

Volume 24 · Number 1 · Spring 2002

The
Azalean
Journal of the Azalea Society of America



'Brookside Delight' — One
of Life's Little Mysteries

James Harris Hybrids

The Linwood Hardy
Azalea Story

Bowie Hill Hybrids

A Few Forgotten Indians

North Tisbury
Ground-cover Azaleas



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

President's Letter

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Friends,

There was a rising tide of enthusiasm surrounding to the Joint ASA/ARS 2002 Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. It confirmed that spring had arrived and gave us all an opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. After reading the agenda, if you were not excited about this major event, try harder and give it a chance.

From the monthly updates on membership, I can hardly control my excitement, for you all are doing excellent work on bringing in new members and renewing current ones. This trend started with William Bode at the helm, and I hope we continue building this Society, one friend at a time.

There is a constant need for articles to be published in **The Azalean**. For all of the writers lurking out there, here is your opportunity to be published and tell a good story at the same time. We all need your knowledge from your experience and observations from your perspective. Tell us how you grow, propagate, prune, feed, photograph, or just enjoy azaleas in your garden or landscape. Tell us about a public or private garden you toured. Instruct us on how you overcame a landscape problem.

For those who are wired, have you visited the ASA Website or joined the azaleas@azaleas.org mail list service? If

not, you are really missing an opportunity to advance your knowledge about the culture of azaleas and join discussions. It is easy and highly informative.

We now have brand new ASA brochures for recruiting new members available that give an overview of the Society's goals. If you need a supply, contact John Brown. Each of the chapter presidents should have a supply available to pass on to potential new members. Shortly, a second brochure will be available that will be in full color, something that will bring us up to the new age.

At the time of writing this letter, I am making plans to attend a workshop at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC, for the expressed purpose of giving advice on how two units, the Gardens and Education and Visitor Service, are to move forward and be more functional for the public. As your representative of the ASA, I will keep our goals foremost in mind. I will report to your Board of Directors, and a follow up letter will be published in **The Azalean**.

Keep up the good work for the Society and make a new friend, a new member.

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*).

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On the Cover

'Dorothy Clark' is a James Harris hybrid, the result of a cross of vivid pink 'Grace Freeman', a Glenn Dale hybrid, and the brilliant red Satsuki, 'Amagasa'. The blooms are

4-1/2 inches across on plants that are 3 feet wide by 3 feet tall in 9 years. For more on the Harris hybrids, see the article on page 6. Harris hybrids were some of the plants featured at the Joint ARS/ASA Convention in Atlanta, April 17-21, 2002.

The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society
of America

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This issue represents the first effort to redesign **The Azalean** since 1990. The goal has been improved readability and more colorful illustrations for the articles. With the spread of digital photography we have more opportunities to share images of azaleas and our azalea gardens. The key is to take the highest resolution image possible for every instance that might be used for publication. We all have lots to learn about this process, but the results are worth the effort. Every issue we improve the final product. Specific credit for the journal redesign goes to Alicia Robinett Britt of Norman, Oklahoma, who has been doing the desktop publishing in PageMaker software ever since I began as your editor in June of 1999.

Barbara Stump

The Evergreen Azalea Cultivar 'Brookside Delight' — One of Life's Little Mysteries

William C. Miller III — Bethesda, Maryland

Description

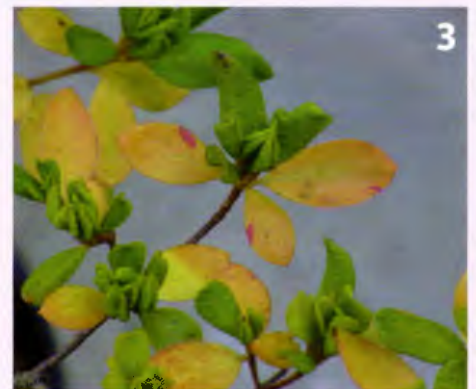
This article announces the introduction of *Rhododendron* 'Brookside Delight', a 2-3/4- to 3-1/8-inch (7-8 cm), single, hose-in-hose, variably light purplish pink flower with a frilled edge and an occasional light reddish purple stripe, flake, or sector. It blooms in early May. Lacking a discernible foliaceous calyx, it has two whorls of five petals, five to seven stamens with light filaments and dark anthers, and two to three flowers per head. The spotting in the blotch region is pink but grays with age, becoming increasingly inconspicuous (see Figure 1). The leaves are dimorphic and shiny when new. Typical spring leaves average 2 inches (5 cm) long by 7/8 inch (2.3 cm) wide (see

Figure 2). The leaf shape is elliptic, the apex is acute, the base is cuneate, and the margin is entire. The spring leaves are larger than the summer leaves and turn yellow, providing an interesting element of fall color. A close examination of the leaves reveals an occasional stripe or flake of color resembling the stripe in the flower petal (see Figure 3). This color in the leaves becomes more evident in the fall as the chlorophyll declines. Originally developed at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station as a selection from Cross #10, it should be classified as a USDA hybrid.

Origin

I first saw what was to become known as 'Brookside Delight', in full

bloom, in Dr. Bruce Parliman's front yard in Bowie, Maryland. Dr. Parliman was the location leader at Glenn Dale (the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland) and the federal official through whom the Azalea Society of America sponsored the Glenn Dale Preservation Project (1). Of the numerous progeny, Clones A through L, resulting from Cross #10 that still exist along Creech's Row at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station, this one apparently caught Dr. Parliman's eye (2). Begun as a cutting from the original plant, Dr. Parliman's specimen was then 6 feet tall, had begun to cascade, and was in full bloom. In passing, Bruce asked me what I thought of it. I think I said something



1. 'Brookside Delight', an evergreen USDA hybrid and sister seedling to 'Mrs. LBJ'.
2. Typical spring leaves.
3. Spring leaves (yellow) showing fall color, with occasional stripes and sectors of color.

like "it was really pretty." When asked if I thought it was good enough to introduce, I responded, "Yes." The echo had not died on my reply when he said, "Introduce it." Caught somewhat off guard, I stressed that the honor of naming it should be his. Recognizing my association with the Brookside Gardens chapter of the ASA, he offered 'Brookside Delight'.

When asked what there was about this azalea that warranted his interest, Dr. Parlman responded that the plant at Glenn Dale was a large floriferous plant with large, open-faced flowers. The petals were of good substance (thick) and a very pretty pastel color. He recounted a dark and stormy day one spring at Glenn Dale when the flowers seemed to "vibrate" with color. From a horticultural standpoint, it was a tough plant that was easy to propagate. It was quite vigorous, prone to long stem growth, and thrived when just left alone.

There are a number of loose ends in this story. Initially, I had difficulty discovering to whom Cross #10 belonged and what the parentage was. While the records at Glenn Dale gave no clue, the timing was such to suggest that the cross belonged to Dr. John Creech (Glenn Dale Superinten-

dent, 1950 to 1959). The Bell numbers were assigned on June 28, 1966 during Dr. William L. Ackerman's tenure as Glenn Dale Superintendent (1959 to 1974). Neither Dr. Creech nor Dr. Ackerman, known especially for his work with camellias, could provide any insight.

There is no way to relate Dr. Parlman's specimen back to the original plant at Glenn Dale. In working documents from the period, Clones D ('Mrs. LBJ'), I, and J are described as white, which narrows the field slightly. The balance, however, are described as "pink" which means that 'Brookside Delight' is one of nine similar plants. It should be noted that all 'Brookside Delight' plants are derived from Dr. Parlman's plant in Bowie, Maryland.

Conversations with Sue Bentz at Glenn Dale and Kevin Tunison at the US National Arboretum failed to turn up any additional information. Fortunately, Don Voss, a colleague who volunteers at the US National Arboretum's herbarium, turned up two USNA accession cards for 'Mrs. LBJ'. The first card indicated that Cross #10 belonged to Albert Close (3). The second card reported that the cross was a "Belgian by a Glenn Dale."

In a recent e-mail from Dr. Creech, another piece of the puzzle fell into place. He reminded me that 'Seattle White' was listed in Galle as the seed parent for 'Mrs. LBJ', which meant that it was also the seed parent for 'Brookside Delight'. While I would prefer to know all of the specifics about 'Brookside Delight', it may be as Dr. Creech remarked, that the complete story "...may have to remain one of life's little mysteries."

