

The **Azalean** Vol. 38 • No. 2 • Summer 2016

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



President's Letter

J Jackson—Trade, Tennessee

Dear Azalea Friends,

As summer approaches here in the Blue Ridge a wonderful spring season brings us waves of flowers and luxuriant green leaves in the woods. The transition from spring to summer here in the southern Appalachians is always "magical." Most of my days this time of year are spent gardening and walking around looking at plants, at the same time identifying and labeling them. It is likely that many of you are enjoying similar activities.

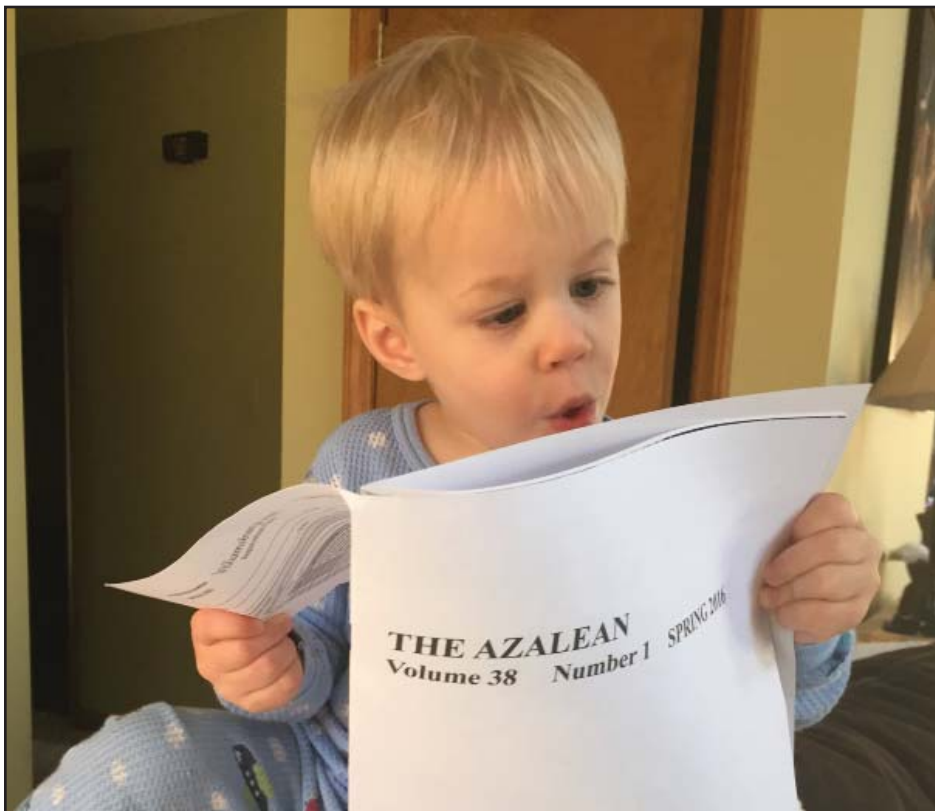
The 2016 Williamsburg convention was well attended, educational, and a great pleasure to attend. Many thanks to the Northern Virginia Chapter (ASA), The Middle Atlantic Chapter (ARS), and the Potomac Valley Chapter (ARS) for all the time and effort put forth to provide an excellent convention experience. There were beautiful gardens, great speakers and a most amazing plant sale! Spending time with old friends and meeting new friends is a good reason to mark these conventions on your calendars and make plans to attend.

The BOD had a successful business meeting and the minutes are posted on our ASA website for all interested members. Gaining and retaining members is a perennial subject that the BOD works toward.

Attracting younger members through affiliations with educational institutions, arboreta, and other gardening groups is a productive path that is being pursued. Introducing young people to the wonderful world of azaleas is an activity we can all participate in. For example, note photo below showing that Chris Wetmore's son Clayton has already picked up the recent copy of *The Azalean*, without any prodding from his parents!

Lindy and I are looking forward to our summer treks in the mountains and visiting friends in their gardens.

*Best regards,
J*



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 which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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Chris Wetmore

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Photo: Chris Wetmore

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On the Cover

‘Kirin-no-Kagami’ is a multi-patterned Satsuki exhibiting both radial and concentric flower patterns. Some flowers can even show both types of patterns superimposed. Careful propagation is required to reproduce a similarly diverse plant. Due to its smaller (2”-diameter) flower size, and many patterns and colors, ‘Kirin-no-Kagami’ is best used in situations where it can viewed up close, such as on a patio in a patio-planter, or a table-top pot. Photo by **Jim Trumbly**.



Propagating Multi-Patterned Satsuki

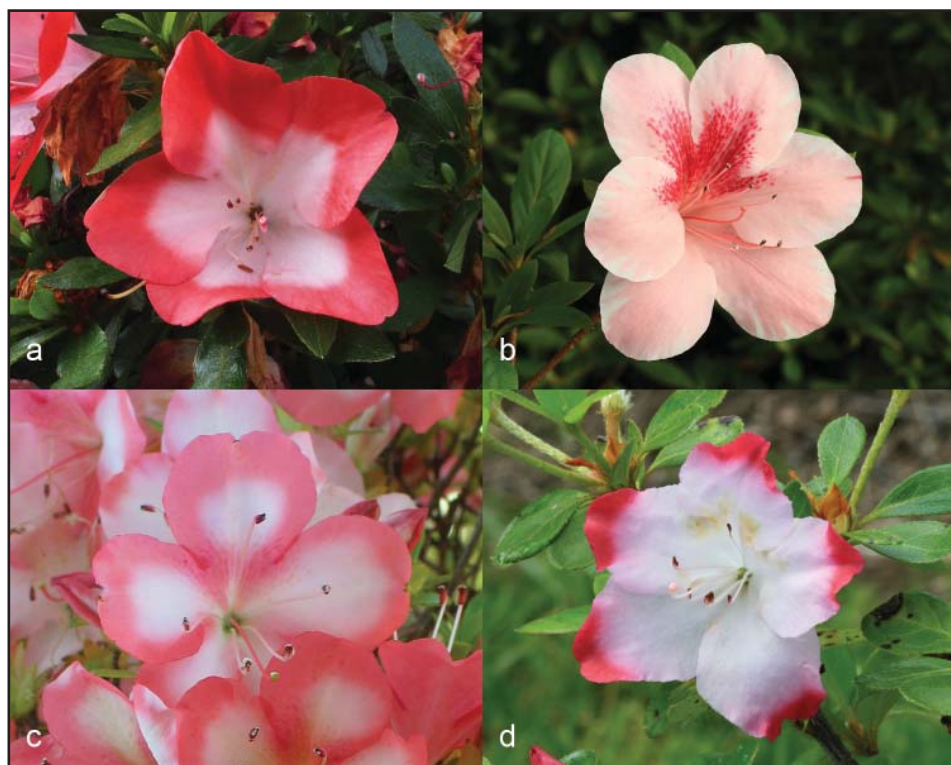
By Jim Trumbly—Roseville, California

Ed. Note, thanks to Don Voss: To learn much more about Satsuki history, hybrids, families, and terminology, see Jim Trumbly's 2001 article in The Summer 2001 issue of The Azalean. A longer list of references to Satsuki articles and research will be shown in a complete list of Azalean references in a sidebar in the Fall 2016 issue of The Azalean as additional information with another article about Satsuki. These articles are available on the ASA website through the Archives feature and can be viewed as a pdf, ordered, or downloaded. Also note, that while Jim is focusing on Satsuki propagation for specific characteristics of blooms on Satsuki azaleas here, his approach could be used with selecting propagation material from any azalea variety that can have multi-patterned blooms.

Those who enjoy propagating new plants follow methods that have been well described in several places. However, those who have tried propagating from multi-patterned Satsuki may have experienced less than satisfactory results. By that I mean the resulting clones do not develop into plants that exhibit the full range of flower patterns shown by the parent plant. This can be avoided by understanding the dominance of different flower patterns and then incorporating that into the shoot-selection step in propagation.

Propagators who are not concerned about the results and just enjoy making new plants with attractive flowers needn't be concerned. However, the resulting plants would not be the same as the named cultivar. For example, a shoot taken from the multi-patterned 'Kirin-no-Kagami' that developed into a plant with only one or two types of flowers would not be considered a 'Kirin-no-Kagami', at least to the Japanese or Satsuki collectors here in the U.S.

More significantly, I have been to several commercial nurseries that sell named Satsuki that are not true to the



▲ Figure 1. Concentric Patterns: a- *sokojiro*, b- *fukurin*, c- *tamafu*, with faint spot in center of petals, d- *tsumabeni* with color at the outer end of petals.

name because of propagation practices. This may be because they are unaware of the importance of flower pattern dominance in propagation, or they are indifferent to it and don't invest the extra effort.

