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The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



Observations from the West Coast

**Glenn Dale Azaleas Resource
Collection South**

A Map for the Road Well-Traveled

Mastering Azaleas Series



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

President's Letter

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Azalea Society of America

This will be my last president's letter, but most likely will not be the last you hear from me. As a past president, my support for the new officers, directors and the ASA goals will be completely and freely given. If you participate in the ASA mail-list service, you will see me posting from time-to-time.

Another way I will continue to serve you is through articles written and planned, which is a sneaky way to introduce the following.

Beginning with this issue, we start a new series of articles called "Mastering Azaleas." Too often, we old-timers tend to forget that new members and potential new members have little experience growing azaleas, or propagating them, or landscaping with them, and, though we have a great reserve of information, we sometimes do not share it as freely as we should.

These articles will delve into various aspects of azalea culture from several viewpoints with methods both old and new. Most will have some historical references and some will show photographs or drawings.

Please keep in mind that the articles are written from only one person's perspective and will not imply the author's opinion is the latest or best, for there are as many methods as there are growers and experts. However, the opinions expressed will have been tried, and proven or disproved by the author. Some of the articles will be based on my personal and nursery journals.

Future topics will include:

- Pruning and Feeding
- Propagating Azaleas from Seed
- Propagating Azaleas from Cuttings
- Raised Beds
- Pests-Human and The Other Kind
- Companion Plants
- A Simple Cold Frame
- The 21st Amendment
- Dead-heading

I hope you will find these articles informative and, if you would like to suggest other "care and culture" topics, please contact me at azaleajoe@mind-spring.com.

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

Journal of the Azalea Society
of America

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On the Cover

'Refrain' - a good example of many of the Glenn Dale hybrids that are "white with stripes." The Society is developing a southern resource collection for this important group of azaleas. See the articles on page 7 and 8. (Photo by William C. Miller III)

Observations from the West Coast

Don White — Watsonville, California

I have been asked why don't I write some type of a report, statement, or whatever, as a West Coast member of the Azalea Society of America. I will gladly make a few comments. But, please understand they are not of the scientific, professional or authoritative nature. Some may say, not even appropriate for this journal. It is only my personal observation of what I have learned as a recent member of the ASA.

Since becoming a member of the ASA, some two years ago, it seems that I am now finally able to keep our azaleas and Satsuki in somewhat of a living and healthy state. I am not a complete novice at this thing called gardening. For many years my wife and I have maintained fairly extensive plant collections in our many back yards. We dabble with irises—even re-bloomers, even though sometimes they do not re-bloom—fuchsias and begonias, just to name a few. We also have a large bonsai collection that has been the center of our botanical life for over 30 years. Both endeavors have been pretty successful, in that we have not lost too many plants.

West Coast Growing Conditions

As it is fairly easy to grow almost anything here on the central California coast, failure with the azaleas was a bit baffling to our minds. Watsonville is located about half way between the towns of Monterey and Santa Cruz in what is called the Monterey Bay area. We are some two miles, as the crow flies, from the Monterey Bay. The outdoor tempera-

tures here do not vary much throughout the year as far as extreme changes are concerned. The average summer temperature is about 76 degrees with the coastal low clouds providing a natural air conditioning system. The warmest times of the year normally are in the spring and fall with temperatures into the mid-80s. The fog, or what we locals refer to as low clouds, will roll in under the early morning sun, then by lunch-time drift back to the sea leaving us with shirt-sleeve, sparkling, after-

Watsonville itself averaging about 10 to 14 inches annually and normally coming all during one season.

If Father/Mother Nature decides upon a period of drought then we may have three or four days of heavy frost, but nothing really debilitating, as a rule, with temperatures then in the mid-40s to high 30s. Last year we had four days below 40° F. Just do not forget to cover up susceptible plants when warned by the weather services, then you will be OK! We are in, what I believe is called a sub-Mediterranean climate. So, you have to fall deeply into the compost pit to not be able to grow almost any plant Father/Mother Earth provides here in the Monterey Bay area. And that includes azaleas!



'Iveryana', a Southern Indian azalea that was doing poorly in the ground in June 1996. Now recovered well, after being dug, potted up, given no fertilizer, just mist. This floral display was mid-April 2002. One of Kathy White's favorites. (Photo by Don White)

First Azalea Trials and Advice

Now, we come to our azalea trials and tribulations. Rhododendrons were no problem! But every time we obtained azaleas, and normally it is not just one or two plants, but multiple purchases at one time, within a year or so something goes awry.

noons and very comfortable evenings. You can practically set your watch by it.

The seasonal rains, which some years are not so seasonal, arrive between late October and early February, providing a couple of weeks of heavy downpour, some minor flooding, but much needed fresh water replacement. Temperatures during this time hover in the mid-50s to low 60s. The annual rainfall in our area can vary from mile to mile, with

We do not buy small plants either, usually two- to three-gallon sizes anyway. I figure that we are at the age when we do not want to wait too long to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Yes, it is more costly, but hopefully more pleasure, sooner! However, it was getting so that the lifespan of some azaleas would be from one to two years, maybe even three, if we were lucky. Then the poor plants would become sickly looking, or so ugly that they were not worth keeping, and eventually dying. That compost pile was getting pretty deep!

“What in the world is going on?” we asked ourselves. I would talk to local nursery folks from whom we made the purchases and discuss the situation with other knowledgeable gardening friends, particularly those in our local bonsai club who have azaleas. I got all sorts of advice: “The city water is bad.”—OK! Then how come your azaleas are doing so well? “Your location is not providing enough sun.” —OK! So I move them to more sun! (How do you like scorched leaves?) “Maybe you live too close to the salt air of the ocean?” —Again, OK! But, why do yours do so well? Apparently just planting the things and letting them go on their own was the secret? They didn’t know? Should have been a hint there, I think? If you’re not an overzealous gardener, plants seem to do much better? Well, I can’t move the ocean, and we were not leaving paradise, and I am not giving up my zealotry for this thing called azaleas! So, this meant that I had to seek out some serious instruction.

You might pose the question, “Why does this guy continue on with this azalea struggle?” Here’s why. I grew up in the state of Washington in the Seattle/Tacoma area. As a kid, many years ago, I would marvel at the many rhododendrons and azaleas that grew wild there. Then my military service provided opportunities to visit Korea and Japan where I really fell in love with azaleas. Azaleas became my favorite blooming plant. And, I thought, when I got married and settled down, azaleas had to be part of my family. Well, I got married 33 years ago to the best flower possible, my wife, Kathy, and it took us a few years to actually settle down long enough in one place to begin a family, and to rekindle the azalea craving on a serious basis.

And speaking of serious, boy was I seriously instructed by some serious persons on the care of azaleas. “You’re not feeding them enough.” Wow, that was right up my alley. Do I

love to feed plants; I’d get to talk to them more that way! So, up went the amount of food applications.

Now I have to stop here for a moment and explain what I thought was meant by *azaleas are acid-loving plants*. (If ya don’t know what’s coming now, you never will!) I thought it meant feed, feed, feed, and that they were constantly hungry! Our azaleas, which are ours if they live, but mine if they die, were really



This unknown azalea was planted in October 1994 and pruned to shape each year. As with this survivor of the over-feeding regime, Don thinks the plants in the ground were less affected than potted azaleas. (Photo by Don White)

fed well! Lots of high potency nitrogen at more than regular intervals and particularly when they began to show poor health. Gosh sakes, don’t ya give a sick person medicine, food, and drink? You talk about walking backwards! So now you know how many azaleas became mine!

