

# THE A

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

• March 1996

# zalea

*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*



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West Bethesda, Maryland  
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## Editor's Letter

As suggested at the Round Table Discussion on **THE AZALEAN** held at the 1995 Annual Meeting and Convention, three new features appear in this issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

The first is an "An Azaleophile Salute". The first azalea person to be honored is Bob Stewart of Springfield, Virginia. The idea for the azaleophile salute originates with Mary and Bill McDavit, and this first "salute" is contributed by them. For this feature to continue, you, the readers must send in contributions such as the McDavits did--please help continue this interesting feature.

The second new feature is a "Questions and Answers" column. These first questions and answers are derived from actual questions received by the chairman of the Society's Public Information Committee, Bill Miller. In order to continue this column we must receive questions from you the readers. So please, send your questions either to The Editor, or to the Chairman of the Public Information Committee.

The third feature is a "Cultural Note" column. The first cultural note was submitted by Jim Thornton, and the continuation of this column depends on the participation of our members. Please send in your contributions.

### Azalea Calendar 1996

April 1	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at the Davis Library at 7:30PM
April 16	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
April 20-21	Ben Morrison Flower Sale at the Anne Marie GardenFest in Solomons, MD from 11AM to 4PM
April 27	Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Festival at the National Arboretum
May 3-5	Landon Azalea Garden Festival at 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD from 10AM to 5PM
May 6-11	ARS Annual Convention, Oban, Scotland
May 19	Ben Morrison Chapter Meeting at Fairview Library at 2:00PM
June 4	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
July 14	Ben Morrison Chapter Picnic and Pot Luck Dinner
Sept. 24	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
October 22	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
December 8	Ben Morrison Chapter Christmas Party at 2:00PM

*On the Cover:* Rhododendron simsii, U.S. National Arboretum

*Photographer:* Richard T. West

## Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of azaleas Subseries Tsutsusi and Pentanthera of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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*of America, Inc.*

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**THE AZALEAN** (ISSN-1085-5343) is published during March, June, September, and December by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

Additional copies of the current and back issues can be obtained from the Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536. Volumes 1 through 4 published from 1979 through 1982 consist of 15 issues at \$2.50 per issue. The price for each issue beginning with 1983, Volumes 5 through 16, is \$3.50.

Opinions and views expressed in **THE AZALEAN** are those of the contributors or the Editor, not necessarily those of the Society, and are presented to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of azaleas. Advertisements are presented as a service to our readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America. Advertising and other contributions to **THE AZALEAN** are used exclusively to help defray the costs of publishing **THE AZALEAN**.

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Printing of **THE AZALEAN** by:

Hour Printer  
Silver Spring, MD

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# *Rhododendron simsii*, 'Vittatum', and the Glenn Dale Azaleas

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Richard T. West  
Columbia, MD

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Fourteen Glenn Dale azaleas have the Chinese species azalea, *Rhododendron simsii*, as a parent, and if those with parentage involving 'Vittatum'—supposedly a sport of *R. simsii*—are included, the number rises to about 130 or almost thirty-percent of the Glenn Dale hybrids (1). According to the 1953 USDA Agriculture Monograph 20, *The Glenn Dale Azaleas*, the *R. simsii* used in their hybridizing program at Glenn Dale was obtained from seed collected in China, and B. Y. Morrison noted that the azalea was hardy at Glenn Dale and that the flowers were a clear pink (2). However, commonly available information about this Chinese azalea has it being of questionable hardiness in the Washington, D.C. area, and the flower color range is usually given as orange-red to rose-red. Historical records at Glenn Dale give a name for the *R. simsii* used in the hybridization program as "Yeung shaan hung", but this name was not used by Morrison in Monograph 20 and was unfamiliar to us.

As a part of our continuing Glenn Dale azalea research, we have compiled a database of Glenn Dale azaleas by name, Plant Introduction (PI) number, Bell number (an identifying number used at Glenn Dale for internal record-keeping), and seed lot number, which includes seed and pollen parent names (3). Whereas Morrison used only the species names (e.g., *R. simsii*) or names of forms or hybrids of the species (e.g., 'Hinodegiri') in describing parent plants used in the Glenn Dale azalea hybridization program, in the database we used the most specific information found in the records (e.g., "Yeung shaan hung"). Two seed lots used the Chinese azalea as a parent: B.13582, 'Indica Alba' x "Yeung shaan hung", from which four Glenn Dales were selected, including 'Desire' and 'Vision'; and B.13732, "Yeung shaan hung" x 'Indica Alba', from which ten Glenn Dale azaleas were selected, including 'Dream', 'Temptation', and 'Chloe'. Due to the fact that the species affiliation of "Yeung shaan hung" was uncertain, we attached the name *R. simsii* in parentheses in the database.

Although well-known in China, *R. simsii* is still rare in the west. Because it was not familiar to us, we could not resolve the questions about names and plant characteristics. In the following paragraphs we report the results of an investigation of the origin of the *R. simsii* used in the Glenn Dale program and our search for general information about this Chinese azalea.

We report also information found about 'Vittatum', which is said to be a variety or cultivated form of *R. simsii*. Morrison apparently liked 'Vittatum' because he directed that it be crossed with many other azaleas as part of the Glenn Dale hybridizing. It is in the parentage of some 117 Glenn Dales. We have discussed with each other whether 'Vittatum' is really a sport of *R. simsii*, and thinking not, have sought further information.

## Background

Seed of the *R. simsii* used by Morrison was obtained in the fall of 1926 in China by agricultural explorer F. A. McClure, USDA Bureau of Plant Industries, and sent to the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland. The seeds were introduced in the USDA Plant Inventory for 1927 material:

P.I. 71356 *Rhododendron* species  
Ericaceae.

No. 853. Yeungkokteng, Anhwei Province. October 29, 1926. Yeung shaan hung. A handsome rhododendron with flame-colored flowers (4).

Presumably, McClure sent the seeds with the name "Yeung shaan hung" and this was the source of the name in the Glenn Dale records. There is no evidence that any of the seeds were distributed by the USDA, but some or all were germinated at Glenn Dale, because Morrison stated that *R. simsii* was "available to us only as seedlings from a single Chinese collection" (5). As the Glenn Dale azalea hybridizing began in the late 1920's, the timing is right for the progeny of the McClure seed collection to have been included in the material used.

The historical record is fairly consistent for information about *R. simsii*. It was introduced to Europe about 1793 and was first described as a Chinese species by J. Sims in 1812, but erroneously named *Azalea indica* (the Japanese late-blooming evergreen azaleas are the *Indica Azalea* or *Satsuki* group that includes *R. indicum*) (6). In *A Monograph of Azaleas*, Wilson states, "This species (*R. simsii*) grows well in all the temperate parts of China and in south Formosa . . . It is particularly abundant in the area of the Yangtze Valley from near Ningpo to Mt. Omei in the far west . . . (and according to Hancock) the Ningpo hills are absolutely crimson in places with this shrub. (It grows to an average of five feet.) The corolla is broad-funnel shape, varying in color from rose-red through bright to dark red . . . In central China it is generally known as the "Yin-shan-hung" (7).

Wilson noted that some report the flower color as rose to white, but that he had never seen an albino form.