Flower Pattern Dominance

Written descriptors of the many different Satsuki flowers include striped, speckled, streaked, sectored, sanded, selfed, solid, white centered, bordered, those with irregular white margins, and more. The Japanese have named and described over 20 different patterns. Many of these are illustrated in Galle. [See Sources List below.] However, from the standpoint of propagation it is not necessary to learn every flower pattern, because all flowers can be simplified into three hierarchical groups of dominance. These are, from most dominant to least: 1) solid colored selfs, 2) concentric patterns, and 3) radial-patterned flowers.

Solids are the type of flowers on non-patterned azaleas. When they occur among the flower types of multi-patterned Satsuki, they are referred to as selfs. They are the strongest flower type and over time can increase their dominance on a plant. The exception to this is an all-white flower, which is nearly always the least dominant.

Concentric patterns are very common in most multi-patterned Satsuki and dominant over radial-patterned forms. They consist of coloration in circular patterns on a white or off-white base. These are illustrated in Figure 1, along with the Japanese terminology.

The concentric flower *sokojiro* has a white or off-white center and colored margin (see Figure 1-a.) It is common in many multi-patterned Satsuki. Because of its dominance, some named Satsuki consist of just *sokojiro* flowers with an occasional self. A few of the commonly seen *sokojiro* cultivars here in the U.S. are 'Seidai', 'Daishuhai', 'Shugetsu', and 'Kikoshi'. Two of the twelve groupings

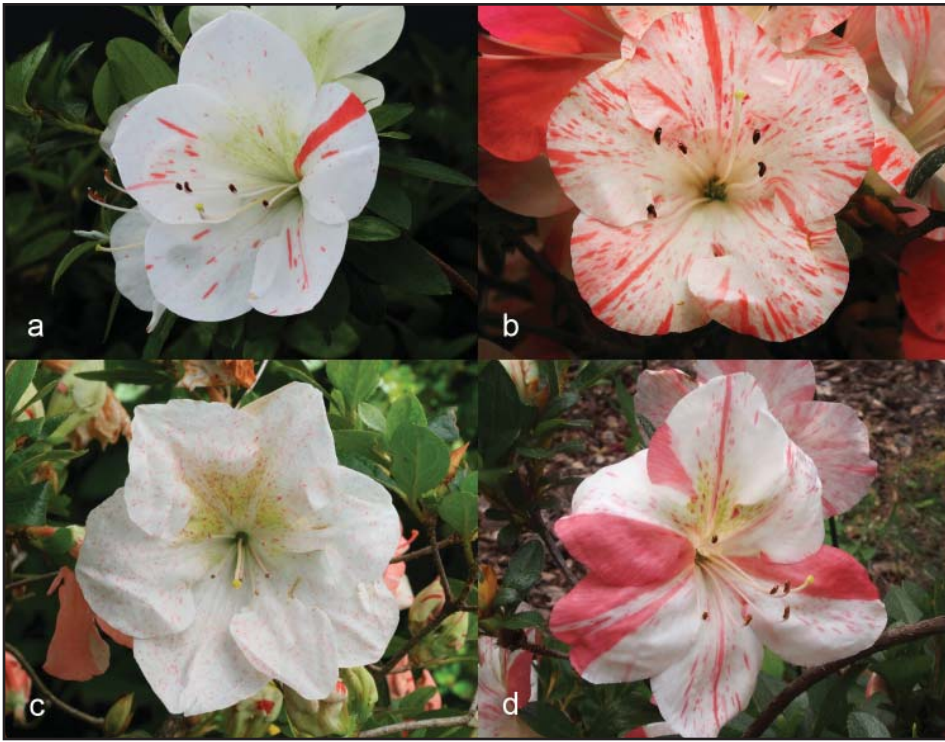


Photo Jim Trumbly

▲ Figure 2. Radial Patterns: A few of the many *shibori* types of c- a type of *shibori* consisting of fine particles or dots, often referred to as “sanded,” d- plants with a large stripe and sector should be avoided in propagation.

▼ Figure 3. Two *jiai* tints on ‘Mibu-no-Hana’. Shoots from *jiai shibori* flowers are suitable for clonal propagation.



Photo Jim Trumbly

of Satsuki in the *Satsuki Jiten, 2010*, are devoted to *sokojiro* cultivars; one for the reds and one for the purples.

Fukurin is also a very strong concentric flower and one that is especially important to learn for purposes of propagation because it can be more difficult to spot. They are often described as flowers with an irregular white edge, or brushed white edge, as shown in Figure 1-b. Only a few *fukurin* cultivars have been named by the Japanese, but they occur often in multi-patterned Satsuki. ‘Nyohozan’ is a *fukurin* cultivar found here in the U.S.

Two other more frequently occurring concentric patterns are *tamafu* with a lighter color spot in the center of each petal, and *tsumabeni*, which translates to

“red fingernail,” and has a darker color at the outer tips of petals. (See Figures 1-c and 1-d.)

Radial-patterned flowers are the least dominant and are referred to as *shibori*. They consist of various colorations that align in a direction from the center of a flower out toward the petal margins like the spokes of a wheel. Fine particle dots on the petals, called “sanding” are also a type of *shibori*. The Japanese have described many of these, four of which are shown in Figure 2.

When propagating multi-patterned Satsuki, shoots taken from radial-patterned flowers will develop into clones that exhibit the full range of flower patterns seen in the mature parent plant. Shoots taken from concentric-patterned flowers will usually only develop plants that exhibit the concentric pattern and possibly an occasional solid-colored self flower. Shoots taken from self flowers will develop plants without patterns.

Shoot Selection

Because of flower dominance in multi-patterned Satsuki, propagation requires a two-step shoot selection approach instead of just one. The first step is to mark the appropriate flowers when the parent plant is in bloom. The second is to take cuttings from the new shoots that develop just below those flowers once they are ready for collecting, typically four to six weeks later. My approach is to evaluate the overall arrangement of flower types when the plant is in full bloom, looking for branches producing mostly radial-patterned flowers. If flowers are thoroughly mixed with selfs, concentric-patterned, and radial-patterned on most branches, then I mark the stems of individual flowers or a branchlet with several suitable flowers.

I try to mark flowers from all parts of the plant to increase chances for success. This is especially so when I want to take shoots from a plant I haven’t had the opportunity to see and mark when in bloom. I consider this a “blind selection,” and, in searching for rare Satsuki it has sometimes been my only choice.

Some Satsuki cultivars are *jiai* types. *Jiai* means “in between” in reference to the base color of white shifting to a tint of color between white and the color of the flower’s markings. Two of the twelve groupings in the *Satsuki Jiten* are devoted to them. These flowers often look similar to *fukurin* flowers particularly when a flower has only a few small radial marks. *Jiai* flowers are acceptable flowers to choose for propagation. Some Satsuki even exhibit two different *jiai* tints. For these I may try selecting shoots from flowers of both tints and mark them separately using different markers. See Figure 3.

I use twist ties like the kind used for bread bags to mark stems and branches with radial flowers. See Figure 4. I have several colors but typically use yellow or white for contrast, which makes them easier to find later. I do not twist them but just cross the ends to form a loose loop. On occasion I use more than one color of twist tie if I am marking different kinds of flowers such as the two *jiai* types mentioned previously. I have also used a different color twist tie to mark a pure white flower when it occurs on a Satsuki cultivar known for rarely producing one.

I am a small scale propagator and usually only take one shoot per flower and a total of only ten or twelve shoots per Satsuki. My objective is to develop only a few clones that have the full range of patterns in the parent plant.

There are two things to be careful of in selecting flowers to mark: 1) avoid *shibori* flowers with wide stripes and sectors, since the shoot that is taken later may come from a part of the stem that carried the color portion of the flower pattern producing only solid-colored flowers, as shown in Figure 2-d; and 2) some Satsuki cultivars also produce individual flowers that are a combination of a concentric pattern and a radial-patterned. These should be avoided for the same reason as above. See Figure 5.

Each year I collect shoots from about a dozen multi-patterned Satsuki. By taking the time to mark flowers earlier in the process I have had great success. But even in doing this there are usually a few that turn out as *fukurin*, *sokojiro*, or solid colored plants. None-the-less they are often beautiful in their own right; I just wouldn’t call them by their Satsuki name without writing on the tag in parenthesis following the name *fukurin*, *sokojiro*, or self.

Jim Trumbly is a Satsuki enthusiast and a member of ASA since the early 1990s. He belongs to Satsuki Aikokai Bonsai Association of Sacramento. He lives in Roseville, California, and has 150 Satsuki and other azaleas on his half-acre property.

Four sources Jim Trumbly used for this article:

_____. *Satsuki Jiten*. [*Satsuki Encyclopedia (Satsuki Dictionary to us)*.] 2010. Tochinoha shobo, Kanuma City, Japan. 736 pages. Website: <http://tochinoha-shobo.com>.

Galle, Fred C. *Azaleas: Revised and Enlarged Edition*. 1987. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. 519 pages.

Kennedy, Alexander. *Satsuki*. 1995. Splatt Pottery, Tresmeer, Launceston, Cornwall, England. Printed by Troutbeck Press, Antron Hill, Mabe, Penryn, Cornwall. 128 pages.