Introduction and Availability

The formal introduction of 'Brookside Delight' will take place at the Landon Azalea Festival, May 3-5, 2002 in Bethesda, Maryland. I give special thanks to Jane Kinzie, of Kinzie Farms, Inc., a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, who graciously and unselfishly undertook the propagation of a supply of plants to meet the expected demand.

Notes

1. The Glenn Dale Preservation Project was an ASA national project started by Roger Brown, then the president of the Ben Morrison Chapter, and the late Frank White, a local nurseryman in Lanham, Maryland, and a key figure in the early years of the ASA.

continued on page 17



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James Harris Hybrids

Roger Duvall — Atlanta, Georgia

[This article was contributed by a rhododendron lover who knows James Harris; some Harris hybrids were featured at the joint ARS/ASA convention Atlanta, April 17-21, 2002. Ed.]

James Harris has been hybridizing evergreen azaleas for 30 years. He got his start working with fellow Georgians Ralph Pennington and Bruce Hancock. At about the same time, he became acquainted with the director of the National Arboretum, Henry Skinner, who also encouraged James in his work. According to those who know him best, James eats, sleeps, and dreams evergreen azaleas. He has named about 50 of his hybrids, but unfortunately, none of them has been registered. Fred Galle's *Azaleas* lists 32 Harris hybrids, and this does not include James' more recent plants. James has drawn from a broad palette

of sources to produce his hybrids: *Rhododendron kaempferi*, *R. oldhamii*, *R. nakaharae*, *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense*, Satsuki, and Gable, Glenn Dale, and Back Acres hybrids.

Sadly, commercial azalea growers too often overlook the Harris hybrids. Given the choice between 'Kirin' (syn. 'Coral Bells') and 'Gloria Still' by Harris, or between 'Hinodegiri' and 'Rain Fire' by Harris, many gardeners would choose the Harris hybrid, and our gardens, as a result, would be more interesting and more beautiful. I hope that readers of this article will make the effort to locate these plants and to

popularize them in their gardening circles. What follows is a list that James Harris provided of his personal favorites.

First Hybridizing Phase

Mr. Harris' hybridizing has gone through two phases and is now enter-

containers, or the tops of walls. James says that it is "limber, like English ivy." It layers wherever it touches the ground, producing new plants for the gardener fortunate enough to have it. 'Pink Cascade' has been issued a 25-year patent in Europe and is in tissue culture there. James estimates that

the Nicholas Gyomark nurseries have sold 250,000 plants. The pastel color and the affinity for containers have made it especially well loved there. 'Pink Cascade' is now grown world-wide, from Istanbul, Turkey, to Australia.

'Bruce Hancock' (Azaleodendron: 'White Gumpo' x *R. keiskei*). Named after James' friend hy-

bridizer Bruce Hancock, this azalea also exhibits a cascading growth habit. In a pot, its branches will extend 4 feet below the crown in 5 years. The blooms are large, 3-1/2 inches across, white with a pink border.

'Fascination' ('Grace Freeman No. 2' x 'Amagasa'). 'Fascination' is an upright plant, becoming 3-1/2 feet tall by 3-1/2 feet wide in nine years. The blooms are large, four and one-half inches across, and a striking pink in the center with a red border. The white center is clearly defined, giving the appearance of a bloom within the bloom. 'Fascination' was cho-



'River Mist' forms delicate pale trusses, with up to 30 blooms each.

(Photo by Roger Duvall.)

ing a third. The first phase, from 1970 until about 1985, has been documented in *Azaleas* by Fred Galle and in Jim Darden's *Great American Azaleas* (now out of print). James' objectives during this period were a cascading growth habit, unusually large blooms, and a high tolerance for hot, humid southern summers. Five of James' picks come from this period:

'Pink Cascade' (*R. nakaharae* x 'Bunka'). This azalea has 2-inch salmon blooms with a red blotch. This azalea has a trailing growth habit, making it excellent for hanging pots,

sen to illustrate the title page of *Great American Azaleas*.

'Gloria Still' ('Albert-Elisabeth' x 'Fedora'). The hose-in-hose blooms are white with pink variegation, 2-3/4 inches across. The blooms form large trusses, larger than most rhododendrons, and force easily, a virtue for the gardener who likes to start spring a little early (and who doesn't).

'Joan Garrett' ('Bunka' x 'Target') This is one of a group of ten azaleas named for members of the Ralph Pennington Chapter of the ASA in Anderson, South Carolina. 'Joan Garrett' boasts the largest blooms of the plants described here, as much as 6 inches across, salmon pink with a red blotch. The plant becomes 4 feet wide by 3 feet tall in nine years. Galle's *Azaleas* includes a picture of 'Joan Garrett'.

Second Hybridizing Phase

James' second phase, from 1985 to the present, might be called his "Red Period," because his goals were to produce plants with good red blooms and the ability to withstand sub-zero winters. James' favorites include five reds from this period:

'Midnight Flare' ('Red Red' x 'Red Slippers') has the deepest, darkest red color (blood-red comes to mind) and is hardy to -10°F. It is the most widely available of the reds, and is finding its way now out of the specialty nurseries and into the mainstream, at least in the southeastern United States.

'Coronado Red' produces bright red blooms. This is another of James' plants that produce blooms in ball trusses, good for attracting attention in the garden or in a flower show. It too is hardy to -10°F.

'Rain Fire' ('Moonbeam' x 'Lilacimun') is the best of James' reds for holding up in the heat and humidity. It blooms late and is hardy to -5°F. It is a delicate, willow-leaved cultivar that explodes in an inferno of bright orange-red every spring.



Current breeding work by James Harris is notably red, as in this vivid example, 'J. Valentine,' named for his grandson. (Photo by Roger Duvall)

'September Morn' is named for its tendency to bloom during the period from August to December. Extreme cold will knock back the blooms, but as it warms up, and that is the nature of our southern winters, 'September Morn' will begin to bloom again. It is hardy to at least -15°F and blooms in the spring, too.

'J. Valentine' is named for James' grandson Jared, whose birthday is February 14, Valentine's Day. In addition to its large (3-3/4- to 4-inch) red blooms, 'J. Valentine' has outstanding foliage and plant habit. The plant is hardy to -10°F.

Current Hybridizing Efforts

James, who remembers his own grandmother's interest in plants, has detected in his grandchildren a budding interest in his azalea hybrids. Their interest has spurred James into a new phase. He says he is doing more now than he has ever done. He is breeding bi-colors, primarily purple and white, and working for a long bloom period, at least four months.

At the moment, James has a new plant about which he is extremely excited. It is a cross between a seedling and the Encore Azalea™ Autumn Em

bers™, and its blooming period is unique. It does not begin to bloom until late October and then produces bright red blooms steadily through January if protected. The foliage is a good, dark green. It is hardy enough to grow outdoors, but James believes it would be ideal for large indoor spaces, providing bloom through the winter. As yet un-

named, this plant blooms for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, and probably Valentine's Day. James, who has not lost a whit of the enthusiasm that pushed him into hybridizing in the first place, says he has "never seen anything like it."

Roger Duvall has been a member of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS since 1988. He was Publicity Chairman for the joint ARS/ASA Convention in Atlanta, April 17-21, 2002.

The Linwood Hardy Azalea Story

Theodore Stecki — Morristown, New Jersey

In 1951 Charles Fischer Jr., present owner of Fischer Greenhouses in Linwood, New Jersey, started crossing tender azaleas with hardy varieties. His goal was to develop hardy azaleas that could be grown in the field, since over-wintering in greenhouses of Belgian Indicas, etc. was becoming too costly. With more than 40 varieties of Indica, Rutherford, Pericat, and Kurume azaleas to work with, he obtained many seeds. If it bloomed, he pollinated it. At the end of four years, however, 75 percent of the grown-on seedlings had been winter-killed, and the rest produced plants that didn't meet Fischer's standards.

