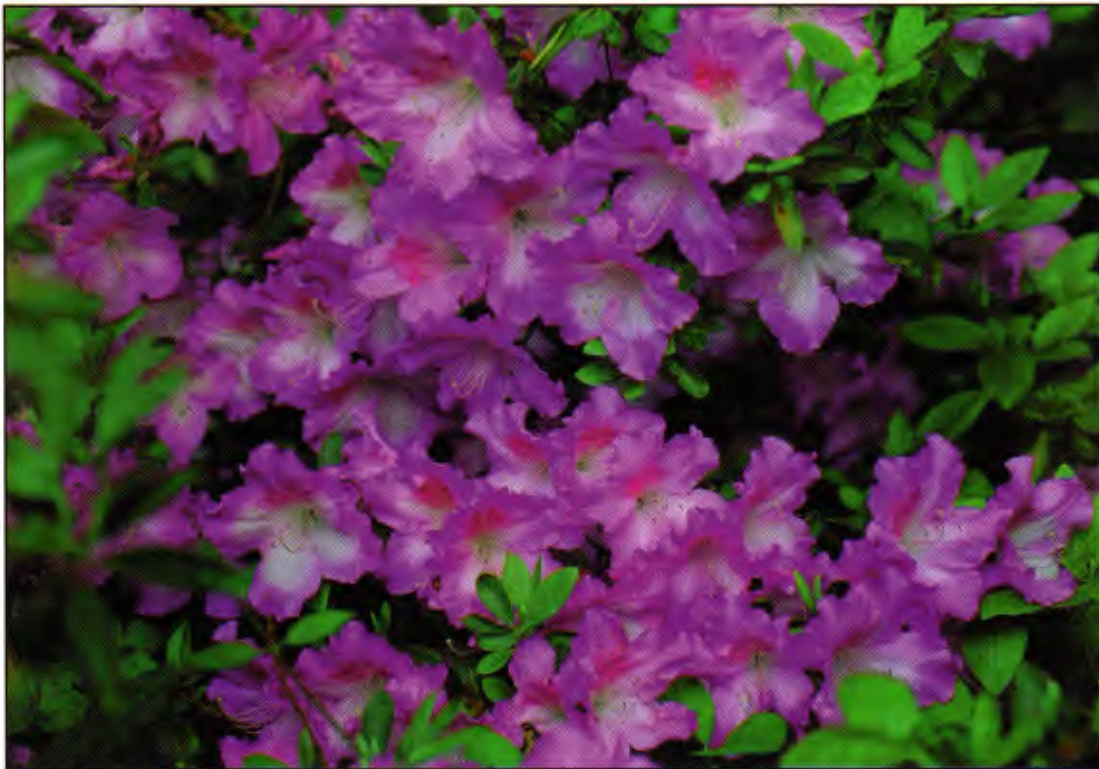


Azalea

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



Horticultural Terms	<i>Page 4</i>
Conventional Wisdom: Oklahoma Azaleas	<i>Page 7</i>
Identifying Glenn Dales	<i>Page 8</i>



Post Office Box 34536
West Bethesda, Maryland
20827-0536

President's Column

James O. Thornton
Conyers, GA

I know you enjoyed the previous "nostalgic" issue of **THE AZALEAN**. Bob and Bee Hobbs, and those who contributed did a super job in putting the December 1997 issue together. They deserve a pat on the back! But wait! Another issue visiting the past is coming up when **THE AZALEAN** celebrates it's birthday. I'll say no more but it's already in the works.

Speaking of anniversaries, I believe a couple of chapters will complete 20 years in 1999 and a couple more in 2000 and some in 2001. So how 'bout a few articles about your past?

I assume you've heard that the American Rhododendron Society will remain just that with no name change. By the way, Bud Gehrich, the ARS President, and I have opened a lot of dialog and I think you'll hear a lot about more activities involving the two organizations, i.e., a symposium on native azaleas and possibly a joint convention. In the mean time I'll keep you posted. Those of you who are joint members talk it up, and let's see where this leads. (FYI— the ARS now has an electronic newsletter, called, guess what "The Rhododendron and Azalea News" [R&A News], Surprised?)

Finally it's convention time again! My, where does the time go? Anyway in the December issue of **THE AZALEAN** you'll find everything you need to know, and it looks to me like it's going to be another great convention, Patsy and I plan to be there, to visit old friends (not necessarily age-wise) meet new ones, visit some fine gardens and, of coarse, learn more about the azalea. So get that application in the mail today!

P.S. Don't forget to vote!

On the Cover: Glenn Dale hybrid 'Boldface'
Photographer: Jane Newman

Azalea Society of America

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

OFFICERS FOR 1997-1998

President	James O. Thornton
Vice-President	William Bode
Secretary	William B. McIntosh
Treasurer	Robert Stelloh
Immediate Past-President	Stephen S. Brainerd

DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring in 1999	Terms Expiring in 1998
Gen. Bryght Godbold	Robert Lee
Donald Hyatt	Dr. Charles Owen
Col. Murray Sheffield	Stephen Schroeder

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

CHAPTERS

Brookside Gardens (chartered August 1979) Dianne Gregg, <i>President</i>
Richmond, Virginia (chartered August 1979) Frank J. Digney, <i>President</i>
Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Alan Jones, <i>President</i>
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Joe Klimavicz, <i>President</i>
Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Vincent J. Ciolina, <i>President</i>
Tri-State (chartered October 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>President</i>
Dallas Chapter (chartered May 1989) Roby Odom, <i>President</i>
Oconee Chapter (chartered November 1991) Earl Hester, <i>President</i>

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$25.00; life membership for an individual is \$500.00. Members receive **THE AZALEAN** and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society including those of the chapter with which the member affiliates. For information and a membership application, write to the Membership Committee, Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

THE AZALEAN
*Journal of the Azalea Society
of America, Inc.*

Editor

Robert W. Hobbs, Ph.D.

Associate Editor

Belinda L. Hobbs

Advisory Editorial Board

Donald H. Voss

Jane Newman

George S. Switzer, Ph.D.

Advertising

Niki Baker

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 Azalean Back Issues, 5710 Azalea Drive, Rowlett, TX 75088 (PHONE: (214) 475-3401). 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 20, 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**.