Kennedy, A. *Floral Treasures of Japan: Satsuki Azaleas*. 1997. Stone Lantern Publishing Company. Sudbury, Massachusetts. 196 pages.



Photo Jim Trumbly

▲ Figure 4. Twist tie is used to mark appropriate flowers during blooming.

▼ Figure 5. Avoid combinations of flowers of radial and concentric patterns. The *fukurin* influence changes the blotch color, making it easier to spot.



Photo Jim Trumbly

Azalea Research Foundation Project Progress Report

By Juliana Medeiros—Kirtland, Ohio

Project Title

Leaf hydraulic conductance of deciduous, evergreen and semi-evergreen Rhododendrons: diverse solutions to the problems presented by evaporative demand

In October 2016 a student intern, Sharon Danielson, was hired to conduct work on this project for fiscal year 2016, using funding provided by The Holden Arboretum Norweb Fellowship. Sharon has an MS in Biology from John Carroll University. During the last two weeks of January we travelled to the lab of our collaborator, Dr. Lawren Sack (University of California Los Angeles). Dr. Sack, who is a pioneer in the field of leaf hydraulic conductance, discussed with us our experimental design and allowed us to use his equipment to conduct preliminary experiments. Based on Dr. Sack's advice we revised our apparatus design and protocol. Dr. Sack recommended that we quantify variability among leaves within a branch, and that we add measurement of stomatal conductance and leaf vein morphology to complement our hydraulic measurements. During our visit Sharon became proficient in the techniques used to effectively estimate leaf hydraulic conductance (Kleaf). Subsequently, we used funds from ASA and other funding sources to purchase all of the equipment needed to build an apparatus used to monitor leaf hydraulic conductance in *Rhododendron* leaves.

To date we have analyzed leaf hydraulic conductance and stomatal conductance data for 7 plants. We found that maximum Kleaf is higher for plants that are less cold-hardy (Fig. 1). This finding is in keeping with our prediction that species from warmer climates should have a higher capacity to transport water within the leaf, because warmer climates have higher rates of evaporation. We have not seen clear differences between evergreen, deciduous and semi-evergreen leaves,

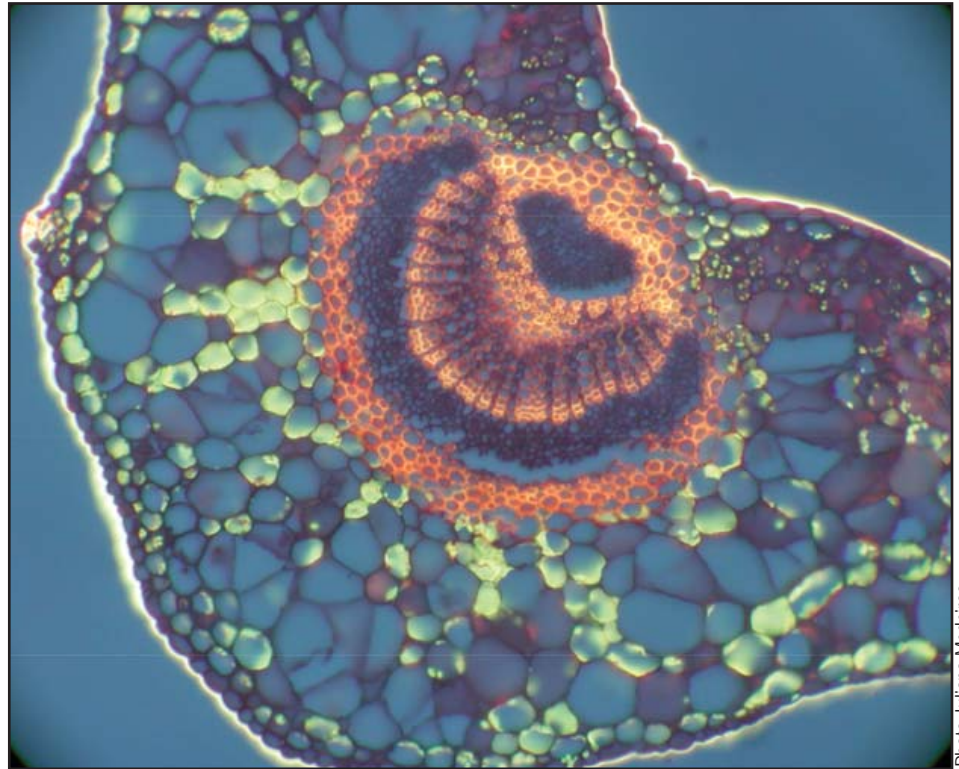


Photo Juliana Medeiros

▲ A cross-section of a deciduous Azalea (*Rhododendron atlanticum*) leaf, showing the leaf structure, including: the vascular tissue (orange center), and the leaf cuticle (bright yellow outline around the outside edge). The vascular tissue transports water to all the leaf cells, replacing water lost due to evaporation. The cuticle is a waxy coating on the leaf, which effectively seals the leaf surface to reduce evaporative water loss.

though most of the samples we have analyzed so far are from evergreen species. In addition, within evergreen species we found a strong correlation (R-squared = 0.91) between maximum Kleaf and stomatal conductance. This provides a good deal of confidence in our Kleaf measurements, because plants with higher stomatal conductance should have a higher capacity to transport water within the leaf. We do not yet have enough data for deciduous or semi-evergreens to examine that relationship. We expect to complete data collection on Kleaf and stomatal conductance by the end of June 2016. The leaf vein morphology data will be collected by another Holden intern during the summer of 2016. We expect to move forward with the full-scale experiment examining Kleaf for the 19 of the species listed in our proposal beginning in the summer of 2016.

Bud cold hardiness data used with permission from the American Rhododendron Society.

Lead Researcher: Juliana Medeiros, Scientist, The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Rd., Kirtland, Ohio 44094, 440-602-3819, jmediros@holdenarb.org.

Exceptional Service Awards Presented to Three Hard Working ASA Members

The Exceptional Service Award is given by the Azalea Society of America to recognize outstanding contributions to the society and the genus *Rhododendron* with special emphasis on the many species and hybrids of azaleas within the genus as well as service to the horticultural community beyond azaleas. As the following awards show,

exceptional service to the society can take many forms. Administrative and technical contributions as well as azalea research projects are critical to the growth and development of membership and offering advanced research tools about the thousands of azaleas that novices and experts can grow.



AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

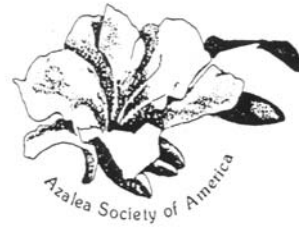
The Azalea Society of America takes great honor in presenting
THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

to

Carolyn and Paul Beck

in recognition of your many contributions to the Azalea Society of America. Your love for azaleas and sharing of your knowledge has truly advanced our society and has enhanced the appreciation of azaleas for many people. Carolyn, you are a grower's grower, providing thousands of quality azaleas to the chapter and the public. Your many contributions include photography, articles for *The Azalean*, plant registration for local hybridizers, and countless additional projects. Paul, you have used your IT expertise to create a fabulous chapter web site containing photos and plant information, as well as automating the plant sale process. You were also instrumental in the digitization of *The Azalean* and putting it and the ASA members' database online. You are extending your service as the ASA Treasurer. Individually and as a couple, you are an exceptional asset to the Northern Virginia Chapter and to the ASA.

Carolyn and Paul Beck, we greatly appreciate you and thank you for your service and dedication.



AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Azalea Society of America takes great honor in presenting
THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

to

Dan Krabill

in recognition of your many contributions to the Azalea Society of America. Your love of azaleas and sharing of your knowledge has truly advanced our society and has enhanced the appreciation of azaleas for many people. You have served as President and Vice President of the Northern Virginia Chapter several times. You served as Treasurer of the ASA during a very important period of transition and growth. Your collection of the Glenn Dale Azaleas is one of the most complete in the country and has been a source of plant material for gardens such as the National Arboretum and Norfolk Botanical Garden. You are an exceptional asset to the Northern Virginia Chapter and to the ASA.

Dan Krabill, we greatly appreciate you and thank you for your service and dedication.

▼ Rick Bauer 2016 Convention Co-chair (left) presents award to Paul and Carolyn Beck, while national ASA President J Jackson (far right) looks on.

▼ Dave Nanney Awards Chairman (right) presents award to Dan Krabill.



Photo William C. Miller III

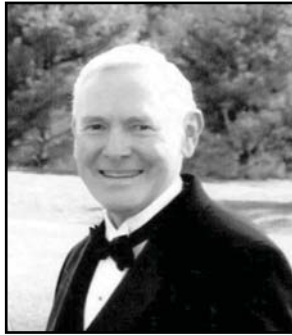


Photo William C. Miller III

In Memory: James Bowie McCeney 1941 – 2016

By William C. Miller III—Bethesda, Maryland

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Jim McCeney at his home in Laurel, Maryland, on March 19, 2016 at the age 74 from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Jim was born on September 29, 1941 in Baltimore, Maryland, to Dr. Robert S. and Lelia Brennan McCeney. He grew up in Laurel, Maryland, in the house on the corner of Main and Fourth Street where his father practiced medicine for 57 years. After graduating from Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, Jim earned a B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from Washington and Lee University and subsequently became a CPA for Price Waterhouse & Co. From 1965 to 1971, Jim served his country in the Army Reserve. In 1971, he obtained a position in the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), and for 22 years was the director of the Department of Financial Services. When he retired from the OAS in 2000, he was the director of the Department of Material Resources.



