



The Azalean

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Journal of the Azalea Society of America

President's Letter

J Jackson—Trade, Tennessee



The Azalean is back on schedule after several seasons of delays. I would like to thank and congratulate **Barbara Stump, Pam Fitch**, and the Azalean Advisory Committee for their excellent work.

Also, many thanks to the following committees for many hours of work:

- ▶ The Digitization Team for making past journal articles available for our Web site.
- ▶ The Web Site Committee for continued improvements to our ASA Web Site.
- ▶ The Finance Committee for a Financial and Investment Policy and clarification of non-profit tax status for our chapters.
- ▶ The Membership Committee for working with chapters and providing guidance for gaining and retaining members.

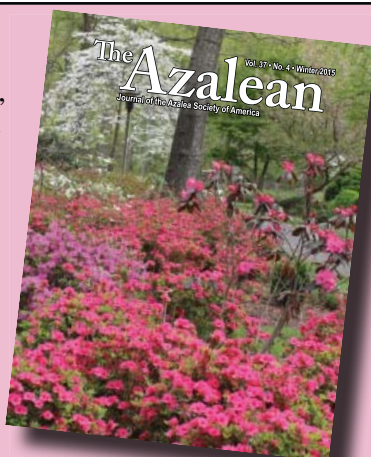
A few years ago a past ASA president and mentor said to me that all plant societies are in trouble. Just recently the Oconee Chapter in Georgia has gone into dormancy and their assets have been transferred to an escrow account for three years in hopes that Oconee can “revive” and prosper again. The rise and fall of chapters is a natural phenomenon and although this “dormancy” is distressing to me, I remind myself that the Alabamense Chapter was dormant for more than five years before it reorganized. The health of a chapter depends mainly on what **Bob Stelloh** called “spark plug(s); an interested person or persons that have a passion for azaleas and a willingness to share.” Chapters are built from the ground up, and our best course of action as a board is to look at this situation clearly and to move forward as we have in the past.

Our national board of directors will be preparing the agenda for the upcoming annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, next spring. If anyone would like to participate in the meeting, and/or has an agenda item to add, please let your chapter president know or contact me by April 1, 2016.

Stay warm and well this winter and I hope to see you this coming spring in Williamsburg.

On the Cover

The Cosby garden in Rockville, Virginia, has an extensive and well-labeled collection of evergreen azaleas in a rural setting under tall trees. Over the years, the Cosbys have planted hundreds of azaleas and rhododendron varieties on 11 of their 79 acres. The garden is one of several private gardens being showcased during the Society's 2016 annual convention in Williamsburg, Virginia. Please see the related article on page 76. Photo by Rick Bauer.



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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Cape Fear (chartered October 2013) Matt Hunter, <i>Pres.</i>	Central Carolinas (chartered October 2013) Chris Wetmore, <i>Pres.</i> & <i>At-large Contact</i>

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Legends and Legacies

ASA/ARS Joint Convention April 20-24, 2016 Williamsburg, Virginia

By Richard (Rick) Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia & Don Hyatt—McLean, Virginia

The Mason-Dixon, Potomac Valley, and Middle Atlantic Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America (ASA) welcome you to the Joint ASA/ARS Convention April 20-24, 2016, in the beautiful and historic city of Williamsburg, Virginia. Our theme is “Legends and Legacies,” and we hope to reflect on those who have enriched our lives and our gardens. The dates we have selected are at the opening of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, one of the most beautiful times of the year in the region. In most years, this time frame is when our native dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) are in bloom.

Our headquarters is the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, located just minutes from Colonial Williamsburg and the other Williamsburg attractions such as Busch Gardens. It is served by three airports, Richmond International (46 miles), Newport News-Williamsburg International (17 miles), and Norfolk International (42 miles). AMTRAK also serves Williamsburg with two trains daily, with the train station located two miles from the hotel. The Fort Magruder Hotel is steeped in history, and was actually built around the site of a Civil War fort. That area has been made into an attractive garden courtyard where people can relax, take a stroll, or learn about the historical past of the site. The hotel is offering a special \$119 convention rate which includes breakfast. This rate is valid from two days before the convention until two days after. Reservations may be made by calling 757-220-2250 or online at www.fortmagruderhotel.com using the convention code ASA.

In addition to the many activities offered at the convention, the Historic Triangle, consisting of Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown, offers a wide variety of activities from historical to recreational, as well as ample shopping opportunities. A brochure from the visitor's bureau is available on the convention web site on the Sightseeing page.

As part of the convention, we will be conducting a Flower Show and a Photography Show. More information on these shows will be available on the convention web site. Additionally, those interested may indicate their interest on the registration forms, and more information will be provided to them as it becomes available.

We have a full schedule of activities. Following are the planned events by day.

Wednesday, April 20

The ARS and ASA Boards of Directors will be meeting this day. For those not involved in these meetings, Wednesday is open for convention arrival and registration and for local touring. We will be offering tours of the colonial area



▲ House of Burgesses - Colonial Williamsburg

▼ Fort Magruder Hotel



and region, provided by the company Colonial Connections. The tours offered will be:

1. A half-day tour of Colonial Williamsburg (this tour will require you to have transportation to the meeting point in the colonial area). This is a three-hour tour of the historic area of Williamsburg and includes a four-hour ticket to enter and visit all of the buildings in the historic area, a narrated walking tour, and all taxes and gratuities.
2. A five-hour tour of Jamestown, which includes transportation to and from the hotel, a 2½-hour guided walking tour at the Jamestown Settlement museum complex and a one-hour guided walking tour of historic Jamestown and the site of the original Fort James, built in 1607. Guides, admissions and gratuities are included.

3. A half-day tour to Berkeley and Shirley Plantations. Berkeley Plantation is Virginia's most historic plantation and the site of the first Thanksgiving in America. It was the home of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Its grounds include five terraces of restored English boxwood and flower gardens. Shirley Plantation is the oldest plantation in Virginia and the oldest family-owned business in North America. Visitors will be given a guided tour of the mansion and will have time to explore the grounds on their own. (Includes all admissions, guides, gratuities, and transportation to and from the hotel).

More information on these tours is available at the Tours tab on the convention web site.

Attendees are also encouraged to explore on their own using one of the package deals offered by Colonial Williamsburg or Busch Gardens or to take advantage of the numerous shopping opportunities at the outlet malls and other shops in the area. The hotel also sells tickets to Williamsburg attractions. More information will be available in your bags or by visiting the visitor's bureau web site link on the convention web page.

Our plant sale will also open for business. We have been busy propagating a wide variety of beautiful azalea and rhododendron cultivars and species with special emphasis on hybrids developed by Society hybridizers including Sandra McDonald, Bob Stewart, Joe Klimavicz, and Pete Vines. We will also have grafted and cutting-grown rhododendrons from many East Coast hybridizers.

Dinner will be on your own this evening. Attendees may take advantage of The Veranda Restaurant in the hotel, or any of the many restaurants in Williamsburg, including those on Merchant's Square next to the Colonial Area or in one of the historic restaurants located in Colonial Williamsburg.

We will have our official Welcome Meeting this evening. After covering all that will be offered during the convention, we will conduct a number of workshops on azaleas and rhododendrons.

Thursday, April 21

Today we will be traveling west to Richmond to visit public and private gardens. After breakfast we will board our busses for the approximately one-hour trip to the following three gardens.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond will be a featured attraction on this trip. It is ranked as one of the top public gardens in North America and has many wonderful floral displays that change with the seasons. It was voted second best public garden in North America by *USA Today* readers in 2014. This garden of more than 50 acres has a 63-foot classical domed conservatory, which is the only one of its kind in the mid-Atlantic. The garden also has more than a dozen themed gardens, including a Children's Garden, Rose Garden, Cherry Tree Walk, Healing Garden, and Fountain Garden. More information on the Ginter Garden is located in this Winter issue of *The Azalean*.

The Cosby Garden

The Cosby garden in Rockville, Virginia, has an extensive and well-labeled collection of evergreen azaleas in a rural setting under tall trees. The garden was featured in an article in the Winter 2014 issue of *The Azalean*. Over the years, the Cosbys have planted hundreds of azaleas and rhododendron varieties on 11 of their 79 acres in Rockville, Virginia. Most recently they have started developing beds containing cultivars of Legacy hybridizers including **Sandra McDonald**, Pete Vines (Holly Springs), **Bob Stewart**, William "Bud" Claggett (Bowie Mill), **Joe Klimavicz**, Harry Weiskittel (Marshy Point), James Harris and Eugene Aromi.

The Cosbys have ensured that their beautiful property will be maintained and available to the public in the future by donating it to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. It will be known as the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve.

