



**Bob Stewart's
Azaleas**

Background



- Since 1981, Bob Stewart has been a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, living in Springfield, Virginia
- Over the years Bob has been a prolific and well known hybridizer
- Bob has produced over 200 numbered hybrids and has named ~40 of them

Background – cont'd

- Bob has received commendations for his hybridization work:
 - 2002 - Frederic P. Lee Commendation from the Brookside Chapter, ASA
 - 2009 – Distinguished Service Award from the Azalea Society of America

Background – cont'd

Though Bob's hybrids were not featured in Fred Galle's book, "Azaleas"...there are references to his garden.



Hillside planting of azaleas,
R. Stewart Garden, Virginia.
R. STEWART

Background – cont'd

Though Bob's hybrids were not featured in Fred Galle's book, "Azaleas"...and photographs taken by him.



'Shinnyo no Hikari' [Eternal Light] Satsuki Hybrid. STEWART

Plate 76



'Daishuhai' [Great Vermilion Cup] Satsuki Hybrid. STEWART



Gardening Challenges



- Considerable slope to the property
- Thin, overlying hardpan soil
- Competition from trees

Solutions to Problems



- Initially
 - Built an extensive terrace
 - Brought in top soil
- Later - root invasion problems
 - Cut 55 gallon drums in half
 - Drilled holes for drainage
 - Propped up front side to make level
 - Surrounded the drum with wood



Introduction to Hybridizing

- Started hybridizing in 1990
- Served as a “stress reliever” from the demands of his job
- Increased number of seedlings each year
- “Best” hybrids were registered and named after family members



Azalea Characteristics Considered in Parents

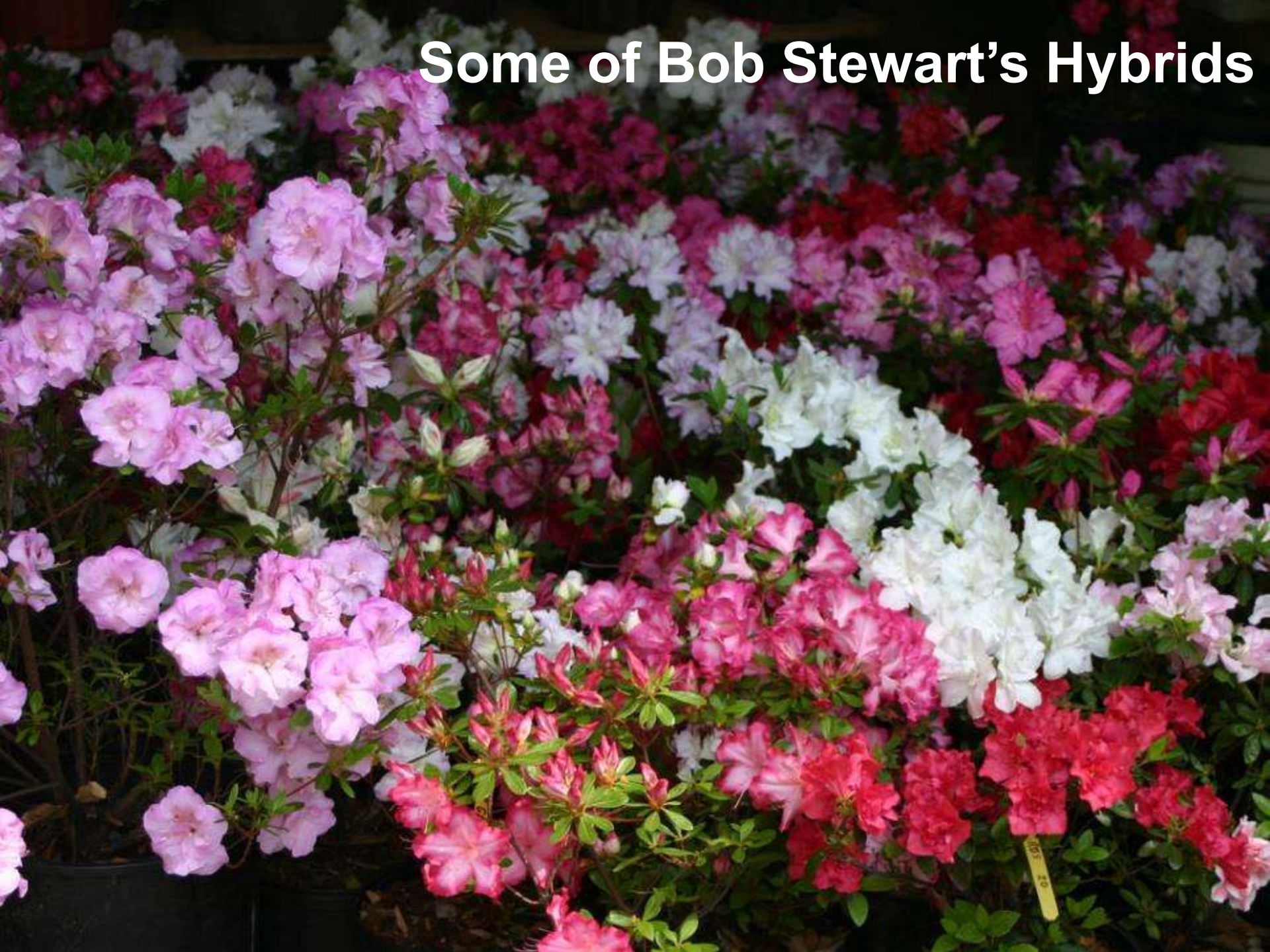
Match pretty, tender plants with hardy plants

- Other considerations:

- Bloom time
- Symmetry
- Size
- Hardiness
- Foliage
- Substance of flower



Some of Bob Stewart's Hybrids



1994

Cross Between 'Asahi Sakigake' and
'Margaret Douglas'

Offspring:

- RBS-01 'Ashley Ruth'
- RBS-07 'James Stewart'
- RBS-22
- RBS-37 'Sheri Ann'
- RBS-51



'Margaret Douglas' – Back Acres

Bob's Favorite Azalea



'Asahi Sakigake' - Kurume



RBS 01 – ‘Ashley Ruth’



- Named for granddaughter Ashley Ruth Phillips

'Ashley Ruth'



RBS-07 'James Stewart'



- Developed in 1994
- Named for grandson James Stewart Phillips

'James Stewart'



RBS-22



- Developed from the same hybridization as 'James Stewart' (RBS-07)



RBS-37 'Sheri Ann'



- Named after daughter-in-law Sheri Ann Stewart
- Developed from the same hybridization as 'James Stewart' (RBS-07)

'Sheri Ann'



RBS-51



- Developed from the same hybridization as 'James Stewart' (RBS-07)

RBS-51



From the Same Cross



'Margaret Douglas'

X



'Asahi Sakigake'



RBS-01 'Ashley Ruth'

From the Same Cross



'Margaret Douglas'

X



'Asahi Sakigake'



RBS-01 'Ashley Ruth'



RBS – 07 'James Stewart'

From the Same Cross



'Margaret Douglas'

X



'Asahi Sakigake'



RBS-01 'Ashley Ruth'



RBS-22



RBS - 07 'James Stewart'

From the Same Cross



'Margaret Douglas'

X



'Asahi Sakigake'



RBS-01 'Ashley Ruth'



RBS-22



RBS-37 'Sheri Ann'



RBS - 07 'James Stewart'

From the Same Cross



'Margaret Douglas'

X



'Asahi Sakigake'



RBS-01 'Ashley Ruth'



RBS-22



RBS-51



RBS - 07 'James Stewart'



RBS-37 'Sheri Ann'

One Cross – Five Excellent Hybrids



'Margaret Douglas'

X



'Asahi Sakigake'



RBS-01
'Ashley Ruth'



RBS-51



RBS - 07
'James Stewart'



RBS-22



RBS-37 'Sheri Ann'

Another Favorite Cross:



RBS-17 with 'Midnight Flare'

Offspring:

- RBS-06 'Sarah Jessica'
- RBS-27 'Betty Ellen'
- RBS-32

RBS-17

- Bob Stewart Hybrid of CB-1 and 'Desiree'



'Midnight Flare' - Harris



RBS 06 – 'Sarah Jessica'



- Named for granddaughter 'Sarah Jessica Frey'

'Sarah Jessica'



RBS 27– 'Betty Ellen'



- Named for his wife Betty Ellen Stewart

'Betty Ellen'



RBS 32



RBS-32





RBS-17

X



'Midnight Flare'



RBS-06 'Sarah Jessica'



RBS-17



'Midnight Flare'

X



RBS-06 'Sarah Jessica'



RBS 27 'Betty Ellen'



RBS-17

X



'Midnight Flare'



RBS-06 'Sarah Jessica'



RBS-32



RBS 27 'Betty Ellen'



RBS-17



'Midnight Flare'

X



RBS-06 'Sarah Jessica'



RBS-32



RBS 27 'Betty Ellen'

Cross Between 'Orchido' *and* 'Satellite'



- Offspring
 - RBS-79
 - RBS-80

'Orchido' - Ring



'Satellite' – Belgian Indica



RBS 79





RBS-79

RBS 80





RBS-80

Cross Between 'Elsie Lee' and 'Satellite'



- Offspring
 - Rose Normandy
(RBS-93)

'Elsie Lee' - Shammarello



'Satellite' – Belgian Indica



Rose Normandy (RBS-93)





'Elsie Lee'

x



'Satellite'



Rose Normandy (RBS-93)

Benefits of Hybridization

- Provides a “stress relieving” hobby
- Produces new, beautiful varieties of azaleas
- Provides the opportunity to name new varieties after friends and family



Stewart Azaleas Available at the 2016 Convention

Party favors:



Allison Ann



Monique Marie

'Allison Ann' RBS-47



Cross # 97-17-01, 'CB #10' x 'Linwood Salmon'. Named for one of Bob's granddaughters.

'Allison Ann' RBS-47



'Amherst' RBS-04



Cross # 92-24-01, 'CB #1' x 'Desiree'. Named for Bob's home town in Massachusetts; registered 2007.



'*Barbara Bullock*' RBS-85

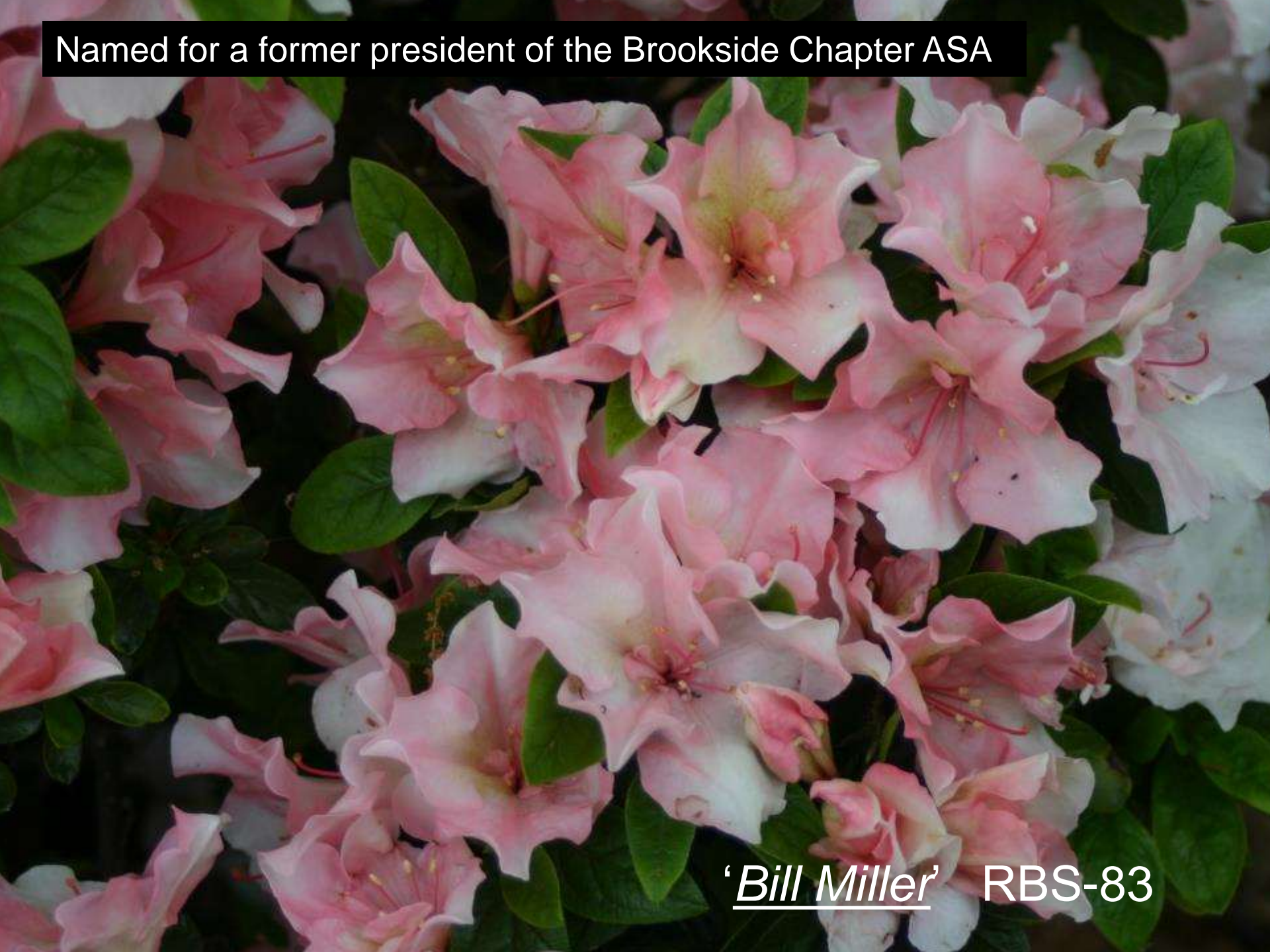
Cross 98-34, *Seattle White* X *Quakeress*. Named for Barbara Bullock of the National Arboretum



'Barbara Ella' RBS-103

Cross # 2003-2, 'Betty Ellen' x 'James Stewart'. Named for Carolyn Beck's mother, who grew up in the same hometown as Bob.

Named for a former president of the Brookside Chapter ASA



'Bill Miller' RBS-83

Cross # 96-17-2, 'Janice Lynn' x 'Saybrook Glory'. Named for one of Bob's granddaughters; registered 2005.

'Briana Murin' RBS-63



'Briana Murin' RBS-63



A close-up photograph of numerous pink azalea flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, showing five petals each with prominent stamens. The color is a vibrant, slightly darker pink. The background is dark and out of focus, making the flowers stand out.

'Debra Lee' RBS-49

Cross # 96-2-2, 'Saybrook Glory' x 'Dorothy Clark'. Named for one of Bob's daughters; registered 2007.



'Dr Douglas J Fraser, Jr'

RBS-96

Cross # 97-2, Mrs. Nancy Dipple' x 'Satellite'. Named for Bob's ophthalmologist; registered 2013.

Cross #02-02, 'Gartrel X75-08' x 'Saybrook Glory'. Named for Bob's sister-in-law



'Eleanor Gayle' RBS-97

Cross # 97-2-2, 'Mrs. Nancy Dipple' x 'Satellite'. Named for one of NV-ASA's charter members; registered 2013.



'Frances Louer' RBS-55

A close-up photograph of a large, multi-petaled azalea flower. The petals are a mix of light pink and white, with darker pink edges. The center of the flower shows several stamens with dark anthers. In the background, there are green leaves and other buds of the same variety.

'Grace Katherine' RBS-60

Cross # 96-02-05, 'Saybrook Glory' x 'Dorothy Clark'. Named for one of Bob's granddaughters; registered 2005.

'Grace Katherine' RBS-60



A close-up photograph of a white azalea flower with pink variegation. The petals are white with prominent pink streaks and patches, particularly on the right side. The center of the flower shows the reproductive parts, including stamens and a pistil. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other similar flowers.

'Jake Frey' RBS-5

Cross # 94-23-01, 'CB #1' x 'Mitey White'. Named for one of Bob's grandsons; registered 2005



'Jane Newman'

RBS-9

Cross # 90-8-9, *'Desiree'* x *'CB #1'*. Named for one of NV-ASA's charter members; registered 2013.

'Jennifer Nicole' RBS-33



Cross # 94-11-7, 'RBS 90-8-7' x 'Florence Waldman'. Named for one of Bob's granddaughters; registered 2001.

'Jennifer Nicole' RBS-33



'Joe Klimavicz' RBS-91



Cross #98-28, 'Haru-no-Sono' x 'Dorothy Clark'. Named for a friend and fellow hybridizer.

'Judith Quarrington' RBS-25

Cross # 97-11-04, 'RBS 90-8-7' X 'Florence Waldman'. Named by Dr. Joe Gutierrez.

'Kaitlyn Elizabeth' RBS-14



Cross # 94-11-1, 'RBS 90-8-7' x 'Florence Waldman'. Named for one of Bob's granddaughters; registered 2001

'Karee Lynn' RBS-66



Cross # 97-02-03, Mrs. Nancy Dipple' x 'Satellite'. Named for one of Bob's daughters.

'Lady Catherine' RBS-76

A close-up photograph of a pink azalea flower. The flower is the central focus, showing five large, overlapping petals with a delicate, ruffled texture. The petals are a soft pink color, with some darker pink veining visible near the center. The center of the flower features several long, slender stamens with yellowish tips. The background is filled with other similar pink flowers, creating a dense, layered effect. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture and color of the petals.

Cross #97-1-2, 'RBS 94-20-1' x 'RBS 94-10-1'. Named for Carolyn and Paul Beck's granddaughter.

'Marie Susan Melkovitz' RBS-42



Cross # 97-2-1, 'Mrs. Nancy Dipple' x 'Satellite'. Named for Susan Bauer's mother.

'Monique Marie' RBS-81

Cross # 97-9, 'RS 94-20-1' x 'Easter Morn'. Name chosen by Carolyn Beck for its 'Ooh-la-la impression'.



'Phil Louer' RBS-50

Cross # 96-4-1, 'Desiree' x 'Painted Tips'. Named for one of NV-ASA's charter members; registered 2013.

'Rob Bruce' RBS-15



Cross # 90-08-12, 'Desiree' x 'CB #1'. Named for Bob's son; registered 2005.

Cross # 97-05-01, 'Desiree' x 'Satellite'. Named for Leslie and Dave Nanney's daughter.



'Robin Marie' RBS-54

'Robin Marie' RBS-54



'Special Friendship' RBS-46

A close-up photograph of a light pink azalea flower. The flower has five petals, with the center showing a pattern of small red speckles. The petals are slightly ruffled and have a soft, delicate texture. In the background, there are other similar flowers and green leaves, which are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The overall color palette is soft and pastel.

Cross RBS 94-20-1' x 'Easter Morn'.

Cross # 95-19-01, 'CB #11' x 'Marian Lee'. Named for Bob's niece



'Sue Ellen' RBS-48

'Sue Ellen' RBS-48



A close-up photograph of several white azalea flowers with multiple layers of petals, set against a dark background. The flowers are in sharp focus, showing the delicate texture of the petals and the yellowish-green centers.

Legacy Project

Goal:

Help ensure the continuation of knowledge of azalea hybridizers and their plants and maintain true specimens of their cultivars.

Legacy Project Output

- Hybrid information online
- Informational presentations
- Publication of articles on hybridizers and their cultivars
- Feature hybrids in plant sales and auctions

http://www.nv-asa.org/legacies



Log in Register

Overview Bowie Mill Holly Springs Klimavicz Linwood Marshy Point McDonald Stewart ▾

Project description

Legacy Project Overview

Legacy Lead: Carolyn Beck

Hybridizer biography

Hybridizer: Bob Stewart

Bob Stewart is a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Over the years Bob has been a prolific and well known hybridizer. Bob resides in Springfield, VA and started hybridizing in 1990. His approach was to cross tender plants with more hardy varieties, considering factors such as bloom time, symmetry, size, hardiness and substance of the flowers. Bob named many of his varieties after family members. Other "unnamed" plants are numbered using the prefix RBS.

Project presentation

[BobStewartsHybrids-4-18-2009.pdf](#)

Azalea database

Cultivars: 51

Printer Friendly Print with Descriptions Print with Pictures Print with Pictures and Descriptions

Cultivar (Click for more info)	Group	Flower color	Bloom time	Height	Cold hardiness	Plant Type	Photo(s)
Allison Ann	Stewart	Pink				Azalea-Evergreen	
Amberst	Stewart					Azalea-Evergreen	

- Home
- Renew ASA
- Calendar
- Contact Us
- How To Join
- ASA Chapters
- Archives
- Clipper
- Convention
- 2016
- Minutes
- Monthly
- Plants
- Plant Sales
- Plant Photos

- Donations
- Legacy Project
- Nurseries
- Resources
- Library
- PV-laws

Informational Presentations



Bob Stewart's Azaleas


 Find Fa

- [Home](#)
- [Renew /](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [How to](#)
- [ASA Ch](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Clipper](#)
- [Convent](#)
- [2016](#)
- [Minutes](#)
- [Monthly](#)
- [Plants](#)
- [Plant Sa](#)
- [Plant Ph](#)
- [Donatio](#)
- [Legacy](#)
- [Nurserie](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Library](#)
- [By-laws](#)

Amherst	Stewart					Azalea-Evergreen
-------------------------	---------	--	--	--	--	------------------

A

The Garden and Hybridizing Program of Bob Stewart

Carolyn Beck—Oak Hill, Virginia

The Stewart garden offers a unique environment for the azalea enthusiast to enjoy. It has an extensive azalea collection representing many hybrids with impressive diversity, most of which will not be found in any garden center. Visiting this garden is also an opportunity to observe an avid hybridizing program in progress, and a chance to gather ideas about innovative plant care techniques.

Bob's gardening at his location in Springfield, Virginia, began nearly 50 years ago, shortly after he finished building a new home for his wife, Betty, and their three children. With the construction of the house complete in 1960, Bob was ready to landscape. Fortunately for us, he had just discovered the world of azaleas, becoming enamored with them after seeing a few commonly known varieties.

There were two major challenges to the site, though. First, the property was situated on a considerable slope. Second, the soil was thin, overlying hardpan, a hard, compacted layer through which roots can't grow. It was not a hospitable environment for our ericaceous friends, or most plants for that matter. However, a nice stand of trees and an underground spring brought the promise of gardening possibilities.

After installing an extensive system of stairs to access the various areas, Bob set out to make a safe haven for his Kurume acquisitions. He covered a hillside near the new house with a generous layer of topsoil and the necessary amendments. Over time, the collection grew as he discovered more and more interesting bloom types. Eventually, the hillside included Back Acres, Satsuki and many other hybrid groups. The results can be seen on the cover of Galle's book, *Azaleas*.

Growing up in Amherst, Massachusetts, Bob had gained experience



▲ Bob Stewart

▼ Ashley Ruth



in the family carpentry business and had been involved in the care of their vegetable garden at home. After time in the Navy, Bob spent many years in the construction business. All these skills, along with his innate curiosity, intuitive nature, and conservationist tendencies, helped him solve the gardening problems he faced in Virginia.

Importing tons of soil for the entire yard did not seem like a viable option

www.nv-asa.org/articles

Login
Register

Documents Azaleans

Keywords: Bob Stewart
Authors: Multiple authors, fr

Viewing: You can view articles of interest. This will show a list of the articles have not yet been viewed.

Note: If there is a page number for an article that has not yet been seen.

Searching: Multiple keywords are allowed. For example: 'glenn' and 'mex' keywords AND written by tk

Ordering: Back issues of *The Azalean* (CAN, MEX) selection and more back issues available!

Note: After clicking the **Ad** button you will be returned to where you were.

Note: You must be an ASA member to view this article.

Print	Volume	Number	Year	Is
	18	1	1996	Ma
	30	4	2008	Wi

Home | About Us | Join Us

or *The Azalean* volume of logging in (recent issues) or the number for the article is 0, the first click the **Domestic (US)**, will not be visible if there are no articles in the tab and you will be first.

0 USD

0 USD

| [The Azalean](#) | [Azalea City](#) |

Feature hybrids in plant sales and auctions



- Home
- Schedule
- Tours
- Plants
- Speakers
- Flower Show
- Registration
- Hotel
- Directions
- Sightseeing
- Contact



*Williamsburg
2016
"Legends and
Legacies"
A Joint Convention of the
American Rhododendron
Society
and the
Azalea Society of America
April 20-24, 2016*

Plant Sale:

The various hosting chapters have been propagating many of the convention plants. We were anxious to showcase rare azaleas and rhododendrons from our region including hard-to-find clones, superior selections from the wild, and new introductions.



<http://arsasaconvention2016.org>



Thanks for Listening!

A close-up photograph of several pink flowers, likely cherry blossoms, with delicate petals and visible stamens. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing darker pink variegation. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid in the center of the image is the word "Questions?" in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Questions?

Backup Slides

Legacy Project Output

- Hybrid information online
- Informational presentations

Legacy Project Output- Cont'd

- Feature hybrids in “Legacy” gardens
 - Private
 - Public
- Legacy Nurseries

Some Other Bob Stewart Hybrids

‘Amherst’



'Jake Frey' RBS-05



'Debra Lee' RBS-49





RBS 111



RBS 83



RBS 100



RBS 103



'Barbara Bullock' RBS-85

Named for Barbara Bullock of
the National Arboretum



'Betty Ellen' RBS-27

Cross # 94-10-06, 'RBS 90-8-7' x 'Midnight Flare'. Named for Bob's wife; ; registered 2003.

'James Stewart' RBS-7



Cross # 94-20-02, 'Asahi Sakigake' x 'Margaret Douglas'. Named for one of Bob's grandsons.

'Karee Lynn' RBS-66



Cross # 97-02-03, Mrs. Nancy Dipple' x 'Satellite'. Named for one of Bob's daughters

RBS 2002-05

Thanks for Listening!