In his book, *The Smaller Rhododendrons*, Cox states that the *R. simsii* is barely hardy anywhere in Britain, and grows to eight feet. He gave the color as various shades of red with the comment, "I shall never forget seeing the fiery red flowers of this species appearing out of the swirling mist in Hong Kong's New Territory mountains" (8). Galle also identifies *R. simsii* with the name "Yin-shan-hung" and gives the flower size as 1-1/2 to 2 inches and color as yellowish pink to various shades of red (9). He gives no source for the name; however, he does cite Wilson. Galle notes the plants are tender outside of zones 8a to 9a.

Morrison was well familiar with the use of *R. simsii* in the creation of Indian and Belgian hybrid azaleas in Europe, and he noted that it was reported as the most potent factor in that hybridizing (10). One of the goals of the Glenn Dale program was to create a new group of azaleas that should have large flowers like the Southern Indian azaleas. It is thus quite understandable that he would want to use the *R. simsii* in hybridizing despite reports of tenderness. Inventory records at the Glenn Dale Station show that four "Yeung shaan hung" plants, presumably from McClure's seeds, were planted in the azalea woods ( azalea test area ) with the other azaleas used as parents in the Glenn Dale hybridizing.

Even though Morrison presented information in Monograph 20 about *R. simsii* and about where he obtained the plants, neither Lee nor Galle in their books on azaleas cite the information. They state that *R. simsii* was formally introduced into the United States through seed from China and Hong Kong only beginning in 1937, with additional seed coming in 1947 and 1948, and again from 1961 on (11, 12). As the McClure seed was formally introduced, and Morrison mentioned seed from Anhwei as the source of *R. simsii* included in his breeding materials, it isn't clear why it wasn't so

recognized by Lee and Galle. *Rhododendron 'Vittatum' or 'Vittatum' (syn. 'Vittata Fortunei')*

In Monograph 20, Morrison cites Wilson in assigning 'Vittatum' as a variety of *R. simsii* (13). According to Wilson, British botanist Robert Fortune sent a plant of 'Vittatum' to England about 1850 after he saw it in flower at the Pou-shan Gardens near Shanghai. This variety is characterized by white flowers irregularly striped with lilac-purple, and sometimes with pure white or pure lilac-purple flowers on the same branch. Upon reaching England, 'Vittatum' was propagated extensively, and it was used in the hybridization of the Indian azaleas. According to Glenn Dale records, Morrison obtained the 'Vittatum' plants he used in hybridizing from the Fruitland Nurseries in Augusta, Georgia. In describing hybridizing with *R. simsii* in Monograph 20, Morrison combined experiences with *R. simsii* "Yeung shaan hung" and with 'Vittatum', apparently accepting the notion that 'Vittatum' was much the same genetic stock as *R. simsii*; that is, it was a sport of *R. simsii*. (Galle says that *R. simsii* sports freely and lists 'Vittatum' as one of the sports (14).)

One source of Wilson's information was Robert Fortune's book, *A Journey to the Tea Countries of China*, published in 1852, in which Fortune describes his travels in search of tea plants for purchase and shipment to England (15). In his travels, Fortune also described and purchased many other botanical specimens, including azaleas. While visiting the Pou-shan Gardens just outside Shanghai, he saw new azaleas in bloom and described his experience for one of them thus:

"Here a beautiful sight was presented to the eye. Two large masses of Azaleas, arranged on each side of a small walk, were covered with flowers of the most dazzling brightness and beauty. Nor were they the common kinds. Generally they belonged to the same section as *A. indica* (the varieties

of *A. variegata* do not flower so early), but the species so common in Canton and the south were comparatively rare here. A most beautiful kind, having the habit of *A. indica* and half deciduous, had its flowers striped with pale blue or lilac lines, and sometimes blotches of the same colour upon a white ground. Not unfrequently it sports like the double-blossomed peach already described, and then, in addition to its carnation-striped flowers, has some self-coloured purple ones on the same plant. This species has been named *Azalea vittata*" (16).

Fortune categorized the azaleas he described into two groups or sections: *Azalea indica* that is early blooming in March and April, and *Azalea variegata* that blooms later in May and June. He assigned all azaleas to one or the other section, and grouped together the wild Chinese azalea (*R. simsii*?) with 'Vittatum' in the early section. He used words like variety or species in talking about the azalea; such as this species or that variety; but he did not state any relationship by mutation or sporting between the azaleas. It seems clear to us that his comments are generalizations about appearance and bloom time, and not statements about plant characteristics and origins.

We note that Fortune identified a number of Japanese plants in the Pou-shan Gardens, including Japanese azaleas, and remarked that these azaleas are highly prized by the Chinese. He also describes a later-flowering red evergreen azalea with large flowers, and notes that it is said to be a Japanese species. Fortune sent specimens of all the azaleas to England.

### Chinese Species Azaleas and *R. simsii*

Of the many species azaleas native to China, Galle states that only three have been introduced in the West: *R. simsii*, *R. microphyton* and *R. mariesii* (17). According to our sources, the *R. simsii* is by far the most common wild azalea in China, so much so that it is synonymous with the general name or term for azalea, Du juan hua. Wild azaleas and their blooming in the spring are so well-known and enjoyed

that there is even a popular song:

## 杜鵑花

### Du juan hua

Dan dan di san yue tian,  
du juan hua kai zai shan po shang,  
du juan hua kai zai xiao xi pang,  
duo mei le o! . . .

[Light, colorless, mild March days,  
azaleas blossom on the mountain tops,  
azaleas blossom by the small creeks,  
oh, how beautiful they are! . . .]

Du juan hua translates as the cuckoo bird flower because the azaleas bloom on the mountains in the warming days of February and March when the cuckoo birds start to sing. Although Du juan hua was well known to Chinese colleagues we consulted, they were not familiar with the name "Yeung shaan hung" which appears in the Plant Introduction and Glenn Dale records, but dictionaries they consulted defined "Ying shan hong" as synonymous with Du juan hua.

"Yeung shaan hung" is believed to come from the Cantonese pronunciation of a local name for *R. simsii*, which transliterated by the modern Pinyin system (the one used in China) is "Ying shan hong",

映山紅. (As quoted previously, Wilson noted, and presumably Galle copied, that "Yin-shan-hung" was the name used in central China, that being a spelling variation for the Cantonese pronunciation.) The Cantonese name means: ying = reflect, mirror, or shine; shan = mountain; and hong = red. A literal translation is reflects mountain red, and means the whole mountain shines in red when the flower blooms, or perhaps the flower makes the mountain reflect in red. We are told that *R. simsii* is also known by other names locally in parts of China and Taiwan as 滿山紅

Man shan hong = The whole mountain is red (flower); 野山紅 Ye shan hong = Wild mountain red (flower); and

照山紅 Zhao shan hong = Light up the mountain red (flower) (18).

The historical and current information was in agreement for a red-flowered, probably tender species azalea being *R. simsii*. However, this confirmation didn't resolve our questions and we still were not sure what Morrison used in the Glenn Dale program. We hoped seeing and inspecting *R. simsii* might help to get answers.

