

Volume 24 • Number 2 • Summer 2002

The
Azalean
Journal of the Azalea Society of America



The Robin Hill Story

Memories of My Grandfather —
Frederick Paddock Lee



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

President's Letter

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Friends,

I am sure you are as satisfied with the 2002 Atlanta ARS/ASA Joint Convention as I am, if you attended. If you did not make it to Atlanta, you missed out on some of the greatest gardens and programs I have seen in years. Well done, convention committee!

At our banquet meeting, I was privileged to present the **Distinguished Service Award** to **William C. Miller III**. For those young in the ASA, Bill has served your Society for many years, and often in the background, performing diligently to build membership and assisting with new chapter formation.

During the national meeting, your Board of Directors was presented many positive aspects of belonging to the ASA. The newest issue of **The Azalean** was received with rave reviews for the intense color renditions. Edi-

tor Barbara Stump is responsible for this great improvement.

On a negative point, the Board of Directors was presented a problem with our finances and offered some important remedies. By year's end, we will show around a \$6,000 loss, due to some situations like low interest rates on the CDs and the increased cost of publishing **The Azalean** in the new color format. No one voted to go back to a black-and-white format. Our treasurer, Bob Stelloh, has a letter with further explanation in this issue of **The Azalean** (See this and the Board Action Item List in the Society News, p. 39).

Your Board found the best way to get out of our situation is to *grow out of it* by increasing membership. Membership applications were handed out, and all members are encouraged to

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Azalea Society of America

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

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The Azalean

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Editor

Barbara Stump

Editorial Advisory Board

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Jane Newman

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Address all editorial and business correspondence to:

The Editor, **The Azalean**

536 E. Pilar Street

Nacogdoches, TX 75961-5113

PH: 936-569-2929 FAX: 936-462-1078

bstump@inu.net

Society website: www.azaleas.org

Mail list: azaleas@azaleas.org

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President's Letter – continued

bring in new members through chapters or at-large associations.

Each of you can help take care of the immediate deficit:

- Join as Life Members
- Make a donation to the ASA for deficit reduction
- Encourage visitors and membership prospects to attend chapter meetings.

It is most important that we all do our parts to encourage more activities, create new chapters, make friends into members, and extol the benefits of membership in our great Society. The Board cannot do it alone. To have a thriving, growing Society, we need the work of individual members with a desire to make the ASA better.

Be a friend by making a new friend a member.

Best regards,
Joseph E. Schild, Jr.



On the Cover

'Nancy of Robinhill' (O46-3), Robin Hill hybridizer Robert Gartrell's favorite, features broad overlapping petal lobes on a flat-faced corolla. The flower is 3-1/4 inches across.
(Photo by Don Voss)

The Robin Hill Story

Donald H. Voss — Vienna, Virginia

[This article is based on the presentation given at the 2002 Joint ARS/ASA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, given April 19, 2002, Ed.]

The late Austin Kennell, a former president of the American Rhododendron Society, often held that personal relationships developed in plant-society activities are more important than the plants! With that in mind, I begin the Robin Hill story with an introduction to Robert Derby Gartrell.

The Man

Born in Atlanta in 1895, Robert trained as a chemist at Georgia Tech and qualified for a fellowship to the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut in Berlin, but World War I intervened. Believing that the British Empire's war effort would offer many opportunities in science, he took a job with a Montreal testing laboratory. In 1918, Robert married his childhood—and lifelong—sweetheart from Atlanta, Nancy Reynolds Gartrell. Daughters Jeanne and Elizabeth Anne rounded out the family.

In the 1920s, Robert worked in Canada as a chemist for the Dominion Rubber Company (a US Rubber Company subsidiary), rising to the post of director of development. Jeanne and Betty Anne recalled those days vividly. For a time, their father made them wear crude canvas shoes to school and at play. This was a mortifying experience for the girls, but was a trial of the vulcanizing process being tested in the development of Keds.

In 1931, Robert was transferred to the Mechanical Goods Division of US Rubber Company in Passaic, New Jersey. He soon was manager of development at Passaic and, in 1949-1958, manager of development for the company's entire Mechanical Goods Division.

Robert's work led to patents in varied fields, including the UStex-nylon conveyor belt developed for a mile-long coal-mine conveyor system. Other inventions ran the gamut from abrasive articles that reduced temperature rise in industrial grinding operations, to inking rolls for the printing industry with useful life several times that of earlier rolls, to longer-lasting textile-industry bobbins made with interpolymers, and even to a self-sealing backer for .22 caliber rifle targets.



'White Moon' (T17-7) has a striking white corolla with six lobes. Two tiny red flecks in this photograph give a hint of the sectoring and self-coloration that may appear. The flower is 3-1/2 inches across.
(Photo by Don Voss)

Robert's dedication and creativity in his professional activities were reflected in a personal letter received at the time of his retirement from an executive at the company's Research Center:

To us at the Research Center . . . even though you have been in another Division of the Company, it always seemed to us that you were part of our organization, too. . . . We will remember how you frequently came forth with an alternate ingenious approach to a scientific or engineering problem.

In addition to horticultural activities, Robert's outside interests were as varied as his professional ones. Always an avid reader, he was fascinated by British history; higher mathematics and art history held his interest from time to time. For bed-time reading and business trips, detective-story paperbacks and Angela Thirkell's novels of English country life were favorites. He loved classical music, especially that of Mozart. When the "long-playing" record era arrived, Robert designed the circuitry for and built a powerful, high-fidelity phonograph amplifier. Woodworking was another activity that he enjoyed.

In short, Robert was an unassuming gentleman of the old school, whose quiet manner belied his active intellect and substantial accomplishments. He could recount with amusement that, when the furnace for his greenhouse was delivered, the driver mistook him for "the Basque gardener" because of his Gallic nose, moustache, beret, pipe, and gardening clothes! He could remain civil when a visitor took cuttings from his azaleas without permission—

but be assured, it was the last visit from that individual!

The Plants

When the Gartrells returned to the United States in 1931, they settled in the Ramapo River valley north of Oakland, New Jersey. While in Montreal and in Kitchener, Ontario, Robert had tried his hand at hybridizing daylilies and delphiniums. (He had wanted to find a "true blue" delphinium but never did.) At Oakland, his delphiniums did not prosper. Noting the aza-

leas then grown in northern New Jersey were small-flowered varieties, Robert decided to try combining their hardiness with the larger flowers of the Southern Indian azaleas.

One azalea that he planted while at Oakland was purchased by Nancy at a local roadside stand. This putative *Kaempferi* hybrid survived a winter low of -25°F. That seemed reason enough to consider it as a parent for imparting hardiness, and Robert later used it in many crosses. Trying to keep in the good graces of Jay Murray (the ARS plant-name registrar) and provide a permanent record of its description, I later registered the plant as 'Oakland'.

In the late 1930s the Gartrells moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey. At Oakland, Robert had read to the girls from the long-winded best seller of the day, Galsworthy's *The Forsyte Saga*. In this story an episode revolves around a house on a hill named "Robin Hill" by its owner. The Ridgewood house was on high ground though hardly a hill. But at the back of the property the ground fell steeply to a stream, and Jeanne asked if they would call their new home Robin Hill. They did.

Robert did not begin his azalea program with hybridizing but rather by assembling a large collection of the hardier cultivars then available. He grew and studied these plants for several years before beginning to formulate plans for hybridizing. During the early 1940s, his intense involvement in wartime research and development delayed the Robin Hill project. But by the end of the 1940s, he had mastered propagation technique, studied much of the available plant material, and formulated objectives for his program, including:

- Large flowers on hardy plants (he favored relatively flat-faced corollas with rounded, overlapping petals)
- Not only good flowers but also good form and good foliage for the 50 weeks of the year when a plant is not in bloom
- Relatively small to medium-sized plants suitable for small properties
- Extend the blooming season

At Robin Hill, Robert made many crosses based on a variety of material, including some Gables, Glenn Dales, a few florist azaleas, and—as they began to mature—some of his own hybrids. Some of the plants used in Robert's 1952 crosses (as well as the parentage of the Robin Hill azaleas) are listed in Tables 1 and 2. Over a period of nearly 30 years, Robert estimated he made about 1,500 crosses and grew some 25,000 azaleas to blooming stage.

Many of the parent plants were obtained from the Pittsville, Maryland, nursery of Lehman Tingle, who evinced considerable interest in the Robin Hill project. By 1958 Robert had some 1,800 plants selected for further testing. These filled the shaded slope beyond his garage and greenhouse and were, as I recall, in the 12"-24" size range. Each year, another series of crosses was demanding bed space. And the Gartrells were planning a move to a smaller property in nearby Wyckoff, New Jersey, looking forward to Robert's retirement.

On a visit to Pittsville, Robert mentioned the situation to Tingle, who offered to plant the tentative selections in his nursery. Tingle sent a trailer-truck to Ridgewood, and the plants were soon growing in a field near a field of large Glenn Dales.

When Robert retired in 1960, the Gartrells were already established at Little Robin Hill in Wyckoff. A greenhouse was built that year, and nursery beds were being planted with new generations of hybrids.

