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The
Azalean
Journal of the Azalea Society of America



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

The Rebirth of Rebloom
Eugene Aromi, Hybridizer
The Oakcrest Garden Story
Mastering Azaleas Series

President's Letter

Robert "Buddy" Lee — Independence, Louisiana

Greetings from the bayou country. It is an honor and a privilege to be the president of the Azalea Society of America for the 2003-2005 term. Thanks to the members for giving me this opportunity. If you have any suggestions or comments about our Society, please feel free to contact me or any of the board members. We want to hear from the membership.

The national meeting in Chattanooga was a great success. Chattanooga is a wonderful place to visit, and the people were extremely hospitable. Thanks to Joe Schild and all his helpers from the Chattanooga area for a great meeting. I know it was not an easy task to coordinate a national convention and also maintain the duties of national president. Great work, Joe. The day after the convention, devastating floods inundated the Chattanooga area. After spending four wonderful days there, my heart sank as I watched the flooding on the national news. My thoughts and prayers are for the speedy recovery of the people of Chattanooga and surrounding areas.

The ASA also had its 25th birthday celebration this year in Chattanooga with a cake and singing of "Happy

Birthday." There have been many memorable times in these past 25 years, and many dedicated people have unselfishly volunteered their time and energy to bring this organization to where it is today. I'm looking forward to the continued success of the Azalea Society of America for a long, long time.

I would like to encourage members to submit articles to our journal, *The Azalean*. Our editor, Barbara Stump, will gladly assist anyone willing to submit an article. The article doesn't have to be "technical" or "wordy." Your personal experiences with growing and caring for azaleas are priceless, especially when they are freely shared with all the membership in a published article. *The Azalean* is our major contact with every member. Please feel free to share your stories about azaleas. Thank you.

Well, spring is gone, and the summer heat came early to the Gulf South this year. The only evergreen azalea I have blooming at this time (late May) is 'Mount Seven Star', but there is enough work in an azalea garden to keep a person occupied. Hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

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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On the Cover

'Touch of Pink' is an example of over 100 named deciduous azalea hybrids that Dr. Eugene Aromi has developed in the past 34 years. See page 38 for a listing of all the hybrids he has introduced to date. (Photo by Eugene Aromi)

The Rebirth of Rebloom

How *Rhododendron oldhamii* has Given Azaleas an Extra Season of Color

John L. Creech — Columbus, North Carolina

[This article originally appeared in NMPPro, May 2003. Reprinted by permission of NMPPro magazine and the author, Ed.]

Azaleas are generally known for their spring flowering glory and can have limited ornamental appeal in other seasons—except maybe as a forced florist crop. Most species occasionally bloom off-season, producing a few flowers from buds intended for the next spring. However, this flower show is typically unreliable and unspectacular.

Generally it's the more subtropical species used for forcing, such as *Rhododendron indicum*, *R. tamurae*, *R. scabrum*, and *R. ripense* var. *mucronatum*. [The latter is now reclassified as *R. mucronatum*, ed.]



Rhododendron oldhamii flower close-up.
(Photo by William C. Miller III)

I have not mentioned *R. oldhamii*, native to Taiwan. Until recently it has not interested breeders, because it's a tender species. It's a red-flowered azalea, common in Taiwan in upland meadows around 2,000 feet elevation and higher. In one instance I found it on a cliff-side at 7,200 feet.

The plant is not particularly attractive because of its straggly, upright growth and hairy stems and foliage, but it is distinct in that it flowers all year in its native habitat. It has been collected infrequently and is found only in a few botanical collections.

During a 1967 collecting trip to Taiwan, I observed the continual flowering of *R. oldhamii*. I made several seed collections from various elevations in open meadows in October, usually from plants

with good displays of flowers.

Catching On

Recently, the status of *R. oldhamii* has changed because of the exciting new Encore line of azaleas marketed by Flowerwood Nursery in Loxley, Alabama. These

patented varieties were developed by breeder Robert E. "Buddy" Lee of Independence, Louisiana, and have become popular in the trade in the past few years.

Members of Encore are 'Autumn Amethyst', 'Autumn Bravo', 'Autumn Carnival', 'Autumn Cheer', 'Autumn Coral', 'Autumn Embers', 'Autumn Empress', 'Autumn Monarch', 'Autumn Princess', 'Autumn Rouge', 'Autumn Royalty', 'Autumn Ruby',



R. oldhamii has been used in developing the new Encore™ azaleas, including the newly introduced 'Autumn Debutante'. (Photo by Robert Lee)

'Autumn Sangria', and 'Autumn Twist', with more to be released in the next few years.

I'm growing 'Autumn Royalty' in my test garden in the mountains of western North Carolina. So far, it has performed well. From September through mid-November the plant was covered with clusters of bright-purple flowers, increasing in profusion as winter approached.

It provided a colorful addition to the usually dull garden shrub menu of late fall, except for fall-blooming *Camellia sasanqua*.

Credit for this promising addition to the array of azaleas goes to Lee, a prominent member [now president] of the Azalea Society of America. He first saw *R. oldhamii* "in flower in midsummer at a friend's nursery" in 1982, he said. Through a series of crosses with 36 cultivars, mostly southern types, Lee produced massive seedling populations that through an extensive evaluation program, resulting in a reduced population of 7,000 seedlings in 1992.

Because of the extent of the project, these seedlings were transferred to Flowerwood Nursery. After further evaluation of 100 superior seedlings for flower quality, cold hardiness, and field performance, 12 clones were selected in 1995 for final evaluation.



The stem and foliage hairs of *R. oldhamii*. This characteristic has been transferred to many of the Encore azaleas.
(Photo by Donald Hyatt)

In 1997, these selections were named as cultivars making the original Autumn series.

While it's recognized that the Encore line was developed for the coastal region in USDA Hardiness Zone 8, they've been proven hardy in Zone 7 and worthy of trial in Zone 6. Hopefully, they'll have good cold resistance, much like other borderline plants such as *Loropetalum*, which has thrived beyond its usual range.

Plants with Potential

There are more opportunities in azalea breeding, for those willing to take the initiative. For years I've grown an interesting specimen of *R. kaempferi*, which flowers from June to frost. I obtained it in Japan among hundreds of collections of this variable species. These collection trips took place over several decades.

In the wild, I've observed *R. kaempferi* specimens with hose-in-hose and double-flowering characteristics, and in colors ranging from white to purple. Because of its great distribution, from southern to northern Japan, many natural hybrids exist where it cohabits with other azalea species.

With my specimen, as each flower opens and the vegetative buds develop below the terminal, these new shoots promptly develop new flower buds and repeat the process throughout the summer. Unfortunately, the petals are highly distorted, though both stamens and pistil are present.

My immediate thought is that it might be a suitable parent to hybridize with the Encore selections to add a degree of hardiness. This specimen is well suited for that, as its flowering season coincides with the Encores.

I sent Lee cuttings from my *R. kaempferi*, and hopefully he can add another dimension to his breeding program.

John L. Creech is former director of the US National Arboretum and is on the board of the North Carolina Arboretum.

References

Brown, William L. 1991. "Breeding for Everblooming Azaleas." *The Azalean*. 13 (3): 51-52.

Creech, John L. May 2003. "The Rebirth of Rebloom". *NMPro*. Pp. 57-58. [*NMPro* is a "green industry" trade magazine for the nursery industry. See the following Web site for Branch-Smith Publishing for information on receiving the magazine. The site also lists various plants with pertinent information. Visit www.greenbeam.com.]

Flowerwood Nursery, 6470 Dauphine Island Parkway, Mobile, AL 36605-9766; 334-443-6540; fax: 334-443-2011; www.encoreazalea.com.

Robert E. Lee, 52063 Ridge Crest Road, Independence, LA 70443; 504-878-3567; buddyazaleas@yahoo.com.



Dr. John Creech sees new breeding potential in fall-blooming *R. kaempferi*, native to Japan. The species is highly variable as shown by this photo taken by the late George Ring III, taken in Suzuki's nursery in Japan. He also caught a close-up of a *kaempferi* selection, 'Dorsett'—made by Hollowell from seed obtained from Japan (PI 8571) and listed under US National Arboretum number NA 273481, according to Galle—in an early snowfall.



Eugene Aromi, Hybridizer

Frank Bryan — Lithonia, Georgia

[Adapted from Winter 2002 Oconee Chapter Newsletter by permission of Frank Bryan and Eugene Aromi, Ed.]

During recent ASA conventions, a few Aromi evergreen and deciduous cultivars have been available for sale. All have been grabbed up by the first azaleaphiles to reach them. This scene was repeated at the most recent convention in Chattanooga. Slides of some of the Aromi cultivars shown during talks by Dr. Eugene Aromi and Maarten van der Giessen at conventions have impressed all present. Despite this, published information on all of the Aromi cultivars has been incomplete.