### *Rhododendron simsii* at the National Arboretum and Glenn Dale, and 'Vittatum' at Glenn Dale

One of us (Bill Miller) remembered seeing an azalea identified as *R. simsii* in the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) bonsai collection and photographing it when in bloom a few years ago. An inquiry to Bob Dreschler, Curator of Bonsai, confirmed such a specimen. He obtained the azalea when the bonsai collection was first housed at the Glenn Dale Station in the early 1970's at the encouragement of Dr. John Creech, a former Superintendent at Glenn Dale and a former Director of the USNA. The *R. simsii* was growing in a pot in one of the greenhouses and was some five or so feet tall. Dreschler understood the plant had been grown from seed, and he was under the impression that it was from the seed collection used by Morrison; that is, the McClure PI 71356 seeds from 1926.

The *R. simsii* bonsai was inspected this spring. It has single flowers of slightly yellowish-orange pink color (RHS86 - 43D or 48B) with red spotting (50A), measuring 2 inches in diameter (4.5 to 5 cm.), two to a head. Most flowers had eight stamens, but some had ten. The leaves were medium green, 1 x 2 cm.

Barbara Bullock, the Curator of Azalea Collections at the USNA, and her assistants have found old identification tags in the massed planting of Glenn Dale hybrids on the southern slope of Mt. Hamilton at the Arboretum. One tag had the identification number of B.32453 and the statement, five plants.

Glenn Dale records show that Morrison assigned the identifying Bell number of B.32453 in May of 1939 to clones of P.I. 71356, "Yeung shaan hung". According to the records, some clones were planted in the hybrids section of the azalea woods at Glenn Dale; that is, in addition to those plants noted earlier that were in the Glenn Dale hybrid parent azaleas section.

The five plants on the Mt. Hamilton hillside were located and inspected April 22, 1995. They are six to seven feet tall and upright in their growth pattern. The flowers are a bright clear pink, just as Morrison stated in Monograph 20, RHS86 - 55A, with red spots, measuring two inches (5 cm) across, two to three in a head. There was a consistent ten stamens in the flowers, and there were virtually no leaves on the plants at the time of inspection. A side-by-side comparison of the bonsai and hillside flowers showed an obvious difference: the hillside flowers were clear pink and the bonsai flowers were slightly yellowish-pink.

Once we knew what the azalea looked like, the following week we confirmed the identification of an original *R. simsii* in the area where it was supposed to be in the Glenn Dale woods with the parent plants. The only survivor of the original planting of four, the *R. simsii* is located in Plot 1, Row 28; it looks much the same as the plants on the Mt. Hamilton hillside except it is about one-half the height. The flowers measure 2-1/4 inches, clear pink (RHS86 - 55A) with red spots, ten stamens. The plant is semi-evergreen with few leaves present at bloom as are the ones at the Arboretum.

Nearby in Plot 1, in Row 35, we inspected the two plants of 'Vittatum' that were used in hybridizing. As with many or most of the parent azaleas, they still exist at Glenn Dale. They have 3-inch flowers, white with medium red-purple (RHS86 - 70B) stripes, flecks and sectors, and also white-edged flushed flowers and solid colored flowers. There were eight to ten stamens; the leaves are dark green, slightly hairy, 1-1/4 x 1/2 inches. The plants are upright to six or seven feet, and somewhat open in growth.

Our Azalea Society colleague, Donald H. Voss, examined nine specimens of *R. simsii* in the National Arboretum's herbarium collection, and compared them to the authoritative 1990 description in *A Revision of Rhododendron* by Chamberlain and Rae (19). One of the specimens is identified as being from McClure, but, curiously, dated 1925 and from Kwantung, a different province. Don concluded that the specimens fit, within an acceptable range of variation, the description in Chamberlain and Rae with the exception of leaf length which, he noted, also varies depending upon altitude and stage of growth. The Chamberlain and Rae description is a much-branched, twiggy shrub, corolla broadly funnel-shaped, 25-60 mm [1 to 2-3/4 inches], white to dark red, with eight to ten stamens. Don could make no comment on flower color as that is not well retained in herbarium specimens.

#### *Rhododendron simsii* at the Rhododendron Species Foundation

The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the conservation of Rhododendron species, located in Federal Way, Washington, between Tacoma and Seattle (20). The Foundation maintains the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden of 24 acres containing more than 2,100 varieties of wild Rhododendrons. Curator Steve Hootman kindly responded to our inquiry for information about *R. simsii* (21). He sent us a copy of the listing for *R. simsii* from *Rhododendrons of China*, Vol. 2, edited by Feng Guomei, which includes the names, Yingshanhong and Djuanhua, without explanation of the Chinese names. The listing states that *R. simsii* is an "evergreen or semi-evergreen shrub, 1-2 meters (3 to 6 feet) high . . . bright red to deep red flower, broadly funnel-form, 3-4 cm. [ca. 1-1/2 inches] long, 4-6 cm. [1-1/2 to 2-3/4 inches] in diameter . . . with dark red spotting; stamens 10" (22). The map with the listing shows plant locations in southern China and Taiwan.

Mr. Hootman stated that the *R. simsii* they have planted outside is regularly

damaged by winter cold, and he rates it as hardy to 20 or 15 degrees F for flower buds. The Foundation's plants are described as carmine with maroon or crimson flecks. All-in-all, their *R. simsii* is consistent with the various descriptions.

#### Discussion

We have found and confirmed the one of four *R. simsii* that Morrison used in the Glenn Dale hybridizing program,



*Rhododendron simsii* on Mt. Hamilton Hillside at the U.S. National Arboretum



Close-up of 'Vittatum' flowers at Glenn Dale.



*Bonsai Rhododendron simsii* at the U.S. National Arboretum.

but, like him, have some question about its correct identification. In his 1946 article in the Arboretum Bulletin of the University of Washington, Morrison stated, "These plants are all hardy here and remarkably uniform. All are clear bright rose pink in color and only moderately large in size. This race, if correctly named, is entirely winter hardy" (23). Like Morrison, we could accept a variant clear pink flower for what is usually a reddish color, but we differ between us regarding plant hardiness.

Bill agrees with Morrison that *R. simsii* could be hardy in the Washington area because "hardiness" is a more complex phenomenon than was heretofore recognized. Simply because something originates in a temperate climate does not preclude it from being hardy elsewhere under different circumstances. Bill notes it is important to remember, that in any given species, hardiness is an individual characteristic which in a seed population could be just as variable as flower color or size. Raulston and Tripp, in an article published in 1994, noted that environmental conditions play a significant role in a plant's ability to acclimate to severe cold (24). It is therefore conceivable that a species, generally regarded as "tender," could produce individuals that exhibit considerable hardiness. Dick West, however, agrees with the consensus that *R. simsii* is tender and, inasmuch as tenderness is shown in China and the State of Washington, he thinks the azaleas used by Morrison are not correctly named.

We mutually agree that the classification of 'Vittatum' as a mutant or sport of *R. simsii* is extremely doubtful. Indeed, after reading Fortune's account of finding 'Vittatum', it seems clear to us that 'Vittatum' is of unknown origin. We are surprised that his use of the word variety in talking about the different azaleas seen at Pou-chan Gardens, and phrases like "belonged to the same section", apparently were taken to mean sports, and, therefore, Wilson and others after him classed 'Vittatum' as a variety or sport of *R. simsii* (Wilson specifically cites page 330 of Fortune's book—the text quoted earlier—as the authority for 'Vittatum' being a variety of *R. simsii*). We understand that variety has been used in the past to mean a mutation or a hybrid, as well as the more common use for just plants in the same species; such usage has led to confusion. We think the evidence is that Fortune classed or grouped all azaleas as either early or late blooming, and may very well have believed that those in one or the other section were more-or-less the same with any differences being merely variations of the common plant, but he did not say that 'Vittatum' was a sport or variety of another azalea. We do not understand how Wilson made such a conclusion if he based it only on Fortune's text.

