

Volume 25 · Number 3 · Fall 2003

*The*  
**Azalean**  
*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*

Cumberland Spring —  
2003 Convention  
Review

The Palette of Kurume  
Azaleas: Neglected  
Treasures

Evergreen Azaleas in  
Western Europe

Azalea Seed Planting  
and Seedling Care



1000 Moody Bridge Road  
Cleveland, SC 29635

# President's Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

Well, the heat came with a vengeance this past summer. At least the afternoon thunderstorms cooled things off and kept everything green and growing, especially the lawn. After several years of drought, I said that I would never complain about the rain again. I probably will have to eat my words and start complaining just a little. Just when you think that you know everything there is about caring for your azaleas, old "Mother Nature" is always there to test your plants and your patience. Still, I'm amazed how durable most azaleas can be by surviving extreme drought one year and excessive rain the next. Three helpful tips I have found for helping azaleas survive most of these natural hardships: select the right azaleas for your area, select the right location in your yard in which to plant your azaleas, and adequately prepare the bed before planting.

It won't be long before the 2004 convention in Annapolis. Carol Segree, the convention coordinator, and the rest of the Ben Morrison Chapter have been working hard to ensure a well-planned and enjoyable convention. Many different kinds of azaleas have been rooted and will be available at the convention. Bob McWhorter, the chapter president, stated in recent correspondence that everything was going well with the planning of the convention. If you have never attended a national convention, this would be a good one to get you started. The ASA national

conventions have been compared to attending a family reunion, so come join and meet our azalea family. I'm planning on seeing you there. Look for further details about the convention in the upcoming winter edition of *The Azalean*.

Our new Lake Michigan Chapter of the ASA is off to a good start and even has a national convention planned in 2005. John Migas, the chapter president pro-tem, has been planning this convention for the last couple years. An azalea convention in Michigan that will coincide with the Holland Tulip Festival sounds like a winning combination. Best of success to the Lake Michigan Chapter as they take on the tasks of starting a new chapter and planning the 2005 convention. Keep up the good work.

Congratulations! "Selecting and Growing Azaleas," a slide/CD presentation developed by the Oconee Chapter of the ASA and the Georgia Extension Service, won first place in the slide category from the American Society for Horticultural Science. It's wonderful that all of their hard work has been recognized with this national award. "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" is a fantastic educational tool and will have a beneficial impact on azalea growers for a long time.

To all the members of the ASA, thank you for your continued support of all the Society's activities.

## 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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### Corrections

Ian Donovan, an at-large member from Pembroke, Massachusetts, was inadvertently omitted as co-author of the article, "The Seed is Growing—the Azalea Research Foundation", in the Summer 2003 issue 25(2): 43, 44. Mr. Donovan will be recognized appropriately as an author in the annual index for 2003.

# The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society  
of America

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### On the Cover

These lovely double, ruffled, raspberry blooms resulted when ASA member **Tijs Huisman** of the Netherlands crossed 'Labe' with a sport of 'Easter Parade.' Tijs was a featured speaker at the Chattanooga convention. His 5-acre garden shows his passion for rhododendrons and azaleas. As he tells it, his wife says of the garden, "Your hobby has you." His work is an example of European introductions, which focus on winter-tough plants. Many can be adapted to use in American gardens. (Photo by Tijs Huisman)



# Cumberland Spring—2003 Chattanooga Convention Review and Garden Tour Report

Barbara Stump — Nacogdoches, Texas

The theme of the convention held May 1-3, 2003, was Cumberland Spring, since we were treated to early May flowers in the Cumberland Mountains. Chattanooga is a river town, situated in a big bend of the Tennessee River, south of the Chickamauga Dam and Lake, and at the feet of Lookout Mountain, Raccoon Mountain, Signal Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Stringers Ridge. In keeping with the mountain theme, we saw both native deciduous azaleas and at least 30 species of native woodland wildflowers such as trilliums in both natural and private garden settings as well as for sale in the well-stocked plant salesroom. What a great way to celebrate 25 years of the Azalea Society of America!

The convention headquarters was the Chattanooga Clarion Hotel, just a few blocks from downtown, the Tennessee Aquarium, and the historic Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. The city is both revitalizing its downtown with new buildings and preserving its historic fabric.

Throughout the event, the convention organizers, led by our own ASA president Joe Schild, were so welcoming and helpful; we were really treated to Southern hospitality. As the photo essay and other articles in this issue will show, the garden tours were superb; the plant sale a great chance to get extremely rare plants; and the speakers, top-notch. It takes a great many helpers to make a convention a success. So, let me list the people who made this fabulous event possible:

Volunteers at the registration table, or who made arrangement for lunches, the plant sale, and the many other details that kept the meetings going smoothly:

Hale Booth	Burton & Betty Johnson
John Brown	Dr. Frank Knight
Edward Collins	Robert Lee
James & Judith Dennis	Jim Minor
David & Deborah Fosbury	Denise & Bob Stelloh

All the owners of all the gardens visited:

Vernon & Leona Carpenter	Frances F. Jones
Robert J. Enck	Craig Walker
Ron & Nancy Hooper	Jimmy & Ilona Wooten
Dr. Rudolph & Alice Hoppe	Joe & LaShon Schild

Generous sponsors, including nurseries, who donated plants and supplies for the sale:

Don Hyatt	Bi-Lo, Inc.
Maarten van der Giessen	David's Deli
Dr. Joe Coleman	William Crutchfield
PDSI—Plant Development Services, Inc.	
Schild Azalea Gardens and Nursery	
Burbet Nursery	East Fork Nursery

## Chattanooga Garden Tour Report

The garden tours were fabulous. So were many of the private gardens we passed as we rode on the bus from tour to tour. The local nursery industry is well developed, since there were many handsome and mature Japanese maples planted in front yards and in public landscapes, including those of small businesses, throughout the city. The local gray granite native mountain stone is also used frequently in landscaping. Joe Schild and his convention planners provided a helpful outline handout for each day's trip, so we knew exactly where we were going and in what order.

Friday, May 2, 2003

## Craig Walker Garden

Our first stop was at the garden of Craig Walker, at the top of a steep hillside. Craig has worked most of his adult life in the retail nursery or garden center business. His



'Fascination', one of the specimen azaleas seen in Craig Walker's garden on the first garden tour. (Photo by Art Vance)

garden reflects some of the best introductions of flowering shrubs, perennials, wildflowers, and a few exotics acquired from various sources. His landscape also reflects an interest in woodland gardens as an accent for his home that is comfortable and appealing to the eye. According to a special sign, his garden is part of the National Wildlife Foundation's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" program.

This was definitely a plantsman's garden with choice specimen plants worked into appealing beds. It was wonderful to see so many unique plants that were also labeled. His white-flowering ornamental trees included: Carolina snowbell *Halesia diptera*; *Viburnum* 'Asian Beauty', which has purple berries in the fall; *V.* 'Michael Dodge', which has yellow berries; a great find from Dodd Nursery, *V.* 'Amy' that was covered with white blooms and had salmon-edged foliage; and *V. macrocephalum*, Chinese snowball, with



The evergreen azaleas were lovely, too. Shown above is pale pink-edged hose-in-hose 'Amy'. (Photo by Carleton LeMond)

great white globes of bloom. Upon entering the garden we saw two honeysuckles, pink-and-yellow-flowered *Lonicera* 'Mardi Gras' and *L.* 'Blanche Sandman', which blooms for nine months. His wildflowers included hellebores, hostas, and a variegated holly fern. This was the first place we saw kalmias, but certainly not the last.

His azaleas include 'Amy', a pale pink; 'Klondike', a rich yellow deciduous; and bright rose-encircled 'Fascination'.

### Vernon Carpenter Garden

Mr. Carpenter's lush garden is a great demonstration of the benefits of soil amendments. He has used biosolids from the Chattanooga sewage treatment plants and his plants have thrived. The main raised beds were at least 60 feet wide along the edge of the property, to the left of the house,



*Kalmia latifolia* 'Yankee Doodle', seen in Vernon Carpenter's garden. (Photo by Tijs Huisman)

edged with stone. Carpenter had been working on the garden for the past 27 years of the 34 he had owned the property. He said he had to cut out 47 trees the first year and 18 the second just to get enough light for his gardens. An octagonal gazebo forms a focal point from which to view the garden, and he had started a vineyard behind the house.