In 1953, G. Albert Reid joined Fischer Greenhouses and was given the assignment to continue what Charlie had started. Al worked hard, kept excellent records, and since that time the breeding and production of the Linwood Hardy azaleas became "his baby." Al worked for Fischer's for 15 years and during those years many crosses were made and thousands of seedlings were grown on. The largest crop numbered over 6,000 seedlings resulting from crosses of just one year. Al made the comment that as a result of Fischer's goal to establish plants good enough for the floral trade to sell (that is, plants with better flowers, fast growth, compact bushes, easily forced, good keepers), many plants that were discarded were ones that he wished he had kept.

One of Charlie's earlier crosses (A3) proved very valuable in later crosses as a seed parent. The one azalea most responsible for putting hardiness in the Linwood hybrids was in a group purchased from Bobbink and Atkins of East Rutherford, New Jersey, identified only as K28. A Mr. White, who was part of the Bobbink and Atkins organization, thinks that K28 is the same as 'Mrs. L.C. Fischer', but their

breeding records are blank on this. Many people who have seen both azaleas believe that K28 is the same as the one Nancy Gartrell found in a roadside market and that Robert Gartrell called "Oakland" and used to put hardiness in his crosses. *[The latter has been named and registered as R. 'Oakland', according to Don Voss, Ed.]*

When Al retired from Fischer's in 1967, he decided to produce better garden type azaleas with larger flowers that would last longer in bloom. This program automatically eliminated all single-flower plants. All Linwood Hardy azaleas are either double, semi-double, or hose-in-hose flowers. These more complicated flower types extend the blooming time of individual plants to three, and in some cases, four weeks.

Another plus for the Linwoods is the diversity of plant types. For example, there are prostrate growers, tall growers, and compact growers. There is a fall-bloomer, a red-white variegated, and early summer bloomers. There are no common ancestors in the Linwoods. They are a conglomeration of crosses of Belgian Indicas, Rutherfords, Pericats, Gables, Kurumes, and others followed by back crosses, sibling crosses, crosses on crosses, and even selfs, all with the underlying goal of trying to get something better.

Due to poor health, Al discontinued his nursery operation in 1983. One of his goals before retiring was to develop additional fall bloomers such as 'Opal'. Crosses that were made prior to his retirement, which make up the S, T, and V Series, have not proven to be fall bloomers. Plants of the T and V Series are under evaluation at my nursery. A few plants of these series are turning out to be real eye catchers. On February 17, 1986, Al died af-

ter his long bout with emphysema. As a close friend of Al's who wanted to see the Linwood "Hardys" widely distributed and given acclaim, I have set up my nursery to grow all the Linwood Hardy plants. With my son and two granddaughters to help, I will continue to make them available to the public, maintaining the high standards that Al initially set up, to enable his plants to live on.

Note: Stecki showed slides of many of the Linwoods. A sampling of names that are very well known are: 'Hardy Gardenia', 'Garden State Salmon', 'Garden State Pink', 'Linwood Lavender', 'Linwood Pink Giant'.

Ted Stecki has been a part-time nurseryman at his Hill House Nursery for over 30 years, propagating and growing rhododendrons and azaleas. He worked closely with Al Reid, evaluating his new crosses and compiling his data, including plants he used for breeding and crosses, the naming/numbering methodology, and what Al envisioned for the future. A long-time member of the ASA and ARS, Ted is a past president of the Pine Barrens ARS chapter, and past chair of the ARS exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show for many years. He is now the Budget and Finance Committee chair for the ARS.



Bowie Hill Hybrids

Buck Claggett — Derwood, Maryland

When hybridizing, I hear you should start with some goals. Beginning in 1978, I first attempted to

Notes About Pollen and Seed Parents for Bowie Hill Hybrids

The following is an explanation of some of the parent designations in my hybrid descriptions.

R. indicum unknown ('Tissie' cross)—An *indicum* purchased as 'Yachiyo' that has 2-inch purple blooms with white centers. I could never match the plant to any description of 'Yachiyo' from any of my sources.

'White Orchid'—A Gold Cup azalea that is not hardy to this area (Zone 6b).

R. indicum unknown ('Tina's Whorled', 'Dorothy King' crosses)—A ruffled, rose red semi-double, with white variegations in some blooms. A container plant given to my mother-in-law for Mother's Day, 1984.

R. indicum ('Mania', 'Inch', and 'Pop's' crosses)—Another mislabeled Satsuki. I am about 90 percent sure that it is 'Issho-no-haru'.

'Christina', a Vuyk hybrid—A double red and a prolific seed-producer.

ST-1A, ST-4, CB-1A—All double, all variegated red-on-white, semi-hardy container plants, which I obtained from a friend. I cannot authenticate the background on these plants. I have heard from a reliable source that these plants were part of a University of Maryland plant study that were rescued from a discard pile by an ASA member.

create azaleas similar to those that I had seen growing in containers, greenhouses, and in warmer climates. I sought blooms that were doubled, ruffled, and with lots of variegation. Later I became interested in creating smaller azaleas for small planting situations and urban gardens. Producing the infamous yellow evergreen azalea was in the back of my mind, but I have honestly never worked very hard to reach that goal. I prefer that my hybrid selections be called Bowie Hill hybrids instead of Claggett hybrids. To me, at least, it sounds less self-serving.

Very early in my azalea experience I was fortunate to obtain a collection of the Mossholder-Bristow Gold Cup azaleas. To my dismay, only Rhododendron 'Caprice' turned out to be hardy in this area. Not even 'Easter Parade' would survive here. This was incentive enough to establish my original goal of developing azaleas that looked like the Gold Cups but were hardy enough to survive in my zone.

Following are descriptions of some of my hybrids. Bloom times listed are for Derwood, Maryland (Zone 6b); these are about one to two weeks behind bloom times in Washington, DC. See the box for notes regarding specific pollen parents and sources mentioned in these descriptions.

'Aunt Jim'—(Seedling #80-3-1) 'Cor-sage' seedling—Flower: 2-inch single, white in the center to moderate purplish pink (RHS 65A) on the tips of the petals. Flower buds are deep purplish pink (RHS 68A) and contrast very nicely with the paler flowers. Foliage: narrow, light green, slightly pubescent, only fair as foliage goes. Plant habit: about half again high as wide, only slightly open. Bloom time: May 15-30. Named for one of my father's sisters.

'Aunt Kitty'—(Seedling #84-3-12) 'Koromo Shikibu' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: bloom is white, hose-in-hose, 2-3/4 inches across. Petals: are narrow and staggered. That part of the corolla borne of the sepals tends to flare at the top, as in Mayo's 'Magic Lily'. Foliage: leaves are large, 2-1/4 inches across, light green and shiny. Plant habit: as wide as it is tall. The original plant died during a drought, but indications from cuttings suggest a size closer to *indicum*. Bloom time: late May. This plant was named for one of my mother's sisters.

'Denise Ann'—(Seedling #89-4-4) 'Moonbeam' (Glenn Dale) x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: bloom is ruffled, 3-1/4 inches across, white double, hose-in-hose (15 petals), with strong purplish pink (RHS 68B). Two plants have sported rays of light and dark purple with white margins. The center of the bloom has very showy chartreuse highlights. Foliage: leaves are large (1-3/4 inches across), medium green. Plant habit: moderately open, five-year-old cuttings are 2 feet high by 18 inches wide. Bloom time: late May. Named for my oldest daughter.

'Dorothy King'—(Seedling #84-2-8) 'Koromo Shikibu' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid (ruffled, semi-double flowers, rose red with white variegation)—Flower: 2-1/2 inches, hose-in-hose, strong to vivid purplish pink (RHS 67A to B), showy dark purple blotch; adaxial side of corolla has orange highlights. Foliage: light to medium green and shiny; new growth appears mottled green and yellow and shiny on bright red stems and will stay like that until the new growth hardens in late summer. Plant habit: as wide as tall, dense growth habit. Bloom time: mid-May. Named for one of my father's sisters.

