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# THE AZALEAN

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*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*

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Volume 11 Number 4

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# THE AZALEAN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Letter	
Robert W. Hobbs .....	64
The Enchanting Satsuki — Part 1	
Ajit K. Thakur, Ph.D. ....	64
Distribution of the Glenn Dale Azaleas and the Ten Oaks Nursery	
Richard T. West .....	69
Notice to Members — Proposed Revisions of the By-Laws of the Azalea Society of America	
Donald Voss .....	73
Note on "Japan Journey — 1989"	
John L. Creech .....	74
Society News	
Board of Governors Meeting .....	75
1990 Annual Meeting and Convention .....	75
B. Y. Morrison Park Dedicated .....	75
Public Information .....	75
Ben Morrison/Delmarva Regional Meeting Gets Local Publicity .....	75
Ben Morrison Chapter News .....	75
Executive Committee Meeting .....	76
Dallas Chapter News .....	76
Northern Virginia Chapter News .....	76
In Memoriam—Ruth Harrington .....	76
Richmond Chapter News .....	76
September Mailing Statistics .....	77
Azalea Calendar .....	77
New Members .....	77
Azalea Mart .....	77

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Robert W. Hobbs

At their October 15th meeting, the Board of Governors decided to increase the dues for the Society effective immediately for the 1990 membership year. The new dues are:

Regular Member	\$ 20.00
Contributing Member	\$ 30.00
Sustaining Member	\$ 60.00
Endowment Member	\$120.00 or more
Life Member	\$300.00

The Board of Governors has monitored and studied the finances of the Society closely in recent years. Without this dues increase for 1990, the Society could not continue to fulfill its aims.

This is the first increase in dues since the increase to \$15.00 for the 1985 membership year. Over the past five years the consumer price index has increased by nearly 30%.

With this dues increase, we believe that will not only keep up with inflation, but in addition can significantly enhance our benefits to members. For example, in 1990 we plan to increase the number of pages in **THE AZALEAN** or add a color cover, or perhaps both.

We believe that membership in the Azalea Society of America is still a bargain. We hope that you all will agree, and look forward to a better Society in 1990.

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## The Enchanting Satsuki

Ajit K. Thakur, Ph.D.  
Springfield, Virginia

*(Author's Notes: The following article is based on a seminar the author gave at the American Rhododendron Society Potomac Valley Chapter meeting last fall. Mr. Donald Voss presided over the meeting and took meticulous notes of the author's presentation. Since then, Don has provided the author a neatly typed copy of his notes and urged him to write this article. Even though it took a while, here is a modified version of that talk, thanks to Don.)*

Ever since the publication of Ito Ihei's monograph *Kinshu Makura* (A Brocade Pillow) (1) in 1692, Satsuki azaleas have held a very special place in Japanese gardening. They became almost part of a religious culture; indeed, some of the finest Satsuki cultivars are found in shrines and temples. The bonsai cult in Japan brought an entirely different dimension to Satsuki culture. Once they found their way into the West, the Satsuki azaleas provided some of the most exciting specimens in ornamental gardening, particularly in the United States.

Today the Satsukis constitute the largest group of azaleas—over 3,000 cultivars and still growing in numbers. No other group of azaleas shows so much diversity in plant, leaf, and flower forms. Some of the smallest flowering and some of the largest flowering plants come from this group. The contorted leaf and twisted leaf azaleas are exclusively from this group. Many of the variegated leaf azaleas also belong to the Satsuki group. And last but not the least, the unpredictable flower variations or "sporting" make this group mystical. So, what are these Satsukis? Much detail of the Satsuki history is buried in Japanese literature. Even in Japan the Satsukis

are "shrouded in mystery" as Galle (2) puts it. Even though a craze like the Dutch "Tulipomania" never took place in Japan over the Satsukis, there was intense rivalry and competition among the Japanese noblemen to display and boast of their unique collections.

### Satsuki Species and Hybrids

The Satsukis as a group comprise of two species—*R. indicum* (L.) Sweet (Satsuki Tsutsuji) and *R. tamurae* (Makino) Masam (previously known as *R. eriocarpum* Nakai) (Maruba Satsuki - "Round Leaf" Satsuki), together with their natural hybrids and various crosses made by nurserymen and azalea lovers over the last four centuries. Some Japanese experts believe that Maruba Satsuki is a tender form of the Satsuki, and not a species by itself. Many of these experts take offense in the species designation "indicum" for the Satsuki (India, home of many exciting species of rhododendrons, is not a natural habitat for their cousins, the species azaleas). The Satsuki is Japan's very own. Unfortunately, the designations "nipponicum" and "japonicum" have already been used to designate two Japanese deciduous azalea species.

The word "Tsutsuji" has various botanical meanings in Japanese. For example, Tsutsuji Ka means Heath Family or Ericaceae, Tsutsuji Zoku means the genus *Rhododendron* (including azaleas), Dodan-tsutsuji Zoku means *Enkianthus*, Yoraku-tsutsuji Zoku means *Menziesia*, etc. In common use, the word "Tsutsuji" generally implies all azaleas and rhododendrons, excluding the Satsukis.

## Geographical Distribution and History

Geographically, the Satsuki species and their various forms are found in abundance in the mountainous parts of southern Japan. The Maruba Satsuki is generally concentrated at the lower altitudes (particularly Yakushima, where it flourishes along streams and flowers sporadically throughout the year (Creech, Personal Communication), possibly making them genetically less winter hardy for other regions. Yinger (3) gives a vivid account of a trip to this region that led to his appreciation of the Satsuki. Discussions of the geographical distribution of the Satsuki and the Maruba Satsuki and the development of their hybrids can be found in Creech (4-5), Hahn (6), Yinger (3), and Galle (2) in English, and in Okita (7) and Nakajama (8) among others in Japanese. There are special societies such as the Gekkan Satsuki Ken-kyusha (Monthly Satsuki Study Association) which have been involved in research on the Satsuki. They have regular publications in Japanese. The last mentioned group has published several books on the Satsuki. One notable book is Satsuki Dai Jiten (Satsuki Large Dictionary) (9), which contains brief descriptions and color plates of 878 Satsukis, both species and hybrids. The names of the cultivars are also spelled out in English. This handy (in the real sense!) book is an excellent guide for selecting Satsukis.

Briefly, the Satsuki species and their various forms were not prevalent as ornamental shrubs in Japanese gardens before the Edo Period (1600-1868). Their habitat in cultivation was basically shrines and temples as hedges because of their dense growth habit and autumn color. The flower color and pattern range was very narrow—mostly reddish-orange, single, few hose-in-hose, occasional semi-double/double, and rarely pink or purple, and very rarely white. During the Edo Period, the Satsuki species started appearing in the gardens of the nobility. Plant lovers started exploring the hills and mountains of several warm temperate regions of Japan (Kyushu, Shikoku, and the Fukuoka-Kyoto areas of Honshu (Creech, Personal Communication) in search of varieties with distinctive flower or leaf forms—such as lacinate petals ("Shide Satsuki") and extremely narrow leaves ("Otakumi"). Where the native ranges of the Satsuki and the Maruba Satsuki meet, natural hybrids are found with larger flowers, different color patterns, variations, variegations, and stripes. Once Ito Ihei's *Kinshu Makura* was published in 1692, the Satsuki rush was on. There were virtual depletions of easily accessible stands of these fine plants. The story is similar to what happened in China and India where many fine rhododendron specimens have disappeared from the wilderness. Man's unkind encroachment has done the same thing along the eastern seaboard in the United States, where many fine species deciduous azaleas and other indigenous plants have been disappearing at a frightening rate.