The Gartrells visited the author and his family in Vienna, Virginia, in the spring of 1962. I drove Robert to Pittsville to update his evaluations of the plants there. He spent three or four hours examining the plants and then talked with Tingle. Robert concluded that, although many of his plants were better than the nearby Glenn Dales (and visibly in better condition following a rough winter), the flowers were not sufficiently distinctive to warrant introduction. He told Tingle to sell off most of the Ridgewood plants for landscaping.

By this time, Robert had seen the results of several of his newer crosses, especially some involving the Satsuki 'Tama Giku'. One in particular, 'Lady Louise' ('Louise Gable' x 'Tama Giku'), was to appear as a parent in 26 of the 69 plants selected and named as Robin Hill azaleas.

Robert distributed plants for testing to more than three dozen growers along the East Coast and several in the Northwest. Some of the recipients did not respond, but others provided detailed evaluations—mostly favorable—of the plants and their performance. Comments with respect to hardiness were very positive.

The Cultivar Names

Robert liked to say that naming a cultivar was harder than growing it. As shown in Table 3, "Name Associations Among the Robin Hill Azaleas," he drew on the names of family members and friends, place names, the Thirkell novels, etc. For example, from the family came 'Nancy of Robinhill' (Robert's wife), 'Jeanne Weeks' and 'Betty Anne Voss' (daughters), 'Maria Derby' (mother's maiden name), 'Scott Gartrell' (brother), 'Sara Holden' and 'Eliza Scott' (grandmothers).

A number of the cultivar names point to particular problems. The most interesting relates to the name "Effie Bunce," which was Robert's original choice for T36-6, a plant known for its various color patterns. Tingle asked Robert about the source of the name, and Robert explained that Effie was a character in a Thirkell novel—a somewhat seedy character from the wrong side of the tracks who had difficulty recalling which father went with each of her many children. Tingle was shocked and replied that a name with such baggage simply could not be used. The descriptive but somewhat pedestrian 'Conversation Piece' was substituted.

Those familiar with the Robin Hill azaleas will note that several familiar names—'Congo', 'Gillie', and 'Palmyra', for example, have "Robin Hill" included in their registered cultivar epithets. The reason is that the

NOTES FOR TABLES 1-2

Zeroes shown before numbers 1 through 9 in the cultivar identification numbers are used only for convenience in aligning data base entries; for example, RDG (Robert Derby Gartrell) used "T2-4" for "Whitehead".

Cultivar epithets should be enclosed in single quotation marks; e.g., 'Nigel'. To simplify preparation of this illustrative list, the marks were omitted. For the contrived names used by RDG for certain parent plants (shown in double quotation marks), see the following:

- "BA" refers to a florist azalea grown by RDG from one of a number of cuttings taken (with permission) from a pile of clippings outside a Bobbink & Atkins greenhouse in which plants were being pruned. In his notes, RDG sometimes also referred to this plant as "Belgian hybrid No. 1" or "Indian hybrid No. 1."
- "Minton" refers to another Bobbink & Atkins florist azalea, a plant given to the Gartrells by neighbors named Minton. In his notes, RDG sometimes also referred to this plant as "Belgian hybrid No. 2" or "Indian hybrid No. 2."
- "Lower Rock" refers to an otherwise unidentified plant that grew near a large rock in the front lawn at Little Robin Hill in Wyckoff, New Jersey.

- O.p. sdlg. Refers to open-pollinated.

For the detailed "Summary of Registration Data for the Robin Hill Azaleas," see *The Azalean* 17(1): 4-19 (1995).

Table 1.
**Some Parent Plants Used in 1952
Crosses by Gartrell**

Amber Glow	Glamour	Mai Hime
BA (Bobbink & Atkins)	Glory of Sunninghill	Mary Dalton
Cameo	Grandam	Maxwellii
Carol	Gulf Stream	Melanie
Coccinea	Gumpo	Pericat Salmon Pink
Corsage	H. Dawson	Picador
Dayspring	Jubilee	Pixie
Dessa Merritt	June Dawn	Salmon Spray
Emile Roussave	Kaigetsu	Sibeliuss
Fashion	Kowkoku	Trooper
Fedora	La Lumiere	Viscosa
Glacier	Louise Gable	

Table 2.
Robin Hill Cultivars, by Seed and Pollen Parent

T28-10 Watchet	Amagasa	Lady Louise	N26-06 Early Beni	Louise Gable	Oakland x (BA x Carol)
N33-02 Nigel	"BA" x La Lumiere	"BA" x La Lumiere (sibling)	T38-05 George Harding	Louise Gable	Shinnyo no Hikare
P05-02 Robin Hill Erik	"BA"	Margie (Gable R4G)	U22-02 Eunice Updike	Louise Gable	Shinnyo no Tsuki
T36-06 Conversation Piece	Emile Roussave x Carol	Eikan	J44-07 Lady Louise	Louise Gable	Tama Giku
T02-04 Whitehead	Glacier	Getsutoku	T45-03 Ormsby	Louise Gable	Yozakura (Satsuki)
V01-07 Robin Hill Rosanne	Glacier	Lady Louise	Z12-02 Blue Tip	Malvatica o.p. sdlg.	Hosei
V01-09 Dorothy Rees	Glacier	Lady Louise	T62-06 Pucken	"Minton"	Carol
V02-03 La Belle Helene	Glacier	Lady Louise	T21-09 Corry	Mucronatum	Heiwa
R08-05 Papineau	Glacier	Swansong	N42-06 Bob White	Oakland	Docteur Bergmann
T05-02 Dorothy Hayden	Glacier x (Louise Gable x C8G)	Getsutoku	T22-05 Sara Holden	Oakland	Heiwa
T14-10 Lady Robin	Glacier x Tama Giku	Getsutoku	T22-07 Betty Layman	Oakland	Heiwa
T15-08 Sir Robert	Glacier x Tama Giku	Getsutoku	T23-04 Eliza Scott	Oakland	Heiwa
T16-07 Madame Mab Chalon	Glacier x Tama Giku	Getsutoku	T23-10 Mrs. Villars	Oakland	Heiwa
T16-10 Talbot	Glacier x Tama Giku	Getsutoku	T24-05 Welmet	Oakland	Heiwa
T17-05 Hilda Niblett	Glacier x Tama Giku	Getsutoku	T24-08 Robin Dale	Oakland	Heiwa
T17-07 White Moon	Glacier x Tama Giku	Getsutoku	T50-08 Olga Niblett	Oakland	Kaigetsu x Carol
J12-01 White Hart	Gumpo x Glacier	Snowclad	T49-03 Robin Hill Palmyra	Oakland	Lady Louise
H19-09 Maria Derby	Jimmy Coover	Glamour	T49-04 Verena	Oakland	Lady Louise
V01-08 Tamino	Kaigetsu	Nancy of Robinhill x Leditif. Roseum	T13-06 Robin Hill Gillie	Oakland x (BA x Carol)	Getsutoku
T37-04 Gwenda	Lady Louise	Eikan	T13-08 Greta	Oakland x (BA x Carol)	Getsutoku
T21-01 Redmond	Lady Louise	Heiwa	N31-01 Scott Gartrell	Oakland x (BA x Carol)	Lady Louise
T21-02 Christie	Lady Louise	Heiwa	N31-09 Robin Hill Frosty	Oakland x (BA x Carol)	Lady Louise
T21-03 Robin Hill Wendy	Lady Louise	Heiwa	V02-10 Wee Willie	Shinnyo no Tsuki	Lady Louise
U01-08 Peg Hugger	Lady Louise	Kaigetsu x Carol	V03-06 Richie	Shinnyo no Tsuki	Lady Louise
U02-09 Tan Dilly	Lady Louise	Kaigetsu x Carol	V05-01 Glencora	Shinnyo no Tsuki	Lady Louise
U04-01 Laura Morland	Lady Louise	Kaigetsu x Carol	T20-07 Robin Hill Elsa	Treasure x Mavis	Getsutoku
U07-08 Jeanne Weeks	Lady Louise	Kaigetsu x Carol	T18-01 Roddy	Treasure x Mucronatum o.p.sdlg	Getsutoku
U08-10 Maxine West	Lady Louise	Kaigetsu x Carol	T18-03 Gresham	Treasure x Mucronatum o.p.sdlg	Getsutoku
U14-05 Mrs. Emil Hager	Lady Louise	Shinnyo no Tsuki	O46-03 Nancy of Robinhill	Vervaeneanum	Lady Louise
U15-01 Peter Pooker	Lady Louise	Shinnyo no Tsuki	X55-09 Sherbrooke	Vervaeneanum x Lady Louise	Lost label ("Lower Rock")
U17-03 Chanson	Lady Louise	Shinnyo no Tsuki	U17-03A Antoine	(Sport from U17-03 Chanson)	
U17-08 Betty Anne Voss	Lady Louise	Shinnyo no Tsuki	E02-02 Robin Hill Congo	Lost label	Lost label
T36-03 Pat Erb	Lady Louise	Tama Sugata	K34-03 Spink	Lost label	Lost label
V21-01 Glamora	Lady Louise	Wako	T60-06 Turk's Cap	Lost label	Lost label
			W20-10 Red Tip	Lost label	Lost label

Table 3.

