Blanice'	'Lilienstein'	'Royal Pink'
'Blue Danube'	'Lister'	'Rubinstern'
'Brunella'	'Luzi'	'Sazava'
'Canzonetta'	'Maruschka'	'Schneeglantz'
Diamant series	'Mysik'	'Schneewittchen'

'Estrella'	'Oslava'	'Signalgluhen'
'Fridoline'	'Otava'	'Tornella'
'Granada'	'Rokoko'	'Vitava'

These cultivars are from the catalogue of Hans Hachmann/Germany; most of them are hybrids from him or from B. Kavka—Arends—Jelinek. They are hardy to very hardy.

In addition, these are available from other German nurseries (Wieting—Bohlje—Hesse—Vorwek):

'Agger'	'Hatsugiri Rosa'	'Omurasaki'
'Aladdin'	'Hinocrimson'	'Orange Beauty'
'Alice'	'Hinodegiri'	'Orion'
'Beethoven'	'Hinomayo'	'Patricia Barmold'
'Daphne'	'John Cairns'	'Schubert'
'Ennepe'	'Kathleen'	'Silvester'
'Favorite'	'Kermesina Alba'	'Sophie Scholl'
'Fedora'	'Lysande'	'Sophie Scholl'
'Frau Dekens'	'Maxwell'	'Vuyk's Rosyred'
'Hatsugiri'	'Muttertag'	

In addition also available in Holland are:

'Florida'	'Rosebud'	'Toreador'
'Gilbert Mullier'		

In addition, from some French nurseries:

'Abbott'	'Huka'	'Red Pimpernel'
'Addy Wery'	'Benigasa'	'Red Wing'
'Apotheose'	'Indica Roseaflora'	'Rex'
'Betty'	'Johanna'	'Robin Hill Frosty'
'Buccaneer'	'J.S. Bach'	'Rosa Belton;
'Chelsoni'	'Kirin'	'Rosa King'
'Christina'	'Koran Yuki'	'Roseaflora'
'Christmas Cheer'	'Lady Louise'	'Sakata Red'
'Coral Bells'	'Leo'	'Satrap'
'Dorothy Hayden'	'Macrantha Rosea'	'Scout'
'Early Beni'	'Macrostemon'	'Shiko'
'Esmeralda'	'Mikado'	'Snow'
'Fetes des Meres'	'Mme Pericat'	'Susanna Hill'
'General Larsen'	'Mulcho'	'Tamanini'
'General Wavell'	'Orange Favorite'	'Ward's Ruby'
'Greenway'	'Philinte'	'White Lady'
'Gumpo'	'Queen Wilhelmina'	'White Moon'

According to the book of Dr. ir. Jozef Heursel "Japanese Azaleas" are available (I mention some of them, otherwise the list would be too long):

'Ageeth'	'Eder'	'Mini'
'Agger'	'Excelsior'	'Morgenzon'
'Anny'	'Fiener'	'Noordtania'
'Arcadia'	'Fumiko'	'Oberon'
'Bever'	'Goblin'	'Perfection'
'Bigge'	'Hong Kong'	'Polar Bear'
'Brazier'	'Imperator'	'Purple Splendor'
'Brilliant Blue'	'James Gable'	'Sibelius'
'Campfire'	'Lavenda'	'Surprise'
'Casablanca tetra'	'Lily Marleen'	'Sylvia'
'Chippewa'	'Lorna'	'Violetta'
'Diemel'	'Mahler'	'Willy'
'Eclair'	'Mercator'	'Wipper'

I realize that these lists are not complete, but they give you an idea, of what is available in Western Europe. Beginning next year we will have a common market here, so anyone can buy plants in other countries without border-controls and inspections. Just that easy!!

Let me return to the questions that I asked before. As you can read in the lists, we have here in Europe some evergreen azaleas that have been imported by someone sometime. I did not even mention them all. A very strange thing is that, for instance, an evergreen like 'Double Beauty' came originally from Holland (Van Nes), and is not or hardly available here. Some years ago I imported evergreen azaleas from Harold Greer—'Rinpu', 'Anna Kehr', 'Double Beauty', 'Late Love', and 'Polypetalum'. I propagated them and showed them to some Dutch and German nurserymen. They did not know them, but liked them very much. I asked them if they had the book by Fred Galle or other books; they did not. On my question, if they would be willing to import the best forms from the USA, many replied: "Well, what they have in America is not better than what we have here." Strange!!

Last October I visited the Hobbie Park and Nursery and I showed the leader of the nursery, Mr. Tonjes, some fine evergreen azaleas from the USA; he wanted the plants very badly and would like to be in touch with me in the coming years. I told him about my trip to the USA and how many beautiful evergreen azaleas were there. "You can do that", he said, "but we have no time and opportunity to do so, because we are too busy in our nursery". So, I think maybe it depends on amateurs like me.

Are these answers to my questions?

Mrs. Sabine Bossdorf writes in a long but very clarifying and interesting article (I translate):

"The American hybridization of new Japanese Azaleas should be

recognized. Hundreds of new cultivars arose in the USA, but they did not break through, in Europe, because they have different growing conditions here (anders-artige Standortverhältnisse).

On the Gable and Glenn Dale hybrids she writes that many of them are in private gardens or arboreta and need to be tested. But as far as I know, many of them are in trade and cold-hardy enough for the climate in Holland.

About the Satsuki Azaleas she writes, that they need long, warm summers to harden off before the winter kills the new branches.

Some comments of Peter Cox in "The Smaller Rhododendrons": the Back Acres azaleas are too tender for Scotland probably to +10°F; none of the Gable hybrids are 100 percent hardy; in Pennsylvania the summers are hotter.

Only a few of the Glenn Dale hybrids are really satisfactory in Scotland. Few if any of the Satsuki hybrids are likely to be winter hardy in any area with cool summers.

As far as I understand what I have read, especially the *indicum* and Satsuki azaleas need hot summers; they then develop a winter-hardiness of -5°F. Following cool summers they are hardy only to +5°F.

I guess there are three conditions which restrict the availability of evergreen azaleas in Western Europe.

- (1) The climate,
- (2) Taste of the public,
- (3) The willingness of the nurserymen.

### (1) The Climate

What aspect of the climate is really decisive for the welfare of evergreen azaleas? The winter of 1991 was rather mild, and the following spring was very mild with temperatures in April about 70°F. And suddenly in one night it dropped to 15°F. and killed even the normally hardy plants. So, not only a factor is how low the tem-

peratures are, but also (and often most important) is how the weather was before the cold wave!! Sometimes we have here in Holland a really severe winter, but if the winter does not come too quickly, we have no problems.

Except in 1984; we had a mild December, the winter came slowly but in February it was very cold for three weeks, with a very strong eastern wind and plenty of sunlight. The plants did not die because of the low temperatures, but they dried out because of the wind and the sun!!

Our winter temperatures seldom drop below 0°F; so plants from zone 5 to 7a should be in principle hardy enough; that goes for Belgium and Northern France as well. In most parts of Germany it can be much colder and so the plants should be hardy at least for zone 6b.

Other aspects are, of course, how long and warm the summer is and the rainfall. Last summer in Holland was really long and warm with temperatures between 70° and 95°F, and it was rather dry. So it would have been a good year for Satsuki and *indicum* hybrids!! Our average yearly rainfall is about 900 mm. Not too dry or too wet.

### (2) Taste Of The Public

Evergreen azaleas are not as popular in Holland as the other rhododendrons. Every week I get a magazine about nursery business with advertisements and reports about what is selling best, etc. Seldom do I read something about evergreen azaleas. Why is that?

I have to guess now. As far as I can "feel" it, most garden people just think that evergreen azaleas are just indoor plants and not suitable for the garden; not hardy enough. Besides, most evergreen azaleas that are offered here are very similar in color and shape. No bi-colors, no large flowers, no dwarfs or creeping plants, except last year's introductions of nakaharai hybrids.

I try to convince others, even members of our ARS Chapter, that these plants are real good-doers for our gardens and hardy enough for our winters. If they would see a Satsuki hybrid with white flowers and red dots and stripes, they would hesitate to buy it. Here is a real challenge!!

### (3) The Willingness Of The Nurserymen

In my opinion many nurserymen in Holland and Germany are prejudiced against new introductions except their own. They don't want to take the risks to introduce to the public new forms with large flowers, because they think they will be destroyed by the weather; they hesitate to introduce bi-colored forms or dwarf cultivars. They doubt if the plants are hardy enough, etc. They are just too conservative! When I speak with them, they answer that they have a fine collection and it would cause too much of a problem to introduce new forms. In short: they want security.