Address all editorial and business correspondence to:

The Editor, **THE AZALEAN**
737 Walnut Avenue,
North Beach, MD 20714-9644

Printing of **THE AZALEAN** by:
Hour Printer
Silver Spring, MD

=====
Table of Contents
=====

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 41 MARCH 1998

- 2 President's Letter
- 4 Leaves, elliptic to lanceolate-oblong, obtuse, or acute. If I only knew what this means!
Alice Le Duc, Ph.D.
- 7 Conventional Wisdom: Oklahoma Azaleas
William Bode
- 7 Help Wanted!
- 8 More On Trying to Identify Those Glenn Dales
Jane Newman
- 13 Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN**—1997
- 14 Report of the Nominating Committee
- 15 Society News
Northern Virginia Chapter
Glenn Dale Preservation Program 1998
William C. Miller III
- 17 New Members
- 17 Azalea Calendar
- 18 Azalea Mart

**DON'T FORGET TO
REGISTER FOR THE
CONVENTION!!!**

AND PLEASE VOTE!!!

LEAVES, ELLIPTIC TO LANCEOLATE- OBLONG, OBTUSE, OR ACUTE. IF I ONLY KNEW WHAT THIS MEANS!

Alice Le Duc, Ph.D.
Manhattan, Kansas

Are you confused or frustrated by the botanical descriptions of *Rhododendron* species when reading about or trying to identify a plant? For example you might read the following description:

Low, much branched shrub; leaves evergreen, elliptic to lanceolate-oblong, obtuse, or acute, dark green and lustrous above, paler and slightly strigose below, 1-2 inches long; flowers usually solitary; sepals small, ovate, ciliate; corolla funnelform, 2-3 inches across, rosy purple to pink; stamens 5-10, anthers purple. June-July. Japan.

Did you recognize the description of *Rhododendron indicum* (L.) Sweet? How do you interpret the description and know the description is that of the plant you are trying to identify? You can refer to books with glossaries of terms to help you translate the descriptions. *The Manual of Cultivated Plants* by L. H. Bailey, published by Macmillan Company, New York, is one of the best. Still exasperated? See if the following discussion helps.

You are at the portals of the field in plant science known as **taxonomy**, which traditionally deals with the identification, naming, and classification of plants. Plant **morphology** treats the observable details in form and structure of plants. Today, genetic data from molecular biology (DNA, RNA, etc.) are being used increasingly to refine understanding of plant relationships and evolution. **Identification** is the recognition of certain plant characteristics, enabling one to associate a plant with a particular category in a classification scheme and apply the appropriate name to the plant. **Classification** places plants into a systematic arrangement of groups (**taxa**, singular **taxon**) having common characteristics, especially those resulting from common evolutionary descent. **Nomenclature** is the orderly application of names to taxa in accordance with international rules. The elements of plant names are associated with levels in the hierarchical classification system.

The **species** is the basic unit in classification—a unit or group of individual plants bearing close resemblance to one another; so much so that this group will not be mistaken for another group or combined with another group in the same genus. The **genus**, the next higher rank in the classification system, is a more or less closely related and definable group of plants including one or more species.

Below the rank of species, plants may be grouped into **subspecies**, **varieties**, or **formae** to distinguish them from other members of the species on the basis of minor morphological differences, sometimes associated with geographic provenance. Unfortunately, taxonomists differ on the criteria for use of the terms “subspecies” and “variety.” Thus the late Arthur Cronquist, an eminent American taxonomist, stated: “Nowadays one taxonomist’s subspecies is likely to be another’s variety.” For horticultural plants, the **forma** designations once

used for trivial variations within a species are in some cases being converted into cultivar names. A **cultivar** (cultivated variety) is a variety developed horticulturally. With respect to woody ornamental plants, it is desirable to limit use of this term to **clones** (genetically identical plants that are reproduced by asexual methods). Many plants are **hybrids**, resulting from crossing of genetically unlike plants. Selections of these hybrids are commonly given cultivar names under the provisions of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*.

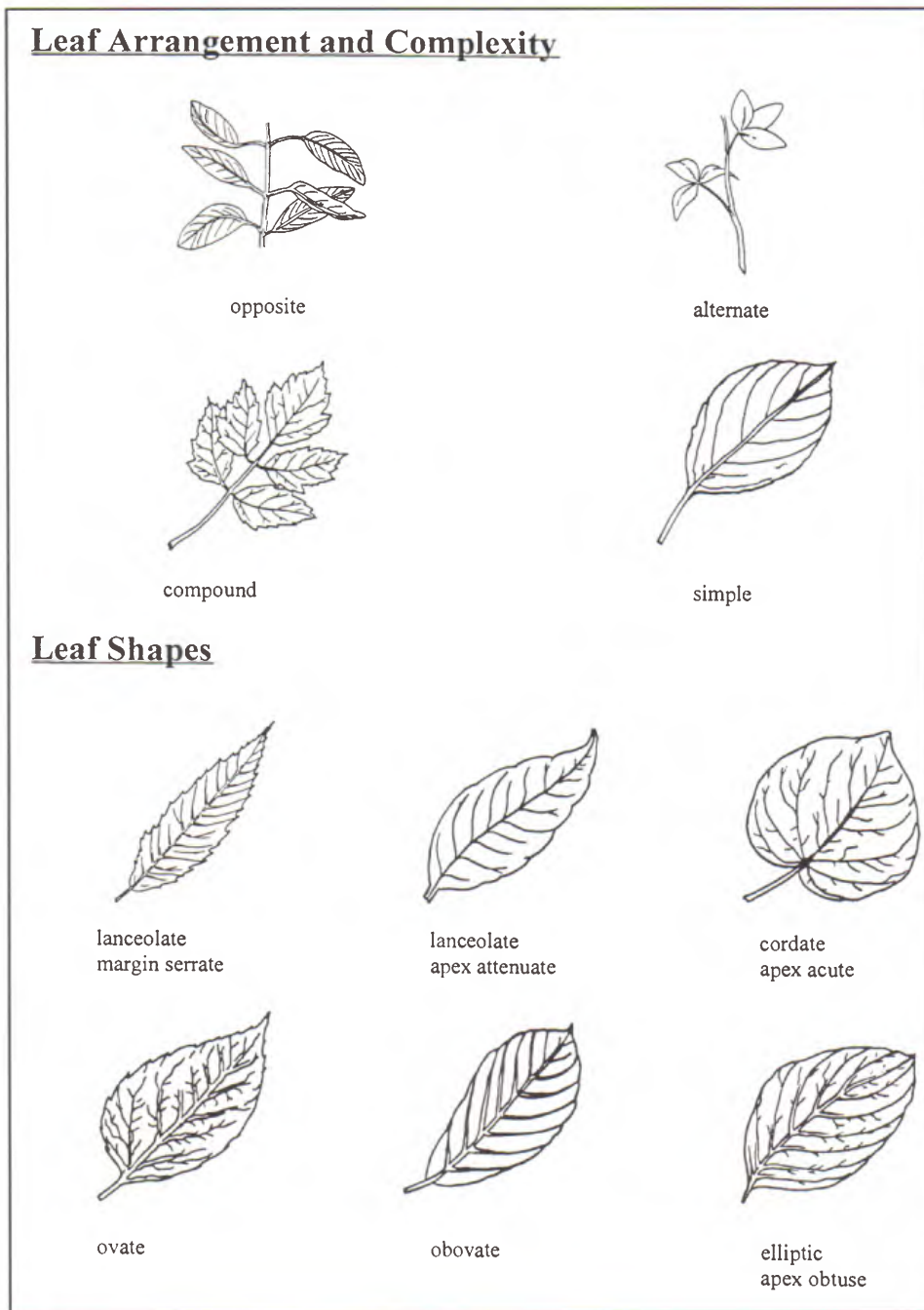
The botanists name plants under the “Botanical Code” and do so in a very logical way, using Latin or “botanical” terms. Using the description of *Rhododendron indicum*, let us go through each part step-by-step. First, why is there a letter and name written after the scientific plant name? (L.) Sweet is the authority, that is, the person(s) responsible for the name. The L. stands for Linnaeus; it is in parentheses because the English botanist and horticulturist Sweet reclassified Linnaeus’ *Azalea indica*, placing it into the genus *Rhododendron*, so the new name is *Rhododendron indicum*. *Indica* became *indicum* because the specific epithet (the descriptive term for the second part of the scientific name) must agree in gender with the generic name.

