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# *The Azalean*

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



# President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan



Here it is just a few days away from Groundhog Day and our temperature is 45 degrees F. Just two days ago we had a 12-inch snowstorm and 25 degrees. What a difference in just a few days.

Our Michigan winter has been extremely mild, only a few nights in the single digits, and we are way below our normal snowfall. By now, Lake Michigan is usually frozen out from shore at least one mile, but today the beach looks as if it is summer.

Most everyone that I have spoken to claims that their plants look excellent, bud set is the best it has been in years, and no reports of snow load damage. Wow, come on spring. **Buddy Lee** of Louisiana commented just last week that he has some azaleas showing color. **Bill Pinkerton** of Tennessee claims that he has daffodils eight inches tall, and **Dr. Frank Emert** of Vincennes, Indiana, has camellias in bloom.

Our Vaseyi Chapter is busy preparing for the upcoming convention. This is a joint convention with the American Rhododendron Society so it will be heavily attended. Reports show that there are only 50 rooms available. The committee has garden visits scheduled before and after the convention, so plan on arriving early or staying a day or two afterward.

It is sad to report that one of our founding chapters, Brookside Gardens, that was formed in 1979, has disbanded. After considerable discussion by the group, a way forward could not be found, and acting chapter president **Bill Miller** announced to the ASA Board of Directors that the chapter was disbanding. ASA Treasurer **Dan Krabill** reports that chapter members have already begun to affiliate with other nearby chapters.

On the sunny side, I'm extremely excited to report that the long lost Alabamense Chapter has re-surfaced. Although inactive since 2005, this chapter has remained on record with the Society. During the past few months, **J. Jackson** and **Jim Thornton** have worked with **Larry Quick** and **Patrick Thompson** of Auburn University to reform the group. A meeting has taken place and a new slate of officers will be elected in March.

I'm proud to announce that **Preston Cooley**, along with wife **Bonnie**, will be taking over for **Pam Fitch** this coming spring as editors of *The Azalean*. They will be working together on the Winter issue during this transition period. I wish the best for the Cooleys as editors and thank Pam for a job well done.

For now, spring is just around the corner. I hope to see you all in Asheville, and do have a short winter.

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 which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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## On the Cover

A Wyatt LeFever deciduous azalea fronting Rhododendron 'Catawbiense Boursault' in Will Ferrell's garden near Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Wyatt thinks the parents were 'My Mary' and 'Cecile'. It is fragrant, floriferous, and vigorous in both Wyatt's and Will's Piedmont gardens. It was propagated via dormant cutting. Please see related article on page 90.

# Evergreen Azaleas: Sorting Out the Confusion

Don Hyatt—McLean, Virginia

Azaleas are very popular florist and landscape plants, but most people are unaware they are actually rhododendrons. For the record, taxonomists have placed the evergreen azalea in the genus *Rhododendron*, in a subgenus called *Tsutsusi*, and beneath that in a section also named *Tsutsusi*. [2] I am not sure how often that comes up in daily conversation, but officially that is where evergreen azaleas reside within the plant kingdom hierarchy.

The United States is certainly blessed with many native azaleas, seventeen species at last count, but they are all deciduous plants. Not a single one is evergreen. All of the evergreen azaleas come from regions of western Asia including Japan, China, Korea, Burma, and Thailand. The evergreen azaleas are often referred to as Japanese azaleas, but that is not an accurate characterization. The geographic center for this section is probably in China, and only 14 of approximately 60 species are Japanese. [2][5] However, the reality is that evergreen azalea hybridizing and selection has been going on in Japan for centuries and most of the plants we grow have come from there. For instance, the familiar soft pink Kurume 'Pink Pearl', more properly known by its Japanese name, 'Azuma-kagami', is a hybrid estimated to be at least 300 years old. [4] Even though many thousands of evergreen azaleas have been introduced over the past three centuries, 'Pink Pearl' still ranks high on the list of garden favorites.

The late Dr. August E. Kehr, or "Augie" as most of us knew him, lamented that evergreen azaleas were not well known in most horticultural circles. He maintained that evergreen azaleas were not appreciated nor have they been well classified, and that has led to confusion about these wonderful plants. [5] Even though they are probably the most commercially successful members of the genus *Rhododendron*, it is amazing to think their true potential



Photo: Donald Hyatt

▲ 'Azuma-kagami' (syn. 'Pink Pearl')

has barely been touched. In that 1989 article, Kehr estimated that 90 percent of the available azaleas were developed from just four of the 60 known evergreen species: *R. simsii*, *R. indicum*, *R. kiusianum*, and *R. kaempferi*. Hybridizers have been actively using other species like *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense*, *R. nakaharae*, *R. stenopetalum*, and *R. oldhamii* in recent years, but we have no idea what contributions those other species might make. Most of them are not even in cultivation.

Over the years, there has been confusion about many evergreen azaleas and their species of origin. That started way back in the early 1800's with the first Belgian Indian hybrids, the florist azaleas. They were originally known as Belgian Indicas because they were thought to be descendants of the Japanese species, *R. indicum*. Describing them as "Indicas" is inappropriate, since they are actually descendants of the tender Chinese species, *R. simsii*. That confusion lasted for more than a century.

Some descendants of those early Belgian Indian azaleas became the Southern Indian hybrids, and those have also been inappropriately described as Indicas.

For years, many early evergreen azaleas were incorrectly identified as species, including plants like 'Indicum Roseum.' That plant is certainly not a form of *R. indicum* either, but is more likely a selection of *R. mucronatum* or perhaps a hybrid. *R. mucronatum* 'Sekidera', a popular azalea with large frilled white flowers that have a red blotch, has been sold under multiple names including 'Magnificum' and 'Damask Rose.' Often listed as a species, the plant is unknown in the wild and is probably a hybrid. There is even a double flowered form of *R. mucronata* imported from China in 1850 by plant explorer Robert Fortune as *Azalea narcissiflora*. It is not a Chinese species; the plant had been grown in Japan for hundreds of years under the name, 'Shiryo-manyo'. The name



▲ Double Mucronatum 'Narcissiflorum'

▼ *R. yedoense* var. *yedoense*



'Narcissiflorum' is still used, though, since a tuft of petaloid stamens in the flower center gives the appearance of a white narcissus blossom. To add to the confusion, there is an old Ghent deciduous azalea with double yellow flowers that also goes by the name 'Narcissiflorum'.

Name changes are always confusing. The hardy lavender Korean spe-

cies we knew by the name *R. poukhanense* is no longer called by that name. Because of the unfortunate application of certain naming conventions, taxonomists recently stripped *poukhanense* of its primary species status and gave that distinction to *yedoense*, a sterile, double flowered form of the plant that is unknown in the wild. The double form is known as *R. yedoense*

var. *yedoense* and the typical form of the species found in the wild is now called *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense*. I would have preferred that they kept *R. poukhanense* as the primary species name, and then they could refer to that double cultivar as *R. poukhanense* var. *yedoense* but I don't make the rules. I haven't been able to make myself write those long names on plant tags either.

Many azaleas like the deep purple 'Amoenum' were classified as forms of a species called *R. obtusum* but that species designation is no longer valid. The members of Obtusum group are now considered hybrids of two other Japanese species, *R. kiusianum* and *R. kaempferi*. [4][5] In the Kirishima Mountains on Kyushu, Japan, the natural ranges for those species are in close proximity, and researchers have documented hybridization and introgression between the two. [6][7]

Even with many popular hybrids there has been name confusion. There were two early Kurume collections imported from Japan; namely the famed "Wilson 50" sent to the Arnold Arboretum by E. H. Wilson in 1917 and a comparable number of hybrids originally introduced by the Domoto Brothers after the 1915 Panama Pacific Exhibition. Many were the same plants but were sold under different names. According to the literature, the familiar hose-in-hose 'Coral Bells' is synonymous with 'Kirin', a plant introduced by both Wilson (#22) and the Domoto Brothers. 'Kirin' is supposed to be the same as 'Daybreak', but I have seen a single deep pink Kurume marketed under that name. I'm confused!