During the Meiji Period (1868-1912) in Japan, hundreds of new Satsukis with superior plant habits, color patterns, thicker petals, and larger flowers were deve-

loped by nurserymen. Yet the Satsuki species with their various forms ("Macrantha") still continue to be used as desirable ornamental and foundation plants. Container culture both as bonsai and specimen plants has always been popular in Japan, particularly in the cities because of limited land. Its natural evolution included the growing of Satsuki azaleas in volcanic lava.

Large scale commercial production of Satsukis began in Kurume around 1905 by three nurserymen—Kumashiro, Egashira, and Annow. They produced a Satsuki catalog in 1908 (Creech—Personal Communication).

In old Japanese, the word "Satsuki" means the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar. This time span would correspond roughly from the last week of May to the third week of June. This is the period during which most of the Satsukis bloom (a few "outliers" will be described later). Unlike the habit among the American hybridizers, Japanese hybridizers generally do not associate their own names with their plants. As a result, any azalea that has a Satsuki as at least one of its parents, is called a Satsuki in Japan. There are many inter-group hybrids in the Satsuki category. The Chinese azalea *R. simsii* and its derivatives, the Belgian Indicas, have been in Japanese gardens for about four hundred years. These may have contributed to some of the less hardy but more exciting Satsukis. The Torch Azalea (*R. kaempferi*) has also been used in Satsuki culture more recently. An excellent example is 'Kaempo' (*R. kaempferi* X 'Gunpo'). In Japan, inter-group hybridization started during the early part of this century. For example, Kyuichi Kuwano developed such hybrids as early as 1918. Tadashi Hisatomi released a number of his inter-group cultivars in 1932. (Creech—Personal Communication). The major center for these endeavors was Kurume City, where the Vegetable and Ornamental Research Station is currently involved in hybridization between the Satsuki, Kurume, Miyama Kirishima (*R. kiusianum*), Belgian Indica, and other groups of azaleas. Kochirio Wada and Dr. Tsuneshigo Rokujo also developed a number of interesting Satsukis and inter-group hybrids in recent years. Several nurserymen are producing Satsuki and inter-group hybrids in Australia and New Zealand. Inter-group hybridization reached its peak in America with the works of Joseph Gable, Ben Morrison, Robert Gartrell, and James Harris, to name a few.

## Satsuki Names

The Japanese use all sorts of imaginative names for Satsukis. Some are poetic, such as 'Chinsei' (Tranquility) and 'Otome no Mai' (Dance of the Maiden); some are descriptive, such as 'Kara Ito' (Chinese Thread, to describe the threadlike structure); some recall princesses, such as 'Akoyo Hime' (Princess Akoyo), and 'Kotobuki Hime' (Princess Kotobuki). Other Satsukis are named after the moon, such as 'Shinnyo no Tsuki' (Eternal Moon) and 'Tsuki no Shimo' (Frosty Moon); some after goddesses, such as 'Fukurokuju' (A Japanese goddess) and 'Waka Ebisu' (Young Goddess); some after the old cap-

ital (Kyoto), such as 'Miyako no Hikari' (Light of the Capital) and 'Miyako no Tsuki' (Moon of the Capital). Still other names recall favorite mountains, such as 'Shira Fuji' (Snow on Mt. Fuji) and 'Meizan' (Beautiful Mountain); the beloved country, such as 'Nihon no Hana' (Flower of Nihon or Japan) and 'Mizuho no Kagami' (Mirror of the Land of Rice Paddies, meaning Japan).

Even in Japan many Satsukis are known by different names in different parts of the country. Nurserymen from different areas often used local common descriptive names, making identification of some plants rather difficult. For example, the dwarf Satsuki 'Kazan' (Deer Mountain) is also called 'Bun Cho' and 'Kakuba Chikuzan' in many areas. The same fine azalea also acquired a Japanese-sounding name in America, namely, 'Rukizon'. Harold Greer thinks some early West Coast nurseryman received a shipment of azaleas from Japan (Personal Communication). 'Kazan' was one of them. The plant may have been labeled as "R.X Kazan", as was the usual practice then. During transit the writing faded and the nurseryman read the label as 'Rukizon'. In fact, several azalea nurserymen in America sell this plant under three different names, 'Rukizon', 'Bun Cho', and 'Macrantha Ovatum', and indicate that even though they are very similar in flower and plant habits, they are really three different plants. 'Bun Cho' and 'Kazan', of course, are different Japanese names for the same plant (8). I do not know whether there really is a 'Macrantha Ovatum'; all I can tell is that the same plant acquired from three reliable sources turned out to be nothing but 'Bun Cho' ('Kazan'). The same thing happened here with the unusual strap-petal Satsuki 'Kinsai', which is a form of *R. indicum*. The plant was originally introduced in this country as *R. polypetalum*. Many nurserymen now sell this plant under both names indicating, once again, that they are very similar but indeed different plants. To make things even more confusing, this same plant is also called *R. linearifolium* (*R. macrosepalum* 'Linearifolium') 'Red Spider' by many of these people.

On the other hand, several distinctively different Satsukis go by the same name in Japan. For example, there are two 'Kazan' azaleas. The 'Kazan' or 'Bun Cho' we have already discussed is a sport of another fine Satsuki, 'O Sakazuki' (a pink form of *R. indicum* popularly known in America as 'Macrantha' or 'Lateritia'). The second 'Kazan', which is extremely variable, is a seedling of 'Bandai'. There are three different azaleas listed under the name 'Kogetsu'. Each is very different from the others. This practice does not end here. For example, there are both a Satsuki and a white form of the dainty 'Miyama Kirishima' azalea (*R. kiusianum*) with the name 'Shogetsu'. Similarly, there is a Satsuki by the name 'Otome' (Maiden), which is also the name of a beautiful Kurume azalea. There are many similar examples.

Another difficulty for non-Japanese is the absence of ability to distinguish certain Japanese sounds, particularly in English transliterations. For example, two popular Satsukis, 'Eikan' and 'Banka' are sometimes transliterated as 'Eikwan' and 'Bankwa' in America. Even

the Japanese Satsuki experts themselves have not been able to agree on how to express many azalea names in English. Let us look at the differences in spelling appearing in two classics in the Satsuki literature:

<i>Zukan Satsuki</i> (7)	<i>Satsuki Dai Jiten</i> (9)
Ungetu Ungetsu	Sirahuji Shirafuji
Sinnyo no Tuki	Shinnyo no Tsuki
Tigosugata	Chigosugata
Tinzan Chinzan	Tyozyuho Chojuho

The list goes on.

We will end this saga of confusion with the case of a very popular Satsuki, 'Gunpo', popularly known as 'Gumpo' in America. 'Gunpo' is a beautiful white sprawling Satsuki with occasional purple streaks on some petals as the plant matures. Lee in his classic work on azaleas (10) called this a garden variety of *R. eriocarpum*, now-a-days correctly designated as *R. tamurae*. *R. tamurae* is the famous round-leaf Maruba Satsuki, which blooms along with other Satsukis but is considerably more tender. But *R. tamurae* is by no means sprawling. It is a medium-sized plant that may eventually get to 4-5 feet tall and 6-8 feet across. Moreover, whereas 'Gunpo' and its various sports will take occasional -5 F winter cold without any extensive plant or bud damage, *R. tamurae* will suffer total bud damage and partial plant damage if the temperature is near +5 F for any extended period of time. The flower pattern on 'Gunpo' is also entirely different. There is no Maruba Satsuki heritage in 'Gunpo'. I have seen some nurserymen even listing 'Gunpo' a "dwarf indica", whatever that means! 'Gunpo' is a typical Satsuki and let us keep it that way! Yinger (3) in his article also expressed his doubts about 'Gunpo' being a *R. tamurae* clone.