Then it was suggested, “You have to water these plants profusely.” (Profusely: a word meaning death to azaleas.) Dunk them in water, spray

from over head, keep em’ good and wet, they like it. Again, wow! Just like the bonsai, I can water them all the time. A funny thing happened though. — I believe the reason some of our azaleas survived my manic feeding habit is simply because I did water too much. But, there again, there were consequences to pay as well. I guess it can be said that I either poisoned the plants to death or drowned them; take your pick.

You see, and those of you familiar with the art of bonsai will know this, bonsai are watered almost every day. But, the bonsai soil we create is porous, allowing the water to drain straight through the pot, and still allow the potting medium to retain moisture. We have to be careful to avoid over-watering. However, you can never allow most bonsai plants to dry out. So by watering the azaleas on the same schedule as the bonsai I was merely flushing out the poison from the over-fed azaleas. This must explain why some of the older azaleas survived my predatory behavior. Was I a genius and didn’t know it? It’s ironic; if I had just treated the azaleas as I treated the bonsai I probably wouldn’t be writing this exposé.

International Azalea Advice

At the time of our dilemma we had over 30 potted azaleas and a dozen or so in the ground. One evening, after viewing the discouraging sight of some sickly looking azaleas, I got to thinking. (According to some circles in our family, that can be dangerous.) “There has to be a higher authority of azaleaphiles from which I can find out what in the world am I doing wrong.” Then my wife said, “Can’t you find someone one who knows about azaleas on that blasted computer of yours?” Hey, I am a fumblehead when it comes to the computer, but I decided to try. Well, lo and behold, I found the Azalea Society of America.

Now this presented another dilemma, or at least a figment of my imagination. With my experience in the garden and bonsai endeavors, what if someone thinks my questions were dumb, or too dumb to answer? I could claim innocence—that I was just a beginner, but I am not! What if I did not get a favorable answer back? Would this be an embarrassment! Maybe I might receive some sort of a smart retort as a result?

I stuffed my Irish pride into the compost pile and presented a couple of questions to the ASA mail list. Bingo, I not only got back one answer but many, and I could not believe the many places this precious information was coming from. More astoundingly, I could not believe that among all the professionals, among all the experts from the Carolinas to Holland, from Maryland to the British Isles, Australia, Brooklyn, Tennessee, from so many places on this planet it is mind-boggling, that so much information was given out so freely, and to me, a novice. (You see, I admit it, I am a novice when it comes to azaleas.) And, to boot, I was even invited to join the ASA. I was surprised and happy, that I, a neophyte, who had nothing to contribute but everything to gain, could become a member of such an esteemed and knowledgeable group of people. (To paraphrase a famous comedian, "It can only happen in America!")

It has been almost three years since I received my first few tips from members of the ASA, and it boiled down to two strong points of procedure, *stop feeding and watering so much!* Since applying this newfound common sense, this past spring we have had some of the most beautiful flowering azaleas in years. Some of the flushed out survivors, along with newly obtained potential victims, not only flowered well, but

also, the foliage regained a nice healthy appearance rather than the sickly pallor of the past. My wife is so encouraged she has asked, "Aren't there more azaleas to acquire?" You know what that means!

As I write this little ditty, it is the middle of December. I can gaze out into our yard and see seven spring-blooming azaleas now in full bloom. Two Satsuki as well are showing some flowers. Why? When I confronted a grower in Sacramento about this, his retort was simply, "They're confused." Well, maybe some azaleas are confused, and I am still not an expert, but when visitors now come



This 9-inch tall Satsuki, name unknown, was dug from a private yard—with permission—in 1996. Shown here in May 2000 ready for the Watsonville Bonsai Show in full bloom, the plant is said to be over 5 years old.

(Photo by Don White)

to our garden they can again marvel at what is on display. Most people are familiar with our bonsai work and simply accept it as something old hat; they have seen it many times before. But now, by giving the azaleas a chance to perform their best without too much interference from me, we have regained a welcome feature in our garden. And if I am asked, "How did you do this? Where did you get your information on how to improve your azaleas?" I can simply reply, "Oh, I have friends from all over the world! Don't you?" Impressive, hmm?

Conclusion

With all the asides aside, I think I will now turn my attention more to the western azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*), that is, if I can locate some more plants. Many gardeners focus on the evergreen and deciduous azaleas most easily grown in the eastern and southeastern United States. While these are very interesting, they are difficult for me to obtain locally. And, without seeing the plant, it is quite difficult to decide what to work with, even if it is desirable to have. I have found that pictures, although very nice to view and informative to study, do not really help to properly appraise the plants for purchasing. At least now I feel confident that I can be successful with azaleas and can begin to focus on one area or another. Or maybe I will just collect and plant?

I guess what I am trying to say with all this rambling is that, after all my years working with bonsai material, chopping the roots up to fit into a tiny pot, cutting the plant back to shape as desired, and being able to grow almost anything from flowers to trees to weeds, I became quite humbled by our failures in the azalea world. (You notice now I said "our failures.")

And now I want to thank all those folks who have contributed to my resurrection in the azalea world. Also, I encourage anyone who has a penchant for the green thumb but who keeps stumbling into the compost pile, to ask questions, any question that may be required for a successful project. There is no stupid question! The stupidity comes from not asking the question. The height of stupidity is a rank answer to a question asked in earnest. Thank you for the help and *happiness in azaleas to everyone!*

continued on page 18

Brief Background on the Glenn Dale Azaleas

William C. Miller — Bethesda, Maryland

The introduction to the 1996 Miller and West revision of *The Glenn Dale Azaleas* by B. Y. Morrison begins:

“The Glenn Dale Azaleas are one of the great breeding stories in the history of American horticulture. The total program lasted twenty-five years, involved hundreds of crosses that produced some 70,000 seedlings, and resulted in 454 new evergreen azalea cultivars.”

Referred to as “Inter-Group” hybrids, the Glenn Dale evergreen azaleas were the product of a systematic and professional government-breeding program designed to achieve a defined end-point. Morrison's original goal was to develop a race of large-flowered azaleas, resembling the Indian hybrids of the southern states, which would be suitable for landscape use in the Washington, DC, area. Obviously, the goal changed over time as Morrison began to consider and focus on desirable characteristics in addition to flower size. Placed where he was in an organization whose mission was plant exploration and introduction, Morrison had access to a wide variety of germplasm to serve as the building blocks of his breeding program. Morrison's thoughtful analysis, based on his many years of experience, resulted in his use of both species and outstanding clonal material from the Satsuki, Kurume, and Kaempferi hybrid groups. Morrison's efforts led to the development of a cohort with varying flower size, plant habit, color, and bloom period of such quality that many Glenn Dale hybrids have been used by subsequent breeders.

Morrison used a group of “cooperators” (commercial nurseries and display gardens), through which the Glenn Dale station periodically distributed the new azaleas as they became available. It was the responsibility of the commercial cooperators to further propagate the new azaleas and make them available to the general public. Released in eight official distributions of varying size beginning in 1942, few cooperators were able to handle all 454, and some further “selection” took place over time at the level of the cooperators. In addition, time has had a negative effect on the commercial availability of most of the Glenn Dale hybrids, and comparatively few are available today except through specialty nurseries.