Let me give some examples:

'Margaret Douglas': hardy 6b; beautiful large flowers, flowering not too early—fine. No spring frost damage. And why not in Europe?? I don't know why.

'Boldface': The same story. Should have been here for a long time!

'Nassau': Late, low, bi-color flowers. I love it!!

Yes, this article is a little bit tedious. I have no problems admitting it. Maybe I am a person with a message; but also with a strong will to achieve a goal.

I like to make other people enthusiastic; in this case about "our" marvelous evergreen azaleas. And if I can do anything to promote them, I will!

### Request to Readers

For several years I have been importing evergreen azaleas, to try them in my garden in Holland to see

if they will grow satisfactorily in our climate.

Therefore I am now asking if any ASA member is willing to exchange unrooted cuttings of evergreen azaleas? I will ask some nurserymen personally, but I hope that some members with a large and fine collection could do so.

In the first list in the article I mention the evergreens azaleas which I have in my garden, but I could try to get plants and cuttings of the plants from Germany to exchange. I can arrange a phytosanitary certificate for the USA. I need one for Holland; just send them as private exchange.

What am I looking for? Some conditions are:

- (1) Hardy to at least 7a, but better is 6a and 6b or lower.
- (2) Dwarf to medium plants with more or less large flowers/ bicolors/with beautiful spots, or just rare plants.
- (3) Satsuki hybrids, which are hardy enough for our climate.
- (4) Double-flowered forms and any evergreen azalea which you think is a real beauty; also any with variegated leaves.
- (5) If necessary, I would be willing to pay all of your costs.

(6) Further details will be arranged in our written contacts. Everyone who writes to me gets an answer; maybe we can exchange seeds as well in the coming years.

(7) You can write to:  
**Mr. Tijs Huisman**  
Vuursteenbergh 3  
8051 PR Hattem  
The Netherlands

#### Note added May 1993

I wrote this article in December last year, and after writing it I spoke to some nurserymen about it. I heard that Mr. van Gelderen of Esveld Nurseries had bought at an auction a collection of evergreen azaleas. Among them were a number of Satsuki Azaleas. This gives me hope that we are moving ahead in this matter. Anyway I believe, that there should be more connections on plant issues between Europe and the USA—to share the best things that are available on our continents.

#### References

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*den japanischen Azaleen*, in *Jahrbuch 1985*; Deutsche Rhododendron Gesellschaft; Bremen, Germany.

(3) Fred C. Galle: *Azaleas*, revised and enlarged edition; Timber Press, OR.

(4) Peter Cox: *The Smaller Rhododendrons*, Timber Press, OR.

(5) Walter Schmalscheidt: *Rhododendron—und Azaleenzucht in Deutschland*, Verlag Heinz Hansmann, Rinteln, Germany.

(6) Catalogues of:  
Bohlje: Westerstede, Germany  
Hachmann: Barmstedt, Germany  
Wieting: Westerstede, Germany  
Vorwek: Rastede, Germany  
Hesse: Weener, Germany  
de Jong: Boskoop, Holland  
Round Pond Nurseries: Chobham, GB  
Transplant Nursery: Georgia, USA  
Greer Gardens: Oregon, USA  
Hall Rhododendrons: Oregon, USA  
Whitney Gardens: Washington, USA  
Pepinieres de Kerisnel: Saint-pol-de-leon, France

*Tijs Huisman teaches German language. He has been growing and hybridizing heathers and rhododendrons for 15 years. He is President of the Dutch Chapter of the ARS; member of the Dutch Heather Society and the German Rhododendron Society.* □

## Prize for Best Article in THE AZALEAN—1992

In 1991 an annual prize for best article in **THE AZALEAN** was announced. The prize was established to encourage authors to submit articles for publication in **THE AZALEAN**. Funds for the prize were donated by five chapters:

Ben Morrison Chapter  
Brookside Gardens Chapter  
Northern Virginia Chapter  
Richmond, Virginia Chapter  
Tri-State Chapter

Interest from the prize fund is used to provide an an-

nual prize of \$100.00. The prize for 1991 was awarded to Ms. Jane Newman for her article "In Praise of Greenwood on the East Coast".

A ballot listing all articles in 1992 issues of **THE AZALEAN** is included with this issue. Please mark your ballot and mail it to:

**AZALEAN Prize Article**  
P. O. Box 585  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769

The prize for 1992 will be presented at the 1994 Annual Meeting, to be held in Richmond, VA. □

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# Plant Hunting for Azaleas in Southern California

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Mike McCullough  
San Jose, California

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There is more to *R. occidentale*, the Western Azalea, than the northern California forms. The following is the log of my 13th plant-hunting trip to southern California.

It is June 20, 1992, and I am off on the southern leg of my plant-hunting trips for this year. Earlier trips took me to Oregon, northern California, and places closer to home like Mt. Tamalpais State Park, and Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The peak of bloom of the Western Azalea in southern California is approximately June 21, and the plants are usually found above 4,000 feet, near streams or rivers. Since this is the 13th year of my active plant-hunting, and to show my contempt for the number 13, I intend on discovering at least 21 new plants this year. My previous record was ten plants in my tenth year. So far this year, up north, I have already discovered 15 plants.

The first stop is Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County. From the 5,612 feet Cuyamaca Peak, you can see the ocean, Mexico, and the Anza-Borrego Desert. Unlike a desert, here it is like the Sierras, as it is in all of the azalea areas, with incense cedar, white fir, four varieties of pine, oaks, willow, alder, sycamore and azaleas. According to Carl Deul, a member of the Southern California Chapter of ARS, who is familiar with the azalea areas of southern California, the 19th-century plant hunter William Lobb collected seed of *R. occidentale* in this area.

I set up camp at the Paso Picacho Campground-Picnic Area, elevation approximately 4,600 feet. Then hiked 1.3 miles up the Azalea Glen Loop Trail to where Cuyamaca 403 is located at approximately 5,000 feet. This plant, the best of the plants I found in this area, has 2-1/2" pastel pink and white candy-striped flowers. Some flowers have six petals instead of the five that the Western Azalea usually possesses. Cuyamaca 1008, and the May-blooming Cuyamaca 801 are nearby. I took cuttings, made some crosses on Cuyamaca 403, and will collect seed in the fall for the ARS Seed Exchange. I use a similar numbering system as Britt Smith and Frank Mossman. Cuyamaca 403 is the third plant I discovered in my fourth year of plant hunting. The name before the number represents the location.

About halfway between camp and Cuyamaca 403 the trail crosses a dry creek, next to which is a lonely *R. occidentale* that is in too much shade to bloom. Last year at this time, I headed up this dry creek and found the only areas of azaleas in bloom at Cuyamaca. Cuyamaca 1204 is one of these. The winter of 1990-91 was so cold that it set back the blooming cycle of plants at Cuyamaca and the Idyllwild area, and to a lesser degree at Mt. Palomar. Halfway between the trail and Cuyamaca 1204 I discovered a tall floriferous plant that I noticed last year but with no flowers; this year it was in full bloom. I numbered this plant, which has 2-1/4" white flowers, pink tube and rays running the length of the petal, orange flare, 16 per truss, Cuyamaca 1316.

The next day, June 21, the peak day for azalea bloom, I went north along Highway 79. At Lake Cuyamaca, I headed east on Engineers Road until I reached Azalea Creek. Here are the July blooming Cuyamaca 207 and 208. Cuyamaca 208



is eight feet tall, and has 2-1/2" white flowers, orange flare with some yellow spreading onto adjoining petals, 15 flowers per truss, and good fall foliage. There were no blooms, but I took cuttings. I would be back on the weekend after the Fourth of July. Between Engineers Road and the old gold-mining town of Julian there is a vista point from where you can see the Anza-Borrego Desert.

I headed north on Highway 76, then up Road S7 to Mt. Palomar. Not far below the Palomar Observatory, 5,550 feet, is the Observatory Campground of the Cleveland National Forest. Along Fry Creek, not far from Campsite 40 is the pinkish Palomar 1205 which was in full bloom this time last year, but now was almost finished blooming. I set up camp.

Mt. Palomar has about 40" of rainfall a year, and there is snow during the winter. Besides azaleas, one can find big-cone spruce, white fir, incense cedar, Coulter pine, Jeffrey pine, western dogwood, wild lilac, goldenrod, lupine and poison oak.