▼ Lewis Ginter Garden Conservatory



Photo Rick Bauer

▼ Teahouse in Liesfeld Garden



Photo Don Hyatt

Liesfeld Garden

Also in Rockville is another garden site, the exquisite Japanese garden of Mrs. Junko Liesfeld, which includes wonderful artistry and traditional use of azaleas and other plant materials to enhance the water features and impressive stonework she designed.

Lunch will be on the bus traveling between Ginter Gardens and the Rockville gardens.

We will open the plant sale again after the tours. Dinner will again be on your own.

Evening Program

Plant Explorers: John Bartram and Steve Hootman. This evening we will have an entertaining presentation by the early American botanist, John Bartram, as portrayed by Kirk Brown, President of the Garden Writers Association. He will be followed by one of our most celebrated modern plant explorers, Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington.

Friday, April 22

Friday morning we will head east to Norfolk and Carrollton to visit the Norfolk Botanical Garden and the private garden of Bill and Linda Pinkham.

Pinkham Garden

The beautiful garden of Bill and Linda Pinkham sits on six waterfront acres of the James River. It features many large and interesting stones the Pinkhams have collected over the years. These are complemented by rare perennials, conifers, and other companion plants. The Pinkhams, former owners of Smithfield Gardens Nursery, started developing their garden in 1997. In addition to the beautiful plants and rocks, there are a number of interesting and unique sculptures done by Bill.

There are many different venues to enjoy, including a koi pond, a bog, two rock gardens, a flower border, a shade garden, a summer tropical garden, and a small oriental space.

Even though Bill and Linda both majored in horticulture with **Don Hyatt** at Virginia Tech (VT), Bill is the master



Photo Don Hyatt

▲ Looking up the garden path in the Pinkham Garden.

▼ Looking toward the McDonald Hybrid beds through a sculpture in the Reflection Garden.



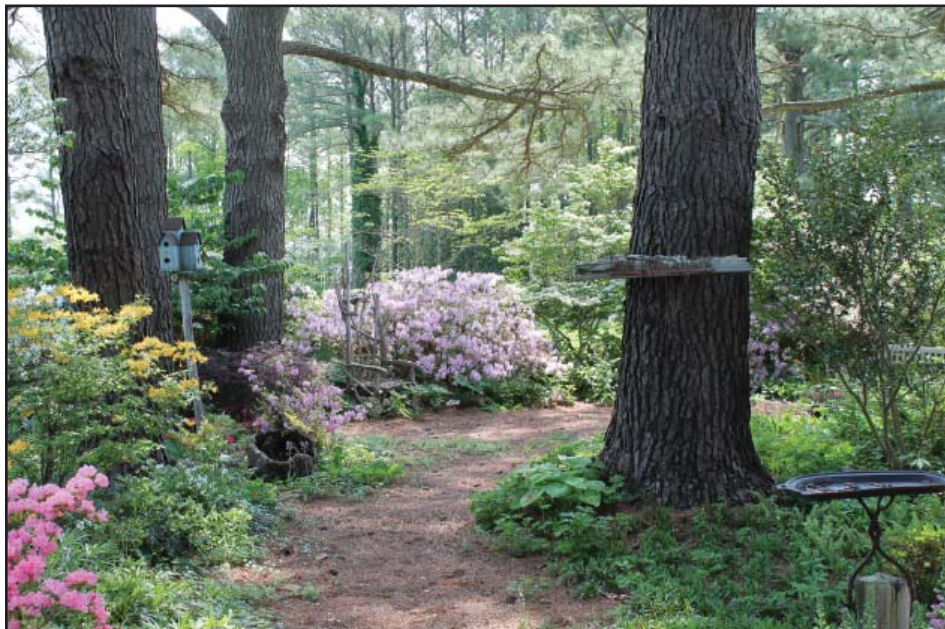
Photo Rick Bauer

planner and Linda is the head weeder. Linda loves deciduous azaleas, especially the orange and yellow ones. She is currently collecting Aromi hybrids. Linda also collects and hybridizes daylilies and has registered four: 'VT Spirit', 'VT Purple Passion', 'The Purple Lady', and 'Smiley Face'.

Bill collects Japanese maples, hostas and conifers. He currently enjoys his ceramic hobby. He will have his studio open on the day of the tour.

Norfolk Botanical Garden

The bulk of our time will be spent at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. This garden was originally named The Norfolk Azalea Garden and was originally built under a Works Progress Administration grant for the Azalea Garden Project in 1938. In 1939 the garden consisted of more than 4,000 azaleas, 2,000 rhododendrons and hundreds of other plants. While the garden had 175 acres at one time, the neighboring Norfolk International Airport took 20 acres of the garden



▲ Garden path in the Williams Garden

▼ McDonald Azaleas in the Brant Garden



to visit our plant sale before preparing for the ASA reception and banquet in the evening. The banquet will be held in the hotel's Richmond Hall. After the banquet and business meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to hear Friday's keynote speaker, Rick Lewandowski, the former Director of Mt. Cuba Center. He will discuss landscapes utilizing native azaleas and other native plants. Rick is now Director of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Texas.

Saturday, April 23

Today we will travel to Gloucester to visit private gardens, some of which belong to Society members.

Brent and Becky's Bulbs

Historic Gloucester has a number of attractions including the display garden of famous daffodil and bulb specialist Brent Heath, of Brent and Becky's Bulbs. Brent and Becky's was originally founded by Brent's grandfather and was later run by his parents as the Daffodil Mart. They have a number of garden rooms with a large variety of different cultivars, including azaleas and rhododendrons, which will provide design ideas for every gardener.

Williams Garden

This garden is owned by Cam and Dean Williams, whose property was originally the Dunham Massey Farm. It sits on the North River. The home, built in 1845, and property were purchased by the Williams (only the fifth family to own the property) in 1986 and the home was extensively restored in 1990. In addition to the main house, the 50-acre farm includes a number of outbuildings including a sleeping porch at the river's edge, a smokehouse, and a deluxe outhouse that is also known as a "necessary," an exterior building that contains a tiled spa and showers where Cam can bathe her golden retrievers. Cam has developed a beautiful garden including shade and sun gardens, a kitchen herb garden, and a meditation garden. She also had a "ruin" built to be the centerpiece of her Secret Garden.

during an expansion. (Those flying into Norfolk will be treated to an airport with a significant number of azaleas in its landscaping.) Today the garden consists of 155 acres with 12 miles of paved trails and 52 themed gardens that can be viewed by tram, boat or by foot. Themed gardens include the Hummingbird Garden, the Sarah Lee Baker Perennial Garden, the Virginia Native Plant Garden, and the Bicentennial Rose Garden. Each of these gardens allows guests to see a variety of plants – from the cultivated to the wild. During our visit, Lantern Asia will transform the Garden's landscape with works of art to mesmerize guests of all ages. An ancient tradition, which began more than 2,000 years ago in China, this exhibit has traveled to Beijing, Sydney, and Rotterdam.

Lunch will be at the picnic pavilion at Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

ASA Banquet: Rick Lewandowski Speaker

When we return to our hotel in the afternoon, we will have the opportunity

Brant Garden

We will also visit the garden of native azalea enthusiasts and ASA and ARS members **Jim and Pam Brant**. Their garden, designed by George McLellan, sits on five acres of rolling woodland and contains a large number of native azaleas as well as a number of **Sandra McDonald** azalea varieties and other evergreen azaleas. These are complemented by a number of camellias and Japanese maples, and other flowering trees.

Hall Garden

Very close to the Brant garden is the home and garden of former ARS Executive Director, Barbara Hall, and her husband Al. They have many choice azaleas, rhododendrons, wildflowers, and perennials, but also look for humorous sculptures and touches of whimsy throughout the landscape.

Perrin Garden

The Perrin Garden, designed and developed by retired landscape designer, Sue Perrin, sits on the property known as Belle Terre. It was first established in 1959 when the house was built. Only the trees and some mature camellias remained when the Perrins commenced adding to and restoring the gardens in 2000. They have added a boxwood parterre at the entrance, as well as a small herb garden, pool garden and viburnum collection. Their design relies upon low-maintenance flowering shrubs, trees, and bulbs.

Lunch will be a box lunch at Gloucester's beautiful Beaverdam Park which is situated on the Beaverdam Lake. Attendees will also have the opportunity to walk along their nature trail.