Peonies were just beginning to bloom, reminding those of us from the Deep South that we were in a much cooler climate zone. But the real stars were his wonderful collections of azaleas, rhododendrons, and kalmias. This was a great opportunity for us to see mature specimens. For example, the rhododendrons 'Gigi' and 'Mrs. G.W. Leak' were over 24 years old. The latter was a particularly nice maroon with a yellow blotch. His deciduous azaleas were equally brilliant. He under-planted the large shrubs with groundcover wildflowers such as *Trillium* sp., *Arisaema dracontium* (green dragon), and *Lunaria* (honesty).

### Joe Schild Garden

Joe's garden was quite a surprise, since he has so many plants and propagation houses on a suburban lot. Many of the azaleas are fully mature, so walking back to look at the plants in his nursery shade house you had to push your way through beautiful trusses of raspberry-colored 'Homebush' or bright orange deciduous azalea (Exbury 'Gibraltar' x Flame azalea). He had a few for sale, too, and some visitors decided to buy rather than have refreshments. Choice specimens seen in his garden: azaleas—'Primrose' x *austrinum*, a red and yellow bloom; 'Chetco' (a Slonecker hybrid); Exbury 'Brazil'; 'Rosea' that looked like crumpled crepe paper, as well as *Rhododendron atlanticum*; and R. 'Scintillation'. He also had ornamental shrubs: witch hazel, *Styrax americana*, and fuchsias blooming. For a garden redone in the past 14

years this was quite a lesson in what can be done by a dedicated horticulturist.

### Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanic Garden

David Hopkins, the Riding's executive director, has described this public



Vibrant red-orange deciduous azalea at Joe Schild's. (Photo by Art Vance)

garden in his article on p.58. However, I must mention that it was a great treat to stop here for lunch at Humpheys House, with a grand view of the upper ponds and their dawn redwoods. We had time to take a leisurely walk to the Philp Ericaceous Garden of handsome deciduous azaleas and rhodos, and even to shop for some real native Tennessee plant treasures.

Saturday, May 3, 2003

Along our bus ride we noted many sycamores, tulip poplars, and white oaks in the forested mountainsides

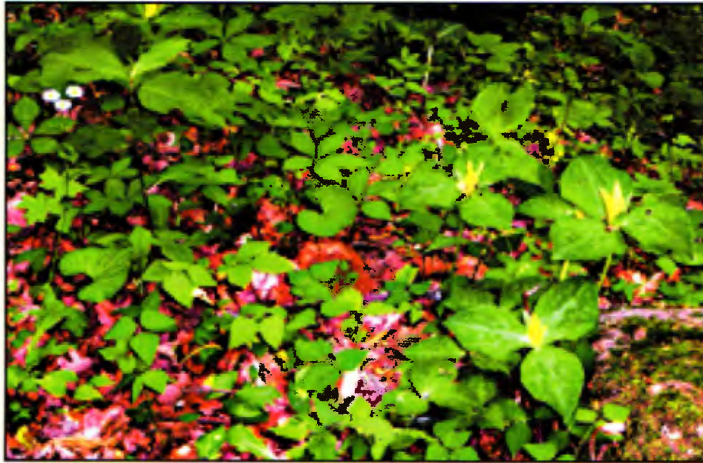


'Chetco', one of the brilliant yellow deciduous hybrids in Joe Schild's garden. (Photo by Tijs Huisman)

beside the road. Small ornamentals, probably crabapples, were in bloom as were a few dogwoods.

### Bob Enck Garden

This is a mature garden of a person dedicated to selecting choice plants. We entered by three glasshouses that Mr. Enck had used for years in his orchid business. The path led by pink dogwoods and white doublefile *Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* to a broad oval lawn ringed with mature rhododendrons and azaleas, all in full bloom. The rhododendrons are 25 years old, and his Japanese maples are old enough to make huge green or bronze-red clouds of foliage pruned artfully to show



We saw so many spring ephemerals in the forest at Reflection Riding and at Bob Enck's garden, including the yellow trillium. Some very lucky people were able to buy nursery-grown trilliums at the great indoor plant sale. (Photo by Art Vance)

their structural limbs. The early morning mist showed their colors to great effect. Several people asked Bob about one in particular, a full-moon maple, *Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'. This is a slow growing cultivar, but it is hardy to 5° F and has orange, yellow, and red fall color. One of his specimen ornamentals was *Styrax japonicum* 'Pink Chimes'. Planted among his plants was a huge, pale pink-flowered *R. yakusimanum*, as well as younger deciduous azalea "babies" such as 'High Tide' he had planted recently. What was amazing about his garden is that he says he has never fertilized nor sprayed his plants. Below the open lawn was a lovely wildflower trail with many spring ephemerals in bloom. Enck has been working on his garden since 1964. Some of his plants came from Don Shadow's nursery.

### Jimmy and Ilona Wooten Garden

We just had to walk across the street from the Enck garden to this new garden. The Wootens have been steadily carving out garden space from the forest. We could see that the various garden rooms, all centered on some feature or some piece of garden architecture, would in a few years fill in to be very beautiful. This garden had a formal herb garden parterre, an open wooden pergola surrounded by deciduous azaleas. One fabulous aspect was that

every plant was labeled so you could tell he had azaleas from Joe Schild ('Primrose' seedling, 'Raspberry Delight'), Confederate series ('N.B. Forrest', 'Stonewall Jackson'), and Made in the Shade ('Camilla's Blush') hybrids. Tucked in the woods were more young rhododendrons, kalmias, ferns, and hostas. Their wildflower collections included tiarellas, columbine, bloodroot, and *Trillium luteum* (the rare yellow trillium) and maroon *T. vaseyi*, *Iris cristata*, May apples, and pink lady's slipper orchids. The circular stone hosta garden centered on a shallow concrete fountain that was edged by Japanese painted and cinnamon ferns was especially handsome. I also like Jimmy's collection of pottery suns decorating a long wall on his garage. The Wootens began their serious azalea gardening eight years ago and used truckloads of bark mulch from the City of Chattanooga to amend their soil.

### The Frances Jones Garden

Mrs. Jones has literally perched both her house and her garden at the top of the South Palisades of Signal Mountain. Or rather, the house is dug into the top of the mountain, with a wonderful rounded covered patio below the main house. We enjoyed refreshments in this area.

She grew up in the Clarksdale area of Mississippi around nurseries and had long wanted a garden on the top of the mountain. She began her garden as therapy following her husband's death and has developed it in such a way as to be able to leave it for future generations as a public park. Her gardens weave along paths that unite three properties. Beginning 16 years ago, she built her house, then her architect son built his next door, and they purchased a third and converted it to garden storage. She and her son are both very creative in their use of hardscape materials such as rock and steel, arranging handsome plant materials in very pleasing vignettes, and tying the gardens together with paths that had breathtaking views of the Tennessee River. Mrs. Jones' family even helped guide us around the path that skirted the huge boulders on the edge of the Palisades. A few of the paths were steep, but well worth the effort.

Her plant collections were meticulously labeled. Features included *Viburnum acerifolium* (maple-leaf viburnum); *Acer japonicum* 'Maiku Jaku' that had red twigs; *A. griseum*, paper bark maple; a magnificent newly planted a "Yellow Grove Bamboo" hedge to screen part of the garden from the street; a circular rose garden with architectural arched trellises; and shade-loving bloodroot and hostas. A very dramatic feature was the grove of black locusts (*Robinia* sp.) with their purplish pink

**Mr. Vernon Carpenter passed away June 30, 2003. Joe Schild reported, "He will be missed by all for his wry wit and dedication to the ARS and the Tennessee Valley Chapter."**



Having the plant sale inside one of the hotel's meeting rooms made it very easy to drop in during the day or before the evening lectures. Here we see (left to right) Ron Hooper, keynote speaker Don Shadow, Hale Booth (of TV-ARS), and Tijs Huisman conferring over some deciduous azaleas.

(Photo by Art Vance)

drooping racemes skirting the edge of small meadow just below a bearded iris garden in full bloom. Her unique specimens included *Quercus turbinella*, an oak with very narrow spine-like lobes, and a wonderful woodland combination at the street, right where our bus was waiting: the fine pale blue-green of the eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) with a beautiful white-blooming *Franklinia alatamaha*. Her azaleas were mainly near the front entrance and included 'Martha Hitchcock' and 'Jeb Stuart'.