Name Associations Among the Robin Hill Azaleas

FAMILY

'Nancy of Robinhill' (O46-3)
'Jeanne Weeks' (U7-8)
'Betty Anne Voss' (U17-8)
'Maria Derby' (H19-9)
'Scott Gartrell' (N31-1)
'Sara Holden' (T22-5)
'Eliza Scott' (T23-4)

FRIENDS

'Betty Layman' (T22-7)
'Dorothy Hayden' (T5-2)
'Dorothy Rees' (V1-9)
'George Harding' (T38-5)
'Hilda Niblett' (T17-5)
'Madame Mab Chalon' (T16-7)
'Maxine West' (U8-10)
'Mrs. Emil Hager' (U14-5)
'Olga Niblett' (T50-8)
'Pat Erb' (T36-3)
'Peg Hugger' (U1-8)

PLACE NAMES

'Antoine' (U17-3A)
'Corry' (T21-9)
'Papineau' (R8-5)
'Sherbrooke' (X55-9)
'Oakland' [a parent plant; not a Robin Hill azalea]

ANGELA THIRKELL NOVELS

'Eunice Updike' (U22-2)
'Glamora' (V21-1)
'Glencora' (V5-1)
'Gwenda' (T37-4)
'Laura Morland' (U4-1)
'Mrs. Villars' (T23-10)
'Peter Pooker' (U15-1)
'Pucken' (T62-6)
'Robin Dale' (T24-8)
'Robin Hill Gillie' (T13-6)
'Sir Robert' (T15-8)
'Verena' (T49-4)
"Effie Bunce" (synonym of
'Conversation Piece', q.v.)

APPEARANCE OF PLANT

'Blue Tip' (Z12-2)
'Bob White' (N42-6)
'Conversation Piece' (T36-6)
'Early Beni' (N26-6)
'Red Tip' (W20-10)
'Redmond' (T21-1)
'Robin Hill Congo' (E2-2)
'Robin Hill Frosty' (N31-9)
'Tan Dilly' (U2-9)
'Turk's Cap' (T60-6)
'Wee Willie' (V2-10)
'White Hart' (J12-1)
'White Moon' (T17-7)

PARENTAGE OF PLANT

'Lady Louise' (J44-7)

MUSIC

'La Belle Helene' (V2-3)
'Tamino' (V1-8)

MEN OF SCIENCE

'Gresham' (T18-3)
'Whitehead' (T2-4)

FLIGHT OF FANCY

'Chanson' (U17-3)
'Christie' (T21-2)
'Greta' (T13-8)
'Lady Robin' (T14-10)
'Nigel' (N33-2)
'Ormsby' (T45-3)
'Richie' (V3-6)
'Robin Hill Elsa' (T20-7)
'Robin Hill Erik' (P5-2)
'Robin Hill Palmyra' (T49-3)
'Robin Hill Rosanne' (V1-7)
'Robin Hill Wendy' (T21-3)
'Roddy' (T18-1)
'Spink' (K34-3)
'Talbot' (T16-10)
'Watchet' (T28-10)
'Welmet' (T24-5)

NOTE: R.D. Gartrell requested that only the 69 cultivars he selected and named be called Robin Hill azaleas and that his other cultivars be called Gartrell Hybrids.

NAMES WITHDRAWN BY RDG "Achievement" (V1-2), "Monique" see 'Dorothy Rees'

names Robert proposed had already been registered in the genus. Also note that in a single instance "Robin Hill" was styled as one word so that 'Nancy of Robinhill' could be accepted under the three-word limit then imposed on new cultivar names.

The cases of the Robin Hill cultivars 'Jeanne Weeks' and 'Tamino', as well as the tentatively identified "Achievement" and "Monique," strongly support a recommendation that those considering introduction of new cultivars use only identification numbers—not names—until final decisions are taken on introduction and naming.

Robert received sage (and prophetic) advice on this matter from David Leach in 1974:

I note that you already have 15

cooperators testing your persistent-leaved azalea hybrids. If your cooperators are not restricted as to distribution, there is already a pretty good chance that at least some of your hybrids will be disseminated. It is virtually impossible to control new cultivars which are out for testing on such a scale.

Unfortunately, Robert tended to think of names and communicate them to others before he should have, and this led to some confusion:

- A plant with flowers very lovely in bud and at anthesis was initially considered by Robert as worthy of the name of his elder daughter, 'Jeanne Weeks'. As time passed, he observed that as the flower ages, the petals extend and have an almost clawed appearance. This led Robert to set aside the first plant and

apply the name to another. The first plant (which I refer to as "Not Jeanne Weeks") won "Best in Show" under the name 'Jeanne Weeks' at the American Rhododendron Society's Williamsburg convention some years ago! 'Jeanne Weeks' does not have a green foliaceous calyx; "Not Jeanne Weeks" does! There is also some difference in color.

- Because of its lively, almost "silvery" (i.e., not chalky) white corolla centers, 'Tamino' (V1-8) started out as "Rosenkavalier" (an allusion to the "silver rose" in the plot of the Richard Strauss opera). But the name had been used. I was helping Robert in preparing registration applications and suggested "Quin-Quin," the nickname used by the field marshal's wife for her youthful lover, the bearer of the silver rose (i.e., the

“Rosenkavalier”). Alas, there was already in use the homophonic ‘Can-Can’. The given name of the youth was Octavian—and, wouldn’t you know, there was an ‘Octavia’ already registered. Knowing that Robert was particularly fond of Mozart, I suggested changing to the *Magic Flute* and using the name of the hero, ‘Tamino’.

- V1-2 was a plant with fine foliage and a beautiful flower that seemed destined for great things, meriting the name “Achievement.” But after some years Robert found that the plant did not bloom reliably in Wyckoff, and he dropped it from his list of selections.
- The tentative cultivar name “Monique” was not dropped because Robert’s respect for that fine lady in any way diminished. But when faced with the final decision on naming and registration, Robert decided to name plant V1-9 for Dorothy Rees. This was meant as a tribute not only to Dorothy but also to Fred Rees, who had modestly declined having his name used for a plant in the Robin Hill series. (Fred was an avid plant collector who lived in Wyckoff and traveled with Robert to many nurseries and ARS meetings.)

Cultivar Performance

Many of the Robin Hill azaleas are not free from variation in flower color and color patterning. While the corolla coloration on a plant such as ‘Oakland’ appears little affected by year-to-year changes in the timing and severity of weather factors, some of the Robin Hill cultivars—and I suspect Satsuki background is involved—display variation. In Northern Virginia we have recently had winters milder in many respects than those of the previous 25 years. Surprising increases in color saturation have been noted in several plants. ‘Madame Mab Chalon’ and ‘Sir Robert’ usually had been very pale pinks, almost off-white. Recently, however, the color has been more pronounced, with a flush of slightly deeper color along the axis of the petals—and, on some flow-

ers, sectoring or self-coloration. My ‘Hilda Niblett’ for years had evenly colored pink flowers, and I thought that the picture in the Wayside Gardens catalog was of a sport. But recently, my plant has had some flowers resembling those in the catalog. I tentatively conclude that these variations may originate in part from differences in timing and degree of weather conditions from late autumn through time of bloom.

George Harding of Germantown, Maryland, grew most of the Robin Hill azaleas in what may be characterized as a challenging location! He corresponded with Robert about the qualities of the Robin Hill azaleas in general, and about the variability of the white center in T38-5 in particular. In 1978, Harding wrote:

T38-5: This one was outstanding and should be named.Entire plant—fully exposed—developed white centers with well defined borders and bloomed for long period.

A year later, he wrote:

Three consecutive years of miserable weather for azaleas. It was so bad here this year, I’ve little to report. . . . Most frustrating to me, was the behavior of my pet T38-5. The plant in the open field and my 2-yr. old ones in my lathe [sic] house had absolutely no sign of white centers as they were solid color right to the base of the tube...Do you suppose we might look for bicolor in future years?

Needless to say, this is the cultivar that Robert named ‘George Harding’!

An answer to the bicolor question posed by Harding is: “Yes—at least in some years.” Color-pattern variation is a fascinating and frustrating, not yet explained, phenomenon. I recall having Glenn Dale ‘Fawn’ completely covered with solid-colored flowers one year. The normally white-centered flowers on my ‘George Harding’ (as well as those on ‘Red Tip’ and some others) were solid in 2000 but white-centered again in 2001.

Other differences may be *climatic* in origin. Size and growth habit may be affected. I have noted variation in the degree and nature of doubling on some plants. Pictures of Robin Hills taken in Wyckoff, New Jersey, suggest that doubling there may be more regular than I have seen on the same cultivars growing in Vienna, Virginia.

The best laid plans o’ mice and men
Gang aft a-gley. *Robert Burns*

How well do the Robin Hill azaleas meet the objectives that Robert set forth at the beginning of his project? The answer turns out to be remarkably parallel to the outcome of the Glenn Dale project—but for an area about 250 miles north of Washington, DC. In Agriculture Monograph 20, *The Glenn Dale Azaleas*, B. Y. Morrison stated:

Although the original intention . . . was . . . plants that should be winter-hardy at Washington, DC, and bear flowers as large as those of the Southern gardens . . . Certain races have been produced that do not fill the requirements for flower size but are winter-hardy and quite valuable and distinct in themselves.