Dr. Aromi was an education professor at the University of Southern Alabama. His interest in azaleas did not start with courses he took while in college and while seeking advanced degrees. It started at his home when the azaleas that the contractor had used to landscape his lot became sickly. During his search for a solution, he began reading about azaleas and developed an interest in hybridizing. Dr. Aromi, working closely with his wife Jane, started with evergreens in 1969. Their objectives were to develop cultivars with large flower size, early bloom time,



'Hallie'—2-3/4" across—exhibits the large flower trait Aromi began hybridizing for in his work with evergreen azaleas. (Photo by Maarten van der Giessen)

improved bud hardiness, compact habit, an array of flower forms, and rich colors. After several years, many beautiful cultivars resulted from their efforts, but nurseries of that time had little interest in adding new cultivars to the traditional varieties that they sold. Because of space limitations in his yard, he gave many of these to his friend Dr. John Giordano, who is credited with preserving them for the past 40 years. Some of his early successes were *Rhododendron* 'Red Ribbons', 'Michaele Lux', and 'Pink Petticoat'. He has named 31 evergreen azalea cultivars, but there

are many others that are identified only by numbers (see sidebar). Maarten van der Giessen, manager of van der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Alabama, and Linda Guy of Carolina Nurseries are presently working with Aromi and Giordano to introduce some of these evergreen azaleas to the trade.

Later in his work with azaleas, Dr. Aromi searched texts and catalogs and became intrigued with Exbury hybrids. Those that he ordered bloomed and then died, due to the high summer temperatures in Mobile, Alabama. He decided to hybridize, using native azaleas that grew in Alabama as one parent and Exbury or other deciduous cultivars as the other. He has made more than 1,000 crosses: over 4,000 have bloomed and been typed; more than 100 have been named; and to date, at least eight have been registered. The results of his work are strong, free-blooming, fragrant flowers with large buds and trusses. They have survived the heat and humidity of the South, which the Exbury hybrids did not; and, after 30 years, some are 15 feet tall. Aromi's deciduous azaleas have found broad acceptance by the nursery trade. Some of the more popular cultivars include: 'Aromi Sunstruck', 'Aromi Sunrise', 'Hightide', 'Topsy Tangerine', and 'Red Pepper', all of which were introduced by the late Dr. John Allen Smith's Magnolia Nursery. Nurseries that stock some of Aromi's newer creations include van der Giessen, Carolina Nurseries, Fairweather Gardens, and Lazy K.

To date, the names of eight of Aromi's deciduous azaleas have been

Note about Aromi's Cultivar Numbers

The alphanumeric notations in the table (p. 38) reflect Aromi's control numbers for each cross. Dr. Aromi labeled his azaleas in the order in which they were hybridized. He began labeling his first seedling of his first cross with A-1, the second cross with B-1, and so on. Thus the code AAY-3 would represent the third seedling selected from his 727th—26+(26'26)+25—cross. As with any hybridizer's work, many of the numbered seedlings were released without a name for evaluation by others. Maarten van der Giessen sent numbered Aromi evergreens to Freida Hill some years ago. Dr. Aromi has since named some of these numbered hybrids. These numbers have been shown in this complete table of Aromi hybrids to preserve the number designations for those crosses, which are important for tracing a named hybrid back to its original parentage and correlating a numbered hybrid to its name.

registered by Magnolia Nursery (in *Journal ARS*. 1996. 50 (2):116-118 and 50(3):177-178): 'Aromi Sunny-side-up', 'Aromi Sunrise', 'Aromi Sunstruck', 'Frontier Gold', 'Liz Colbert', 'Pathfinder', 'Pink Carousel', and 'Red Pepper'.

The Aromi hybrids charts beginning on page 38 list names, descriptions, and RHS Colour Chart numbers for his hybrids that were supplied by Dr. Aromi. Modifications by Frank Bryan included adding measurements in inches.

References

Finch, Bill. 2002. "The Aromi Azaleas." *Journal American Rhododendron Society*. 56 (1): 22-23.

Aromi, Gene. 1999. "Aromi Hybrids." *The Azalean*. 21(3): 47.

Acknowledgments

Maarten van der Giessen, of the Louisiana Chapter, reviewed the hybrid list with Dr. Aromi and added information about the hybrid identifications and their subsequent introductions.

Jay Murray, the American Rhododendron Society Plant Names Registrar—also a Brookside Gardens Chapter ASA member—provided the registration information.

'Glory Be' (top right) and 'Pathfinder' (below) show the brilliance and large flower size of the deciduous Aromi hybrids that used Exbury hybrids in the breeding stock. 'Glory Be' is a cross of Aromi's own 'June Jubilee'—(*R. prunifolium* x *R. serrulatum*) x *R. arborescens*—crossed with 'Rufus', an Ilam hybrid developed in New Zealand with Exbury parentage. For 'Pathfinder', Aromi crossed the deep yellow-orange heat-tolerant *R. austrinum* with 'Rothschild Orange', of Exbury heritage.

(Photos by Eugene Aromi)



Frank Bryan joined the ASA Oconee Chapter in 1993. He became editor of its newsletter in September 1995. He says he had little background with azaleas or horticulture before becoming a member, but he is a scientist (bacteriologist, Ph.D.) with an extensive career in biology. He served as the scientist director, Foodborne Disease Activity, Training Program, Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta (1956-1985); principal activities: foodborne diseases epidemiology and control, enteric diseases, environmental health, training. He is the author of over 260 publications, including

the books *Foodborne Infections and Intoxications, Diseases Transmitted by Foods, and Microbial Ecology of Foods*, and has presented papers at more than 225 professional meetings. He received the Public Health Service's Meritorious Service Medal for "Significant Contributions to Prevention and Control of Foodborne Diseases Through Applied Research and Through the Training of Health Professionals Around the World."



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Mastering Azaleas

Part 2A. Azalea Propagation— Seed Collecting, Cleaning & Storing

Joe Schild — Hixson, Tennessee

Before I launch into this brief “how to” article, let me first state that my ideas are not the sole methods or perhaps the best that you may read, but they do work for me. With that disclaimer behind us, we now venture into the exciting realm of seed propagation of azaleas.

A primary factor to remember when you propagate azaleas from seed is that no two seedlings will be identical, from a genetics viewpoint. It is this very uncertainty that has kept me collecting, cleaning, and sowing seed for over 35 years. I keep looking for that one outstanding, beautiful, and vigorous azalea to come from a batch of seedlings.

Pollination

Before we can sow seeds we must first collect them, and this is where we often run into problems if we want seedlings of species to come true to name. If collected from wild stands, seed will often be contaminated by cross-pollination by insects or wind-borne pollen from other nearby species. This is called *open pollination*, and any resulting seedlings will be suspect for truth of name of the cross.

One method I have used for years with better than average success is to locate an interesting wild azalea in flower, locate a nearby azalea with similar interesting characteristics, and use a method called *hand pollination* to be assured of seedlings that are close to the parent plants' desired characteristics. The method may be as simple as rubbing the flower trusses together, or as complex as taking pollen bearing anthers from one plant and transferring the pollen to the stigma of the other, and then cov-

ering the stigma to prevent contamination. The latter method is called *closed pollination*. However, the stigma of the seed-bearing parent must be covered as the anthers open and covered again after it is pollinated, which will also protect it from pollination by insects, wind, or other agents.

Seed Collection

Okay, so we are now waiting for seed capsules to form on the shrub. If you observe your seed parent plant carefully, following the hand pollination process the petals will fall off within three days, indicating a successful pollination. During the summer and early fall months, if pollination is successful, the ovary will start to swell quickly forming a greenish seedpod that is divided into five chambers. Depending upon the species, that pod may be only 3/8" to almost 1-1/2" long. From early to mid-November, it will turn tan to brown, indicating it has ripened. It is key to remember that several hard freezes will cause the seedpod to split open and spill most of the seed; therefore, keep watch and be ready to collect.

I do hope you tagged the particular branch you wanted, if you went to all the trouble of hand pollinating the flowers; for come fall, that shrub may be difficult to locate in a colony of hundreds. In years past, I have had to use some devious methods to protect the seedpods on wild specimens, because if azalea chasers travel the area and my tag is found, sometimes my efforts are thwarted by the loss of the pods. For this reason, I usually do the hand pollination thing on plants well removed from the beaten path to increase my odds. Nothing holds

back a would-be pod snatcher more than a thick bramble patch.