By the early 1990s, there were few Glenn Dale cultivars available in the trade, few large collections available for public viewing, and probably no complete collections anywhere, including at the United States National Arboretum. In 1993, Richard T. (Dick) West began the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale project, an effort fashioned after the successful USDA cooperator mechanism, taking advantage of the original Glenn Dale hybrids growing in the arboretum at the Ten Oaks Nursery in Clarksville, Maryland. These were the original plants received by the Ten Oaks Nursery and as such provided a source of labeled specimens that would be the basis for a redistribution program. The Ten Oaks Glenn Dale cooperators agreed to receive unrooted cuttings, to establish or collaborate with a local display garden, and to make the Glenn Dale hybrids generally available in their regions. The cooperators were Jan

Bowman, Orinda, California; Hugh Caldwell, Middleburg, Florida; Perry Corkern, Franklinton, Louisiana; Freida Hill, Pavo, Georgia; Court Lee, Glenn Dale, Maryland; Bob and Jay Murray, Colts Neck, New Jersey; Ronnie Palmer, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Frank Pelurie, Clendenin, West Virginia; Ben Reid, Stockbridge, Georgia; Pete Sheuchenko, Barboursville, Virginia; Keith Suddreth, Lenoir, North Carolina; Wanda Hanners, Huntington, Maryland; and Barbara Bullock of the USNA. A complete list of cooperators and their display gardens appears in Appendix C (page 85) of *The Glenn Dale Azaleas Revised*, 1996, published by and available from The Azalea Works, Bethesda, Maryland.

The establishment of a Glenn Dale resource garden in Chattanooga by Joe Schild et al. is a positive development. As more people are exposed to the Glenn Dale hybrids, and the quality of the group is rediscovered, a demand will develop and more of the Glenn Dale hybrids will be available in the trade.

William C. Miller III is a recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award and the Brookside Gardens Chapter's Frederic P. Lee Commendation. He has studied the Glenn Dale azaleas for the past 10 years. He is a past president of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, a former vice president of the Society, a past member of the ASA board of directors, past co-chairman of the ASA's membership committee, past chairman of the public information committee, a long-time ASA member, and a frequent contributor to The Azalean.

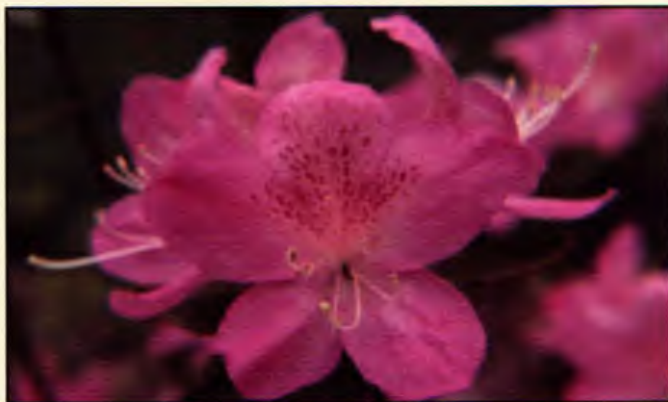
Glenn Dale Azaleas Resource Collection South

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Overview

In the summer of 2000, I talked with Barbara Bullock, curator of azaleas and rhododendrons at the U. S. National Arboretum (USNA), about the possibility of establishing a resource garden of the Glenn Dale Azalea hybrids in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Barbara was very receptive to the idea of a southern location where the azaleas would receive attention, be properly labeled, maintained, and grown to mature size. This garden, or more properly, azalea collection, would become a registered resource for cuttings in the future should the USNA lose their mature shrubs.

I discussed the resource garden concept with Dave Hopkins, executive director of Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden. He was very enthusiastic about establishing a resource garden at the arboretum that would have a direct connection with the USNA in Washington, DC, and that would be a new feature for them to display and interpret to the public. An area of about two acres adjacent to the Holsomback Garden was determined to be the best location.



'Dayspring'—a favorite of Bill Miller's, one of the early-blooming Glenn Dales. (Photo by William C. Miller III)

My next step was to approach the members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter-ARS (TVC) and several local ASA members in 2001. Though we do not have an ASA chapter in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a number of the TVC members are also ASA members. Once I explained the project and the long-term aspects of the resource garden, the members were enthusiastic and voted to begin the program of propagation and growing off.

In March of 2002, while at the USNA for a conference, I firmed up the procedures with Barbara Bullock. Our group would first seek cuttings of Glenn Dale hybrids in

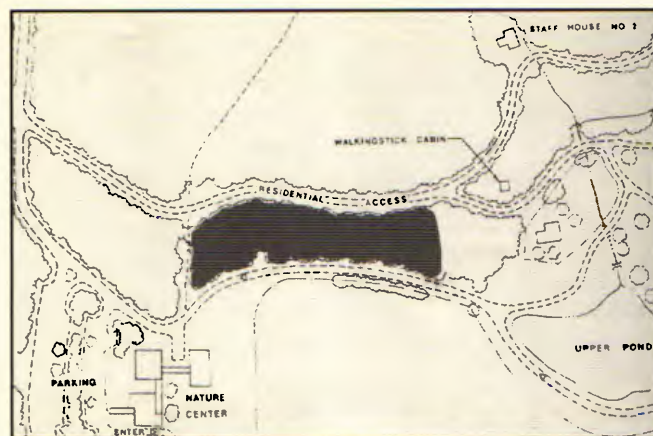
our local area or from other gardeners and fellow members known to have them. Barbara sent me the written requirements for setting up a registered resource collection. She also sent me a list of 294 cultivars the USNA has established; and, from that list, we began our search.

The Collection

I called William Pinkerton of Crossville, Tennessee, and he sent me a list of 254 cultivars he has. Other TVC members sent me lists of their Glenn Dales. I loaded the data from all of the resources into Microsoft Access, a computer database which allows me to sort by identification number, cultivar name, source, plant habit, flower coloration, or bloom time with a simple query.

On August 5, 2002, Jimmy Wooten and I traveled to the home and garden of Dr. Joe Coleman in Lithonia, Georgia, for the purpose of taking cuttings from his mature shrubs. We brought back 10 cuttings of each of the 22 named cultivars collected; and, if we had more time, we would have collected more. A return visit on September 16 yielded cuttings of another seven cultivars.

The staff of Reflection Riding, mainly Bob Baxter and Lebron Cambron, have begun the task of clearing the invasive plants and vines from the selected site for the azalea collection. This initial clearing is necessary to increase sunlight and keep competition for moisture to a minimum. Once the invasives and the dead pines are removed, an extension of the irrigation system will be installed. The shaded area on the site map shows the planting area, to the left of the Holsomback Garden. It is between the arboretum exit road and the entrance road on a sloping aspect that faces westward, but has high filtered shade of both pine and deciduous trees. The soil consists of deep sandy loam and clay that drains very well.



All of the azaleas introduced into Reflection Riding Arboretum will be properly labeled with permanent labels showing the name and USNA accession number; mapped and cataloged in a computer database and in print form; and published in Reflection Riding's newsletter. A CD-ROM copy of the database will be made available to the USNA. Both local ARS and ASA members will be assisting the staff with planting and other chores, but overall maintenance will be the responsibility of the arboretum with some assistance of members when available.



'Treasure' is essentially a white flower that develops a hint of very light pink that fades with the opening of the flower.

(Photo by William C. Miller III)

Rooting Update

From my garden, I collected and stuck cuttings for the following Glenn Dale cultivars on July 27, 2002: 'Buccaneer', 'Fashion' and 'Glacier'. One hundred percent rooted and are showing new growth. I also collected cuttings of 'Martha Hitchcock' in Burton and Betty Johnston's garden and they all have rooted. I have used Dip'N Grow at 2,000 ppm for the softwood cuttings and at 4,000 ppm for hardwood cuttings later in the season.

From Joe Coleman's garden collected on August 5, 2002: 'Campfire', 'Cantabile', 'Cream Cup', 'Damozel', 'Darkness', 'Dream', 'Emblem', 'F.C. Bradford', 'Kohinoor', 'Madrigal', 'Moonstone', 'Niagara', 'Paprika', 'Peerless', 'Refrain', 'Roselight', 'Sheila', 'Simplicity', 'Swansong', 'Wildfire' and a derived Glenn Dale, 'Pink Ice'. The last is a Belgian-Glenn Dale hybrid, the product of "Florist's Pink" x 'Treasure'. Again, 100 percent have rooted and show new growth. All of the above cultivars were rooted in 2-inch-square peat pots, 50 per 1020-cell flat.