I proceeded to Palomar Mountain State Park, after having an avocado sandwich at Mother's Kitchen. Took the Doane Pond, Scott's Cabin, Chimney Flat, Doane Pond circuit. South of the ruins of Scott's Cabin, I took the path which goes to the Park Headquarters. This path crosses Azalea Creek, where Carl Deul mentioned *R. occidentale* could be found. On an earlier trip, I went downstream and only found shaded out azaleas, not even a bud. But this time I went upstream and discovered Palomar 1317. At Chimney Flat, elevation approximately 5,200 feet, I looked southwest across the flat and saw something that looked like a dogwood in full bloom. It was completely covered with white flowers. I decided to investigate, a good dogwood would make an excellent candidate for seed collecting in the fall for the ARS Seed Exchange. When I got closer, I found out that it was an azalea, quite tall and broad, with white flowers, pink

tube and pink at the tips of the petals, yellow flare, with the trusses arranged like a floribunda rose. As at most stops, I collected cutting material, and in this case put pollen on this plant from northern California forms of *R. occidentale*, and several eastern azalea species. For quite some time I have crossed the more colorful northern forms of *R. occidentale* with the more heat tolerant southern California and Big Basin forms.

In the approximately two-mile hike from Chimney Flat to Doane Pond, there is more diversity in the azaleas than in any place I have found in southern California.

From not far north of Chimney Flat to Palomar 402 is an azalea meadow on either side of Chimney Creek, which the trail crosses, then follows. Here are found Palomar 105, 106, 605, and 402. The yellow from the flare of Palomar 605 spreads to the adjoining petals. Palomar 402, approximately seven feet tall, has six petals per flower, the upper two being orange; there is a fair amount of pink in the flower. Palomar 402 is my favorite plant at Mt. Palomar. Further north, the trail is fairly steep, and goes through a scattering of azaleas and poison oak. Further north is a glade with quite a few azaleas with pink tubes. Next to a fallen log is one of these, Palomar 303, a low grower.

From the sign that has on it 0.8 miles to Doane Pond, walk 24 strides south, then walk 19 strides east across Chimney Creek. Here is Palomar 1319, a fairly tall, broad, floriferous plant. Not far from here Chimney Creek joins Doane Creek, then the trail parallels Doane Creek.

At Thunder Spring and further north where Palomar 101 is located are azaleas with five- to six-inch long leaves, about twice as long as found on other forms. From Thunder Spring the main trail goes away for a while from Doane Creek. There is a path that goes closer to Doane Creek. In the fall of 1990, when I was collecting seed, shortly after spotting a bobcat, I

found a ten-foot tall plant that was loaded with seed. I investigated this plant the following year and found it very floriferous and in full bloom, and it became Palomar 1206. This year, I was here at approximately the same date, and the plant had already finished blooming. This plant, which has a fair amount of pink in the flower, can be reached from the main path by going 67 strides north of the Thunder Spring Sign, then going 47 strides east. This plant also is covered with flowers.

Within sight of Doane Pond, where a tree with three trunks is growing next to the trail, is a dry creek where most of the azaleas have long leaves. Here are the first azaleas I discovered, Palomar 101 and 102. Palomar 102 has 3" white flowers, yellow flare that fades with age, 14 flowers per truss. Nearby, Palomar 1006 has 3-1/2" to 4" flowers. These plants tend to bloom in early to mid-June.

Early in the morning of June 22, I hiked from the Observatory Campground to the Fry Creek Campground, and headed up a fire road. Not far from the first restroom at Fry Creek Campground, and across Fry Creek is the May blooming Palomar 802. Further up, past the gate on the fire road heading straight, you can see where the forest fire was stopped. The fire came within ten feet of the pastel pink Palomar 606, which has 3" flowers.

Later in the day I went back to Palomar Mountain State Park. About one mile downstream of Doane Pond, where Doane Creek joins French Creek, is the Wier. The path to the Wier crosses an area that was hit by a major forest fire which spread into the Cleveland National Forest, and was stopped at the fire road which is next to Palomar 606. Near the Wier are Palomar 1205 and 1320. Palomar 1320 has 2-1/2" white flowers, yellow flare, 16 flowers per truss. On the path that leads to the Wier is an azalea with good fall foliage which I shall probably number when I find it in bloom.

Proceeded towards the village of Idyllwild. The only place on the route that the elevation dips below 2,000 feet is at Aguana, elevation 1,940 feet, and this is northwest of the Anza-Borrego Desert. Idyllwild is located northeast of here, in the San Jacinto Mountains at 5,394 feet between Riverside on one side, and Palm Springs and Palm Desert on the other. In Idyllwild the highest temperature is 99 degrees F. in July, the lowest is 4 degrees F. in January and the average yearly moisture rate is 26.42". The warm summers that the southern California and Big Basin azaleas face may mean that azaleas from these warmer locations are more heat tolerant of east coast locations than the Northern California and Oregon forms. Granite is everywhere. In many areas in the mountains, it looks like fields of granite boulders. The soil is composed of decomposed granite mixed with loam. To the north of Idyllwild is San Jacinto Peak, elevation 10,831 feet the highest place in the California State Park system.

Near the three-mile post on the scenic Highway 243 is a path leading to Idyllwild 206 which has roundish leaves like *R. williamsianum*. After obtaining cutting material, proceeded to a store in Idyllwild, obtained supplies. Headed to the County Visitor's Center, where west and between posts 4 and 5 on the Yellow Pine Forest Nature Trail, along Lily Creek, are found Idyllwild 905 (excellent white trumpet-shaped flowers, orange flare), and the pinkish 1106. Then went to Black Mountain Road, then up Road 4S02 where I made camp, not far from some of my plants, where Road 4S02 is blocked by a gate.

On June 23, I did an early morning walk up to the bend of the road where Idyllwild 205 (with orbicular leaves), and the pinkish Idyllwild 302 are located. Not far from the juncture with Black Mountain Road is a large floriferous azalea that I discovered on my fifth plant hunting trip. This plant would have been Idyllwild 504; I even took a ground photo of Bill Jenkins, Ted Tassop, and myself in front

of it, but was unable to take measurements and did not go back to that plant. Due to the drought, the results of the 1990-91 cold winter, etc., I was unable to number this plant until 1992. This plant, Idyllwild 1321, has 2-1/2" white flowers, orange flare, 21 flowers per truss. Since I wanted to number certain other plants, and I already reached 21 discoveries for the year, I decided to try for 25, a number that is still far less than the 90 that Britt Smith and Frank Mossman discovered in their second year of plant hunting. The large plant east of Idyllwild 1321 was numbered Idyllwild 1322.

Then proceeded to the Dark Canyon Campground, elevation 5,800 feet, the best place to see *R. occidentale* in the Idyllwild area. On the northeast side of the bridge crossing the North fork of the San Jacinto River (the sign is misnamed Dark Canyon Creek) is the floriferous Idyllwild 502, a six-foot tall plant with 13 white 3" flowers per truss, and a highly visible large bright orange flare. The trusses are arranged like those of floribunda rose. A spray of this could very likely win first prize at a rhododendron show. At the 1992 California Chapter Rhododendron Show in May, someone entered a truss of one of my discoveries; and at the 1992 Strybing Arboretum Plant Sale, a seedling of one of my plants was in full bloom, way before it should have been. Idyllwild 502 is a plant that I usually make crosses on.

Further up the San Jacinto River there is an impressive array of azaleas which impressed Bill Jenkins and Ted Tassop when I took them there during my fifth plant hunting trip. Not far down a creek heading towards the San Jacinto River from between campsites 17 and 18 is Idyllwild 503.

Next I went to where Highway 243 crosses the San Jacinto River, one mile or so downstream of Dark Canyon. From the highway there is a short fire road that turns into a poorly maintained path which goes to Dark Canyon. I have only explored this area once before, during the drought. Not

far from Highway 243 I discovered Idyllwild 1323 which has white flowers, pink tube and faint pink rays running the length of the petal, 14 flowers per truss. In the fall and winter, the road to Dark Canyon is closed; the preferred route I use in my seed collecting trips in the fall is to hike up along the San Jacinto River.

Then proceeded to the most northerly place in the Idyllwild area, at Bay Tree Spring, and from there worked my way South to my camp on the spur of Black Mountain Road.

In front of the water pipe at Bay Tree Spring is a plant with good fall foliage that was probably discovered by Carl Deul, the person who gave me some insight as to where I could find *R. occidentale* in southern California. Above the pipe is the floriferous Idyllwild 201. If one climbs further up, avoiding poison oak (the only place in the Idyllwild area I have seen poison oak), you come to a poorly maintained path that leads upstream. Growing out of a large granite boulder is Idyllwild 202 with 2-1/2" white flowers with an orange flare. Further up, next to a pine tree, is the first pink azalea I found in southern California, the five-foot Idyllwild 301 which has 2-3/8" white flowers, pink tube, pink rays like that of *R. rhabdotum* [also known as *R. dalhousiae* var. *rhabdotum*, ed.] running the length of the flower, orangish yellow flare, 17 flowers per truss. Further up is Idyllwild 1010 which has trusses similar to Idyllwild 502, but is not as floriferous.