#### Flower and Foliage Characteristics

The flower pattern of Satsukis has been extensively described with pictures and drawings in almost all books that deal with them. Galle's book (2) is a good source for such a discussion in English. Creech in his comments in the English edition of Ito's classic book on azaleas (1) discusses the changes in description of these patterns from Ito's time. It is pertinent to mention briefly a few of these patterns. For example, showy variegation is termed "Data Shibori", parallel lines as "Hakeme Shibori", etc. In all, at least 24 such patterns are recognized in Satsuki azaleas. As we will see later, the Satsuki group contains not only some of the smallest and largest flowering azaleas, it also contains some of the most unusual ones such as the strap petal varieties and varieties without any petals. Satsuki flowers sometimes are campanulate, have pointed petals, or are completely flat with rounded lobes. There are Satsukis with various mixtures of all of the above as well. And of course the Satsukis are famous (some say notorious!) for the different variations or sporting in their flowers. Generally, not all the variations are seen until a plant is mature, say 10 or 12 years of age. This latter phenomenon makes it very difficult to describe many of the plants. The variability is sometimes passed

along to inter-group hybrids, as can be seen in many fine plants hybridized by Ben Morrison, Robert Gartrell, James Harris, and others. It is quite conceivable that many of the bicolor Satsuki hybrids have *R. tamurae*, *R. simsii* and Belgian Indica as one of the parents.

A plant without good summer and winter foliage does not have a great value in ornamental gardening. The Japanese plant lovers are particularly sensitive about that. Most Satsukis, both species and hybrids, have rather dense foliage, a major portion of which is retained over winter. Also many of these plants put up a beautiful show of colors in their leaves during the winter months. Along with the Kurume azaleas, the Satsukis make up the two most evergreen groups from Japan. This characteristic combined with their unique flowers was probably why Satsukis were selected as parent plants by most of the major hybridizers.

The Satsuki group includes some of the most exciting and often unusual leaf forms. There are plants with wrinkled, contorted, and twisted leaves; and there are leaves which are beautifully variegated, speckled, or blotched with yellow or white. Some have both patterns. We will see some such examples later. And there are, of course, plants with extremely narrow (in some cases, yew-like leaves). Many of these unusual-leaf plants are sports of other Satsukis. In the case of variegated-leaf Satsukis, some may have the variegated leaf form of *R. simsii* in their background. The variegated *R. simsii* is so far the only such known species. Many of these variegated plants are less vigorous and winter hardy. Nonetheless, some of the variegated-leaf Satsukis put up spectacular bicolor winter display some years depending upon the availability of summer moisture.

### Satsukis in the United States

There were few Satsukis available in America during the early 1900s. These were mostly in the South under the group name of Southern Indica and originally came from Belgium and England as florists' azaleas. Examples are 'Coccinea Major', 'Iveryana', and 'General Wavell' (a fine bicolor Satsuki). Also, several other *R. indicum* clones came to this country from Europe under the name 'Lateritia' ('Macrantha'). The single rose-pink form of this is called 'O Sakazuki' in Japan. Various forms—single-to-double and in many colors—of this fine plant are sold in the American market today by the group name 'Macrantha'. The first formal introduction of Satsukis in America took place between 1938 and 1939 when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Introduction Station brought 53 Satsukis under the guidance of B. Y. Morrison from Chugai Plant Distributors of Japan. These plants were originally introduced as the Chugai Hybrids, later to be changed to the Satsuki Hybrids. This first introduction, in reality, included several forms of *R. indicum* as well as hybrids. Among the notable forms of *R. indicum* which played an important role in early American hybridization efforts, were 'Warai Jishi', 'Hakata Jiro', 'Kinsai', and 'O Sakazuki'. The USDA introduced another 36 Satsukis in 1955 and

1959. Morrison privately imported many other Satsukis for his post-retirement hybridization project which produced the Back Acres series of azaleas.

Dr. John Creech, responsible for introducing many rare species azaleas from Japan, has been bringing many unusual and beautiful varieties of Satsukis to America. Polly Hill of North Tisbury fame has selected and introduced several interesting Satsuki crosses (along with many other plants) made by Dr. Tsuneshigo Rokujo of Japan. Other private introducers include Nuccio's Nurseries, Greer Gardens, and Sonoma Horticultural Nursery, all from the Pacific Coast.

The largest U.S. introduction of Satsuki azaleas was initiated by the Brookside Gardens (Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Silver Spring, Maryland). Under the sponsorship of Chief Horticulturist Carl Hahn, Barry Yinger selected approximately 353 Satsuki cultivars from Japan during 1978 and 1979. This collection includes some of the plants introduced previously by the USDA and other sources. Most of these plants are exquisite, and some are very unusual as well. They are currently being made available to the azalea lovers by several nurserymen. The Brookside introductions are identified by many with index numbers with the prefix "B" or "BG".

The Satsuki group played a vital role in hybridizing projects in several countries including America. Practically all major American hybridizers since the late 1930s used them in their projects. It is the quality, size, and color of their flowers—as well as their plant habits—that attracted these hybridizers to the Satsukis. We will briefly mention some of these endeavors. B. Y. Morrison used Satsukis in 33% of his Glenn Dales and 88% of his registered Back Acres. Some of his favorite Satsukis for these large projects were 'Shinnyo No Tsuki', 'Kagetsu', and 'Warai Jishi' (an irregular double indicum). A few of the popular and exciting Glenn Dales with Satsuki parentage are: 'Martha Hitchcock' ('Mucronatum' x 'Shinnyo No Tsuki'), 'Grace Freeman'; a sport from a seedling of (*R. simsii* 'Vittata Fortunei' x 'Mucronatum') x 'Shinnyo No Tsuki' and 'Delos' (*R. simsii* 'Vittata Fortunei' x 'Warai jishi'). Among Morrison's Back Acres, some examples are: 'Debonaire' ('Copperman' x 'Hakata Jiro', a white form of indicum), 'Margaret Douglas' ('Hatsushima' x *R. indicum* x 'Shinsei'), and 'May Blaine' ('Kagetsu' x 'Warai Jishi').

Eighty-seven percent of Robert Gartrell's registered Robin Hill azaleas include some Satsuki parentage in their background. His favorite Satsukis seem to have been 'Shinnyo No Tsuki', 'Tama Giku', and 'Eikan'. 'Nancy of Robinhill' (Belgian Indica 'Vervaeneana' x 'Louise Gable' x 'Tama Giku'), 'Conversation Piece' ('Emil Rousseau' x 'Carol') x 'Eikan') and 'Eunice Updike' ('Louise Gable' x 'Shinnyo No Tsuki') are a few well-known Robin Hill hybrids in which Satsukis were used.

James Harris used at least one Satsuki as a parent in 70% of his named crosses. Two of his favorite Satsukis for this purpose were 'Banka' and 'Amagasa', both large flowering Satsukis. The results of these crosses were

large, flat, sometimes bicolor and late bloomers such as 'Joan Garrett' ('Banka' x 'Target'), 'Fascination' ('Grace Freeman #2' x 'Amagasa') and 'Frosted Orange' ('Banka' x 'Target').

Even Joseph Gable and Peter Girard, better known for producing very hardy evergreen azaleas, used Satsukis in their hybridization purposes. Examples are: Gable's 'Cameo' ((*R. poukhanense* x *R. kaempferi*) x *R. indicum*), 'Louise Gable' (*R. indicum* (*R. kaempferi* x *R. poukhanense*)); Girard's 'Garnet Royal' ((*R. simsii* 'Vittata Fortunei' x 'Warai Jishi') x Southern Indica 'Pluto' (probably an *indicum* itself)) and 'Renee Michelle' ((Gable's 'Kathleen' x *R. kaempferi* 'Fedora') x 'Gumpo pink'). More recently, Nels Nelson and Pete Vines have produced some unusual and beautiful plants using Satsukis as well as other azaleas.