Here are my thoughts on the results of the Robin Hill breeding program:

- *Large flowers on hardy plants*—Three-fifths of the Robin Hill cultivars have flowers in the 2-3/4” to 4” (71-100 mm) diameter range. Large flowers clearly predominate. As to the 1-1/2” (38 mm) ‘Spink’, I recall asking Robert in Wyckoff why he named this plant. The reply was: “It is planted next to Gable’s ‘Springtime’, blooms at the same time, is the earliest of my hybrids to bloom, and I like it.”
- *Good form and foliage*—Most Robin Hills meet this objective. They are not “cookie-cutter” duplicates, but are generally compact, whether low and spreading or mounding in form. There are exceptions, such as the lanky ‘Red Tip’ and ‘Turk’s Cap’, both of which were selected because of their unusual flowers.

Figure 1

Bloom Times — Robin Hill Evergreen Azalea Cultivars

Note: Bloom times are for the Washington, DC /Vienna, Virginia area.

End April / Begin May	Spink
Early May	Early Beni; Nigel; Robin Hill Congo; Robin Hill Erik
Mid-May	Betty Layman; Bob White; Corry; Jeanne Weeks; Maria Derby; Nancy of Robinhill; Olga Niblett; Papineau; Peg Hugger; Pucken; Richie; Robin Dale; Robin Hill Frosty; Robin Hill Gillie, Robin Hill Palmyra; Sherbrooke; Tan Dilly; Turk's Cap; White Hart
Late May	Betty Anne Voss; Blue Tip; Christie; Conversation Piece; Dorothy Rees; Eunice Updike; George Harding; Greta; La Belle Helene; Lady Louise; Laura Morland; Maxine West; Mrs. Emil Hager; Ormsby; Peter Pooker; Red Tip; Robin Hill Elsa; Robin Hill Rosanne; Roddy; Sara Holden; Scott Gartrell; Tamino; Verena; Watchet
End May / Begin June	Chanson; Dorothy Hayden; Eliza Scott; Glamora; Lady Robin; Mrs. Villars; Pat Erb; Welmet; Whitehead
Early June	Antoine; Glencora; Gresham; Gwenda; Hilda Niblett; Madame Mab Chalon; Redmond; Robin Hill Wendy; Sir Robert; Talbot; Wee Willie; White Moon

- *Relatively small to medium-size plants*—In Northern Virginia, most of the Robin Hills range in height from about 18” to 48”; several, such as ‘Papineau’ and ‘Robin Hill Palmyra’, are taller. In Wyckoff, New Jersey, they were somewhat smaller.
- *Extend the blooming season*—As shown in Figure 1, only a few of the Robin Hill cultivars bloom through early May in the Washington, DC, area; 43 bloom in mid- to late-May; and 21 bloom from the end of May through early June.



This photograph of ‘George Harding’ (T38-5) shows a white center on the 3-1/4-inch flower.
(Photo by Don Voss)

Author’s Postscript

My “recommendation that those considering introduction of new cultivars use only identification numbers—not names—until final decisions are taken on introduction and naming” is, I believe, logical. But it runs ahead of a provision in the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, Article 22.6, which states:

A new cultivar epithet is not established if its publication is against the expressed wish of its originator ...unless the originator has knowingly distributed that cultivar without a proposed cultivar epithet [emphasis added].

The International Registrar for Rhododendrons is aware of the issue and will raise it this summer at a meeting in Toronto, Canada, dealing with revision of the cultivated plant code. Results of that discussion will be printed in a future issue of *The Azalean*.

Donald H. Voss is an economist by training, and an active gardener with a scholarly interest in azaleas and rhododendrons. He is an expert on the azaleas of Robert Gartrell (Robin Hill hybrids) and is a former chairman of the Society’s Board of Directors and former keeper of the Society’s database. Don currently volunteers at the herbarium of the US National Arboretum.



This photograph of ‘George Harding’ (T38-5) shows only a slight pale pink area deep in the throat.

Azaleaphile

Along the Garden Path: Memories of My Grandfather, Frederick Paddock Lee, and His Azalea Garden

Marian Lee Klenk — Palm Harbor, Florida

When I remember my grandfather, I think of his garden; or rather, I think of him in his garden. He always wore khaki pants and a long-sleeved shirt, old navy blue tennis shoes, and a cap, which appeared to be similar to an English or Irish navy wool seafaring cap with a leather brim. He worked diligently and methodically, weeding, mulching, and transplanting, a wooden bushel basket or two always nearby. In later years, a small metal tripod stool stood nearby where he would rest between jobs, surveying the garden he created and loved.

As a child, I believed that working in his garden was all he did or had ever done. By then he was retired from his law practice and spent most of his time on horticultural matters. I did not learn of all the other accomplishments in his life until after his death in 1968. My grandfather was born in 1893 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and shortly thereafter moved with his parents to Rutherford, New Jersey. When asked at a later book signing party for *The Azalea Book* what started him on plants, he responded, "I was brought up in Rutherford, New Jersey, and as a boy I used to take walks in the Hackensack meadows, identifying plants."

My grandmother was fond of saying that my grandfather really should have been a scientist in the field of botany, but alas, his formidable mother had other plans for her eldest

son: After graduating from Hamilton College in 1915, he enrolled in Columbia Law School where he obtained a M.A. in 1916 and a law degree in 1918.

The following year my grandparents moved to the Washington, DC area. Grandpa was first hired for the position as legislative counsel to the US

recognized for his skill and expertise in constitutional law. In the early 30s, he went into private practice and later formed his own law practice, Lee, Toomey and Kent.

Taking Root

With a personal loan from Professor Chamberlain, Professor of Public Law at Columbia University, my grandparents built their lovely family home in 1929 on Glenbrook Road in Bethesda, Maryland. In 1911, Professor Chamberlain had given a generous gift to Columbia to establish the Legislative Drafting Research Fund. Out of this Fund grew the Office of the Legislative Counsel. Mr. Chamberlain, therefore, figured prominently in providing my grandfather with not only his first job out of law school, but also his home, and indirectly, the beautiful garden of my childhood memories.

My grandfather designed the house and specified which building supplies would be used. An architect drew up the plans based on his specifications, and the home was built for the cost of \$29,000. The initial landscaping was an additional \$5,000, mostly for retaining walls and drainage, but did not include the purchase of plants. I have no record of the cost of the plants he bought over the ensuing years. However, I do have an extensive list of all the "shrub and herbaceous plants (including bulbs) on the pre-



The pathway into the Lee garden in the 1960s.
(Photo supplied by Marian Klenk)

House of Representatives and later moved to the US Senate. Washington, DC, at that time was still a sleepy southern town that closed up for most of the summer when legislators went home to their constituents. My grandfather made quiet inroads in government service and was soon

mises in August of 1965 whether or not the shrub or plant is mature or young, large or small, in poor condition or growing well.”

My grandfather had over 450 azalea varieties alone, including: Gable, Glenn Dale, Ghent, Kaempferi, Kurume, Mollis, Pericat, Ryukyu, Satsuki, Southern Indian, Yerkes-Pryor, and other miscellaneous hybrids. This was in addition to a combined total of 700 bulbs, perennials, annuals, and other shrubs including 36 rhododendrons. He kept two extensive plant lists, one alphabetically by plant name, the other by location of the plants in the garden. The lists were updated in 1968 prior to his death.

I never felt Grandpa's garden was planted for show. Even now as an adult looking back on all the pictures and plans for the layout of the plantings, it is clear to me that the garden came directly from his mind's eye—where it was already in full bloom—long before he put one plant in the ground or set one stone in the pathway. This is not to say he did not experiment and change his mind, transplanting, adding new hybrids, and dividing overgrown plants to give some away. However, the basic structure of the garden remained the same and lovingly framed the house he had designed. Although my grandfather had a keen scientific mind, the garden was his soul's work. I asked him once why he never went to church. He replied, “I feel closer to God right here in the garden.”

Weeding and Mulching

A year after I was born, my parents returned from overseas where they were stationed with the US Foreign

Service. We spent the next few years living with my grandparents until my parents were able to buy their own home. We moved to a home close by, and I spent a great deal of time visiting my grandparents and playing in the garden. My father would help out in the garden and soon started his own with plants given to him by my grandfather. My father really took to gardening, and our various homes over the years were always nicely landscaped with azaleas. However, Dad started out on shaky ground when he was the soon to be son-in-law before his marriage to my grandfather's youngest daughter, Bar-



The Lee Home and front garden in full bloom. (Photo supplied by Marian Klenk)

bara. To ingratiate himself with my grandfather, my father offered to help out in the garden a few days before the wedding. “All right, you can weed, but watch out for the azaleas,” said my grandfather.

“Which ones are the azaleas?” asked my father.

“Maybe you'd better mow the grass instead,” replied my grandfather.