Now consider the plant description. Low, much branched shrub: this tells you something about the growth habit of the plant. It is a shrub, so it has numerous branches from the base of the plant rather than being a tree with a single trunk. Normally shrubs are from 18 inches to 20 feet in height. Next is the description of the leaves. First, establish the arrangement of the leaves on the stem and their duration (the above species description does not include leaf arrangement because it is considered part of the genus description, and thus the same for all included species). The point at which the leaf is attached to the stem is called the **node**. The region of the stem between leaves is

the **internode**. *Rhododendron* leaves are usually **alternate**, one leaf per node. Some are **pseudowhorled**, leaves still alternate but the internodes so short that the leaves appear to be attached to the stem at almost the same level (close observation will show that each leaf is attached just a little higher and in a spiral around the stem).

Leaf duration is **deciduous** if present only during the growing season, then falling from the plant; **evergreen** if present year round; or **persistent** if present all year but falling off just as the new leaves emerge at the start of the growing season. The evergreen azalea section of the genus *Rhododendron* may have **dimorphic** leaves, that is two different types. The first set comprises the spring leaves, which develop in the spring and drop from the plant in fall or winter. The second set of leaves, usually smaller and somewhat thicker, develop during the summer and persist on the plant till the following spring.

Next consider the overall shape of the leaf blade, the shape of the leaf tip and the leaf base. All rhododendrons have **entire** leaves; that is, the margin is continuous, not notched, toothed, or divided. The single **leaf blade**, the flat leafy portion, is attached to the stem by a stalk or **petiole**. If there is no stalk the leaf is said to be **sessile**. The overall shape of the leaf blade can be **elliptic**, in the shape of an ellipse, broader at the middle and more narrow at each end; **lanceolate**, lance-shaped, much longer than wide, widest point below the middle; **oblan- ceolate**, inversely lanceolate, attachment is at the more narrow end; **oval**, broadly elliptic, the width over one-half the length; **ovate**, egg-shaped in outline and attached at the broad end; **obovate**, inversely ovate, attachment at the more narrow end; **oblong**, longer than broad, two to three times as long as wide, with sides parallel and ends rounded. The leaf tip is called the **apex** and its shape may be **rounded**, gently curved; **obtuse**, forming an angle greater than a right angle; **acute**, forming an angle less than a



right angle; **attenuate**, drawn out into an elongated tapering point; **acumi- nate**, with the tip more or less pro- longed into a tapering point; **muc- ronate**, abruptly tipped with a small point, projecting from the midrib. The shape of the base of the leaf where the blade attaches to the petiole may be acute, acuminate, rounded the same as the tip, or it may be **cordate**, heart- shaped; **cuneate**, wedge-shaped, the petiole attached at the sharp angle. As noted, the margin of the *Rhododendron* leaf may be described as **entire**,

smooth, devoid of any indentation. [Leaves in other genera may be entire or **serrate**, sharp teeth pointing forward; **dentate**, having sharp teeth pointing outward; **lobed**, with inden- tations extending 1/4 to 1/2 the distance to the base or midrib; **revolute**, the margins rolled backward toward the underside; **sinuate**, margins wavy.] Last consider the leaf surface, it may be **dull**, no shine, or **lustrous**, shiny; **glabrous**, smooth, without any struc- tures such as hairs; **glaucous**, covered with a bloom (whitish or bluish waxy

coating); **lepidote**, covered with small, scurfy scales as in *R. mucoranulatum* and *R. minus*; **pubescent**, covered with hairs. The hairs come in many different types: **puberulent**, minutely hairy, with fine, short hairs; **scabrous**, rough to the touch from the presence of short stiff hairs; **setose**, covered with bristles; **strigose**, bearing straight, stiff, sharp, hairs that are **appressed** (flat against the leaf surface); **tomentose**, covered with short, matted or tangled, soft woolly hairs (as in the indumentum of many large-leaved rhododendrons); **villous**, having long, soft, shaggy, but unmatted hairs; **pilose**, having long soft, straight hairs; **ciliate**, a marginal fringe of hairs. Some hairs may be **glandular**, bearing a gland at the tip of the hair containing a sticky liquid, making the plant feel sticky, **viscid**.

The **inflorescence** is the flowering structure. There may be several to many flowers in each inflorescence or there may be only one flower in the inflorescence, i.e. **solitary**. The flower is the reproductive organ of the plant. Terms relating to the flower include: **pedicel**, the stalk of each individual flower in a cluster; **peduncle**, the stalk bearing the entire inflorescence or a solitary flower; **calyx**, a collective term for the sepals; **sepals**, the outer whorl of the floral envelope; **corolla**, a collective term for the petals; **petals**, the inner whorl of the floral envelope; **perianth**, a collective term for the calyx and corolla, especially if they are

similar in appearance; **stamen**, the pollen-producing part of the flower (male reproductive system); **filament**, the stalk of the stamen; **anther**, the structure (attached to the filament) where the pollen is produced; **staminode**, a sterile (non-pollen-producing) stamen; **pistil**, the female reproductive system, composed of the ovary, style, and stigma; **ovary**, the enlarged basal portion of the pistil where the **ovules** are borne (future seeds); **style**, the stalk that connects the stigma and ovary; **stigma**, the top portion of which is the receptive area for the pollen grains. Some of the descriptive terms for sepal and petals are the same as for leaves. The corolla has several specific terms: **tube**, the basal part of a corolla where the petals are grown together; **throat**, the expanded portion of the corolla between the limb and the tube; **limb**, the expanded blade of the corolla or petal, (where the petals are united the limb may be composed of several **lobes**). The shape of the corolla may be **campanulate**, bell-shaped; **funnelform**, having the shape of an elongate funnel; **rotate**, radiately spreading, in one plane, with a short tube; **salverform**, a cylindrical elongated tube and spreading rotate, abruptly flared limb; **tubular**, cylindrical and hollow, having an elongate tube and a short limb; **urceolate**, urn-shaped, having a tube that is expanded below the middle and narrow at the top.