ARS Banquet:

Mike Stewart speaker

The evening's events will include the ARS reception, banquet, and annual meeting. Afterwards attendees will be treated to a presentation by our keynote speaker, Mike Stewart, past ARS President and noted nurseryman from Sandy, Oregon. He will share some of



Photo Rick Bauer

▲ Belle Terre - Perrin Garden

▼ A serene spot in the Hall Garden

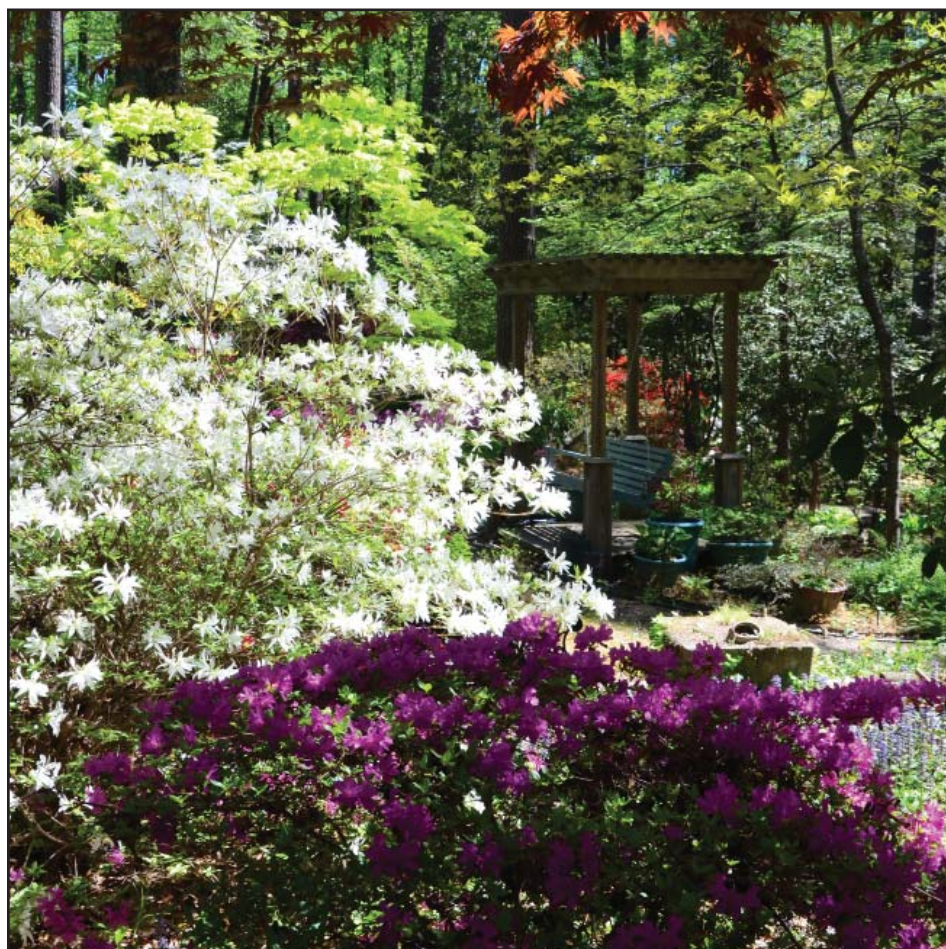


Photo Don Hyatt

the contributions of legendary plant collectors and hybridizers, and their lasting legacies.

Sunday, April 24

Sunday will be the departure day for many of our attendees. Others may opt to remain in Williamsburg for an additional couple of days and take advantage

of all of the opportunities the area offers. We will once again offer (subject to minimum participation levels) tours of the local area, departing in the afternoon. The tours offered will be a half-day tour of Colonial Williamsburg, and a half-day tour to Berkeley and Shirley Plantations, which are the same as those offered on Wednesday. We will also offer a full-day tour of Williamsburg and Jamestown. This tour will include a visit to the Jamestown Island Glasshouse, and a two-hour narrated and guided walking tour of Jamestown Settlement. After time for lunch (on your own) the tour will take you back to Williamsburg where you will have a 2½-hour narrated guided walking tour of the historic area followed by time to shop in Merchant's Square. Transportation, admission tickets, gratuities and taxes are included. Lunch is on your own.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2016 Joint ARS/ ASA Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, and hope you are able to join us. For more up-to-date information, please refer to the convention web site <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>.

Richard (Rick) Bauer is retired from the US Army and private industry and has been a member of the ASA since 2002. He is co-chair of the 2016 ASA-ARS Convention, an ASA Director and President of the Northern Virginia Chapter. He and his wife Susan live in Yorktown, Virginia, where they are expanding their azalea gardens with emphasis on Legacy hybrids (<http://www.nv-asa.org/legacies>).

Don Hyatt, co-chair of the 2016 ASA-ARS Convention, is a retired mathematics and computer science teacher who has had a lifelong interest in plants. He started gardening at the age of three at the family home in Northern Virginia where he still lives. He now focuses much of his attention on documenting and preserving wild populations of native azaleas, rhododendrons, and wildflowers.

Nominees Selected for National ASA Board of Directors

Nothing is more important to the health and sustainability of the ASA than getting highly qualified, engaged, skilled, enthusiastic people to serve on the national board. As such, the Nominating Committee is pleased to put forward the following candidates for Director with terms expiring in 2018:

Larry Miller is a resident of Evansville, Indiana, where he grew up. He is a graduate of Hanover College with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Business Administration. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Vietnam and lived for a while in Germany before taking over his family's business, Miller Block and Brick Company. In addition to his enthusiasm for azaleas going back to the 1970s, Larry enjoys playing music in a variety of styles and in a variety of bands, traveling to Europe, especially Germany, working on his rambling historic 1905 residence in Evansville and relaxing at his downtown condo in Asheville, North Carolina. Larry is a Purdue University Master Gardener, has been president of the Tri-State Chapter of the ASA, and a board member for 11 years.

Jo Ann Smith of Tyler, Texas, has been a member of the Texas chapter since 2006. She describes herself as a "passionate gardener." She has regularly attended ASA national conventions to learn more about using azaleas in both her home gardens and in the Ina Brundrett Tyler Community College (TJC) Garden that the 2007 Nacogdoches national ASA convention visited. She was vice president of the Texas Chapter from 2010-12 and president from 2012-13. During this time she helped arrange meetings at a wholesale nursery in Warren, Texas; a meeting at the field trials day at Overton, Texas; plantings of azaleas donated by member nurseryman **Bud Willis** from Louisiana at a

historic black cemetery in Nacogdoches, Texas; and a meeting at TJC to view improvements to the gardens and a planetarium event. She also led the effort to revise the chapter bylaws to align better with the ASA bylaws, which the chapter adopted. She conducted a statewide Texas membership survey that yielded a high member response. She also led the effort to raise funds for three memorial benches for the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden and the Gayla Mize Azalea Garden in honor of late Texas Chapter President **Mike Stump**, who helped revitalize the chapter in 2010. She is president of the Tyler Newcomers Garden Club, a member of the Arbor Foundation, and serves on Tyler's Spring Azalea Trail Committee.

Chris Wetmore has been the Central Carolinas Chapter president since the chapter was chartered in late 2013. Prior to that, he was a member of Vaseyi Chapter for almost two years. Chris and his wife Beth reside northwest of Charlotte, North Carolina, with their one-year-old son Clayton. They are expecting another addition to the family in mid-April. He has always been interested in plants but first became interested in azaleas when seeing wild flame azaleas in blooms on the grassy balds of southwest Virginia. Chris first learned of the ASA through J Jackson and Lindy Johnson after discovering their web site on native azaleas. After a couple years of exchanging emails and a visit to their nursery, Chris and Beth joined the ASA. Chris and Beth both attended their first convention in Asheville in 2012 and instantly became hooked. Chris has a history in banking and currently oversees operations at several high rise condo buildings in downtown Charlotte. Chris and Beth enjoy plants so much they have also recently started up a nursery that carries many southern favorites but focuses on deciduous and rare azaleas.

Propagating Azaleas from Cuttings for Newbies

By Sherrie Randall—Nacogdoches, Texas

I love to grow things! I've been growing flowers and vegetables from seeds for a very long time. It wasn't until I became a weekly volunteer at the Stephen F. Austin State University Arboretum in 2001 that I was introduced to propagating plants from cuttings. Under the guidance of head gardener Dawn Stover, I became hooked. To this day, my main weekly contribution to the gardens is preparing cuttings for future plants that are sold at the two plant sales a year. Now the Arboretum has a climate controlled, glass greenhouse with heated, timed mist beds. The only procedural variable over the past years has been the rooting compound used...Dip'N Grow® (liquid), Clonex® (gel), Hormodin® (powder), are the three that come to mind. Early on, my quest began to successfully propagate plants from cuttings at my home.