On September 4, 2002, I received 210 cuttings of 21 named cultivars from Barbara Bullock of the USNA. They were received at 9:30 am in good condition and put into the cooler for chilling. I stuck the cuttings in prepared 1020 flats with 18-3" inserts filled with a 50:50 mix of milled peat and Perlite®, two cuttings to each insert, and they all were under mist by 2:30 pm. The following is a list

of the cuttings I received with their USNA accession numbers.

48404-H Alight
 2285-HH Beacon
 66854-J Bountiful
 66265-L Carnival
 68943-H Coralie
 66863-H Dimity
 32742-H Egoist
 67004-H Ember
 47618-H F.C. Bradford
 47620-H Gladiator
 48415-H Gracious
 66875-J Jubilant
 63637-H Jubilee
 66272-J Katinka
 47629-H Killarney
 66273-H Litany
 66276-L Lyric
 32621-CJ Manhattan
 63763-P Moonstone
 66884-L Pearl Bradford
 35692-H Picador

I did not realize that we had duplicated two of the cultivars, 'Moonstone' and 'F.C. Bradford', until I happened to see the two sets of labels. Of course, I did not know Joe Coleman had those two when I requested the cuttings from the USNA. Future requests to USNA will be more careful.

On September 12, 2002, at 9:30 am, I received about 360 cuttings of 36 cultivars from the USNA. After chilling in the cooler, I started sticking the cuttings, and by 6:00 pm. they were all under mist. The following is a list of these cultivars.

63757-H Bonanza
 48402-H Commando
 66268-H Corsair
 67000-H Dazzler
 67006-H Everest
 8832-H Furbelow
 66269-L Gaiety
 67001-H Galaxy
 68730-H Helen Gunning
 67013-H Hopeful
 63762-J Lacquer
 48314-H Mary Margaret
 67014-H Melanie
 63640-H Pastel
 66896-H Prelate
 68948-H Refulgence
 63767-H Sagittarius
 66281-H Sambo
 66283-J Seashell
 67021-J Snowclad
 66788-J Snowscape
 66895-H Stardust

continued on page 12

A Map for the Road Well-Traveled

Barry Sperling — Alexandria, Virginia

It is always frustrating to open a reference book in a field that is new to you. The information is overwhelming and many facts seem disconnected and arbitrary. Until you spend enough time building a framework with the data, it is just a sea of random statements. This is where I found myself with Galle's *Azaleas* a few years ago.

A prior article in *The Azalean* covered my stumblings into the field. Starting with some legacy plants, I looked them up in the book, only to find their origins buried in crosses from other plants I didn't know. Looking up those plants carried the origins further back, with some names coming up among several trails of ancestors. The criss-crossing was confusing. As a math teacher I was trained to make sketches of situations to clarify them. Hmmmm.

Going back to the figurative "drawing board," I started writing the names of plants and their ancestors using lines to connect them. Running this data back far enough led to a set of species that seemed to be the likely origins of the azaleas we now have.

The first tries to make the proper connections led to a rat's nest of lines, so I tried other arrangements until I

found a setup that could minimize the crossings. Satisfied that I faithfully represented the origins of my plants, I used the Microsoft Paint program, included with most PCs in the Accessories folder, to make a legible version: ellipses to circle the names, lines to connect them. Printing this out, then cutting and pasting the pages together led to a version that, I thought, others would be willing to look at.

I brought the map to a meeting of the Northern Virginia Chapter and showed it to Don Voss for verification. I was sure that he had something like it in his head, programmed for instant recall. He agreed to look at it, took it, and mailed it back with red marks all over it.

What happened? Well, it seems that since Galle's publication, botanists have been busy rethinking these relationships. OK, that's one thing that computers can do well: allow an edit! So out came Paint and I redid the chart. A few months later I showed Don the changes. He thought some more, did some reading, and made a few more changes. After a couple of times through the cycle, he pronounced it acceptable. Of course, the

specifics were limited to plants that I, myself, had (e.g., no Robin Hills at the time), but it did show the origins of the cultivars (See Figure 1). You might want to take some of your plants and add to the map.

So now, while the arrangement is still not "perfectly" clear, I do have a reference point. The next step is to find out what characteristics these early plants have so that I can see how these traits have gotten passed on and mixed together. It's complicated, but with a roadmap I'll be able to follow the story as it develops!

Reference

Sperling, Barry L. 2000. "Expert Opinions: And That's the Truth!" *The Azalean*. 22 (1): 10.

Barry Sperling taught high school mathematics and computer science in Fairfax County for 33 years. He retired in June of 1999, and hopes to be able to put more time into learning and disseminating knowledge on the azaleas@azaleas.org e-mail list and the ASA Web site. He has been a member of the ASA since 1997 and is the new president of the Northern Virginia chapter.

The Start of Something Good

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

I had begun working with Dr. August Kehr, at his urging, and shortly before his death in September 2001, on forming a Research Foundation for the Azalea Society. He was instrumental in establishing a Research Foundation for the American Rhododendron Society and another one for the Magnolia Society. Both of these foundations have been remarkably successful in attracting funds for much-needed plant research.

Even though the ASA does not have a Research Foundation yet, we now have

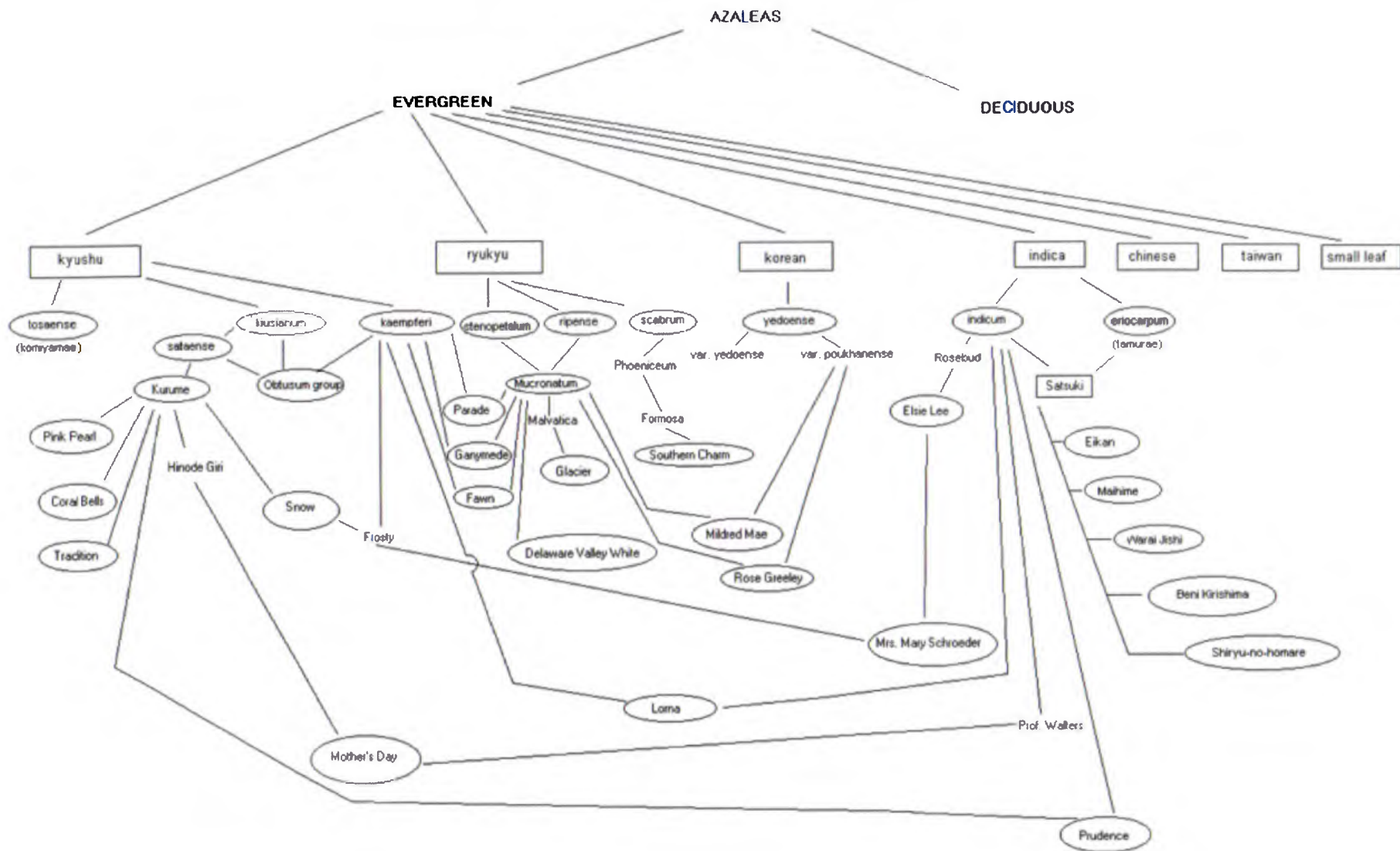
some money earmarked for it, thanks to the generosity of a sister society and a member. Recently, Ian Donovan donated \$250 in memory of Dick Brooks and another \$250 in memory of Augie Kehr. In both cases, the donors specified the money be put into our Research Foundation fund when it comes into being.