Currently, hybridizers are experimenting with Satsukis crossed with Glenn Dales, Back Acres, and Robin Hills. If there ever is produced a true yellow evergreen azalea, chances are that one of its parents would be a Satsuki.

### Cultural Considerations

Hardiness is the ultimate determinant for the popularity of any garden ornamental plant. Strictly speaking, no hard-and-fast hardiness rating can be given for Satsuki azaleas as a group because of the *R. tamurae*, Belgian Indica, and possible *R. simsii* parentage in several cultivars. Also, many sports in the Satsuki group are more tender and less vigorous than the plants from which they were derived. As a consequence, winter hardiness rating for the Satsukis may only be determined on a case-by-case basis. Most Satsukis of *R. indicum* origin should be hardy to USDA Zone 7, with a few, mostly some *R. indicum* forms, being hardy to the warmer parts of Zone 6 with wind breaks. Satsukis with *R. tamurae*, *R. simsii*, or Belgian Indica as one of the parents are less hardy. In any case, as Frederic Lee pointed out (10), "Once stems are pencil thick, the plants are about as hardy as the Indica Azalea (*indicum*) and its forms, and can be grown along the eastern seaboard at least as far North as Washington, D.C.; also in the Pacific Coast area of the Northwest".

Because of severe drought and scorching summer heat, Satsukis should be planted in semi-shade in the East and the South. Overhead winter protection with tall evergreens will provide excellent health for the Satsukis (or any other evergreen azaleas). Since most Satsukis

are late blooming, the color and freshness of the flowers will also last much longer this way.

There are many misconceptions about the plant habits and heights of Satsuki azaleas. To many azalea lovers the name Satsuki brings a vivid picture of a dense, compact and "dwarf" persistent-leaf azalea. Even though many Satsukis fall under such descriptions, in general this is not so. As we will see later, there are Satsukis which are of medium height (5-6') and some even tall (8-10') for evergreen azaleas. The ultimate height of taller varieties of Satsukis depends on the climate, sun exposure, summer moisture, and duration of the warm period. In Zone 8 and further south, these plants are taller than they are in Zone 7. Many of the *Macranthas* will eventually become 5-6' tall. McCrillis Gardens of Bethesda, Maryland, has several old specimens of the double *indicum* 'Beni Kirishima' which are well over 8' tall under tall oaks. These are indeed large free-flowering plants.

Satsukis are fast becoming the centerpiece of all serious azalea and rhododendron gardens. Many of them with their very distinctive foliage can be used as accent and companion plants in landscape designs. The larger varieties easily become specimen plants. The unique forms of the plants together with their sizes, shapes, colors, and foliage present themselves to the viewers throughout the year. Many of the Satsukis, particularly the ones with smaller leaves, grow with natural bonsai habits, rendering them appropriate for container culture.

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(Part 2 of this article will appear in the March 1990 issue of *THE AZALEAN*, ed.)

## 1990 Annual Meeting and Convention

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# DISTRIBUTION OF THE GLENN DALE AZALEAS AND THE TEN OAKS NURSERY

Richard T. West

Columbia, Maryland 21044

The more one learns about B. Y. Morrison and his Glenn Dale azalea hybrids, the more puzzling are parts of the history. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) introduced and distributed more than 400 cultivars by 1954, but very few of them are available today to the general public from nurserymen. Many varieties are propagated and sold by azalea enthusiasts, but there are still a fair number that are impossible to find. There is no complete, labeled collection of the Glenn Dales to use as a reference for identifying or comparing azaleas. Where did all the Glenn Dales go? Were most or all of the hybrids ever made available to the public? Have some clones disappeared? Is there any hope for compiling a complete Glenn Dale collection?

Answers to some of these questions have been found. Records of the Ten Oaks Nursery in Clarksville, Maryland, and conversations with Andrew N. Adams, Jr., recently retired president of the company, have provided information about how the distribution program worked, the effect on one nursery's operations, and some eventual results of introducing the large Glenn Dale azalea collection.

Ten Oaks Nursery, one of the participants in the USDA distribution program, was started in 1925 by Andrew N. Adams, Sr., on about 30 acres of land given to him by his father. He had chosen not to continue the family tradition of farming because of an interest in unusual plants which he had developed while attending the Westtown School just before World War I. The school, operated by the Society of Friends just west of Philadelphia, instilled in the young Adams a strong appreciation of horticulture and a broad understanding of botany. When he returned to Howard County, Maryland, Adams was more interested in searching the area for natural hybrids and propagating rare plants than in planting corn.

Azaleas were a part of the nursery stock of Ten Oaks from the beginning, and the first catalog in 1930 listed 17 varieties, including: 'Maxwelli'; 'Ledifolia Alba' and 'Ledifolia Magnifica'; 'Hinodegiri', 'Flame' and other Kurumes; Mollis; and Nudiflorum which Adams had found growing wild in the county. The azalea section of the catalog stated that azaleas are, "Without doubt the most beautiful flowering plants we have in the garden or for foundation planting." The catalog also listed a variety of the standard nursery items (e.g., roses), and gave the directions to Ten Oaks from Washington, D.C., and Baltimore.

Ten Oaks maintained a modest business through the Depression, and was closed during World War II. In 1940, Andrew Adams, Jr., also attended the Westtown School, where his existing interests in horticulture and azaleas were further developed. Of significance later, faculty member Albert Baily, Jr. was completely replanting the school's arboretum, and he involved the stu-

dents in the project. He demonstrated the importance of keeping thorough, accurate records and assuring proper identification. Upon graduation, the younger Adams joined the Army, and it was not until 1946 that father and son would re-open Ten Oaks Nursery in partnership.

Andrew Adams, Sr., was an avid reader of horticultural publications and nursery trade journals. He learned that the USDA Plant Introduction Station was re-opening now that the war was over and that the azalea distribution program would be starting again. Early in January 1948, the Adams father and son decided to drive to the Station at Glenn Dale for a visit and to find out more about their plans. There they met Al Close, who may have had a title like Chief Propagator at that time. Close gave them a tour and told them all about the Glenn Dale azalea hybridization project. The more they saw and heard, the more was their fascination and excitement, and they immediately asked how Ten Oaks could become involved in the distribution. Close said, "Just write us a letter asking to be included, and tell us something about your nursery." Near the end of January 1948, Adams, Sr., received a response to his letter from the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, signed by B. Y. Morrison, Principal Horticulturist in Charge, stating, "I have talked

Andrew N. Adams, Sr. in 1963



the matter over [with Close] and I am sure that we shall be able to include you among the persons to whom propagating stock will be sent"[1]. Simple as that!

Why was Ten Oaks selected? Adams, Jr., remembers Morrison saying he believed that nurserymen would be the best group to promote the new hybrids and select the finest. Al Close, who had "hit it off right away" with Adams, Sr., believed Ten Oaks was just the kind of nursery that was needed in the distribution program. What were the conditions under which Ten Oaks would receive the Glenn Dales? Morrison wanted them put "immediately into approximately wholesale production," and he wanted to receive year-by-year reports on propagations and preparations for sale (excluding prices and quantity sold), weather data related to propagation, and other information. The letter from Morrison noted, "If, after you put out the materials for growing on in your own open nursery, there should be any sudden or curious deaths, we should like to know about that." Curiously, Morrison was also very firm about not giving the Glenn Dales publicity just yet: "Very definitely and very positively I do not want the azaleas discussed at garden club lectures at this time. There are no plants available and it is perfectly ridiculous to talk about things that cannot be had." Apparently, the word had gotten out about the Glenn Dales, and there were already demands for the new plants, including some made through Congressional channels [2].