For my first attempt, I purchased Dip'N Grow®, Clonex®, and Root Tone®, also a powder. I prepared 18 cuttings, and stuck six each with the different rooting compounds. My potting medium was a mix of perlite, peat and bark. To simulate the greenhouse humidity, I used water bottles with the bottoms cut off and stuck over the cuttings. Heat came naturally from Texas in late spring/early summer. I placed them in a semi-shady spot and waited. My wait stretched for months as what I didn't mention was the cuttings were vacciniums, aka blueberries. Not the quickest or easiest thing to root, even in the Arboretum environment. But success came. Six for six using Root-tone, four with Dip'N Grow, and three with Clonex. I was ecstatic.

My cuttings are very typical of those shown in past articles. New growth ~3-4" long; fresh cut made below a node; lower leaves stripped. I use a powder hormone so I pre-poke holes in the medium so as not to rub off the hormone when pushing the stem in. Cuttings for the more diminutive or Sat-

suki cultivars are generally much shorter. Cuttings are generally taken from the garden in spring after bloom.

My success eventually led to a large trash can full of cut-off water bottles, case of 4" pots stacked neatly on new shelves by my potting bench, and trays of cuttings on new shelves built on the side of our barn. And naturally, I branched out to taking cuttings of ornamentals, as well as our blueberries.

In preparation for the 2015 ASA convention plant sale, our Texas Chapter members participated in two cutting parties. For many, this was their first exposure to propagating via cuttings. We established some ground rules, gave a brief demonstration and the cutting/sticking began. The "newbies" thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Our success rate for rooting was really great as we were able to use the Arboretum mist beds until the cuttings actually grew roots. The "after kill," as **Dr. David Creech** calls it, became the challenge. Even with the best intentions, growing up rooted cuttings became a bit of a challenge for some of our members.

I am currently growing up the left over 4" azalea plants from the convention plant sale and some Gartrell Hybrids given to our chapter by Ronnie and Donna Palmer of Azalea Hill Gardens & Nursery in Arkansas. Our chapter has already had one successful plant sale at the local Farmer's Market and we plan on making this a yearly event. To that end, our members are already talking about the next cutting party. It's fun to see their enthusiasm.

A few years into my cutting propagation, my husband announced he was buying a new, bigger drill press and planer. He quickly squelched my objection by saying I could have a greenhouse. Oh, ok....I was thrilled! Today the water bottles are gone, replaced with a mist system; 4" pots are replaced by propagation trays; and the barn shelves hold pots

▼ Good cutting length for sticking.



▼ Mini greenhouse made from a water bottle.



▼ The Texas Chapter hosted a plant sale at a local Farmer's Market to sell plants propagated by members.



and supplies. But honestly, with the relentless heat of our summers in Texas, I have at times reverted back to domed propagation trays, as my greenhouse is not climate controlled. During one of our potting-up-parties, Dr. Creech checked out my greenhouse and noted it was too shady. After a phone call to Eric, our tree removal expert, one water oak was felled and hauled to the burn pile. When husband went to town to run errands, I grabbed the reciprocating Milwaukee saw, got on top of the tractor port and lobbed off as many branches as I could reach and had them hauled to the burn pile before he returned. (‘Mum’s the word’ fellow chapter members, he thinks we’re too old to be climbing on structures....not me.) Over time Mother Nature happens, and we must be flexible.

My enthusiasm for propagating and growing up plants has in no way diminished from my first success. It pleases me to be able to share “new” plants with friends and fellow gardeners. I hope “newbies” to the azalea world will give it a try!

Sherrie Randall grew up in Zone 22, Southern California, then moved to and lived in Zone 5, Colorado, for 20 years until retiring from Lockheed Martin. She and her husband moved to Zone 8b, Nacogdoches, Texas, where they are the owners of *The Blueberry Place*, a pick-your-own blueberry farm. She is secretary of the Texas Chapter.

Editor’s note: We have asked **John Migas** to write an article for **The Azalean** on “aftercare” for newly rooted cuttings and very young azaleas. Watch for this in a future issue.

Warning! Mulch with Care

By Donald Voss—Vienna, Virginia

Mulching offers many advantages for the health of your trees and shrubs, but there can be serious problems. Driving around our area, one may see mulch piled as high as five or six inches around the trunks of trees and shrubs. That endangers the health and potential longevity of the plants, including azaleas. The following recommendations are extracts from the Web-sites of three well-known horticultural organizations:

- The Morton Arboretum—Pull mulch away from the bases of tree and shrub trunks, creating a donut-hole. Mulch piled against the trunk creates ideal conditions for insect pests, diseases, and decay.
- North Carolina State University—Pull the mulch 1 to 2 inches from the base of the plant to prevent bark decay.
- Rutgers University—Don’t build a mountain of mulch, piled high against a tree trunk; this does not kill a tree immediately—it results in a slow death.

Don Voss is a retired economist, a life member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, and regularly volunteers at the US National Arboretum Herbarium.

New Members

Northern Virginia Chapter

Faith and Gerald Bange
3508 Foxhall Dr
Davidsonville, MD 21035-2319

Rev. John Drayton Chapter

Shannon & Jamie Bigger
1420 Bexley St
North Charleston, SC 29405-5248

Laura & Richard Linder
321 Shaftesbury Lane
Summerville, SC 29485-8525

Joan Strom
127 Berwick Drive
Summerville, SC 29483-8153

The Azalea Society offers membership to any one with an interest in azaleas, from home gardeners, collectors and students to plant professionals. Local chapters have social activities, garden tours, meetings and plant sales of unusual varieties. National conventions offer garden tours, talks by well-known azalea authorities, plant sales, and the opportunities to make and renew friendships. *The Azalean*, our quarterly journal, has timely informative articles about azalea culture, hybridizing, propagation, garden design, new introductions and chapter activities.

**To join the society
or for more information,
visit our Web site at
www.azaleas.org**

A Tutorial on Searching *The Azalean* Online

By Paul Beck, ASA Treasurer—Oak Hill, Virginia

You have been hearing about the new initiative to digitize all of *The Azalean* back issues and put them up on the ASA Web-site. This project is nearing completion, so I thought I would provide a brief tutorial on how to use the new resource. This new project provides several distinct new capabilities:

- A fast search of all issues of *The Azalean* for keywords in the title.
- A sub-project to provide searching within the article content is underway.
- Search for author(s) of the articles.
- Viewing of tables of contents for all issues by anyone, whether a member or not.
- Viewing of individual articles after we have received approval by the author to publish their article electronically. The most recent 12 issues (~3 years) are restricted to ASA members who have logged into the ASA Web-site.
- Quick ordering of hardcopy issues with payment through PayPal.

To access *The Azalean* listing from the ASA web site, www.azaleas.org, click on the Archives menu. Once you get to *The Azalean* index, you will see instructions on usage and a search dialog box at the top of the screen (see Figure 1).

The **Minutes** and **Financials** tabs will only appear if you are logged in. You may reload the index at any time by clicking *The Azalean* tab. Please read over the online instructions for Viewing, Searching and Ordering back issues, which are just below the search dialog.

Keyword Searching

If you put multiple words in one of the left search fields (keywords & authors), the search will find articles with any of the words. For example, type in the keywords field glenn dale azaleas. A very large list of articles will be displayed. Note that if the articles can be viewed, there is a (View) link after the title of the article (see Figure 2).

The screenshot shows the top navigation area with tabs for 'Documents', 'Azaleans', 'Minutes', and 'Financials'. Below the tabs is the 'Azalea Society OF AMERICA' logo. The search interface includes two rows of input fields: 'Keywords: Multiple words, find all listed' and 'From: YYYY' with a 'Find' button; and 'Authors: Multiple authors, find all listed' and 'To: YYYY' with a 'Clear' button.

▲ Figure 1

▼ Figure 2

Year	Issue	Pg	Article Title	Author
1995	September	69	"Broyhill Walking Park" - A New Home for the Glenn Dales (View)	© Keith and Wanda Suddreth

If you click on that (View) link, the text of the article will appear in a new tab in your browser. If there are copies available for the issue in which this article appears, there will be an Add to Cart button on the right.

▼ Figure 3

The screenshot shows a dropdown menu with the text 'Domestic (US, CAN, MEX) \$1.00 USD' and a small downward arrow. Below the menu is a button labeled 'Add to Cart'.

Note that if you put search terms in **both** the **Keywords** and **Authors** fields, the search result will be restricted to articles that contain one or more of the **keywords** and one or more of the **authors' names**. If you add the author name **West** to the above search, the results will contain only articles authored by Dick West. I think you get the idea.

Also note that the search can be initiated by either pressing the **Enter** key or clicking the **Find** button. The **Clear** button clears out all the search terms.