Even before reading Fortune, we doubted 'Vittatum' was a sport of *R. simsii* based on observation and current information. 'Vittatum' has a bigger flower, and we are not familiar with white-striped sports coming from self-colored-flowering azaleas. Even though some have suggested *R. simsii* sports, we cannot find any reports of such behavior. We now see that all the evidence given for the origin of 'Vittatum' comes from the same source: Wilson's citation of Fortune's book. Frankly, given Fortune's description, we think the better conclusion is that 'Vittatum' is unrelated to *R. simsii*, but may be of Japanese origin. Based primarily on flower size, Bill sees a strong resemblance to the Hirado azaleas like 'Omurasaki' and its sport 'George Lindley Taber'. Of course, 'Vittatum' may be related also to one of the many other Chinese species azaleas as well.

## Conclusion

Even though we do not agree about whether the plant Morrison used in the Glenn Dale azalea hybridizing was really *R. simsii*, at least we have a much better understanding of the Chinese species azalea and the various local names for it. We wish there were Azalea Society members in China and the other areas where *R. simsii* grows naturally such that we could inquire further about its characteristics. We look forward to an opportunity some day to see the Du Juan hua blossom on the mountain tops and the fiery red of their color.

## Acknowledgment

We wish to thank Margaret S. C. Feng, Cataloguer in the Division of Library Operations, National Library of Medicine, and Akey C. F. Hung, Research Entomologist, Agricultural Research Service, U.S.D.A., for their valuable assistance in the development of this article.

## References

- (1) Because of the genus change from *Azalea* to *Rhododendron*, 'Vittatum' is now the correct name for what was called 'Vittata Fortunei'.
- (2) Morrison, B. Y. *The Glenn Dale Azaleas*. U.S. Department of Agriculture Monograph 20, Washington, D.C., October 1953, p. 8.
- (3) The database is published as: Miller III, W. C. and R. T. West. *The Bell Book: A Companion to Monograph 20*. Bethesda, MD: The Azalea Works, 1993.
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- (6) Wilson, E. H. and A. Rehder. *A Monograph of Azaleas*. Publications of the Arnold Arboretum, No. 9. Cambridge, MA: The University Press, 1921.
- (7) *Ibid.*, p. 46-47.
- (8) Cox, P. A. *The Smaller Rhododendrons*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1985.
- (9) Galle, F. C. *Azaleas*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1985, p. 126.
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- (11) Lee, F. P. *The Azalea Book*. 2nd ed. Princeton, NJ: Van Nostrand, 1965. Reprinted by Theophrastus Publishers, 1978, p. 404.
- (12) Galle. *Op. cit.*, p. 402.
- (13) Wilson and Rehder. *Op. cit.*, p. 48.
- (14) Galle. *Op. cit.*, p. 126.
- (15) Fortune, R. *A Journey to the Tea Countries of China: including Sung Lo and the Bohea Hills*. Map, illustrations. London: John Murray, 1852.
- (16) *Ibid.*, p. 330.
- (17) Galle. *Op. cit.*, p. 125.
- (18) We note there is some confusion about local names for Chinese species azaleas. According to Galle (*op. cit.*, p. 132, 77), the name, "Man shan hong", is applied also to *Rhododendron mariesii*, a pale reddish purple or rose deciduous azalea that grows on the mountains and areas of southeast and central China, and in Taiwan. For those viewing native azaleas blooming red on the mountain, the fact that there may be more than one species involved probably isn't too relevant. We understand that *R. simsii* is the more common azalea by far, so we are unsure what to make of Galle's designation.



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## AZALEA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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*Richard T. West is a long-time member of the Azalea Society of America and frequently writes articles for THE AZALEAN. He is especially interested in the Glenn Dale azaleas.*

*William C. Miller III, co-Chairman of the Azalea Society of America's Membership Committee and Chairman of the Public Information Committee, is a recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award. He is a former Vice President of the Society and a long-time ASA member. He is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter. He is frequent contributor to THE AZALEAN. □*

*All photographs by Richard West*

The printing of the color photographs in this article is sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

*QUESTION: "I read once that 'George Lindley Taber' is a sport of another azalea just as 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing' is a sport of G. L. Taber. I have never been able to find out what G. L. T's parent plant is. Can you please tell me? Also, is it a compatible color for planting with G. L. Taber?"*

ANSWER: 'George Lindley Taber' is a sport of 'Omurasaki', a three-and-one-half-inch, violet red flower with a red blotch. It was selected many years ago by Dr. H. Harold Hume, Provost and Dean Emeritus of the College of Agriculture of the University of Florida. 'Omurasaki' would be an excellent companion planting for 'George Lindley Taber' or 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing', and since they are really just different expressions of the same genetic material, it is likely that you will eventually see the other two no matter which of the three you start with.

*QUESTION: From Oneonta, New York: "I have two questions (1) Most folks here have given up trying to winter over azaleas. I may have too, but found I had to rearrange and replant my garden beds. I may lose 1/2 the plant, have little or no blooms and, some winter burn. I have used burlaping and find, using straw, piling it high as the plant, can salvage the azalea with the above results. I would truly like to see my garden bloom. (2) I have approximately 72 shrubs, azaleas, rhododendrons and hemlocks in four beds measuring about ten feet wide by 55 feet long. So, a bit of a distance to cover for winter. We are in zone 5 but think zone 4; snowfall can be between ten inches to 56 inches annually. Frost can go down a few feet with temperatures from ten below to 34 degrees on average."*

ANSWER: Without knowing which azaleas you have, it is not possible for me to determine if you are trying to grow azaleas unsuited for your climate. All azaleas are not created equal and some would, by their very constitution, be marginal or totally inappropriate for your area.

Over the last 20 to 30 years, there has been a lot of work done in the development of cold-hardy azaleas. Some of the more hardy evergreen hybrid groups are: the Gable hybrids (Stewartstown, PA), the Girard hybrids (Geneva, OH), and the Schroeder hybrids (Evansville, IN). If you acquire new azaleas, you should consider cultivars from these groups.

As for the problems that you experienced, snowfall is often beneficial since it tends to insulate azaleas from extreme cold temperature. The greatest problem with snow comes from the weight aspect and some breakage can occur if conditions are right (a wet snow). There are multiple reasons why plants do not bloom. Was it that the flower buds were killed? Are your plants in too much shade such that they did not develop buds? Sometimes the overhead canopy can gradually become too thick so that too shady a situation develops over time. Finally, did you trim or prune your azaleas in the fall? The flowers for the next season begin to develop in the summer and any pruning that takes place in the fall is at the expense of the next year's bloom.