About a half-mile south of Bay Tree Spring is Lake Fulmor, elevation 5,200 feet. The lake is stocked with fish. Downstream of the dam, along the poorly maintained K1-I-Wah Trail are Idyllwild 203, 204, 1008, and 1009. Idyllwild 204 has 2-3/4" to 3" white flowers, light yellow flare which fades completely with age, 19 flowers per truss.

A good place to have a picnic lunch among azaleas is at the Fuller Mill Picnic Area, elevation 5,300 feet. But to see an outstanding sight (when there is no drought) is to take a path



Top: Azaleas at Dark Canyon  
Left: *R. occidentale* Idyllwild 502

up the south side of the creek until you reach a waterfall. To the left of the waterfall, growing out of a huge granite boulder, is the seven-foot tall Idyllwild 501, which has white 2-1/4" flowers, yellow flare with the yellow streaking into the adjoining petals, 17 flowers per truss. On the north side of the creek, and up another path, is Idyllwild 1007. After obtaining cuttings, I headed back to camp to get ready for tomorrow's big hike.

On June 24, I had only one event planned, a hike to Suicide Rock, which overlooks the village of Idyllwild, from 7,528 feet. The trail starts at the Idyllwild County Visitors Center (where Idyllwild 905 stands) located just north of the village, and approximately at the same elevation. It is a fairly steep two-mile climb along the Deer Springs Trail to the junction with the Suicide Rock Trail. Along the way can be seen manzanita, incense cedar, Coulter pine, and black oak. At two places the path crosses streams which have azaleas growing nearby. At the first stream, discovered Idyllwild 1324. The Suicide Rock Trail is fairly level. About halfway along the trail is a creek that goes over a waterfall. Not far from the waterfall I discovered Idyllwild 1325 with 2" white flowers, pink tube and pink extending to the tips of the petals, yellow flare, ten flowers per truss. This is the highest elevation at which I have discovered azaleas. Next proceeded to the end of the trail, where I looked down on the Village of Idyllwild, and across the valley to Tahquitz Rock, elevation 7,973 feet.

After completing the five-hour hike, I headed down Highway 243 to

Banning (which is not far from Palm Springs), then headed home.

If you are driving to or from Los Angeles on Interstate 10 in late June or early July, at Banning take the scenic route to the Southern California Azalea Country.

#### Nurseries Which Feature *R. occidentale*

(1) Bay Laurel Nursery, 1554 Bean Creek Road, Scotts Valley, CA 95066. They have some Smith and Mossman (SM) and McCullough forms. Wholesale nursery.

(2) Bovees Nursery, 1737 S.W. Coronado, Portland, OR 97129. SM forms.

(3) Farwell and Sons Rhododendron Nursery, 12983 Bodega Highway, Freestone, CA 95472. SM forms.

(4) Garver Gardens, P.O. Box 609, Laytonville, CA 95454. SM forms, Germain, Tatem, and McCullough forms.

(5) Oregon Rhododendrons, 6613 N.E. Pittibone Drive, Corvallis, OR. Wholesale and, according to Dick Caverder, tissue culture is used in the propagation of the azaleas.

(6) Red's Rhodies, 15920 S.W. Oberst Lane, Sherwood, OR 97140. SM and Tatem forms. Also Dick Caverder makes crosses between the best forms of *R. occidentale*.

(7) Rhododendron Species Foundation, P. O. Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98063-3798. SM forms.

(8) Strybing Arboretum Society, Strybing Arboretum, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA 94122. SM forms and seedlings of some McCullough forms have been featured at some of the plant sales.

*Mike McCullough is Secretary of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ARS and has been interested in *R. occidentale* since 1977. He has taken part in field trips led by Britt Smith and Frank Mossman, and Gene Germain. 1993 will be the 14th year of his active plant hunting. □*

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# Deer: Beauties...or Beasts ?

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Robert Stelloh  
Darnestown, MD

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Deer are a beautiful sight wandering along the forest edge, stopping now and then to nibble some plant delicacy. However, when you realize the plant delicacy is one you've planted and had high hopes for, your focus shifts away from the beauty of the deer and more to such questions as "why do we seem to have more and more deer around here", and "my garden isn't a deer restaurant - why can't they just eat the wild plants and leave mine alone", and "what can I do to stop them"?

Deer have been the focus of research by wildlife biologists for the past 20 years, and there are good answers to those questions. The U.S. has a population of about 25 million white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), about as many as there were at the time of the Pilgrims, and up from only a half million at the turn of the century. (See endnote 1.) The mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionis*) is also quite abundant in the western states.

There are good reasons why the deer population has been increasing at a rapid rate, particularly over the past few decades. It has a lot to do with their preferences and adaptability, and our changing land use. While we've been cutting down the forests, we've also removed their natural enemies and actually increased their most desirable feeding habitat, and their population growth is now primarily limited by the availability of food. Deer prefer to browse at the edges of the woods, and our patchwork development of suburban areas, while decreasing the amount of deep woods, is increasing the amount of woodland edges as well as providing them more yards and gardens with an appetizing variety of trees, shrubs and flowers. Increased agricultural crop yields due to the use of fertilizers are also giving the deer a better food supply. At the same time, we have killed or driven off most of the bobcats, mountain lions, wolves and bears, their natural predators. Only hunters remain, and hunting is becoming less fashionable and more dangerous in suburban areas. Finally, the generally mild winters since 1978 have been helpful to them. (See endnote 1.)

So it isn't your imagination - there really are more deer! In New York the deer population has doubled since 1970, and it has tripled in Maryland and quadrupled in Indiana since 1980, for example. The result of this is an ever-increasing interaction with humans, primarily in the form of automobile accidents and plant damage. Pennsylvania alone reports about 40,000 white-tail highway deaths per year, and nationwide there are over 500,000 deer-related accidents each year. While the deer usually die in such accidents, humans occasionally do also. In 1989, 131 people died as the result of hitting an animal with their car or truck, thousands suffered serious injury, and there were millions of dollars of vehicle damage. (See endnote 1.)

Another growing problem is Lyme disease, first discovered in 1976 in Lyme, Connecticut, and now the most common tick-borne disease (1400 cases reported in 1986). (See endnote 2.) Lyme disease is caused by the deer tick, which includes both the white-tailed deer and the white-footed mouse in its life cycle. "Adult ticks feed and mate on the deer and then drop off to lay eggs. The eggs hatch into tiny deer-tick larvae, which contract the disease by feeding on the mouse, the primary carrier of the Lyme-disease spirochete. The larvae eventually molt into infected "nymphs", an adolescent stage that poses the chief threat to humans. Nymphs are active in late spring and summer, when people tend to be

outdoors more...Those most at risk are people who can see deer from their houses." (See endnote 2.) Untreated, Lyme disease is very serious and results in cardiac problems, arthritis, and neurological problems.

Since deer prefer the quiet of the woods to the bustle of civilization, they tend to forage only at the forest edge during the spring and summer. (See endnote 3.) In the fall, young trees and large shrubs suffer physical damage as bucks rub the "velvet" off their new antlers, and practice their rutting activities. (See endnote 4.) Then, in the winter as their natural food supplies dwindle, deer begin to brave the open areas and work their way into our gardens, looking for more evergreen leaves and deciduous buds. As they browse in a nursery bed of very small or not-yet-well-rooted plants, they can also kill the plant by plucking it out of the ground. (See endnote 5.)

The seasonal differences in deer activity and its effect on your garden can change from year to year, in a somewhat predictable manner. Severe winters with heavy snowfall will force the deer into your garden earlier, and they'll stay longer and eat more. Similarly, low acorn and native berry production will have the same effects. Collectively, the number of deer and how hungry they are is described in terms of "deer pressure": low deer pressure would describe a few well fed deer, while high deer pressure would describe a large number of hungry deer. Some deterrents will work well for low deer pressure, while stronger measures are needed against high deer pressure.

There are two factors to consider in keeping deer away from your plants—they're creatures of habit, and they have specific food preferences. Thus, the best method of avoiding deer damage is to keep them out of the habit of eating your plants, and the best method of doing that is to not have the plants they prefer. Among a number of ornamentals tested, *Euonymus fortunei*

(groundcover) was their most favorite food, followed closely by various *Taxus* (yew) species, by *Thuja occidentalis* (white cedar, or American arborvitae), some evergreen *Rhododendron* species, and some *Ilex* species. Some of their least favorites are pines, spruce, dogwoods, and mountain laurel. See Table 1 for a more complete list of plants and their relative rankings. (See endnote 3.)