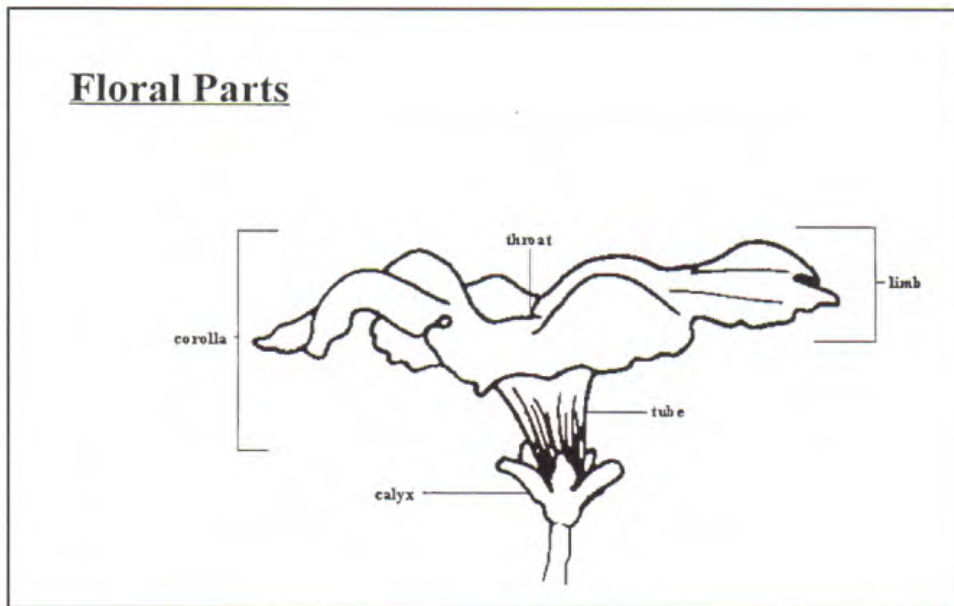
The fruit of a rhododendron is a **capsule**, many-seeded, with several united carpels (**carpel**, simple pistil formed from one modified leaf, within may be one or more ovules), **dehiscing** (opening) **septicidally** (along the line of the union of each carpel). The seeds are tiny, and a capsule may contain from a few to well over 100.

Writing an article about morphological terms for plants is a bit like asking some one to write an article about tooth extraction, and about as exciting to read. I thought at some length on how to make a glossary of terms interesting and readable. I hope that my approach has been successful. However, for those still confused, pictures often are more helpful than words. The figures illustrate several of the terms defined above. If you prefer a simple reference sheet including and expanding on the above terms, you might wish to carefully remove the wrapper of this issue of **THE AZALEAN** and save it with your books on rhododendrons.

Dr. Alice Le Duc
Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. □

F. Alice LeDuc is Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources at Kanasa State University. Dr. LeDuc has a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Texas in Austin (1993) and a M.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Maryland (1976). She was on the faculty of Texas A&M University for 12 years teaching horticulture.

[Editor's Note: I originally arranged with Society member and contributor to **THE AZALEAN** Dr. John C. Pair (horticultural researcher and Director fo the Kanasa State University of Horticulture Research Center, Wichita, Kansas) to write this article on botanical terms for **THE AZALEAN**. After a bout with a brain tumor in early 1997, Dr. Pair arranged for his colleague, Dr. Alice LeDuc to write this article. With regret, I report that Dr. Pair lost his battle in January 1998.]



Conventional Wisdom: Oklahoma Azaleas

William Bode

Covington, Louisiana

Conventional Wisdom (CW)—that buzz word of the mid-nineties. CW would cite Oklahomans as Sooners, oil-field roughnecks, Indians, cowboys, Okies, Pretty Boy Floyd, Bob Wills and the “Texas Playboys.” CW would also bring to mind Oklahoma, “Where the corn is as high as an elephant’s eye.” great rolling grasslands, wheat fields, cows, oil wells, mountains that hide desperados...But azaleas—Naa!

Child bride and I were heading north, visiting and ancestor hunting. One of my child bride’s aunts moved to Oklahoma soon after it became a state and stayed to put down roots. These roots were put down in East Central Oklahoma, but as often happens, relatives are lost track of—so you have to go looking for them. We had never traveled much in the Sooner State, so we called their Tourist Bureau for an information packet. In some of the city ads I found a wonderful photo reproduction of a “bank” of azaleas—could not believe it. CW says azaleas do best in Maritime climates—not the hill country of Eastern Oklahoma; but there it was. The Muskogee Azalea Festival was to be held April 5-20, 1997. I checked our roster of members and sure enough, there was a member of the Azalea Society of America listed as “Muskogee Parks and Recreation Department” and listed a street address.

After we had finished the ancestor hunt in the midwest we headed for Oklahoma. I had been stationed southeast of Muskogee at Camp Gruber for a very short time in 1945, but knew very little about the city except it was friendly.

We found that the address listed was in a municipal park called “Honor Heights.” The last was obvious—it had its own mountain! But on the other side of the hill was a natural bowl with a stream running through it.

It had rained the night before, and the grass and shrubs and trees in the bowl had almost as many shades of green as County Clare. As we drove through, we encountered a maintenance group, so we stopped to make inquiries. The foreman, who was obviously proud of his place of business (and his pride was justified), readily answered our questions and sent us to the Director’s office. He was not available, but his staff supplied the factual information, i.e., brochures, maps, etc. As I’ve already explained about the “Heights” in “Honor Heights”, the “Honor” indicates the dedication to the Veterans of WWI.

The park is large—about 100 acres, 40+ is manicured. It displays 3,000 azaleas, 625 varieties along paths, lanes, roadways, and the Kirscher Memorial Fountain. The lanes around the duck pond are dedicated as the “Lynd Azalea Walk.”