Keypphrase Searching

If you wish to search for an exact phrase, with **all the words** in the phrase appearing exactly as typed, enclose the phrase in single quotes. For example, if you change the above search example to '**glenn dale azaleas**', you will see a much smaller set of articles returned. Keypphrase searching works in both the **Keywords** and **Authors** search fields.

Date searching

If you wish to restrict the search results to a range of publication years, you may add either the **From** year, **To** year, or both. If you specify only the **From** year, issues starting with the **From** year to the present will be searched. If you specify only the **To** year, issues from the first one (January 1979) through the **To** year will be searched. If you specify both **From** and **To** years, the search will be restricted to articles between these two

It's Time to Renew Your ASA Membership!

By Paul Beck, ASA Treasurer—Oak Hill, Virginia

Have you renewed your membership in the Azalea Society of America for 2016? Your membership expiration year appears above your address on *The Azalean* mailing wrapper, and can also be found on your member record on our web site, www.azaleas.org. You can view and update your membership record by clicking on the Members link and logging in. Please save me the time to contact you via e-mail, mail, or phone to remind you of your renewal responsibility. If I do not receive your renewal by December 31st, I will be sending out an e-mail reminding you to renew. If I do not hear from you by the end of January 2016, I will be obliged to send you a letter. **PLEASE** save me the time and the Society the expense by taking care of your renewal before then.

Many members do not have an e-mail on file (or the one on file is not valid) with the ASA. **PLEASE** provide me, via e-mail at azaleas.treasurer@gmail.com, with your e-mail address if you do not have one on file (or do not know if you do), and I will enter it in our online membership database. Note that you may request that the e-mail not be visible to the membership if you wish, and it will be used only for ASA business. Note also that in order to login to the web site to view membership or read recent issues of *The Azalean*, you will need to have an e-mail on file in our database and have registered for a login. Click on the Archives link to get to *The Azalean* archives.

This year, I am encouraging all members to renew electronically on our web site, using the [Join Us](#) link. Doing this only costs the ASA about \$1 per renewal, and it saves you an envelope, a stamp and writing a check. In addition, it saves the ASA the cost (and me the time) of sending you a reminder via the USPS. However, if you prefer to mail me a check, in US dollars, that is perfectly fine. Please use the below address when sending your check:

Paul A. Beck, Treasurer
Azalea Society of America
2963 Fort Lee Street
Oak Hill, VA 20171-1812

Find the amount in the table below to show the number of years and the type of membership you would like. The table includes a \$1 discount for each year paid in advance, up to \$5. For example, to renew for three years as a regular member, choose \$87 from the table. Any membership level other than Regular benefits the ASA operating fund and provides you with a tax deductible contribution to the Society.

If you know you are not going to renew, please let me know by letter or e-mail to azaleas.treasurer@gmail.com, so I will not mail additional dues notices to you.

Domestic dues (US, Canada, Mexico)					Overseas dues - includes airmail postage				
Years	Regular	Contributing	Supporting	Endowment	Years	Regular	Contributing	Supporting	Endowment
1	\$30	\$50	\$100	\$200	1	\$40	\$50	\$100	\$200
2	\$59	\$99	\$199	\$399	2	\$79	\$99	\$199	\$399
3	\$87	\$147	\$297	\$597	3	\$117	\$147	\$297	\$597
4	\$114	\$194	\$394	\$794	4	\$154	\$194	\$394	\$794
5	\$140	\$240	\$490	\$990	5	\$190	\$240	\$490	\$990
6	\$165	\$285	\$585	\$1185	6	\$225	\$285	\$585	\$1185

years. Note that the date searching is an AND search if you use both keywords and authors. That is, the article must contain one of the keywords AND lie within the search year boundaries.

Results Sorting

After a search result is returned, you may sort the results by **Volume**, **Title** or **Author**. If you click on the Volume column title, the results will be sorted from newest to oldest. If you click the Volume column title a second time, the sort will be reversed from oldest to newest.

If you click on Article Title, the results are sorted by title

in ascending order. Similarly, the Author column heading sorts the articles by author.

Expanded Searching within Articles

There is an ongoing effort to generate keywords and phrases from the text of the articles. We are currently researching tools to facilitate this process. Some of the articles have already had keywords entered in the database, so you may notice search results where the keyword is not in the title. When the database has been updated with keywords for all the articles, the search results will be much more comprehensive. Stay tuned for further developments.

Azalea Research Committee Funds Two New Projects

By Hale Booth, Azalea Research Committee Chair—Signal Mountain, Tennessee

ASA's Azalea Research Committee has recently funded two new important azalea research projects. An important mission of your Azalea Research Committee is to stimulate new research into azaleas by making strategic small investments of seed money to leverage new azalea research. Like several other research projects funded through your research contributions, both of these new projects are aimed at developing improved azaleas for the future.

Project #1—Leaf hydraulic conductance of deciduous, evergreen and semi-evergreen Rhododendrons: diverse solutions to the problems presented by evaporative demand

The first grant was awarded to Dr. Juliana Medeiros, a research scientist with the Holden Arboretum in Ohio. She will be investigating differences in how deciduous, evergreen and semi-evergreen azalea leaves conduct water. This will help all of us understand how azaleas adapt to climate situations. The research will compare these leaf hydraulic functions across a number of species to provide insight into the contributions of climate adaptation and evolutionary history to leaf function. A key objective is to provide understanding of climatic hardiness and reveal variations that may be used in breeding for increased heat- and drought-tolerance.

As we all know, adequate water is an important factor in stimulating growth in azaleas, and water is becoming an increasingly limited or expensive resource in many areas. Therefore, research that can lead to a better understanding of this process and identify species with increased heat- and drought-tolerance can help guide the breeding of new azaleas that are better adapted for these climate extremes.

This research project will build upon and thus advance current research at the Holden Arboretum. The Azalea Research Committee committee awarded \$4,988 to purchase equipment, and supplies for this research project. This commitment by the ASA will also help leverage \$36,318 in other funding for the project. The project is expected to take several years to complete and once the research project is completed Dr. Medeiros will report on the results of the project in a future edition of *The Azalean*.

Project #2—Piedmont azalea collection for breeding compact plants

The second research grant was awarded to the Horticultural Department of The University of Georgia in Athens. Under the leadership of Dr. Dayton Wilde, two researchers, Lingjuan Du and Jim Gegogaine will be collecting a large amount of plant material of the Piedmont azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*). This plant material will be used to find variations in genes controlling plant architecture. The objective is to breed compact plants. The *canescens* azalea can reach up to 15 feet in height and width and has an open

form. It has attractive, fragrant, and showy flowers and is important to pollinators and native insects. The horticulture program at the University of Georgia has been a leader in working with the nursery industry to bring new plants to the marketplace. University horticulturists have determined that a smaller and more compact form of *R. canescens* would be of great interest for landscaping in urban areas with increasingly smaller gardens.

The research methodology has already proved successful at the University of Georgia with blueberries, and the research addresses ASA's interest in hybridization to improve plant habit. Azalea Research Committee funding will be used to help with travel expenses to collecting sites across Georgia, some student labor, and fund the purchase of supplies such as DNA extraction kits. Funds from the Vincent J. Dooley Endowment will also be used to help with research project expenses. The project is expected to be completed around December of 2016 and Dr. Wilde will report on the results after that time in *The Azalean*.

These two projects represent an investment of approximately \$6,800 by the Azalea Research Committee, and these along with other research projects under way hold out the promise of developing better azaleas for the future that can even be enjoyed in areas that are traditionally not known as azalea friendly. In order to continue to leverage valuable new research on azaleas, it is critical that we continue to support the building of our Azalea Research Committee Fund over time. Small donations, remembrances and planned gifts from estates have all been essential to building and funding this important program of the Azalea Society of America. Tax deductible donations can be made to the ASA's Azalea Research Committee, C/O Hale Booth, 7085 Sawyer Road, Signal Mountain, TN 37377, or donations may be made directly to the ASA Treasurer with a designation of the Azalea Research Committee as the intended use of the funds.

In Memory—Rosalie Nachman

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Rosalie Nachman on 4 October in Richmond, Virginia. Rosalie was a long time resident of Richmond and member of the Azalea Society of America (having joined in 1981 as a founding member of the Richmond Chapter) and the American Rhododendron Society. She was also a speaker at the 2009 ASA Convention in Herndon, Virginia. Rosalie was an interesting and energetic woman who loved plants and loved to travel. Her home was filled with wonderful artifacts and pieces of art she collected during her trips abroad. She had a beautiful garden, which many of us had the pleasure of enjoying. Rosalie was a very gracious gardener who gladly shared her knowledge and her plants with others. A more in-depth remembrance of Rosalie will be in the Spring issue of *The Azalean*.