*QUESTION: "I would like to know if there is an azalea available that meets my qualifications. It must be small, compact, slow growing, evergreen in the winter and have fuschia flowers. I have a very small garden."*

ANSWER: Your request is a pretty tough order. The closest one that comes to mind is 'Girard's Fuchsia' which was developed in Ohio. 'Girard's Fuchsia' is evergreen though the foliage can have a rather attractive bronzy cast during the winter. Most people really like that feature.

It is not a terribly fast grower but its tendency is upright and, given enough time, it could achieve at least three feet. If you plant it in the shade it will try to reach for the sun. If you plant it in an area that gets lots of light, then it will remain more compact. Even if it eventually got too big for your tastes, you could cut it back. □

Please send in your questions and we'll do our best to find answers.

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## CULTURAL NOTE

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This concerns my [Jim Thornton's] article on "Azalea Pest and Problems" (**THE AZALEAN**, 16(4), December 1994) specifically, Ovuline petal blight (*Ovulinia azalea*).

Having neglected to control this problem over the years I was forced to do something in the Spring of 1995, and that something was to get out the fungicide.

If you recall, the article mentioned several products that are available and produce good results, including a Green Light product called Fung-Away® Systemic Fungicide in eight and sixteen ounce liquid bottles for control of certain diseases on flowers, plants, shrubs and trees. Likewise, another liquid, quart size container, Fung-Away® Systemic Lawn Spray for control of diseases in turf areas. Finally, Fung-Away® granule form in eight-pound bags, again for various lawn type problems.

The chemical in Fung-Away®, 1-(4-chlorophenoxy)-3,3-dimethyl-1-(H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2-butanone = 5%, aka triadimephon and of course, those infamous "inert ingredients" = 95%.

Wouldn't you like to have the patent on "Inert Ingredients". Think about it!

Now as a side note, the Fung-Away® bag label notes that it contains Bayleton®, so, in referring to my handy-dandy Georgia Pest Control Handbook, Fungicide Table 1, I found this note regarding Fung-Away®: This systemic fungicide is identical to Bayleton®. (The liquid Fung-Away® container labels also show they contain Bayleton®, as much as 0.88%.)

So there! It looks as if we use any product with it's active ingredient Bayleton®, then it has to be "good stuff"!

Please note this chemical was listed in **THE AZALEAN** article as the most preferred to use in fighting petal blight but seemed to be hard to find.

Anyway, I used the granule form applied by hand, rather heavy over the "hot" spots, and generally, over all other beds. It was applied sometime in February and I'm sorry I didn't record exactly what the weather was like back then but I'd probably be safe to say it was normal Atlanta weather. Normal meaning, alternating from freezing to warm balmy spring-like days, every other few days, with rain in between. Probably a good year for good ole *Ovulinia azalea*! □

### REFERENCE:

- (1) 1993 *Georgia Pest Control Handbook*, Fungicide Table 1, p 320-322.

*Contributed by Jim Thornton*

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## "AN AZALEAPHILE SALUTE"

### (Azaleaphile meaning lover of azaleas).

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**Bob Stewart**  
*Springfield, VA*

We have known Bob personally for only a year. However, we've known of his name for many years. His name is next to numerous color photos chosen by Fred Galle to enhance his famous azalea book, but Bob would be too modest to mention that. Although he has no formal horticultural training, Bob is an excellent hybridizer and grower of many lovely azalea varieties. He has a hobbyist's eye for beauty and a critical eye for duplication, and thus, he chooses his named varieties with thoughtful discrimination.

Because he eschews the social functions of the azalea convention, his face is not a familiar one to many attendees. (Come on, Bob, let's admire azaleas at the Dallas Convention next year!!). Bob, has provided potted plants for many fund raising occasions, e.g., our last convention, and has judged sundry azalea shows for many years.

Although Bob is quiet and reserved, he is very friendly and generous with his time and knowledge. He is one of the most helpful persons we've met on our collecting rounds, either in or out of the Society. Bob Stewart is our choice for THE AZALEAPHILE SALUTE of the Quarter. □

Contributed by:  
AZALEA SUNSET  
Mary and Bill McDavit

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## Additional Princess Azalea Introductions

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**James B. Shanks**

*Beltsville, MD*

**Andrew N. Adams, Jr.**

*Clarksville, MD*

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The Princess Azaleas are a new hybrid group characterized by medium to large, double and hose-in-hose double flowers of clear colors on compact, hardy, evergreen plants. Bred for greenhouse forcing and landscape planting, they have been developed at the University of Maryland, and are being propagated and introduced by Andy Adams, Jr., of the Ten Oaks Nursery, Clarksville, Maryland.

Sixteen hybrids have been selected for introduction, and twelve of the introductions have been announced in three articles in **THE AZALEAN** [1,2,3] over the past three years. The twelve are:

- 'Princess Allison', white
- 'Princess Andrea', light red
- 'Princess Connie', pink with white edge
- 'Princess Deborah', light salmon pink
- 'Princess Gwyneth', white
- 'Princess Lindsay', pink
- 'Princess Margaret', orange-red
- 'Princess Mary Lee', pink
- 'Princess Megan', light pink
- 'Princess Ruth', pink
- 'Princess Sharon', white
- 'Princess Tessa', deep salmon

This article announces the four remaining hybrids selected for introduction. (Four



*'Princess Maryann'*

other hybrids are still being evaluated, and it is possible that one or more of them may be selected as a Princess Azalea in the years to come.)

### Background

As explained in some more detail in the March 1993 article, the original crosses were made in the spring of 1950 for the purpose of producing larger flowers on the popular Kurume and other azaleas having a fairly compact growth habit. The large-flowered Belgian variety 'Vervaeaneanum' as the seed parent was pollinated with 'Amoenum', 'Coral Bells', 'Hexe', 'Hinodegiri', 'Mucronatum', *Rhododendron kaempferi*, 'Pink Pearl', *R. simsii*, and two azaleas of unknown origin, one pink and one white. From 1954 until 1977, controlled crosses were made of selections from the resulting group of plants and their progeny with additional cultivars being included in the program beginning in 1958.

Selection was made for plants with a moderately vigorous, but compact and free-branching growth habit with medium-to-large flowers of clear colors. Other characteristics looked for were early flowering, floriferousness, and long-lasting flowers. While the initial emphasis was on selections for outdoor planting in the central Maryland area (USDA plant hardiness zone 6B, 0 to -5 F), the major emphasis from 1960 to 1977 when the last crosses were made was to produce types for greenhouse forcing. All seedling plants were eventually planted out-of-doors to ascertain their winter survival characteristics.

### New Introductions

This article introduces the last four Princess Azaleas being introduced at this time: 'Princess Barbara', 'Princess Ginnette Rene', and 'Princess Maryann', and 'Princess Sarah'. The following gives pedigree and descriptions for the new introductions. Color descriptions are based on the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart of 1986 (unless stated otherwise), and the comparative bloom times were for 1983 at College Park, Maryland.

## 'Princess Barbara'

Large double flower (6 cm. dia.), pink (RHS 71C), leaf 1.5 x 3.5 cm. Bloom May 5.