## Lookout Mountain Commons Caldwell Park

Located at the top of Lookout Mountain, this garden encircles a grassy area and has been planted through the efforts of the Lookout Mountain Beautification Fund. The landscaping effort has been led by Master Gardener and Curator Peter Branton, who was on hand to answer questions. Tom Blanton, owner of The Little Green House nursery in central Chattanooga, and Joe Schild supplied some plants. This park was very beautiful and a model of how a public park and public garden can work together. The day we visited there was a Little League game, our tour buses parked for our lunch break in the park pavilion, and there were walkers on the walking track.

A trail winds through the plantings of azaleas, ornamental trees and shrubs, and wildflowers, so that there were several lovely views of the grassy common area. We were given a map of the garden, a "Self-Guided Walking Tour" of what plant materials to look for in the various planting areas, descriptions of 12 of the specimen woody ornamentals, and a brief

article by Peter Branton called "Native Azaleas in Your Landscape." All this literature was so helpful to us, as visitors from other parts of the US and eager to learn quickly what the beauties were. A few particularly nice specimens were:

*Loropetalum chinense* var. *rubrum* 'Zhuzhou Fuchsia' (Chinese Fringe-flower)—deep pink flowers on a 10-foot shrub, just introduced from China in 1991.

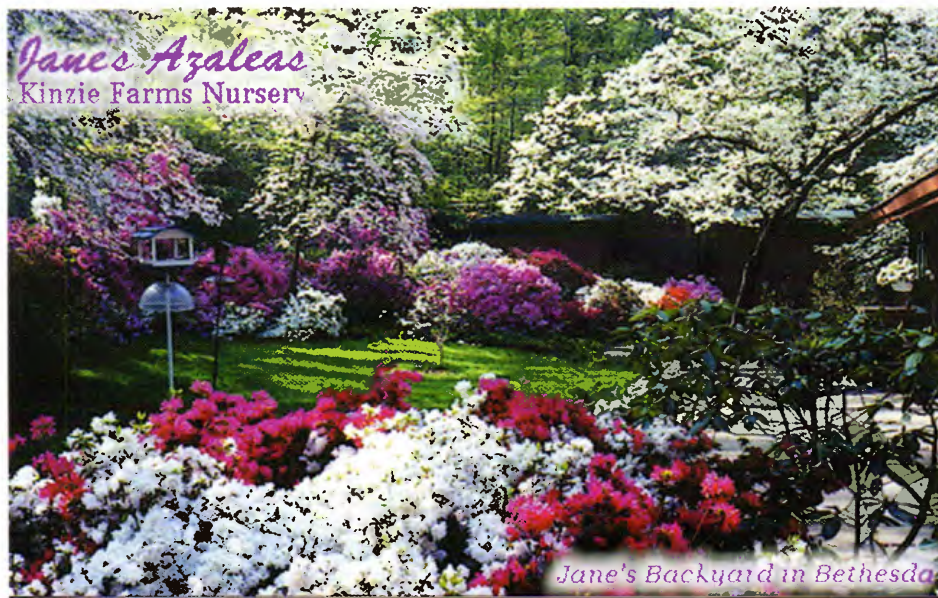
*Cornus kousa*—both the species native to Japan, Korea, and China and several of the hybrids that Rutgers University has developed by crossing *C. kousa* with the native *C. florida* for disease- and mildew-resistance, cold hardi-

continued on page 64

continued on page 64



Thanks, Joe, for the great convention in Chattanooga. (Photo by Art Vance)



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# The Palette of Kurume Azaleas: Neglected Treasures

Dr. Joe Coleman — Lithonia, Georgia

[This article is based on notes from the slide presentation given by Dr. Joe Coleman April 30 at the 2003 Chattanooga Convention. All photos in this article are by Dr. Joe Coleman, Ed.]

A great many interesting azalea hybrids were introduced in the past 50 years, such as the Glenn Dale hybrids, but the ever-green Kurumes are worth returning to for their garden worthiness. Kurumes are among the most beautiful azaleas and well worth trying to learn their Japanese names or the English translations given to some of them. For example, this view of mature Kurumes from my garden shows they make a rich landscape statement.



with Kurumes, introducing new hybrids such as 'Blauuw's Pink'. From

sizes range from 1/2" to 1-3/4" across. Kurumes are easily grown and frequently planted in Georgia. In flower shows the Kurumes are noted for their "softer colors" or "piercing colors." Tiers of color can be made with Kurumes by trimming and shaping them in ascending rows; they have even been used in formal pattern gardens. Nuccio's Nursery in Altadena, California, has been a good source for us. Their catalog lists 29 old Kurumes and 21 newer Nuccio introductions.

Some 700 named varieties have been selected from natural seedlings. The group dates back to the 16th century on the Japanese island of Kyushu, where the city of Kurume is located. Robert Fortune collected garden forms of *Rhododendron* Kirishima Tsutsuji (*R. obtusum* group) and brought them back to Britain as early as 1844. Three species grown in the cool upland Kurume area are important to the plants we know as Kurumes: *R. kaempferi* (*R. obtusum* var. *kaempferi*), *R. kiusianum* (*R. obtusum* f. *japonicum*), and *R. sataense*, the Sata Azalea. In 1919, Ernest H. Wilson brought 50 Kurume clones ("Wilson's Fifty") from Mr. Akashi in Kurume to the Arnold Arboretum. However, the varieties introduced by the Domoto Brothers are more widely known today. In the 1930s European hybridizers worked

1950-1970 Dr. John Creech made trips to Japan to collect more varieties. Since 1983 the USDA has introduced 33 new varieties.

The Kurumes are hardy and, because they are quick growing, make large shrubs that can reach six to 12 feet at maturity. They bloom profusely, early to mid-season, mostly single, with hose-in-hose flower types in colors from pure white ('Snow') to lavender ('Blue Jay' and 'Lilac Lady') to brilliant scarlet ('Red Glitters' and 'Aratama'). Flower

Following are only a few of the 71 slides showing how versatile the Kurumes are as garden specimens.



'Blushing Angel Mac', a funnel-form hose-in-hose, just touched with pink.





'Painted Lady' displays streaking, sectoring, and flecks such as are also seen in the Satsuki.



'Haru-no-akebono'

*Dr. Joe Coleman has been associated with the ASA since the founding of the organization in 1979. With his wife Donna, he has worked for the past 22 years to create a garden of collections of azaleas, rhododendrons, Japanese maples, hostas (if the deer leave them alone), ferns, and numerous natives, particularly, the beautiful native azaleas of Georgia. Since the Kurume azalea is of especial interest to Dr. Coleman, he has made every effort to blend a full palette of awesome shades of the Kurumes in his garden.*

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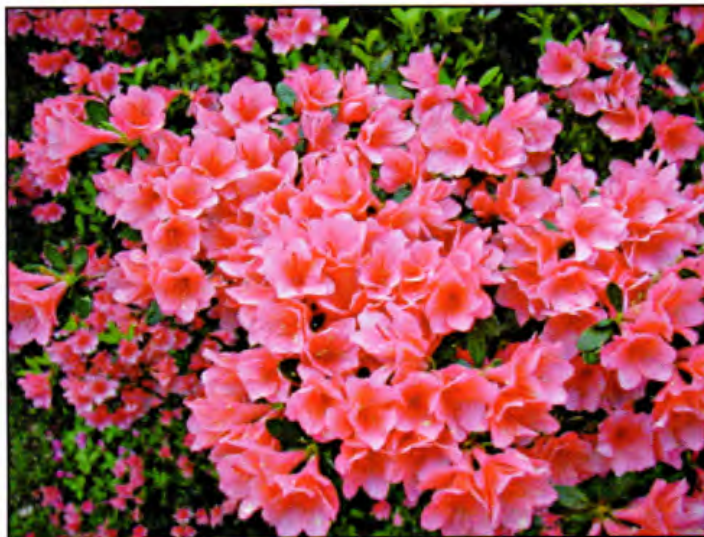
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'Salmon Bells', a salmon form of the highly popular 'Coral Bells'.



'Aratama', with its brilliant, single, 1-3/4" scarlet flower is one of the 33 new introductions sent from Japan in 1983 to the US National Arboretum and other cooperating nurseries.

# Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanic Garden

David Hopkins — Chattanooga, Tennessee

**R**eflection Riding Arboretum and Botanic Garden is a 300-acre natural area with designed paths (ridings) and gardens located between the western slope of Lookout Mountain and Lookout Creek, within 15 minutes of downtown Chattanooga. The Riding has a unique combination of assets:

- A magnificent variety of native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses, including 1101 verified species.
- A rich spectrum of scenic beauty blending forested mountain slopes, meadows, woodland gardens, ponds and creek, winding roads and paths, and dramatic vistas of Lookout and Raccoon Mountains.
- Historic features, including Native American trails and cabins and the fields where Union and Confederate troops first clashed in the Battle of Lookout Mountain.
- A large and interesting variety of birds and wildlife.

It has been said that the variety of plant life in this region is comparable only to that found in areas of central China. Reflection Riding's special gift to the community is that it displays these treasures in a natural setting that is both aesthetic and accessible, with labels, printed materials, and staff available for interpretation. Visitors can travel 16 miles of roads and trails—including a 2.7-mile graveled roadway for cars.

The Riding's mission statement is "to serve the community as a 300-acre arboretum, botanical garden and historic site dedicated to the

study and conservation of native plant life that, through its unique landscape, provides opportunities for education, reflection, enjoyment, and healing for people of all ages."

## Garden Development

Reflection Riding is a remarkable demonstration of conservation and creative development. It is the product of the vision, energy, perseverance, and generosity of John and Margaret Chambliss who, with advice and help from friends in the Chattanooga area and garden experts from Britain and the US, transformed a worn-out 175-acre farm. The land was bought between 1941 and 1945, and they directed development into the 1970s. Since that time it has been operated under the guidance of a community-based board of directors.

The definition of "riding" comes from 18th century landscape authority Thomas Whatley, who wrote, in part:

"...elegance is the peculiar excellence of a garden; greatness of a landscape park; simplicity of a farm...and the pleasantness of a riding...the main route should wind along in a pleasant way...the scenes as natural as possible."

As development proceeded at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Mr. Chambliss felt that the word "reflection" expressed two important things about the place: the delicate reflections of the landscape in the ponds and creek, and the human response to the spiritual and aesthetic impact of the Riding as a place in which to reflect.

John Chambliss wrote that his initial inspiration and motivation to purchase the land came from observing the remarkable project of Adolph Ochs and his brother Milton, who, between 1926 and 1932 mobilized the community to acquire and then preserve 2,700 acres on the slopes of Lookout Mountain. This land has subsequently become part of the US Park Service Chickamauga National Military Park.

When John Chambliss endowed a lecture series on the significance of landscape at the Royal Society of Arts in London in 1962, he dedicated it to three people who helped shape Reflection Riding: Gordon Cooper, a prominent landscape architect from Cleveland, Ohio, who made the first comprehensive study of the site in 1957; Dr. Vaughn Cornish, a British geographer and writer whom Chambliss cited as giving him his first and greatest inspiration as to the significance of scenery; and Bradford Williams, Boston landscape architect and longtime editor of *Landscape Architecture* magazine.

North Carolinian Frank Sauter brought in hemlock, spruce, mountain rhododendron, and azaleas from a nursery near Linville to enrich the plant life on the lower slopes as well as two cabins from the Cherokee area, which were reassembled to offer visitors an opportunity to learn about the early dwellings of both Native American and early settlers. Also working at this time was Ellis Bishop, whom Mr. Chambliss described as an "artist with a bulldozer." Together, they did most of the road planning, carved out the roads and trails on the side of the mountain, and dredged out three ponds.

The paths in the lower park were laid out by the Chamblisses from horseback, sometimes following old Native American trails and at other times creating new ones to open up vistas of neighboring mountains and geological features or interesting plant specimens.

### Plant Selections

Among the plants featured at the Riding are: witch hazel, cornelian cherries, wild geranium, blue phlox, fire pinks, blue-eyed Marys, native azaleas, fields of summer wildflowers, and the vibrant fall color of the leaves of maples, sourwoods, hickories, yellow poplars, and purple ironweed. The early wildflower colonies were planted by Mrs. Chambliss and Marie Humphreys, many coming from seed from local gardens. The Humphreys were close friends of the Chamblisses. Mr. Humphreys assisted with the purchase of Sunset Rock Farm and served as president of the board from 1956-1973. Marie served as general manager for years after the death of Mr. Chambliss in 1972. Non-native plants were also introduced in the early years. The most notable are the dawn redwoods at the upper pond, unusual deciduous conifers rediscovered in central China by botanists in the 1940s and reintroduced to cultivation by the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard.

### Garden Interpretation

Because the Chamblisses were very sensitive to the relationship of the plants to the people who lived in or passed through this area years ago, they used rustic signs to tell of plant uses and folklore as well as to point out interesting aspects of geography, geology, or historical events. In 1967 the Garden Club of America awarded them the Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation Education for this effort. It continues today, with both carved and painted wooden signs and hand-written and illustrated booklets for featured gardens such as the Philp Ericaceous Garden.

### Garden Maturity

As the garden has grown its needs have changed. In 1982, the board of directors commissioned Thomas Kain, a landscape architect from upper New York state, to study and evaluate the Riding to prepare a master plan for preservation and development. Under this plan, the board established priorities for the 1980s: evaluation and maintenance of trees, extensive plantings of new trees and shrubs, the first phase of trail network expansion, construction of an irrigation system, a screened pavilion, a propagation greenhouse, and a computerized inventory of plant life. Highlights of the 1990s were the acquisition of Cummings Bottom, the development of an ericaceous garden, expansion of propagation, and acquisition of Humphreys House. This latter building was the site of the luncheon stop on Friday, May 2. The **Philp Ericaceous Garden** is a memorial to late Chattanooga civic leader Robert Philp. It contains all the evergreen rhododendrons and 14 of the 16 azalea species that are native to the eastern US. Mountain laurel, hollies, hemlock, ferns, and wildflowers grow in this area. It is supported by the Philp family, the Friends of Reflection Riding, and members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the ARS and the Azalea Society of America.

The greenhouse complex has been expanded and improved to meet the growing demand for native plants that have been propagated, not dug from the wild. More than 200 species of wildflowers, shrubs, and native trees are propagated annually for two public sales and for adding to the Riding's plant collections. Lists of available plants and descriptions and advice for planting and care are available at the spring and fall sales. The spring Wildflower Festival offers many workshops and guided wildflower walks.

In 1997 the Garden Club of America selected Reflection Riding for inclusion in its archives of notable American Gardens in the Smithsonian Institution. In early 2003, it received certification as a Level 4 Arboretum.

*David Hopkins has been executive director at Reflection Riding since 2001, but he has served on its board of directors from 1987-1995. He is only the second executive director in 45 years. He has a well-known passion for native plants and is also an active partner in Hopkins Surveying Group, Inc. of Chattanooga.*

## American Society for Horticultural Science Best Slide Category Award

Congratulations are in order! The CD program "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" won the national award given by the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) in the slide set category. Only one winner is selected in each category, so this is indeed a major honor. There are seven categories in all, and the CD set is also in competition for the Society's annual award. All category winners will be displayed at the Century Celebration Party of the ASHS in October 2003, to be held in Providence, Rhode Island.

The CD is set up as a PowerPoint presentation for viewing of the slide set. Credit goes to for Oconee Chapter members and authors **Frank Bryan, Albert Penland, James Thornton, Dr. Gary Wade** (member and professor and extension horticulturist at the Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences), and to chapter members who contributed slides and critiqued the several drafts of the text and arrangement of the material. Frank Bryan had a demonstration copy of this product set up in the registration area at the Chattanooga convention.

# Evergreen Azaleas in Western Europe

Tijs Huisman — The Netherlands

We just could expect it, that after the exploration of the Far East by Europeans, there would also follow a “flood” of plants to Europe. Robert Fortune and Kingdon-Ward are just two names of the many plant finders. So, let’s review some historic facts and what happened next. We should, however, consider that nomenclature is a bit difficult, because names changed sometimes.

In 1680 *Rhododendron indicum* was brought to Holland by the Dutch, but got lost. In 1833 there was a reintroduction to England under different names like *Azalea laterita* or *A. macrantha*. And to make it more difficult the *R. simsii* from China was imported to England under the name *A. indica*.