Chapter News

Lake Michigan Chapter

John Migas, Past Lake Michigan and ASA President

Over the past few years the chapter officers have tried on numerous occasions to host meetings, plant sales, garden tours, cutting parties, e-mail requests, and holiday parties only to have very little if any response or participation from the chapter members. The past and present chapter officers have served numerous terms and have been hoping that others would step up and volunteer to fill a spot.

It's time for the Lake Michigan Chapter members to make a decision on whether we will continue to exist as a chapter with the Azalea Society of America. The present officers have been trying to keep the chapter alive, but there comes a time to accept reality. As officers, we have reached out to the group with e-mails with very few replies. For now we will continue, but we need to hear from you, Lake Michigan Chapter members.

In the future, if an e-mail is sent to you, please respond with a simple: Yes, no, I'm too busy, or you can even respond with a "don't bother me," which will not offend us. If you feel that the chapter is no longer in your best interest, please let us know. You can send your comments to Chapter President **Jim Ellis** (ellisj@chatermi.net) or **John Migas** (azalea-john@yahoo.com).

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The Northern Virginia Chapter kicked off the fall season with a successful auction in September. The enthusiastic group responded to auctioneer **Paul Davis'** entreaties by bidding up the prices. **Paul Beck's** intricate technological solutions allowed the outdoor fixed-price sale and the indoor auctions (silent and verbal) to be fully integrated with a database of plants, even allowing credit card sales. Enough money was made so that the chapter newsletter ("The Clipper") would be funded and also allow for major contributions to selected charities.

The October meeting featured an explanation of "Bonsai Art" by **Dr. Joseph Gutierrez**. He brought a fine selection of azalea plants he is using, explaining the theory of the art of bonsai along with demonstrating the actual practice of it with the plants shown in various stages of development.

We're looking forward to our holiday party in December and a full slate of activities in 2016, including the 2016 joint ASA/ARS Convention. Feel free to join us!

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Our fall meeting was held at the Liberty Bell wine bar in downtown Nacogdoches. We understand this was also a favorite meeting spot for some of the 2015 Nacogdoches ASA National Convention attendees. Our working lunch/meeting was extremely productive. We are planning a November deciduous azalea planting in the Nacogdoches Master Gar-

dener's Demonstration Garden. Our 2016 spring meeting will be down south at the Bayou Bend Gardens in Houston, Texas, during their Azalea Trails timeframe.

Several chapter members are already talking about their plans to attend the National Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, in April. A proposed fall meeting would take us northeast to the Willis Farm & Native Plants, in Doyline, Louisiana. **Bud Willis** is a Texas Chapter member and a local grower of native plants and Louisiana's largest producer and collector of native azaleas.

Vaseyi Chapter

Audrey Stelloh, President

On February 28th, Alan Mizeras, local native plant expert, will give a slide show on his "Favorite Native Plants." This should help with "gardening withdrawal" symptoms caused by cold winter weather.

On November 8th, we had our annual year-end pot luck luncheon with BBQ and chicken provided by the chapter, with large turnout of 35 people. We invited members of the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS to join us, and several had such a good time that they decided to join the Azalea Society. Many people came early to help set up and stayed late to help clean up.

J Jackson and **Lindy Johnson** gave a demonstration showing how they have successfully grown thousands of seedlings of native azaleas and other plants. Two important points they made are to start with a good quality peat called Fafard® "Grower Mix" and to mist the seeds with a solution of fungicide. (Actinovate® is the brand they like the best.) J and Lindy donated about 50 plants and seed growing materials to the drawing we always have.

We then gave out the Kehr Award, named for one of the founding members of the Vaseyi Chapter, Augie Kehr, to **J Jackson** and **Lindy Johnson** for their contributions to the ASA and leadership in promoting growing, use of, and knowledge about deciduous and native azaleas.

In giving this Kehr Award, the Vaseyi Chapter remembers one of their most knowledgeable horticulturist members, who worked with hybridizing azaleas, magnolias, and other plant collections.

On March 20th, Vaseyi will have a joint meeting with the Southeastern chapter of the ARS. **Hale Booth** will give a presentation on "Broadleaf Evergreens."

▼ Audrey Stelloh presented the Kehr Award to J Jackson and Lindy Johnson.



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Editor’s Note

We always need articles and advertisers for *The Azalean*; just submit your idea and then your article to TheAzalean@gmail.com. Photos need to be at least 4” x 6” at 300 dpi. Our targets for 2016 issues are to mail February 15, June 15, September 15, and November 15. This means we need your input not later than **six weeks ahead**. If you have an event or special collection you would like to promote, we need **two months’ notice** to make sure we save room in the appropriate issue before your event date.

Norfolk's Love Affair with Azaleas

By Brian D. O'Neil—Norfolk Botanic Garden Horticulture Director

From the earliest days of the Norfolk Botanical Garden's (NBG) founding to the present, our garden has been associated with azaleas. In fact NBG was created so that "this city should have an azalea garden to rival those of Charleston, S.C., which even during the depression years of that era drew thousands of tourists annually." While NBG has changed through the years in size, purpose, and even with official name changes, the local populace still refers to NBG as "the Azalea Gardens."

Surrounded by natural beauty and that which was created by many hands working this land over the years, the current staff at NBG is constantly reminded of its fascinating past. The history of our garden is always apparent as much as it is to citizens of any great city. Following are recollections from the NBG's first Director, Fred Heutte, about events surrounding those earliest days.

"Therefore, it was not until June 30, 1938 that the late Representative Norman R. Hamilton announced that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had approved a \$76,278 grant that would enable us to start what we called an Azalea Garden project. Hence, this remains a red letter day in the history of the garden.

"The establishment of the garden was unique. In order to take advantage of Federal grants under a relief program, we had only female labor to draw upon inasmuch as our able bodied male labor was absorbed in other projects. This project was finally accepted on a 90% - 10% ratio of 200 (African-American) women and 20 men. On September 15, 1938, actual work was started clearing the thick underbrush. The city's financial share was also on a like basis (90% - 10% ratio): 10% could be in any form, and, thus, part of my salary and transportation for these women was the city's share.

"By the spring of 1939, sufficient land had been cleared (approximately 25 acres) and one mile of walking



Photo Norfolk Botanical Garden

▲ 'Vittatum Fortunei'

trails, flanked by several acres of well-prepared beds. These were planted in March of 1939 with the first 4,000 azaleas, 2,000 rhododendrons, and several thousand miscellaneous shrubs and trees, and 100 bushels of daffodils all bought by WPA for approximately \$6,000."

Among the azaleas planted in those early days and still thriving in the Mirror Lake section of NBG are the Kurume cultivars 'Flame', 'Hinodegiri', and 'Pink Pearl', the Southern Indian 'Formosum' and its progenitor *Rhododendron simsii* (syn. 'Vittatum Fortunei').

Fred Heutte continues:

"In the meanwhile, a propagation area had been developed so that we could become more or less self-sufficient plant-wise in the future development of the garden. But these modest purchases, and the prevailing labor wages of 25 cents per hour, absorbed the original appropriation of \$76,278, which was appropriated for one year's operation.

"Our original funds were fast running out. Only through the timely intervention of Mr. A. B. Schwarzkopf, President of the Norfolk Association of Commerce, who on August 5, 1939* sent a telegram to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., our Representative in Congress, did a portion of the project become approved, and an appropriation of \$138,553 made. This carried us over to the beginning of the war and the dissolution of WPA. Thus August 5, 1939 becomes another red letter day in the history of the garden as most of the development involved in the project was still focused on the azalea gardens. By 1941 it had grown to over 75 acres, with areas spreading to numerous other plantings along some five miles of walking trails. By then the azalea collection had grown to 50,000 plants."

During the War years NBG was almost lost in support of the war effort. Fred Heutte writes,

"Without government support, the gardens nearly met their Waterloo. Mr. Thomas P. Thompson had been replaced as City Manager by Colonel Charles B. Borland, a most efficient manager, but dedicated to the war effort. Therefore a garden ten miles from downtown was not among his favored projects. So it had to get along the best way it could until such time as gas rationing was over. It did and perhaps here we see how gardens, which are properly planned and located, will

survive the vicissitudes of man. With the help of a small but dedicated staff the garden survived.

“On the morning of November 17, 1942, the late Captain Daniel Harrison, a retired seafaring man, who was then in charge of the garden, called me at my Park Office. He informed me that the Army Engineers were moving in to demolish the gardens for barrack sites as the Army Air Force had taken over the airport and all adjacent property. My immediate reaction was to report to my superiors, who, politely but firmly, told me that a war was on and little could be done about it. I could only see five years of hard work and some quarter of a million dollars all in vain.