### *Pedigree*

Year	Cross	Progeny designation
1950	'Vervaeneanum' x 'Coral Bells'	MD 50-2-3
1950	'Vervaeneanum' x 'Pink Pearl'	MD 50-7-44
1957	MD 50-7-3 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-3
1960	'Chimes' x 'Crimson Glory'	MD 60-3-2
1960	'Chimes' x MD 57-1-3	MD 60-7-4
1960	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x MD 50-7-44	MD 60-11-1
1961	'Chimes' x U.S.D.A. B.44838	MD 61-10-1
1964	MD 60-7-4 x 'Dr. Alderfer'	MD 64-39-1
1965	MD 60-3-2 x MD 64-10-1	MD 65-17-1
1968	'White Christmas' x MD 65-17-1	MD 68-13-3
1968	MD 60-11-1 x MD 64-39-1	MD 68-46-5
1977	MD 68-13-3 x MD 68-46-5	MD 77-8-C (pink stripe) MD 77-8-C1 'Princess Barbara'

## 'Princess Ginnette Rene'

Large double flower (6 cm. dia.), deep pink (RHS-66 64C), leaf size 1.25 x 4 cm., spreading plant habit. Bloom May 14.

### *Pedigree*

Year	Cross	Progeny Designation
1950	'Vervaeneanum' x 'Amoena'	MD 50-1-1
1950	'Vervaeneanum' x 'Coral Bells'	MD 50-2-3
1950	'Vervaeneanum' x 'Mucronatum'	MD 50-5-7
1950	'Vervaeneanum' x 'Pink Pearl'	MD 50-7-3, MD 50-5-41, MD 50-7-44
1953	MD 50-1-1 x MD 50-5-7	MD 53-5-1
1957	MD 50-7-3 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-3
1959	'Triumph' x MD 50-7-41	MD 59-4-11, MD 59-4-20
1959	USDA PI 226144 x MD 53-5-1	MD 59-14-2, MD 59-14-3
1960	'Chimes' x 'Crimson Glory'	MD 60-3-2
1960	'Chimes' x MD 57-1-3	MD 60-7-4
1960	USDA B.44838 x MD 50-7-44	MD 60-11-1
1961	'Chimes' x USDA B.44838	MD 61-10-1
1962	MD 59-14-2 x MD 59-14-3	MD 62-30-1
1964	MD 60-7-4 x MD 59-4-20	MD 64-39-1
1965	MD 60-3-2 x MD 61-10-1	MD 65-17-1
1966	MD 59-4-11 x MD 60-7-4	MD 66-17-1
1966	MD 61-10-1 x MD 62-30-1	MD 66-51-2
1968	'White Christmas' x MD 65-17-1	MD 68-13-3 ('Princess Sharon')
1968	MD 60-11-1 x MD 64-39-1	MD 68-46-5
1969	MD 66-51-2 x MD 66-17-1	MD 69-41-1
1973	MD 69-41-1 x MD 68-46-5	MD 73-13-2 ('Princess Megan')
1977	MD 68-13-3 x MD 73-13-2 (('Princess Sharon')x('Princess Megan'))	MD 77-11-A 'Princess Ginnette Rene'

## ‘Princess Maryann’

Large semi-double flowers (to 7 cm. dia.), tend to be borne in terminal clusters with center crest and few to numerous stamens, bright red (RHS 52B), leaf dark green 1.5 x 4 cm., round headed to spreading habit. Bloom April 28. (This hybrid was original bred for greenhouse forcing, and it may be somewhat bud tender, although we have found it to be hardy.)

### *Pedigree*

Year	Cross	Progeny designation
1950	‘Vervaeneanum’ x ‘Coral Bells’	MD 50-2-3
1950	‘Vervaeneanum’ x ‘Pink Pearl’	MD 50-7-41
1957	MD 50-7-41 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-4
1960	‘Chimes’ x ‘Triumph’	MD 60-4-7
1964	MD 60-4-7 x MD 57-1-4	MD 64-33-1 ‘Princess Maryann’

## ‘Princess Sarah’

Large double flower (to 8 cm. dia.), white with pink flakes (RHS 49B), leaf 2 x 4.5 cm., round plant form. Bloom May 13. (Also pink selfs.)

### *Pedigree*

Year	Cross	Progeny Designation
1950	‘Vervaeneanum’ x ‘Amoenum’	MD 50-1-1
1950	‘Vervaeneanum’ x ‘Coral Bells’	MD 50-2-3
1950	‘Vervaeneanum’ x ‘Mucronatum’	MD 50-5-7
1950	‘Vervaeneanum’ x ‘Pink Pearl’	MD 50-7-3, MD 50-5-41, MD 50-7-44
1953	MD 50-1-1 x MD 50-5-7	MD 53-5-1
1957	MD 50-7-3 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-3
1959	‘Triumph’ x MD 50-7-41	MD 59-4-11, MD 59-4-20
1959	USDA PI 226144 x MD 53-5-1	MD 59-14-2, MD 59-14-3
1960	‘Chimes’ x MD 57-1-3	MD 60-7-4
1960	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x MD 50-7-44	MD 60-11-1
1961	‘Chimes’ x USDA B.44838	MD 61-10-1
1962	MD 59-14-2 x MD 59-14-3	MD 62-30-1
1964	MD 60-7-4 x MD 59-4-20	MD 64-39-1
1966	MD 59-4-11 x MD 60-7-4	MD 66-17-1
1966	MD 61-10-1 x MD 62-30-1	MD 66-51-2
1968	MD 60-11-1 x MD 64-39-1	MD 68-46-5
1969	MD 66-51-2 x MD 66-17-1	MD 69-41-1
1973	MD 69-41-1 x MD 68-46-5	MD 73-13-2
1977	MD 66-54-1 x MD 73-13-2	MD 77-3-16 ‘Princess Sarah’

### References

Limited quantities of all the Princess azalea hybrids in one and two-year sizes will be available at the Landon School Azalea Festival held at the beginning of May in Bethesda, Maryland. They are available also directly from Andy Adams, Jr.

(1) Shanks, J. B. and A. N. Adams, Jr. Introduction of the Princess Azaleas. **THE AZALEAN**, 15(1), March 1993, 9-11.

(2) Shanks, J. B. and A. N. Adams, Jr. More Princess Azalea Introductions. **THE AZALEAN**, 16(1), March 1994, 12-13.

(3) Shanks, J. B. and A. N. Adams, Jr. Further Princess Azalea Introductions. **THE AZALEAN**, 17(2), June 1995, 39-40.

*Jim Shanks is Professor of Horticulture, Emeritus, The University of Maryland at College Park. Andy Adams is retired President of the Ten Oaks Nursery of Clarksville, Maryland. □*

*Photographs by Richard West*

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# AZALEAS BY DESIGN

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Steve Brainerd

Rowlett, TX

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Azalea plantings are a continual source of enjoyment for me, always providing information, if I am observant enough to see what is being related. The planting which is the subject of this article has been particularly enjoyable because of its changes in appearance throughout the year.

The Dallas, Texas, planting is positioned in full sun. Advantages of full sun are dense foliage, heavy flower bud set, and enhanced leaf color in the fall and winter. Disadvantages of full sun are stress to the plants, increased water requirements, and susceptibility to lace bug.