Jim met Barbara Gail French (Bobbi) at the beginning of his senior year at Washington and Lee. She was teaching school in nearby Goshen, Virginia, and lived in Lexington where their paths crossed. They were married on October 10, 1964 in Columbia, South Carolina. Jim traveled all over Latin America in his work with the OAS, and they both loved to travel. They enjoyed European river cruises and were frequent attendees at ASA national meetings.

Following Jim's mother's death in 1995, Jim and Bobbi acquired his family home on Main Street in Laurel and moved there from their house in Kensington, Maryland, in 1999. They set upon the task of repairing, restoring, and modernizing the 19th century house with the goal of maintaining the historic characteristics that were intrinsic to the house. The restoration included helping Bobbi revitalize the extensive gardens. Jim had a special interest in the Laurel Historical Society. His involvement in historic preservation extended well beyond restoring his family home to serving as the organization's treasurer, president, and chairman of the board. His other voluntary activities for the City of Laurel crossed many local government organizational lines. For example, he served on the city's Historic District Commission, the Pension Board of Trustees, the Community Emergency Response Team, and the Citizens City Police Academy Alumni Association. Jim gave of himself freely, and he touched many lives over the years.

I got to know Jim through Bobbi and their interest in the Azalea Society. I first met Bobbi in 1982 when she approached me at the conclusion of one of the Brookside Gardens Chapter's regular meetings at the Sligo Creek Community Center. I was a new chapter president, I didn't know very many people in the chapter, and this was a

conversation that I will never forget. To my surprise, Bobbi seemed to know a lot about me. After letting me "dangle" for several minutes, she explained that she too had attended Erskine College, a small school in South Carolina, and that she knew my parents from Erskine alumni activities. After knowing Bobbi and Jim for 34 years, Bobbi would be my candidate for the "Energizer Bunny Award" if there was one, and Jim was clearly her "force multiplier." They supported the Brookside Gardens Chapter with their time and talents and volunteered to help with the labor intensive chapter activities (e.g., flower shows, national meetings, and chapter picnics). It was through their efforts that our chapter held its juried flower show at the Landon School in conjunction with the annual Landon Azalea Festival. This was a major plus in our chapter's community outreach efforts. When I assumed the chapter presidency for the second time in 2009 and found that I needed a chapter treasurer, Jim agreed to take on the task. All of our major chapter activities involved contracts and required advanced planning, and Jim did a first rate job. His support made my job easier.

On a more personal level, Jim liked Bluegrass music, milkshakes, Laurel Tavern doughnuts, and Maryland basketball. A friend, who was familiar with Jim's activities in Laurel, described him as "a gentleman and a kind soul." I concur with that characterization. Jim made a difference with everything he touched, and one metric in particular says it all. On Tuesday, March 22, 2016, Laurel mayor Craig A. Moe issued a press release entitled: City of Laurel Mourns the Passing of James B. McCeney and ordered the City of Laurel flag lowered to half-staff.

Jim is survived by Bobbi, his wife of 52 years, his brother George, his daughter Margie, and his son Robert and his family.

Azaleas - Down on the Bayou

Thursday March 30 – Saturday April 1, 2017
Hammond, Louisiana

Host Hotel

Marriott Courtyard, Hammond, LA

\$109 group rate (available to book - December 2016)

Join us in south Louisiana in 2017 for great tours, a plant sale, socials, speakers and gardens. See the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, Transcend Nursery (home of Buddy Lee), Bracy's Nursery, gardens in St. Francisville and more. Entertainment with illusionist David Himelrick.

FINAL SCHEDULE INFO and REGISTRATION
COMING FALL 2016!!

Contact Allen Owings at aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu or
225/603-8096 (email preferred)

Chapter News and New Members

Also check the ASA website for further information and photos of activities. Most chapters have hot-links to their chapter names under the [About Us](#) page.

Alabamense

Patrick Thompson—President—via Facebook

The Alabamense Chapter invited a wide range of gardeners to join them at the AU Davis Arboretum. About 45 people attended to see Charlie Andrews' presentation on the azaleas of Hurricane Creek. Chapter members were joined by Master Gardeners, local plant enthusiasts, and students and faculty from Auburn. The presentation started with a whimsical invitation from Andrews' to step right up and feast our eyes on the wonders of this amazing population of azaleas. The genetic combinations and recombinations in Hurricane Creek have resulted in an eye popping array of forms that the crowd was able to enjoy through photos shown during the meeting. Afterwards a tour of the Arboretum gave us a chance to enjoy several wild species and garden hybrids in bloom. Both children and parents enjoyed the event. New members: Melissa and William Bice, Wetumpka, AL; Steve Sims, Frisco City, AL.

Ben Morrison

Budne Reinke, President

More news coming next issue, but Harold Belcher, the chapter secretary reported June 8 that the Ben Morrison Chapter is back up and running after a get together luncheon that turned into a reorganizational meeting. Their roster now shows 30 ASA members. Well done!

Central Carolinas

Sandy Yakob, President

On March 19 the chapter had its kickoff meeting for the year. The newest members are new chapter twins, Nathan and Lily Long. John and Sarah are the new proud, and tired, parents. On April 30 chapter members toured the colorful garden of chapter member Ken Griffith.

The chapter will have a cutting exchange in July. Please visit www.centralcarolinazaleasociety.org for more info. New members: William and Heidrun Erwin, Durham, NC; Diane Gajewski, Indian Trail, NC; Barbara Geier, Berkeley Lake, GA.

Louisiana

The chapter is very busy planning the 2017 convention. New members: Catherine Broussard, Sunshine, LA; Stephen Fussell, Little Rock, AR.

Northern VA

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The Northern VA Chapter held a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS on March 20th. 48 people attended as members of other plant societies, such

as the Daylily Society, also came along to hear Martha Brettschneider speak on "The Garden as Mindfulness Mentor: How Digging in the Dirt Brings Focus to Mind, Spirit and Camera." Ms. Brettschneider was good enough to donate several copies of her new book, "Blooming Into Mindfulness," as door prizes. As usual there were goodies galore and a plant exchange to complement the conversation with new and old friends.

With the coming of spring we will be enjoying the joint ASA/ARS convention in Williamsburg that the chapter is co-sponsoring, then visiting gardens in the DC area, planning a sale at Green Spring Gardens in May, enjoying a tour of the Bonsai collection at the National Arboretum led by Joe Gutierrez and then another get-together on July 10th for our annual cutting exchange. Check out details on our activities on the website: www.nv-asa.org, maintained in professional detail by Paul Beck.

New members, three from a local plant sale after the convention: Mary Sue Butch, Katonah, NY; Thomas Duling, Woodbridge, VA; Goshen Farm (Jessica Teague and Donny Gilman), Gloucester, VA; Elisha Gregg, Burke, VA; Ralph Habegger, Reston, VA; Barbara Hambrook, Yorktown, VA; Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (Janet Woody), Richmond, VA; Lorna Hanson, Gloucester, VA; Brenda Jourdan, Alexandria, VA; Eric & Sue Oesterling, New Alexandria, PA; Harry Risetto, Falls Church, VA; Kathleen Schloeder, Alexandria, VA; Francis Urbany, McLean, VA; Steven Wright, Devon, PA. The chapter now has 101 members!

Rev. John Drayton

New members: Stacy Andrews, Mount Pleasant, SC; John C. Calhoun, Westerville, OH; Karen and Todd Lucht, Charleston, SC.

Texas

Mary Beth Hagood, President

The Texas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America held its 2016 Spring meeting on Wednesday, March 2, at Bayou Bend Gardens in Houston. Seventeen had signed to attend the event, and for the first time, members welcomed attendees from southern Texas counties.

The event was a treat for all who attended: the weather provided a perfect spring atmosphere; azaleas everywhere on the location were in partial bloom, while the camellias were finalizing their show; the spring blooming trees, including redbuds and deciduous magnolias, provided beautiful canopies while showy pink tulips covered spaces on the ground in full color.

Members were guided through the gardens by Texas Chapter vice-president and curator for Bayou Bend Gardens, Bart Brechter. Bart gave many historic details about the origin of and planting of azaleas at Bayou Bend, Miss Ima Hogg's (the owner's) dedication to and later gift of the home and gardens and collections at Bayou Bend to the Museum

of Fine Arts in Houston. He also provided advice about planting and care of azaleas. Each person present received a choice azalea that is also grown in the Bayou Bend gardens. Also, azaleas were donated to garden clubs for fund raiser auctions.