Once you have a deer problem in your garden, there are three primary methods of solving it—getting rid of the deer, fencing the garden, or protecting individual plants. Shooting the deer is usually not possible because of nearby homes, it usually causes a public outcry because of the “Bambi” effect, and it isn’t even very effective since it merely makes room for more deer. Some states have attempted to trap deer and release them elsewhere, which is expensive, and we’re running out of “elsewhere”. (See endnote 1.) Birth-control techniques are being developed, but have not been effective thus far. So, getting rid of the deer is not a viable approach for most home plant enthusiasts.

In areas of low deer pressure, you can discourage deer from eating specific plants by applying a deer repellent: something with an offensive taste, odor, or both. Table 2 lists a number of repellents in order of increasing cost. (See endnote 3.) It’s important to note that repellents don’t stop the deer from eating a plant, but rather make that plant less desirable. (See endnote 6.) The human hair and soap must be above the snowline and about 3 feet apart to be effective. Hair can be put into mesh bags and tied to the plants. Bar soap can be left in the wrapper, pierced, and tied to the plants. (See endnote 7.) Magic Circle™ is applied by soaking cloth strips or pieces of twine in it and laying them on the ground. The other products are sprays, which can in general be mixed with an anti-transpirant to prolong their effectiveness.

When repellents don’t reduce the deer damage to an acceptable level, or

**Table 1: Taste-Tested**  
A list of ornamentals white-tailed deer favor most (97) and least (0) during winter foraging activities.

Species	Ranking	Species	Ranking
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	97	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>	3
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	84	<i>Philadelphus</i> spp.	3
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	80	<i>Viburnum tomentosum</i>	2
<i>Taxus × media</i>	77	<i>Magnolia</i> spp.	2
<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	77	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	2
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	68	<i>Spiraea</i> spp.	2
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp. (evergreen)	47	<i>Betula pendula</i>	1
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	40	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	1
<i>Ilex × meserveae</i>	38	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	1
<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	26	<i>Rhododendron</i> spp. (evergreen hybrid)	1
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	22	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	0
<i>Rhododendron × laetevirens</i>	20	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	0
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	18	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	0
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	17	<i>Picea pungens</i>	0
<i>Rhododendron</i> ‘Exbury Hybrids’	17	<i>Pieris japonica</i>	0
<i>Ligustrum</i> spp.	16	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	0
<i>Rhododendron carolinianum</i>	16	<i>Forsythia</i> spp.	0
<i>Malus domestica</i>	14	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	0
<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.	13	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	0
<i>Euonymus alata</i>	10	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	0
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	9	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	0
<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	8	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	0
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	7	<i>Cornus florida</i>	0
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp. (deciduous)	7	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	0
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	7	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	0
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	6	<i>Picea abies</i>	0
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	6	<i>Picea glauca</i>	0
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	5	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	0
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	5	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	0
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	4	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	0
<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i>	3		

Source: Conover, M.R., and G.S. Kania. 1988. “Browsing Preference of White-Tailed Deer for Different Ornamental Species.” *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 16:175-179.

you’re not willing to take the risk because of the value of the plants, you can resort to a fence. There are a variety of fences which have been tested for their effectiveness against deer, as listed in Table 3 in order of increasing cost. (See endnote 3.) In general, the more it costs, the more effective it is. Any fence is a long term investment, any of the fences listed in the table is quite effective, and the primary negatives are the cost of the fence, the vis-

ual impact it has on your garden and the space it takes up.

**Poultry fencing** (chicken wire) can be used to protect a few individual plants, by simply enclosing each plant with a 6’ high cage of wire fencing supported by some stakes. It’s a lot of work for more than a few plants.

The **baited fence** is a single-strand electric fence, 30” above the ground,

**Table 2: Control Tools**

Repellents for low-to-moderate deer populations. (Costs do not include labor)

Repellent	Reported Cost/Acre (US Dollars)	Reported Browsing Reduction (percent)
Human hair	10.00a	34b
Soap	60.00d	38d
Magic Circle™	16.00c - 30.00a	18a,b
Hinder™	12.00b - 41.00c	43b
Miller Hot Sauce™	11.00a - 91.00c*	15b
Thiram™	46.00c - 225.00a	43b
Big Game Repellent™	180.00d - 400.00a	46b

- a. Conover, M.R. 1984. "Effectiveness of Repellents in Reducing Deer Damage in Nurseries." *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 12:399-404.
- b. Conover, M.R. 1986. "Finding New Ways to Reduce Deer Damage to Crops." *Frontiers of Plant Science*. 38:2.
- c. Craven, S., and S. Hygnstrom. 1987. "Controlling Deer Damage in Wisconsin." *University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin G3083*.
- d. Swihart, R.K., and M.R. Conover. 1990. "Reducing Deer Damage to Yews and Apple Trees: Testing Big Game Repellent, Ro-pel and Soap as Repellents." *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 18:156-162.

\* Incorporates the cost of VaporGard.

**Table 3: Locked Out**

A variety of fence designs for low-to-high deer populations.  
(Costs do not include labor or electrical chargers.)

Type of Fence	Deer Pressure	Reported Cost/ Linear Foot* (US Dollars)	Cost for 1 Acre** (US Dollars)
Poultry wire	low-to-high		
Baited electric	low-to-moderate	0.10	83.20
Offset	moderate	0.35	291.20
The Penn State Vertical Electric	moderate-to-high	0.50 - 1.50	416.00 - 1248.00
Slanted seven-wire	high	1.50 - 2.00	1248.00 - 1664.00
Woven wire	high	2.00 - 4.00	1664.00 - 3328.00

\* Craven, S., and S. Hygnstrom. 1987. "Controlling Deer Damage in Wisconsin." *University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin G3083*.

\*\* The cost per linear foot times the 832 feet needed to surround one acre, for ease of comparison with the repellent costs.

with strips of metal foil covered with peanut butter attached to the wire at 3' intervals. It is designed to attract the deer, shock them, and thus teach them not to go into the fenced area. The peanut butter must be renewed

every two weeks for maximum effect. One school of thought suggests the fence can be turned off after a few months.

An offset fence is a three-strand set of two electric fences designed to

confuse the deer. The first fence has strands at 15" and 43" above the ground; the second fence is 38" inside the first fence with one strand 30" above the ground. The slanted seven-wire fence is a larger and more effective version. It is a single electric fence at a 30° angle to the ground, with the first strand 10" above the ground, and each of the other strands at 12" intervals. Overall, this makes a fence which is 5' high by 8' wide.

The Penn State vertical electric deer fence is a single five-strand fence, with the first strand at 10" above the ground, and each of the other strands 12" above the previous one for a total height of about 60".

Finally, the woven-wire fence presents a significant physical barrier. It consists of two tiers of 4' woven wire, one above the other and tied together at their common seam, and topped by two strands of wire for a total height of nine or ten feet.

Bambi has turned into a suburban "rat with antlers" (See endnote 8.), and is rapidly becoming another variable gardeners will have to learn to live with until more effective control measures come out of the current and future research.

#### Endnotes

1. Horton, Tom. 1991. "Deer on Your Doorstep." *New York Times Magazine*. April 28, 1991.

2. "Watch out for the tick attack." 1988. *Consumer Reports* 54:6.

3. McIvor, D. E. and Conover, M. R. 1991. "Uninvited Guests." *American Nurseryman*. September 15, 1991: 46-54.

4. Personal observation. They seem to prefer 1" to 2" diameter trunks as offering the proper amount of resilience for practice rutting, and perhaps for their ability to get the trunk in between the different branches of their antlers (a 12" diameter tree wouldn't work well for either of those purposes, for example). The results are they have either destroyed or severely wounded our young oaks, magnolias

and other ornamental trees by breaking off branches and scraping bark off the trunks. A note on dogwood borers (Volume 6, Number 2 (1991) of *Plants & Garden News*, Brooklyn Botanic Garden) discusses use by Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania using spiral plastic tree guards on dogwoods to reduce the antler-rubbing damage, with the negative side-effect of softening the bark and increasing the incidence of dogwood borers. The suggested ways to avoid the borers were to make sure the guards are loose, and to only use the guards in late fall and winter.

5. Stelloh, Robert T. 1992. "Using Velcro® for Plant Ties". *THE AZALEAN*. June 1992.

6. It's somewhat like putting sugar on your french-fries by mistake. If you're not hungry, you'll probably skip them, or get some more and use salt this time. If you are hungry, you'll get over the unexpected taste and eat them anyway.