The bed is approximately forty feet in length and seven feet in width. The azaleas were planted two feet on center. 'Festive' generally begins the color display in February. If the winter is mild, 'Christmas Cheer' will be the first to bloom in late January or early February with flower color persistent until late March. March, April, and May provide the greatest show of color with the 'Cloud Nine' dogwood, 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing' and 'George Lindley Taber' leading 'Fashion', 'Delaware Valley White' and 'Watchet'. 'Macrantha Orange' is the last to bloom in May sometimes lasting until early June. Summer months have color from begonias and caladiums planted in the vacant spaces in the front of the bed. Plantings of pansies in October through April are augmented by the fall flowers of 'Watchet' and 'Fashion'. The dogwood has red leaves and red berries in the fall with conspicuous bract buds on the branch tips in winter. The 'Fashion' azalea has a deep bronze leaf coloration from November through April which contrasts beautifully with the yellow green leaves of the 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing'. 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing' is coarse in leaf texture next to 'Fashion' which is relatively fine. The planting tends to be mounding to upright in form with the exception of the 'Macrantha Orange' which is decidedly horizontally layered. The planting is viewed from two windows which are twenty feet apart in the home. The seasonal flower pockets are individually positioned so that each provides the primary focal point when viewed from the nearest window. The form, texture, and color contrasts in this planting are a continual delight.

C = 'Christmas Cheer'  
D = 'Delaware Valley White'  
F = 'Fashion'  
F<sub>E</sub> = 'Festive'  
G = 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing'

M = 'Macrantha Orange'  
N = 'Narihira' (BG 0477)  
T = 'George Lindley Taber'  
W = 'Watchet'  
+ = *Cornus*'Cloud Nine' □



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# Stirring the Nomenclatural Pot

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Donald H. Voss

Vienna, Virginia

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Not quite by accident I recently checked the printed registration descriptions of the Robin Hill azaleas and came across variant spellings of the cultivar name 'Vervaeneanum'. After some checking with American Rhododendron Society plant-name registrar Jay Murray and learning that the name of the person commemorated is spelled "Vervaene", I stumbled (quite by accident) on the following note published at the end of the plant registry section of the Spring 1980 issue of the American Rhododendron Society Quarterly Bulletin (Vol. 34 No. 2):

As is *Soulangiana* (Magnolia) often misspelled *Soulangiana*, the Indian azalea name is properly spelled 'Vervaeniana', not *Vervaeneana* or *Vervaenana*.

Wrong (doubly)! 'Soulangeana' and 'Vervaeneanum' are correct. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants - 1980 states in Article 28 [article 30.1 of the 1995 code]:

The orthography of words in Latin form which are used as cultivar names should be in accordance with the Botanical Code; if not, the spelling should be corrected.

Example (b) of Article 28 states: "Cultivar names, when adjectival in form, should agree in gender with the generic name concerned..." (The -an- form of the endings identify the names considered here as adjectival.)

Regarding epithets formed from modern (in contrast to Greek, Latin, or well established Latin-form) personal names, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Tokyo Code) [1994] in Article 60.11 and Recommendation 60C.1 provides that:

If the personal name ends with a vowel, adjectival epithets are formed by adding -an- plus the nominative singular inflection appropriate for the gender of the generic name...except when the personal name ends with -a- in which case -n- plus the appropriate inflection is added...

This rule was in force under the Botanical Code adopted at Leningrad in 1975, antedating the note in the ARS Quarterly Bulletin quoted above. Although the examples in the Cultivated Code do not illustrate this aspect of the formation of adjectival epithets, the Botanical Code is explicit on the matter.

Thus, for the personal names Soulange and Vervaene, we have Magnolia × soulangeana (feminine ending in genus Magnolia) and Rhododendron 'Vervaeanum' (neuter ending in genus Rhododendron). The author has checked this conclusion with Dr. A. C. Leslie, Senior Registrar, the Royal Horticultural Society. He states (personal communication): "We earlier had the spelling of 'Vervaeanum' incorrect in the Register, but this has now been amended.

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## AZALEA NEWS

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### Princess Azaleas Complete Their Debut

The last four new cultivars of the "Princess" series azalea hybrids will be introduced at the 43rd Annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival May 3-5, 1996. Their distinctive color and size along with their unique growth habit earned them their royal title. This will be the fourth and final year "Princesses" will take their first bow at the Landon Festival.

This group of cultivars was developed at the University of Maryland for efficient greenhouse forcing and landscape planting. The new hybrids are characterized by medium-to-large, hose-in-hose double flowers of clear colors on compact hardy plants (U.S.D.A. plant hardiness zone 6B, 0 to -5 degrees F.). They are being propagated and introduced by Andy Adams, Jr., of Ten Oaks Nursery, Clarksville, Maryland.

This year will welcome 'Princess Barbara', 'Princess Ginnette Rene', 'Princess Maryann', and 'Princess Sarah'. They will be offered for purchase to gardeners for the first time at the Landon Festival. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these plants is donated to the Horticulture Research Fund at the University of Maryland.

Previously 'Princess Mary Lee', named in honor of Landon School co-founder Mrs. Mary Lee Banfield, was introduced among others in the series. A total of sweet 16 "Princess" azaleas, whose colors range from deep salmon to Pinks to creamy white, will have made their first appearance at the Landon Festival over four years.

For more information please contact Bobbi McCeney (301) 946-5695 or Susan Larson (301) 231-8677.

### Name That New Azalea Contest

What would you name a distinctive new azalea soon to burst on the scene with blossoms colored light maroon tapering to a golden throat? Now's your chance to design a title for this new azalea hybrid slated for introduction at the 1997 Landon Azalea Garden Festival the first weekend in May. The winning name will be decided on the last day of this year's 43rd Annual Festival on Sunday, May 5, by the Friends of the Perkins Garden.

Tuck your suggested name into the contest boxes located at both the Festival Information Booth and near the Azalea Society of America Flower Show, or send it ahead to Name That New Azalea Contest, Landon Azalea Garden Festival, Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20817. □

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## NEW MEMBERS

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# =====**SOCIETY NEWS**=====

## **BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER**

Carol Allen, *President*

A fine time was had by all at the December 1995 meeting. Bill Johnson created a beautiful wreath right before our eyes and told us how to go home and do it ourselves. The food and company were excellent, per usual. The presentation of the Lee award was delayed until the February meeting. The nominating committee persuaded our current officers to run again and the membership approved. The officers for 1996 are:

President: Carol Allen  
Vice President: Mary Rutley  
Secretary: Jean Cox  
Treasurer: Dorothy Murphree

## **DALLAS CHAPTER**

Peggy Kirkland, *President*

Our last meeting of the year featured Mr. Chris Delaporte, currently an assistant to Oklahoma Governor Keating. Mr. Delaporte has extensive knowledge of the Parks Department, and has worked in this field throughout the United States. He also worked in the Carter Administration, and gave us some unique insights into how projects are funded and bills brought about.

We also had a potting party, where several members repotted about 700 azaleas in our greenhouse at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. On January 24 the executive committee of the chapter will meet at the home of Lorine Gibson, one of the convention garden hostesses, to finalize details on the upcoming ASA convention. There is much to do and we are all excited about hosting the convention here in Dallas.

On February 4 our chapter, along with several other plant societies and clubs, will participate in North Haven Gardens 'Greenhouse Open House'. It is a chance for the public to learn about azaleas and our own society, as well as others in the Dallas area.