In the garden, I could play and do whatever I liked as long as I stayed on the paths and didn't pick the flowers. I only strayed once, when at the age of five or six, I decided the little wooden stakes with metal tags and funny writing on them would be fun

to collect. I pulled up quite a few and proudly showed my collection to my grandmother who gasped in disbelief. I was not allowed to keep my bounty, and I trust my grandfather's knowledge of his plants was sufficient to put the nametags back in the proper places. He always wrote the scientific instead of the common names of the plants, which annoyed me because I never could pronounce them. I was, however, familiar with one particular Morrison Back Acres azalea hybrid. This hybrid was named the Marian Lee azalea after my grandmother. I just called it my grandma's azalea.

Speaking of plant tags, how

Grandpa eventually procured the ties to attach the tags to the plants is an amusing story my father likes to tell. One evening Grandpa asked my father to join him for dinner at a restaurant near his office. Mr. Saul Alinsky happened to be at the restaurant and joined Grandpa and Dad for drinks. Saul Alinsky, who penned *Rules For Radicals*, was one of the most radical political and

labor organizers in the 50s and 60s. Over martinis Mr. Alinsky tried to enlist my father in his political crusade saying, “We can always use bright young men like you.” Before my father could even think of a response, Grandpa leaned over and said, “Over my dead body. You have a wife and child to support.” I don't think my father ever seriously considered the offer. He ended up working for AT&T (Ma Bell) for 28 years. As it turned out, Ma Bell was instrumental in supplying Grandpa with wire ties for his plant labels. Grandpa's potting area contained several bundles of brightly colored batches of thin telephone wire, which

he found far superior to any other tie. If my father had heeded the siren call of Saul Alinsky, Grandpa would have been out of great wire ties for his plant tags.

My grandfather also shared the love of gardening and azaleas with his younger brother George Sterling Lee (Ster), who edited the American Horticultural Society's *Daffodil Handbook* and grew an extensive azalea garden at his home in New Canaan, Connecticut. I remember Grandpa and Ster working for hours silently side by side in whichever garden they happened to be visiting at the time, with only an occasional nod to each other. They also kept up a lively correspondence on plants, horticultural articles they were working on, US National Arboretum goings on and the like, but one passage in a letter to my Uncle Ster particularly amused me. My grandfather wrote:

Dear Ster,
...*The Montgomery County Sentinel* is sending around a photographer in the morning to take a color picture of the garden. They wanted to know if I couldn't wear a complementary color such as a yellow jacket or shirt. Unfortunately, I have no yellow wearing apparel. I mention this so that you can acquire suitable garments in case you have your picture taken with azaleas in New Canaan.

Regards,
Fred

I loved the fieldstone and brick house my grandparents built as much as the garden. Grandpa designed the house with several wings and lots of

nooks and crannies, which provided great hiding places. He had beautiful southern pine beams placed in almost all the rooms. The house also had a lovely step-down living room and built-in bookcases and cabinets in almost every room. Of course all the windows opened onto lovely views of the garden. The house proper, however, was my grandmother's territory, and I spent many hours happily in her company.



Frederic P. Lee and wife Marian Armstrong Lee on the terrace over-looking the garden in 1967. (Photo supplied by Marian Klenk)

My grandmother shared her husband's passion, but not his knowledge of azaleas. She did become an expert on local wildflowers and won many blue ribbons over the years for her flower arrangements. She also served for years as president of the Montgomery County Women's Garden Club, during which time she oversaw the planting and landscaping of many community buildings such as Suburban Hospital and a local library. During the spring and summer eve-

nings when it was not too hot, she would sit with my grandfather on the garden terrace where they would have drinks. Friends would often join them and stay to dinner. Dusk was also my favorite time in the garden, when the colors were at their loveliest as the day drew to a close.

How Does His Garden Grow?

I knew my grandfather during his retirement during the 1960s, when his garden was mature and the azaleas literally cascaded over the retaining walls. I felt I really was in a magical land, with many of the azaleas twice my height and the tall oak trees forming graceful arches over the pathways. But aside from the actual work of gardening, his intense interest in horticulture led him to devote countless hours to researching and writing articles for several horticultural publications, such as *The American Horticultural Magazine*, where he also served as an officer and editorial advisor, and the American Rhododendron Society's quarterly bulletin. His horticultural expertise extended to other shade-loving plants

as well, such as hostas. In addition, for 22 years from 1946 to 1968 he served as the chairman of the Advisory Council of the US National Arboretum. I remember driving with my grandmother many times to pick Grandpa up from a board meeting at the Arboretum, although I never visited the gardens until the dedication of the Lee Azalea Garden.

While my grandfather had an extensive legal career, and horticulture was a hobby, it was as close to a profes-

sion as one could come without being paid. My grandfather's legal abilities and connections did come in handy for the benefit of the US National Arboretum when, from time to time, my grandfather had to appear before the appropriate congressional committee to secure funding for the US National Arboretum. My grandmother recounts one such time when the person scheduled to go before the committee on another matter prior to my grandfather was given a difficult time by the committee members. My grandmother was not so sure the Arboretum would fare well. But apparently, my grandfather was either well connected or very persuasive, because his testimony went off without a hitch and the Arboretum got their funding.

In 1958, a few years before retirement from his law firm, he wrote *The Azalea Book*. My mother, who had been a secretary in the Foreign Service, had the required skills to type up the original draft. I remember being left with a sitter (which did not please me) while she happily went off to "work." Actually, I think she was thrilled to be doing something other than childcare and working for such a great "boss." He paid her too, and she was always pleased to have been a part of the work it took to put the book together.

I have a copy of *The Washington Star* newspaper column, "The Rambler," which covered a book signing party for my grandfather held at the "Georgetown home of Joseph A. Seeley," who was an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission. Henry T.

Skinner, a close friend of my grandfather's, was Director of the US National Arboretum at the time and was considered one of the country's foremost azalea experts. Mr. Skinner was quoted as saying, "This is a most amazing feat. Here we have a new volume on azaleas which is probably a closer approach to the definitive than anything written by a horticulturist and it's by a lawyer." Actually, this quote is funnier today in light of the reputation acquired by lawyers in the past several decades.

After his retirement, my grandfather kept up extensive correspondence with old colleagues, friends

you for Christmas. As you know, it was already eaten up before you left here, and I didn't give anybody else a bit except the teensy one that you had. I am really shocked that you do not like maple sugar as well as I do; it shows that your mother and father have not brought you up properly.

With love,
Grandpa

The demise of his goldfish was a tragic event in our young lives. There is nothing quite so startling as coming upon goldfish floating on top of the water just as you are about to give them nourishment. At the time I thought my grandfather was blissfully unaware of these childhood happenings. Apparently not; he sent this to my cousin and his oldest grandchild.

Dear Kathryn,

I have sorrowfully to report that the goldfish are no more. However, they created a lot of excitement and interest while they were on hand. Your grandmother thinks that their demise was due to Liza's having put a tremendously excessive amount of fish food in the bowl. Your grandmother had taken over the responsibility

for changing the water and the like, and I hope she's not trying to use Liza as an alibi...Despite the said outcome, thank you very much for the present. It was a noble experiment while it lasted and has certainly contributed to my knowledge of goldfish.

With love,
Grandpa

During his retirement, my grandfather also received many invitations to speak at various association and club events, but in later years he turned most of them down. By then his rheumatoid arthritis was so severe he



The Lee garden contained formal elements as shown in this photograph of Lee and a friend taken by the fish pond in 1946. (Photo supplied by Marian Klenk)

and family members. Many letters to friends and family were sent in jest, but with sincere thanks, for family and friends were always sending him candies, cookies, jam, nuts, and all sorts of goodies. However, the letters to his grandchildren show his quiet, teasing humor at its best. I couldn't understand why my mother laughed so much when reading them. I always took them quite seriously.

Dear Marian,

I think maple sugar candy is the best candy there is, and I was delighted to receive the two boxes from

could barely walk and only with the help of a cane. I would race by him on the stairs impatient with his slow progress, never realizing the constant pain he had to endure. His hands were badly deformed by the disease, which made it difficult for him to do anything with them and impossible for him to garden. He lamented this condition many times in his correspondence. The best he could do was sit and supervise the various handymen he hired from time to time. However, the painful arthritis did not diminish his sense of humor. One invitation he turned down was from the local women's garden club. In this correspondence he showed his mischievous side that I did not always recognize as a child. I took him much too seriously at his word. I hope Mrs. Ernest Lewis did not.

Dear Mrs. Lewis,

I am sorry to be unable to attend the luncheon on May 17th. The presence of so many lovely ladies would stimulate two unfortunate present tendencies of mine. One is to wriggle like a small boy when having to sit still; the other is to drop all the best china and silver that comes to hand.

Sincerely,
Fred Lee

Transplanting

My grandparents traveled extensively in the 1950s after their children had grown. They took regular trips up and down the eastern seaboard stopping at the major nurseries along the way. My grandfather would spend hours talking to the owners, trading advice and information. He brought home many new and interesting plants and somehow managed to squeeze them all in.