Since our visit occurred in early August, there were no blooms on the azaleas, but when the talk got to “off-season” blooms, the foreman did admit that ‘Fashion’ did get a little crazy and bloomed in October.

The azalea planting was begun in 1950 and is a work in progress. The Azalea Festival has drawn 300,000 visitors many times since inception in 1967. It is highly rated by the tour bus companies.

Well, so much for CW. I wonder how many other “unknowns” are on the other side of the hill?

Bill Bode was born in St. Joseph, MO in 1923. He received his education at Catholic parochial schools. He attended Missouri Western College (as it is referred to today) and the University of Kansas. Bill served 40 years in the US Army and US Army Reserve. He was employed by Ray Tech and Pharmaceutical Sales. He fell in love a second time in 1958—with azaleas—when he and his wife were transferred to Louisiana. □

HELP WANTED !

Your current editor will complete his *tenth* year as editor of **THE AZALEAN** with the December 1998 issue! That’s a long time for one person’s ideas to dominate the editing of the journal of record for a national society that has been in existence for twenty years! For the benefit of the society (*and in the interest of the long-term sanity of the person who is currently the editor*), it is time to get someone else deeply involved in the editing, layout, printing and mailing of **THE AZALEAN**. The editor has expressed these thoughts to the Board of Directors for the past two years, and the President of the Society has passed these thoughts along to the elected Board members, *ex officio* members (chapter presidents) and other attendees at the National Conventions.

No one has stepped forward to date, and it is time that these concerns be passed on to the general membership.

The editor requests that anyone interested in learning about the process of editing and publishing **THE AZALEAN**, *and becoming involved in that process*, step forward and make known willingness to one of the officers or Directors. It is most desirable that when the time comes that the current editor steps aside, there is someone or someones who is familiar with the process and ready to effect an orderly transition. □

MORE ON TRYING TO IDENTIFY THOSE GLENN DALES

Jane Newman

Great Falls, Virginia

The focus here (in two senses) is on some of the Glenn Dale varieties that usually or in a sport have a center that is lighter than the outer portion. The difference ranges from very gradual to sharply defined but is obvious before the bud unfurls. Omitted are 'Luna' (but see **THE AZALEAN** for March 1993) and 'Caress', which I have never come across.

Color in the photos was influenced by light intensity and by brand and type of film as well as the whim of development technicians (prints from slides made at the regional laboratory used by local camera shops sometimes make a white quartz background tawny but more often make it blackish green). Thus, for identification purposes, attention should be paid to such characteristics as sepal shape, number of stamens, whether the anthers are light or dark, whether the stigma is white, tan, or green, etc.

The cultivars are described and shown roughly by blooming sequence.

'Dayspring': 1-3/4" to 3" across. It is one of the most photographed, painted, and recognized plants in the hybrid group and ranked fourth in the "eye-catcher" Glenn Dale poll conducted by Frank White and reported in **THE AZALEAN** for April 1981.

'Bopeep': 2" to 2-1/2" across. It is a sister seedling of 'Dayspring' and for me is a little less susceptible to bud freeze. 'Marta', their pollen parent, is not described in either the Lee or Galle books. Given the early blooming and attractiveness of the pair ('Caress' is also a sister), it would be interesting to locate 'Marta' and try the cross again. Its "genes" have been passed on through 'Dayspring' to many of the Loblolly Bay hybrids, including 'Dreamboat', which is propagated by the Hanners of Azalea Trace.

'Simplicity': 2-1/2" to 3" across. From seed parent 'Lilacinum' it inherited beautiful lavender stamens and hairy leaves. Photographs show both individual flower, and several flowers on the plant.

'Content': 2-3/4" to 3" across. It is very attractive in the company of 'PJM' rhodies. Morrison described its leaves as "broadly obovate and glossy", but they are not as round or dark as those of sister seedling 'Glacier'.

'Boldface': 3" across. It was described by Morrison as blooming in mid-May, but it actually blooms early enough to suffer cold damage some years in this area. Note that color fills the top lobe so that the white portion is in the shape of an X.

'Peter Pan': 1-1/2" to 1-3/4" across. It is the only one of the numerous 'Fashion' and 'Illusion' siblings that has a noticeable light center. 'Pam', another Loblolly Bay hybrid propagated by the Hanners, is an obvious offspring with larger blossoms.

'Martha Hitchcock': 3" across. It was the runaway winner of the Glenn Dale "eye-catcher" poll.

'Crinoline': 3" across. It has an apt name for the most ruffled Glenn Dale I know of. The white eye on this blossom, photographed on Labor Day a few years ago, is smaller than those occurring on mature plants in the normal blooming season.

'Alight': 2-1/2" across. It is a sister of 'Crinoline'. Morrison did not mention a white center. However, in the October 1980 issue of **THE AZALEAN** was a revised description by George Harding and Dr. Neil Campbell: "Small plants are usually solid color, but with age they generally develop flowers with Spinel Pink margins and lighter centers".

'Challenger': 2-3/4" to 3" across. Morrison's description noted its "beautiful form with well-imbricated lobes that are somewhat undulate on margins" but didn't mention the lighter center.

'Progress': 2" across. It was described by Morrison as having far-exserted stamens and "some variation towards white at centers". Most blossoms have more white than the one shown.

'Bravura': 2-1/2" to 3" across. This is the plant type received from Hohman and others. There is considerable variation in the width of the border. The blossom is definitely not as large as 'Martha Hitchcock'. It is the only Glenn Dale I know of that consistently has a few scattered blooms throughout the summer.

'Fawn': 2" to 2-1/2" across. Six-lobed blossoms are fairly common.

'Susannah': 2-1/2" across. It is a sister of 'Fawn'. It reliably blooms in the fall, but fall blooms often have less white and/or are deformed (petaloids, some lobes crinkled or dwarf).

'Coral Sea': 2-1/2" to 3" across.

'Trophy': 3" to 3-1/2" across. It is a sister of 'Coral Sea' with more blue in its color and has a less showy blotch.