Although in the January correspondence Morrison had said the distribution program was still being planned, and it would be some many months before final decisions would be made, Adams, Sr., was sent a letter in March asking if he could receive a number of plants from the propagation greenhouse. This early and unexpected distribution, which Morrison stated would not "interfere" with the planned distribution to come later, was in response to Ten Oaks' expressed willingness to get their plants by driving to Glenn Dale and picking them up. With Ten Oaks trucking their material, USDA could unload the larger plants and save shipping costs [3]. Apparently, and as evidenced in later comments, the budget at Glenn Dale was a problem: Morrison asked Adams, Sr., "...if you do have cardboard cartons that you can bring [for the plants], I am sure that will be a welcome savings to our really very economical schedule of living." Bigger plants meant Ten Oaks could take more cuttings, so both sides were happy with the arrangement.

The Adams had greenhouses for the cutting propagation, but they needed an immediate place to put the plants. They laid out "growing beds" of pure Canadian peat under lathe frames. The azaleas were placed in the beds as soon as they were brought up from Glenn Dale, watered, and given applications of Agrico Azalea Fertilizer in March and June. Growth was fast and lush, and these first, bigger plants did produce the expected large number of cuttings. By the time the Glenn Dale azalea distribution started again in the fall of 1948 with some 22 cultivars being made available to the Adams, Ten Oaks already had rooted cuttings underway from some of the varieties [4].

During 1949, Ten Oaks received 125 more Glenn Dales and also plants for 20 cultivars that had been introduced before the war. The Adams typically picked up three plants of each kind, six to eight inches in size, along with some sort of description. The descriptions ranged from a brief, "Large flower, rose pink, single," to the more complete descriptions eventually given to all the Glenn Dales by Morrison as reported in the USDA Monograph Number 20 [5]. Some plants, however, came only with a name and the statement, "Description later," and a few were even distributed with no name at all, having only the USDA Plant Introduction (PI) number [6].

To further complicate matters, in 1949 the USDA also began distribution of unnamed, but numbered, "Beltsville-Yerkes" hybrids for testing, as well as their "Japanese introductions" (i.e., Satsuki azaleas). (Whether related to the complex and extensive distribution activity at Glenn Dale or for some other reason, at least one error in identification was made and corrected: in an August 22, 1949 letter to Adams, Sr., Morrison asked him to return stock plants and any propagations from the plants labeled, 'Samite', as they were the wrong ones.) During this time, Adams, Sr., sought to acquire other azaleas as well, such as additional Kurume, Kaempferi, and deciduous varieties. He also began a correspondence with Joseph Gable, purchasing his hybrids and seedlings, and exchanging information about azalea hybridization, propagation, and sales.

Ten Oaks kept everything sorted out and continued the rapid pace of production requested by Morrison, who recognized their efforts. In the May 5, 1949 letter accompanying a Glenn Dale release, Morrison said, "In sending you these new clones with the promise of more to come, we should like to record our appreciation of the speed with which you have already put into mass propagation the clones that have been sent to you. Very truly yours..."

The first catalog since the war was published in 1950, the 25th Anniversary of Ten Oaks Nursery. With the exception of a limited number of hollies, the catalog was exclusively azaleas, as, indeed, Ten Oaks had become an azalea specialty nursery [7]. There was a major problem in preparing the catalog: descriptions of many of the Glenn Dales were still lacking and the Adams pleaded with Morrison for help. In October of 1949, Morrison responded, "Am not sure when I can get you descriptions of 'all' the azaleas. There are about 400 on which I am working, but will do my best to help you, as a published list for you will help me defend the project as I have told you before." October passed and then November, and finally in December Morrison sent "the briefest possible official descriptions of the azaleas which have come to you with the exception of three or four for which we cannot supply the information at this time" [8]. Copy was rushed to the printer and the Ten Oaks catalog, "Azaleas: Their Description, Classification and Culture," appeared in March 1950 [9].

The 1950 catalog listed 171 Glenn Dales, including four only by the PI number, grouped by year of release

and in PI numeric order. Also listed were some 24 USDA Japanese introductions (e.g., 'Gunbi'), 19 listed as Kurumes, 39 Gable hybrids, 9 USDA "Beltsville-Yerkes" hybrids, 10 listed as Kaempferi, 15 species and deciduous, and 16 miscellaneous (e.g., 'Indica Alba'), for a grand total of 303 azaleas. Additionally, the catalog contained text sections on "soils and preparation," "culture and care," "pests and diseases," and other topics, all under the introductory section to the catalog entitled, 'Successful Azalea Culture.' Uniquely and usefully, the azaleas were also arranged at the end of the 37 page catalog by color with abbreviations for height, bloom time, and flower form. Azaleas could be purchased at Ten Oaks or shipped, and directions to the nursery were given.

Morrison was delighted: "It is an excellent catalogue and I certainly congratulate you on the presentation, not only in its appearance but in the arrangement, and your own notations by color group." The public response came quickly: many took advantage of Ten Oaks' offering of a selection of the Glenn Dales by purchasing 10 or 25 different plants in a group, but most purchased individual choices. Adams, Jr., recalls there were a few buyers intent on acquiring a complete collection; they included individuals such as Milo Perkins, Thomas Wheeldon, and William McCrillis. The Adams also sold, transported, and planted a large selection of Glenn Dales at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania.

With the propagation and sale of the Glenn Dales successfully underway, the Adams turned their attention to the question of how to fulfill their obligation to Morrison for information about the azaleas over time. In a May 1949 letter, Morrison told Adams, Sr., that the plants would be covered in flowers at full growth ("as would be *Spirea Van Houttei*"), and suggested, "...you place at least one specimen aside to grow on to full maturity as a few scattered flowers on a small plant gives no idea of the effect. nor can they suggest the time element." The Adams drew on their educational experiences at Westtown School and decided the answer was to create an azalea arboretum which would serve as a test garden where they could monitor the natural growth of the Glenn Dales, as well as that of all their other azaleas. They selected an isolated, wooded site a short distance from the nursery that had already been partially cleared for timber to construct some of the nursery buildings. The area had large, old oak trees that gave some shade, but it was open to the west and east. The soil was light mica loam covered with years of leaf mold. The azaleas were set out in groups of three of a kind, using the originals whenever possible, and carefully identified with metal tags. The planting arrangement was entirely at random in what became a gigantic 'U-shaped' bed, placement being made as they were moved from the growing beds or as they arrived from Glenn Dale, with only some thought to placing low-growing azaleas towards the front edge. The azaleas were placed in the virgin soil mixed with some peat, watered and given one application of fertilizer; otherwise, they were left to grow naturally with

no special care. Notebooks were begun to record planting dates, findings, and evaluative remarks, and to provide a database for later reporting. The arboretum was open to no one and has continued to remain so [10].

The arboretum would serve the need to evaluate the Glenn Dales and other azaleas, but it could not be used to show the buying public the appearance of mature plants. Accordingly, the Adams also began designing and planting a display garden at the main Ten Oaks complex. It was planted with those azaleas that had already shown high qualities and were being well received by the public. The Adams made it a point to take note of which clones the buyers liked.

The Glenn Dale azalea distribution program continued in 1950 and 1951 with approximately 100 new cultivars released to Ten Oaks in each year. The total distributed was approaching Morrison's estimate of 400 hybrids in the collection. Ten Oaks had not received all of the varieties named on the introduction lists, but it was hoped they would get them in later releases. This hope, however, was ended by an undated general announcement sent to all participants by USDA, probably in the early spring of 1951. The announcement, unsigned but giving Morrison's name, stated,

"It has not been possible to place complete collections [of the Glenn Dales] in the hands of all persons who have cooperated in the placement studies. If you do not have all varieties, please do not ask us for stock as it cannot be supplied, much as we regret it."

Small numbers of new cultivars were released to Ten Oaks in 1952, and perhaps in 1953 and, lastly, in 1954, ending the Glenn Dale Azalea distribution program. The Adams did seek to obtain cultivars they had not received, and were somewhat successful. Andrew Adams, Jr., recalls they were never able to compile a complete collection. An examination of records and catalog listings shows that Ten Oaks eventually had at least 402 of the 444 Glenn Dales that were distributed in the program [11].