When the garden became too crowded, he dug up and gave many plants to friends, to family, and to the grounds of various private and public institutions. My grandparents took me to lunch at one such private institution, the Cosmos Club in downtown Washington, DC. As we drove in by the garden, Grandma pointed out the

azaleas and said that most had come from Grandpa's garden. I found this mildly interesting, but I was more preoccupied at having to go in the side door. Women were not allowed in the front door at that time. Even when Eleanor Roosevelt was scheduled to speak before the members, she had to go in the side door to enter the Club. My earliest feminist tendencies had been insulted. This just made no sense to me, but Grandma seemed content enough, and I enjoyed the rare pleasure of a meal out by myself with my grandparents.

In spite of all my grandparents' travels, home was certainly where the heart was for both my grandparents, and never more so than at Christmas. The garden was blanketed in snow, which always seemed to come in time for the holiday. My family stayed over and all the other grandchildren came by on Christmas Eve. The house was always decorated with fresh greens, our favorite being the small lollipop tree with real lollipops inserted in the greenery. My grandfather sat in the living room keeping an eye on the tree decorating and enjoying, but staying out of the way of, all the commotion. These times formed some of my fondest memories. Although it was too cold to be outside, the winter garden was beautiful in its own right. The winter snow in Washington was usually wet and would gracefully bend the branches of the trees and plants, forming icicles on the tips.

Full Bloom

One spring in the early 60s, the garden looked magnificent. All the shrubs and flowers were in full bloom, all at once and set off by the backdrop of a crisp blue sky. That year, the garden was on the Montgomery Country Garden Club tour. I recall dressing up in my best Sunday dress and patent leather shoes. I was determined to play hostess with the mostest that day offering all comers a private guided tour. After all, I knew all the best secret hiding places—behind the compost bin on top of the

driveway wall, behind the cold frames in back of the house, and the crawl space under the house in back of the cement dividers in the basement. Forget the azaleas! Guests were going to get their money's worth with me. I was thanked, but politely refused by all.

My grandparents must have been amused but never said anything. I hovered around the visitors until I got bored and went over and sat by the fishpond. I remember looking up and seeing my grandfather sitting on the stone bench behind the fountain talking with friends and other azalea enthusiasts for most of the day. I did not realize then that I was seeing him in his element at his happiest. It's funny what you remember that actually happened in times past and what you sense but cannot articulate until years later. I sensed a peacefulness in that moment that has stayed with me all these years.

My grandfather once wrote, "Beautification is more important than most people realize. Much of the fighting going on today would disappear if people were trying to make the world a more beautiful place." No matter the season, the beauty of my grandfather's garden has stayed with me as I fondly remember my time along the garden path.

For Further Information

Contact Marian Klenk directly for more information on the garden:

535 Natingham Close
Palm Harbor, Florida 34683
jklenk@tampabay.rr.com

Marian Lee Klenk is a free-lance writer and lives in Palm Harbor, Florida, with her husband, Jonathan, and her two active boys, Walker and Joey. She is in the process of growing an extensive herb garden in the sandy, inhospitable Florida soil and heat, but alas, it is not the same as growing beautiful azalea plants.

Society News — HELP!

Bob Stelloh, Treasurer, ASA — Hendersonville, North Carolina

At the recent convention in Atlanta, the Board of Directors reluctantly approved our budget for 2002. They were reluctant because the budget showed we will spend \$5,600 more than we will take in this year, even after trimming out some very desirable items we simply can't afford, such as a color membership brochure, and an expanded website. The only reason we can spend more than we take in is because we can dip into our Endowment Reserve of around \$40,000. While \$40,000 sounds like a lot of money, it won't cover many such years of losses.

The reason for the problem is simple: National keeps about \$21 of your \$25 dues (actually \$25 for at-large members and \$20 for chapter members), and the costs are about \$28 for each member, mostly for preparing, printing and mailing *The Azalean*.

The solution is also simple: distribute the cost of *The Azalean* across more members. We are printing 900 copies of each issue right now, at a cost of about \$6.45 per copy mailed, or about \$26 per member per year. Increasing the number of copies

printed to cover more members only adds about \$7 per member per year. That low \$7 is because many of the costs stay the same regardless of the number of copies printed, and the printing costs rise only slightly.

More arithmetic shows we would break even at around 1,100 members, up from in 2001. Unfortunately, it is hard to attract that many more members **unless you bring them in!** You know the value of azaleas in your life, and you know your friends with similar interests who are not yet members, so you are the ones who can do it.

Until you can bring those new members in, there are several other ways you can help. One is to **become a Life Member**, which is a true win-win situation for you and for the Society. You win because at the current low interest rates, you only get about \$10 or \$15 interest on the \$500 cost of a life membership, so you can buy your \$25 dues for that \$10 or \$15—just send us the \$500 instead of leaving it in the bank. The Society wins because we will treat the \$500 like an annuity, where we will use the interest plus a little bit from the principal each year

to pay your membership-related expenses. And we will save the \$1 or so cost of sending you a dues envelope each year.

If you don't have \$500 to invest that way, **consider paying your dues a few years in advance** instead of one year at a time, for another win-win situation. You save \$1 for each year you pay in advance up to five years, and the Society draws interest on the future years' dues. And we save the cost of sending you renewal envelopes for those future years.

Finally, consider becoming a **Contributing Member** by sending us \$50 instead of \$25, or a **Supporting Member** by sending \$100, or an **Endowment Member** by sending \$200. Here the win for you is the satisfaction of supporting your Azalea Society of America, and being able to deduct your contribution over \$25 on your income tax. Again, your gift goes into the Endowment Reserve to draw interest, and will be used only when Society expenses exceed income, as they will this year.

Our future is in your hands!

Board Action Item List

At the first Board of Directors meeting, April 17, 2002, President Joe Schild called for a special committee meeting to determine what actions the Society may take. The following lists the results of that special meeting.

- Check on whether reciprocal advertising among non-profit plant organizations is law or convention. **Barbara Stump**
- **Barbara Stump** will check on the cost of getting extra copies of the current *Azalean* covers, possibly with an application form on the back. Consider changing the format of the magazine to put an application on the inside cover.
- Write up blurbs to attract members, by geographic area, to include with the magazine cover to act as a "quick-and-dirty" color brochure for membership recruiting. **Bob Hobbs**
- **Joe Schild** will kick off an extended effort to write articles for other (related) magazines. Other Society officers and members will follow with additional articles, which we feel will be more effective than small, expensive ads in those magazines.
- Develop a poster with the Society logo to put in point-of-sale retail areas showing azaleas in bloom. **Maarten van der Giessen, Buddy Lee, Barbara Stump**
- Appoint a Liaison Director to ensure that chapters have, understand, and follow through on Action Items developed by the Board. **Bob Hobbs**
- Local chapters to open meetings to the public, advertise locally (as through arboreta, garden clubs, etc.) and have meetings with lectures and events. **All Chapters**
- Pursue an "Award of Merit" for plants, the costs of which would be paid by the winners. This would include a prominent ad showing the award; the Society name, address, logo; the plant name; and plant and Society contacts. **Buddy Lee**
- Develop a recognition program showing chapter membership progress (positive statements) in *The Azalean*, possibly with an annual award to the chapter with the largest increase. **Membership Committee**
- Develop a plant tag with the Azalea Society logo to promote the Society. **Buddy Lee, Maarten van der Giessen**
- Develop an Awards Program for outstanding members. **Dave Nanney, Bob Hobbs**

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Bob Hobbs, Newsletter Editor:

rwhobbs@mindspring.com

Carol Flowers, Co-editor:

dflowers@bellatlantic.net

The March 3 meeting had record attendance, including many new members who are becoming regulars. The chapter now has 44 members. Greg Stiverson, Director of the London Town Foundation, was on hand to welcome the members to the meeting and provided refreshments. Three speakers, Barbara Bullock ("Database, Coding and Mapping of Azalea Collections at the US National Arboretum"), Bob McWhorter (plant database for Rosa Gardens), and Barry Sperling (demonstration of how to use MS Paint to map a garden and link it to descriptive information) really engaged the audience. Two other presentations planned for the meeting, by Charles and Wanda Hanners (record keeping and digital photography at Azalea Trace) and Gray Carter (transplanting seedlings demonstra-

tion) will be given at a later date.

May 11, 2002, the chapter held their Flower Show and Plant Sale at the London Town Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland, from 8 a.m. to noon. The most recent newsletter, *The Azalea Alert!* was filled with instructions for preparing the entries and encouraging members to bring azalea sprays to the show. Three classes were represented: azalea species, azalea hybrids—deciduous, and azalea hybrids—evergreen, and there were many sections within each class. Only ASA members could exhibit, and all entries had to come from plants in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months.