'Elizabeth Ann Rowe'—(Seedling #89-2-5) 'Christina' x 'Shinnyo-notsuki'—Flower: 2-3/4 inches across, double (13 petals), strong red (RHS 53C) with variegations of light purplish pink (RHS 55C). This variegation appears only after the plant is three or four years old from a rooted cutting. Variegations range from complete center to random blotches, to none, although most flowers have some variegation. Foliage: leaves are 1 inch long, very dark and shiny. Plant habit: open to moderately dense, about 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide after 10 years of growth from seed. Bloom time: late May to early June. The plant was named after my oldest granddaughter, and is one of my personal favorites.

'Granny Cee'—(Seedling #89-4-5) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid ST-1A—Flower: very open, 3 inches across, hose-in-hose, very ruffled, with occasional petaloid centers. The color is white with moderate striping of deep purplish pink (RHS 73A) and a very obvious chartreuse stain at the bottom abaxial surface of the corolla. It readily sports strong purplish pink (RHS 68B) and occasionally sports a color pattern like 'Janet Rhea'. Foliage: leaves are light green, narrow and very pubescent, not like either parent. Plant habit: the original plant is 2 feet wide by 3 feet tall. Bloom time: late May or early June. A picture of this cultivar appears in the *Journal ARS* of July 2000. The name is a nickname of my paternal grandmother.

'Inch' — (Seedling #84-4-5) 'Alexander' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: 2-1/4 inches across, single, white, with an abundance of stripes, flakes, and sectors of bright deep purplish pink (RHS 67C) and strong purplish pink (RHS 67D), very floriferous for a late season *indicum*. Foliage: light green, small, narrow, and slightly pubescent and very intense and attractive. Plant habit: mounding, dense, very small—a 9-year-old plant is just 6 inches tall by 20 inches wide. Bloom time: late June into July. This is Stacy Lynn's nickname; I just thought it fit.

'John Francis'—(Seedling #80-2-1) 'Hino-crimson' x unknown seedling—Flower: 1-3/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, strong reddish purple (RHS 70B), very floriferous. Foliage: outstanding, shiny, medium green, very round, much like 'Glacier' but with more color; turns purple to bronze in the fall, looks good all year regardless of the weather. Plant habit: as wide as tall, very dense growth; a 20-year-old plant is 40 inches wide by 5 feet tall. Bloom time: early to mid-May. Named for my Uncle Jack.

'Layne Ashlee'—(Seedling #89-2-7) 'Christina' (Vuykiana) x 'Shinnyo-notsuki'—Flower: bloom is 2-3/4 inches across, double (12-14 petals). The color is vivid reddish orange (RHS 43B) with centers and blotches of light pink (RHS 39D). Variegations do not appear until rooted cuttings are three to four years old. Foliage: leaves are small, dark and shiny, about 3/4-inch long. Plant habit: moderately dense and slow growing; a 10-year-old plant is still only 2 feet tall. Bloom time: mid- to late June. Layne is my granddaughter. The flower is one of my favorites.

'Mania'—(Seedling #84-4-2) 'Alexander' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: 2-1/2 inches across, single, white with a very rare strong to light purple stripe (RHS 77B-D), tubular blooms with ruffled edges. Foliage: small, dark, narrow, like *R. nakaharae*, but noticeably pubescent. Plant habit: extremely horizontal; a 9-year-old plant is 6-1/2 inches high by 23 inches wide. Bloom time: late June or July. Named for my wife's best friend, now deceased. "Mania" is Polish for Mary, they tell me.

'Marybeth'—(Seedling #89-4-3) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: 3 inches across, on young plants strong reddish purple (RHS 70B) throughout; after a few years, they develop a very pale center with RHS 70B margins, and with varying degrees of light pink in the center of the petaloid stamens. Foliage: leaves are medium green, 1-1/4 inches long. Plant habit: horizontal;

the original plant is 36 inches wide by 12 inches tall. Bloom time: late May. The plant is named for my youngest daughter.

'Momma Cee'—(Seedling #89-4-6) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: bloom is 2-12/ inches across, semi-double, strong purplish red (RHS 64B-C), with petaloid stamens marked with varying amounts of white to very pale pink. Mature rooted cuttings three to four years old exhibit lighter petaloids. Foliage" leaves are dark green, shiny, and very round. I can identify this plant by its foliage. Plant habit: open and horizontal. Bloom time: late May. Named after my Mom.

'Patrick William'—(Seedling #89-6-5) 'Pixie' (Glenn Dale) x unnamed hybrid ST-4—Flower: bloom is 2-3/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, very ruffled, very floriferous. The color is an elegant, creamy white with an outstanding chartreuse blotch on the three upper lobes. Foliage: leaves are very dark green, 1 inch long, with a very fine pubescence on the upper surface. Plant habit: very dense; the 10-year-old plant is 30 inches by 30 inches. Bloom time: late May. This azalea won Best in Show at the 1998 Brookside Gardens Chapter flower show. Named after my youngest grandson, it is the best white I have ever seen.

'Pop's' — (Seedling #84-4-1) 'Alexander' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: 2 inches across, single, white with sanding, striping, and sectors, occasionally including half of some flowers, and sports of vivid purple (RHS 81B) and light purple (RHS 81C). Foliage: tiny, medium green. Plant habit: small plant much like 'Inch' except that it is a little more horizontal and a little more open. Bloom time: late June. This was George Harding's family nickname. The original plant was given to an ASA member in North Carolina.

'Rose Lee Clagett'—(Seedling #89-4-1) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: bloom is hose-in-

hose, 2-3/4 inches across, with wavy margins. The color is light purple (RHS 77D), very pale purple with picotee edges of strong purple (RHS 77B). Foliage: leaves are 1-1/2 inches long, medium green and shiny. Plant habit: horizontal; the original plant is 50 inches wide by 12 inches tall. Bloom time: mid-May. This was named after one of my aunts on my father's side.

'Ruthy's Red'—(Seedling #89-2-10) 'Christina' x 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'—Flower: bloom is hose-in-hose, 2-3/4 inches across, with ruffled edges, strong red (RHS 41B) with rare centers of pale pink. Foliage: leaves are 1 inch long, medium green and shiny. Plant habit: somewhat open, as wide as tall; a 5-year-old cutting-grown plant is 15 inches by 19 inches. Bloom time: mid-June. This was named for one of my mother's sisters.

'Ryan Michael'—(Seedling #89-6-1) 'Pixie' x unnamed hybrid ST-4—Flower: 2-3/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, very ruffled, very floriferous; color is deep purplish pink (RHS 68A) with very showy rose dots in the blotch. Foliage: leaves are 1-1/4 inches long, narrow, and medium green. Plant habit: open, more tall than wide. Essentially this is a pink version of 'Patrick William', except that the plant is much more open. Bloom time: late May. This is named after my oldest grandson.

'Samantha Michelle'—(Seedling #89-2-6) 'Christina' x 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'—Flower: bloom is 2-3/4 inches across, double, hose-in-hose (15-17 petals), ruffled, deep purplish pink (RHS 73D) with very pale purple (RHS 73D) centers of varying size in every bloom. Some have light pink margins. Foliage: leaves are small, roundish, and very dark green. Plant habit: dense, smallish. Bloom time: late June. Named after one of my granddaughters.

'Stacy Lynn'—(Seedling #84-3-2) 'White Orchid' x 'Cinderella' (Glenn Dale)—Flower: 2 inches across, double (12-14 petals), strong pink

(RHS 48C-D), with inconspicuous strong red (RHS 51A) spots on dorsal lobes. Foliage: dark green, shiny, larger and even more rounded than Kurume foliage. Plant habit: small plant about twice as wide as high that would not be out of place in a rock garden setting. Bloom time: late April. Because it starts early, it tends to get burned by late cold snaps when planted in front of a solid barrier with a South or East exposure. Named for my middle daughter.

'Tina's Whorled'—(Seedling #84-3-2) 'Koromo Shikibu' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid (ruffled, semi-double flowers, rose red with white variegation)—Flower: 3 inches across, strong reddish purple (RHS 78B). Individual petals do not touch, but are more elliptic than strap-like, giving a whorled effect to the flower. Mixed with new foliage that is approximately the same size, this gives the appearance of two colors of flower petals. Foliage: large, 2 inches long by 3/4 inch, new growth even larger, about the size of the flower petals. Growth habit: as wide as tall, open; the original plant is 30 inches by 30 inches. Bloom time: May 15-30. Named for my wife.