The next chapter meeting will be May 21, 11:00 a.m., at the home of Sherrie Randall. The meeting will involve rooting azalea cuttings for use in plant sales for the chapter. For this fall, a meeting is being planned for a visit to a grower's (Robert Thau's in Jasper, Texas) for a tour and talks about azaleas and their needs. Also on the agenda will be the election of officers for the coming year. New members: Laraine Hutzell, Brookeland, TX; Charles and Sharon Kerr, Jasper, TX; Rick Lewandowski, Orange, TX.

Tri-State

New members: James and Jamie Bartlett, Mt. Carmel, IL; James and Andra DeHaven, West Hazleton, IN.

Vaseyi

Audrey Stelloh, President

The chapter had two speakers for February and March. The February speaker was Alan Mizeras, a local native plant aficionado. Alan explained that he formed a native plant rescue group to salvage plants in areas destined for development. When bulldozers scrape a woodland or destroy a wetland, a whole intricate ecosystem is lost. Rescuers can save only a small portion of the plants on that site, but it is the only option when habitats face certain destruction. He showed us a slide show of beautiful native plants in order of emergence.

Our March speaker was at a joint meeting with the Southeast Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Hale Booth, Azalea Society Research Fund chairman, put on a great presentation on "Broadleaf Evergreens." He showed many slides of beautiful and sometimes rare evergreen plants and listed sources for finding them. New Members: Dr. Mary Burch and Dr. Jon Bailey, Tallahassee, FL; Alan Mizeras, Hendersonville, NC; Jerry Neff, Hendersonville, NC; Susan Pfeiffer, Horse Shoe, NC; David Starnes, Oak Ridge, TN.

At-large Members

Charles Dhyse and Elizabeth Boogusch, Camden, ME; William & Maria Cooper, Dover, DE; Linda Derkach, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia; Frederick Findlay, Littleton, MA; Bryan Harvey, Rogers, AR; Donald Meeker, Walnut Creek, CA; Marilyn Michie-Grist, Greenville, SC; André Morency, Trois-Pistoles, Quebec; Gerald O'Dell, Phoenixville, PA; Elaine Sedlack, Eugene, OR; Michael Sellers, Lexington, TN; Marilyn S. Thomas, Mount Vernon, IN.

This represents 41 new members who have joined since January 1, 2016. We hope to hear more chapter news so we can focus the Fall 2016 issue on chapter events and ideas. Please send your news to theazalean@gmail.com by August 1, 2016.

Recognizing Generous ASA Members

By Paul A. Beck, Treasurer —Oak Hill, Virginia

I would like to recognize and thank the following members who made donations to the Operating Fund of the Azalea Society of America in 2016 by paying dues in excess of the \$30 annual regular amount or by making direct payments to the ASA.

We have three categories for donations – Contributing (payment of \$50 to \$99 for the year); Supporting (\$100 to \$199), and Endowing (\$200 or more). These payments provided more than 5 percent of our income and are very important in carrying out the work of the ASA. My apologies if I missed anyone.

Contributing Members

Parker Andes	Pender Nursery, Inc.
Irene Aslan	Gregory Peterson
Brian Barr	Jim & Bethany Plyler
BoxLee Azaleas	Shane Roop
Stanley Brown & Kitty Gay	Cecil & Gloria Settle
Sandra Dugan	Jo Ann Smith
Bill Elliott	Roger A. Thompson
Marianne & Bruce Feller	Supporting Members
Pam Fitch	Louis J. Appell, Jr
Trish & Kevin Gendron	Stephen Ash
Ken & Delores Gohring	Virginia & Samuel Burd
Dianne & James Gregg	Suzi and Nelson Du Rant
Dr. Joseph Gutierrez	Betsy Ellis
Harold and Caryl Hall	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Graham
Nancy & Herbert Hargroves	Dan & Barbara Krabill
Ella Ruth Harris	Barbara Stump
Bob & Lisa Head	Doug Torn
Tom & Mary Ann Johnson	Margaret Vogel
Charles & Sharon Kerr	J. David Wertz
Dr. Alan R. Kilvert	Endowing Members
Donna Kuhn	Paul & Carolyn Beck
Larry Miller	Chen Nien-Chou
Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Jay Murray	

Recognizing Other Donations

In addition to the donations as part of membership renewal, the ASA has also received the following special donations, for which we are very grateful.

In memory of Madeline Cosby
Paul & Carolyn Beck

Azalea Research Committee:
David & Virginia Banks
Dolan Gardens
Karel Bernady

Actions Taken to Address Operating Fund Shortages

By Paul A. Beck, Treasurer —Oak Hill, Virginia

As noted on the ASA Financial Statement on page 37, the **ASA Operating Fund** is essentially out of funds. The Operating Fund (OF) is used primarily to pay for the creation of *The Azalean*, and for other administrative expenses such as postage. Losses of members over the last few years have put a strain on the OF. Our current membership level of approximately 550 is not sufficient to maintain the OF at levels which will continue to fund the operation of the ASA at current levels. The obvious cure for this problem is to increase membership. However, that has not happened for the last few years, so we must now find other ways to raise money as well as ways to cut expenses. This year, I presented the following proposals to the ASA Board of Directors (BOD) at the 2016 convention in Williamsburg. All of the proposals were approved by the BOD. Full details of each may be read by visiting the financial [Archives](#) on the ASA website.

- Endowment Fund use to shore up the Operating Fund. The Endowment Fund (EF) is used to ensure that Life members will be able to receive *The Azalean* for the remainder of their (or their spouse's) life. This fund currently has about \$28,000 more than is required to fund for the life members. The BOD approved making \$14,000 of this excess available to keep the OF in the black. Additionally, the BOD required that the \$16K received from Oconee, when it folded, be put in the EF instead of being reserved for Oconee. This will keep us operating for several more years, but this is only a stopgap, and other long term means are also necessary.
- Membership Renewal Policy. In the past, the ASA has expended effort and funds sending out several renewal notices to members who are tardy paying their dues, and has also sent one or more copies of *The Azalean* to those tardy members after they do pay up. The new policy implements the by-laws clause in Article III.D.1, which states that members who have not paid their dues by March 1st will have their membership terminated (and consequently their access to the restricted area of the website will be removed). No *Azalean* will be mailed to members who have not renewed. In addition, members who renew late (after March 1st) will no longer receive a free copy of the missed issue(s). They can read it online, if they wish. There is also no guarantee that if they wish a hardcopy, that one will be available for purchase, as this is another area where changes are being made.
- Dues restructuring. For several years, the ASA has had a complicated dues structure with increasing discounts for renewal of multiple years. We are currently encouraging renewing online, with notification by email instead of paper mail, to eliminate postage costs. From now on the dues will be a flat \$30 per year for domestic members, with no discount. If a new member joins before July 1st, the first year dues will be \$30. If they join after July 1st, the first year dues will be \$15. Under current policy, those joining after May 1st receive the next year for free. This policy has been eliminated, and replaced by the reduced membership fee after July 1st. Missed *Azaleans* will not be mailed to the new member; they can read them online.
- Membership rates for non-US members. Postage rates continue to rise. Bulk mailing of *The Azalean* to domestic members costs the society approximately \$0.40 per copy. Individual copies mailed to Canada costs the society \$3.28 per copy, and to overseas locations, \$6.28 per issue. At the \$30 CDN/MEX membership rate, we are losing approximately \$14 per member per year. For overseas members, the current membership is \$40. The even higher postage costs mean we lose approximately \$16 per overseas member per year. This proposal raises membership rates to \$45 per year for CDN/MEX members and \$60 for overseas members. These rates just barely cover our postage. The BOD also modified the original proposal to offer a \$30 membership to non-domestic members; this class of membership only provides *The Azalean* electronically, eliminating the high cost of mailing the paper copy.
- Eliminate most free ASA memberships. The ASA currently has 10 gratis memberships. Though this is a small number, there appeared to be little justification for continuing this practice in light of our current financial position. The BOD approved the elimination of all but 2 of these gratis memberships.

ASA Financial Statement - December 31, 2015

Paul A. Beck, Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT

Year 2015

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2015

INCOME

Contributions, Donations & Gifts ¹	\$21,353
Dues Income (Life & Regular)	\$13,538
Seed Exchange	\$409
<i>The Azalean</i> Income	\$1,897
Investment Income (Loss) ²	(\$1,300)
Total Income	\$35,897

ASSETS

Checking	\$4,351
Savings	\$50,799
PayPal	\$547
CDs	\$113,612
ARF Stock Investments	\$24,732
Total Assets	\$194,041

EXPENSES

Grants	\$6,788
Professional Fees ³	\$10,900
Printing, publications, postage ³	\$14,886
Other expenses ⁴	\$5,344
Total Expenses	\$37,917

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

Uncashed check	\$65
Operating Fund ⁵	\$826
General Endowment	\$92,943
Research Fund	\$100,207

INCOME – EXPENSES **(\$2,020)**

Total Liabilities and Reserves **\$194,041**

¹ Includes \$16,002 in funds received from former Oconee chapter.