In December of 1951, Morrison was sent the first evaluation report on the Glenn Dales. The report was based on the records for the azaleas that had passed the previous winter and year in the Ten Oaks arboretum, as well as early experiences for some of the plants in the growing beds. Andrew Adams, Sr., carefully described the environment of the arboretum, growing conditions during 1950 and 1951, including weather data, and summarized the results. Eighty-nine cultivars were listed as "very outstanding" (four stars by Adams' rating method), but 17 were listed as "tender" and lost during the winter of 1950-51, and six were listed as "hard to root and weak growers." Adams qualified these first, "partial results" by noting that, although an early heavy freeze in November 1951 without any frost to harden things off had caused much bark splitting and bud loss in small plants, "I cannot find a two or three year old plant damaged either way, which proves what we have always said, (wait and see)..." He recognized, as Morrison had held, that

mature plants would show superior qualities. Adams stated, "More data will be sent to you as time goes on if it is your wish," and concluded the report with, "Please let us know of any additional data that you might need." Morrison was very pleased with the report and had it placed in the "permanent file" at Beltsville [12]. He did not, however, ask for more data or reports, nor did he even remark on Adams' questions. Although Ten Oaks continued to monitor and evaluate the Glenn Dales, no further reports were sent to USDA or Morrison. Adams, Sr., did continue to report azalea evaluations; for example, in 1954 he wrote a five-page, "Azalea Preferred List for Making Quality Cuttings," which he sent to other nurserymen. It listed some 60 Glenn Dales among a total of 99 azaleas. (A comparative report of the Ten Oaks' Glenn Dale evaluations are the subject of a brief article to be published in **THE AZALEAN**.)

The azalea catalog for 1952 was the most comprehensive ever produced by Ten Oaks. It listed 343 Glenn Dales in alphabetical order, 77 other azaleas, a section on azalea culture, and finished with groupings of all the azaleas by color. The year was busy: sales at the nursery were brisk, shipments were many to out-of-state customers, and some 37,000 cuttings were taken and rooted, 25,000 of which were Glenn Dales. The year of 1953 was much the same, although the Glenn Dale offerings were only 202 cultivars because of the "complete crop failure on some varieties listed in former years;" that is, the results of the early November 1951 freeze mentioned previously.

Azaleas were taking all of the Adams' time: there were no breaks or vacations, and it was becoming apparent that the hectic pace of activity could not and should not continue. Their efforts to offer nearly complete sets of the Glenn Dales were not getting the expected response from the customers who found it difficult to select from the many similar clones. They increasingly wanted only the "best" varieties, and asked Adams for them. Morrison had held that all of the Glenn Dales were very good, but did say he expected the distribution recipients to be selective. In a May 1949 letter to Adams, Sr., Morrison stated, "It is perfectly understood that it may not be desirable to maintain commercially all of the varieties and that some may be more successful in sales value in some areas." Evaluations of plants in the arboretum were already showing differences in plant vigor and hardiness, and in flower and foliage quality. These differences, combined with public judgments and purchases, and the desire to reduce the Ten Oaks workload, led to the decision to significantly cut back azalea propagation.

The 1954 catalog listed only 115 Glenn Dales, introduced by the announcement,

"You will not find a complete list of the Glenn Dales this season. We have all of them in our test garden, but feel many should stay there until more is known about them, and they will be added to our list as they prove themselves or we have enough call for them to pay us to propagate.

The ones listed this year, have proven to be outstanding in hardiness, color, size, growth and been picked by our customers as a very selective group without much overlapping. After working on them for five years we feel you have a wonderful group of Azaleas that are very worth while. Others will be added from time to time as they prove themselves."

Similarly, the 1955 catalog listed only 90 Glenn Dales with but a few changes in the cultivars offered in the previous year. The 1956 and 1957 catalogs also listed just under 100 Glenn Dales. Azalea sales stayed active, but the problems of limited Adams family time became worse because of the increasing difficulty of finding good employees to help out in the nursery. Finally, in the early 1960s, the Adams announced that Ten Oaks would discontinue retail sales and would become a wholesale nursery only.

Even though Ten Oaks became wholesale, interest in azaleas continued. For example, Andrew Adams, Jr., assisted Paul Hancock in learning about azalea culture and propagation, and later helped in the development of the Brighton Azalea Gardens [13]. Even today Andy is still active: he is currently evaluating new Belgian-Glenn Dale hybrids that are being developed at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Through the dedicated efforts of Andrew N. Adams, Sr. (who died in 1964), and that of his family, most of the Glenn Dale azalea hybrids were made available to the public as Morrison wanted. In a ten-year period, perhaps as many as 200,000 Glenn Dales were sold in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area and, by mail, all over the United States. It is the greatest of ironies that Ten Oaks now no longer grows any Glenn Dales for their wholesale business as they are not in demand.

How many rare Glenn Dales live in someone's garden because of the Adams' efforts is not to be known, but because the arboretum and display garden still exist, it may be possible yet to identify and propagate some of the rarer cultivars if there is the interest. Andy Adams, Jr., would like to believe that the legacy of Ten Oaks' participation in the distribution program and the resulting azalea arboretum will prove useful someday in compiling a complete Glenn Dale azalea hybrid collection by which to perpetuate the remarkable breeding program of B. Y. Morrison.

#### Notes and Comments

- (1) Each letter from which a quotation is taken in this paper is not cited individually. Ten Oaks' records include a notebook of all this correspondence in chronological order.
- (2) Glenn Dale did have informal shows of the azaleas that became known by word-of-mouth. Attendees were nurserymen, professional horticulturists and educators, and dedicated hobbyists. Everyone was enthusiastic about the new hybrids.
- (3) Similar requests by Morrison for Ten Oaks to take large-sized or "stock" plants were made at later times as well.

- (4) The number of cultivars stated as received by Ten Oaks in a given year is from their records. These numbers, as well as the cultivar names, do not match exactly the Glenn Dale Station's distribution records, most likely because Ten Oaks received a combination of distribution plants and "stock" plants. (The assistance of William C. Miller III in resolving this discrepancy is gratefully acknowledged.)
- (5) Morrison, B. Y., "The Glenn Dale Azaleas," U.S.D.A. Agricultural Monograph, No. 20, 1953.
- (6) At least two Glenn Dales were received by Ten Oaks without even a Plant Introduction number, being identified only by a "Bell number." This was a working number assigned to crosses and for individual plant identification before naming and introduction.
- (7) Ten Oaks did grow some evergreens, flowering shrubs and shade trees, but they were for its landscaping work.
- (8) Two Glenn Dales were published with no descriptions, 'Anthem' and 'Ranger'. Why they could not be described isn't known.
- (9) The catalog listed as proprietors Andrew Adams, Senior and Junior, and second son, Thomas T. Adams, who had recently joined the business.
- (10) A survey of the arboretum is possible and, if undertaken and the results worth reporting, will be the subject of a later article. Preliminary finds are encouraging: plantings are in generally good shape, and most of the identification tags appear to be in place and legible.
- (11) Fred Galle, in his book *Azaleas*, cites the 444 Glenn Dale number as have others (page 232). Glenn Dale Station distribution records show not every recipient got the same collections. In other words, Ten Oaks received about 400, as might have another participant, but they weren't necessarily the same 400 cultivars.
- (12) Ten Oaks may have been the only Glenn Dale azalea recipient to formally evaluate and report on the azaleas.
- (13) See: Grear, M. J., *The Brighton Azalea Gardens*. **THE AZALEAN**, June 1989, 11(2), 26-27.