In 1929, R. Kent Beattie at the U.S. Department of Agriculture introduced another 127 Japanese azaleas including 60 Kurumes. Only 11 of Beattie's Kurumes were considered duplicates of the Wilson or Domoto azaleas. [4][8] The Beattie Kurumes have generally been overlooked, but there has been some confusion about their names, too. For instance, Wilson #11 ('Takasago') was the same plant introduced by the Domoto Brothers and sold in the United States as 'Cherryblossom'. However, a Beattie introduction (PI #77086) was also given the name 'Cherryblossom', but it was the Japanese variety 'Ogikasané' and not the same plant. It is a

Photo Donald Hyatt

Photo Donald Hyatt

hose-in-hose similar to Wilson #11, but the flowers are pale lavender pink with a yellowish blotch rather than a pale yellowish pink with red spotting in the throat. 'Ogi-kasane' is a favorite in my garden, but rarely seen in the trade.

The popular lavender spider azalea we know as 'Koromo-shikibu' was among the azaleas that Beattie collected in Japan, but there is even a controversy about that plant. Beattie described the original 'Koromo Shikibu' (PI #77142) as a Kurume that had a "white corolla tipped with purple." [4][8] That is certainly not what we grow under 'Koromo-Shikibu' today; it sounds more like Wilson #17, 'Osaraku', which is also known as 'Penelope'. Most people consider the familiar 'Koromo-shikibu' to be a selection of *R. stenopetalum* (*macrosepalum*). Surely Beattie knew the difference and wouldn't have called it a Kurume. He would have certainly mentioned the unique strap-petal flowers in his description. Undoubtedly, somewhere along the way, a few Beattie introductions got mixed up and we may never know what really happened.

Even though so many names have been confused, the evergreen azaleas have never lost popularity with gardeners. The small flowered Kurumes were relatively hardy landscape plants, but people desired azaleas with larger blossoms like the Belgian Indian and Southern Indian hybrids that would succeed in colder climates. A number of hybridizers were trying to develop hardier forms, but the sheer number of hybrids introduced has been overwhelming to many. We cannot possibly grow them all, so which ones are the best?

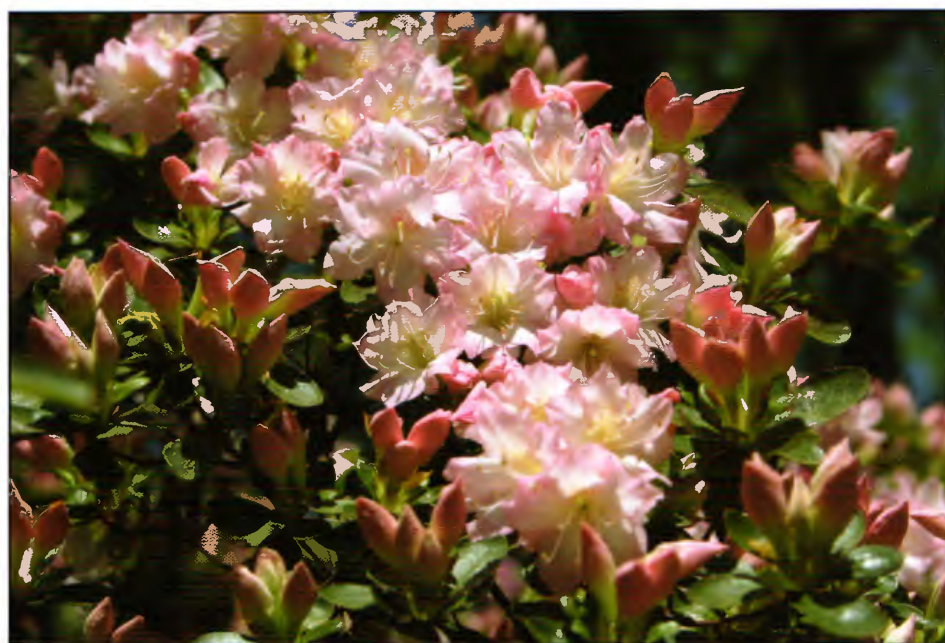
In 1929, Benjamin Yoe Morrison began his monumental hybridizing program while at the U.S. Plant Exploration and Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, Maryland. Morrison raised an amazing 75,000 evergreen azalea seedlings and eventually selected 454 Glenn Dale hybrids. [8] As the first Director of the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., he began planting his best seedlings there on a 30-acre hillside called Mount Hamilton. Starting in 1947, he set out an estimated 15,000 plants representing approximately 1,200 selections including all of the named Glenn Dales. [1]

Of course, when the Glenn Dales



▲ Domoto's 'Cherryblossom' - 'Takasago'

▼ Beattie's 'Cherryblossom' - 'Ogi-kasane'



were introduced, most retail nurseries were confused with so many choices, many of which looked very similar. Typically they only carried a few of the hybrids so the rest have been preserved and promoted by collectors like those of us in the ASA.

At one time, I had a personal goal of being able to tell the pink Glenn Dale azaleas apart but I haven't achieved that yet. It is not easy to tell the dif-

ference between the pinks that came from a cross of 'Mucronatum' and *R. simsii*. Those hybrids include 'Allure', 'Chloe', 'Circe', 'Concordia', 'Dawning', 'Desire', 'Dream', 'Echo', 'Modesty', 'Roselight', 'Serenity', 'Temptation', and 'Vision'. I must admit I cannot tell them all apart yet. Some of you saw 'Dream' in my garden during the 2009 ASA Convention, a robust plant measuring 8 ft tall by 24 ft wide.



Photo Donald Hyatt

▲ 'Koromo-Shikibu' – Not a Kurume  
▼ 'Dream' in the Author's Garden



Photo Donald Hyatt

I don't have room to grow the rest of those pinks in my garden for comparison. If I ever get to the point where I can sort out the pink Glenn Dales, my next goal will be to work on the whites with colored stripes.

The reality is that some of the unnamed Glenn Dale seedlings on Mount Hamilton that are better than some of named forms, now that the plants have had nearly 60 years to show their true

worth. Although unlikely to ever be introduced, the wealth of germplasm on that hillside is of great value to hybridizers and the sheer floral effect of those plants each spring remains a national treasure and a highlight for visitors who come to our Nation's Capital.

The popular clone 'Ben Morrison' is often considered a Glenn Dale azalea. However, Morrison did not name that plant for himself, and its origin is

really unknown. Dr. John L. Creech, one of the later Directors of the Arboretum, saw that azalea and named it for Morrison. Many have speculated about the parentage of 'Ben Morrison'. [10] Some feel it could be a sister of 'Surprise', or perhaps an unnamed Glenn Dale seedling. Others believe it is a sport of another Glenn Dale, possibly 'Luna'. Of course, there is some debate about which plant is the real 'Luna', too.

In 1926, Pennsylvania nurseryman Joe Gable also started hybridizing evergreen azaleas with the goal of improved hardiness. He crossed available cultivars with hardy species like *R. poukhanense* and *R. kaempferi* to create many hardy hybrids. Gable didn't introduce quite so many azaleas, so there has been less confusion about those cultivars. Among my favorites is 'Rose Greely', a hose-in-hose creamy white. Many Gable hybrids have proven valuable in hybridizing, such as the double coral 'Louise Gable' and the double pink Gable's 'Rosebud'.

The late-blooming Satsuki azaleas were derived primarily from *R. indicum* [4]. B.Y. Morrison brought the first major collections of Satsuki azaleas to the U.S. from Japan, including 53 hybrids in 1938 and 1939. Additional Satsuki were introduced in subsequent years, including 387 clones released in 1978 and 1979 by Brookside Gardens in Maryland. Some did not prove to be winter hardy in our area, but others are wonderful. The reality is that most gardeners do not have room for another 400 Satsuki cultivars in their gardens. The question is, where do we find permanent repositories for such genetic diversity?