If you agree that the funding of azalea research projects is a good idea, please urge your chapter president to express your views when the concept is discussed

at our Board of Directors meeting in Chattanooga. And let him know, or let me know, if you are interested in serving as one of the directors of a Research Foundation when we get it set up. We are looking for people interested in its finance aspects, as well as people interested in soliciting and reviewing research proposals. And, finally, consider adding to the modest beginning we now have. Just specify "research" on the memo line of your check.

Figure 1

Genealogy Chart for Barry Sperling's Azaleas



66285-H Sterling
32863-H Surprise
67022-J Susannah
63769-J Swashbuckler
32868-H Temptation
66266-H Tokay
66286-H Tomboy
68949-H Tristan
66897-J Vanity
33018-H Vestal
66288-H Winner
66901-L Wisdom
66903-H Yeoman
67204-H Zingari

On September 16, 2002, I stuck 70 cuttings from seven cultivars Jimmy Wooten and I brought back from Dr. Joe Coleman's garden. I had neglected to take my want list with me and ended up with three more duplicates. The seven are: 'Dazzler', 'Ivory', 'Pinocchio', 'Sarabande', 'Youth', 'Zulu', and another Belgian-Glenn Dale cultivar, 'Green Mist' ("Florist's Pink" x 'Treasure').

On October 1-2, 2002, I received in two shipments about 320 cuttings of 32 cultivars from the USNA. On each day the cuttings were stuck and under mist by 3:00 pm. Barbara's assistant Ed McCarthy took the cuttings and made the shipments in good order. One, 'Baroque', was mostly hardwood and 'Polar Sea' had very short new growth of 1 inch maximum. 'Padre' was not shipped because of a tree fall on the mother plant. The following is a list of the cultivars received.

63162-H Baroque
32722-CH Bettina
63632-H Bravura
32598-J Camelot
32986-H Cathay
68564-H Dulcimer
66866-L Enchantment
34148-J Fantasy
48317-H Jongleur
4255-H Joya
28779-L Modesty
35315-L Mother Of Pearl
34158-J Opera
68587-H Polar Sea
54011-H Presto
68947-H Prodigal
70561-H Regina
8920-H Requiem
54025-H Robinhood
66280-H Rogue
66891-H Sarabande
68599-H Scherzo
61350-H Sentinel
32165-CJ Sprite

34165-Ch Stampede
34166-CJ Suwanee
61355-J Taffeta
3751-H Templar
28774-CP Ursula
37978-H Valentine
67023-H Vision
66904-H Youth

Bill Pinkerton of Crossville, Tennessee, has rooted 254 Glenn Dale cultivars at three to eight cuttings of each. At this time, the USNA does not have about 80 of the cultivars Pinkerton has, but as the USNA is ready to accept cuttings of those 80, we will send them to Barbara Bullock. He has said that he will make available three rooted cuttings of each of the 254 for this project, but needs to recover his cost. My nursery will pay him for these liners and donate the plants after taking juvenile cuttings from them for later distribution. Bill has donated a large number of one-gallon- and 1-1/2-quart-sized plants that are now stored in my over-wintering house. That would speed up the garden planting, but the area at the arboretum must be ready for the shrubs first, and that may not be until the fall of 2003.



'Zulu' is a good purple Glenn Dale derived from *Rhododendron yedoense* var. *poukhanense*, the Korean azalea.

(Photo by William C. Miller III)

Further updates will follow as we see how many plants survive and thrive, and what other different cultivar cuttings are stuck. When it comes time to step up the plants to larger containers, I will ask chapter members to assist on a workday in 2003. My plans are to grow them off this winter in my heated greenhouse to get maximum growth to a nice liner size. A number have bloomed where I failed to notice and remove the small flower buds.

Table 1 lists the Glenn Dale hybrids Bill Pinkerton has in his wonderful garden. He tells me that at one time he had all the released Glenn Dale hybrids, but lost many in Crossville, due to the extreme cold winter conditions and the drought for the last few years.

For More Information on the Glenn Dales

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Lee, Fredric P. 1965. *The Azalea Book*, Second Edition. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc.

Miller III, William C. and Richard T. West. 1994. *The Bell Book*. Bethesda,

Maryland: The Azalea Works.

West, Richard T. and William C. Miller III. 1996. *The Glenn Dale Azaleas Revised*. Bethesda, Maryland: The Azalea Works.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to William C. Miller III who helped with details on this article.

Joe Schild has been an avid grower, propagator and breeder of azaleas for

nearly 37 years. He has owned and operated a niche nursery specializing in the species for over 12 years. Joe is the past president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter-ARS, the current president of the ASA for 2001-2003, and a member of the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association. He says he is better known as an azalea nut and chases the natives' bloom each year with many fellow enthusiasts.

F. P. Lee Commendation Award for 2003

February 3, 2003, Mary Rutley, Brookside Gardens Chapter vice president, presented the F. P. Lee Award to Bob Stewart of Springfield, Virginia. This award recognizes Bob's long service to the Society. The award in part, read:

THE FREDERIC P. LEE COMMENDATION FOR
DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHERING THE
KNOWLEDGE OF AND APPRECIATION OF AZALEAS IS
AWARDED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BROOKSIDE
GARDENS CHAPTER OF THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF
AMERICA TO

ROBERT B. STEWART

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATION
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BROOKSIDE GARDENS
CHAPTER IN ADVANCING THE PROPAGATION, CARE, AND
GENERAL APPRECIATION OF AZALEAS.

PRESENTED WITH DEEP GRATITUDE DURING THE
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BROOKSIDE
GARDENS CHAPTER, IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY,
THE STATE OF MARYLAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
ON THE SECOND DAY OF DECEMBER, IN THE YEAR TWO
THOUSAND TWO.