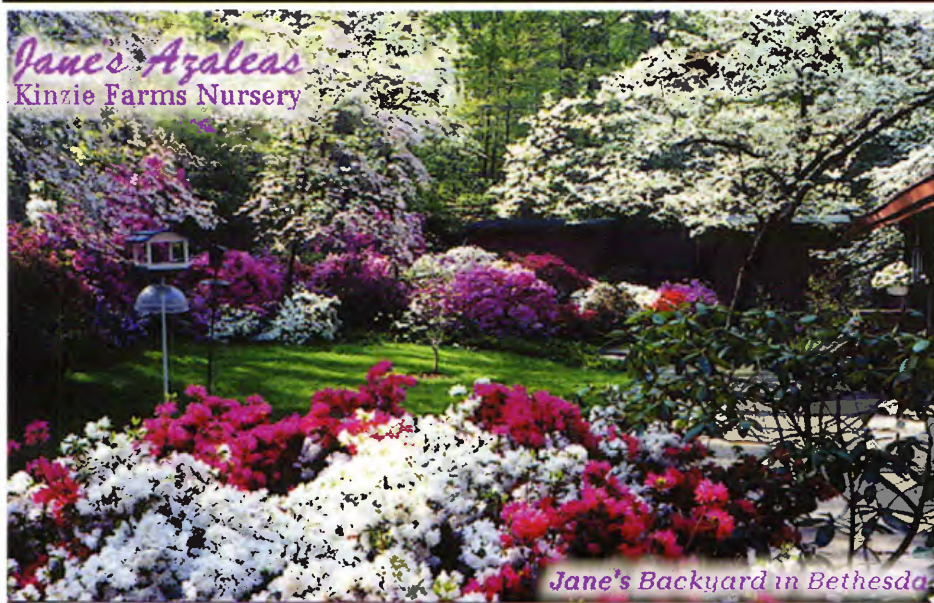
Bob and Bee Hobbs are giving the chapter cutting picnic, July 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. at their home in North Beach, Maryland.

Got bugs in your garden? Bill Miller of Bethesda, Maryland, contributed the following information for finding answers: Go to the Internet with your

computer browser and go to www.google.com, input the name of the bug (e.g., mealy bug), run the search, and see the many websites shown in the search results. Or, you can get information on insects at: <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/AG136/mealy.html>.

2004 Convention Planning: Remember, the Ben Morrison Chapter is hosting the 2004 ASA Convention. Contact Carol Segree, convention coordinator, at 301-261-6215 or e-mail her at csegree@msn.com with ideas about theme, speakers, garden tours, and other activities.

Research Papers Archive: Joan Sweeney reported that she has talked with Susan Fugate from the Special Collections Section of the National Agriculture Library (NAL), US Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. They are scheduling a meeting to discuss the specifics of making donations to the NAL and what might be involved in setting up an arrangement for the research papers that is mutually beneficial to the Chapter, the ASA, and the agency.



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Brookside Gardens Chapter

Charles H. Evans, Jr., President
chevans@nas.edu

At the February meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, Phil Normandy, Plant Collections Manager at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland, gave a slide-illustrated talk on the Brookside Gardens Plant Introductions from Japan and Korea. Carl Hahn initiated the introduction program while he was Director of Brookside Gardens in the 1970s. Hahn and Barry Yinger made the first plant-collecting trip to Japan in 1976; six collecting trips followed during 1977-1982. Approximately 2000 varieties, including 500 azaleas, were collected and grown at Brookside Gardens. The introductions have been described in two articles in *Arnoldia*, the Journal of the Arnold Arboretum. The most popular of the Brookside Gardens' Plant Introductions is *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Goshiki.' ASA Brookside Gardens Chapter member Emil Deckert, also a Brookside Gardens horticulturist at the time, rooted the Satsuki cuttings, while Ryon Page did most of the propagation with the plants then being lined out at McCrillis Gardens in Bethesda, Maryland, by Bob Barry and other ASA members. ASA members Dallas and Henrietta Hass, Don Hager, John Rochester, and Gordon Severe received an initial distribution for propagation and introduction. Other plants in the introduction program were distributed to a variety of individuals for propagation and introduction into commercial trade.

During the chapter meeting the members also approved the following agreement with the American Horticulture Society (AHS). "In exchange for a Brookside Gardens Chapter do-

nation of \$1,152 to the AHS Internship Program, two interns, on a rotational basis, will work in the Harding Memorial Azalea Garden once a week on Wednesday mornings during the summer months for 18 weeks (2 interns @ \$8/hr for 4 hours/week). The work will commence on or about Wednesday, May 1, 2002, and conclude on August 28th (18 Wednesdays) or when the funds are exhausted. The interns will be assisting and under the general direction of ASA volunteers Milton and Joan Lerner (and others) in maintenance tasks such as weeding and mulching. In addition, the interns will help with insect pest and disease identification and AHS acceptable Integrated Pest Management controls. Proper cultural conditions for azaleas will be explored and addressed. At the conclusion of the internship, a narrative suitable for publication in *The Azalean*, the Journal of the Azalea Society of America, will be prepared which describes their experiences."

Paula Shrewsberry, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Ornamental and Turf Entomology at the University of Maryland spoke at the April meeting of the chapter on Integrated Pest Management. Paula has focused her research on the azalea lace bug and described how companion plants and predator insect balance can be used effectively to control azalea pests. Paula, the former Paula M. Leddy, has previously shared her earlier lace bug research experience with the Society in her article, "Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone and What Can We Do About It?" published in the September 1995 issue of *The Azalean* 17(3): 60-64.

The 23rd annual Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Flower Show was staged on May 3-5 as part of the

Landon Azalea Festival in Bethesda, Maryland. For the second year the Potomac Village Garden Club of Potomac, Maryland, joined with the chapter in staging the show and sponsored both the artistic design and education divisions in the standard juried show. Margaret Vogel chaired the show, with the design and education divisions co-chaired by Dianne Gregg and Estelle Woodcock, President of the Potomac Village Garden Club. Entries included: 187 evergreen and deciduous azalea sprays and plants in containers, five classes of design entries, and three education displays. The chapter was pleased to have Barbara Bullock, Emile Deckert, Bill Johnson, Bruno Kaelin, Phil Normandy, and Don Voss share their expertise and time in judging the horticulture division. Judges from the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs evaluated the artistic designs and the education exhibits. Bill Miller's 'Madame Butterfly' horticulture entry was judged to be "best azalea in show." Nancy Evans' "Twin Towers" arrangement was awarded Designer's Choice, as the best design in the show. Education exhibits on Kurume Azaleas, Azalea Books for the Home Gardener, and The Perkins Azalea Garden received blue, red, and yellow ribbons, respectively. The Sweepstakes Award for the most points based upon number of ribbons won in the horticulture division was presented to Bill Miller.



Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary
plouer@msn.com

Dave and Leslie Nanney went to the International Rhododendron Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, in May. But before they left, Dave reported success with a recruiting approach. He strongly recommends and supports having Bob Stelloh "pass on" membership inquiries to chapter presidents. He says his first experience went really well.

ASA President Joe Schild spoke at the March 30th chapter meeting, both about his own Schild hybrid azaleas and about the workshops held at the US National Arboretum in March. (More about this in the next issue.)

[See the sidebar article on Friends of the White Garden.]

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
rudie2rudie@aol.com

[The Oconee Chapter did yeomens' work in putting on the 2002 ARS/ASA Joint Convention with the Azaleas Chapter of the ARS. All members are to be highly commended. Let's hope they are now enjoying their wonderful gardens, now that the fun is over, Ed.]

The chapter had a booth in early April at the plant fair and sale at Callaway Gardens.

We have completed the CD/slide series, "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" in cooperation with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. It contains 80 slides and narrative on the subject; many of the slides contain 4 pic-

tures and some graphics. It will probably be made available in one or more forms in the future, but this is preliminary. The authors are Dr. Frank Bryan, Albert Penland, and James Thornton, Oconee Chapter, ASA, and Dr. Gary L. Wade, Extension Horticulturist, UGA. The developments of this series have been described in the newsletters over the past couple of years.

Tri-State Chapter

Robin Hahn, President and
Newsletter Editor
812-985-9388

The chapter held a spring banquet at Bockelman's Restaurant in Evansville, Indiana, on March 16, 2002. A delicious family-style dinner was served. Members Ken and Jean Brown gave the program about butterflies in the garden. Steve and David

Friends of the White Garden

Bruno Kaelin — Centerville, Virginia

Margaret and John White of Annandale, Maryland, gardened at their home since 1939. Over the years they collected many plants, including rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias. Now mature, these plants are of great size. Some are rare, such as Gable rhododendrons and Gable azaleas. Each year in June, Margaret graciously invites the Potomac Valley Chapter, ARS, to have a picnic, cutting exchange, and plant sale at her home during which time the *Rhododendron cumberlandense* is typically in bloom, putting on quite a show.

Margaret White has graciously donated her home and garden in Annandale to the Fairfax County Park Authority. As long as she lives, Margaret will remain in her home. She is most desirous of having a "Friends" organization in place as soon as possible so that her plans and hopes for her garden can be established before it is turned over to the Park Authority. By helping to form this organization, we hope to be able to determine the direction for the development of the garden in accord with Margaret's wishes.

To that end, Don Hyatt and I have been searching for a way to get the Friends group started. There are two hurdles to cross. In gathering information I spoke to the local office of the State of Virginia Attorney General. I had hoped that we would be able to have a simple Friends association, but I was told that in Virginia, there is no legal entity such as an association. The local attorney gave his opinion that the Friends would have to be a Non-Profit Corporation, and recommended strongly that this be done by an attorney. Following establishing the Corporation, an application for Non-Profit status will have to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service of the federal government. Without a treasury and funds, these tasks are impossible.