In the first half of the 19th century foreign ships brought more azaleas to Europe. Old azaleas from Japanese gardens were introduced under westernized names such as ‘*Indica Alba*’ and ‘*Phoenixium*’. These early-introduced azaleas were all called the Indian Azaleas. After introduction to England they also came to the continent, and then the popular breeding of the indoor azaleas began. Especially in Belgium, millions are still grown for sale worldwide.

The Kurume hybrids are originally the result of hybridization in Japan, some varieties came to England around 1850, but most of them were imported by Mr. Wilson to the US in 1918, and later they came to Europe. But in Holland and Germany, they were not so hardy.

In 1690, Mr. Engelbert Kaempfer, a medical student and naturalist in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, from Germany introduced many Japanese plants to Holland, including *R. kaempferi*. This species, named after him, was imported again by Prof. Sargent to the US in 1892, then to England, and after that into Europe. Here it proved to be hardy, and many hybridizers started to cross with it. The last thing I will mention is that the *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* from Korea is very hardy and so is much used for

too much was done by British or the French and Danish hybridizers. I asked many experts and looked on the Internet, but found no information.

## Belgium

In Belgium, the first Japanese azaleas were imported between 1901 and 1911 by Mr. Albert van Hecke. He imported ‘Amoenum’, ‘Hatsugiri’, ‘Hinodegiri’, and ‘Yodogawa’. These plants were brought in by Dutch bulb merchants.

From 1920 to 1975, many Belgian hybridizers hybridized azaleas as amateurs. In a flower show, “Floralien” in Ghent, some plants out of Wilson’s Fifty (imported from Japan in 1918 by Mr. Wilson) were introduced: ‘Azuma-kagami’, ‘Kirin’, and ‘Kure-no-yuki’. ‘Kirin’ grew especially well and became popular. As a sort of “victory tour,” the whole family Van Hecke—Albert and later André and René—hybridized and introduced fine new hybrids, like ‘Blauwe Donau’, ‘Excelsior’, and ‘Madame Albert van Hecke’, still popular plants.

Mr. O.F. Wuyts, inspector for plant protection, also hybridized as an amateur. From 1944 until 1947 he showed his hybrids, but many names have been lost since. From 1960 he brought into the trade ‘Conny’, ‘Hong Kong’, ‘Imperator’, which are some of his best.

Dr. ir. (which means engineer) Jozef Heursel, one of today’s best experts on Japanese azaleas, hybridized mostly with *R. simsii*, with one hardy new cultivar ‘Gilbert Mullie’.



Tijs crossed ‘Fascination’ x ‘Gunki’ to obtain this handsome frilled, salmon-coral evergreen hybrid.

hybridization in the US and in Europe. The seeds were imported first by the American Mr. John Georg Jack, in 1905 to the Arnold Arboretum in Boston.

It would lead too far to follow the importations from Japan and China precisely; so, we will follow how the hybridization in Europe went on.

I found out that actual hybridization was mainly done in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany, especially in the first half of the last century. Not

Of course, not mentioned here, there are so many indoor azaleas that originated in Belgium. These are very popular and fine plants because of the two-colored and double flowers.

### United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom Lionel de Rothschild, famous for his deciduous Exbury Azaleas, also hybridized for evergreen azaleas, and he mostly used *R. kaempferi*. 'Leo' and 'Eddy' are a couple of his varieties.

Other hybridizers were Haworth-Booth, Stevenson, A. George, and Hydon Nurseries. But as far as I can tell, no hybrids from them are in trade.

Recently, the Cox family in Scotland, well-known because for their books about rhododendrons and owners of the Glendoick Gardens in Perth, hybridized and introduced new and very fine hybrids: 'Panda', 'Racoon', 'Squirrel', and 'Wombat'; and these new varieties as licensed plants: 'Glendoick Crimson', 'Glendoick Dream', and 'Glendoick Garnet'.

### The Netherlands

Hybridizers in the Netherlands introduced, especially in the first half of the last century, many fine new varieties that sold well. Cold hardiness is very important in the Netherlands and Germany. The last six winters were very mild, but we can't count on it for the future. Zones 7a and 6a/b require hardy and tough plants. Many hybridizers are from the famous region around Boskoop, and the Research Station for Plants there played an important role.

So, hardy varieties like 'Amoenum' and 'Mucronatum' and species like *R.*

*kaempferi*, *R. kiusianum*, *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* were used. Most nurserymen, like H. den Ouden and Sons, Felix & Dijkhuis, P. Koster, C.B. van Nes & Sons, and A. Vuyk and others introduced superb, hardy azaleas: 'Adonis', 'Ageeth', 'Alice', 'Anna Maria', 'Arabesk', 'Beethoven', 'Chopin', 'Favorite', 'Helena', 'Jeanette', 'Joseph Haydn', 'Mahler' and many more. (Note that many with composers' names are from A. Vuyk van Nes.)

Another variety is 'Noordtiana' introduced by the firm P. van Noordt & Sons in 1897, originating from a seedling from seeds of a plant, imported from Japan. The reason that I mention this particular plant is that it is



This deep red evergreen azalea is another Huisman hybrid, which he says is probably 'Canzonetta' x sport of 'Easter Parade'. (Photos by Tijs Huisman)

very cold hardy and therefore many hybridizers used it for hardiness.

At the Agricultural University in Wageningen material of 'Vuyk's Scarlet' got a radiation treatment, and at last 'Aleida' was introduced. More experimental work was done by radiating flower buds on 'Silvester', resulting in the mutations 'Odilia' and 'Stefan'.

Recently, I know that hybridizing has become quite a rare thing here in the Netherlands. I guess I am one of the very few who spends time and allows space for it. Some new hybrids are coming from my own work.

### Germany

Thanks to many hybridizers in Germany we can now enjoy numerous exciting and cold hardy new hybrids. Remember names as Hans Hachmann, Georg and his son Werner Arends, Carl Fleischmann, Walter Nagel, and Urban Schumacher. Also from the former East Germany there are fine new introductions from the Pilnitzer Research Station, which does not exist anymore, Gerhard Mittendorf, and from Bernhard Knorr. Let's follow these names for their contributions.

One of the first hybridizers with Japanese azaleas was Georg Arends. His goal was to get very floriferous and hardy new hybrids that could withstand the cold German winters. So he used 'Hinodegiri', 'Hatsugiri', 'Benegiri', *R. kaempferi*, and 'Noordtania' to cross with. His first crosses were not very successful, but F2 crosses looked better. Then the WWI came, and in this period the plants/seedlings were not taken care of, and many died. After the war, the best, toughest, and hardiest ones were

selected and brought into the trade. In 1926, they were shown in one of the enormous plant exhibitions in Dresden in eastern Germany. Many people were very enthusiastic about these new azaleas. They were mostly named for rivers in the 'Sauerland', a region in Germany, where he lived, for example: 'Agger', 'Diemel', 'Eder', 'Neye', and 'Sorpe'.

Another hybrid from unknown origin, 'Multiflorum' was very hardy and often used in further hybridizations. For instance, his son Werner used it and introduced nice new and hardy hybrids between 1950 and 1960. He gave them all Japanese names like

'Fumiko', or 'Hiroko'; and every name had a second name like 'Geisha dark pink', or 'Geisha orange/red'. These names should not be confused with the Glenn Dale hybrid 'Geisha'.

One of the hybridizers who used this 'Multiflorum' was Carl Fleischmann in northern Germany. He crossed it with a hardy form of *R. kiusianum* and tested them during some very cold winters. The results are all named as "Diamant" azaleas, such as 'Diamant Pink', or 'Diamant Rose' etc. They are very popular in Holland and Germany.

Urban Schumacher, who worked at the nursery of Georg Arends, introduced some new hybrids like 'Georg Arends' and 'Sirikit'.

The Pilnitzer azaleas were hybridized at the Pilnitz Plant Research Station not far from Dresden. The hybridizer was Mr. Werner Dähnhardt, who used his own hardy clones and some *kiusianum* hybrids. His results include 'Falkenstein', with very small leaves, and 'Königstein', 'Lilienstein', and 'Rauschenstein', all named for some rocky mountains east of Dresden.

Also from Dresden are some fine new hybrids from Mr. Bernhard Knorr. He was the leader of the Dresden Plant Research Station and hybridized at home, which was forbidden in East Germany at the time. He used hybrids from Georg Arends and the hybrid 'Van Noordt'. He called them "Dretonia" with the suffix for the color, such as: 'Dretonia Pink', 'Dretonia Lilac' etc. He made some other introductions: 'Fairy Bells', 'Kamenz', 'Meissen', and more, using *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* and 'Multiflorum'.