7. We've tried soap, with apparently some success. Our favorite was Irish Spring, although some studies indicate all deodorant soaps have similar effectiveness. We've noted that something either gnaws or scratches the soap if it's out of the wrapper, and we've also noted that you better tie it quite loosely or future growth can strangle the plant at the tie. We've also tried a repellent fence of string, with 2" by 15" strips of bedsheet at 3' intervals, with the strips dipped periodically in diesel fuel, and we think it helped, but it sure was ugly and smelly. We've seen lion dung from the zoo in mesh bags being used at a conifer nursery, and we've recently heard of throwing "used" kitty litter around the base of plants. Unfortunately, it's hard to know what the deer would have done without someone taking such measures.

8. James, Richard L., Executive Director, Schuylkill Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as quoted in *The New York Times Magazine* article, note (1) above. □

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## *R. oldhamii* 'Fourth Of July'

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John T. Thornton  
Franklinton, LA

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During the late 1960's, John Patrick of Oakland, California, through his "Taiwan Venture" collected plant material of the Taiwanese Rhododendrons. In 1973, I received small plants of these rhododendrons.

Among these was a small plant of *R. oldhamii*. This plant originated from seed lot 68-1120 and was collected in 1968 by Dr. Hsu of Taiwan University from Mount Tai Tun at 850 meters elevation. The plant I received was a tip cutting from seedlings grown by John Patrick.

Immediately this plant caught my attention because it bloomed the first year in early July on new growth. After a few years, it became clear that this plant was a perpetual bloomer, blooming from late June until frost. This plant produces two flushes of growth containing flowers. The second flush of growth overlaps the first flush producing a plant in bloom continuously. The name 'Fourth of July' seemed an appropriate name for this plant.

The color of 'Fourth of July' is brick red. It has been distributed by the late John Rochester of Dogwood Hills Azalea Nursery nationally through his mail order nursery. The arboretum in Dallas, Texas, also grows this form of *R. oldhamii* with very good results.

'Fourth of July' seems to be hardy to about 10°F. Temperatures below this cause dieback, but the plant readily recovers and blooms profusely the summer following freeze damage. 'Fourth of July' seems to be resistant to lace wings, spider mites and web blight.

Robert (Buddy) E. Lee of Independence, Louisiana, has made many crosses using 'Fourth of July' to produce both early and late flowering azaleas. Preliminary results of his work look quite promising.

John Thornton is a partner in C & T Nursery of Franklinton, Louisiana. □

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# The Glenn Dale Azaleas

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By B. Y. Morrison

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*[Reprinted from Popular Gardening, Volume II, Number 5, May 1951. Popular Gardening ceased publication in the 1960's. The article was provided to the Editor by Margaret Church.]*

The Glenn Dale azaleas were bred for a specific purpose, namely, the production of a garden race of azaleas that should be large-flowered and cold-hardy for the general Washington, D.C., area and other regions of similar climates, in order to parallel the effects that can be had farther south from the azaleas commonly known as the "Southern indicas."

There was no thought then, and there is no thought now, of urging them for wider use, even if there is some evidence that in the hands of skilled growers they are promising plants for the Atlantic Coast climates as far north as Long Island Sound and in the San Francisco Bay Region. Their behavior as yet in the Pacific Northwest seems satisfactory but not ideal and from limited trials in the Deep South it would appear that probably not more than half will be useful for lack of a brief and continuous cold period.

The procedures were the most simple, namely the mating of hardy varieties of species with plants of doubtful hardiness or known tenderness. The seedlings were grown with care, under glass until their second summer when they are established in well prepared nursery beds in a thin oak wood. Every attention was given to assure establishment before winter. From then on no care was given to insure survival either for winter or summer.

As was to be expected there were definite losses the first winter, some combinations being almost 90 per cent tender. As was also to be expected some combinations gave uniformly poor results. No choices were made until the plants were about five years old so some consideration could be given to bush habit as well as flower quality. Cuttings were made of all the chosen clones and grown on for further study so that the final choices represent two critical examinations. Acres of these azaleas have now been planted in the National Arboretum.

Although flowering seasons were considered in the original matings, several groups of crosses produced plants that did not meet the requirements in flower size but filled in several blooming periods in which we had no azaleas bloom from the standard commercial varieties. These have been kept and introduced.

Such varieties as Dayspring often bloom here in mild seasons in late March and there is a considerable range of color in varieties that are contemporary with Kaempferi but outside of its color range, in both single and hose-in-hose types. Another group, of which Fashion will serve as an example, repeats although in a somewhat limited color range as yet the effect produced by the standard Kurumes, just as these have finished. Treasure, Sheila, Dream, Loveliness, Youth and so on bloom with old "indica alba" in all the desired tonalities from tinted white to deep rose, and are supplemented by the large flowered varieties that range from apricot yellow in Ambrosia through tinted reds and rose colors all

underlaid with yellow as in such plants as Minstrel and Troubadour. Clarion is almost pure Chinese red; Grandee one tone darker and so on.

## Azaleas in May

Early May finds the long series that range from palest pink in plants like Aphrodite and Revery through tonalities to the darker Megan and Fakir, with a few pink-tinted orange varieties like Mary Margaret and Phoebe to pure reds such as Copperman, Picador and F. C. Bradford. At the same time one has the exquisite icy white Glacier.

Picking up this series and continuing to the end of May with some overlapping into June comes the series that has, perhaps, the greatest pleasure for us here, since it combines almost everything that had been planned for, quality, size of flower and wide range of color and pattern. Choice is almost impossible but for pure whites Arctic, Damask, Angela Place, Helen Close, Silver Lace will do for a beginning; for pinks, Crinoline and Helen Gunning with a white eye; Louise Dowdle, Lillie Maude and Janet Noyes for rose to rose-red and Dowager a little deeper.

Striped varieties can be had in a wide range with one series that starts at pale Phlox Purple and darkens to pure magenta, another with eosin pinks through lacquer reds to almost pure vermilion. Prosperity in pure white with a clear lavender margin and Martha Hitchcock with a similar margin but of clear rich amaranth lead on well to the true purples of Litany and Muscadine.

No mention has been made of the warm mahogany reds of early flowering Carmel or mid-season Burgundy, both giving a color new in hardy azaleas and valuable for accent. Nor has anything been said of the very low-growing forms such as Epicure, pure rose-pink; Rose Ash, dull orange



washed with rose; Daphnis, similar but a trifle more lavender; Eros, paler than Rose Ash but not as pink as Epicure. Stunner and Aztec will come here when available, the first white with rosy orange margins, the latter white with almost pure orange margins.

Doubles have not been sought especially, but Delos, Andros, Kenwood and Rosette are all worthy of

garden attention and when the plants are large enough furnish cut sprays of bloom that rival roses in charm.

All the parent plants belong in the Obtusum subseries of azaleas, which are relatively evergreen. The Glenn Dale azaleas bred from them show the same range of evergreenness, with some shedding their leaves almost as much as does Kaempferi here and others as persistent as old "ma-

crantha." The leaves vary in character as would be expected from large thin leaves through somewhat woolly leaves like those of "indica alba," glossy leaves like the Kurumes, to narrow glossy leaves as in "macrantha." Many varieties show autumn color in the leaves about to fall and many more show various hues of bronze and purple through the entire winter. □

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## Azalea News

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### Children's Gardening Symposium

The American Horticultural Society in collaboration with the American Horticultural Therapy Association, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, National Gardening Association, and The New York Botanical Garden, is sponsoring a national symposium to serve as a catalyst to help create more educational gardening programs for all children in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 8. It will take place August 12-14, 1993, in Washington, D.C.

The symposium, entitled "Children, Plants, and Gardens: Educational Opportunities", will present ideas and hands-on methods to create dynamic gardening programs at schools, public gardens and community youth programs.

A full schedule of nationally renowned keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, panel discussions, tours of youth gardens, educational and commercial exhibits, and social events will be featured.

Topics at the symposium will include: Interdisciplinary Education Through Gardening, Science and Environmental Education Through Gardening, Art and Design Ideas for a

Children's Garden, How to Create Dynamic School Garden Programs, How to Obtain Horticultural Training and Donations, and Horticultural Therapy for Children with Special Needs.

For more information or to receive a registration brochure, call, write or fax:

**Children's Symposium**  
**American Horticultural Society**  
**7931 East Boulevard Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22308**

**PHONE: (800) 777-7931**  
**FAX: (703) 764-6032** □

### Reprint of Photograph

By request, we are reprinting a photograph that appeared in the March 1993 issue of **THE AZALEAN** in a larger size. Dr. Jim Shanks, the developer of the newly announced Princess Azaleas is on the left. Also shown from left to right are Andy Adams, Barbara Bullock and Dick West. □



## **Ben Morrison Chapter**

Sue Switzer, *President*

Our last meeting was held at the Dunkirk Library and Information Center on April 18, 1993. Bobbie Jones suggested that we donate \$200.00 to the Library for gardens books, Bob Hobbs gave a report on the 1993 Dallas Annual Meeting and Convention, and George Switzer gave a presentation on his and Sue's recent trip to New Zealand and Australia.