I prefer to use brown paper lunch bags in which to collect seedpods, but envelopes work well, too. Plastic bags retain too much moisture and may cause mildew or molds to form, so avoid them. So now, we have a bunch of seedpods in a bag, what is next?

Sharpie® felt pens are great to write information on the bags: date, place, species name, and any other pertinent information you wish. When I get home from a collecting trip with a load of bags and pods, I put a very small amount of a pesticide, such as Sevin® Dust, in the bags to kill off any hitchhiking bugs. I temporarily store the bags open in a warm location until the pods split open, and then I fold the top closed and shake vigorously. Most of the seed will fall out of the dried pods into the bag. For pods that refuse to split, I often use a pair of pliers to crack them open.

Cleaning

With several sheets of clean, white typing paper to catch the seed, I then pour the contents of the bag into a tea strainer and shake. (Or use a small—4" x 4"—piece of porch screen.) Most of the seed will fall onto the paper with a little chaff and perhaps the blackened style and some fine dust. I may or may not do a further cleaning by dumping this batch into a finer mesh and sort out the dust. For my own use, this is as far as I go; although, if I plan on sending some seed to friends, I may hand clean most of the chaff from the seed.

If you are wondering what the difference is between the chaff and the seed, look through a 10-X hand lens.

All of the native azalea seed have a small wing, except for the species *Rhododendron arborescens*, which is like a pellet. Some species have large seed, while those of *R. vaseyi*, *R. prunifolium*, and *R. cumberlandense* are smaller. The seed of mountain laurel are like dust and must be handled as such. One good sneeze and the seeds disperse.

The seedpods and seed of evergreen azaleas are smaller than their deciduous relatives. Usually, the pods are about 5/16" long by 1/4" wide, slightly conical in shape. The seed are small, but some will have a small wing, as in the deciduous forms.

Storage

To store the seed you have now cleaned, coin envelopes work very well, and all the necessary information may be written on them. They may be purchased from almost any office supply store, or use the resources listed at the end of this article. To protect the seed further, I first put them in 2" x 3-1/4" Glassine envelopes that Westvaco manufactures. I get them through an online company I give below in the Materials section.

Well, now you have collected loads of seedpods, cleaned the seed and have them tucked away in coin envelopes, so what do we do next? If you plan to sow the seed quickly, no

further action is needed. However, if you wish to store the seed for next year or later winter sowing, they need to be put into the refrigerator. I prefer to use the Zip-Loc® type plastic bags where they may be sealed tightly and excess air removed to prevent moisture problems.

Whatever size plastic bags I may choose, I put a number of the seed filled coin envelopes inside along with a **moisture trap**. This trap is simple to make out of one sheet of paper towel and 1/2 teaspoon of powdered milk: I put the powdered milk in the center of the towel and begin folding repeatedly until I have a small pouch that I tape closed. I do not recommend using silica gel, for it will dry the seed out too much and kill the germ. It does work well as a desiccant for drying pollen, but that is another article.

After years of propagating azaleas from seed, I found refrigerating the seed for a short time (at least 72 hours) seems to speed up germination by up to a week. If the above instructions are followed, you may expect to store viable seed for up to six years. My usual germinating rate is over 95% in 9 to 12 days with a soil temperature of 70°F and increased photoperiod (16 hours in 24) using electric lights.

Now that you have some basic information on collecting, cleaning, and

storing azalea seed, this fall take some friends on a trip to join in on the fun. Of course, I have not told you how to sow the seed, so that will be in the next article, Part 2B, to be published in the Fall 2003 issue of *The Azalean*.

Joe Schild has owned and operated a niche nursery specializing in the species for over 14 years. He is the immediate past president of the ASA and a member of the Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association. He says he is better known as an azalea nut and chases the natives' bloom each year with many fellow enthusiasts.

Reference

Galle, Fred C. 1987. *Azaleas*. Portland: Timber Press. Chapter 11, page 333.

Materials

For coin envelopes white or manila on-line: <http://store.yahoo.com/actionenvelopes/index.html>

Or mail to:

Action Envelope Co.
245 Adams Boulevard
Farmingdale, NY 11735
Telephone: 1-800-653-1705

For Glassine envelopes on-line: <http://www.admiralenvelope.com/>

Or mail to:

Admiral Envelope Mfg. Co., Inc.
214 Sullivan St.
New York, NY 10012
Telephone: 1-888-810-6944

A Note on Color Names in Galle's Azaleas

Donald H. Voss — Vienna, Virginia

In his magnum opus titled *Azaleas*, Fred Galle made an important contribution to the description of azalea colors by using Inter-Society Color Council-National Bureau of Standards (ISCC-NBS) color names where possible. The reader should, however, be aware of cer-

tain errors in the table relating selected ISCC-NBS color names and common color names (see *Azaleas*: pp. 41-42 in the original 1985 edition; pp. 43-44 in the 1987 revised edition). These errors are listed below (where not specified, the corrections apply in both editions).

Deep Pink 3 – spinel pink, not spinel rose
Vivid Red 11 – carmine rose, not carmine red
Strong Red 12 – claret rose, not claret red
Moderate Yellowish Pink 29 – flesh pink, not flesh color; – vinaceous buff, not vinaceous
Deep Yellowish Pink 27 – delete salmon
Moderate Reddish Orange 37 – burnt orange, not burnt red
1st ed.: Strong Reddish Orange 35, not **Strong Red 35** – bright coral rose, not coral rose; – bright coral red, not coral red
Strong Orange 50 – pumpkin, not pumpkin orange

Pale Orange Yellow 73 – pale salmon color, not pale salmon; – pale pinkish buff or pale pinkish cinnamon, not pale pinkish salmon
Light Purple 222 – pale lavender-violet, not pale lavender rose
1st ed.: Moderate Purple 223, not **Moderate Pink 223**
Strong Purple 218 – delete royal purple
Deep Purple 219 – delete spectrum violet; add royal purple
Strong Reddish Purple 237 – dull dark purple, not dull dark red

Pale Purplish Pink 252 – pale vinaceous-lilac, not pale vinaceous
1st ed.: Strong Purplish Red 255, not **Strong Purplish Pink 255**
1st ed.: Vivid Purplish Red 254, not **Vivid Purplish Pink 254**

Donald H. Voss is an economist by training, and an active gardener with a scholarly interest in azaleas and rhododendrons. Don is an expert on the Robin Hill hybrid azaleas, and he currently volunteers at the herbarium of the US National Arboretum.

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Robert W. Hobbs, Newsletter Co-editor
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The March 9, 2003, meeting was held at Severna Park Library. The guest speaker was Dr. Mike Raupp, from the University of Maryland Entomology Department, presenting the program, "Old Pests, New Problems: Problems with Managing Lace Bugs on Landscape Shrubs." Dr. Raupp's research has focused on the mechanisms by which plants escape attack from herbivorous insects. These mechanisms include inducible and standing plant defenses and host and habitat mediated interactions with natural enemies. His goal is to create sustainable landscape systems with minimal dependence on synthetic pesticides through the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity, with special emphasis on natural enemy communities. Students in his laboratory investigate mechanisms of host plant resistance, the ecology and behavior of herbivores and their predators, parasitoids, and pathogens, and the impact of landscape design on pest and natural enemy populations dynamics. As an extension specialist, he focuses the work of his laboratory on the development and implementation of **integrated pest management** (IPM) programs for landscape, nursery, and greenhouse systems. He and his colleagues emphasize the use of resistant plant materials, manipulation of cultural regimes, and utilization of biological control. His laboratory evaluates biorational pesticides and formulated microbials to determine which materials and techniques are efficacious and minimize disruption to natural enemy communities.

His extension programs provide training on the theory and practice of IPM to diverse clientele that includes

growers, public and private sector landscape and park managers, and private citizens. In addition to his research activities, Mike teaches several entomology and IPM courses at the University of Maryland. He has received awards from the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the US Department of Agriculture. He and his colleagues have published many papers on the various aspects of IPM.

The chapter welcomes new members **Phyllis** and **Bill Meyers** of Baltimore, Maryland, **Patricia** and **Harold Belcher** of Cheverly, Maryland, and **James Fry** of Northpoint, New York.

May 11 **Bob** and **Rosa McWhorter** opened their home and gardens, "Rosa Gardens" to the chapter for the spring tour. Summer events included the July 28 Potting Party, Cutting Exchange and Picnic, at the home of **Dave** and **Eileen Holm** and the July 2 trip to the US National Arboretum to take additional cuttings. Plants from both events will be available for sale at the 2004 National Convention in Bowie, Maryland.