Gerhard Mittendorf, also from the former East Germany, hybridized for hardy evergreens that would not lose too many leaves in cold winters. So he used 'Noordtiana', *R. kaempferi*, and *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* to produce introductions like 'Luzi',

'Mizi', 'Popzi', 'Rotfuchs', and others.

I could go on like this, but will concentrate now on one hybridizer, Mr. Hans Hachmann from Barmstedt in northern Germany, who is famous for his work on hybridizing rhododendrons, introducing tens of splendid new plants, and also deciduous and Japanese azaleas. The latter he calls all *R. obtusum*, because we can't trace them back to the original plants.

And he continues the work, recently introducing 'Schneeperle', double white and very hardy; 'Schneeglantz'; and 'Peppina', purple with darker blotch just to mention some of his most recent introductions. And who does not know his 'Canzonetta', with bronze leaves in winter; 'Estrella'; 'Fridoline'; and maybe the most beautiful, 'Maruschka' with glowing bronze leaves in winter and early spring? And many more—widespread and grown in Europe and abroad: 'Allotria', 'Estrella', 'Gabriele', 'Gislinde', and 'Rubinetta'. His latest new introductions, of which some are very fine new ones, many with double flowers, and often licensed plants: 'Babuschka', 'Eisprinzessin', 'Rosinetta', 'Kirstin', 'Melina', and 'Purpurkissen'.

#### Czech Republic

Also in the Czech Republic some hybridizers of evergreen azaleas brought out several good hardy compact hybrids, working in Pruhonice, near Prague. Especially, Mr. B. Kavka from 1939 on, but also J. Jelinek, M. Opatma, J. Dvorak, and others used *R. obtusum* var. *amoenum* (that's how they called it) and *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* to cross with. Introductions are—and some of them are widespread—'Blanice', 'Doubrava', 'Labe', 'Ledikanense', 'Morava', and 'Oslava'. Many of them are extremely winter hardy.

#### Switzerland

The last data I could find are that a certain Mr. H. Frey from Switzerland, used open-pollinated seed of *R.*

*yedoense*, and his hybrids, like 'Bernina', 'Gotthard', 'Jura', 'Matterhorn', are introduced by the Esveld Nursery in Boskoop, the Netherlands.

*Tijs Huisman, from The Netherlands, is a gardener of many years and is really crazy about plants. He started with a rhododendron garden 20 years ago and also hybridizes. He has been a member of the ASA since 1993 and is very active in growing azaleas. He has a seven-acre garden with many of his own hybrids, and is testing hundreds more. In the spring of 2002, his first introduction of a new rhodo hybrid, 'Helen Martin', received a "Certification" at a rhododendron show in Germany, and he has many fine plants coming. Tijs has written articles for numerous publications: The Azalean, Journal-ARS, and publications of the German and Dutch Heather Society and a new Dutch magazine 'De Tuin Exclusive'. He has also presented a number of programs in the US in the last 10 years. You can learn more about his horticultural experience by visiting his Web site <http://www.rhodoland.nl>. He is a professional teacher of German in high schools.*

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# Mastering Azaleas

## Part 2B. Azalea Propagation From Seed — Planting and Seedling Care

Joe Schild — Hixson, Tennessee

To refresh your memory, we last discussed the issues of pollination, seed collection, cleaning, and storage in the Summer 2003 issue of *The Azalean*. Now that you have seed carefully stored and properly labeled, what do we do next? As before, my disclaimer about methods still stands, for no one process is better than any other if it works for you.

### Equipment Preparation

For my location in the mid-South or Southeastern Tennessee, my propagation program begins in late October through early December. I will spend some time making sure all the containers I plan on using are cleaned and sterilized with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. As with any chemical, use caution by wearing rubber gloves, chemical-proof apron, and eye protection. This is not a time for a disabling accident.

Containers of many sizes and types may be used for starting our seeds, but perhaps the greatest concern is that they have good drainage holes. In the past, I have used plastic flow-erpots, egg cartons, plastic freezer containers with lids, tin cans, and one time, to my wife's chagrin, her ice trays. The latter did not work, and I had to buy her new trays and a bouquet of flowers to make up.

For the past 15 years, my preferred containers are the plastic inserts that fit the number 10-20 flats one finds at garden centers or nurseries. These are about 2-1/2" in depth. I prefer the ones that take six or eight to fill a flat. After cleaning these inserts and flats, I store them in large plastic bags to keep them clean until I need them.

### Seed-Start Soil Mix Preparation

The next chore is deciding upon the seed starter soil mix to use. There are a number of commercial mixes on the market, but I still prefer to make my own. The main ingredients of soilless mixes are milled sphagnum peat moss, Perlite® for drainage, and perhaps some composted pine bark fines. Some of the commercial mixes will also have a starter fertilizer and a wetting agent.

My mixture is 50% Perlite®, 25% shredded or screened sphagnum peat moss, and 25% pine bark fines. I screen the peat through 1/2" wire mesh over my wheelbarrow, add the Perlite® and the pine bark fines, and then mix with a shovel. Of late, I put my small garden cultivator in the mixture and go at it for 5 minutes or so to save my aching back. Thirty-gallon trash cans work well to store the finished mix, keeping it moist and contaminant-free.

Before I go further, I do use a secret starter fertilizer in my mixture; it is a formula given me many years ago by Clifton Gann. It provides nutrients at low levels, stimulates rapid root formation, and keeps the mixture acidic. The formula is: 4 oz. potassium nitrate, 4 oz. potassium sulfate and 2 lbs. superphosphate, all mixed well. The 40 ounces of mixture will supply a cubic yard of soil mixture. For small volumes of mix, 1.5 oz of the formula will work in a cubic foot. I purchase the potassium nitrate at my pharmacy, and most of the time the pharmacist must order it. The other components may be purchased at most garden centers or a co-op.

### Propagation Bench

Okay, we have the soil mixture, the containers are clean, and now we must provide the environment for propagation. We will need a light source, plastic bags, a source of bottom heat, labels with marker, and a flat surface, perhaps a bench or table. One more key component is milled sphagnum moss, not peat. This item may be purchased in small volumes from some garden centers; but, in a pinch, use the long fiber type and screen it through 1/4" wire mesh. Wear a dust mask if you screen your moss, for the dust is quite aggravating to the nose and lungs.

Since I have grown as many as 15,000 seedlings in a year, I built a propagation frame in my potting room for starting seed. There are four shelves with thermostat-controlled heat mats with timer-controlled fluorescent light strips over them. On a smaller scale, a two-lamp fluorescent shop light works very well and is cheap to purchase and operate. If you will be using a single pot or tray slipped into a plastic bag or one of the plastic freezer storage boxes, a single 75-watt incandescent light will work as well.

### Seed Planting

Now we are ready to fill our propagation pots or inserts with the soil mixture. Firm the soil mix level to within 1" of the top. On top, add 1/4-1/2" of pre-moistened milled sphagnum moss and firm it down. To pre-moisten the sphagnum moss, I like to put it in a plastic bag and spray it with a mixture of water and dish-washing detergent, the latter acting as a wetting agent. (Use two or three drops of detergent per gallon of

water.) By shaking the bag and working it like dough, it soon is wetted.

I use a large mortar-mixing tub that is 2' by 4' to soak the filled trays. To the water in the tub, I add more dish-washing detergent to aid the drenching. Once the filled trays are drenched fully, I let them drain for 72 hours before sowing the seed.

Keep in mind, we will sow the seed on top of the sphagnum and will not cover them with soil mixture. It matters little what type of light source you choose to use as long as the seed and seedlings receive about 600 foot-candles of light intensity. Less light will mean spindly seedlings. Be sure to label the containers for the correct plant names.

The first batch of seedlings I grew over 35 years ago looked more like grass, for I sowed them too thickly. In a 4"-square pot, sow about 100 seed as a starter. The seedlings' health depends upon consistent moisture levels. If you use small pots or trays, sow the seed and slip the container into a bread bag or other plastic bag you can seal. Place it under a light source with bottom heat to keep the soil temperature between 67°F and 72°F. In about nine to twelve days, you should see the seed germinate. Some rhododendron may take up to six months to germinate. If you choose my method with the 10-20 flats and inserts, I use the humidity domes to keep the seedlings from drying out.