'Tissie'—(Seedling #79-3-2) 'White Jade' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid (2-inch purple flowers with white centers)—Flower: 3-1/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, strong purple (RHS 77A to B), with conspicuous strong purplish red (RHS 71B) spotting on dorsal lobes, with wavy margins. Foliage: 1-1/2 inches long, elliptic, dark green; holds up well in early spring when most foliage is at its worst. Plant habit: somewhat open, but generally as wide as it is tall; a 20-year-old plant is 4 feet by 4 feet. Bloom time: mid-to late June. Named for one of my father's sisters.

At present my hybrids are only available in large numbers and sizes from White's Nursery in Germantown, Maryland. Marshy Point Nursery in Maryland is currently producing 'Tissie' and is gearing up to sell other cultivars at a later date. Steele's Nurs-

ery in Pennsylvania has some limited quantities and sizes. Phone numbers for all of these sources should be listed in the ASA membership roster.

Notes:

1. Adaxial means situated toward the axis or stem.
2. In describing azalea flowers, the word "dorsal" is used in the sense defined by Galle under the heading "Corolla" on page 36 of the Revised and Enlarged Edition of *Azaleas*. As you face a 5-lobed azalea flower, the top lobe is known as the dorsal lobe. The "upper wings" as defined by Galle are known as the lateral lobes; Galle's "lower wings" are known also as the ventral lobes. In color descriptions, one usually speaks of the "inside" (the side you face when looking into the flower) and "outside" (the back) of the corolla.
3. The terms used here to describe the RHS Colour Chart numbers are taken from the following reference: Voss, D.H., ed. 1984. *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture* by R.D. Huse and K.L. Kelly. American Rhododendron Society.

Buck Claggett is a 62-year-old father of five and grandfather of nine and has lived in Derwood, Maryland, since 1962. A founding member of the ASA and a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, he's been collecting azaleas since 1963, growing azaleas from seed since 1975, and hybridizing since 1978.

Jay Murray has helped with the terminology in several of the articles in this issue of The Azalean. She is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the ASA. Since 1986 she has served the American Rhododendron Society as registrar of plant names for genus Rhododendron, while acting as North American representative for the Royal Horticultural Society. The RHS is the International Registration Authority for genus Rhododendron.

A Few Forgotten Indians

William McDavit — Sunset Beach, North Carolina

Over the course of 11 years we've managed to collect a number of Southern Indian (Southern Indica) azaleas. Undoubtedly the most popular azaleas grown in Zones 8-9 in the South are the following Southern Indica azalea hybrids: 'Formosa', 'George Lindley Taber', 'Elegans Superba' (also known as 'Pride of Mobile' or 'Watermelon Pink'), 'Daphne Salmon' (also known as 'Lawsal' or 'Pride of Summerville'), 'Judge Solomon', 'Mrs. G.G. Gerbing', 'President Claeys' (syn. 'President Clay'). Some of the old timers in the South, affectionately, call this the Formosa Group. The Formosa Group makes up a very high percentage of total commercial azalea sales in the South.

This group of large-leaf varieties blooms with a floriferous display that is difficult to match. As a group, they cover the spectrum of azalea colors

we have learned to admire. They are fast growers and can gain heights of 10-12 feet without being leggy. They not only survive the summer heat and humidity of the Deep South, but also are extremely drought hardy. 'Red Ruffles', a Brooks-Southern Indica cross, is an exception to the height rule, but belongs in the Formosa Group, otherwise. This low-growing, ruffled, brilliant red flowering variety blooms with the Formosa Group, and is very popular in the South as a border plant.

What more could you want? Well, there need to be more, and that's the rub. All varieties in the Formosa Group bloom at the same time, basically. There are many other Southern Indicas that could take up the slack before and after the Formosa Group display. They have two shortcomings, as seen by nurserymen, landscapers,

and homeowners, alike: They don't grow as fast or get as tall as the Formosa Group. Consequently, the commercial nurseries and landscapers do not get as many requests for these others, and so do not handle the remainder of the Southern Indicas with any consistency. That being the case, the availability of the remainder of the hybrid group is sparse, at best. As an example, we could have purchased any, or all, of the Formosa Group at one commercial nursery, at the same time. To acquire the rest of our present Southern Indica collection, however, entailed a few years of searching and visits to many different nurseries in seven states. At this point, I would like to thank Mr. Michael G. Reeves of Temple Terrace, Florida, for his generous donation of two of the most difficult-to-find Southern Indicas: 'Early Lavender' and 'Early Red.'

Gender of Azalea Names in Latin Form

Jay W. Murray

At one time, the plants we know as azaleas were considered to be in a separate genus, the genus *Azalea*. Names in Latin form were treated as feminine in gender. More detailed study led taxonomists to abandon the designation "genus *Azalea*," and to place the plants within genus *Rhododendron* where names in Latin form are treated as neuter.

Article 30.2 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants—1995* states, "When a cultivar or cultivar-group epithet in Latin form is transferred to a genus with another gender, the gender of the epithet is changed to agree with that of the new genus." (The meaning of the term "cultivar epithet" as used in the Code is "the defining part of a name that denotes a cultivar.")

The International Rhododendron Register, in which all registered cultivar names are recorded for genus *Rhododendron*, is governed by the rules of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. Therefore, names such as 'Formosa', 'Indica Alba', 'Rosea', and 'Rubra Multiflora' that were formerly included in the abandoned genus *Azalea*, are now known as 'Formosum', 'Indicum Album', 'Roseum', and 'Rubrum Multiflorum', respectively.

It should be noted that gender corrections apply also to species names, governed by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. For example, the former *A. indica* and *A. mucronata* are now known as *R. indicum* and *R. mucronatum*, respectively.

Reference:

Trehane, P., Brickell, C.D., Baum, B.R., Hetterscheid, W.L.A., Leslie, A.C., McNeill, J., Spongberg, S.A., and Vrugtman, F. (eds.). 1995. *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. Adopted by the IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences) Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. Regnum Vegetabile 133. Wimborne, UK.: Quarterjack Publishing.

There are many other spectacular Southern Indica hybrids that don't qualify for the Formosa Group. Here I shall describe my feelings about a few of these in the so-called "separatist group."

'Cavendishi'—A low-growing, fast-spreading plant with huge purplish pink flowers, with white borders and red stripes. It has very large dark green leaves with good color continuity through the cold months. This Southern Indica blooms about two weeks after the Formosa Group, and draws much attention from the public when in bloom.

'Duc de Rohan'—A medium-height fast-spreading azalea with reddish orange flowers, that blooms slightly before the Formosa Group.

'Duchess of Cypress'—A sport of 'Duc de Rohan' that is white with a salmon blush. The two bloom and fit well together in the landscape.

'Early Lavender'—An early blooming, low growing, lavender flowering variety that blooms three to four weeks before the Formosa Group. It's a pleasure to have this plant in our garden.

'Early Red'—Another early bloomer, growing low and spreading, with scarlet red flowers, which blooms just before 'Early Lavender'. It deserves more visibility.

'Fielder's White'—A very nice large white flower with a green blotch. This medium height plant blooms slightly after the Formosa Group.

'Gervin Pink'—This medium growing plant with light pink 3-1/2-inch flowers blooms a few weeks after the Formosa Group.

'Pride of Dorking'—This medium growing compact plant with its brilliant red 3-inch flowers blooms two to three weeks after the Formosa Group. This hybrid happens to be the writer's favorite Southern Indica.

'Ray's Rubra'—An upright compact variety with deep purplish red flowers that blooms a week after the Formosa Group.



The large open blooms of the old Southern Indians are illustrated here by 'Early Lavender', which is probably a cross of 'Mucronatum' with *R. simsii*.
(Photo by William McDavit.)

'Sablanchalata'—A low growing spreading plant with bright reddish orange 3-1/2-inch flowers that blooms in late May at Azalea Sunset.

'Thompson Rosea'—An upright floriferous hybrid having strong purplish red double 2- to 3-inch flowers. It blooms a week or two after the Formosa Group. This plant is a must in the southern landscape.