The plan we have devised is to contact the local plant societies: Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS, and the DC chapters of the Camellia and Magnolia Societies to solicit interested parties to join an official group to get the Friends started. Modest dues would be sought to keep prospective members informed of developments. Hopefully, we will be able to find a lawyer who would take on the job of filing for incorporation at less than the usual fee.

We ask anyone interested in becoming part of the group to establish the Friends of the White Garden to call, write, or e-mail either Don or me:

Don Hyatt · 1948 Lorraine Ave. · McLean, VA 22101 · (703) 241-5421 · dhyatt@tjhsst.edu

Bruno Kaelin · 5432 Summit St. · Centerville, VA 20120 · (703) 830-2656 ·
bruno.kaelin@verizon.net

Schroeder donated azaleas to be given as door prizes. Mrs. Helen Schroeder, Chapter Secretary, made beautifully decorated Easter cupcakes for dessert.

A spring garden tour was held April 28, 2002, in Evansville, Indiana, featuring personal gardens in the local area. Art Schroeder's daylily garden in several acres of woods, including his wildflower collection, was very

beautiful. The tour then traveled to Holly Hills Nursery to see the Schroeder gardens of many evergreen and deciduous azaleas. The next stop was at Fred Sievers' wonderful landscaped garden of Gable, Shammarello, and Dr. Henry Schroeder hybrid azaleas. Fred has a very extensive collection of rare plants and serves as Garden Editor of weekly newspaper articles. The tour then went on to the home of Ken and Jean

Brown for a view of azaleas on the perimeter of the property and an unusual water garden, complete with aquatic plants. The final garden on the tour was at the home of Lloyd and Helen Hahn. This garden has every azalea imaginable and is beautifully manicured. Azalea lovers in southern Indiana view their collection annually. They served a treat of cookies and sodas. All tour participants agreed they had a fabulous day.

Kehr Memorial Garden

Vaseyi Chapter

John Brown and Robert Stelloh, Contributing Writers

The life and death of Augie Kehr has been reported in some detail in the Winter 2002 edition of *The Azalean*, 23(4), as well as the *Journal ARS* and at <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/people.htm#Kehr>. Everyone who knew Augie both liked and respected him. The Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA has decided to support the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS in creating a Kehr Memorial Garden, which will include many of his plants. Before Augie's death last year, he had lived in Flat Rock, North Carolina, for about 20 years. Much of his hybridizing took place in this small town nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, and the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS meet.

The Southeastern Chapter ARS committee, formed to find the best ways to honor Augie includes Jim Holmes, John Brown, Ed Collins, David Dethero, and Bob Stelloh who are all members of the Vaseyi Chapter ASA. Some initial conclusions of the committee are to: 1) Create a garden filled with his plants 2) Collect as many of his introductions as possible and 3) Encourage wider distribution of these plants.

After discussions with the church officials, we decided to create the garden at St. John in the Wilderness Church in Flat Rock, North Carolina. It is a very attractive historic church in a wooded setting on US 25 just south of Hendersonville, North Carolina. Several areas on the property

have been selected for planting, each chosen to display one or more of the many species selected for hybridization work by Augie. Some before pictures of these areas are available for viewing at www.pbase.com/kehr.

Ongoing maintenance, a sore subject in most past endeavors of this kind will be available through the church's existing program. A member of the SE-ARS committee and the Vaseyi Chapter, David Dethero, is a member of the church and is currently in charge of their grounds maintenance. Their current maintenance program meets high standards.

But first things first. Before we create the garden with Augie's plants, we need your help. We have 14 azaleas on the following list to get you focused. Please help by answering any of the following questions:

1. Do you have any of these plants? If not, do you know a good source?
2. Are there any plants missing from the list? For example, do you know of any other plants that were grown from seed provided by Augie?
3. Are there any unnamed crosses by Kehr that should be introduced? Do you have them?
4. From your experience growing these plants, can you provide input for their descriptions?
5. Do you have good photos that can be used on the above website?

Bob Stelloh (Bstelloh@aol.com) has developed a descriptive list from official sources such as ARS registrations and the Magnolia Society. We are looking for information and plants for all Augie Kehr rhododendron, azalea, and magnolia introductions. The following list of azaleas might help jog your memory.

Known Kehr Crosses: Azaleas

Name	Type
'Anna Kehr'	evergreen
'Bob Hill'	evergreen
'Cream Perfection'	evergreen
'Cream Ruffles'	evergreen
'Cullowhee'	deciduous
'Great Expectations'	evergreen
'Harold Epstein'	evergreen
'Janet Flick'	evergreen
'King's Red'	deciduous
'Mary Lou Kehr'	evergreen
'Memory of Fred Galle'	deciduous
'Red Rosebud'	evergreen
'Terry'	evergreen
'White Rosebud'	evergreen

We welcome all contributions to the cause: plants, knowledge, cuttings, money, help planting etc. Please let us know how you can help! Send your response to:

Jim Holmes
75 Farwood Court
Flat Rock, NC 28731
828-698-9517
holmes235@mchsi.com

In Memory — Robert Lee Pryor (1907-2002)

William C. Miller III — Bethesda, Maryland

It is with great sadness that we report that Robert Pryor, 94, died January 10, 2002 of congestive heart failure at the Hillhaven Nursing Center in Adelphi, Maryland. He was the developer of the Beltsville hybrids (Yerkes-Pryor) and the Beltsville Dwarfs. His 42-year career included projects involving lilies, carnations, and azaleas. He worked at the horticultural division of the US Department of

Agriculture's Plant Industry Station in Beltsville, Maryland, and later at the US National Arboretum, from which he retired in 1977.

One of his chief interests was the development of a yellow, evergreen azalea from crosses involving deciduous and evergreen azaleas. While a good yellow was not forthcoming, one of the derivatives was subsequently

named 'Pryored', a blueless red, by the late Dr. Frank Santamour at the US National Arboretum in 1984.

In 1988 at the 10th ASA National Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, Mr. Pryor was a special guest and was presented with a plaque, in recognition of his many achievements and contributions to the world of azaleas.

New Members

We welcome the following 28 new members who have joined the Society as of June 10, 2002.

At Large

Helen & Curtis Dennison
409 W. Pulaski Highway
Elkton, MD 21921

Joan Hennessey
15 Four Brooks Circle
Stamford, CT 06903
joan08508@hotmail.com

Linda Moss
Winchester Nursery
PO Box 1094
Winchester, OR 97495
541-672-1400

Bob & Doris Benson
238 Pondfield Road West
Bronxville, NY 10708
914-961-6554
robdbw@aol.com

Kevin Brophy
6112 W. 55th
Mission, KS 66202
kbrophy@echo.sound.net

Elliot Gilchrist
167 Corunna Rd, Petersham
Sydney NSW 2049
02-9568-3863

Neil & Terry Gunter
PO Box 449
400 Hw 143
Hickory Knoll Farm
Elmore, AL 36025
334-567-6434
gunterneil@aol.com

Dan Stockton
1042 Bayridge Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-957-9515
stocktondan@hotmail.com

Alonso C. Bilbo
207 Michael Circle NW
Leeds, AL 35094
205-699-5527
alonsobilbo@yahoo.com

Mrs. Lucy D. Book
141 Crosshill Trail
Warrior, AL 35180
205-647-0770

Barney Elking
PO Box 4227
Arcata, CA 95518
707-822-7651
barney@reninet.com

Tim Walsh
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503
707-443-0604
benbowpls@humboldt1.com

Ben Morrison

Chuck & Nancy Adams
4525 Maryland Avenue
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-414-5446

Nanci Aydelotte
3819 Keniworth Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-652-6116
loupnoir@bellatlantic.net

Jim & Lois Duffy
647 Shore Road
Severna Park, MD 21146
410-647-1781
potench@att.net

Patricia Laubscher
4118 Cadle Creek Road
Edgewater, MD 21037
301-261-7610
mayoskier4@comcast.net

Brookside Gardens

Edward M. Barrows
5717 Wehawken Road
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-229-3193
barrowse@georgetown.edu

Susan Geolot
7400 Honesty Way
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-229-3234

Gail Riley & Tom Nixon
10012 Raynor Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Dr. Paula Shrewsbury
4112 Plant Science, Entomology
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
301-405-7664
PS161@umail.umd.edu

Donnaleen Trump-Starkey,
2909 Spring Lakes Drive
Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-956-1525
yekrats@erols.com

Gloria M. Warford
8709 Ewing Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-897-0779
gmwarford@hotmail.com

Dallas

Larry D. Coleman
3312 Amy Street
Batesville, AR 72501
870-793-1040

Louisiana

Noveta Starks
16212 Doyle Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

David W. Boyd, Jr.
USDA-ARS
PO Box 287, 306 S. High St
Poplarville, MS 39470
601-795-8751
dboyd@ars.usda.gov

Tri-State

Rocky Voci
11066 Peninsula Road
Stanwood, MI 49346
231-972-2932
rjvoci@centurytel.net

Barbara D. Wetzel
20 Braeburn Lane
Barrington Hills, IL 60010
847-658-1528
aparkplace@aol.com

Vaseyi

Laura Johnson
Bartlett Tree Research Lab
13768 Hamilton Road
Charlotte, NC 28278-8213
704-588-1150
ljohnson@bartlettlab.com