### Thinning and Transplanting

Between the time the seedlings are pricked out and transplanted, do not allow them to dry out, or they will die quickly. Once they have established two sets of true leaves, they may be transplanted into flats or pots. However, seven days prior to transplanting, I give them a low-dose feeding of liquid fertilizer at 25% strength, to reduce transplant shock. I use the same soil mixture as in the propagation containers. A table fork works well for pricking out the small seedlings.

Here again, any containers will work. Flowerpots, flats, trays, peat pots, and plastic or Styrofoam cups will do nicely, as long as good drainage is provided and the

seedlings are not allowed to dry out. A light source should still be provided if you want stocky plants. At this young stage, do not allow the seedlings to freeze or become too cold. A heated basement or heated garage will provide the protection needed. On a larger scale, a greenhouse is preferred.

Once all chances for freezes or frost have passed, move the potted seedlings to a protected location outside under shade. Keep them watered, but not drowned. Feed them a liquid fertilizer twice per month. By July or early August, transplant them again to larger containers in a pure pine bark mix. They should be about 6"-10" tall by fall when it is time to mulch the entire pot with pine needles or other mulching material for the coming winter and dormancy. A deep cold frame also works well for winter protection. The following spring they will be ready to plant in the garden or grow another season in the pots.

Some of our native azaleas will put on flower buds in the first year, but most will not until they are two or more years old. Evergreen azaleas need more time for growth, so I like to pinch out the flower buds to promote root and top growth. At this point we are starting to delve into another topic for discussion. So I will close by saying, keep things clean, provide good drainage, provide even moisture levels and good air circulation, label those plants, and have fun.

*Joe Schild has been an avid grower, propagator and breeder of azaleas for nearly 35 years. He has owned and operated a niche nursery specializing in the species for over 14 years. Joe is the current president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter-ARS, immediate past president of the ASA (2001-2003) and a member of the Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association. He says he is better known as an azalea nut and chases the natives as they bloom each year with many fellow enthusiasts.*

### Cumberland Spring – continued

ness, and beautiful white flowers. *Buddleja lindleyana*, a butterfly bush that does not need the excessive pruning of *B. davidii* and rewards the gardener with dark green leaves and purple-violet flowers.

Here, we also saw *Kalmia latifolia* blooming as well as species deciduous azaleas mixed with Knap Hill and Exbury hybrids. For example, the Native Azalea Collection in Area #18 included *R. austrinum*, *R. austrinum* 'Escatawpa', *R. prunifolium*, *R. flammum* (formerly *R. speciosum*), *R. calendulaceum*, while Area #19 included 40 miscellaneous varieties of evergreen azaleas.

*Barbara Stump has been editor of The Azalean since June of 1998. She currently works as a Research Associate for Development at the Stephen F. Austin State University Mast Arboretum, where she makes sure there are continual improvements to the garden she designed as part of her Master's project, the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden.*

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# Society News

## Minutes of the ASA National Meeting—May 3, 2003

Celebrating a Quarter of a Century  
Happy Birthday, ASA

President Joe Schild opened the National Meeting of the Azalea Society of America at 7:43 pm on May 3, 2003, in the Ballroom of the Clarion Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Over a hundred people joined the celebration by singing “Happy Birthday, ASA” and sharing the birthday cake as Joe read the roll of past presidents. The past presidents who were in attendance—Art Vance, Bill Bode, and Bob Hobbs—helped cut and distribute the cake. For pictures of the convention go to: <http://www.pbase.com/azaleasociety/asa>

President Schild announced the formation of a new chapter of the ASA. John Migas and Tad Dauksza have met the requirements and will lead the Lake Michigan Chapter. Outgoing president Schild and incoming president Robert (Buddy) Lee signed the charter and the secre-

tary signed and imprinted the charter with the seal of the Society. John Migas (chapter president pro-tem) expressed his appreciation and announced plans for the 2005 National Convention in Michigan. Yes, they have azaleas in Michigan, and tulips, too.

Joe Schild announced the decision of the Board of Directors that Society dues will not be raised at this time. The Board feels that while the budget shows a deficit for 2003, it is a manageable event, and that other avenues can be addressed to correct the situation.

The results of the election of officers and directors were announced. Elected to the various offices were:

President: Robert (Buddy) Lee  
Vice-President: William McDavit  
Secretary: John Brown  
Directors:  
Leslie Nanney  
John Migas  
Dr. Joe Coleman

The winner of the award for Best Article in *The Azalean* for 2002 was Marian Klenk for “Along the Garden Path: Memories of My Grandfather, Frederic Paddock Lee and His Azalea Garden.”

The group was treated to a presentation by Swami Bob McWhorter and his Assistant Swami Bob Hobbs and trainee swami Joe Miller who all predicted that the Ben Morrison Chapter would host the 2004 National Convention near Annapolis, Maryland, on May 6-9. The swamis went way out on a limb and predicted that the convention would have Great Tours with short bus rides and Great Speakers.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and passed at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Brown, Secretary



Above: President Joe Schild and past presidents Bill Bode, Bob Hobbs, and Art Vance, cut the cake to celebrate the Society's 25th anniversary. (Photo by Bob Stelloh)

Below: John Brown affixes the official ASA seal on the charter for the new Lake Michigan Chapter. Proudly watching are (left to right) Tadeusz Dauksza and John Migas, new ASA president Buddy Lee, and immediate past president Joe Schild.

(Photo by Bob Stelloh)





## 2002 Best Article Award

Marian Klenk, of Palm Harbor, Florida, won the best article in *The Azalean* for 2002. The article, "Along The Garden Path: Memories of My Grandfather, Frederic P. Lee, and His Azalea Garden," was a personal description of one of the Society's famous members, complete with family photographs. See volume 24(2): 34-38.

### Azalea Sources on the Web

As a service to our members and the general public, the "Sources" page on our Web site lists members and nurseries selling azaleas that advertise in *The Azalean*. The listing gives you a lot of exposure, since the Society's Web site is among the top results on a search for "azaleas." You should be on the list if you sell azaleas—just send your information to Bob Stelloh at [bstelloh@mac.com](mailto:bstelloh@mac.com) for your free listing. We also offer a display ad on our Web site or active links to your Web site at a very low cost. Ask Bob for the details, or see them at [www.azaleas.org/adinfo.html](http://www.azaleas.org/adinfo.html).

### 2002 Treasurer's Report — 2000 to 2002 Sources and Uses of Funds

<u>Income (Sources)</u>	<u>2002 Totals</u>	<u>2001 Totals</u>	<u>2000 Totals</u>
Azalean Ads	\$ 6,729.00	\$ 482.00	\$ 1,634.00
Back Issue Sales	-23.56	468.74	369.52
Overseas Postage	150.00	165.00	45.00
Membership Dues	18,337.00	19,630.00	17,982.00
Gifts	8,260.00	1,410.00	3,580.00
Interest	1,242.33	2,373.35	2,234.17
Other Income	237.89	1,638.89	4,964.63
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$34,932.66</b>	<b>\$26,167.98</b>	<b>\$30,809.32</b>
<u>Expenses (Uses)</u>			
Awards and Memorials	\$ 168.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 503.60
<i>The Azalean</i>	18,190.96	20,363.16	19,818.28
Dues to Chapters	2,165.00	2,280.00	1,925.00
Dues Notices	608.58	140.98	376.53
Member Roster	0.00	844.45	914.58
Web site	2,550.00	1,500.00	1,812.00
Other Expenses	1,783.43	1,864.05	8,164.29
Other Postage	855.09	472.55	995.67
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$26,321.06</b>	<b>\$27,565.19</b>	<b>\$34,509.95</b>
<b>Income-Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,611.60</b>	<b>\$ -1,397.21</b>	<b>\$ -3,700.63</b>
<b>Total Funds*</b>	<b>\$64,517.32</b>	<b>\$55,624.83</b>	<b>\$58,039.74</b>

\*Total Funds includes amounts not shown in the details above, such as the Harding Garden Fund, and thus it will not add from year to year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Stelloh, Treasurer  
September 2, 2003

## Highlights of the Board of Directors Meetings in Chattanooga, May 1 and 4, 2003

John Brown — Upper Greenville, South Carolina

[Full text of the minutes is available through John Brown, the ASA secretary, Ed.]