'William Bull'—A strong low-growing spreading variety with reddish or-

ange rosebud double 2-inch flowers. This plant blooms about a month after the Formosa Group. It makes a great driveway or walkway border plant.

Fred Galle's *Azaleas* book lists many more Southern Indicas than I've shown. Some bloom with the Formosa Group and others do not. We have hopes of acquiring more of these other varieties in our continuing southern travels. All of them enhance the beauty of any southern garden throughout the year.

Bill McDavit is a retired electrical design specialist from the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. He and his wife of 32 years, Mary, lived in Oxon Hill, Maryland, before settling into Sunset Beach, North Carolina, in 1988. They collect rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and iris species and varieties. Their 3/4-acre garden and nursery, called "Azalea Sunset," serves as a site for in-ground evaluation. Bill lectures on what

he's learned about how to extend the bloom season to audiences fortunate enough to receive occasional potted samples.

Research Notes

A Legacy of Dr. Tsuneshige Rokujo

North Tisbury Ground-cover Azaleas at Polly Hill Arboretum

Polly Hill — Hockessin, Delaware

[This article shows how the North Tisbury hybrids resulted from an international scientific cooperation, spanning 40 years and two continents, Ed.]

In 1956, I visited Japan with my son, Jefferson. By introduction of Dr. Russell Seibert, director of Longwood Gardens, we met with Dr. Rokujo and had lunch with him in our Tokyo hotel, a meeting that was the start of a long association. We began mail correspondence, and during the next 41 years I received 233 letters, handwritten in English. The letters always began with "Dear Mrs. Julian W. Hill" and ended with a signature with flourishes, "Tsuneshige Rokujo."

Dr. Rokujo's first letter to me (June 15, 1956) states: "I am a medical doctor, aged 36 and am at present a research fellow at Tokyo University." In December, 1963, a letter from him informed me that he was the Director of the Medical Division of the Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. in Osaka, where he was doing cancer research. He spoke also about his gardening and stated that "...here I grow larger collection of alpine plants through the world. [sic]" Later he also wrote of collecting and breeding rhododendrons: "I have possibly the finest collection of rhododendron in Japan," a statement I believe to be totally accurate.

I learned that he wished to exchange plants, seeds, and bulbs with Longwood Gardens and asked me to act as intermediary. His initial offering for Longwood was seeds of *Rhododendron*, *Primula*, *Phyllodoce*, *Lycoris*, *Viola*, *Schizocodon*, *Gaultheria*, *Ledum*, and *Arisaema*. In later years, he dealt with Longwood directly.

On August 23, 1956, he wrote, "I had collected some plants for you such as *R. kiusianum*, *R. nakaharae*, *R. yakushmanum*. If you need them, please send me the sheet of importation tags." I was not yet aware of rhododendron. My interest at that time was growing camellias outdoors on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and conifers to act as wind shelters. I did not ask for his offering. What a mistake on my part!

Over the years I sent Dr. Rokujo catalogs and sponsored him for membership in plant societies, including life member in the American Horticulture Society. Meanwhile he sent me much plant material, Christmas gifts, and many valuable books on Japanese trees, camellias, and rhododendron. I sent him plants, bulbs, and his orders from nurserymen. Early in our relationship he explained that he had very decided color choices, preferring purple, deep blue, clear white, vermilion red, and excluding fuchsia, cerise, mauve, and especially "washed

out" purple. Despite the name tags, if the resulting flowers were not a proper purple, he was "disappointed."

In 1956, I had assumed the management of Barnard's Inn Farm, the family property on Martha's Vineyard. The land included old farm buildings and barns on 20 acres of open area surrounded by stone walls. There was no greenhouse or caretaker. I had decided to grow an arboretum from seed and was armed with memberships in many plant societies and the desire to improve the horticulturally deprived island.

Letters of June 1957 from Dr. Rokujo asked, "Are you interested in modern varieties of Japanese azaleas? Their flowers measured more than four inches across on small plants." He added, "I saved the seeds of more than 300 kinds of rarer and unusual



Strong pink 'Late Love' shows the characteristic low-growing, almost flowing habit of the North Tisbury hybrids, forming a good horizontal contrast with the columnar *Cupressus sempervirens*. (Photo by Polly Hill.)

plants,” of which he sent me some, with the advice on how to treat them: “They should be planted in [a] 1:1 mixture of coarse sand and peat in sunshine as for Rhododendron.” Some of these seeds were planted along the border strip of a driveway at my home in Wilmington, Delaware, and some were planted in a plowed strip of the old orchard field on the Martha’s Vineyard property, which thus became the start of my nursery. Plants were carefully labeled and mapped. Regrettably, however, the deer marched through and knocked down the labels, and mice, rabbits, and birds added to the confusion.

In a letter asking me for purple violets, Dr. Rokujo added, “I am enclosing the seeds of very fine Japanese violas and *Hylomecan japonica* (*Chelidonium japonicum*), which is a woodlander, with hairy golden poppy-like flowers for semi-shade. For germination of viola, cold exposure is necessary. I use pulverized sphagnum mix only. Are you growing irises, tree peonies, and so on?” For 30 years letters like this one were for me an advanced course in worldwide horticulture, as I tried to keep pace with his generosity and learning. Step by step I documented my accessions and deletions and kept these listings in order. Without these records, the Polly Hill Arboretum would never have developed.



Very red North Tisbury ‘Joseph Hill’ has wavy margins to the blooms, and forms a very dense creeping shrub 1 foot tall by about 4 feet wide in 13 years. (Photo by Polly Hill.)

In 1970 I decided I should name a rhododendron for Dr. Rokujo and chose one bred by the distinguished American breeder and renowned student of American azaleas, Dr. Henry Skinner, a former director of the US National Arboretum. Dr. Skinner gave me a hand-rooted plant he simply named #819-4, *R. serrulatum* x *R. prunifolium*. In July of 1972 his little propagule went into my nursery and on July 22 of 1981 it flowered with medium-large pink flowers. It was still in flower on August 8. The mid-summer bloom is a very welcome attribute and led to its being registered in 1986 as *R. ‘Tsuneshige Rokujo’* syn. *Shigi*. This nickname, given by his friends on the west coast of the US, seemed to me to be more appropriate for the rhododendron nursery trade. Before he died, I was able to send him both plants and photographs of this azalea. He replied that he was pleased with the selection.

His spirit of sharing was evident again in 1990 with his last gift of the following four of his propagations of young rooted plants. These reflected my interest in dwarf evergreen azaleas.

- ‘Mariko’ x ‘Mount Seven Star’ 90.056
- Gumpo ‘Kogane’ x ‘Mariko’ 90.057
- *R. serpyllifolium flavescens* 90.058
- *R. tchonoskii* var. *trinerve* x (*R. nakaharae* ‘Mariko’ x ‘Bengal Fire’) 90.059

Unfortunately, the yellow serpyllifolium failed; but the other three, the last of many legacies of a generous, patient, and persistent friend and plantsman, may be named, registered, and available for
continued on page 19

Table 1.
Dr. Rokujo’s Crosses of
Rhododendron, with Seed
of Progeny Sent to Polly Hill

- ‘Chinyeyi’ x ‘W. Leith’
- ‘Chinyeyi’ x *nakaharae*
- ‘Kogane’ x ‘Mariko’
- ‘Maruba Osakazuki’ x lost label of male
- R. metternichii kyomaruense* x *williamsianum*
- R. nakaharae* x *kaempferi*
- R. nakaharae* x ‘Kin-no-sai’
- R. nakaharae* x ‘Mount Seven Star’
- R. nakaharae* x ‘W. Leith’
- R. tchonoskii* var. *trinerve* x *nakaharae* (‘Mariko’ x ‘Mount Seven Star’)
- ‘W. Leith’ x *nakaharae*