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Dr. Charles Evans, President
ch3@georgetown.com

The 24th annual Brookside Gardens Chapter azalea show took place during the Chattanooga convention. 'Appleblossom' exhibited by **Buck Claggett** was selected as Best in Show, and **Charlie Evans** won the Sweepstakes Award.

With respect to the 2006 national meeting the Brookside Gardens Chapter continues to offer to host the meeting. The convention might be held the same weekend as the Landon Azalea Festival where we have staged our flower show for over

20 years. That is usually the first weekend in May. We cannot be more specific at this time as Don Hyatt has expressed interest in having ASA meet jointly during part of the convention with the ARS who will be holding their convention in the Washington, DC, area in the spring of 2006. So far there are no details, just an expression of interest. We will talk further with Don if ASA decides next week to have the 2006 ASA convention hosted by the Brookside Gardens Chapter. *[The ASA board of directors did approve Brookside Gardens' proposal to host the 2006 convention and approved in principle holding some events jointly with ARS in 2006, pending clarification of details and support from both Brookside Gardens and the relevant ARS chapter, Ed.]*

Lake Michigan Chapter

John Migas, President Pro-tem
269-857-1505

This chapter submitted its charter to the membership at the Chattanooga convention May 2 and was accepted into membership in the Society. This chapter covers a large geographic area, including Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Illinois. They are currently recruiting constantly, including during a joint garden tour of Chicago area gardens with the ARS, Midwest Chapter. Formal election of chapter officers is planned for their next meeting at the end of July.

Chapter members are making plans for a number of projects: Vice-president pro-tem **Sandra Wearne**, who is a professional Web site developer, is to design a chapter Web site by this fall. They have selected three planting sites—in northern Illinois, in Chicago, and in Michigan—in which to test new azaleas, with plant-

ing beginning this fall. Finally, they are already visiting private gardens in anticipation of the 2005 ASA Convention, which will be held in Holland, Michigan, and hosted by this chapter.

Louisiana Chapter

W. L. Brown, Secretary
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April 6, 2003, the Louisiana Chapter toured John Thornton's nursery and Margie Jenkins' nursery, both located near Franklinton, Louisiana.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, President
barrysperling@ix.netcom.com

The second meeting of the year, held at the Sherwood Regional Library, featured Phil Normandy, from Brookside Gardens, a public display garden in Wheaton, Maryland. He related the history of the Gardens' plant accession program, which included nearly 2,000 plants collected by Barry Yinger from the wild and from nurseries. Phil discussed the Brookside Gardens' plant introduction program and showed slides of many of these introductions. This is truly a significant piece of the history of azaleas in America!

The chapter welcomed new members **Eve and Bob Harrison** and **Suzie and Rick Bauer** and invited them to

select from complimentary azaleas contributed by **Larry Martin**. Now that's a great ASA way to say hello.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
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The April 13 meeting was held at the Rockdale Cooperative Extension office with 16 members present. President **Allison Fuqua** provided deciduous species azaleas as well as Aromi hybrids and specimens of 'Admiral Semmes' seedlings for sale. He opened the meeting with a discussion of the procedure for rooting cuttings used in New York. In that climate zone, deciduous cuttings are taken about Memorial Day and evergreens about July 1. After **Ray Goza** showed some unique azalea blooms, including 'Variegated Dogwood', the meeting ended with **Frank Bryan** showing the new CD/PowerPoint presentation "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" that he also was demonstrating at the Chattanooga Convention in May.

The annual cutting party and plant swap was held June 14 with the Azalea Chapter of the ARS at the garden of **Joe and Donna Coleman**. Joe won the most total points, from many first places, the best un-introduced hybrid evergreen, and the best seedling award at the Azalea Chapter, ARS, flower show this spring.

Tri-State Chapter

Robin Hahn, President and Editor
812-985-9388

A spring azalea garden tour was held at the home and garden of **Steve and Beverly Knight** of Hazleton, Indiana, on Sunday, April 27, 2003. The property is heavily forested and contains two lakes with their banks landscaped with evergreen azaleas. Some plants are not quite mature, but they offer beautiful mirrored images that reflect off the lake waters for an awesome effect.

A tour of the grounds in the Knights' golf carts offered a rare view of mature stands of quaking aspen trees, Virginia blue bells, and large creek rocks that have been painstakingly moved around the home and garden, interspersed with azaleas and other plant material. Features were a wonderful specimen weeping elm, various hollies, and dogwoods with flowers with very large bracts that were transplanted from their own woods to positions near the home.

The azalea collection consists of a large number of Schroeder hybrids bred by the late Dr. Henry Schroeder, which are used extensively along with Gable hybrids and other varieties. Some of the plantings are young, but in a few years this garden will present an awesome display of colorful evergreen azaleas.

Upcoming Conventions

2004 National Convention—to be hosted by Ben Morrison Chapter, May 6-9, 2004. The theme is 'Best Bloomin' Azaleas in Bay Country.' Convention headquarters will be the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Bowie, Maryland. The convention steering committee, led by chief coordinator, Carol Segree, is now meeting monthly to arrange speakers and gardens. Input is welcome. Contacts: Carol Segree (301-261-6215) csegree@msn.com or chapter president, Bob McWhorter (410-923-6408) mcwho@erols.com .

2005 National Convention—to be hosted by the new Lake Michigan Chapter, and headquartered in Holland, Michigan. Details to be announced as they become available.

2006 National Convention—to be hosted by Brookside Gardens Chapter in the Washington, DC, area.

2007 National Convention—to be held in Nacogdoches, Texas, with assistance from the Louisiana Chapter.

Azalea Gardens

The Oakcrest Garden Story

Carlton LeMond — Montevallo, Alabama

My love of flowers must have come from my great-grandfather whom I never had the privilege of meeting, since he passed away before I was born in 1939. I have learned from family and friends that he had a great love of flowers, and I suppose that love gene was passed down to me, since I have an exceptional love of flowers and especially azaleas. I spent 22 years in the US Air Force, and moving from assignment to assignment during my Air Force career did not afford me the time to have an established garden. While I always managed to scratch out a small place to plant roses or annuals, I always had the desire to have a great garden of beautiful azaleas. Each spring we would tour the azalea trails, oohing and ahing over the gorgeous plants and dreaming of someday having our own azalea garden.

After my Air Force career and then getting another career off the ground, my wonderful wife of 44 years and I began to build our dream home. We purchased 123 acres of forest land, cleared a road 1 mile off the main highway, 3 miles south of Montevallo, Alabama, where we selected our home site among towering giant white oaks and pine trees with dogwoods everywhere the eye could see. It was a perfect site, away from traffic and noise except for an occasional soft rumble of a distant train. Birds serenading us with their joyous songs and woodpeckers tapping could be heard throughout the day. On the week-

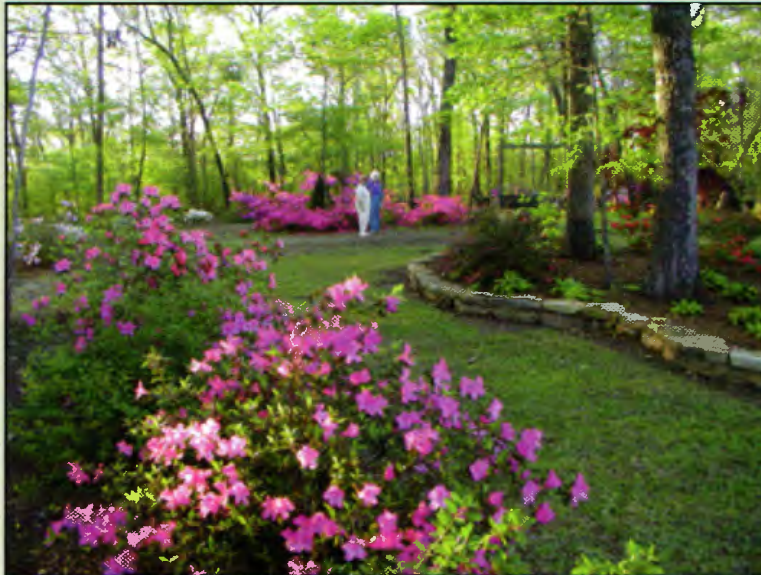
ends before we started building we would spend the day relaxing and dreaming out loud under the canopy of a large dogwood that would soon be in our front yard.

After building our home, we began to prepare the site by clearing out the knee-high poison oak (that suddenly appeared out of nowhere) and removing selected trees to allow filtered sunlight to flow over the

water for weeks. Our dream site seemed to be turning out to be a lemon, but a beautiful lemon. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade! We were determined to have an azalea garden, so the pH had to be changed from alkaline to acid. Good drainage was absolutely necessary. I had to either build raised beds or install drains. I did not want just a few bushes scattered around the house, I wanted a garden of five or six acres with the remaining land in a woodland garden. If my age wasn't what it is and cost not a factor, I'd shoot for a garden like Callaway; six acres just isn't enough. At the present time we have over 300 azaleas, not counting a few rhododendrons.