The next meeting will be July 11 at 2:00PM at the home of George and Sue Switzer for our annual pot-luck/cutting picnic. □

## **Brookside Gardens Chapter**

Bill Johnson, *President*

The highlight of the April 5th meeting was a trip to Scotland via Jean Cox and a slide projector. We arrived during the height of the Rhododendron bloom! Jean led us through several spectacular gardens in her informal program that left us wanting more.

The Chapter's first fund raiser for 1993 was a plant sale co-sponsored by Friends of the National Arboretum. The sale was held April 24 at the National Arboretum. Even though few Azaleas were in bloom the event was a big success with new membership and a contribution of \$150.00 of the proceeds to FONA directed to the Azalea collection.

The Chapter held its 14th annual azalea show on April 30-May 2. Chairperson Denise Stelloh skillfully coordinated another flawless show. Denise grew particularly nervous as the date of the show drew near—the weather simply refused to cooperate! We had cold days and many dreary rainy days affecting those azaleas that were sensitive to sunlight or temperature. The end result was that most of the usual entrants, particularly those living in Maryland, almost halved the number of entries they could make. We still had a wonderful show with fifteen exhibitors and 154 specimens

in the open competition. Judges this year were Tony Dove, Jerry Goodman, Phil Normandy, Bob Stewart, Nancy Swell, and Don Voss. The entry judged to be the Best Azalea in the show was 'Festive', grown by Bill Miller. The Sweepstakes Award, which recognizes the exhibitor receiving the most points from awards, was presented to Jane Newman.

The show included a demonstration garden and invitational flower arrangements with the theme, "In a Piney Glen." The 25-foot, octagonal garden was designed by member and landscape architect Ralph D'Amato and other chapter members. The display garden was constructed in a few hours from plants and other materials loaned for the occasion by members, local nurseries and landscapers. The garden featured azaleas, dwarf conifers, Japanese maples, and companion plants. We were very fortunate to have Mal Clark deliver blooming plants from the South. The benches around the garden were filled by visitors enjoying its beauty and many were writing down the names of plants from the well-labeled display. The invitational artistic designs were provided by Liyun Liu and Frank Sharpnack. Hillwood Museum provided an additional arrangement showcasing the azaleas grown on its grounds.

This was the eighth year that the azalea show has been at the Landon School, in conjunction with the Landon Azalea Festival. Held annually the first weekend in May, the festival draws thousands of visitors to the school's Bethesda, Maryland campus and adjoining Perkins Azalea Gardens. It was an exceptional show, and gave our many visitors a wealth of information about the wide variety of azaleas available in the local area, along with examples of using azaleas in the home and in the landscape.

On May 8 the annual Azalea Mart was held in the parking lot of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Bethesda

Maryland. Even at a new location the sale was more profitable than the year before. The best news was that seven new members joined at this location! Many members donated plants for the chapter table for both events. □

## **Oconee Chapter**

Jim Thornton, *President*

The Oconee Chapter of the ASA held its first quarterly meeting at 2:00PM January 31 at the First Baptist Church in Conyers, GA.

The Wingards, members attending from Lexington, SC, were recognized and welcomed.

Vice-president and Program Chairman Tom Anderson introduced our speaker, Andrea Chesness. Ms. Chesness is Deputy Director of Public Works for the city of Conyers. Upon learning the city was constructing a Pavilion Park and Botanical Gardens, it seemed feasible that our chapter might volunteer to help with the labor and design of some of the landscaping. Ms. Chesness displayed architectural drawings for the park and gardens now under construction. In 1989, plans were made to revitalize Olde Town Conyers and to preserve the old granite water tower which was on Main Street in downtown Conyers. This also meant preserving the old cistern. Through the Lewis Vaughn Foundation \$300,000 was made available for the project. The park is 3/4-acre and 1/4-acre for gardens. The garden will be open during daylight hours and locked at night.

Members decided to hold a flower show on May 1, and Monty Laster, Sarah Jones, Tom Anderson, and Jim Thornton agreed to serve as our committee. "Late Bloomers" may possibly be featured at our show. Gold Kist will provide space inside if the weather is bad.

In the Chapter's newsletters we mentioned that we would have a classified ad newsletter that would go out to our local membership. We need

classified ads from those who are raising azaleas, have azaleas for sale, have azaleas to swap, those looking for information on azaleas, whatever your needs are. We plan to publish a little letter to send out to our members and it will also be sent to presidents of the other chapters. This will be nothing fancy, but just items of interest to others. Presently, our mailings are 105.

Ralph Bullard brought in some handouts on types of azaleas, and on propagation of various plants using Hormodin R.

Dr. Joe Coleman gave a magnificent slide presentation on the Kurume Azalea, featuring the Wilson Fifty. Dr. Coleman's talk on the Kurume was recorded on an audio cassette, and is now available in our library. It will be transcribed at a later date.

Following Dr. Coleman's presentation, an auction of several plants Mr. Fuqua, Mr. Demaline, and Mr. Thornton provided brought \$27.00 into our treasury.

Our next meeting will be held April 18 at 2:00PM at the First Baptist Church of Conyers, GA, with Hugh Caldwell on the Glenn Dale Azaleas; Ralph Bullard on the Iris and a Special Auction. □

### Report of the Public Information Committee for 1993

William C. Miller III, *Chairman*

For the period beginning, May 1, 1992 and ending April 30, 1993, I submit the following report. One hundred and thirty-five requests for information were received from 30 states and the District of Columbia, one Canadian province (Ontario), two South American countries (Chile and Argentina), one Asian country (Korea), and Australia. This figure is comparable to the 134 cards and letters that were reported in the previous period.

The most inquiries came from the state of Virginia (11) with North Carolina (10) following close behind. June and October were the busiest months with 18 letters received and Septem-

ber had the fewest with four letters received. The monthly average was ten letters per month.

A significant volume of mail continues to be received at the ASA's old address in Silver Spring. This suggests that the old address has not completely disappeared from popular literature. The old box will be maintained as long as the volume of mail received warrants its continuation.

Recognizing that we are all "ambassadors" for the ASA, I would like to thank the nurseries that have gone the extra mile and mentioned the ASA in their catalogs. The simple fact is that the ASA needs to grow, and a high percentage of people who write for information about azaleas end up joining. This just goes to show that anything that we can do to help the ASA grow is in our own best interest because it improves the value of our membership and ultimately translates into a bigger and better AZALEAN. □

### In Memory

#### *Ryon A. Page*

With regret, we report the death of Ryon Page, founding member of the ASA, former president of the Society and former chairman of the Board of Directors. Because of the profound impact that Ryon had on the Society, the following excerpts from the Washington Post, April 17, 1993 are printed below:

"Ryon A. Page, 79, a retired National Security Agency cryptographer, died of brain cancer April 16 at his home in Silver Spring.

Mr. Page was born in Campobello, S.C. He attended Spartanburg Methodist College and graduated from Wofford College.

Before moving to the Washington area in 1941, he was a teacher and principal in the public schools of Chula, Ga.

During World War II, he served in the Army in North Africa and was awarded a Purple Heart.

He retired from NSA in 1974 after a 33-year federal career that included service with NSA predecessor agencies and the Army.

Mr. Page was an enthusiastic gardener and a former president and chairman of the board of the Azalea Society of America and its Brookside Gardens chapter. He was a volunteer guide at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton and he received the Frederick P. Lee Award for service to the Azalea Society. He was also a former president of the Silver Spring Garden Club.

He wrote garden and travel articles for magazines and was author of two books, "Our Way of Life", which was about growing up on a farm in South Carolina, and "Descendants of H. A. Page and Sally Leora Turner", which was about his parents, brothers and sisters.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring."