John Creech shared Morrison's admiration for evergreen azaleas, and from 1955 to 1980 made at least five collecting trips to Japan. In 1983, the U.S. National Arboretum released 33 of Creech's new Kurumes, but these are only now getting into the trade. The Creech introductions are exquisite. 'Fukihiko' and 'Tokoharu' have striped flowers, and 'Itten' is white with lavender border. There has also been some name confusion about these plants. For instance, the new Kurume 'Wakaebisu' has delicate single white

flowers brushed with red. However, there was already a widely grown Satsuki by the same name, and its flowers are entirely different. They are larger, hose-in-hose, and salmon in color.

Although considerable hybridizing in the United States has been conducted at government facilities and commercial nurseries, amateur hobbyists have made significant contributions. Among the most successful was Robert Gartrell, a chemist by profession. He started hybridizing evergreen azaleas in the early 1940's and continued for nearly 30 years. One of his goals was to produce hardier Satsuki-type azaleas that could survive in northern New Jersey. He made nearly 1,500 crosses and raised approximately 25,000 azaleas, finally registering 69 Robin Hill hybrids. [11] Perhaps because the number of registered hybrids was not excessive and the quality of the selections was so high, the Robin Hill Hybrids as a group have experienced success worldwide.

So how can we resolve this confusion? First, we really need to establish permanent repositories for the genetic material that already exists. Many plants have been preserved in private collections in Japan, but we need public places where these plants can be grown and studied by scientists and amateurs alike. We are very fortunate in the Washington, D.C., area to have the United States National Arboretum with its wealth of evergreen azalea hybrids and species, but there is not room for all of them to be grown there. We need additional centers that can house extensive collections of evergreen azaleas.

Second, we need to seek sources for the many evergreen azalea species listed in the literature that are not in cultivation. How many of those sixty evergreen azalea species have you seen and how many do you grow? There are many azalea species I have never seen with long names that I don't know how to pronounce, and yet I wonder what they look like. Have any of you seen *rhyuenense*, *huiyangense*, or *sikayoa-taizanense*, just to name a few? [2]

Third, although azalea hybridizers do show more restraint than breeders in some other plant societies, we need to be more discriminating before deciding to name plants from a cross. A single



Photo Donald Hyatt

▲ Unnamed Cream Glenn Dale on Mt. Hamilton

▼ Creech's New Kurume: 'Wakaebisu'



Photo Donald Hyatt

azalea seedpod can contain hundreds of seeds and every one should be genetically different from all the others. We need to be sure that any new hybrids are superior to existing cultivars before introducing them.

Fourth, it is important that people register cultivars with the International Registrar in order to avoid duplication of names. That way, we wouldn't have quite so many varieties that are obviously different but distributed with the same name. For instance, the evergreen azalea 'Pink Pearl' mentioned at

the start of this piece is certainly different from the large leaf 'Pink Pearl' rhododendron so common on the West Coast with its basketball-sized trusses of pale rose pink. In fact, there are several other evergreen azaleas called 'Pink Pearl' including the *R. indicum* selection by Wada with its large, light orange flowers, a double deep pink from New Zealand, and the sport of the Belgian Indian 'Vervaenaenum'. Which 'Pink Pearl' do you grow?

Finally, I am not a taxonomist but as a former teacher it bothers me that



# New Members

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familiar species names that may have been used in the literature for 50 to 100 years or more can be suddenly invalidated for something as trivial as an error with a type specimen in a herbarium sample. Perhaps scientists might consider a statute of limitations or at least a judgment call as to whether a proposed name change due to some technicality will actually improve clarity and understanding before proceeding. Hey, I wouldn't object if taxonomists wanted to go back to *R. poukhanense* as the primary species name for that big purple azalea in my garden, but that is just my personal opinion.

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**Don Hyatt** has been an avid hybridizer of azaleas and rhododendrons for more than 30 years, with a particular interest in deciduous azaleas, and has been teaching mathematics and computer science for more than 35 years.

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# Azalea City News

## Nacogdoches Azalea Trail begins March 10

The 14th annual Nacogdoches Azalea Trail ushers in springtime in East Texas March 10 through April 7 with a mixed bouquet of new events and mainstay favorites.

The centerpiece of the Azalea Trail is the 25 miles of self-guided driving routes that meander through the city and include the stunning Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden—the largest in the state of Texas.

Each trail begins at the Visitor Center, located at 200 E. Main St. in historic downtown Nacogdoches. Color-coded signs mark the routes, and maps are available at the Visitor Center. Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas, is located about 150 miles north of Houston via U.S. Hwy. 59.

“The excitement surrounding our Azalea Trail is really building as we make final plans for the special events and our residents prepare their gardens for the azaleas big annual debut,” said Lindsey Mathews, meeting and event coordinator of the Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Azalea Trail officially kicks off with the annual Azalea Trail Symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 10 at the Stephen F. Austin Agriculture Building. The symposium focuses on ensuring the health of your home azalea gardens by presenting ways to use lost-cost efficient watering systems. The symposium is sponsored by the Texas chapter of the ASA.

The horticultural and artistic talents of local gardening enthusiasts will be on display at a floral design exhibit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at The Cole Art Center at The Old Opera House, 329 E. Main St. Unique floral arrangements featuring azaleas and other native plants will be included in the exhibit.

Entries in the sixth annual Azalea Trail Photography Show will be on display from 12:30 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, March 24 through April 4, at The Cole Art Center at The Old Opera House, 329 E. Main Street. The contest is sponsored by *The Daily Sentinel* and judged and exhibited by the Nacogdoches Photography Club. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top 3 entries.

The Little Princess Garden Party in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden returns on Saturday, March 31. Introduce your favorite little princess (or prince) to the beauty and joy of the garden at its most splendid time of year. Dress her up in her favorite princess or garden party outfit to enjoy refreshments, party favors, entertainment and crafts. Tickets are \$20 and seating is limited.

The Nacogdoches Main Street Sidewalk Sale will take place Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Downtown stores will be offering a variety of unique finds, great deals, and specialty items all right at your fingertips.

Hundreds of “bugs” will invade Nacogdoches on Saturday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the annual “A Blooming Good Volkswagen Show” in downtown Festival Plaza. Admission is free.

Sprint into spring on Saturday, April 14 with the all-new Running of the Blooms 10K. Walk, jog, or run along a trail framed by beautifully-manicured lawns, nationally-recognized gardens and historic landmarks. The run begins at 7:15 a.m. in downtown Nacogdoches. Be sure to register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

For more information about Azalea Trail events or to schedule a group tour, call 888-OLDEST-TOWN or visit [www.nacogdochesazaleas.com](http://www.nacogdochesazaleas.com).

## Palatka Gears Up for Azalea Festival

Dating back to the 1930s, the Florida Azalea Festival in Palatka, Florida, is one of the state’s oldest festivals. The festival, coinciding with the blooming of the azaleas, takes place every year on the first weekend of March.

Most of the festivities take place in Downtown Palatka, but a large concentration of azaleas in the Ravine Gardens State Park also draw a crowd. Historic Lemon Street houses vendors, arts and crafts booths, as well as entertainment venues. Other activities include a beauty pageant, golf tournament, and parade. The event is conducted by the Palatka Main Street program.

## Tyler Azalea Trail celebrating 53 years

The 53rd Annual Tyler Texas Azalea Trail starts March 23 and runs until April 8. The trails feature beautiful yards groomed to perfection as well as plenty of scheduled events.



The U.S. Post Office will not forward *The Azalean* nor deliver it to a bad mailing address. Please notify the Society of any errors or changes in your mailing address.