Table 2.
Rhododendron Cultivars
from Dr. Rokujo

Polly Hill #	Source	Name
63-001	seed HP	‘Alexander’
63-003	seed	‘Andante’
61-076-2	seed HP	‘Bartlett’
65-041	seed	‘Corinna Borden’
80-094	rooted	‘Eiko san’
61-076-1	seed HP	‘Gabrielle Hill’
63-003	seed HP	‘Hot Line’
61-083	seed HP	‘Jeff Hill’
61-079	seed HP	‘Joseph Hill’
64-005	seed	‘Lady Locks’
61-079-2	seed HP	‘Late Love’
65-041	seed	‘Libby’
61-076	seed HP	‘Louisa’
61-080	seed	‘Marilee’
62-036	rooted	‘Matsuyo’
79-011	rooted	‘Midori’
61-080	seed	‘Nakami’
61-077	seed HP	‘Pink Pancake’
61-084	seed HP	‘Red Fountain’
61-084	seed HP	‘Susannah Hill’
63-003-3	seed	‘Trill’
61-081	seed	‘Wild Wealth’
61-080-2	seed	‘Wintergreen’
61-041-1	rooted	‘Yaye’
61-041	rooted	‘Yuka’

Note: HP = hand pollinated

The Frederic P. Lee Commendation

Brookside Gardens Chapter

The Frederic P. Lee Commendation is a memorial to the late Frederic P. Lee of Bethesda, Maryland, who, as an amateur gardener interested in azaleas, greatly contributed to the propagation, culture, care, and general appreciation of azaleas through his many horticultural activities including, in particular, the writing and publication of his authoritative volume, *The Azalea Book*.

In 1982, the members of the Brookside Gardens Chapter established the Frederic P. Lee Commendation, to be given to an individual or group member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter in recognition of his/her/their distinguished contribution through participation in the activities of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

The recipient of the Frederic P. Lee Commendation is selected by the Frederic P. Lee Commendation Committee, which is chaired by the Chapter Vice President. The award is in the form of a framed certificate, and it is presented at the Chapter's annual meeting.

The recipient of the Frederic P. Lee Commendation for 2001 is Don Hyatt

who was presented with his framed certificate by Mary Rutley, Brookside Gardens Chapter Vice President, at the chapter's annual meeting at the Davis Library on December 3, 2001

Previous recipients of the Frederic P. Lee Commendation:



Mary Rutley, Brookside Gardens Chapter vice-president, presents the 2001 Frederic P. Lee Commendation to Don Hyatt of McLean, Virginia, at the chapter's annual meeting on December 3, 2001, at the Davis Library in Bethesda, Maryland. (Photo by William C. Miller III)

1982	Ryon Page	1989	Mary Rutley	1996	Dick West
1983	Anna Jane Martin	1990	Ralph D'Amato		(posthumously)
1984	Charlie Evans	1991	Pete Vines	1997	Barbara Bullock
1985	Buck Clagett	1992	Mike White	1998	Jean Cox
1986	Debby Emory	1993	Bill Johnson	1999	Bee & Bob Hobbs
1987	Bill Miller	1994	Bob Stelloh	2000	Bill Steele
1988	Denise Stelloh	1995	Bill McIntosh	2001	Don Hyatt



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- Photos of Blossoms on Website
- Landscape Architectural Design and Implementation
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Kinzie Farms

Tel: 301-365-4226

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Email: Jane@KinzieFarms.com

Web: www.KinzieFarms.com

Society News

US National Arboretum Conference

ASA President Joe Schild has been invited to attend this conference March 27-28, 2002. There will be a number of workshops on the future of the arboretum and its educational and research missions.

Following the conference, the Northern Virginia Chapter is hosting Joe at their chapter meeting. Joe will inform them about what went on at the conference and its impact on the Society. He will also give a preview of the next year's ASA convention in Chattanooga and present a slide show of some of his own hybrids. Ben Morrison and Brookside Chapters are invited to attend as well.

2003 ASA Convention

The 2003 ASA Convention will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 1-4, 2003. The Clarion Hotel will be the hotel and convention site. Joe Schild has been hard at work collecting a committee of people in Chattanooga who really want the Society to enjoy their city and local gardens:

Joe Schild,
convention committee chairman

Co-chair, to be named soon

Committee members

Jimmy Wooten

Ron Hooper

Dr. Rudolph Hoppe

Burton Johnston

Betty Johnston

James Dennis

Judy Dennis

LaShon Schild

To increase attendance, the committee is planning a publicity blitz of electronic and print media promoting registration for all the evening sessions and plant sale. Public entrance fees are yet to be determined. The annual ban-

quet and business meeting will be members only, of course.

The Clarion Hotel is an excellent convention facility with easy access to major highways and interstates. Detailed registration information will be posted on the Society website, as it evolves, but the convention rate is already set at \$79.00 per night for single, double, triple, or quad occupancy, plus tax with \$6.00 daily secured parking rate.

Plants for the plant sale are reserved. The speakers list is in process, but one is well-known nurseryman Don Shadow of Shadow Nursery in Winchester, Tennessee. Tour choices will include a Southern Belle Riverboat Cruise and the Tennessee Aquarium, plus Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Because of Joe's long association with the latter, docents will be able to provide history and data about the plant material on the 300-acre site. One tour destination will be the Tennessee State University Nursery Crops Research Station in McMinnville, with stops along the way to see the native azaleas of the Cumberland Plateau.

Brookside—continued

2. It should be noted that Clone D, B57680, a white, single, hose-in-hose flower, was named 'Mrs. LBJ' and introduced by Dr. John Creech in 1969 under PI337619. The original plant was removed from Creech's Row at Glenn Dale, and its whereabouts are unknown.

3. Albert Close was an English-trained gardener who served as chief propagator at the Glenn Dale Introduction Station from the mid-1930s until his retirement in the early 1960s.

William C. Miller III is a recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award and the Brookside Gardens Chapter's Frederic P. Lee Commendation. He is a past president of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, a former vice president of the Society, a past member of the ASA board of directors, past co-chairman of the ASA's membership committee and past chairman of the public information committee, a long-time ASA member, and a frequent contributor to The Azalean.



VISIT ITALY WITH YOUR ASA FRIENDS!

My name is Piero Sambucci, and I am an ASA member, specializing in nursery grown azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. I live in Velletri, a small city 25 miles from the center of Rome and located in the famed Alban Hills formed by an ancient volcano, now extinct. Two beautiful crater lakes are 10 miles from Velletri, and 20 miles to the south lies the Mediterranean Sea with its wonderful beaches. Tivoli is only an hour's drive away with the Villa d'Este, famous for its gardens and fountains. Two hours away are Naples, Pompeii, and Sorrento, and Florence is three hours away.

I propose to rent my house from June through February for two-week intervals to members of the ASA and their friends. To make your vacation relaxed and comfortable I will provide you with continental breakfast and dinner, plus transportation with a van every day of your vacation. I will meet you at the airport when you arrive, and from then on I will look after you, take you to cities, parks and gardens of central Italy. At home in the evenings you will find dinner ready (Italian food). You will get the real taste of Italy.

Form a group of four or five and come to the country of art and natural beauty. For a brochure contact Piero Sambucci, C/DA Acqua Palomba 2, 00049 Velletri, Roma, Italy. Tel.: 0329 628 74 74; Fax: 06 963 50 77; Email: psambucci@allnet.it

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Bob Hobbs, Newsletter Editor:
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Carol Flowers, Co-editor:
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February 3, 2002, Bob Hobbs gave a presentation called "Help! I'm Trying to Understand Hybrid Groups." As he indicated in the most recent "Azalea Alert!" he tried to make this more of an audience participation event, since he asked members to come prepared to share observations on hybrid groups and their favorite azaleas within those groups. Gray Carter followed this up with a "hands-on" demonstration on propagating azaleas from seed.

Upcoming Events: March 3, the meeting focused on garden mapping and the automation of plant records. Featured speakers were: Barry Sperling, vice-president of the Northern Virginia Chapter—creating links between azalea plant database records and digital photographs; Barbara Bullock, Curator of the Azalea and Rhododendron Collection at the US National Arboretum—the development of the record keeping of the National Arboretum azalea collections; and Charles and Wanda Hanners—digital photograph records of their azalea collections at Azalea Trace.

May 11, there will be a flower show at London Towne Gardens, to be judged by the public. Charles and Wanda Hanners will provide plants on consignment for sale, and Carol Segree and Joe Miller volunteered to help.