My Garden Soil is Mainly Compost and Bark

The best planting beds would be the slightly sloping areas, after the soil was prepared. In some areas, the beds needed to be raised and in other areas the beds on a slight slope needed to be prepared so they would drain. I found truckloads of rotting pine bark from a closed sawmill nearby, and also I began to make compost to supplement the soil. I hauled sawdust from a local mill, which I got free, and mixed it with grass clippings from along our driveway to make compost. With a mixture of 60% carbon (sawdust), 40% nitrogen (grass clippings), and a little 13-13-13 fertilizer, compost can be made in about 25 to 30 days if it is wet down well and turned often. Since I was making large quantities, I was blessed with having a backhoe to do



View of raised beds, with my wife and 87-year-old mother-in-law enjoying the garden. (Photo by Carlton LeMond)

planned garden area. The selection of which trees to remove was very difficult. The underbrush was fairly thick; and, hidden among the brush were wild irises, oak leaf hydrangeas, and a few native azaleas. The poison oak had to be reckoned with, and the felling of the trees had to be just right in order not to crush or damage native plants that would be a part of our garden. On the surface, it was a picture-perfect site for an azalea garden among the giant oaks and pines. However, under the topsoil was clay, white to yellow clay that would hold

all the heavy frequent turning and mixing of the compost material. This also helps to greatly speed up the process of composting, but it isn't necessary. I can make a dump-truck load of compost about every 30 to 40 days.



The mulch and pine bark are recycled to improve the soil.

(Photo by Carlton LeMond)

To prepare the azalea beds I used a mixture of 30% fine rotting bark, 40% compost, and 30% natural soil. This was thoroughly mixed to provide good drainage as well as a good rich soil to promote growth, keeping in mind that some areas would require more or less bark. The percentages are an approximation, but as close as I could get the mixture without measuring all the components. I mainly added more or less compost along with bark until the soil was rich and dark looking, taking samples and performing a pH test occasionally. The excess soil that was removed was used in general landscaping.

In the fall of the year the fallen oak leaves are blown and carefully raked from around the azaleas and ground into mulch. This un-composted mulch is then placed around the azaleas to a depth of 2 to 3 inches to add nourishment to the plants during the winter months, being careful to stay 2 to 3 inches away from the base of the plants. Leaves around the base of an azalea could allow diseases and insects to attack the plants during the winter months and at the beginning of spring. I also place pine straw around some of the plants, mainly those in the front yard. The rest is turned into the soil in other areas that will be used for next year's planting. Excess leaves are placed on

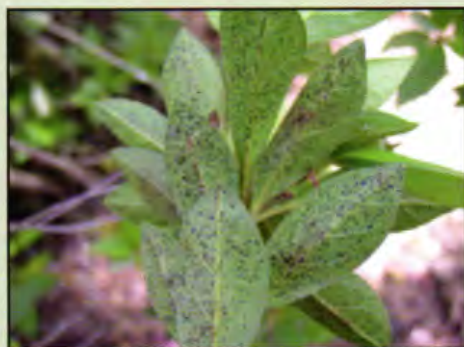
the compost pile with 13-13-13 fertilizer added to speed up composting during the winter months.

Pests: They Didn't Tell Me About That!

For everything that lives there is something out there that wants to eat it, including azaleas. My biggest surprise—and it holds true for a number of first-time azalea gardeners—were those little sap-sucking nits that grow into white flies. They discolor the foliage as well as rob the plant of its beauty and its nutrients. Everything, well almost everything, needs a chance to live, but not on my plants.

I'm sure there are several ways they could be disposed of, but I'm sure I would miss two of them, the mating call would be sounded, and they would repopulate with vengeance and then next year set out to ruin my hard work. Now you could try to drown them, but I can tell you that won't work; neither will a mild soap solution, that would only make them feel better from a nice bath, and they would only eat more. That little pest did not show up in my garden until I had a couple hundred plants. They waited until they were sure I could not possibly smash them all.

I am not sorry to say and I make no apology, I killed the suckers, and what I didn't kill flew to your garden. I assure you that I did not limit their numbers, for they came to visit each time new plants were brought into the garden. They also have the uncanny ability to know when my plants are looking good and healthy.



Sap-sucking pests—likely azalea lace bugs—cause light spots on top of leaves, and leave dark residue on their undersides.

(Photo by Carlton LeMond)

Each spring, after the blooms begin to fade and the new growth begins, the word goes out and here come the sapsuckers. One product I used did a good job until the EPA banned its use and manufacture. I now use a broad-spectrum insecticide like Malathion 50 Plus, which is successful. However, it may also be banned, and then I will have to go back to giving the suckers baths.

Of course, indiscriminate use of pesticides without safeguards is not good for the environment, nor is it safe for you or those who love and visit your garden. **I use pesticides as a last resort and only according to label directions. I also use protection.** Humans have accidents, some more than others. Accidental spraying of a chemical in the eyes or any other place not intended for the spray could be disastrous. So use proper clothing, eye protection, and a well-fitting respirator mask when spraying chemicals. Do not allow visitors in the garden until it is safe to enter. Chemicals made to kill bugs could also harm you.

As our garden grows I plan to add new azaleas each year, hoping to get some of the newer varieties until we run out of space. If anyone has plants you want to have tested and admired, contact me right away, I know just where they should be planted!

Carlton LeMond was born in McCalla, Alabama, in 1939. At the ripe old age of 17, he enlisted in the US Air Force and spent the next 22 years in electronics, teaching US airmen as well as foreign Allied students radar and electronics. He attended several colleges throughout the US during his military career. After leaving the Air Force, he spent five years as a business administrator prior to starting a construction company building sewage treatment plants and installing large-diameter pipe along with building highways and airports. He has retired full time to the farm, hoping to cultivate azaleas and rhododendrons. He joined the ASA in 2002.

THE AROMI EVERGREEN HYBRIDS

Cultivar	Parentage	Form	Description
'Amelia Rose' (BL-5)	'Elsie Lee' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Double H-in-H	Vivid reddish purple (78A), deep red (60A) blotch, 83mm (3 1/4')
'Angel White' (YY-1)	'Pink Champagne' x 'Hallie'	Double	White, brilliant yellow green (149A) blotch, 55mm (2')
'Ballerina Pink' (ZK-8)	'Overture' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Single	Strong purplish red (60B), strong purplish red (71B) blotch, 80mm (3')
'Belle of Dixie' (VW-4)	'Margaret Douglas' x 'Fascination'	Single	Strong red (39A) with white center, deep purplish pink (55A) blotch, 85mm (3-1/3')
'Crinoline Pink' (ACQ-1)	'Pink Champagne' x 'Rosebud'	Double	Deep purplish pink (66C), strong purplish red (63A) blotch, 70mm (2-3/4')
'Hallie' (GF-7)	'Elsie Lee' x 'Red Ribbons'	Double H-in-H	Deep purplish pink (55A), 70mm (2-3/4')
'Isabella' (HW-5)	'President Claeys' x 'Red Slippers'	Single	Vivid reddish orange (42A), strong red (46A) blotch, 100mm (4')
'KAM' (R-46)	'Giant Ruffles' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Single	Strong red (53C), deep red (53A) blotch, 100mm (4')
'Lavender Lad' (P-3)	'Elegans Superba' x <i>R. yedoense</i> var. <i>poukhanense</i>	Single	Light reddish purple (74C), dark red (59A) blotch, 70mm (2-3/4')
'Lavender Lass' (GF-13)	'Elsie Lee' x 'Red Ribbons'	Single	Light reddish purple (74C), strong purplish red (71B) blotch, 85mm (3-1/3')
'Lavender Waltz' (GF-17)	'Elsie Lee' x 'Red Ribbons'	Double H-in-H	Vivid reddish purple (74B), deep purplish red (71A) blotch, 75mm (3')
'Marilynn Jane' (R-10)	'Giant Ruffles' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Single H-in-H	Ruffled strong purplish red (54A), heavy strong red (53D) blotch, 90mm (3-1/2')
'Michaele Lux' (GF-16)	'Elsie Lee' x 'Red Ribbons'	Single	Deep purplish pink 66C), strong purplish red (63A) blotch, 70mm (2-3/4')
'Mixed Emotions' (KM-1)	'Giant Ruffles' x 'Margaret Douglas'	Single	Deep yellowish pink (43C), vivid red (52A) blotch, 90mm (3-1/2')
'Overture' (SI-7)	'Glacier' x 'Elegans Superbum'	Single	Deep pink (47D), blotch strong purplish red (61B) blotch, 60mm (2-1/3')
'Pink Petticoat' (W-1)	'Elsie Lee' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Double H-in-H	Strong purplish red (63B), strong purplish red (67A), 83mm (3-1/4')
'Platinum Pink' (CB-7)	'Vittatum Fortunei' x 'Dream'	Single	Moderate purplish pink (78D), strong purplish red (60D) blotch, 78mm (3')
'Purple Paragon' (A-19)	'Hinodegiri' x 'Ameonum Superbum'	Single H-in-H	Strong purplish red (72A), 38mm (1-1/2')
'Red Echo' (W-1)	'Sport of Redwing'	Single H-in-H	Strong red (53B), deep red (53A) blotch, 78mm (3')
'Red Embers' (VX-1)	DM-5 x EG-10	Single	Vivid red (44A), vivid reddish orange (43A) blotch, 60mm (2-1/3')
'Red Raspberry' (AEY-1)	'Red Slipper' x BY-1	Single	Strong red (53C), deep red (53A) blotch, 76mm (3')
'Red Ribbons' (R-2)	'Giant Ruffles' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Semi-double	Strong purplish red (58B), vivid red (46B) blotch, 90mm (3-1/2')
'Salmon Sequin' (ZG-3)	'September Song' x HW-1	Single	Deep yellowish pink (47C), strong red (53B) blotch, 75mm (3')
'Sea Spray' (AK-3)	'Glacier' x 'Lilacinum'	Single	White, 76mm (3')
'September Song' (IJ-6)	CK-10 x <i>R. oldhamii</i>	Single	Vivid reddish orange (41A), deep red (53A) blotch, 60 mm (2-1/3')
'Shipley' (Q-31)	'California Sunset' x 'Gloria'	Single H-in-H	Strong purplish red (63B), deep purplish red (61A) blotch, 75 mm (3')
'Solace' (YV-4)	P-2 x 'Sandra Ann'	Single	Light purplish pink (65B), moderate purplish red (64A) blotch and freckles, 65mm (2-1/2')
'Sophia' (DM-2)	'Giant Ruffles' x ('Elegans Superbum' x <i>R. yedoense</i> var. <i>poukhanense</i>)	Single	Strong purplish red(54A)/light yellowish pink, deep red (60A) blotch, 90mm (3-1/2')
'Temple Alexandra' (R-23)	'Giant Ruffles' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Single H-in-H	Strong purplish red (63A), deep red (60A) blotch, 82mm (3-1/4')