E-mail [vze1onzd@verizon.net](mailto:vze1onzd@verizon.net) or  
mail address changes to:

Carol Flowers, ASA Secretary  
700 New Hampshire NW, Apt. 1011  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Two trails, the Dobbs and Lindsey trails, both start at the intersections of South Broadway and Houston Streets just south of the Smith County Courthouse. These trails soon split and meander through beautiful old residential neighborhoods south of downtown. The trails are easy to find because there are signs for them on Broadway Avenue.

Azaleas were introduced to Tyler in 1929 by Maurice Shamburger, one of the city's early nurserymen. Pleased with results of a test garden of azaleas, Shamburger shipped the colorful plants here by the boxcar loads from Georgia.

After completing his garden in 1929, Shamburger discussed the beautification potential of azaleas with Mrs. Sara Butler of the *Tyler Courier Times Telegraph*. Mrs. Butler not only encouraged Shamburger to promote azalea plantings in the city, but planted a number of bushes at her own home on Charnwood St.

That home site, along with several other gardens on Lindsey Lane, soon became springtime showplaces with their colorful azalea blooms, and Tylerites began buying the plants by the thousands. Some of the thick, towering azaleas at older homes on the Trail date back to the 1930s and 1940s.

By 1960, the blooming azaleas were attracting much attention, and that year the Chamber of Commerce established a marked route. The first trail featured about 60 homes on a five-mile route.

The trail was an instant success. Within two years it had expanded to 75 homes and was attracting 15,000 visitors. By 1964, 25,000 people a year were coming to see the azaleas. In 1986, it expanded to two miles and as of 2004; the Azalea Trail stretches eight miles and attracts more than 100,000 visitors to Tyler.

The homeowners make the trail the success it is. They regularly increase their azalea plantings and spend countless hours making sure their yards are spotless for the annual visitors.

The trail has been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *Southern Living* and *Texas Highways*, drawing visitors from all over America.

For more information about the Tyler Azalea Trail call 800-235-5712 or visit [www.tylerazaleatrail.com](http://www.tylerazaleatrail.com).

## Valdosta Set to Celebrate Azaleas

The 2012 Valdosta-Lowndes Azalea Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11 in Valdosta, Georgia.

Attendees from all over the Southeast will enjoy one of our area's beautiful parks filled with more than 140 vendors, three stages of entertainment, a huge food court, a 5K race, a 1 mile fun walk/run, and a KidZone with a water-ball ride, frisbee chasing k-9's, inflatable attractions, a children's train ride, pony rides, a rock wall, a live tiger presented by Tiger Stripes Animal Sanctuary, carriage rides, and Humane Society pet contest.

Other areas of the park will feature a classic car and bike show (motorcycles on Sat., cars on Sun.), a mechanical bull ride, racing pigs, a plant sale by Wiregrass Technical College, roaming clowns and jugglers, a euro-bungee ride, and a whole lot more. This event has become a regional Festival attracting vendors and attendees from all over the Southeastern United States. We're delighted that we can offer this and so much more with no admission charge.

For decades, Valdosta, Georgia, has been known as "The Azalea City" because of its luxuriant plantings of azaleas that provide mounds of beautiful blooms in the spring. In March of 2000, resident Joanne Griner met with three employees of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority who believed like her that the often-heard "We should have an azalea festival" was an idea whose time had come.

Griner, Hilda Seymore, Beverly Pitzing and Andrea Cole began to recruit other "do-ers" in the community with event-production experience: Randall McClellan, Lena Bosch, Martha Gibson, Patsy Giles, Suzannah Patterson and Cheryl Marshall. Others came on board to form a grass-roots committee to apply for incorporation and tax-exempt status, enlist sponsors and develop events and activities to attract the public.

On March 17, 2001, the first-ever Valdosta-Lowndes Azalea Festival was born, attracting 10,000 people to beautiful Drexel Park. The park is named for a city employee who was instrumental in propagating azaleas and promoting their planting back in the 1940s and 1950s. Each following year has seen the addition of activities and expansion of festival hours. Azalea Festival 2005 saw nearly 35,000 folks enjoy circus acts, arts and crafts, music, food, KidZone, road races and more from Saturday through Sunday afternoon.

For more information about the festival, call 229-269-9381 or visit [www.azaleafestival.com](http://www.azaleafestival.com).

## Call for Articles

*The Azalean* needs more good articles about azaleas, their care, and their use in the landscape. Ideas for topics include:

- Articles describing new public gardens or special azalea collections being created in your area.
- Descriptions and photographs of Society members' gardens.
- Current research on azaleas.
- Information about azalea festivals and sales.
- Historic garden restoration stories.
- Articles about noteworthy azalea hybrid groups or new species or cultivar introductions.

Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi resolution. Submit materials to:

Preston & Bonnie Cooley, Editors  
PO Box 627  
Ladson, SC 29456  
E-mail: [theazalean@gmail.com](mailto:theazalean@gmail.com).

# Society News

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## New Editors Selected for *The Azalean*

The ASA Board of Directors have named **Preston** and **Bonnie Cooley** as the new editors of *The Azalean*. Preston is a native South Carolinian whose family has lived in the state for more than 200 years. He graduated from the College of Charleston with a degree in history. Indeed, history is his passion, not just people and places, but also landscape and garden history. This interest in people, places, and plants is combined in his role as historian at Magnolia Plantation, America's last intact, large-scale picturesque style garden.

Bonnie Cooley hails originally from Texas, but claimed several states as home. She graduated from Stephens College in Missouri with a degree in Equestrian Science and a minor in business. After moving to Charleston, South Carolina in 1998, she discovered an interest in history that blends itself into her professional pursuits. She also works at Magnolia Plantation.

Preston and Bonnie Cooley live in Summerville, South Carolina, with their sons, Jefferson and William. They have worked together on many projects and enterprises, including their own tour company in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. Preston and Bonnie are charter members of the Rev. John Drayton chapter of the ASA.

The Cooleys will assume the responsibilities for *The Azalean* beginning with the Spring 2012 issue. The journal's e-mail address remains the same: [theazalean@gmail.com](mailto:theazalean@gmail.com). The Cooley's mailing address is: P.O. Box 627, Ladson, SC 29456.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for the 2012-14 ASA Board. Please vote using the official ballot found on the wrapper of this issue. Ballots must be received by April 15, 2012.

### Candidate for Secretary

**Leslie Nanney** has been an ASA member for more than 30 years. She is a founding member of the Northern Virginia chapter and has served as its treasurer. She is also a past national director.

Leslie retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, allowing much more time to spend in the garden. She and her husband Dave live in Springfield, Virginia. They are growing more than 1,000 cultivars, concentrating on acquiring complete collections of many prominent hybridizers.

### Candidates for Director

**Miles Beach** is a founding member of the Rev. John Drayton Chapter ASA. He is a nationally recognized speaker on ancient camellias, and serves as director of research and propagation of the ancient azaleas as well as the director of the camellia collection at Magnolia on the Ashley in Charleston, South Carolina.

Beach is a Certified Master Gardener by Clemson University, past president of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society, and secretary of the American Camellia Society.

He is married to Brenda who "he loves even more than camellias!"

**Lindy Johnson** of Trade, Tennessee, has been a member of the Vaseyi Chapter since 2001. She has been growing native azaleas and other native plants from seed along with her husband J. at their small nursery for more than 20 years.

In the mid 1980s, they met and befriended a nurseryman from Ohio who introduced them to native azaleas and rhododendron. As a result, their lives have never been the same.

Presently, Lindy is one of the founding members of the board of directors of Appalachian Native Plants, Inc. a non-profit native plant nursery in Mountain City, Tennessee, and has been the propagator over the last three seasons.

She retired in 2002 after a 32 year career as a flight attendant.