FREDERIC P. LEE COMMITTEE

Bob Stewart has been an ASA member for many years. He was originally a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, but switched to the Northern Virginia Chapter when it was organized. Over the years, he has maintained

an associate membership with the Brookside Chapter. Bob, a carpenter by trade, can root a toothpick, has developed an excellent technique for the propagation of evergreen azaleas by cuttings, and has been a generous participant in all of the major chapter sponsored activities in the region. His thorough study of the major hybrid groups has put him in demand for his services as a flower show judge. Finally, in recent years, he has introduced several new cultivars, the product of his large-scale hybridizing program.

Note, you can learn more about Bob Stewart's activities in an article by Bill McDavit (1996): "An Azaleaphile Salute—Bob Stewart," *The Azalean*, 18 (1): 10. (Photo by William C. Miller III.)



Table 1: Glenn Dale Azalea Collection Genesis Garden in Crossville, TN

Bill Pinkerton — September 5, 2002

Acme	Chloe	Eucharis	Louise Dowdle	Picotee	Serenity
Acrobat	Cinderella	Fairy Bells	Loveliness	Pied Piper	Sheila
Adorable	Cinnabar	Faith	Lullaby	Pinkie	Shimmer
Advance	Circe	Fandango	Luna	Pink Star	Silver Lace
Aladdin	Colleen	Fanfare	Madcap	Pinto	Silver Mist
Allegory	Commodore	Fashion	Madeira	Pippin	Silver Moon
Allure	Con Amore	Favorite	Magic	Pirate	Simplicity
Ambrosia	Concordia	Fawn	Marmora	Pixie	Sonata
Anchorite	Constance	Felicity	Martha Hitchcock	Polar Sea	Sorcerer
Angela Place	Consolation	Fountain	Marvel	Portent	Souvenir
Angelus	Consuela	Freedom	Mary Helen	Prelate	Spangles
Anthem	Content	Frivolity	Mascot	Progress	Swagger
Aphrodite	Copperman	Gaiety	Matins	Puck	Swansong
Araby	Coquette	Galathea	Mayflower	Punchinello	Swashbuckler
Arcadia	Coral Sea	Ganymede	Medea	Quakeress	Tanager
Arctic	Cordial	Geisha	Megan	Quest	Tango
Argosy	Corydon	Glamour	Memento	Radiance	Token
Astarte	Cremona	Gorgeous	Merlin	Red Bird	Treasure
Ave Maria	Crinoline	Grace Freeman	Meteor	Red Hussar	Trinket
Bacchante	Cupid	Grandam	Minstrel	Red Robe	Trophy
Bagatelle	Damaris	Greeting	Minuet	Refrain	Troubador
Bagdad	Damask	Grenadier	Moonbeam	Requiem	Trouper
Ballet Girl	Darkness	Guerdon	Morning Star	Reward	Trousseau
Bishop	Dauntless	Gypsy	Muscadine	Rhapsody	Valkyrie
Blizzard	Dawning	Harbinger	Nativity	Rising Sun	Vanguard
Blushing Maid	Dayspring	Harlequin	Nectar	Rosalie	Velvet
Bohemian	Defiance	Helen Close	Nerissa	Roselight	Vespers
Boldface	Delight	Helen Fox	Niagara	Rosette	Veteran
Bridal Veil	Delilah	Illusion	Nocturne	Roundelay	Viking
Buccaneer	Delos	Isolde	Nubian	Safrano	Violetta
Cadenza	Demure	Janet Noyes	Omen	Saga	Wanderer
Campfire	Dowager	Jingle	Oracle	Samite	Warrior
Cantabile	Dragon	Joya	Oriflamme	Samson	Welcome
Capella	Dream	Jubilant	Orison	Sappho	Whimsical
Caprice	Driven Snow	Kathleen	Padre	Satrap	Whirlwind
Caraval	Duenna	Katinka	Paladin	Satyr	Wildfire
Carbineer	Echo	Kenwood	Paprika	Scholar	Winedrop
Carmel	Effective	Kobold	Parade	Scout	Witchery
Carrara	Elizabeth	Kohinoor	Paradise	Seafoam	Zealot
Cavalier	Emblem	Lady Love	Peerless	Sebastian	Zephyr
Celestial	Ember	Lillie Maude	Peter Pan	Seneca	Zulu
Chanticleer	Epicure	Litany	Phoebe	Serenade	
Cherry Spot	Eros				

Major Donors for 2003

Here, the Board of Directors wishes to recognize the following Society members who have increased their investment in the Society for 2003.

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Book Review

Donald H. Voss — Vienna, Virginia

Schmalscheidt, Walter. 2000. *Handbuch der Knap Hill-Azaleen*. Rinteln, Germany: Gartenbildverlag Heinz Hansmann. ISBN 3-928521-17-2.

This remarkable book on Knap Hill azalea hybrids has been a pleasure to examine. Available for the past two years, the book was shown—and loaned—to me by azalea savant William C. Miller III. Herr Schmalscheidt is an expert who has managed one of the largest collections of rhododendrons on the European continent, and the book reflects his experience with Knap Hill cultivars. It also draws on information provided by other experts such as Hans Hachmann and Harold E. Greer.

The term “Knap Hill” is used broadly, including not only cultivars from the Knap Hill Nursery but also Exbury, Solent, Royal Horticultural Society, Windsor, Ilam, Australian, and American introductions. Among the latter are featured introductions by Arneson, Bovees, Carlson, Beneschon Gardens, Childers, Kern, Greer, Pride, Girard, Slonecker, Bailey, S.E. Sorenson, A.W. Smith, Henny & Wennekamp, and others.

Each group is prefaced with a text section introducing the plant breeder(s) and a general characterization of the breeding program. The plant lists include 830 cultivars, detailing cultivar epithets (and synonyms in some cases), flower color, parentage, the years of origination and introduction, and descriptive notes on flower

size and growth habit. The flower-size and growth-habit data are an especially important and welcome contribution (standard references such as the Lee and Galle azalea books show only the flower color of these plants). A prime attraction of the book is its rich array of 270 magnificent color photographs of the better-known cultivars. Although the text portions and data are in German, one can navigate most of the cultivar descriptions with an understanding of a small number of terms describing color, flower parts, and growth habit (see following table).

The author introduces a section on the planting and care of Knap Hill azaleas by noting that in selecting the name “Azalea,” Linnaeus latinized a Greek word meaning dry or barren! This may have been appropriate for Linnaeus’ *Azalea procumbens* [*Loiseleuria procumbens* (L.) Desv.] growing in Lapland, but it hardly fits the habitat requirements of other azaleas. Schmalscheidt describes the conditions under which the plants thrive, including recommendations for problems with drainage and pH. Topics from soil preparation to disease control are covered in turn. The pesticides mentioned are, of course, those available in Germany.

A caveat is in order: the reader must understand that while I have been thoroughly impressed by this book, I am not an expert on the deciduous azalea hybrids. That said, it is hard to imagine anyone with a serious inter-

est in this group of hybrids being disappointed with the book.

To assist the reader in exploiting the data provided in the plant lists, the English equivalents of certain terms are provided in the accompanying table. Relying on my high-school German teacher’s dictum (English comes from German), one can make out a fair amount of information. Some of the terms may look strange—and some are. Thus, in the description of Exbury ‘Amber Rain’, we find the color “hahnenfussgelb”: rooster’s-foot yellow? No, this is but-tercup yellow!

“Züchter” is a plant breeder. “Jahr der Entstehung [entstanden]” refers to year of origination; “oder Einführung [eingeführt],” year of introduction. “Abstammung” is parentage; “unbekannt” is unknown; and “benannt” is named. Some terms encountered in the columns for “Blütenfarbe” (flower color), and “Bemerkungen” (comments) are listed in the table under the headings “Color Terms” and “Plant Description.”