² Includes \$859 in common stock dividends, \$1,834 in CD/bank account interest, and \$3,993 decrease in ARF common stock market value.

³ Six *Azaleans* were published in 2015 to get back on the proper publication schedule; this was the primary reason for the loss for the year. The complete financial report to the BOD is available on the ASA website under [Archives](#) (requires login).

⁴ Includes \$1,950 chapter dues reimbursement and \$1,600 from the ASA for IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status application for the chapters.

⁵ The Operating Fund is insufficient to cover operating expenses for 2016, and is projected to be \$2,100 in the red at the end of 2016. Several proposals were presented to the BOD to address the financial situation of the ASA. Those will be summarized on the next page.

“Legends and Legacies” Joint 2016 ARS-ASA Convention Report

By Barbara Stump and Sherrie Randall—Nacogdoches, Texas

If you weren't one of the 152 ASA members (326 total) people who attended the joint convention headquartered in Williamsburg, Virginia, April 20-24, 2016, you really missed a fabulous 5-star meeting, in our very personal views.

To all who worked on this convention, the Texas Chapter attendees offer huge thanks for a fabulous event! Walking into the absolute “to die for” plant show for the first time, an azalea lover had to stand there with mouth agape. The sale included over 4000 plants. Kudos to Carolyn Beck and all those that helped make that happen; may you plan many more. Thanks to Susan Bauer: our lunches and banquet meals were delicious. Rick Bauer and George McClellan found public and private tours that awed us with the diverse plant material. All the speakers were so knowledgeable and enlightening. Watch *The Azalean* for articles by some of them. Jim Trumbly's is in this issue, and Rick Lewandowski has promised one for the Fall 2016 issue. Finally, spectacular thanks to the 50 volunteers—according to Rick Bauer—who helped the organizing committee make this a wonderful, memorable convention!!

The thoughtfulness and combined organizational skills of the Northern Virginia ASA Chapter and Mid-Atlantic, Mason-Dixon, and Potomac Valley Chapters of the ARS were evident in every detail. Co-chairs Rick Bauer for the ASA and Don Hyatt for the ARS led a dedicated organizing committee and volunteer corps from both societies. The tours were carefully selected so that hundreds of us got to see wondrous gardens or historic sites or both. The breakdown by day: Richmond (204), Norfolk (243), Gloucester (251), ARS banquet (230), ASA banquet (226). It took four years

of incredible planning and execution to make this all happen. (See Figure 1.)

For us, the magnificent plant sale and gardens were our special interests. There were so many plants that plant sale chairs Ray Smith and Carolyn Beck and volunteers had to put some under tables or in the hallway leading to the plant sale room at first. The plant sale seemed to be “open” constantly after 4:00 p.m. on the 20th, and open even after the two banquets and three speaker sessions. We know Carolyn Beck propagated many plants at her house, and many Klimavicz Hybrids came from her talented fingers. Many other individuals or nurseries also grew plants and donated them to the sale. Over half the plants were sold by convention's end—to people like us, Robert Thau and Caryl and Harold Hall who drove from Texas just so we could haul back as many as we could. And we weren't the only ones, that's for sure. Total plant sales included 37 plants sold at the “Silent Auction,” 17 at the ASA banquet auction, and 16 at the ARS banquet auction. After the convention officially closed, they allowed the public to buy plants, increasing sales receipts and possibly recruiting new members.

Carolyn Beck also created the incredible plant list that Paul Beck posted to the convention pages on the NV-ASA Chapter website. This had close-up photos of the plants, descriptions, and hybrid groups. Paul assures us that they

▼ Figure 1. Early convention planning committee meeting—four years ago!



2016 Convention Committee

Members of both the ASA and ARS served, and most were members of both societies.

Rick and Don said they began work in January 2012. Up to 50 other volunteers also made “it all happen.”

Rick Bauer and Don Hyatt - Co-chairs (hotel, banquets, garden bus tours, speakers, workshops)

Paul and Carolyn Beck and Ray Smith and Sonny Coble-Plants - Plant Sale

Susan Bauer - Lunches/Committee Secretary

Dave and Virginia Banks - Registration/Dave - Local Tours (Williamsburg & environs)

George McLellan - Gloucester Gardens/Plants

Phyllis Rittman - Badges and Convention Bags

Mary Reiley - Flower Show

Richard and Ginny Mohr - Photography Show



Photo by Steve Henning

▲ Figure 2. Paul Beck and Leslie Nanney shown selling plants as fast as possible. At one point they were selling plants every 12 seconds, with very complete receipts!

will keep this up on the NV-ASA website, as it is a wonderful reference tool for their chapter or for anyone to use. To take a look, go to <http://www.nv-asa.org/plants>.

Finally, special recognition for top-notch financial arrangements goes to ASA Treasurer Paul Beck who set up the very convenient “off the shelf” Square™ credit card processing system for the plant sale. He also set up the software on the NV-ASA web pages to handle displaying and searching plant sale data and printing the barcode tags for the plants, the barcode scanning system to include the barcodes on attendees’ badges, automatic plant lookup, and invoice preparation. This was great, because our invoices showed exactly what plants we bought, costs, and totals. It really speeded up buying plants. He’s offering this system to other conventions if they’d like to use it. (See Figure 2.)

Thanks to Dave and Virginia Banks, there was plenty of early American history on offer, tours of Williamsburg and local plantations, but we only had so much time, and concentrated on attending the meetings, gardens, and plant sale, so that’s what we can cover here.

Wednesday, April 20 the ASA Board of Directors met until 4:00 p.m., when the plant sale officially opened. It was a wild first-hour “feeding frenzy.” (See Figure 3.) Some people likely skipped dinner just to start their “hoards” of plants in their hotel rooms. As the theme of the convention states, the sale had many “legacy” azalea hybrids developed by legendary hybridizers that have just not been widely distributed. Example evergreen hybrid groups were Glenn Dale, Harris, Holly Springs, McDonald, Robin Hill, Satsuki, and Stewart. Deciduous azaleas included the Aromi and Dodd breeding programs as well as species selections. And yes, there were many unique elepidote rhododendrons and even tree peonies for sale.

Rick Bauer and Don Hyatt welcomed us that evening and invited us to an evening social session, to one of the concurrent “share sessions,” or to buy at the plant sale. As if that wasn’t enough, there were several “Special Events” like the Flower Show and Photography Show.

Thursday evening we were treated to two outstanding speakers: First, 18th century plantsman and botanist John Bartram in period clothing and language. (See Figure 4.) Then, modern-day Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, gave us an overview of many types and natural locations of species rhododendrons and some of the human trials of plant collecting. Visit their website, <http://rhodygarden.org/cms> to find out about their collections, publications, and research. This would be well worth both virtual and in-person visits.

Friday evening was the ASA banquet and annual meeting. (The food and fellowship were great at both banquets.) Keynote speaker Rick Lewandowski spoke on “Lessons Learned” from working as Director of Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware (near Wilmington). The center’s main mission is to conserve native plants for public education and enjoyment. He’s now Director of Shangri La Botanic Garden in Orange, in south Texas. We wasted no time in recruiting him as a member of the Texas Chapter!

When President J Jackson opened the annual business meeting, he thanked three outgoing directors—Rick Bauer, Larry Miller, and Dave Nanney—for their service, then announced three incoming directors: Jo Ann Smith (Texas Chapter), Chris Wetmore (Central Carolinas Chapter), and Larry Miller (Tri-State Chapter) who’s agreed to another two-year term. Treasurer Paul Beck presented his 2015 financial report and the board’s agreement with his proposed solutions to try to improve our bottom line. (See p. 36-37.) We also need to retain our current members and recruit both new members and advertisers to help pay for production of *The Azalean*. We ended with the fun parts—awarding the Exceptional Service Awards (see p. 32); announcing the Best *Azalean* Article Award for 2015 (Frank Robinson’s “The Impact of Simplicity: Design in the Japanese Style,” in the Fall 2015 issue, p. 65-70); the rousing plant auction; and breaking up to buy more plants!

Saturday night we attended the ARS national banquet and learned from keynote speaker Mike Stewart, a previous ARS President and nurseryman from Sandy, Oregon. He reinforced the theme of the convention by talking about the legacies of legendary hybridizers and some trials of plant collecting.

Garden Tours

It took five buses to get our crowd to the fabulous and very unique gardens or historic sites, so we broke up into two buses for each destination. Regardless of the very cold winter that hadn’t let up until a few weeks before the convention, we saw many azaleas in bloom.