**Larry Miller**, a resident of Evansville, Indiana, has been an ASA member since 2004 and is past president of the Tri-State Chapter. He has been a life-long azalea enthusiast and is a Purdue University Master Gardener. He has helped with several national conventions and has opened his residence and garden in the Evansville Historic Preservation District to numerous tours. In a nearby park, Larry coordinated the Fred Sievers Memorial Azalea Garden in memory of a garden writer and Tri-State Chapter member.

Larry is retired owner of Miller Block and Brick Company and also maintains a residence in Asheville, North Carolina.

## Upcoming Convention Locations Slated

The ASA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following locations for upcoming national conventions:

- 2013 Athens, Georgia
- 2014 Charleston, South Carolina
- 2015 Nacogdoches, Texas

The 2012 ASA national convention will take place May 4-7 in Asheville, North Carolina. It is a joint convention with the American Rhododendron Society. For more information, including a full schedule of events, visit the ASA Web site at [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org).

## ASA Seed Exchange

Thanks to the seed donors and the efforts of **Aaron Cook** and his horticulture students, the seed exchange is up and running. The direct address to the seed list Web page is <http://www.azaleas.org/azseedlist2012.html>.

“We have a good number of seed lots this year, even though the number of contributors is down,” said Cook. “We have many hand pollinated crosses and a very good selection of deciduous azalea seeds.”

The seed is available For \$2 per pack. Each pack contains 50 seeds. Excess seed will be sold at the annual ASA convention, May 4 to 6.

## Treasurer’s Report

Dan Krabill

*Note: Condensed from presentation at annual meeting on April 28, 2011.*

In 2010, the ASA took in \$29,733 and spent \$16,612, and thereby took in \$12,921 more than we spent, as shown on the attached Income Statement.

One unusual event that distorts the 2010 results somewhat is that we paid for the printing and editing of only three issues of *The Azalean* during the year. The winter 2010 issue was published and paid for in January 2011; if we had paid for it during 2010, our surplus for the year would have been approximately \$8,500.

Reasons for the improvement over 2009 include \$3,000 in gifts from the Northern Virginia Chapter from proceeds from the 2009 convention, another major gift of \$1,000, and smaller improvements in a number of other areas.

As a result of the excess of income over expenses in 2010, our net assets increased by \$12,921 during the year, to \$108,682 at the end of 2010. It is allocated among the operating fund, \$14,067; general endowment fund, \$63,407; research fund, \$24,956; and Harding Garden fund, \$6,252.

## ASA Supports Creation of Harding Garden

The ASA recently made a \$6,000 donation to fund the creation of the Harding Garden in Laytonsville, Maryland, in honor of George Harding.

A founding member of the ASA, Harding was a foremost azalea expert. More importantly, he was an outstanding person and plantsman, admired and respected by all who came to know him. He began propagating azaleas in 1924 and

► The ASA recently donated more than \$6,000 to support the creation of the Harding Garden in Laytonsville, Maryland. Dave Nanney presented the check on behalf of the ASA Board of Directors to Mike White, grandson of George Harding. White is spearheading the garden’s development and is expecting to break ground this Spring.



started a nursery in 1929. He retired as Chief, Horticulture & Maintenance of the National Capitol Parks Service in 1959, and continued to run his nursery in Germantown, Maryland, until he died in 1990.

Harding’s grandson, Mike White, is leading the effort to establish the garden. White owns and operates White’s Nursery.

## New Azalea Line Released

A brand new azalea release has just hit the market backed by two partnering companies. Proven Winners® and Greenleaf Nursery have produced and released the new Bloom-A-Thon® Azalea line.

The Bloom-A-Thon® Reblooming Azaleas are evergreen flowering shrubs that will bloom in spring only to rebloom in mid to late summer until fall. This new azalea line touts features similar to that of the increasing popular Encore® Azaleas but with more cold hardiness for our cooler climates.

Bloom-A-Thon® Azaleas were developed by Bob and Lisa Head, of Head’s Select, Inc., in Seneca, South Carolina. Smaller Bloom-A-Thon® varieties are perfect for container gardens that demand maximum performance year round for every inch of allotted space. Bloom-A-Thon® reblooming azaleas are available in four colors: red, white (dwarf evergreen shrub), lavender and double pink. They are all patented and the respective cultivar names are ‘RLH1-1P2’, ‘RLH1-3P3’, ‘RLH1-4P19’, and ‘RLH1-2P8’.

### ASA Financial Position at December 31, 2010

#### INCOME STATEMENT Year 2010

<b>INCOME</b>	
Azalean Income	783.00
Dues Income	15,506.00
Gift Income	7,879.00
Interest Income	4,478.92
Seed Exchange Income	1,086.00
Other Income	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,732.92</b>

#### EXPENSES

Awards and Memorials	0.00
Azalean Expense	13,113.98
Chapter Dues Expense	2,195.00
Dues Expense	91.23
Website Expense	130.40
Other Postage Expense	167.64
Other Expense	1,113.49
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16,811.74</b>

**Income-Expenses** 12,921.18

#### BALANCE SHEET December 31, 2010

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Checking	15,042.13
Investments	93,640.37
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>108,682.50</b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>	
Operating Fund	14,067.45
General Endowment	63,407.08
Research Fund	24,955.53
Harding Garden	6,252.45
<b>Total Liabilities and Reserves</b>	<b>108,682.50</b>

# Chapter News

## Ben Morrison

*Harold Belcher*

The chapter held its annual Christmas Party on December 11 at the home and garden of **Bill and Gabrielle Scott**. Everyone enjoyed socializing, great food, and conversation.

During the business meeting, we talked about having tours of members' gardens, possible scheduling of work days for members to help one another preparing their gardens for the spring blooms, and scheduling a possible chapter work day in the Azalea Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum. It was also suggested that, in addition to our Annual Cutting Picnic, members have a plant exchange which could include plants other than azaleas.

## Brookside Gardens

Chapter members recently voted to disband due to an inability to develop a complete slate of officers for 2012. Chapter members may continue their national ASA membership as "at large" members or they may join a nearby chapter, including the Ben Morrison or Northern Virginia chapters. Former Brookside Garden chapter members wishing to affiliate with a new chapter may e-mail Dan Krabill at [dkrabill@gmail.com](mailto:dkrabill@gmail.com).

## Lake Michigan

*John Migas*

The Lake Michigan chapter invites any and all gardeners interested to a weekend adventure along the shores of Lake Michigan, May 18 to 20.

Members of the Tri-state Chapter of the ASA, Great Rivers Chapter of the Holly Society, and ARS District 11 chapters, along with all others, will spend a three-day weekend touring gardens and enjoy evening speakers. A banquet is planned for Saturday evening.

Meeting registration is \$10 per person. Garden tours are an additional \$55 and banquet tickets are \$27 per person. For more information about the meeting, or to register, contact John Migas at 269-857-1505 or by e-mail at [azaleajohn@yahoo.com](mailto:azaleajohn@yahoo.com).

The Haworth Inn & Conference Center, located on the campus of Hope College, is the host hotel. Overnight rates are \$95 for quad occupancy, including breakfast. Reservations may be made at [www.haworthinn.com](http://www.haworthinn.com) or by calling 1-800-903-9142. The hotel is offering a bus service if needed, along with passenger vans for up to 11 riders.

## Northern Virginia

*Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary*

The Northern Virginia chapter started off the fall season with its annual auction at the Merrifield Garden Center, one of the fund raisers that support the newsletter and other activities. An enthusiastic crowd, egged on by super-auctioneer **Bob Harrison**, ensured the event was a success.

The end of October found the club at a meeting with an overflowing agenda, ably guided by President **Rick Bauer**. First **Barbara Bullock**, curator of Rhododendrons and Azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum, gave an illustrated slide talk on the Glenn Dale azaleas and Ben Morrison's work developing them. Then **Marcus Jones**, curator of Woody Plants at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, spoke about their decision to develop a world-class show garden of Glenn Dales.