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.

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Table 1.
German-English Equivalents

Color Terms—Hues

aprikosenfarben—apricot color
 cremefarbenweiss—creamy white
 gelb—yellow
 karminrot—carmine red
 lachsrosa—salmon pink
 lila—mauve, purple
 mauverosa—mauve pink
 orangerot—orange red
 orange-zinnober—orange vermilion
 orange—orange
 orangegelb—orange yellow
 purpur—crimson
 purpurrosa—purplish pink
 rot—red
 rosarot—deep pink
 rosa—pink
 scharlachrot—scarlet
 schwefelgelb—sulfur yellow
 weiss—white
 ziegelrot—brick red
 zinnoberrot—vermilion
 zitronengelb—lemon yellow

Color Terms—Modifiers

blass—pale
 bunt—bright
 dunkel—dark
 feurig—fiery
 hell—light
 intensiv—intense, vivid
 kräftig—strong
 leuchtend—brilliant
 rein—pure
 schwach—weak
 verblassen [in der Sonne]—faded [in sunlight]

Plant Descriptions—Plant Parts

O overstruck /—symbol for diameter
 laub [belaubung]—leaf (foliage)
 in Austrieb—emerging
 im Herbst—in autumn
 blüten—flower
 blütenstand—inflorescence
 einzelblüte—individual flower, floret
 blütenblatt—petal
 oberen—upper
 unteren—lower
 blütenaussenseite—outside of corolla

Plant Descriptions—Parts

blüteninnenseite—inside of corolla
 blütensaum—edge of corolla
 gefranst—fringed
 gekrauselt—ruffled
 blütenabschnitt—flower segment, sector
 blütenrohre—corolla tube
 duften—emit fragrance
 fleck—spot, patch
 knospe—bud
 kugelig—ball-shaped
 schlund—throat of flower
 vollaufgeblüht—in full bloom, fully open

Plant Descriptions—Habit

aufrecht—upright, fastigiate
 breit—wide
 breit aufrecht—broadly upright
 buschig—bushy
 geschlossen—dense
 im alter—in age, at maturity
 rund, rundlich—round, rounded
 stark—strong
 Wuchs—growth

Mastering Azaleas

Part 1: Don't Plant That Azalea in That Hole

Joseph Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

When my wife and I purchased our new home in November 1966, the landscape was a pitiful excuse of one columnar juniper at each end, three January Jasmine, three *Ilex crenata* 'Rotunda', and one holly of unknown background. To call our lawn turf would have been an insult to grass, for it was hit-or-miss 'Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue', something even a goat will not eat.

I wanted something with some color and shrubs I could be proud of so I began looking at a number of

homes in the area, and I noticed azaleas in bloom the spring of 1967. That was what I wanted, with all the bright colors and nice shrub habit.

After talking with several co-workers, one suggested Perry Nursery on Signal Mountain as a source of azaleas. My first visit to Scotty Perry's nursery was rewarding, and I later developed a gardening relationship with him. I purchased a number of one-gallon azaleas: two 'Hinodegiri', two 'Christmas Cheer', two 'Coral Bells', two 'Fashion', and two 'Snow'.

On my return home I purchased a bale of peat moss.

The story takes a sorry turn here, for the one thing I did not get from Scotty was the proper method of planting my new azaleas. I dug nice holes in the sticky, yellow clay, sat the azaleas in the holes, promptly back-filled with a mixture of peat moss and woodland soil, and then watered them in until the excess water ran out.

I did have enough gardening knowledge to understand that newly plant-

ed shrubs require good moisture the first year or two until they establish a good root system. Oh, I was very diligent and kept those azaleas well watered from spring into the hot summer months; but then, about the first of September, I noticed them looking poorly and developing dead limbs.

By mid-October, all but one azalea was dead as a doornail, and I was really confused and perturbed. The reason for my distress was as close as a telephone call to Scotty. After I described the situation to him, he told me about the right way to plant azaleas and apologized for not doing so at his nursery when I purchased the plants. Scotty told me that what most likely killed the plants was root rot, *Phytophthora syringae*, the result of too much water at the root zone.

Armed with a better understanding of azaleas and their cultural needs, I set to redoing the areas where new azaleas would be planted. I removed the dead plants, heaped them onto the brush pile for burning, and poured a mix of bleach and water into the old holes to kill off any remaining root rot disease.

Where each new azalea was to be planted, I removed all the clay soil and made the new hole about three times the size of the azalea's root ball. Since they would be on a slope, I dug a trench on the low side, poured in some pea gravel, and covered it with a section of poly and soil to the original level. The principle here is to drain away any excess water from the hole.

My next chore was to make a mixture of peat moss, sharp sand, and good woods soil. Keep in mind that in 1967 pine bark was not available in our area, was not recognized as an excellent soil amendment, and only later was discovered to prevent some root rots.

I made another trip to the Perry Nursery to pick up new azaleas and have a sit down with Scotty for more ammunition on growing azaleas. He did not give me the new plants, but I gained more from talking with him

about the plants and how to grow them than the cost. The best advice he gave me was to always plant azaleas higher than the surrounding soil, use a well drained mixture, keep the plants moist but not drenched, and mulch with pine needles.

A number of those original azaleas are still in my landscape in 2003, although I have moved on to better examples and more deciduous forms. Though the Kurume azalea 'Snow' looks like a scalded chicken after blooming, I keep one in my landscape to remind me of the early days.

In 35 years of making mistakes in my garden and learning from each one, I now have about 1500 thriving azaleas, rhododendrons, and mountain laurel. I did modify my growing techniques to raised beds and quit the "claymore" method. In addition, I concluded that compost and pine bark are the elixirs of azalea gardening.

To summarize the important points in this article:

- Do not plant that azalea in just any hole.
- Use a well-drained mixture of pine bark, compost, and good woods soil.
- Plant high and mulch.
- Keep the soil moist, not drenched.
- If good drainage is a problem with a heavy clay soil, consider raised bed growing.
- If you are one of the lucky people with deep sandy loam soil, incorporate more pine bark fines to help retain moisture.

If by this time you are unsure if your soil will drain well, feel free to use my method of checking. First, dig a hole where you plan to plant, then fill it with water. If the water has soaked into the ground completely within 30 minutes, you have very well-percolating soil. However, if you come back in an hour and there is still water in the hole, consider using raised bed methods (see the Summer 2003 issue of *The Azalean*). If you come back the next day and water is running from the hole, move out of the swamp or switch to aquatic plants.

There are many reasons to use mulches around our azaleas, but avoid using hardwood mulches, for they will eventually raise the pH. Pine bark, pine needles, and shredded oak leaves make wonderful mulches, because of their acid-forming nature and their capacity to keep the root zone cool, help retain moisture, and create a microclimate around the shrub. Two to three inches of mulch is best. It should be kept at least an inch or so away from the azalea stems, to avoid bark damage from the increased moisture in the mulch and to prevent inviting moles and mice to nibble the bark.

From a simple economic standpoint, planting azaleas in our home landscapes the right way will add value to our homes. If we treat azaleas as living partners and not as annuals, they should out-live us and become something of a legacy attesting to our gardening skills.

Contribution from New York

Bob Stelloh—Hendersonville, NC

After an e-mail exchange with Bud Gehrlich (rhodobud@optonline.net), the Society has received a gift from the ARS. It seems appropriate to note it in *The Azalean*.