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

### Proposed Revision of the By-Laws of The Azalea Society of America

For the Board of Governors: Donald H. Voss, Chairman

Pursuant to Article XV, Section 1, of the Society's By-Laws, notice is given that amendment of said By-Laws will be presented for action by the membership at the Society's annual business meeting in May 1990 (see announcement of 1990 convention elsewhere in this issue). The substance and effect of changes proposed are set forth below. Major changes are highlighted by bold-face type.

In brief, the purposes of the amendments are:

- To make the Society's election processes and parliamentary proceedings more directly responsive to the membership.
- To simplify and improve the effectiveness of the management structure and codify certain existing fiscal practices.
- To simplify and condense text, eliminating redundancies but not modifying substance in a number of instances.

The following notes describe the substance and effect of the substantive changes proposed:

- Authorization for the Society to participate in cooperative activities with other entities is moved from Article VIII into Article II.
- Those seeking membership are required to be "supportive of the objectives of the Society" instead of being required to "affirm support for objectives" (which could be interpreted as execution of a formal affirmation).
- Joint membership provisions are defined as applicable to persons residing together in a single household.
- The words "limited number" are eliminated from the section on honorary members as being nonspecific and, hence, meaningless.

The current treatment of a surviving spouse of an honorary member is incorporated into the section.

- Sections relating to setting and collecting dues are changed to enable the Board to modify dues-collection procedures from time in order to increase efficiency and take advantage of technical capabilities (computers, etc.). The Board is also given authority to specify the chapter portion of dues collected in order to make possible the timely adjustment of dues schedules. Action by the Board affecting the chapter portion remains, of course, subject to subsequent modification by the membership.
- Subsections are added to the dues article to codify current practice with respect to amounts to be added to the endowment reserves.
- The section on termination of membership is divided on the basis of the cause for action.
- Some elements of Article IV, Section 4, are moved to other sections; the remainder are in the new Article IV. E.
- The section on chapter membership recognizes that chapters may provide associate membership privileges to Society members who are not regular members of the chapter, according to chapter By-Laws.
- The provision of notice for members' meetings is modified to recognize publication in **THE AZALEAN** as an appropriate form of notice.
- Quorum provisions are altered to require that a quorum is to be counted as those present in person. Thus, proxies may be used for voting but not for constitution of a quorum. This change reflects concepts set forth in Robert's Rules; namely, that a proxy is a power of attorney given by one person to another to vote in his stead and that a quorum refers to the number present, not the number voting.

- Whether in a membership meeting or a Board meeting, the exclusion of proxies when counting the number present for constitution of a quorum ensures broader representation of views in debates on issues affecting the interests of the Society. With the growth in the Society's membership (now more than 800), a change in the number specified for a quorum is indicated; the number is increased from 25 to 30, which (when combined with the elimination of proxies in counting a quorum) will provide greater protection for the interests of the entire membership.
- With respect to proxies, the amendments specify that the voting privilege of a member can be transferred only to another member entitled to vote, reference to "specific purpose" has been eliminated, and a format for proxies has been included.
  - Old Article V, Section 8, dealing with voting by mail is superseded by new arrangements for voting specified later.
  - The most sweeping of the changes relates to the concepts and composition of the Board of Governors and the officers. The office of Chairman of the Board is eliminated; the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are specified as members of the Board; and these officers, as well as the governors at large, are to be elected by the membership (under the old By-Laws, officers are "elected" by the Board of Governors). Functions previously performed by the Chairman of the Board are included in the executive power of the President, and such functions can be performed by the President or delegated to the Vice President. The inclusion of the Secretary and Treasurer as members of the Board reflects recent consensus.
  - With the Society's growth and the large number of members now dedicated to its purposes, it does not appear useful to continue using an selection process for officers that avoids direct voting by the membership. Moreover, subjecting the officers to the same electoral process as the governors at large will facilitate the nomination process.
  - The provision of two-year terms for the officers will enhance the efficiency of Society operations, because at least a part of the present one-year term is spent in "learning the ropes."
  - The section relating to the Past President is expanded to state more explicitly the duration of his term of office.
  - The section on filling vacancies is modified to accommodate the two-year term for officers and new election procedures.
  - The nominating and electoral processes are modified to reflect the aforementioned changes in the selection and functions of officers and to provide for election by mail ballot. The latter change will give all members an opportunity to vote. At present, only those with time and money available to attend the annual meeting are effectively enfranchised—and then only to vote for governors at large. Proxies are an unsatisfactory substitute for an opportunity to respond personally to a mail ballot.

- The old rule for a quorum at Board meetings was "a majority"; this frequently made it impossible to convene the Board to conduct necessary business, except for the use of proxies—sometimes informal. The amended rule of one-quarter of the full membership of the Board, combined with the requirement for counting a quorum based on only those present in person, should be at once workable and fair.
- The new Article VII, Informational Media, condenses and combines old Articles IX and X.
- Old Articles XI and XII are deleted because the authorizations contained therein are included elsewhere in the amended version.
- The status of committee chairpersons and certain others as "appointed officers" has been eliminated in the belief that those contributing to the progress of the Society will gain satisfaction and recognition from their achievements. An essentially meaningless title for such individuals is unnecessary and tends to detract from the status of the elected officers.
- The old requirement that the Secretary ensure that minutes are taken at committee meetings is both unnecessary and unworkable. The amended section requires committees to submit reports on their activities and actions.
- The Executive Committee is adjusted to recognize the changed composition of the Board of Directors and provide that the President shall have full voting power in this committee.
- The date for submission of a budget to the Board is changed to permit a more realistic assessment of the current year's financial situation and the requirements for the next year.
- Provisions affecting the Nominating Committee are adapted to the new organizational and electoral concepts stated above.
- Deleted are 2-1/2 pages of enumeration of the obvious scope of activity for various committees that have been or might be established; the Board has power to create committees for any of these purposes and the various possibilities need not be enumerated in the By-Laws.
- The requirement for certification of financial statements is replaced by a requirement for a review of the statements, because full accounting control is not maintained for certain actions such as the storing and distribution of back issues of **THE AZALEAN**.
- The section on Principles is shortened to eliminate redundancy with Article II, Objectives.

Full text of the By-Laws as they would appear after adoption of revisions may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Society.

## NOTE ON "JAPAN JOURNEY - 1989"

John L. Creech

On reading my article in **THE AZALEAN**, I was perturbed to see that a paragraph concerning the participants on the Japan tour did not get to the Editor. Between the computer and mailing the manuscript to the Editor because of the rush to meet a short deadline, this paragraph was not included. With apologies to the group and particularly to Fred Galle, my able co-leader, without whose presence the tour would not have been such a success, I have asked the Editor to include it in the next issue.

"The tour group under leadership of Fred Galle and

myself included a broad range of interests. There were nurserymen, landscape architects, professional horticulturists, and dedicated garden enthusiasts. Some had been to Japan previously but for most it was their first occasion and it was a distinct pleasure to introduce them to the Japan I have known for years as well as to meet some of my Japanese friends. Each person will have come away with his own impressions of Japan, her people, and the beauty of the plants, wild and cultivated."

## SOCIETY NEWS

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The fall 1989 meeting of the Board of Governors was held at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware on October 15. Several significant actions were taken by the board. The most significant was the decision to increase the membership dues as follows:

Regular	\$20.00
Contributing	\$30.00
Sustaining	\$60.00
Endowment	\$120.00 or more
Life	\$300.00

It was also decided that the election of Board of Governors for terms expiring in 1992 will be conducted by mail ballots to all members. The ballots will be included in the March 1990 issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

The Governors also approved a transition from the current Society Post Office box in Silver Spring, Maryland to a new box. The mailing address of the Society in the future will be:

**Azalea Society of America**  
Box 34536

West Bethesda, Maryland 20827-0536

The Governors decided to keep the current Post Office box for at least one year in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The Delmarva and Ben Morrison Chapters have agreed to be hosts for the Fourteenth Annual Meeting and Convention in 1993.

### TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

Plans for the Society's twelfth Annual Meeting and Convention to be held May 17-19, 1990 at Tysons Corner, Fairfax County, Virginia are being finalized. Registration will be at the Westpark Hotel beginning the afternoon of Thursday May 17. Thursday evening Ajit Thakur will lead a panel discussion on some of the more unusual Satsuki azaleas. Tony Dove will speak Friday evening on Selectivity and Landscape Planning. The banquet and the Annual Meeting will be on Saturday evening.

### B. Y. MORRISON PARK DEDICATED

The City of Takoma Park, Maryland has developed a new park and has

named it the B. Y. Morrison Park. Morrison resided in Takoma Park for several years. The park features planters in which azaleas are planted. ASA President Bob Hobbs was an invited guest at the November 18 dedication. Takoma Park mayor Stephen Del Giudice presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony; Dorothy Cichello, who is the current resident of the house in which Morrison lived, presented a biographical sketch of B. Y. Morrison.



*Dorothy Cichello, current resident of former home of Ben Morrison*

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

For some time there has been a group lead by Ryon Page that regularly answers the mail that is addressed to the Society. Much of the mail consists of requests for information of various kinds, i.e., questions about the Society, questions about Azalea cultivation, questions about where one might get specific cultivars. This activity takes quite a bit of time and the group of volunteers which includes Rusty Laguardia and Chuck Grandjean, that has been involved for several years is to be commended. This Public Information function is now being lead by William C. "Bill" Miller III. Bill will be relying on Ryon, Rusty, and Chuck to continue this important Society function.

### BEN MORRISON/DELMARVA CHAPTER REGIONAL MEETING RECEIVES LOCAL PUBLICITY

The regional meeting sponsored by the Delmarva and Ben Morrison Chapters on October 14 and 15 received publicity in several Delaware

and Maryland Eastern Shore newspapers.

All chapters are encouraged to publicize their meetings. This should be a goal for all chapters in order to support one of the Society goals for 1990.

### BEN MORRISON CHAPTER

On October 14 and 15 our chapter joined the Delmarva Chapter in sponsoring a joint "Regional Meeting" in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

On Saturday, there were three speakers. The first was Linda Bradley from the Delaware Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Section. She spoke on diseases and insects affecting Azaleas and Rhododendrons. She described what to look for on our plants in order to identify problems and how to remedy the situation.

Next, Weldon Delp from Pennsylvania, known for the Delp Rhododendrons spoke on his misfortune of the fire his greenhouses sustained. Also how he and his wife, Virginia are rebuilding the operation. Mr. Delp lost a lot of plants which represent the research he has so painstakingly conducted over the last decades. We sincerely hope he will be able to have "business as usual", and wish him the best in his future work.

The last speaker of the day was Brian Barr, Horticulturist from McCrillis Gardens in Bethesda, Maryland. He spoke of the history of the gardens and showed slides of this beautiful setting. McCrillis Gardens may be small but it is as beautiful as some of our larger gardens and deserves merit for its planning and beauty. Everyone should put McCrillis Gardens on their calendar for a tour next spring.

On Sunday, ASA President, Bob Hobbs gave a status report on the Society. His presentation included slides, past history and future plans for the Society. They do sound exciting and all members should make every effort to help implement these plans.

Our members also enjoyed the plant sale. There was a large selection of healthy nice-sized plants at a very reasonable price. The beautiful weather helped make the weekend even more pleasant. October seems to be a great time to think about our azaleas. Everyone enjoyed seeing old friends again.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee met on July 9 and September 10 to discuss and monitor operations of the Society. The Executive Committee is made up of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Society President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Immediate Past President. Typically Society finances are a major item of discussion. Preparations for the Board of Governors meeting also constitute a major activity of this committee.

## DALLAS CHAPTER

Fred Galle was the speaker for the first meeting of 1989, and presented slides of breeder groups that should be successful in North Texas.

Chuck Baumbach spoke at the second meeting on azaleas produced by Monrovia Nursery of California and Oregon.

For the next meeting, Naud Burnett showed selected slides taken a few weeks before the Japanese Horticultural Tour and Kurume Azalea Festival (the tour conducted by John Creech and Fred Galle). While the tour went to the mountains to see native *R. Kiusianum*, Burnett stayed in Kurume to photographically document each variety in bloom at the festival. All varieties were labeled in both Japanese and English. Another carousel of 120 additional Kurumes are to be shown at the fall meeting.

On October 14-15, the Dallas Arboretum held a chrysanthemum festival, 'Autumn at the Arboretum', and all local chapters of the plant societies demonstrated their plants with hands-on demonstration, passing along our literature and selling small plants and books. This is the first time the Arboretum has invited all plant societies to join in, and approximately 20,000 were expected over the four-week event.

Currently under construction at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Socie-

ty is the Rainbow Color Garden and Ferndell. It will cover approximately 5.5 acres, with a cost of \$2.8 million. Over 2,000 varieties of azaleas will be placed in the areas surrounding the perimeter of the garden. Many specimen size plants have been especially grown by Tom Dodd and John Rochester. Other plants are coming from Eleanor Stubbs, Margie Jenkins, Don Hager, Bob Wade, Robert Stewart, and Gordon Severe. Many of the plants being received in October are in bloom, to the amazement and joy of the landscape contractors.

When opened in the spring of 1990, this azalea garden is expected to be a great asset and educational tool for the Dallas Chapter's growing chapter.

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The February 1989 meeting of the Northern Virginia Chapter featured a talk by Nancy Arrington, a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Prince William Wildflower Society. Her illustrated presentation on "Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens" contained many ideas for dealing with the inevitable "holes" in one's garden. In April, the members were fortunate to hear Mr. Tom Huggin of Historyland Nursery, Montrose, Virginia, who discussed *Kalmia* culture. His slides showed a number of the nursery's own hybrids, together with new cultivars from other sources, and stimulated interest in the use of mountain laurels as companion plants with azaleas.

A number of chapter members contributed time, effort, and plants to the chapter's mid-May plant sale in Springfield, Virginia. Both the new owners of the plants and the chapter treasury benefitted from this activity. At the June meeting, a large number of cuttings from a broad range of azaleas changed hands. The plant auction at the August meeting was well attended, lively, and beneficial for the chapter treasury. The October

meeting enabled those present to accompany—in mind's eye—Bill Miller of the Brookside Gardens Chapter on a retrospective tour of Japan during azalea season.

The focal point of our business meetings this year has been preparation for the Society's May 1990 convention, which will be held in northern Virginia. Chapter Vice-president and Convention Chairman Glenn Taylor is shouldering the load of planning and making arrangements for this event.

## IN MEMORIAM—RUTH HARRINGTON

The Northern Virginia Chapter is sad to report the death in October of one of its valued charter members—Ruth Harrington. Ruth was active in chapter activities and had been supplying the chapter newsletter with a series of "Azalea Portraits" until her illness last May. Ruth was a hybridizer of azaleas; two of her hybrids, 'Highlander' and 'Green Goddess' are described in the book "Azaleas" by Fred Galle. She operated an azalea nursery from her home from which many local azalea enthusiasts obtained plants.

She was very knowledgeable about a wide range of plants and wrote a weekly horticultural column for the *Journal* newspapers for many years. Her presence and contributions to gardening will be greatly missed.

## RICHMOND VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The Richmond Virginia Chapter's annual meeting was November 5, 1989 at the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs Garden Center. It was a covered dish dinner at 6:00 p.m. preceded by a social hour beginning at 5:00p.m.

The meeting featured the election of officers, a short business meeting and a plant auction of azaleas and companion plants. (The companion plants will be some that Rosa Carter has rooted.)