In Gloucester we saw home gardens filled with fanciful or whimsical touches. **Cam and Dean Williams’** garden had a full view of the North River, a huge yard, and large planting areas chock-full of plants around ancient specimen trees. For us Southerners it was a treat to see hundreds of hellebores and incredible tree peonies in bloom (and alive!). The owner also likes making fanciful wind chimes of old garden tools and a bird-house made from a boot and little raised “fairy gardens” of moss and tiny furniture. (See Figure 5.) The

Hall Garden was created by avid plant-lovers, former ARS Executive Director Barbara Hall and her husband Al, where we saw more whimsy in the form of many sculptures of cats, birds, dogs and a special frog. These were mingled with plants and seating areas on many different levels of their two-plus-acre garden in a typical subdivision. Every inch was filled with color and comfort, and a wealth of kinds of azaleas, moss, groundcovers, and specimen trees. Of all the home gardens, this had the most benches, so we could sit and enjoy a magical plant world that fit just that special spot. (See Figures 6 and 7.)

The **Jim and Pat Brant** Garden was on a verdant sloping site with a woodland ravine and trail leading down from the house. The ravine was filled with native azaleas and white and pink dogwoods, and their collection of a number of Dr. Sandra McDonald's hybrid azaleas nearer their home. (See Figure 8.)

Design Principles in Action

We saw two private gardens created by owners who use both inspired design principles and very pragmatic construction practices: The **Liesfeld** and **Pinkham** Gardens.

The best example of this in Richmond was **Junko and Joe Liesfelds'** Garden. She is Japanese, and her design of their multiple-acre sloping site reflects classic Japanese design concepts. Her husband Joe is a construction contractor, so they've incorporated large industrial metal objects as well as huge raw, sculptural rocks into the garden, along with bonsai azaleas on their deck, tightly pruned, rounded azaleas at the entrance, and tall specimens along their creek and pond. (Large rocks are important in Japanese natural garden design and, luckily, are by-products of construction.) They also have a tea house by the pond. This garden was practically a Japanese landscape design school in one spot. (See Figures 9, 10, and 11.)

The **Bill and Linda Pinkham** garden in Gloucester was another object lesson in plant selection and placement for the finest design effect, but gained at a cost. Located on the James River, deer are plentiful; they love to "prune" azaleas and all other prized plants. As retired nursery owners, highly diverse plant collections are the hallmark of their garden. When the first garden was decimated by deer, he doubled the height of his deer fence to at least 10 feet (maybe 12!). This seems to have worked. His azaleas are located on his upstairs patio and a wonderful orange deciduous azalea is in a small yard below, complemented by a unique sculpture and carefully chosen colorful evergreens. Their hillside is a botanical garden of unique shapes and colors of evergreen plant material. While the garden may not have had lots of azaleas, we learned how to use a variety of colors, heights, and natural and pruned shapes of other types of woody plants as accents and companion plants. (See Figures 12, 13, 14.)

As described in the Winter 2015 *Azalean*, **Sue Perrin's Garden** shows her expertise and hard work as a retired landscape designer. The plantings by the house are formal and symmetrical, with a very large open lawn area in front. Along the sides of this lawn she's planted a fabulous collection of viburnums, deciduous azaleas, and other ornamental trees. The brightest blooming deciduous azaleas



Photo by Steve Henning

▲ Figure 3. Plant sale finally opens. Carolyn Beck reported the 2016 ARS/ASA Convention Plant Sale included over 4000 items representing many cultivars from dozens of rhododendron and azalea hybridizers, along with species and natural hybrids. Growers from the Northern Virginia Chapter concentrated their efforts on the Legacy Hybrids. Thanks to the enthusiastic buyers, the "Legends and Legacies" theme will live on in many states. To learn more about the project to recognize and perpetuate the work of breeders in their area, go to <http://www.nv-asa.org/legacies>.

were near a tall trio of bald cypress trees and an old-style windmill covered with 30 feet of yellow blooming 'Lady Banks' roses. (See Figures 15 and 16.)

Two Great Botanical Gardens

The scale of the two huge botanical gardens and their missions showed us a totally different approach to design and use of azaleas. Articles have appeared in the 2015 fall and winter issues of *The Azalean*, but nothing quite prepared us for the scale of what we saw in person. Just the massing of healthy, blooming azaleas was glorious. And all the trails were very accessible.

Construction of **Norfolk Botanical Garden** had begun with limited funds in 1939, but now has all the amenities an ardent garden visitor might want. For us, the azalea collections were fabulous: especially the large areas dedicated to ASA member hybridizer Dr. Sandra McDonald, the Glenn Dale Hybrids, a European deciduous azalea (*R. luteum*, the Pontic Azalea), and American deciduous specimens on "Azalea Point." (See Figures 17 and 18.) We ate lunch near this area, so we could easily amble around, take pictures, and read the very well-signed azaleas.

NBG was also hosting a huge installation of Chinese art, including a 3-4 story "temple" made of blue and white willow-ware cups and saucers and 29 other very colorful installations. (See Figure 19.) These special events increase visitor numbers and fund special projects such as a children's garden, with rest room facilities. There was also a lovely azalea-ringed area for "special functions" such as weddings and graduation photos. They are very used to hosting large groups of visitors, as they had open-sided covered trams that took us from our buses in large groups. Very knowledgeable young garden guides with microphones drove us through



Photo by William C. Miller III

▲ Figure 4. Modern plant lovers (L to R), Carolyn Beck, Carol Flowers, Rick Bauer, Don Hyatt, Kirk Brown, and Rosa McWhorter watch as 21st tech wizard Don helps 18th century John Bartram, Official Botanist to King George III get his PowerPoint presentation “John Bartram: The King’s Gardener” loaded. He enthralled us in his authentic colonial English description of his hunting for rare and wonderful plants. Bartram’s Garden is still a public garden in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Photo by Sherrie Randall

▲ Figure 5. “Fairy Garden” at Cam Williams’. Her many garden beds were filled with whimsical details like this.

▼ Figure 6. Every inch of the Hall Garden was planted with azaleas, rhododendrons, other unique plants, and the many benches made close-up viewing easy.

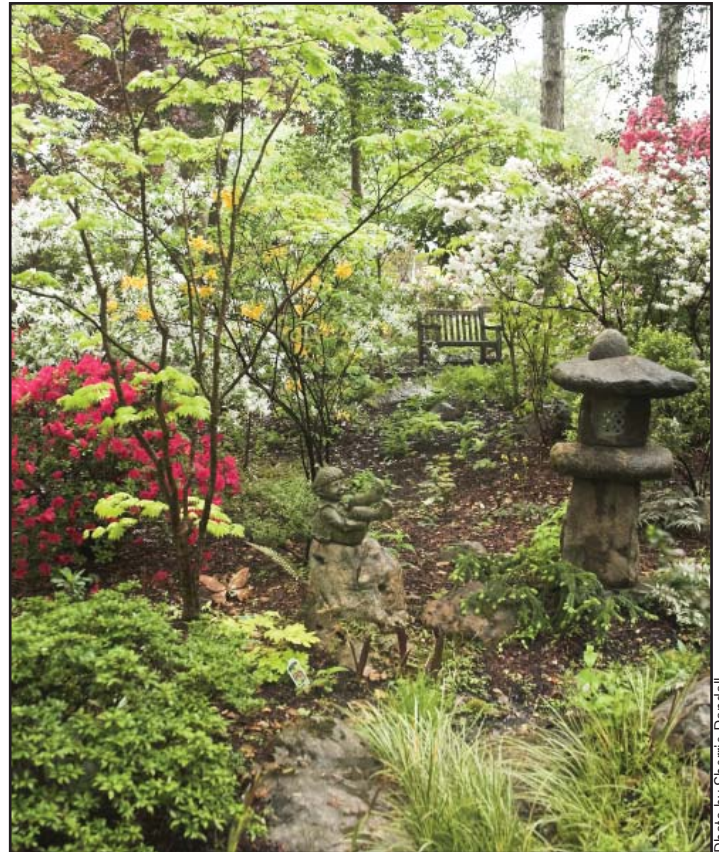


Photo by Sherrie Randall

propagators, and plant-hunters in the world. Fellowship is a key component of each convention. (See Figure 22.) We look forward to seeing you in Hammond, Louisiana, in 2017!

*Both authors are members of the Texas Chapter. **Barbara Stump** is the ASA vice-president and editor of **The Azalean**, and **Sherrie Randall** is chapter secretary.*

the large beautiful garden spaces and pointed out special collections.

The **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** in Richmond was almost startling in its huge combined conservatory, visitor center, orchid collection displays, and gift shop. While this garden is 50 acres, it feels intimate because of many special garden areas dedicated to specific plant collections or areas for special events. For example, the Healing, Medicinal Garden. (See Figures 20 and 21.) Its history was also covered in the Winter 2015 issue, but its’ future will be expanded, thanks to the owners of the **Cosby Garden** in nearby Rockville. That garden was about half past its’ peak when we visited, but the hundreds of well-labeled azaleas read like a living azalea reference book. They were planted in large sweeps under tall trees, with wide grass spaces between them, so it was easy to see the collections and find favorites. As mentioned in the Winter 2014 article by Rick Bauer, this garden has been willed to the Ginter Botanical Garden as a wonderful azalea resource for years to come, to be known as the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve.