On November 17, 2002, Bill Steele, a long-time ASA member, gave a program to the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society as part of their monthly meeting at Planting Fields Arboretum. The program, "The Old and the New-The Best of the Best" was a slide show and talk featuring azaleas and some lepidote rhododendrons.

As thanks for the program, the New York Chapter of the ARS has donated \$100 to the ASA, earmarked for the Research Fund. Until the ASA has a Research Fund, the money will be held in our Endowment Reserve fund. This is an excellent example of inter-society cooperation.

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Robert W. Hobbs, Newsletter Co-editor
rwhobbs@mindspring.com

The chapter met on March 9, 2003, at Severna Park Library. The chapter holds its meetings at diverse locations in Calvert and Anne Arundel counties to accommodate existing members and to possibly attract new members. Plans for future meetings include tours of members' gardens.

The speaker at the March 9 meeting was Dr. Mike Raupp, an expert on integrated pest management (IPM) from the University of Maryland Entomology Department. The subject of his talk was "Old Pests, New Problems: Problems with Managing Lace Bugs on Landscape Shrubs." The objective of IPM is to control predators by improved culture and by encouraging the presence of insect predators, without the use of pesticides.

2004 Convention Planning. Under the leadership of Carol Segree, the convention steering committee continues planning for the May 2004 Convention. The convention headquarters will be the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Bowie, Maryland. Bowie is 15 miles east of Washington, DC, and 12 miles west of Annapolis, Maryland. The Comfort Inn has easy access from interstate routes and other controlled access highways, and is 15 miles from the Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport. More plans will be presented at the 2003 Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Dr. Charles Evans, President
ch3@georgetown.com

At the December 1, 2002, annual meeting of the chapter, the existing slate of officers was re-elected.

Louisiana Chapter

W. L. Brown, Secretary
wlbrown@i-55.com

At the December 8, 2002, meeting, the following officers were elected:

President – James Campbell

Vice-President – Thomas Milner

Treasurer – Margie Jenkins

*Recording Secretary –
Keith Pendergraft*

*Corresponding Secretary –
Larry Brown*

Also at this meeting, the chapter membership voted to send a \$1000 contribution to the national organization to help with the funding deficit. Then the meeting brainstormed many new ideas about attracting new members and changing the meeting routine.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, President
barrysperling@ix.netcom.com

Sunday, March 2, the Northern Virginia Chapter started off its 2003 season with a presentation by Don Voss, covering a topic that he knows intimately: the Robin Hill azaleas. Don, who registered the last 42 of Robert Gartrell's 69 Robin Hill cultivars, presented slides of virtually every one! The hybrid group is known for being cold hardy and floriferous. While filling in the gap between the mid-season flowers and the Satsuki, the group actually has a wide range of bloom times. Additionally, the range of colors and plant habits make the group a great addition to every garden. Don has spoken often at the national ASA conventions and written for a variety of publications, as well as being a frequent contributor to *The Azalean*.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
Rudie2rudie@aol.com

As of the February 2003 meeting, the new chapter officers are:

President – Allison Fuqua

Vice-President – Ed Mellon

Secretary – Ruth Bryan

Newsletter Editor – Frank Bryan

Membership – Jim Thornton

Observations – continued

Don White has been a member of the ASA for the past three years. He retired in December 2002 from 22 years as a Financial Services Registered Representative of the Prudential Financial Services Company. For 20 years previously he was in the professional golf ranks during which he played with the likes of Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer. He has been married to his wife Kathy for 33 years, ironically meeting when he was attempting to play in the old Bing Crosby tournament at Pebble Beach. He worked at golf clubs in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, North Hollywood, and Washington State, trying to save enough funds to play the golf tour. Wherever he has traveled, from coast to coast from Maine to Florida, he has been captivated by all the colors of the plants. Kathy and he had always enjoyed gardens, plants, and flowers, but only when he had settled down to the insurance business were they able to begin our own collections. He says he has been a "bonsai freak" for over 30 years, and also belongs to the Watsonville Bonsai Club.

In Memory

Dr. Nuran Baydan Miller

Dr. Nuran Baydan Miller, 72, died of lung cancer at St Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland, on January 18, 2003. Joe and Nuran, long-time members of the ASA, hosted many meetings and garden tours at their home, "Wake Robin." Both she and her husband had been a president of the chapter.

Dr. Miller was a retired clinical psychologist. She was the first woman to practice clinical psychology in southern Maryland. She was born in Eskisehir, Turkey. After spending her childhood in Turkey and graduating from The American Collegiate Institute for Girls in Izmir, Turkey, she attended college in the United States. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Lindenwood College, St Charles, Missouri, and earned her Masters degree and Ph.D. in psychology at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where she met her husband, Dr. H. Joseph Miller.

In the late 1960s Dr. Miller and her husband were faculty members at Hacetepe University in Ankara, Turkey, where she was instrumental in founding a Masters degree program in psychology. After returning to the United States, Dr. Miller taught at Frostburg University and later at St Mary's College of Maryland. In 1976 she left teaching and established her private practice, The Psychological Services Center of Southern Maryland. In this position she earned the respect of her patients and the admiration of many in the southern Maryland mental health community.

Although she became a United States citizen on July 13, 1990, Dr. Miller never forgot her Turkish roots. She was deeply concerned about Turkish education, particularly for women. People around the world will miss Nuran Miller's warm heart and

caring personality. Nuran was a lovely person, a friend, and she will be missed.

A memorial service was held on February 15th at the Daugherty-Palmer Commons, St Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, Maryland. Memorial tax-deductible donations may be directed to The American Collegiate Institute for Girls of Izmir, C/O FABSIT Foundation, 14 Beacon Street, Suite 708, Boston, MA 02108

Bob McWhorter—president, Ben Morrison Chapter

Freida Hill

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of Mrs. Freida Hill, of Pavo, Georgia. Mrs. Hill died of an apparent heart attack the weekend of December 21, 2002. She was an avid azalea and camellia enthusiast, and had many, many friends in the ASA. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have known her will be at a great loss this new year. But I, for one, have many reminders of her generosity and love that will bloom in my garden for the years to come.

Maarten van der Giessen—Mobile, Alabama

Betty Worthey Spady

After an extended illness, Betty Worthey Spady, 75, passed quietly away November 10, 2002, at her home in Salem, Oregon, from pulmonary and cardiac complications of radiation therapy. Family members were present. A native of Bolivar, Missouri, Betty earned her Masters degree in Bacteriology from Wellesley College in 1951. She met her husband Herb at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis. After their marriage in 1954 and his service

in the US Navy, involving assignments in San Diego, California, the family—now with three children—moved to Salem. Once there, Betty became an active gardener, frequently distributing bumper crops to her children and neighbors.

Once the children left home, she and Herb deepened their horticultural interests by developing the Honsuchachac Rhododendron Nursery and Garden, which they ran for several years. Betty played key roles in the establishment of the Portland Chapter of the ARS and the Willamette Chapter of the ARS. She is perhaps most well-known for her recent work in developing and editing the electronic "Rhododendron and Azalea News." She was awarded the Gold Medal by the ARS in 2001 for her service. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her kindness, willingness to help, and her persistently positive spirit.

[Information provided from Salem newspaper Web site by way of Don Smart and Bob Stelloh, Ed.]

Calvin Segree

We express our deepest sympathy to Carol Segree and her family upon the passing of Carol's husband of 30 years, Calvin Segree. He had been ill for some time. Calvin served in the US Navy and was an employee of the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, for the past 26 years. Carol and Calvin opened their gardens in Gambrills, Maryland, for tours by both the ARS and ASA over the years. Memorial contributions in Calvin's name can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Bob McWhorter—president, Ben Morrison Chapter

New Members

The following 38 members joined the Society as of April 13, 2003.

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