Cultivar	Parentage	Form	Description
'Twilight Queen' (VR-1)	EG-1 x 'Omurasaki'	Single	Strong purplish red (71C), deep purplish red (71A) blotch, 76mm (3')
'White Wings' (ZK-1)	'Overture' x 'Pride of Prichard'	Single H-in-H	White flecked 74B (vivid reddish purple), faint light greenish yellow (1C) blotch, 80mm (3')

NAMED AROMI DECIDUOUS HYBRIDS

Cultivar	Parentage	Description
'Amy Dennis' (AHF-13)	AAP-1 x 'George Reynolds'	Large fragrant light lemon yellow (10A) flowers lightly flushed red orange (34D) on petal edges and bud tips, strong yellow blotch
'Appalachian Gold' (QG-2)	<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'Appalachia'	Large golden (21A) flowers, deep gold blotch
'April Fanfare' (AJN-2)	TW-2 x <i>R. austrinum</i>	2' fragrant bright yellow (21B) flower lightly flushed red orange (34A) on bud tips and tubes, strong yellow blotch
'April Follies' (AHC-19)	'George Reynolds' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Large fragrant bright yellow (21B) lightly flushed 34C) flowers, deep yellow blotch
'April Yellow' (ADX-2)	'Sunbeam' x HM-1	3' fragrant bright yellow (15B) flowers with a very light flush of red orange (34B) on the petal tips, deep yellow blotch
'Aromi Sunrise' (HM-7)	'Hiawatha' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Red orange buds open to yellow orange (21C) flowers with darker shading in the center—Registered
'Aromi Sunny-side-up' (HA-9)	<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'Golden Sunset'	Pale yellow buds open to lemon yellow flowers (13A), darker (23A) blotch—Registered
'Aromi Sunstruck' (HH-4)	<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'White Swan'	Pale yellow buds open to lemon yellow (13A) flowers, deep yellow (23A) blotch—Registered
'Bees Haven' (AGC-3)	(<i>R. austrinum</i> x <i>R. alabamense</i>) x yellow Exbury	Small fragrant white flowers with a light pink (55A) flush on stamens, strong yellow blotch
'Canary Isles' (HR-1)	Pale yellow <i>R. austrinum</i> x 'Golden Sunset'	Large yellow (13A) flowers flushed orange on petal tips and tubes
'Cayenne Capers' (AAR-2)	HL-7 x OH-1	1-1/2' heavily fragrant deep yellow flowers (23B) with a heavy flush of strong red (46A), deeper yellow blotch (23A)
'Centerpiece' (NF-1)	'Fool's Folly' x 'Elmer's Yellow'	Light cream buds open to white flowers, deep yellow blotch
'Clearcreek' (AAV-1)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Translucent yellow (white flushed 11A) flowers, darker yellow blotch
'Coral Reef' (AIJ-3)	XS-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Light yellow (21C) flowers with a heavy flush of dark red (53A) on petals and tubes, no blotch or fragrance
'Country Cousin' (AGY-6)	XL-1 x 'Gann's Legacy'	Deep red buds open to 2' white flowers flushed deep red (47A), golden blotch
'Courtship' (AIB-6)	ZU-2 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Large white flowers with cardinal red (53D) on petal edges, deep yellow blotch, cardinal red buds
'Dancing Rabbit' (ADY-4)	'Appalachian Gold' x 'Goldstrike'	Fragrant bright yellow (14C) flowers, deep yellow blotch
'Decidedly Pink' (XW-1)	KY-7 x NR-1	Large lightly fragrant white flower heavily flushed cardinal red (53B), deep yellow (23A) blotch
'First Love' (AGR-5)	UU-1 x 'Red Chameleon'	Large fragrant white flowers flushed dark cardinal red (53B) on petal edges and tubes, bright yellow blotch
'Flirtation Pink' (AHZ-5)	(<i>R. flammeum</i> x <i>R. canescens</i>) x 'Decidedly Pink'	2-1/4' lightly fragrant white flower heavily flushed cardinal red (53A) on petal edges, very heavy flush on buds and tubes
'Fool's Folly' (AL-37)	'Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Orange buds open to bright yellow flowers (21B) with a light orange (34A) flush
'Forty-niner' (AL-49)	'Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Golden flowers (25C) with a flush of scarlet (34A), deep gold blotch
'Four Kings' (GM-1)	'Golden Peace' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Red buds open to bright yellow (15B) 2' flowers with a faint red (47A) flush, deep yellow (21A) blotch