**Dan Krabill**, an acknowledged expert on the Glenn Dales who has almost all of them, finished up by leading a slide show of the best, arranged by bloom time and color. This allowed each of us to vote on our favorites in each category, the results being given to Mr. Jones to guide his acquisitions. Finally, while continuing to munch on the array of food provided, we chose in turn from the plant exchange and enriched our gardens once more.

The highlight of the winter was the Holiday Party hosted by **Jean and Lars Larson**. The food was more than ample, as always, and it was great to be able to chat at length with each other. The meeting inserted within the party re-elected the prior slate of officers: **Rick Bauer**, president; **Carolyn Beck**, vice president; **Paul Beck**, treasurer; and **Mary Hoioos**, secretary.

Also, due to successful sales in 2011 we were able to donate \$1,000 to the "Save the Azaleas" program of the Friends of the National Arboretum, \$1,000 to help fund an intern at the National Arboretum, and \$500 to the Friends of the White Garden, who are assisting the Margaret White horticultural estate that has been taken over by Fairfax County.

Due to the unfortunate disbanding of the Brookside Chapter, a number of those members have chosen to join our group and we're looking forward to seeing them at upcoming events, such as the March 25 luncheon/lecture on Satsuki by *The Azalean* author Ajit Thakur and the garden tours available at the end of April.

## Rev. John Drayton

*Gloria Jean Williams, Corresponding Secretary*

Magnolia on the Ashley's Historian **Preston Cooley** spoke to our chapter about the history and uses in the garden of satsuki azaleas. There is evidence that this variety (satsuki azalea) was established at Magnolia Gardens prior to 1930s. Many of these cultivars continue to thrive.

At this writing, many of the azalea cuttings brought to Magnolia Plantation from the U.S. National Arboretum have rooted and are being potted.

Our chapter meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Carriage House at Magnolia Plantation. Visitors are welcome. Please join us.



▲ Aaron Cook was the recipient of the Augie Kehr Memorial Award presented by April Sanborn, president of the Vaseyi chapter.

## Texas

*Sherrie Randall, Secretary*

The Texas chapter held its Fall meeting at Bayou Bend Gardens in Houston, Texas. Formerly the home of philanthropist Miss Ima Hogg, the home holds one of the nation's foremost collections of early American art and furnishings. She created a series of gracious and beautiful gardens that were intended to be outdoor rooms for living and entertaining, not just views to be admired from within the house. She is also credited with introducing azaleas to Houston. The River Oaks Garden Club and Bayou Bend's Curator of Gardens, **Bart Brechter**, also a fellow ASA Texas Chapter member, are guided by a master plan adopted to ensure that the gardens and surrounding woodlands continue into perpetuity as a historic site.

Highlights of our meeting included the election of officers for 2012: **Jo Ann Smith**, president; **Bart Brechter**, vice president; **Don Parsons**, treasurer; and **Sherrie Randall**, secretary.

Chapter members presented a check to **Barbara Stump** for the purchase of benches in the Stephen F. Austin State University Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden in memory of the chapter's former President **Mike Stump**.

Members also discussed projects in support of the 2015 ASA conference

Following the meeting, Brechter shared a slide show detailing the history of Bayou Bend Gardens and then gave an in depth tour of the gardens. Surprise of the day—he gave each member an azalea to take home as well as donating several cultivars to the SFA Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden.

## Vaseyi

*Suzanne W. Medd, Secretary*

Cutting and propagation tips were shared during the chapter's June meeting. **Doley Bell** swears by his clear or semi-clear Tupperware boxes with holes in the bottom. Per-

lite, peat moss, or pine bark with pure sand is his favorite medium. When cuttings are rooted, open the lid slowly over time. He uses a powdered Rootone.

**Ed Collins** likes his homemade little enclosed greenhouse. He uses Styrofoam grape boxes with several holes drilled in the bottom, hoops are fashioned and with a clear sheet of plastic for a roof; it is perfect. He likes a finer perlite, so perhaps a screening would be helpful. The best times for rooting cuttings are May for deciduous azaleas, and July for evergreens azaleas. Ed did say he has been successful in September, which is a great suggestion for procrastinators. Another soil mix to try is one-third perlite, and two-thirds Nature's Helper®. The BIG question of the day: Is scraping the stem necessary? Probably not, as roots grow from the bottom, also the latest research supports not cutting the stems again.

**Tradd Cotter** was our speaker for September. His company, Mushroom Mountain in Liberty, South Carolina, is his home/science lab/school and center for study of mycology.

He explained the role of fungi in the garden. Fungi are a network of cells that communicate. Their stomachs are on the outside; they fruit (make mushrooms) when they need food. Tradd identified some mushrooms that members had brought for identification. He showed slides of how mushrooms grow in compost.

Mushrooms are very nutritious, (gourmet restaurants love to see him coming!) He showed how to drill and put spore plugs, which he sells, into holes. He uses deciduous tree logs. We learned how to use wood chips to grow mushrooms. His straw bale garden with two tomatoes, or four peppers, basil, cardinal climber, and mushrooms (all this growing in one bale) was amazing. But, we were awed by his biocide studies against fire ants. When Tradd is in the woods he always look for something new. One discovery has led to his current biocide experiments against fire ants. It is a horror movie come to life for fire ants, with great potential for gardens. For more information, visit his Web site at [www.mushroommountain.com](http://www.mushroommountain.com)

**John Brown** led the October meeting. John's proposal is for our Vaseyi Chapter to develop a PowerPoint program. This will be invaluable to all members to create interest in native azaleas. This program-project will be called Native Azaleas 101. John feels that local organizations are interested in speakers and programs. Founding Vaseyi Chapter member, **Ed Collins**, has done programs about rhododendrons for years. With a quality PowerPoint presentation, other chapter members could meet demand and build interest in the community too. All members were enthusiastic and agreed this is a worthwhile project to pursue.

The annual seed exchange and covered dish dinner was held on November 13. Members and their guests shared delicious foods. The Augie Kehr Memorial Award was presented to **Aaron Cook** for his distinguished contribution to furthering the knowledge of, propagation, care and general appreciation of azaleas and in recognition of his outstanding participation in the activities of the Vaseyi Chapter.

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# U.S. Department of Agriculture Releases New Hardiness Zone Map

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released the new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map, updating a useful tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 1990 with greater accuracy and detail. The new map—jointly developed by USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and Oregon State University’s PRISM Climate Group—is available online at [www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov). ARS is the chief intramural scientific research agency of USDA.

For the first time, the new map offers a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive format and is specifically designed to be Internet-friendly. The map website also incorporates a “find your zone by ZIP code” function. Static images of national, regional and state maps have also been included to ensure the map is readily accessible to those who lack broadband Internet access.

“This is the most sophisticated Plant Hardiness Zone Map yet for the United States,” said Dr. Catherine Woteki, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. “The increases in accuracy and detail that this map represents will be extremely useful for gardeners and researchers.”

Plant hardiness zone designations represent the average annual extreme minimum temperatures at a given location during a particular time period. They do not reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations.

The new version of the map includes 13 zones, with the addition for the first time of zones 12 (50-60 degrees F) and 13 (60-70 degrees F). Each zone is a 10-degree Fahrenheit band, further divided into A and B 5-degree Fahrenheit zones.

Compared to the 1990 version, zone boundaries in this edition of the map have shifted in many areas. The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States. This is mostly a result of using temperature data from a longer and more recent time period; the new map uses data measured at weather stations during the 30-year period 1976-2005. In contrast, the 1990 map was based on temperature data from only a 13-year period of 1974-1986.