'Dayspring'



'Bopeep'



'Simplicity'



'Simplicity'



'Content'



'Boldface'



'Peter Pan'



'Martha Hitchcock'



'Crinoline'



'Alight'



'Challenger'



'Progress'



'Bravura'



'Fawn'



'Susannah'



'Coral Sea'



'Trophy'



'Cordial'



'Consolation'



'Welcome'



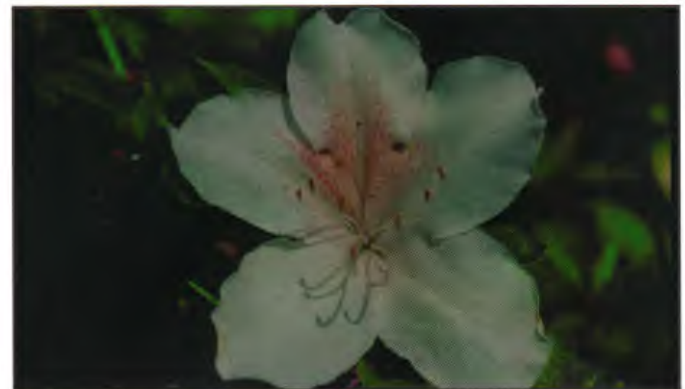
'Picotee'



'Helen Gunning'



'Grace Freeman' sport



'Grace Freeman'



'Cadenza' sport



'Sarabande'



'Scherzo' sport



'Elizabeth'



'Leonore'



'Seashell'



'Sagittarius'



'Aztec'

'Cordial': 2-1/2" to 3" across. It is another sister of 'Coral Sea'.

'Consolation' with bordered and solid sports: 2-1/2" to 3" across. On some bordered lobes the light center "breaks through" to the edge.

'Welcome': 2-1/2" to 3" across. It was described as having white in the throat on the four lower petals but with "occasional sports that show whitish centers". However, in a letter quoted in *THE AZALEAN* of October 1980, Morrison referred to 'Welcome' as a beautiful pink with white center and more dependable than its sister 'Helen Gunning'. 'Welcome' and 'Alight' both have top lobes with more blue than their other petals. 'Welcome' has broader upper lobes and longer and more pointed sepals. The blotch dots of 'Welcome' are purple and, unlike the red blotch dots of 'Alight', extend into the light area.

'Picotee': 2" across.

'Helen Gunning': 2-1/2" across.

'Grace Freeman' sport and normal: 3-3/4" to 4" across.

'Grace Freeman': Morrison described it as "pale LaFrance Pink". The Ridgway color was translated in Galle's book as "Vivid Pink" without a qualifier—very misleading since the pink in the bud fades almost completely. The bud has more pink and is fatter than that of 'Treasure'.

'Cadenza' sport: 2" across. 'Cadenza' is a sister seedling of 'Martha Hitchcock' from the cross *R. mucronatum* x 'Shinnyo no tsuki' and is normally a ruffled white with some purple flakes and stripes. Morrison said: "... like the parent may throw out self-colored blooms of Rosolane Purple, at times with white center, that should be cut out". I don't know which parent has solid purple blossoms and think the white-centered sport and another sport (pale lavender pink with uneven white border, prominent blotch of reddish purple dots, and many flakes of purple), neither of which "takes over," enhance the plant.

'Sarabande': 2-3/4" to 3" across. It was

described by Morrison as having a white center and edges of Light Phlox Purple. This plant, which I acquired before I started keeping records of sources, seems to be the same type as that owned by a couple of people who have very large Glenn Dale collections. However, apparently others own under this name plants whose blossoms have a solid dark purple ribbon border.

'Scherzo' sport: 2-1/2" to 3" across. See the March 1992 issue of *THE AZALEAN* for a discussion on 'Scherzo'.

'Elizabeth': 3" across.

'Leonore': 2-1/2" across. It is a sister of 'Elizabeth'.

'Seashell': 3" across. It is another sister of 'Elizabeth'.

'Sagittarius': 3" or more across.

'Aztec': 3" across. The light centers of 'Aztec' and sister seedling 'Bravura' were inherited from pollen parent 'Tamasugata'.

Jane Newman is a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. She is a frequent contributor to THE AZALEAN and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of THE AZALEAN. □

PRIZE FOR BEST ARTICLE IN THE AZALEAN—1997

In 1989, the Board of Governors [now Board of Directors] authorized the editor of *THE AZALEAN* to establish an annual prize for the best article to appear in *THE AZALEAN*. The concept was to acquire through donations, a fund which when invested would provide an annual prize for the best article published in *THE AZALEAN*. Funds were donated by the following chapters to establish the "CHAPTERS' PRIZE":

Tri-State
Richmond, Virginia
Ben Morrison
Northern Virginia
Brookside Gardens

As stated in the September 1990 issue, the best article each year will be selected by a poll of the membership. The prize will be announced and awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

A ballot for the prize for 1997 is on the wrapper of this issue. PLEASE VOTE. The prize for best article in *THE AZALEAN* will be awarded at the 1998 Convention and Annual Meeting, and recognition will be given to the first and second runner-up authors.

Previous Recipients of the Chapters' Prize

1996—Kathleen A. Kron, PhD.
"Identifying Native Azaleas"
September 1996

&
James O. Thornton
"Fred Galle"
March 1996

1995—Richard T. West and
William C. Miller III
"The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the
Glenn Dale Distribution Project"
September 1995

1994—Steve Brainerd
"Designing With Azaleas"
December 1994

1993—Robert T. Stelloh
"George Harding Azalea Garden—
A Progress Report"
December 1993

1992—Richard T. West
"Easy Propagation of Azaleas
at Home"
December 1992

1991—Jane Newman
"In Praise of Greenwood's
on the East Coast"
December 1991

1990—Ajit Thakur
"The Enchanting Satsuki"
March 1990

In Memory of Jason O. Thornton

It is very hard for me to write this but I knew some of you needed to know our son Jason passed away October 29, 1997.

Jay was not a member but he attended more conventions than most members, simply because he loved the azalea, as he loved all plants, and he loved to visit the gardens. He loved the people he met and I know some of you grew to love him. For that, Patsy and I thank you. We also want to thank you for the calls, the cards and letters and the donations in his memory.

Jason loved his plants. If you could have seen his place, the back porch, the yard, you would understand his passion. He couldn't bear to see a plant go unattended, no matter how pitiful a shape it was in. He would restore it and find it a good home. I guess you could say he was a chip off the old block but I think sometimes, rather most often, he went over-board.

We had already planned on attending the 1998 and 1999 conventions and I know in my heart, he'll be there.

Jim Thornton □

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following is the slate for new officers:

For Secretary: Ruth Bryan, Lithonia, Georgia. Ruth is a member of the Oconee Chapter, and she currently serves the chapter as secretary. She is active in local garden clubs. Ruth and her husband Frank are avid gardeners, now specializing in azaleas.

For Treasurer: Robert T. Stelloh, Hendersonville, North Carolina. Bob has been an azalea enthusiast for more than 20 years and in past years developed an extensive azalea and rhododendron collection in the woods around a home in Maryland. Bob retired a few years ago, from a career in computer programming, and is currently developing and marketing a computer program for garden information management. He is a member of Brookside Gardens Chapter.