Cultivar	Parentage	Description
'Four Sisters' (XS-3)	'June Jubilee' x NR-1	Cardinal red buds open to 1-3/4' fragrant white flowers flushed cardinal red (53C), strong yellow blotch
'Frontier Gold' (AL-28)	'Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Orange-scarlet buds open to golden flowers (23B) with scarlet (34A) shading, deeper golden blotch— Registered
'Frontier Red' (HT-2)	'Forty-niner' x 'Tintoretto'	3' red-orange (30A) flowers flushed bright red (43A) with red tubes, faint orange (25A) blotch
'Gene's Gold' (TJ-3)	'Persian Melon' x GK-2	Creamy gold flowers (23B) with tips lightly flushed with rose (34A), faint (24A) blotch
'Glory Be' (ADU-1)	'June Jubilee' x 'Rufus'	Many large bright yellow (15A) fragrant flowers, deep yellow blotch
'Goldrush' (HO-2)	'Forty-niner' x 'Hiawatha'	Large golden yellow flowers (23B) flushed red orange (34A), deep gold (23A) blotch
'Goldstrike' (QY-1)	AL-48 x 'Four Kings'	Deep yellow (21B) flowers, orange blotch
'Heads Up' (SW-2)	'Four Kings' x 'Persian Melon'	Light yellow (17D) with a faint red (45C) flush, golden blotch, red tubes and many buds that stand erect
'Hearts' Afire' (VC-1)	<i>R. canescens</i> x pink Mollis	Large red orange (23B flushed 45A) flowers, deep red-orange blotch
'High Tide' (AAV-2)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Ivory flowers, gold (23A) blotch, light pink flush on the petal tips
'High Times' (AIR-2)	'Decidedly Pink' x 'Lemonade'	2-1/2' fragrant bright yellow flower (21B) lightly flushed red-orange (34A) on petal edges, tips and tubes, strong yellow blotch
'Honey Lamb' (HX-2)	<i>R. canescens</i> x 'Rufus'	2' purplish pink flowers (64C), deep gold blotch (25A), sterile
'Honeybee Hobnob' (ADS-3)	'Goldstrike' x 'Centerpiece'	2-1/2' fragrant light yellow (16A) flower flushed bright red (47A), strong yellow blotch
'Indian Spring' (HT-1)	'Forty-niner' x 'Tintoretto'	Light yellow flower (16B) flushed dark red (45D) on petals and tube, yellow orange (21A) blotch
'Indian Yellow' (TK-1)	FU-1 x 'Gillian's Gold'	Large light yellow (15B) fragrant flowers shaded bright red (34A), strong yellow blotch
'Jack of Hearts' (AGI-4)	YI-2 x YP-2	June blooming red orange (16B flushed 53B) flowers, yellow blotch
'Jane's Gold' (GY-2)	'Pathfinder' x 'Golden Sunset'	Cream-yellow flowers (15B) with tips lightly flushed with rose (3A), strong yellow orange (23A) blotch
'Jeanette Ann' (LC-1)	<i>R. alabamense</i> x AL-10	White flushed pink (55B) on the petal tips, blotch 23A
'John Giordano' (WJ-1)	(AL-45 x 'Rufus') x <i>R. calendulaceum</i>	Orange (24A) flushed vivid red-orange (46A), yellow orange blotch (23A), fragrant, 8 flowers in a head
'Jonquil Yellow' (AJI-3)	ADS-2 x YW-1	2' fragrant lemon yellow (15A) flower, deep yellow blotch
'Jubilation' (MW-1)	'Sandra Marie' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Large light yellow flowers (19A) flushed red-orange (34A), strong yellow orange (23A) blotch
'Julius Kingsley' (AGR-8)	UU-1 x 'Red Chameleon'	White flushed with deep red (53-A), faint yellow blotch (21A)
'June Jubilee' (EP-1)	(<i>R. prunifolium</i> x <i>R. serrulatum</i>) x <i>R. arborescens</i>	Late-blooming small very fragrant white flowers with dark glossy leaves
'Kevin Patrick' (AIT-13)	'Spanish Main' x 'Jubilation'	Red buds open to orange flowers (19A) with a deep pink (50B) flush, yellow (21A) blotch
'King's Jester' (ACJ-1)	'Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>) x 'Knighthood'	Large fragrant yellow (22B) flowers with a red (47C) flush, deep yellow blotch
'King's Ransom' (AGL-4)	(<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'Primrose') x unknown	2' light yellow (16A) fragrant flowers with a red-orange (34A) flush on petal tips and tubes
'King's Treasure' (AIC-1)	TW-2 x OM-1	Large fragrant bright yellow buds flushed red-orange opening to pure yellow flowers (15A), deep yellow blotch
'King's Trumpeter' (AIJ-4)	XS-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Dark red buds open to fragrant bright yellow (21C) flowers with a heavy flush of dark red (53A) on petals and tubes
'King's Wizard' (AIP-1)	XZ-3 x unknown	2' fragrant bright yellow flower flushed bright red, deep yellow blotch, heavy flush on buds and tubes

Cultivar	Parentage	Description
'Lacecap' (RJ-1)	<i>R. viscosum</i> x dark red Ilam	Light pink (white-flushed 52A) flowers open wide in a flat truss
'Laughing Lion' (AGZ-1)	UP-1 x 'Gann's Legacy'	Light yellow (12B) fragrant flowers with a deep red (46A) flush on petal edges, heavier flush on buds and tubes, yellow (23A) blotch
'Lemon Lullaby' (ADX-3)	'Sunbeam' x HM-1	Large fragrant light yellow (15B) flowers, deep yellow blotch
'Lemonade' (XU-2)	HG-1 x 'Sham's Yellow'	Large lemon yellow (9C) flowers, deep yellow blotch
'Liz Colbert' (LN-1)	<i>R. serrulatum</i> x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Brick red buds open to light peach flowers (white-flushed 52B), yellow orange (16A) blotch— Registered
'Marilyn Jeanne' (AGR-6)	UU-1 x 'Red Chameleon'	White heavily flushed with deep red (53A), strong yellow (21A) blotch
'Moon Dreams' (AAV-7)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Large fragrant white flower, deep yellow (23A) blotch
'Misty Dawn' (AJY-1)	TL-1 x AAV-8	White flowers with pink flush (white-flushed 55A) on bud tips and petal edges, yellow (21A) blotch, early
'Neon' (ADR-1)	TW-1 x TJ-1	1-3/4' fragrant deep yellow (23A) flower, lightly flushed red- orange (34A), stronger yellow (23A) blotch
'Old Rose' (AGY-5)	XI-1 x 'Gann's Legacy'	2' flowers of damask rose (white-flushed 47A), golden blotch
'Orange Cloud' (NS-2)	AL-24 x ('Gibraltar' x <i>R. austrinum</i>)	2-1/2' fragrant flowers of pure orange (30D), deep yellow blotch
'Orange Rhyme' (WA-1)	'Gibraltar' x MV-1	Bright orange (25A) flushed bright red (47A), deep yellow blotch
'Pale Moon' (AAV-12)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Large very fragrant white flower, deep yellow blotch (23A)
'Pathfinder' (AL-4)	'Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Orange buds open to golden flowers (23A flushed 39A), deep golden blotch— Registered
'Peach Glow' (ADS-5)	'Goldstrike' x 'Centerpiece'	Red orange buds open to 2' fragrant light yellow (12B) flowers with a red orange (34A) flush on the petal tips.
'Pink Carousel' (RA-1)	<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'Red Letter'	Scarlet buds (34A) open to pale pink flowers (24B flushed 34A), strong golden (23A) blotch— Registered
'Pink Promise' (XT-2)	('Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>) x 'Hotspur'	Very large fragrant peach pink (43C) flowers, deep yellow blotch
'Pirate's Booty' (ACB-3)	'Frontier Red' x ('Cecile' x 'Balls of Fire')	Very large deep yellow (21B) flower heavily flushed deep red (46A), deep yellow blotch, no fragrance
'Pirate's Pink' (ACB-2)	'Frontier Red' x ('Cecile' x 'Balls of Fire')	Very large lightly fragrant cream flower (13D) heavily flushed bright red (47A), bright yellow blotch
'Princess in Pink' (AHU-4)	UY-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	2' fragrant white flower flushed deep pink (53D) on petal edges and tubes, deep yellow blotch, buds deep pink
'Queen's Ivory' (AKD-1)	AAP-1 x 'Mt. Ranier'	Ivory flowers (11B), deep yellow (23A) blotch
'Queen's Lace' (AHU-6)	UY-2 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Very fragrant white flowers with a pink flush on the petal tips, bright yellow (21A) blotch
'Queen's Rose' (AIE-1)	WF-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Rose flowers (19B flushed 53A), deep yellow blotch, deep red buds and tubes
'Radiant Red' (AHB-6)	ON-3 x 'Red King'	Dark red buds open to many fragrant bright yellow (20A) flowers heavily flushed dark red (46A), deep yellow blotch
'Red Chameleon' (YO-1)	'Crimson Tide' x NR-1	Scarlet buds open to red flowers (47A) that fade to damask rose, strong orange blotch (24A)
'Red Pepper' (QH-1)	'Gallipoli' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Red-orange (32A) flowers, deeper blotch— Registered
'Red Whisk' (XG-1)	<i>R. arborescens</i> x <i>R. cumberlandense</i>	Light lemon yellow (21D) 1-1/2' flowers with scarlet (42A) pistils and stamens, golden yellow (17B) blotch
'Rose Soufflé' (AGI-5)	YI-2 x YP-2	June-blooming rose (43C) flowers, golden blotch
'Smith Pink' (XT-3)	('Rothschild Orange' x <i>R. austrinum</i>) x 'Hotspur'	Large lightly fragrant salmon (47D) flowers, deep yellow blotch.
'Southern Sunset' (AJC-1)	WM-1 x 'Red Chameleon'	Bright yellow (19C) flowers with a red flush (34A) on the petal edges, deep yellow blotch