“It proved to be fortunate that our main City Park (Lafayette Park) was also occupied by the Army as a military police headquarters most fortuitously headed by Colonel Mahoney, an understanding man whom I had learned to admire. Not knowing what to do following the futile appeal to City Hall, I turned to the Colonel and by the next morning, November 18th, through the efforts of Colonel W. W. Lapsley, Army District Engineer, the barracks, which were to displace the azalea beds, were relocated. A general order was given to respect as much as possible the existing plantings and the operation of the gardens.

“By 1946, the garden, which had survived these early struggles, came to the attention of another Norfolk man, Major Frank Turin: Manager, Norfolk Advertising Board. He believed that the garden could play an important part as a tourist attraction. It was through his efforts that Mr. B. Anthony Stewart, of the *National Geographic*, came to Norfolk in early April 1946 to analyze its potential as a feature article. The following month saw a photographic staff record a garden which was destined to rival those of Charleston, which, incidentally, had been featured by the same magazine in March 1939, at a time when ours was struggling from the underbrush stage.

“In the May 1947 issue of that magazine, the Norfolk azalea gardens made front page, less than nine years after its hurried beginning.”

Undoubtedly there were successive, smaller azalea plantings through the



Photo Norfolk Botanical Garden

▲ ‘Coral Bells’, a Kurume Hybrid

▼ ‘Blushing Angel’, a McDonald Hybrid



Photo Norfolk Botanical Garden

years until the early seventies when, during another airport expansion, more NBG acreage was annexed. At that time a local landscape contractor, Winn Nursery, was tasked with transplanting a large quantity of azaleas and rhododendrons from future airport property to a relatively less developed area in the Garden called the Enchanted Forest. Today, this area is a favorite springtime destination for many garden visitors where such Kurume cultivars as ‘Salmon Queen’ and ‘Kirin’ (syn. ‘Coral Bells’), the Rutherford Hybrid ‘Orange Queen’, the Glenn Dale Hybrid ‘Tango’, and the Southern Indian ‘George L. Taber’ prosper to this day.

In the past three to five years garden staff set a goal to build upon our historic foundation by increasing our azalea accessions, especially with cultivars that perform well in Southern heat and humidity. Another of our goals was to extend the April azalea season into early summer by acquiring as many late blooming azalea cultivars as possible. April has traditionally been one of the most heavily visited months of the year for the NBG. When the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. announced plans to eliminate the azaleas on Mount Hamilton at the



Photo Norfolk Botanical Garden

▲ 'Dream Sherbert', a McDonald Hybrid

Arboretum, our then Curator of Woody Plants received an invitation from **Miles Beach** and **Tom Johnson** at Magnolia Plantation to make a trip to the Arboretum to collect cuttings from those azaleas before they were destroyed. Due to some confusion with quarantine issues, permitting and other difficulties NBG never received any cuttings from those plants. As luck would have it, however, members of the Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America (ASA), especially **Carolyn Beck** and **Phil** and **Frances Louer** supplied us with a great many cuttings of mainly Satsuki, Back Acres, and some Glenn Dale Hybrids.

After rooting these cuttings and growing them on to a plantable size, our number of new azalea accessions is impressive. Thanks to the generosity of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA members, NBG has increased our accessions of Satsuki cultivars by a whopping 52 new cultivars! Among the Satsuki Hybrids, 'Chidori', 'Gyokushin', and 'Shunpo' are now thriving here. Our Back Acres numbers increased by an additional 40 cultivars! Cultivars such as 'Habanera', 'Rejoice', and 'Spring Bonnet' represent this class of mainly later blooming azaleas well. All totaled, among all the various types of evergreen azaleas we have added approximately 150 new cultivars to our 175 acres—an impressive achievement!

A year or two after we acquired the Satsuki and Back Acres cuttings ASA members asked to see our inventory for Glenn Dale azalea cultivars. ASA member **Dan Krabill**, who has an almost complete collection of Glenn Dale cultivars, put together a slide show of cultivars by bloom time and color from which ASA members voted on their top 100 favorites. From that reduced list of favorites ASA member **Rick Bauer** delivered an additional 22 Glenn Dale cultivars to NBG.

In the fall of 2014, NBG staff planted a mixture, totaling 300 of these newest acquisitions on the large earthen berm separating the Garden from our neighbor airport. This was a banner day when many staff from other departments answered the call to help plant these one-gallon-sized shrubs, massed for color and height, from the bottom of the berm to the top—in one hour! As of this writing we have started the process to find homes and plant most of the remaining balance (350+) of all these newly acquired azalea cultivars. Even after this two-year planting process, we still have a few cultivars whose total numbers are too small to plant for any effective display. We are taking cuttings of these to bulk up their numbers so we can finish the planting in a couple of years' time.

NBG is also very lucky to know **Dr. Sandra MacDonald**, a prestigious breeder of azaleas who lives in nearby Hampton, Virginia.

We have a section of our Glade Garden dedicated to the beautiful cultivars she has bred that includes interpretive signage to inform the public of their special

pedigree. We are very close to having a comprehensive collection of McDonald Hybrid Azaleas, including the attractive cultivars 'Dainty Angel', 'Hampton Classic', and 'Sandra's Green Ice'. Nearby we also have a section of the garden dedicated to the Glenn Dale Hybrids and another sign extolling their virtues.

Our work is never done and no garden vignette is ever completely finished. As we strive for sometimes fleeting perfection, there are still many possibilities for additional azalea plantings in our sheltered places, especially so with deciduous species and hybrids. NBG is gratefully indebted to the dedicated members of ASA for their help in acquiring new azalea cultivars. With their help we hope to build on our collection as we pursue an accreditation for azaleas from the North American Plant Collection Consortium (NAPCC), a program of the American Public Gardens Association. If achieved, this would add a fourth to the three NAPCC accreditations we currently hold for our Camellia, Hydrangea, and Crapemyrtle collections. We pledge to be good stewards of the plants, to maintain the trust of the ASA, and to build on our relationship, just as we have built on the garden's foundations, laid those many years ago.

Brian O'Neil graduated from Virginia Tech in 1980 with a BS Degree in Horticulture and worked for five years as a landscape designer for Smithfield Gardens in Suffolk. In 1985 he started his own landscape design, installation, and maintenance business working for residential clients and kept that going for 18 years. In 1996 he earned a MS Degree in Horticulture from Virginia Tech. He then worked for another company (Maxwell Landscape Service in Chesapeake) for five years before starting at the NBG in November 2007. He has a strong background in landscape design, plants, plant identification, and plant utilization in the landscape. He was born and raised in Norfolk. He has served on the Garden's Board of Directors and Landscape Committees and used to write a monthly "Tidewater Tips" column for the Garden newsletter as well as "My Favorite Plant." He teaches design and plant related courses at the NBG. He is an at-large member of the ASA.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

By Beth Monroe and Jonah Holland—Richmond, Virginia

With more than 50 acres of year-round beauty, it's not surprising Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is one of the most-visited attractions in the Richmond region. Our mission is education, and our passion is connecting people and plants to measurably improve our community. We have more than a dozen themed areas with seasonal displays and many paths to explore.

Let's start with our 63-foot-tall classical, domed Conservatory. It features unusual plants from around the world, including more than 200 orchids, seasonal displays, and our seasonal Butterflies LIVE! exhibit (April 15 to October 9, 2016) where you'll see hundreds of winged beauties. You'll have some wonderful photo opportunities as you watch them feed, flutter and take flight all around you.

We know you want to know more about other gardens! Here are some highlights, beginning with the Central Garden. As you leave the Georgian architecture of the Visitors Center, you will enter the Central Garden, which is a series of "garden rooms." Straight ahead you can see the glittering glass dome of the Conservatory, the jewel of the Garden.

The first "garden room" is the North Terrace, an elegant courtyard with a central fountain featuring glazed tiles representing magnolia leaves. Sounds of splashing water and pleasant fragrances begin the transition from the Visitors Center to the garden environment.

Next is the Four Seasons Garden. As the name implies, this intimate space provides year-round interest. Designed in classic Arts and Crafts style, the Four Seasons Garden also has a fountain, this one with whimsical frogs spouting water.

Proceed toward the Conservatory and the next space is the Healing Garden. This Garden reflects two of mankind's fundamental uses of plants – for medicine and healing. To the left you will find a small garden designed as a place for spiritual healing through contemplation, meditation, and reflection.