For Director: Dr. Charles Owen, Cedartown, Georgia. Dr. Owen received his DDS at the University of Tennessee in 1947. He retired in 1989. His interest in evergreen azaleas began in the 1960's, and he is now a hybridizer of deciduous azaleas. He is a member of the Oconee Chapter.

For Director: Stephen Schroeder, Evansville, Indiana. Mr. Schroeder received his BS in agriculture at Murray State University. He operates Holly Hills Nursery in Evansville, Indiana. His family introduced the Schroeder Azaleas and received the 1983 Bronze Medal Award from Great Rivers Chapter of ARS. He is a member of the Tri-State Chapter.

For Director: Robert E. (Buddy) Lee, Independence, Louisiana. Mr. Lee received his BS in biology. He is a trauma nurse in Intensive Care Unit. He served as host for the 1991 national convention. Past president of Louisiana Nurserymen's Association, District 3. He is a hybridizer of evergreen and deciduous azaleas and past president and a member of the Louisiana Chapter.

The ballot for the election of officers and directors is on the wrapper of this issue. **PLEASE VOTE.** □

Letter To the Editor

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the name *Rhododendron prinophyllum*? *R. periclymenoides* is named for the similarity of its flowers to those of the honeysuckle, *Lonicera periclymenum*. *R. calendulaceum* calls our attention to flower colors that resemble those of *Calendula*. "Phyllum" means leaf—but what is "prino"?

Searching for the origin of the specific epithet applied to our native clove-scented azalea, I consulted several reference books dealing with plant names. Result: zero. But a clue was found in the azalea volume of Davidian's new work on *Rhododendron Species*: "With the leaves like *Prinos*." Recent lists of genera were checked; result: zero. Then an old—though now outdated—stand-by came to mind, Willis's *Dictionary of the Flowering Plants*. Eureka! "*Prinos* Gronov. ex L. = *Ilex* L. (*Aquifoliac.*)" The author reference for *Prinos* takes us to Gronovius, who, with assistance from Linnaeus, published the 1739 *Flora Virginica*.

Linnaeus included the genus *Ilex* (hollies) in his 1753 *Species Plantarum*, the starting point of modern botanical nomenclature. But he also included the genus *Prinos*, comprising the two species now known as *Ilex glabra* and *Ilex verticillata*. The name *Azalea prinophyllum*, the basionym of *R. prinophyllum*, was published by the American botanist Small in 1914. He apparently saw some resemblance between the leaves of this plant and the North American hollies placed in the genus *Prinos* by Linnaeus. Thus the epithet *prinophyllum* connotes, as stated by Davidian: "With leaves like *Prinos*!"

Donald H. Voss
Vienna, Virginia □

SOCIETY NEWS

Northern Virginia Chapter

Joe Klimavicz, *President*

Election of Chapter Officers

Election of officers for the 1998 chapter year was held at the December 1997 meeting. The following officers were elected:

President: Joe Klimavicz
Vice President: Dan Krabill
Secretary: Virginia Banks
Treasurer: John Krogmann

1998 National Convention Update

Our 1998 National Convention is a very important chapter event, and we will need everyone's help to pull it off. The convention will occur 30 April - 3 May 1998 at the Holiday Inn at Tysons Corner, Virginia, and the convention committee chairs are listed below:

Plants: Dave Raden
Transportation and Lunch: Dave Nanney
Registration: Dave and Virginia Banks
Hotel: Dan Krabill
Tours: Don Hyatt
Speakers: Bruno Kaelin
Publicity: Phil Louer

The complete convention article appeared in the December 1997 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. Thanks to everyone who helped produce this article; especially Phil Louer. In summary, I think we are on schedule with the convention planning, but we still have a lot of hard work ahead. We really need your support and we will be getting in touch with you.

Glenn Dale Preservation Program 1998

William C. Miller III

The ASA's National Project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 16th year. Coincidentally, it is also its final year. On November 27, 1997, I informed the ASA Board of Directors (BOD) of my intention to withdraw from the Glenn Dale Preservation Program (GDPP). With the pressure of matters at work and at home, and the recognition that the opportunities at Glenn Dale had diminished, managing a graceful sunset to the project had been on my mind for a number of years. Since the GDPP is an ASA National Project, the BOD had the option of appointing someone to "carry on" in my place. It was my recommendation, however, that an orderly termination of the project made more sense. While the value of the germplasm that remains in the woods cannot be overstated, no one would be willing to put forward the major commitment of manpower, time, and money that would be necessary to support a rescue.

ASA members have followed the program's progress through the reports that appeared annually in the March issue of **THE AZALEAN**. With more than 25 articles in **THE AZALEAN** from a number of people, two books (*The*

Bell Book and *The Glenn Dale Azaleas Revised*), and an offshoot project (Dick West's Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project) directly related to the research that we did at Glenn Dale, I would say from a productivity point of view that the project was an unqualified success. That it did not succeed in achieving all of its goals is not so important, but it is a lesson to be learned.

For those not familiar with the story, the National Project at the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland, began in the early 1980's with the efforts of Roger Brown of New Carrollton, Maryland, who was the president of the Ben Morrison Chapter. Roger Brown and Frank White had discussions with Dr. Howard Waterworth, the chief of the Germplasm Resources Laboratory at the Glenn Dale station, which resulted in the issuance of a special USDA permit on June 17, 1982. As president of the Brookside Gardens chapter, I was an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors (then called Board of Governors), and I remember the Board's deliberations. For the record, I was not entirely in favor of the proposal, as I had major reservations about the ASA's ability to sustain such a commitment. Not to be denied, there was a very strong but general sense that the ASA needed a "national project." The Board approved the project despite a lengthy list of concerns, and the ASA's first National Project was born with Roger Brown as the program's leader. The agreement with the USDA called for the ASA to restore the original azalea test area and to develop and maintain a germplasm preservation garden for named and unnamed azalea cultivars. In the Fall of 1982, general work sessions commenced which resulted in considerable progress being made toward restoring the former test area. This was a formidable task since the area was badly overgrown with volunteer/nuisance plant material due to the many years of neglect. A committee was formed (Roger Brown, Andy Dietz, and myself) to create a working document to provide a structure for the ASA activity which the Board eventually reviewed and approved. At that point, I decided that I would do

what I could do to support the project since I knew that it would be difficult. Dr. Bruce Parlman, the Glenn Dale location leader, who was very supportive of our efforts, made a coldframe available for our purposes. Plants donated for the proposed germplasm preservation garden were stored there while the two-acre area was prepared. This included a large population of numbered but unnamed Back Acres hybrids that George Harding donated.