Cultivar	Parentage	Description
'Spanish Main' (HN-2)	'Tintoretto' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	Deep red buds open to red orange flowers (24B) with a red flush (34A) on the petal edges, deep yellow (23A) blotch
'Spring Dreams' (AAV-11)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Large fragrant white flower flushed deep pink (55C) on petal tips, strong yellow blotch
'Spring Enchantment' (YA-1)	<i>R. flammeum</i> x white Exbury	Deep salmon flowers (19B flushed 47C), golden blotch
'Spring Fandango' (AIJ-6)	XS-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Strong yellow (21C) flowers heavily flushed deep rose (53A), deep yellow blotch
'Spring Fanfare' (ADX-1)	'Sunbeam' x HM-1	Bright yellow (15C) petals with a red (34B) flush on the petal tips, deep yellow blotch
'Spring Frolic' (AIR-1)	'Decidedly Pink' x 'Lemonade'	2' very fragrant bright yellow (21B) flower lightly flushed red orange (34A) on petal tips and buds, deep yellow blotch
'Spring Pixie' (AJZ-10)	(<i>R. flammeum</i> x <i>R. canescens</i>) x 'Decidedly Pink'	Medium-sized pink (white heavily flushed 53A) flowers, deep yellow blotch, dark red buds
'Spring Sensation' (WM-1)	W-4 x <i>R. canescens</i>	Early-blooming, pastel pink (62D) flowers cover the plant, very faint pale yellow (8D) blotch
'Spring Snowfall' (AIA-2)	'George Reynolds' x YR-1	Very fragrant large white flowers, light yellow (13C) flush on the petal midribs and buds, bright yellow (17A) blotch
'Spring Song' (AAV-14)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Large fragrant cream flower (1D) lightly flushed cardinal red (53D) on petal tips, tubes and bud tips, deep yellow blotch (23A)
'Strawberry Sherbet' (AHX-1)	QT-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Large white lightly fragrant flowers with deep pink (55A) flush on petal tips and buds, bright yellow (21A) blotch
'Strawberry Sundae' (AJJ-6)	WM-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	White petals with a deep pink (66C) flush, pale yellow (8A) blotch
'Summer Snowball' (AGH-3)	WW-1 x 'June Jubilee'	Medium-sized fragrant white flowers, pale yellow (6A) blotch, flowers mass into ball-shaped trusses
'Summer Snowflakes' (AGH-5)	WW-1 x 'June Jubilee'	1-3/4' very fragrant white flower flushed light yellow (12C) on mid-petal and buds, light yellow (12A) blotch
'Sundown' (YJ-2)	KW-1 x NR-1	Large fragrant light yellow (15C) flowers lightly flushed cardinal red (53B), deep yellow blotch, buds, tubes and stamens are cardinal red
'Tabasco' (XT-4)	AL-Q x 'Hotspur'	Bright red flowers (23B flushed 53A), deep yellow blotch, dark red tubes
'Temple's Toy' (AEG-1)	'Knighthood' x 'Forty-niner'	Deep red buds open to orange flowers (16B) with a deep red (53A) flush on the petal edges, strong yellow blotch
'Tensaw' (HD-2)	<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'Oxydol'	2' bright yellow (13B) flowers, deep yellow (23A) blotch
'Topsy Tangerine' (XA-1)	GN-1 x unknown	Scarlet buds open to flowers with several tones of orange on each petal (21A flushed 34A), deep yellow blotch
'Touch of Pink' (AAV-5)	OF-1 x 'Centerpiece'	Large fragrant white flower with petal tips and tubes flushed deep pink (55A), deep yellow blotch
'Tradewinds' (AHC-16)	<i>R. austrinum</i> x 'George Reynolds'	Very fragrant large light yellow (15A) flowers lightly flushed orange (34A) on petal edges, bud tips, and tubes, deep yellow blotch
'Twilight Pink' (AIQ-3)	UQ-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	Pink flowers (white flushed 53B) with deep red buds, golden blotch
'Twinkles' (AJJ-1)	WM-1 x 'Decidedly Pink'	White petals with a red flush (white flushed 53D) on the petal edges, yellow blotch, red tubes
'White Star' (AAH-2)	LB-3 x MX-1	Large white star-shaped flower (10D) with a vert light pink (55B) flush on the petal tips, yellow (23A) blotch

The Seed is Growing — the Azalea Research Foundation

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

Just before he moved from Hendersonville, North Carolina, in late 2001, Augie Kehr talked to Bob Stelloh about Augie's interest in starting a research foundation for the Azalea Society. He felt it should be similar in concept to the ones he had started for the American Rhododendron Society and the Magnolia Society. Augie and Bob worked together, briefly, on adapting their programs to better meet the needs of the Azalea Society. Bob presented and distributed the draft foundation proposal at our 2002 Board of Directors meeting to plant the seed.

The concept of the Foundation was endorsed by our Board of Directors at the 2003 Chattanooga convention. With their support, we want to begin, slowly, building a simple organization that will meet the Azalea Society's needs in the coming years of the 21st Century.

The mission of the Azalea Research Foundation is to raise and manage financial resources for the Azalea Society of America in order to fund scientific research for improving the conservation, cultivation, breeding, systematics, and enjoyment of the Subgenera *Pentanthera* and *Tsutsusi*. In other words, we want to fund research projects that will improve the beauty and utility of azaleas. Research topics will be far ranging—all the way from genetic research to azalea use in the garden.

Those are all good words. Since this is an all-volunteer organization, we now need a few members to support the Research Foundation idea with their talent, and bring the concept to life.

The first need is for an attorney to review the draft Foundation documents for legal completeness and correctness. That should be an easy, finite task, as the documents are quite similar to those being used successfully by the American Rhododendron Society and by The Magnolia Society. Just ask Bob Stelloh for a review copy (1.800.446.0428, bstelloh@mac.com).

The Azalea Research Foundation will be established as two groups working hand in hand, with our President as a member of each. One group attracts and invests money conservatively to fund the research. The other group attracts and evaluates research proposals, and oversees the selected research projects. Thus, the talents we need are in those two categories: finances and marketing, and azalea knowledge and project oversight.

The financial group needs six members to take on the challenge of attracting donations, and to oversee their investment. They serve for three years, and choose their own chairperson each year. To ensure ongoing funding, only the earned interest is spent on research. Thus, we must attract a substantial amount of money. Ways to do that include soliciting grants from charitable trusts and the horticultural industry, as well as soliciting donations and memorial gifts from our members and our chapters. Please contact Buddy Lee (985.878.3567, robert03asa@yahoo.com) or Bob Stelloh now to let us know your interest in serving on this group, either in soliciting money or investing it. Skills in marketing, grant writing, and financial management would be most welcome.

The research group also needs six members, preferably with a project management or scientific background. Again, they will serve for three years and choose their own chairperson annually. Their first task is to decide upon general areas where there is a need for azalea research. They then ask for proposals in those areas, annually, and evaluate the proposals they receive to decide which of them should be funded. Finally, they work with the recipients to help ensure the research projects are completed and documented as agreed. Again, please contact Buddy Lee or Bob Stelloh now to serve on this group.

The experience of the American Rhododendron Society and the Magnolia Society has been their research foundations started slowly, and then picked up momentum. Today they are able to fund significant research into important horticultural problems. We are already in that "started slowly" phase, with \$1600 received this year, before we even have the Foundation in place. Aply, part of that money was \$250 in memory of Augie Kehr. Each of the gifts to our Research Foundation has set a very nice precedent:

- \$1000 from Joe Schild as part of the profits of the 2003 convention in Chattanooga
- \$500 from Ian Donovan as a memorial to Augie Kehr and Dick Brooks
- \$100 from the New York Chapter-ARS in lieu of a speaker's honorarium to Bill Steele.

Our Azalea Research Foundation is truly the chance of our lifetimes to do something significant for azaleas. To make it work, we need you to serve.

(continued on page 44)

New Members

The following 24 members joined the Society as of July 1, 2003.

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A Seed is Growing — continued

Bob Stelloh, our treasurer, is an avid azalea enthusiast and former software engineer. He is currently very involved with the azaleas e-mail list and the ASA Web site, and with finding and documenting native stands of R. vaseyi.

Ian Donovan, after serving 26 years in the Navy, now has found more time to indulge his interest in azaleas and rhododendrons. His breeding efforts with deciduous azaleas used our native species for fragrance and mildew resistance, in combination with the larger flower size and bright colors found in the Exbury type hybrids. He has been president of the ARS Massachusetts Chapter, holds an ARS Bronze Medal, and is editor of the chapter's twice-a-year-journal, "The Rosebay."

In Memory Jean Minch

We were saddened to learn that Jean Minch died February 6, 2003. She was the wife of Fred Minch, a long time supporter of the ASA and a director for many years. They were almost always at our conventions, and were planning to be at Chattanooga this year despite the conflict with the ARS convention. They were commonly the ones who traveled the longest distance to get to our conventions, from Puyallup, Washington.