#### *Dr. William F. Sullivan*

Society member Dr. William F. Sullivan of Roseland, New Jersey, died on November 11, 1992. Dr. Sullivan was a past president of the American Rhododendron Society. □

### Annual Meeting

The 1993 Annual Meeting of the ASA was held in Dallas, TX, on April 3, 1993. A complete report on the convention will be given in the September 1993 issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

The results of the election of officers and directors were announced. Elected for two-year terms were:

Malcolm Clark, *President*

Stephen S. Brainerd, *Vice President*

Elected for two-year terms as Directors were:

Jeff Beasley

Fred Minch

Rosalie Nachman

*Three prizes were awarded:*

Fred Galle: Distinguished Achievement

Don Voss: Distinguished Service  
Jane Newman: Best Article in **THE AZALEAN** for 1991 □

### Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met April 2 in Dallas, TX. In attendance were:

Bob Stelloh, Denise Stelloh, William Miller, Bob Hobbs, Malcolm Clark, Bill Johnson, Carol Flowers, Marge Jenkins, Steve Brainerd, Jim Thornton, Jean and Fred Minch, Glen Taylor and Bill McIntosh

Several items were discussed:

- (1) **Finances.** Approximate summary information is as follows: Azalean Account: \$2,440; Harding Garden Account: \$4,533 and approximate overall treasury \$38,500. Malcolm requested a position from the Board as to how much funds should grow per year.
- (2) **Seed Exchange.** Malcolm will start a Seed Exchange this fall. The purpose of the exchange is to gain knowledge and improve communication between members. At this time, Malcolm will not be accepting open-pollinated seed.
- (3) **Membership.** The membership may reach 1,000 this year. The growth rate is about 6% a year. Membership is declining in the Pacific Northwest.  
Discussion was held as to whether there should be an incentive for early renewal of membership or a penalty for late renewal.
- (4) **THE AZALEAN.** The editor reported that there is a constant need for articles. There was much discussion on how to address this problem.
- (5) **Harding Garden.** Bob Stelloh reported that approximately \$4,800 in donations have been collected for the garden. More organic matter will be needed so that plants can be planted above the present ground level

due to the fact that area does not drain well. The ground is presently prepared and work will progress on the choosing and planting of the planned plant material.

- (6) **Investments.** The Finance Committee recommended that the Azalea Society consider some low-risk investments rather than keeping all of the Society funds in the bank. The Board approved the policy that the Finance Committee will handle investments with the Executive Committee overseeing these actions. Financial reports will be prepared in calendar quarters as per the new financial reporting format. The yearly totals financial report

will be reported in **THE AZALEAN**.

- (7) The directors approved the concept of setting up a mail-order book service. Ms. Jean Cox will manage the activity.
- (8) **Future Conventions.** Denise Stelloh has completed an information packet for chapters hosting of conventions which was given to Board members. Denise also wrote-up a calendar of events for Azalea Society events (chapter and national) and related events (i.e., the Landon School Festival and ARS events). The planned future conventions are as follows:  
1994 Richmond Chapter  
1995 Brookside Chapter □

## =====*Azalea Calendar*=====

June or July	Oconee Chapter annual cutting and swap sale at Ben Reid's Azalea Farm
June 7	Brookside Gardens Chapter meeting at the Potomac Library, Maryland at 7:30PM
July 11	Ben Morrison Chapter pot-luck and cutting picnic at George & Sue Switzer's
July 24-25	Ben Morrison booth at Homestead Gardens from 8:00AM to 8:00PM
Aug. or Sept. August 1	Oconee Chapter meeting on Native Azaleas Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the September issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>
August 1	Executive Committee meeting
September 18	Glenn Dale workday from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. For more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692.
October	Oconee Chapter meeting with Mary Beasley as speaker
October 10	Executive Committee meeting
October 16	Glenn Dale workday from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. For more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692.
October 19	Dallas Chapter meeting, Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM
October 30	Board of Directors meeting tentatively scheduled at the National Arboretum
November 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>
November 20	Glenn Dale workday from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. For more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692.

## ASA New Members

### At-large Members

Mr. Luis Carrion  
Damas N. 55  
Col. San Jose Insurgentes  
C P 03900  
MEXICO D F

J. Earl Evans  
RR5, Box 350-B  
Crossville, TN 38555  
PHONE: (615) 881-3193

Wallace A. Gould  
965 Grand Boulevard  
Bellingham, WA 98226-  
2776  
PHONE: (206) 647-1919

Mr. & Mrs. Winfield Howe  
7 Surrey Lane RD2  
Downingtown, PA  
19335-1507  
PHONE: (215) 458-5291

Mr. Yuji Kurashige  
Akagi Nature Park, 892  
Yuhikami  
Minami-akagisan, Aka  
gi-mura  
Seta-gun, Gunma 379-11  
JAPAN

Ms. Cora Pennell &  
Mr. Louis Kean, Jr.  
10237 Sioux Road  
Richmond, VA 23235  
PHONE: (804) 272-4409

Mr. Steve Pozaric  
404 Gabriel Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63122  
PHONE: (314) 964-4078

Giuseppe Ronchi  
Via Campagna 25  
28041 Arona (No)  
Italy

Dr. John Simmons  
4245 Clifton Glendale Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29307  
PHONE: (803) 560-6299

Southwood Landscape &  
Nursery (Jos. R. Schulte)  
9025 South Lewis Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74137  
PHONE: (918) 299-9409

### Brookside Gardens Chapter

Brant Baker  
17700 White Ground Road  
Boyd's, MD 20841  
PHONE: (301) 972-7740

Rosalie Bison  
8311 Fox Run  
Potomac, MD 20854  
PHONE: (301) 299-5987

Burning Tree Garden Club  
(Mrs. Henry Hilken, Pres.)  
4 Burning Tree Court  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
PHONE: (301) 365-7181

Carolyn Larkin  
4 Pinecrest Court  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
PHONE: (301) 982-0343

Ms. Paula Leddy  
1300 Symons Hall—  
Entomology  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
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Soraya Naghshineh  
5103 Marlyn Drive  
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Ruth Palombo & Gene  
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Potomac, MD 20854  
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Alec & Micheline  
Toumayan  
6309 Newburn Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jon  
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14366 Chesterfield Road  
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### Dallas Chapter

Ms. Betty Burns  
917 West Boyd  
Norman, OK 73069  
PHONE: (405) 329-4596

Ms. Margaret Buxton  
1427 Chippewa  
Richardson, TX 75080-3710  
PHONE: (214) 235-3412

Heyden Enterprises  
205 King Richard  
Irving, TX 75061  
PHONE: (214) 986-7104

Mr. Wayne R. Mann  
9821 Summerwood  
Circle/ #1704  
Dallas, TX 75243  
PHONE: (214) 553-5814

Ms. Marjorie Miller  
2205 West Eubanks  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Odom  
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PHONE: (214) 960-2945

Mr. & Mrs. Preston A.  
Peak  
3500 Princeton Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75205  
PHONE: (214) 521-1466

Mr. J. Reinhardt  
4501 Ranch View road  
Fort Worth, TX 76109  
PHONE: (817) 923-8625

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Taylor  
P. O. Box 140607  
Irving, TX 75014-0607  
PHONE: (214) 717-3898

Mrs. I. Vastola  
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### Louisiana Chapter

Mr. Fonald B. Benko  
5501 Wimbledon Court  
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PHONE: (504) 393-2647

Mr. George Brandt, Jr.  
P. O. Box 397  
Baker, LA 70704-0397  
PHONE: (504) 776-1154

Dr. & Mrs. William R.  
Eure  
34 Grand Bayou Circle  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
PHONE: (601) 268-7437

Mr. Edwin Hoffa  
6905 Gillen Street  
Metairie, LA 70003  
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Mr. Robert Montgomery  
81507 Dale Drive  
Folsom, LA 70437  
PHONE: (504) 796-3253

**Northern VA Chapter**  
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Katherine C. Kane  
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael R.  
Pontti  
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Dorian M. Smith  
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Fairfax, VA 22030  
PHONE: (703) 385-1429

**Oconee Chapter**  
Ms. Martha Brack  
13232 Avondale Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
PHONE: (904) 877-2492

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bryan  
8233 Pleasant Hill Road  
Lithonia, GA 30058  
PHONE: (404) 760-1569

Davis Nursery  
P. O. Box 181  
Barwick, GA 31720  
PHONE: (912) 735-5051

Mr. & Mrs. Larry  
Demaline  
506 Trophy Trail  
Lawrenceville, GA 30244  
PHONE: (404) 963-9811

Mr. Doug Denney  
1041 Springview Court  
Athens, GA 30606  
PHONE: (404) 543-1513

Milam Farm Nursery  
RR 2/Box 27  
Pavo, GA 31778  
PHONE: (912) 859-2192

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rogers  
P. O. Box 304  
Conyers, GA 30207  
PHONE: (404) 483-4618

Mr. George Sanko  
85 Radcliffe Trace  
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Mr. Fred A. Sorg  
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1245 Winfree Road  
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### Richmond, VA Chapter

Mr. & Mrs. William  
Burton  
3851 Old Stage Road  
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Mr. Frank M. Garber  
4301 Uppingham Road  
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PHONE: (804) 272-0870

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L.  
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### Tri-state Chapter

Ms. Kathryn Bibbee  
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