- On the business front, the Board decided to keep our dues at \$25. in spite of a projected loss of \$2250 in 2003, and work to increase membership and advertising revenue instead. We are looking for a new Membership Chair, to develop ideas and work with the chapters in attracting new members. We are also looking for members to serve on a Development Committee and on a Research Foundation being established. The Board approved the Charter for our new Lake Michigan Chapter and welcomed them to the Society at the Annual Meeting on May 3.
- On the communications front, our Web site has been down, and we are moving it to a new provider. *The Azalean* needs technical articles with good pictures, and a set of the RHS color charts to help in printing proper colors.
- On the social front, the Ben Morrison Chapter will host our next convention May 6-9, 2004 in Bowie, Maryland, near Annapolis. The ARS meeting is the next week. Our new Lake Michigan Chapter will host the 2005 convention the third week in May in Holland, Michigan. The Brookside Gardens Chapter will have a joint convention with the Potomac Valley ARS chapter in 2006, and our 2007 convention will be held in Nacogdoches, Texas, with the help of the Louisiana Chapter.

# Chapter News

## *Ben Morrison Chapter*

Bob McWhorter, President  
mcwho@comcast.net

September 7, 2003, the chapter held a cookout and plant auction at the home of **Jim and Lois Duffy** in Severna Park, Maryland. The proceeds of the auction were used to promote the 2004 ASA Convention, "The Best Bloomin' Azaleas in Bay Country." Members were invited to bring azaleas or any kind of companion or garden plants to donate to the chapter to add to the stock of plants to be propagated for the plant sale. Several lucky members bought some of the 20-30 plants auctioned at the picnic as well. The 2004 convention steering committee was on hand to share the results of their hard work. **Carol Segree** (csegree@msn.com) is convention coordinator; **Debra** and **Peter Hughes** (dah@dahughes.com) are handling publicity; **Dave Holms** is in charge of the plant sale; and **Dale Flowers** is working on the registration forms. Watch for all the convention details in the Winter 2003 issue of *The Azalean*.

## *Great Lakes Chapter*

John Migas, President Pro-tem  
269-857-1505

The big news was the chapter was officially chartered at the Chattanooga convention May 3. Officers will be elected this fall. Work is already well under way to select the gardens to tour for the 2005 convention in Holland, Michigan, which is timed to coincide with the Tulip Festival there. Several special tour packages will be offered for members who want to come early or stay after the convention. John reported that he thoroughly enjoyed the trip to **Bill**

**Pinkerton's** garden in Tennessee this past May right after the Chattanooga convention, with **Tijs Huisman**, **Ed Collins**, **Buddy Lee**, and **Tadeuz Daukza**.

## *Northern Virginia Chapter*

Barry Sperling, President  
barrysperling@ix.netcom.com

The chapter's annual plant auction was held at the home of **Dave and Sharon Raden** on August 24. It proved a great chance to obtain some new and unusual varieties.

**Don Voss** and **Don Hyatt** are preparing a compact disc highlighting **Robin Hill** azaleas and other information that will be available to members when the project is completed. **Barry Sperling** has copies of **Pete Vines'** catalog available for members. In addition, Barry mentioned the possibility of working with **Fairfax County Parks** on an educational project concerning azaleas, with local nurseries helping distribute an informative azalea fact sheet.

Big thanks to the people who have worked so hard to make this chapter so successful: **Phil** and **Frances Louer** for putting out the chapter newsletter, *The Azalea Clipper*, six times a year; **Dan Krabill** for setting up the meetings and programs; **Larry Martin** for working on the **Pete Vines** reference manual; **Don Hyatt** for scanning in **Don Voss's** **Robin Hill** slides to put on a CD for chapter members; **Valerie Lorenz** for volunteering to write a guide to area plants for beginning gardeners; and **Bruno Kaelin** for answering questions on soils for an upcoming newsletter article.

## *Oconee Chapter*

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor  
Rudie2rudie@aol.com

The August 17 chapter meeting was a full one, with two topics. First, **Dr. Joe Coleman** and **Dr. Frank Bryan** presented a slide show of gardens visited at the 2003 ASA convention. Then, there was a panel discussion on rooted cuttings. Participants included: **Ed Mellon** (moderator), **Allison Fuqua**, **Ray Goza**, **Joe Coleman**, and **Frank Bryan**.

Thirteen people attended the annual cutting party and plant swap June 14 held at **Joe Coleman's** home. President **Fuqua** said the cuttings at this party were the best he'd seen in 10 years. So good, in fact, that two ASA members from Alabama came to exchange cuttings.

## **Azalea Research Foundation Donation**

On September 21, 2003, **Dr. Joe Coleman** gave an excellent talk and slide show on southern native azaleas to the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Continuing the precedent established last year by **Bill Steele** and the New York Chapter-ARS, **Joe** suggested his \$100 honorarium be donated to the Azalea Society Research Foundation, which the ASA board of directors is thinking about establishing.

# New Members

*The Society welcomes the following members who joined as of October 26, 2003.*

## **At-large Members**

Virginia Nursery & Landscape Assoc.  
Jeffery B. Miller, Exec. Dir.  
383 Coal Hollow Road  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
540-382-0943  
info@vnla.org

## **Brookside Gardens Chapter**

John A. Burns, Jr.  
719 Richmond Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-565-1257  
jburnsjr@mindspring.com

Jill Harris  
15700 Thompson Road  
Colesville, MD 20905

## **Lake Michigan Chapter**

Brian Lernowich  
5740 Murray Road  
Whitehall, MI 49461  
231-893-0222  
blerno@hotmail.com

Wavecrest Nursery  
Bruce & Carol Hop  
2509 Lakeshore Drive  
Fennville, MI 49408  
269-543-4175  
wavecrest@i2ki.com

Eric Willis  
897 S Washington Ste 225  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-335-2894  
rhodorawoods@chartermi.net

## **Louisiana Chapter**

Earline Alford  
705 Horseshoe Road  
Mt Olive, MS 39119  
601-797-9295

Scott & Jennifer Deaton  
307 East Marion Avenue  
Crystal Springs, MS 39059  
601-892-5917  
s\_deaton@bellsouth.net

Edna Earle & Raiford Crews  
2087 Crews Lane  
Crystal Springs, MS 39059  
601-892-1346

Vickie J. Edwards  
106 Hickory Street  
Brandon, MS 39042  
601-825-3271  
kenvic414@hotmail.com

Shirley & Don Estes  
504 Becker Street  
Brookhaven, MS 39601  
601-833-8390

Julie Hammon  
141 Pushapatapa Road  
Tylertown, MS 39667  
601-876-4545

Anne Roberts Herrington  
115 Scottdale Drive  
Jackson, MS 39212  
601-372-3701

Cristy Hynum  
3230 Hwy 550  
Wesson, MS 39191  
601-823-4114

Lee Lewis  
348 Dover Lane  
Madison, MS 39110  
601-853-0566  
wleelewis@aol.com

Rose Mary & Carl E. Morgan  
PO Box 1252  
Summit, MS 39666  
601-734-6217

Belinda Peacher  
2339 Tiffany Circle  
Florence, MS 39073  
601-845-5299

Marie Phillips  
389 Thomasville Road  
Florence, MS 39073  
601-845-1566

Mary A. Rusche  
1030 Rusche Road  
Benton, MS 39039  
662-746-6643

Ruby Schillinger  
752 Blue Meadow Rd D116  
Bay St Louis, MS 39520  
228-467-1763

Emmett B. Smith  
127 Hillside Drive  
Hazlehurst, MS 39083  
601-894-4252

Ralph Sowell  
330 Commerce Park Drive  
Jackson, MS 39213  
601-982-9383  
fprinter@bellsouth.net

Bernard Stiegler  
70124 Hwy 1077  
Covington, LA 70433  
985-893-2859  
relgeits5@cs.com

Sherry Tucci  
3500 Hwy 39 N Apt 73  
Meridian, MS 39301  
601-880-1311

## **Oconee Chapter**

Deborah B. Head  
PO Box 461  
Hiram, GA 30141  
770-943-4241  
deborah\_b\_head@hud.gov

## **Vaseyi Chapter**

David R. Ballard  
5609 Howard Gap Road  
Flat Rock, NC 28731  
828-696-2981

Mike Creel  
155 Cannon Trail Road  
Lexington, SC 29073  
803-359-2717  
mikeacreel@yahoo.com