## **LOUISIANA CHAPTER**

W. F. Bode, *President*

The annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter ASA was held on Dec. 3, 1995, at Hammond Experiment Station in Hammond, Louisiana. Reports of the Treasurer were accepted, and election of officers for 1996 was held. The results were:

President: William F. Bode  
Vice President: Robert J. Miravalle  
Secretary: William L. Brown  
Treasurer: Jerry Ladner.

The membership expressed its appreciation to the last two for a job so well done that they were reelected.

Principal objectives set for the coming year are:

- (1) To increase membership by at least 10%.
- (2) To properly map and tag all plants in both azalea plantings at Hammond Experiment Station.

Reports of Special Committees discussed:

- (1) The circulation of the list of Fall Blooming Azaleas to chapter members and other interested persons. Project Chairman was Robert J. Miravalle. The listing which has been forwarded to **THE AZALEAN** for possible publication was compiled from actual field observations by members of the chapter. Photographic documentation was also made.
- (2) The results of participation in the Fall Garden Festival at New Orleans Botanical Garden:
  - (a) The exhibit of blooming plants was awarded Honors in Horticulture. Visitors to the exhibit exceeded 500.
  - (b) The slide presentation and narrative by W. L. Brown, Ph.D., was given to an overflow crowd. The viewing area accommodated only 65. Visitors to both the Exhibit and the "Show & Tell" were given a printout naming the fall bloomers being shown and an application to join ASA.

## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

John Zottoli, *President*

The Northern Virginia Chapter met on Sunday, December 10. There were two speakers, Bob Stewart and Joe Klimavicz. They conducted a "clinic" on growing azaleas from seed.

Many members of the Azalea Society belong to the American Rhododendron Society as well. Our own chapter's Don Hyatt serves as president for the local ARS chapter. As part of his leadership in the ARS, Don suggested that both organizations coordinate our program planning. So we came upon the idea of the Azalea Society joining what turned out to be a wonderful ARS dinner meeting that focused on the "Asian Influence" in azaleas and other rhododendrons. We saw an excellent slide program on azalea and other rhododendron cultivars—and the Asian species that were the hybrids "parents".



Several ASA members helped with the event. Don Hyatt presided. Bob Stewart contributed Asian-bred azaleas that every participant took home as a door prize. Also, Bruno and Evelyn Kaelin took the reservations for the dinner. Bruno Kaelin was presented an award for his volunteer efforts. The event attracted many ASA members not only from Northern Virginia, but from Maryland chapters as well—both Brookside and Ben Morrison Chapters.

#### OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, Secretary

The Oconee Chapter met on September 17, 1995 in Conyers with 24 members present.

David Butler, the president, called the meeting to order and gave the treasurer's report. He mentioned that we really had a good time, despite the heat, at the last two cutting swaps.

Ralph Bullard, Jr., the Vice President, introduced the first speaker, Dr. Charles Owen. Dr. Owen explained his technique for seed propagation. He showed slides of various colors of seedling hybrids that developed from one seed pod. He recommended pruning directly after blooming.

After a refreshment break, Ralph introduced Jeff Beasley, Transplant Nursery, Lavonia, GA. Mr. Beasley showed slides of *R. speciosum*, native to Tray Mountain. He gave a history of these plants and that it takes many years to develop them for commercial sale. He described his method of seed propagation. He gave advice that *R. speciosum* plants would bloom more profusely if they have light, but not hot afternoon sunlight. Ralph and Jeff discussed an idea of a field trip to Tray Mountain, perhaps in the middle of June, next year. David auctioned specimen azaleas that were donated by Jeff Beasley to benefit the Oconee Chapter. Thank you Jeff.

Azalea plants donated by Earl Hester and Jim Harris were set out by Tom Anderson and Jim Thornton at the First Baptist Church in Conyers, where the chapter often meets. What started out as "let's plant a few azaleas around the church" ended up as an azalea garden

donated by the Oconee Chapter in memory of Jimmy Hambrick.

The garden is in front of the administration building and we've already planted a hedge row of Hinos completely around the garden. We've bedded the garden with pine straw and plan to add pine bark mulch later. We plan to install a bench and an "Oconee" native azalea . . . when we can find one of our gracious members to make the donation (hint, hint). Our thanks to all who contributed, and a special thanks to Tom for staying on top of this and preparing the area.

At the December 3, 1995 meeting Jim Thronton discussed the Azalea Convention last spring and showed slides taken at that event and his garden. Ralph Bullard showed slides of gardens in Salem, Oregon, Portland, Oregon, Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He also showed slides of Dr. Charles Owen's garden and of his own garden. Fred Sorg showed slides of his special azaleas. He also donated plants for the church garden. Thank you Fred.

It was suggested that members of this chapter go on tours of the Rhododendron Society, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Calloway Gardens, etc. to help prepare for the Azalea Society of American's Convention. This convention will be hosted by the Oconee Chapter in 1997.

The officers for 1996 are:

President: Earl Hester  
Vice President: Ralph Bullard  
Treasurer: Fred Vick  
Secretary: Ruth Bryan

#### GLENN DALE PRESERVATION PROJECT

William C. Miller III

The ASA's National Project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 14th year. In March of last year, the station at Glenn Dale suffered a loss. "Al's House," which was an old, former residence on the station, burned to the ground. Over the years, the two-story house had become a catch-all storage for old files and miscellaneous small equipment. The FBI investigation attributed the fire to the actions of an arsonist. Sadly, historic records dating back some seventy years were lost.

One of the chief goals for 1996 is to renegotiate the USDA permit by which we are granted access to the Glenn Dale station. The existing permit is much outdated and commits the ASA to activities (like maintaining a germplasm collection) that are not achievable under current circumstances and resources. Negotiations with the appropriate parties at the USDA, regarding the terms of the proposed new permit, are ongoing and at some point under current ASA policy, will require review by and approval of the ASA Board of Directors (BOD).

In anticipation of the need for obtaining a new permit and in an effort to streamline matters, I petitioned the ASA BOD at the 1995 National Meeting in May for delegated authority that would allow the chairman of the Glenn Dale project to review and sign a new permit on their behalf. A decision from the BOD on my request for signatory authority, one way or the other, is still pending.

On September 19, 1995, Dick West and I met with Dr. Thomas Elias in his office at the U.S. National Arboretum to discuss future plans. The Arboretum continues to be very supportive of our activities and is seeking new ways to form cooperative efforts with the ASA.

#### IN MEMORY

Azalea Society of America member Mary Ann G. Thane passed away on September 18, 1995. She is survived by her husband, Society member Frederick L. Thane. She was active in community affairs, garden clubs, and was a charter member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

Society member Dr. Arthur Baker died January 9, 1996. His garden contained approximately 1,500 azaleas. He was a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

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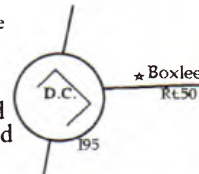
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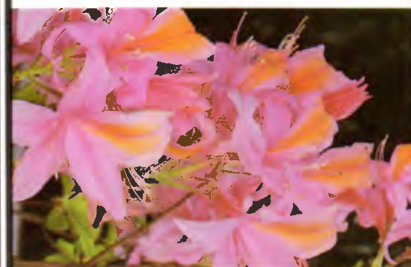
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