Photo: Jonah Holland

▲ Dodd and Dodd "Confederate Series" Hybrid *Rhododendron* x 'J. E. B. Stuart'

▼ *Rhododendron* 'Gable's Oink Conewago' in the Van Arnam *Rhododendron* Collection

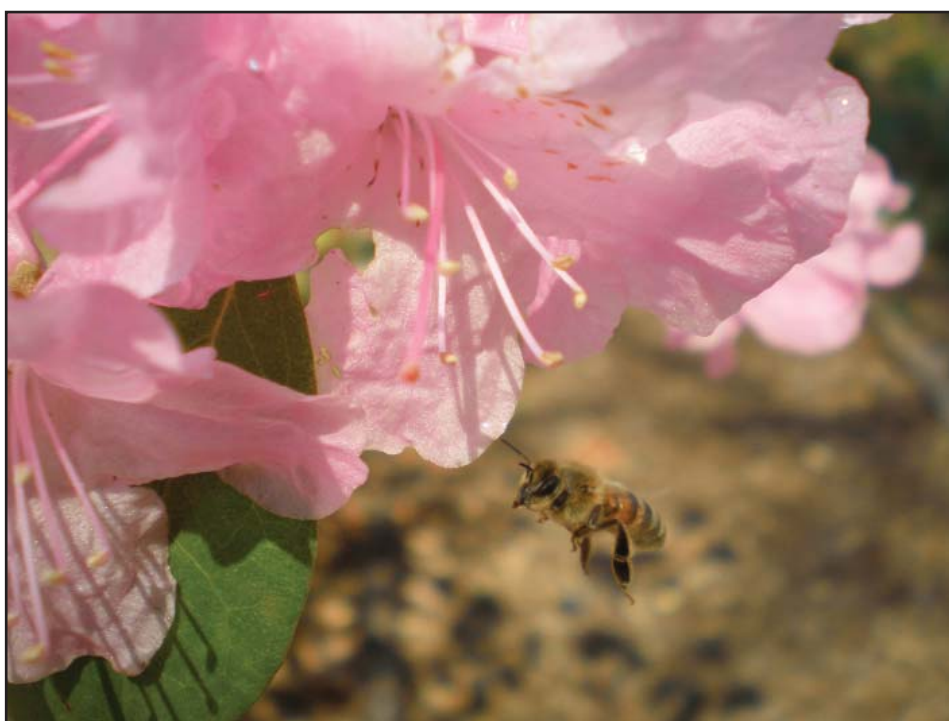


Photo: Jonah Holland

To the right, an elliptical bed is accentuated with an oversized granite mortar and pestle. This space reflects the medicinal significance of plants and was inspired from the 1545 Renaissance Garden in Padua, Italy.

As you walk down the Main Garden Path, you'll see the Cochrane Rose Garden. Beauty, fragrance, and color abound with nearly 1,800 rose bushes featured in this 9,000 square-foot hillside garden. Arbors, stone arches, and pavilions are draped in more than 70 varieties of blooming roses originating from nurseries in



▲ Red-orange blooms of the *R. flammeum* Oconee Azalea with the "Lace House" in the background.

▼ *R. austrinum* "Florida Azalea"



France, Italy, Germany and England, with an emphasis on genetically superior hybrids bred for disease resistance, rebloom, and fragrance. You'll also find some azaleas here near the lake edge.

Pass through the wooden Moon Gate into the Asian Valley. Here you will see the spirit of Asian garden design with dramatic tree forms, cascading water, and the inclusion of boulders as a major design element. This garden celebrates the sacredness of nature and also provides a place for quiet contemplation. Asian Valley displays plants native to Asia that are adapted to growing conditions in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. In addition to many conifers and broad

leaved evergreens, Asian Valley showcases an iris collection, many interesting Japanese maples, and of course many azaleas and rhododendrons!

You won't want to miss the Lotus Bridge, a gleaming silver ribbon crossing Lake Sydnor and connecting to the Flagler Garden. You'll find our largest collection of azaleas and rhododendrons here and along the surrounding woodland paths. The heart of this garden is an inviting green lawn, surrounded by collections of perennials, bulbs, woody plants, and blooming shrubs for an ever-changing palette of seasonal beauty. Hostas, crapemyrtles, and a plethora of ornamentals adorn the landscape. The Woodland Walk in Flagler and side footpaths provide ample opportunities to explore naturalistic areas featuring native plants. It's here that you will find the Joan Van Arnum Azalea Walk, created with an explosion of color in mind. Azaleas come in a wide range of colors, growth forms, and flower types. While walking through Azalea Walk, garden visitors will start at one end of the color spectrum of this genus and pass through many different shades and flower forms.

Nearby, you'll be able to explore the West Island Garden through a series of bridges and boardwalks. This wetland environment offers expansive views across the water and close-up experiences with plants and wildlife. Its focus is on native species; a highlight is the excellent collection of carnivorous pitcher plants.

Take time to examine the pitcher plants; they're beautiful and deadly... but to insects only! These plants live along the water's edge in nitrogen-poor soil and must capture insects in their pitchers, which are tube-like modified leaves, to get the nutrients they need. Notice the plants' bright colors and veining patterns; peer into their "pitchers" or long tubes and you may see lunch being digested!

Also adjacent to Flagler Garden is Grace Arents Garden and the historic home on the property, Bloemendaal House. Built in 1895 by Lewis Ginter, Bloemendaal House was originally a one-story bicycle club known as the Lakeside Wheel Club. The elegant, Victorian-style space around the house is the oldest garden on the property.

Photo Jonah Holland

Photo Jonah Holland

Lewis Ginter's niece, Grace Arents, first tended the garden here in the early 1900s. The Garden Club of Virginia restored the garden in 1990, based on its original early-1900s design. Grace Arents Garden features period-appropriate plants with an "old-fashioned" feel, a gazebo and two latticed arches covered with climbing roses, and a traditional boxwood border. An unusual combination of both annuals and perennials ensures something is always in bloom. Abundant peonies are stunning in the spring in combination with daffodils and tulips. Spectacular trees also populate this garden, the largest of which are a ginkgo, southern magnolia, and Darlington oak. The garden's centerpiece, a decorative sundial, is a 1914 original feature from Miss Grace's own garden. This beautiful area is a favorite place for weddings and special events.

The Cherry Tree Walk, circling Sydnor Lake is named for its spring-flowering cherries, but this path boasts other flowering trees and layered plantings to deliver year-round interest. The Cherry Tree Walk includes two floating docks, inviting visitors to discover aquatic life and new views of the garden. The Edible Display Garden, along the Cherry Tree Walk showcases plants and practices suitable for the home landscape. Also be sure to see the Lucy Payne Minor Garden, featuring daylilies, daffodils and flowering shrubs; the Margaret Streb Conifer Garden, with dwarf conifers and ornamental grasses; the Vienna Cobb Anderson Meadow, a hillside meadow attractive to birds and pollinators; and a constructed wetland nearby.

We can't wait for you to visit our Garden! Our friendly staff, great gar-



Photo Don Williamson

▲ Pink Satsuki Azalea R. 'Kaempo' in Asian Valley

dens and events, and outstanding dining and shopping have resulted in the following awards: USA Today's "10 Best Public Gardens" voted number two by readers in 2014; Travel Channel's "Best Botanical Gardens in the U.S." in 2013; and International Garden Tourism Award's "Top 10 North American Gardens Worth Travelling For" in 2013.

We'd love you to follow us on social media, and to get a better feel for our garden and what's blooming when you visit. (Please note you do not have to have an account to view our photos and content.)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LewisGinter>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/lewisginter/>

Blog (you can subscribe via email for updates too): <http://www.lewisginter.org/blog/>

Web site: <http://www.lewisginter.org/>

Beth Monroe is Public Relations and Marketing Director at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. She feels honored to be part of a team connecting people and plants to improve our community. **Jonah Holland** is the Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator at the garden, specializing in social media. She's been known to go for a walk, and come back completely inspired to write a blog post on her newest found adventure.



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**Evergreen Azaleas at the
Norfolk Botanical Garden**

We cordially invite you to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia for a joint meeting of the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society from April 20-24, 2016. In addition to the obvious historical attractions, expect tours of the historic areas, tours to public and private gardens in Richmond, Norfolk, and Gloucester, distinguished speakers, and a great plant sale. Registration materials and descriptive articles appear in this issue of *The Azalean*, but we encourage you to visit our web site to plan your trip.

www.arsasaconvention2016.org

ASA Research Committee

Established in 2009, the ASA Research Committee is dedicated to fostering knowledge about azaleas by funding research in azalea classification, culture, hybridizing, and education. Research projects currently underway hold the promise of developing better azaleas.

In order to continue to leverage valuable new research on azaleas, it is critical that we continue to support the building of our Azalea Research Committee fund. Small donations, remembrances, and planned gifts from estates have all been essential to building and funding this important program.

Tax deductible donations can be made to:

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