2004 Convention Planning: Since the Ben Morrison Chapter is hosting the 2004 ASA Convention, Carol Segree and Bob McWhorter asked for ideas about theme, speakers, garden tours, and other activities to put into the "early planning stages." Carol, Bob

and Rosa McWhorter are looking for a hotel in the Annapolis, Maryland, area. If you have input to share with Carol, who is convention coordinator, call her at 301-261-6215 or e-mail her at csegree@msn.com.

Research Papers Archive: Joan Sweeney is researching potential "archival homes" for chapter members' research papers on azalea horticulture. She is focusing on sites that have experience with horticultural research. Ellen Hartranft at the Brookside Gardens Library, Wheaton Regional Park, Montgomery, Maryland, advised Joan to approach a facility with the staff, budget, and the mission to provide maximum access to the research data, that is, a facility that would catalog and scan the data and then allow online access to this information. Ellen suggested the US National Arboretum Library and the National Agriculture Library as candidate facilities. Joan will report back after contacting staff at these organizations.

Update on Azalea Conservation Project: Dave and Eileen Holm reported on the portion of cuttings they received from the cuttings taken from the US National Arboretum. They stuck 100 percent of the cuttings, using Root-tone, sphagnum peat, and Perlite. They had 10 flats, of 50-60 cuttings each. Placed under their Mist-a-matic, 95 percent of the cuttings rooted within five weeks. They are over-wintering in the upstairs of their garage, out of the weather, but getting about three hours of direct sun, and nine hours of Grow-light. In November, they got a feeding of weak liquid fertilizer, and they have been lightly watered since. They estimate they have 80-90 percent live plants now, covering all the varieties except the linearifolium. The latter rooted well but has subsequently died.

They will transfer the rooted cuttings to 4-inch pots in May, to make sure that the rooted cuttings "hit bottom" more quickly, forcing them to stimulate better above-ground growth. After this intermediate step, the plants will be "bumped up" to 1-gallon pots by the spring of 2003. The plan is for a second generation of cuttings to be made from these 1-gallon plants in spring of 2003, with two or three of each variety being held back as "stock plants" for this purpose. The remainder will be made available for adoption by chapter members, sold at a chapter plant sale, or grown on for one or more seasons. The second-year plants and those saved for cuttings in 2003 should make fine 2-gallon plants for 2004.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary
plouer@msn.com

February 24, 2002, Barbara Bullock, Curator of the Azalea and Rhododendron Collection at the US National Arboretum reviewed the key events in the history of that wonderful facility. Because of the many Azalea Society of America members directly involved in the development of the azalea collections at the Arboretum, here is the summary timeline from "The Azalea Clipper":

Mid-1920s — B.Y. Morrison, then employed by the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station, begins hybridizing azaleas at his home in Takoma Park.

March 4, 1927 — The US National Arboretum is established by an act of Congress.

1930 — Morrison was Chief, Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction at the US Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland.

1946-1947 — Approximately 15,000 azaleas from B.Y. Morrison's top 1200 selections of azalea crosses are planted on seven acres of the southern flank of Mt. Hamilton in the US National Arboretum.

1949 — The Arboretum's first opening for the azalea display, and Morrison was assigned full time to the Arboretum July 1.

September 1952 — Dr. Henry T. Skinner appointed second Director of the Arboretum. He was an azalea enthusiast. Especially favoring the native azaleas, he was responsible for the extensive planting of native and deciduous azaleas in Azalea Valley.

1952-1962 — Azalea Valley was extensively planted with deciduous azaleas, including Knap Hill, Mollis, Exbury, Ghent, and American species.

May 3, 19 — Morrison Garden at the Arboretum dedicated. Designed by B.Y. Morrison, this garden displays the Glenn Dale azalea hybrids that he selected and introduced.

1966-1972 — Volunteer Dr. Roy Magruder, retired Beltsville scientist,

worked very hard on assessing the Glenn Dales in the Arboretum collection and on acquiring missing cultivars. He also evaluated the gardens and made specific suggestions for cultural improvements that were acted upon over the next 10 years.

April 1971 — Dedication of the Lee Azalea Garden to honor the late Frederic P. Lee, who served as chairman for the Arboretum's advisory committee for over 20 years and published *The Azalea Book* in 1958. This garden contains late-blooming (June) azaleas, mainly Satsuki.

January 1973 — Dr. John Creech was appointed the third Director of the US National Arboretum. He was responsible for acquiring azaleas and other plant material on plant exploration trips to Japan and Korea.

May 21, 1981 — Dr. Marc Cathey appointed as fourth Director of the Arboretum.

1990 — Barbara L. Bullock begins as fifth Curator of the Arboretum's azalea collections.

[The February issue of "The Azalea Clipper" also contained an overview of the George Harding Memorial Azalea Garden at RiverFarm. This will be reprinted in an upcoming issue soon, Ed.]

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
rudie2rudie@aol.com

All hands have been working hard to help set up the 2002 convention in Atlanta, April 17-21. Ruth and Frank Bryan are coordinating volunteers for the many special activities. Help was requested for the registration and information desk April 17-19, plant sale set up April 16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and tear down, April 22, 8 a.m. to 12 noon plant sales, and to work the sales area April 17-21. There were also opportunities for tour bus captains.

Note especially that there was a Convention Store and a Trade Show area for nursery owners and green industry products. Both were open on the same schedule as the plant sales times.

Legacy-continued

distribution. At present they are growing in the Polly Hill Arboretum.

Among my plant introductions other than rhododendron that originated with material from Dr. Rokujo are:

- *Ilex crenata* 'Muffin', 66-018, from seed
- *Magnolia hypoleuca* 'Lydia', 66-004, rooted
- *R. metternichii* from Oki Islands, about 20 plants, 67-001, from seed
- *R. dauricum* 'Album', no selections, 68-001

Reference

For more information on North Tisbury hybrids, see also: Hill, Polly. 1991. "North Tisbury Nakaharae Azaleas." *The Azalean*. 13 (4): 71-74.

Polly Hill has retired from 40 years of horticulture. In 1957, she began work on what is now called the Polly Hill Arboretum when she was 50 years old and she and her husband inherited her family's 40-acre sheep farm in the North Tisbury area of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. She has been using the farm as a summer home since the 1930s. Inspired by the beautiful landscape, she decided to create an arboretum there by growing trees from seed. A few courses in botany at the University of Delaware and some at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania encouraged her. A year of teaching in Japan after graduation and various trips through the years introduced her to new varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons not grown in the US, especially the ground cover azaleas. She and her husband developed the farm and bred, selected, trialed, and introduced new rhododendrons and aza-

leas. She has over 2,000 different plants in the living collection, all with labels and detailed histories. She has personally introduced over 83 new cultivars from her work in Martha's Vineyard. Among these are the North Tisbury azaleas, but dogwoods, hollies, magnolias, and Stewartia are also key collections. Polly still keeps a home on the grounds that she calls the Cow Barn, and she still visits when she can.

The **Polly Hill Arboretum** is a not-for-profit institution established in 1996 by a cooperative effort of the Vineyard Conservation Society, medical researcher and conservationist Dr. David H. Smith, the Hill family, and many of Polly's horticultural colleagues. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts joined in preserving the 60-acre Arboretum property by providing for a conservation restriction, which will prevent development of

continued on page 20

New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society as of March 17, 2002.

At Large

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Vaseyi

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Legacy-continued

the property in perpetuity. The grounds are made up of 20 acres of open fields and 40 acres of woodland and are noteworthy for the great care that has been given to the overall landscape effect of the diverse collection of plants. Research initiatives focus on the floras of eastern Asia and the close relationships shared by those plants with those of the eastern US. Tours, lectures, and some internships are available. The mission statement is grounded in Polly Hill's inspiring work:

The mission of the Polly Hill Arboretum is to perpetuate the experimental tradition in horticulture established by Polly Hill, encompassing the dissemination of knowledge of plants and scientific procedure through educational programs, research, and exploration. The Arboretum seeks to preserve its meadows and woodlands, to promote an understanding of its collections, and to encourage their utilization for scholarship, observation, and the enjoyment of all.

For more information, contact:

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Website: www.pollyhillarboretum.org/