Many pictures and descriptions of azaleas and gardens are shown on pages 42 to 46. Thanks to the kind member-photographers who contributed to this issue, we could illustrate some of our garden-visitor observations. But these only give you a tiny taste of the wonderful flowers, events, gracious and talented home gardeners, and outstanding public gardens. We are sure that hundreds of photos were taken, and we had a tough time making selections.

Chapter program organizers, take note: The photos taken by your members but not shown here would make great PowerPoint programs for chapter programs and recruiting tools. These plant-centered conventions are a fun way to learn about azaleas and how to grow them from the best growers,



Photo by Barry Sperling

▲ Figure 7. Many whimsical sculptures intermingled in the Hall Garden, such as this frog in Lotus Position, reminding us to slow down and enjoy the beauties around us.



▲ Figure 8. Just a sample of the McDonald Azalea Hybrids at Brants' Garden: Lovely white-and-green R. 'Sandra's Green Ice.'



Photo William C. Miller III

◀ Figure 9. The Liesfeld Garden exemplified classic Japanese design principles from the start—one monumental rock amid formally pruned azaleas near entrance.

▶ Figure 11. View up-hill from pond toward the Liesfeld home with a huge boulder and azaleas in the middle distance—enjoyable from their deck, tea house, or the pond.



Photo by Don Hyatt

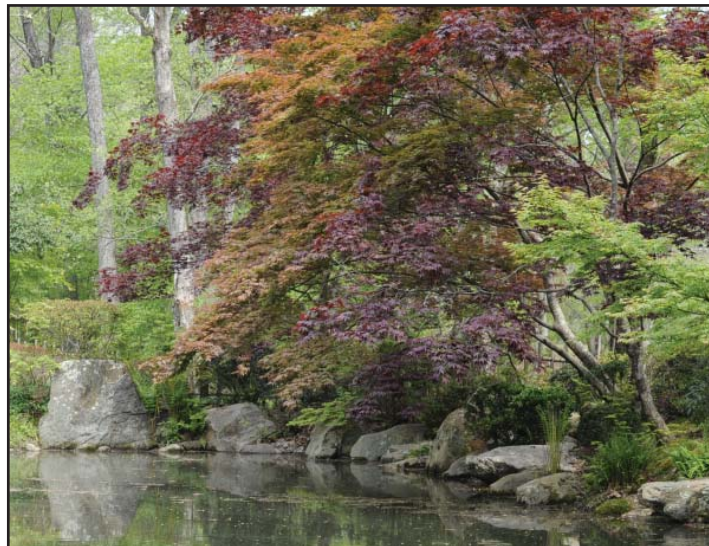


Photo by William C. Miller III

▲ Figure 10. Japanese maples and rocks artfully arranged around pond to reflect their colorful glory in many seasons.

▼ Figure 12. Plants were carefully selected and sited in the Pinkham Garden to highlight color combinations and unique plant structures.



Photo by William C. Miller III



Photo by Sherrie Randall

▼ Figure 13. Incredible variety of plants at Pinkham Garden.

► Figure 14. Unique fire pit and stone bench show off the Pinkhams' love of stones in artistic groupings. What a great view of their hillside garden and the river.

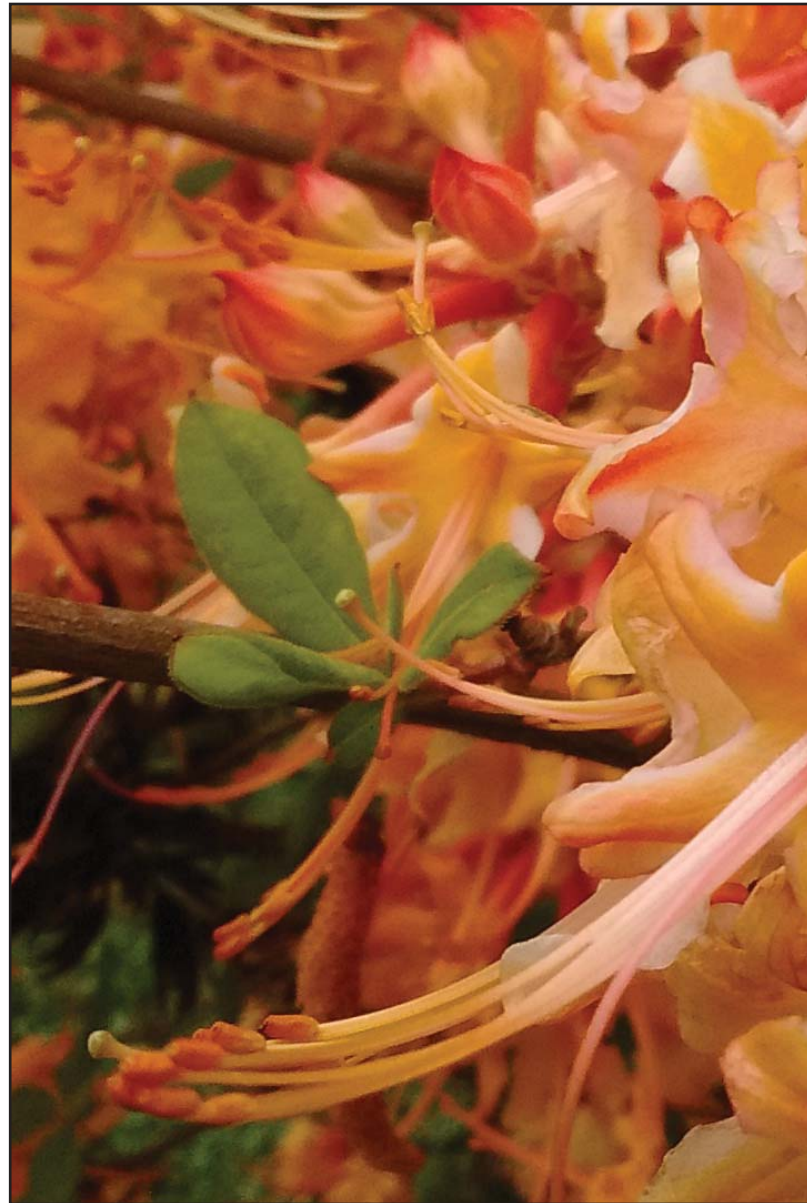


Photo by Barry Sperling

Photo by Barbara Stump



▲ Figure 17. Example interpretive sign for the Dr. Sandra McDonald Azalea Hybrids at Norfolk Botanical Garden. There was also one for the Glenn Dale Hybrids.



Photo by Sherrie Randall



Photo by Barbara Slump



Photo by Barbara Slump

▲ Figure 15. Long row of ornamental trees leading up to the more formal garden at Sue Perrin's home.

◀ Figure 16. A favorite in her deciduous azalea collection was *R.* 'Millie Mac', brilliant tangerine with white picotee edge, that Sue Perrin bought from Transplant Nursery in Georgia years ago.

▼ Figure 18. 'Venus' Baby', a lovely frilly McDonald evergreen azalea at NBG.



Photo by William C. Miller III



Photo by Barbara Stump

▲ Figure 19. NBG also had a huge artistic installation for two months this spring: The Chinese “LanternAsia—Art by Day, Magic by Night” exhibit, for which the garden was open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with special events. The 30 structures, or “lanterns,” were lighted at night. This “Thailand Dragon” was the length of five school buses.

▼ Figure 20. One of the special gardens in Lewis Ginter Botanic Garden was the very peaceful Healing, Medicinal Garden. Notice not only the very helpful interpretive text, but also the bronze foliage on top of the frame.



Photo by Sherrrie Randall



Photo by Sherrrie Randall

◀ Figure 21. Two more long-distance drivers, Ronnie and Donna Palmer from Arkansas, in this same garden area. They own Azalea Hill Gardens & Nursery and are long-time members and *Azalean* advertisers.

▼ Figure 22. One of the many groups sharing garden fellowship (and planning for next year, no doubt) while on tour: (L to R) Jim Trumbly, Buddy Lee, Dave Nanney, and Tom Milner.

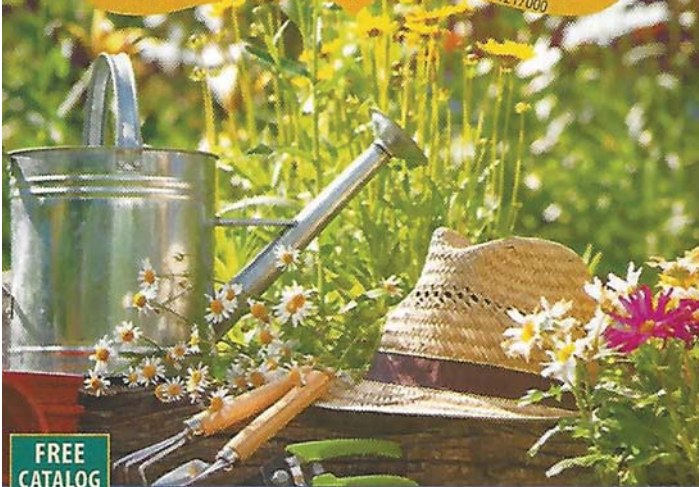


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