On June 12, 1984, Dr. John Creech, former director of the U.S. National Arboretum, met with Andy Dietz, Tony Dove, and myself for a walk through the azalea woods at Glenn Dale. Dr. Creech pointed out a number of special plants and described the general organization of the historic area. He was also able to locate a very old ledger that was the key to the plantings. This ancient document was to become very important later on when the focus of the project turned from maintenance activities to an analysis of what was planted in the woods.

As I predicted, "national" interest in the new national project waned quickly and precious few (eventually none) of the project's most vocal proponents could be found in attendance on work days. After a few short years, there was only a small group of a half dozen or so individuals, like Margaret Church, who could be counted on to help. Work days were typically scheduled in the months of September, October, and November, since Spring was out of the question, given the crush of other activities, and Summer was too hot. Most of the time was consumed in pulling weeds from the newly laid out garden, in reapplying mulch, and in planting new acquisitions as they were received. It often took all day just to address the weed problem in the new germplasm collection area. On one occasion, we put down Typar® thinking that an artificial mulch fabric was the answer to our weed problem. Unfortunately, we discovered that the industrial grade weeds that we were dealing with grew down through the artificial mulch so that either the weeds

were well anchored or the mulch came up with the weeds. After a number of frustrating years, it became obvious that we would never be able to maintain the two-acre germplasm garden under the existing conditions and with the level of ASA commitment.

Recognizing that progress was a function of the resources that could be applied to the project, a new direction was established when I was the only person to show up on a work day. My personal interest in Glenn Dale involved doing research on how the Glenn Dale hybrids were developed, on the history of the Plant Introduction Station, and on the people who were part of the story. To that end, I sought and was given permission to study the old files at Glenn Dale. Those old files had long since been separated from the current files and had been moved to a long abandoned residence called "Al's House." One could think of Al's House as a three-story "attic" that, without power, was dark, hot in the summer, and cold in the winter. It was the final resting place for things that were "in the way," old files, boxes of old journals, and ancient laboratory equipment. Those files were found to contain working documents and notes of the period and letters that Ben Morrison wrote to individuals at the Glenn Dale station after his retirement in the early 1950's. From some of the working papers, I was able to trace the development of the Belgian-Glenn Dale hybrids and published a definitive article in June of 1984 in **THE AZALEAN**. A Morrison letter was discovered that contained a drawing that diagramed his understanding of "sporting" in azaleas. The diagram became the centerpiece of the article entitled "Pattern of Sporting" that Dr. Charles Evans and I published in early 1985. Also to be found in the historic files were old manuscripts and copies of articles written by Ben Morrison like his article entitled "Azaleas and Rhododendrons From Seed" that was republished in **THE AZALEAN** in early 1987. Other ASA members like Ed Rothe became interested in the azaleas at Glenn Dale. Ed conducted a detailed study of the

Ghent and other deciduous azaleas in the woods and published a report in early 1989.

It was in the late 1980's that Dick West (now deceased) came on the scene. Dick wrote many articles derived from the research that we did at Glenn Dale. His drive and enthusiasm resulted in numerous collaborations, the development of a non-ASA spin-off project at the Ten Oaks Nursery that he and I co-sponsored, and ultimately the revision and republication of Morrison's Monograph 20. Dr. Bill McIntosh and Dick West were the main participants during the scheduled Glenn Dale work days in the last years, and focus turned to the historic plant material in the woods. It was Dick West's dream to improve the US National Arboretum's collection of Glenn Dale hybrids and to establish verified collections elsewhere. This led to the development of Dick's "Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project." We believed that it was going to be possible to locate original plants at Glenn Dale with the aid of the old journal that Dr. Creech had helped us locate earlier. A considerable amount of effort was expended in trying to locate the boundary markers of the various plots to establish the spatial relationships necessary to identify individual plants within the plots. Perhaps our greatest success in this regard occurred in 1994 when we discovered in Plot 9 what may be the only existing plant of 'Alexandria'. A close second was the discovery of B32140 which is the unnamed parent plant from which 'Cinderella' and 'Satrap' were selected.

As one might expect, any activity that lasts this long is bound to have low points too. Perhaps the greatest disappointment occurred one night in March of 1995 when an arsonist torched "Al's House." The historical documentation, dating back some seventy years, was totally destroyed.

To those who participated in the ASA's first and oldest National Project, I say thank you and well done. □

NEW MEMBERS

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Richard O Bernard
4720 Shores Drive
Metairie LA 70006-2336
504-888-7320

Don Blankenship
717 Brian Circle
Pineville NC 28134-8301
704-889-9381

Chz Ars Polona
Periodicals
Krakowskie Przedmiescie 7
00-068 Warszawa Poland

Maureen Hastings
905 North Sunset
Pinckneyville IL 62274
618-357-8033

Jimmy W. Lewis. Sr.
5505 Balsam Place
Raleigh NC 27603-4301

Lud Seufert
Rt 2 Box 52a
Bridgeville DE 19933
302-337-8014

Benny Stinson
P. O. Box 966
Opp AL 36467
334-493-6194

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Jane Kinzie
Kinzie Farms, Inc.
8513 Meadowlark Lane
Bethesda MD 20817-2920
BG 301-365-0307

DALLAS CHAPTER

Brent Pemberton
300 East Third St
Tyler TX 75701
DA 903-595-0021

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Folsom Nursery
P. O. Box 580
Folsom LA 70437
LA 504-796-3488

OCONEE CHAPTER

Steven D Dennis
P.O. Box 11487
Columbia SC 29211
OC 803-765-2968

TRI-STATE CHAPTER

Joseph P Bruso
61 South Mill Street
Hopkinton MA 01748-2627
TS 508-435-8217

Chapter Achievement

Following is a list of Chapter membership numbers as of December 31, 1997:

Members	Renewed	
	Yes	No
Ben Morrison	35	5
Brookside Gardens	129	19
Dallas	51	6
Louisiana	35	3
Northern Virginia	63	6
Oconee	86	13
Richmond, Virginia	39	4
Tri-State	25	2

Azalea Calendar

1998

- March 24 Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House, Dallas Arboretum at 7:00PM
- April 6 Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at Davis Library at 7:30PM
- April 7 Dallas Chapter Meeting at Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM
- April 25 Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Sale at the National Arboretum
- April 30- May 3 ASA Convention at Tyson's Corner, VA sponsored by the Northern VA Chapter
- May 1-3 Judged Azalea Show at the Landon Azalea Festival, Landon School (Get your entry cards from Mary Rutley (301) 933-2339)
- May 9 Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Sale at the Tilden School
- May 12 Dallas Chapter Meeting at Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM
- September 8 Dallas Chapter Meeting at Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM
- October 13 Dallas Chapter Meeting at Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM