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## Letters to the Editor

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A friend of mine propagated and sold azaleas for a few years. I believe that his Glenn Dales may have come from Dr. Coe or Fred Lee. In the 50s, I saw young plants for sale—labeled 'Furbelow' and they were white striped red. The 'Furbelow' that I obtained in the 60s from Kingsville was white and later, on subsequent inquiry, Mr. Hohman said that he did not now have 'Furbelow'. By that time my friend had ceased propagating azaleas, but I located his stock plant of 'Furbelow': a five-foot plant with white flowers except one branch at the base had the white striped flower. I put this branch under a rock but next year the flower on this branch was also white. My 'Furbelow' has always been white; where did the striped flowered plant that reverted to white come from? 'Furbelow' means—showy, useless trimming or ornamentation—and should never be applied to any-white-flowered plants!

PS: I told Bill Miller about my experience given above. My 'How-raku' was sectored and striped—now white! □

Dr. Neil Campbell  
*Washington, D.C.*

The following will be of interest to those of our members who use the R.H.S. Colour Chart, together with the ISCC-NBS color names in the Huse and Kelly pamphlet published in 1984 by the American Rhododendron Society (A Contribution Toward the Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture). Mal Clark has called my attention to a discrepancy: the color name associated with color chip RHS (66) 19B does not make sense in relation to the colors and names of the adjacent chips.

The CIE x,y,Y coordinates for chip 19B as published by the Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) in a pamphlet accompanying the color chart appear to be wrong. Repeated measurements with a colorimeter have yielded results placing 19B in the ISCC-NBS color-name block "light Yellow". Conversion by formula of the RHS-published coordinates into Munsell notation gives a result differing by only 0.1 chroma step from the notation derived by the National Bureau of Standards' computer program and published by Huse and Kelly.

Thus, the name "light yellowish Pink" published for 19B by Huse and Kelly is a correct translation of the coordinates published by R.H.S.—but an erroneous name for 19B! Additional evidence of the error appears when the x,y,Y coordinates are translated into the CIELAB system. One measure, called hue-angle, arrays the hues (red, orange, yellow, green, etc.) around a circle and associates them with angles from 0 to 360, as on a circular protractor. The colorimeter measurements, which convert to "light Yellow" show a difference of only two degrees in hue-angle between the 19A and 19B chips. But the data published by R.H.S. in 1966 imply a (clearly erroneous) hue-angle difference of 15 degrees toward red.

The methods employed above will be used to examine the other chips and their ISCC-NBS names as published by Huse and Kelly. If additional discrepancies are found, I will seek to convey them to fellow members. □

Don Voss  
*Vienna, VA*

*(The following is a letter originally to Bill Johnson, printed here by permission of the author, ed.)*

It was a pleasure working with you on the Azalea Society Auction this year, sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter. Your planning and perseverance in obtaining plant material paid off. Well done!

On behalf of the National Arboretum Azalea Collection, I, my supervisors, and FONA would like to thank you for your generous contribution. The money will be put to use where it will do the most good the fastest. Since the National Arboretum is here for the purpose of science and education, I intend on purchasing signs to place in front of plants which are easy to read. These signs will help the public to identify the plants we have. This will greatly speed me to the goal I have for the Azalea Collection here at the USNA.

Also, I would like to tell everyone about the wonderful assistance I've been receiving from several members of the Azalea Society. First and foremost is the weekly appearance of Brookside Gardens member, Jean Cox, since May 1991. Complete with tools, books, knowledge, and warm conversation, Jean is out there with me, rain or shine, uncovering and exposing our buried treasures from the past. Thank you, Jean! Then, there are the people behind the scenes: Frank Sobieski, At-Large member, has been assisting me with putting together a map of the collections (this does not include the Mt. Hamilton Hillside or Valley; I'm afraid we're not ready for that yet), to scale, with plant locations, grid markers, and contours. This will be the most complete map of the collection since 1960. Frank is also helping me to improve my record-keeping by doing some computer work at his home. Thank you, Frank! Then there's the never tiring inspiration to find the truth, from Bill Miller, Brookside Gardens Chapter, and Dick West, Ben Morrison Chapter. Together with some luck, we may someday eventually find that hidden file cabinet somewhere out there. Thank you Bill and

(Letters to the Editor Cont.)

Dick! Finally, Don Voss, Northern Virginia Chapter, for all his leads into the old records, the sharing of his knowledge and expertise of the history of the Robin Hill azaleas. Thank you, Don.

And thank everyone else for your energy and input. □

Barbara Bullock  
U.S. National Arboretum

I have been following the history of the North Tisbury azaleas history carefully for a number of years and have heard mixed success stories from those in my area who have tried to grow them. The fascinating article by Ms. Hill in the December issue reinforced my nervousness since the background of the *R. nakaharae* hybrids is not in very hardy azaleas. We are zone 6 here, but really zone 6a. Ms. Hill refers to her area as zone 6, but I wonder what her temperatures actually are, especially with the modifying effects of the sea nearby. Does anyone have records from those in the Northeast who are growing these azaleas? □

Margaret Boehm  
Wilton, CT

## Azalea Calendar

June	Follow-up meeting by the Ben Morrison Chapter on the 1992 Convention
June 13	Dallas Chapter "Cuttings Party" at Burnett Landscape Nursery @ 7:30AM
June 21	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library
August 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the September issue of THE AZALEAN
August 8	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
August 15	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
August 16	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library
September 5	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
September 12	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
September 19	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
October 10	George Harding Garden Work Day at River Farm
October 17	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
October 18	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library
October 20	Dallas Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM at the Highland Park town hall.
November 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
November 21	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
December 13	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30PM at Tysons Public Library

## Azalea News

### Request for Information

The Royal Horticultural Society is planning a complete revisions of The (RHS) *Rhododendron Handbook 1980*, covering all species known to be in cultivation. I have been asked to assist in obtaining a list of names of those who have made numbered collections of seeds, plants, or cuttings in the wild. The RHS is interested in numbered material that is likely to be

in cultivation, whether collected in North America or overseas.

Those who have made such collections since the 1980 lists were published, and believe the material to be in cultivation, are asked to send me their names and addresses for forwarding to the RHS.

Jay W. Murray, Registrar  
21 Squire Terrace  
Colts Neck, NJ 07722-1021 □

### In Memory

ASA at-large member Mr. John Peter Miller of Camino Avenue in Sacramento, California passed away on June 21, 1991.

Oconee Chapter member L. S. Jones of Conyers, Georgia passed away recently. □