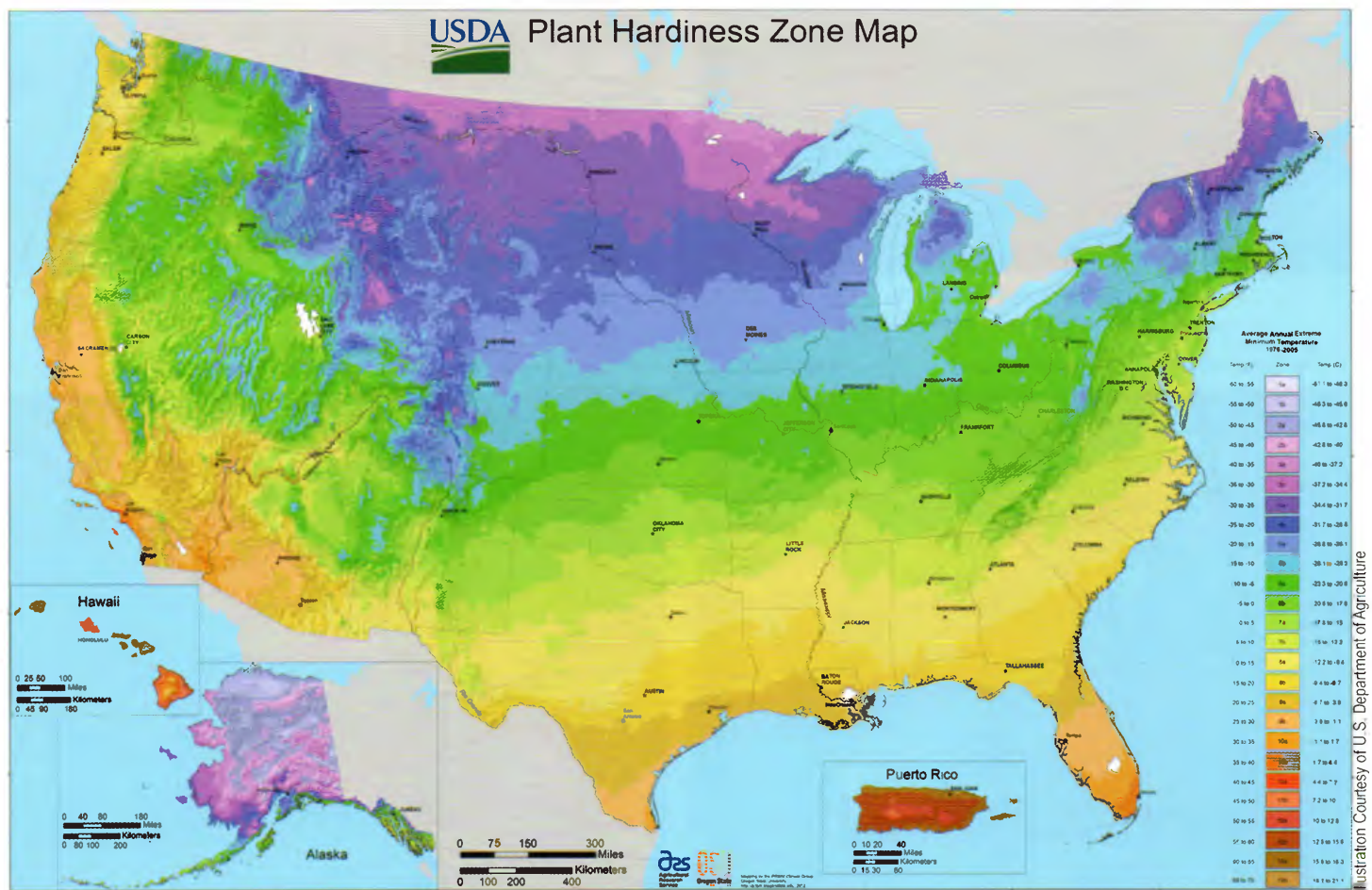


Illustration Courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Ericaceous Camaraderie: Examples of Nice Relationships Amongst Azaleas and Plants Friendly to Them

Will Ferrell—Kernersville, North Carolina

When first I developed an interest in gardening, I remember being somewhat put off by azaleas because so often I would see yards with orangey red azaleas planted near hot pink ones. The frequency of this kind of disharmony involving azaleas is easy to understand: The optimal time to plant is in the fall when conventional azaleas are out of bloom. Or you just see a really pretty one blooming at a nursery that by itself is so stunning that you have to take it home and plant it somewhere.

I realize that for many azalea lovers, my reaction would be regarded as a bit, let's say, fastidious. But for those of us

who want to go beyond the joys of plant collecting, there are lots of challenges of bloom time and hue—even the effect on hue by the amount of sun exposure to the bloom—to be taken into account.

Every year I end up moving plants to be with more congenial neighbors. As I am writing these words (June 2011), I am contemplating moving either a *Campanula poscharskyana* or a *Hydrangea* 'Endless Summer' to bloom next to the late blooming Glenn Dale 'Sagittarius'; they bloom the same time with complementary colors and all want about the same sun/shade in Zone 7a.



Photo Will Ferrell

▲ 'Conversation Piece' with Hosta 'Serendipity' & Burgundy Oxalis.

▼ Siberian Iris backed by *Rhododendron* 'Consolini 343'.

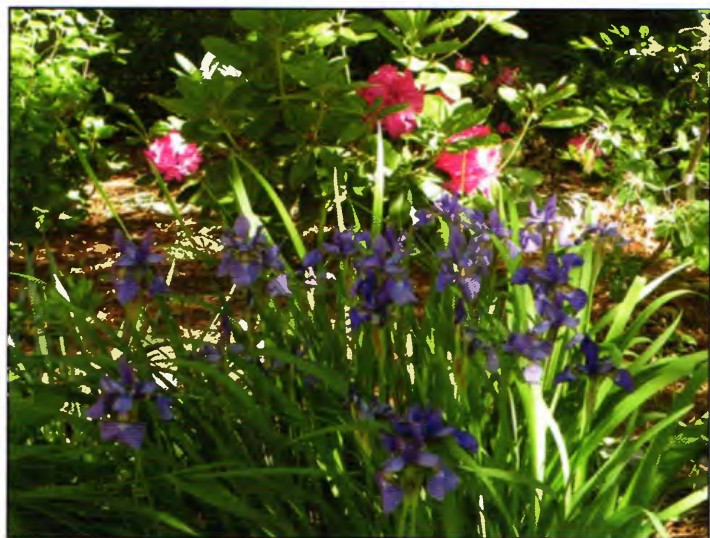


Photo Will Ferrell

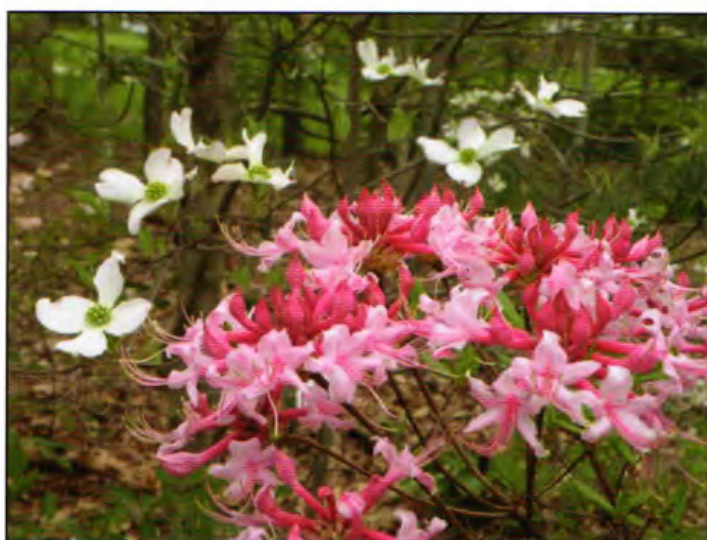


Photo Will Ferrell

▲ *R. canescens* with *Cornus florida*—two happy natives.

▼ 'Nancy of Robinhill' with Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*).



Photo Will Ferrell

At any rate, I thought it might be fun to share a few photos of harmonious combinations that have given me pleasure in my yard. I have included among the photos little of my very favorite combination of pastel pink or lavender paired with purple azaleas—in this vein, I love ‘Springtime Blush’ with ‘Karen’, ‘Willie Mae’ with ‘Herbert’, ‘Madame Pericat’ with ‘Purple Splendor’, ‘Fairfax’ with ‘Youth’ and ‘Martha Hitchcock’, ‘Ring’s Orchido’ with ‘Terry’, and ‘Watchet’ with ‘Catawbiense Boursalt’. I highly recommend these pairings.

Another (unphotographed) great combination which begs to be mentioned is the Satsuki ‘Kusadama’, ‘Nova Zembla’, and cranesbill geranium ‘Johnson’s Blue’. This is a very open-ended subject. Perhaps my throwing out these combinations will provoke other azalea lovers to share their creative pairings.

*Will Ferrell is a semi-retired dentist whose interests include gardening, history, economics, ideas, and music.*



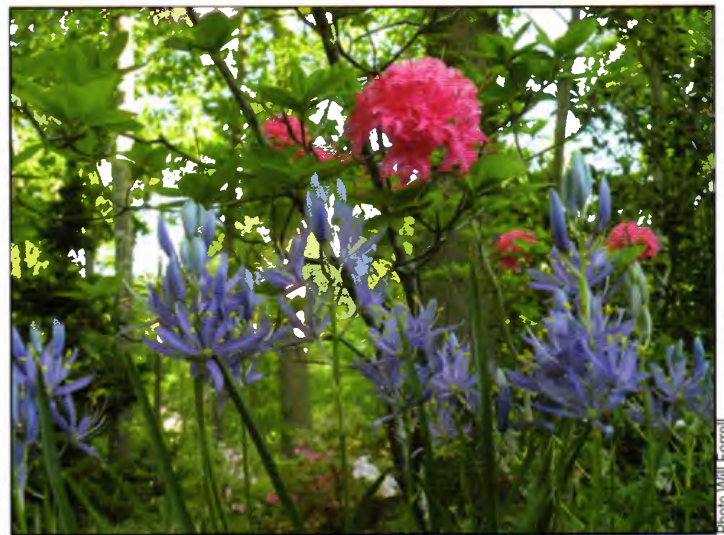
▲ George Ring hybrid ‘Fairfax’ with violas.

▼ Camassia and deciduous hybrid ‘Homebush’.



▲ Wyatt Lefever deciduous hybrid backed by ‘Catawbiense Boursalt’.

▼ Heat-tolerant Exbury ‘Klondyke’ backed by ‘Elsie Lee’.



▼ Illam deciduous hybrid ‘Yellow Beauty’ nestled with ‘Anna Krushke’.

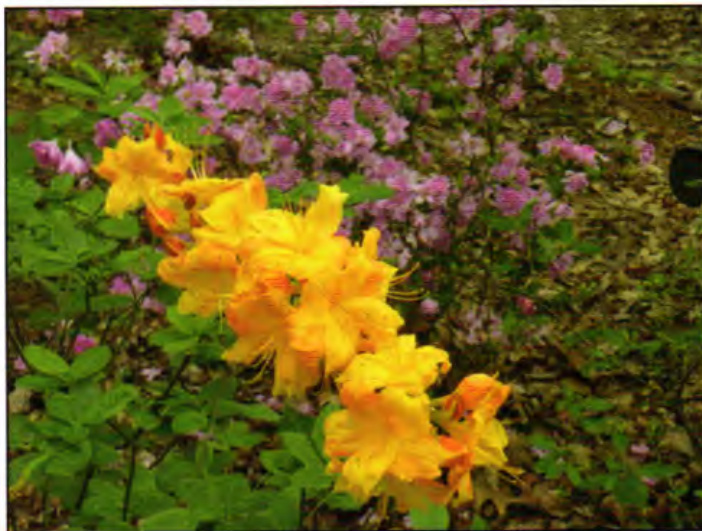




Photo Will Ferrell

▲ Aromi deciduous hybrid 'Clearcreek' adjacent 'Kaye Player'.

▼ 'HR Schroeder' backed by Japanese Maple 'Butterfly' backlit by sunset.



Photo Will Ferrell

▲ Kurume azalea 'Cattleya' with Japanese Maple 'Orangeolua'.

▼ Harris azalea 'Rivermist' and this heat-tolerant Primula love each other.

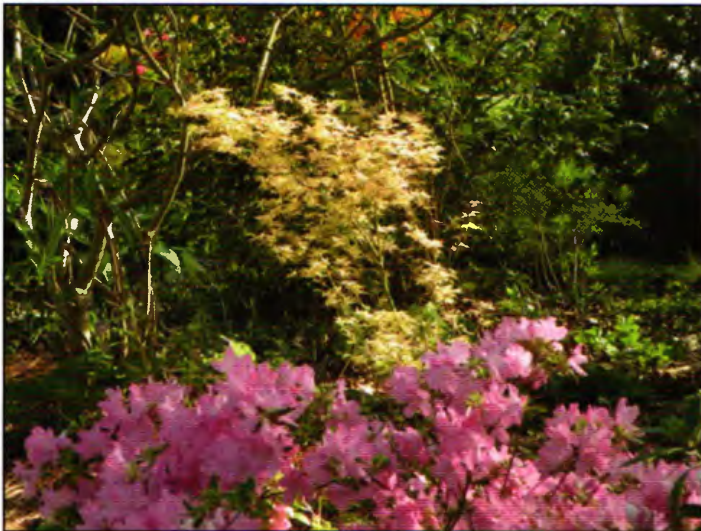


Photo Will Ferrell

▼ Encore® azalea 'Autumn Starlight' with *Phlox divaricata* 'Louisiana'



Photo Will Ferrell

▼ 'Springtime Blush' with ajuga; also combines superbly with 'Karen' which is nearby.



Photo Will Ferrell



Photo Will Ferrell



Photo Will Ferrell

▲ 'H.R. Schroeder' with *Phlox divaricata*.



Photo Will Ferrell

▲ 'A. Bedford' backed by 'Klondyke' and 'Elsie Lee'.

▼ 'Madame Butterfly' and 'Koromo Shikibu' are downright incestuous.

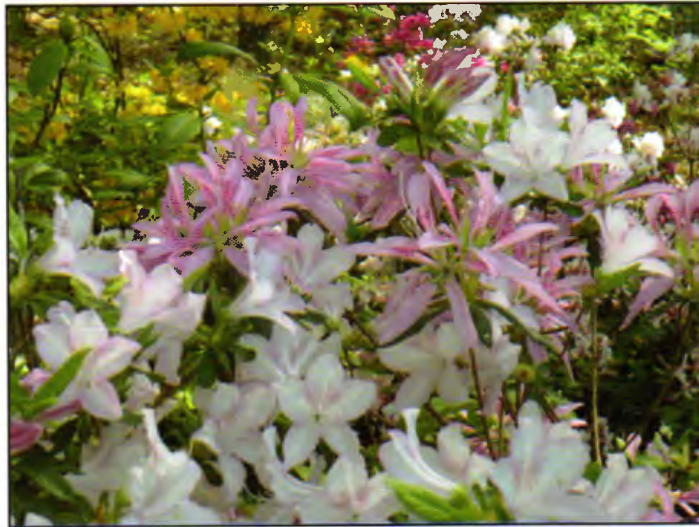


Photo Will Ferrell

▼ Another view of 'H.R. Schroeder' with *Phlox divaricata*, pansies, violas.



Photo Will Ferrell

▼ Galle's 'Choice Cream' backed by 'Elsie Lee'.



Photo Will Ferrell

▼ 'Sunglow' with *Trillium grandiflora*.



Photo Will Ferrell



'Leopold-Astrid' / Photo Don Hyatt