

THE

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 1992

Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



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West Bethesda, Maryland
20827-0536

President's Letter

L. Malcolm Clark

If you ever feel your enthusiasm for azaleas waning, go to the next convention. Though each is different, all are sure cures for whatever the ailment. Thanks to the Ben Morrison Chapter for continuing an amazing string of sterling conventions. And thanks to those who make it special—the attendees.

The Harding Memorial Garden is well on its way. Enthusiastic support from the membership was voiced at the convention and about half the plants and dollars needed have been committed. Site preparation is under way now, so not to dally. As I said before, "one beautiful plant, one day's labor, or dollars on this order from most members." Please don't make me buttonhole you one by one.

Speaking of dallying, when you receive your dues notice for 1993 in a few weeks, return it promptly. For 1992 two-thirds had renewed by the end of the year, one-third were sent second notices and about one-sixth third notices. Ten people waited until after the convention to renew! Untimely renewal wastes both money and the time of an already overworked Membership Committee. If you mean not to renew, please tell us. Our main job is to serve your needs. If we fail in that tell us about it. (Occasional positive mail is also welcome, and helpful.)

Total membership continues to grow. For 1992 the growth rate is about 6%. If this rate is maintained I see no annual dues increase on the near horizon. Though there is surely room for improvement here, I want to thank recruiters for a job well done. Keep up the good work. All of us, however, need to give more attention to the flip side of recruiting, which is renewal, especially first time renewal. Each year some 20% of our members are new. More than 30% of these first-year members do not renew. After the second year this drops to about 8%. Clearly, we must attend more carefully to the needs of new members. At the national level the new member packet is being upgraded and **THE AZALEAN** openly seeks articles addressed mainly to newer members. For chapter members we can do more than this—buddy systems and activities designed to attend to the specific needs of individual new members. The point here is that recruiting a new member is only the beginning of what should be thought of as a long-term relationship. If a member does not renew, find out why and take the feedback seriously. To do less turns recruiting into little more than depletion of the pool of potential members.

Finally, the fall meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in late October. Pass along your ideas to Chapter Presidents, Directors-at-Large and/or officers. We want your input.

Malcolm Clark

On the Cover: G. Flippo Gravatt Garden (Beltsville Hybrids)
'Nannie Angell'

Photographers: Jean Cox
George Switzer

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 the series *Azalea* (subgenus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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**Journal of the Azalea Society
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1992 Annual Meeting and Convention

Robert W. Hobbs
North Beach, MD



Top: Jim Thornton receives the Charter for the newly formed Oconee Chapter

Middle: Tony Dove addresses the attendees on Friday evening

Bottom: Lunch was served Saturday at historic Sotterly

The Annual Meeting and Convention of the Azalea Society of America was held at Solomons, MD, May 14-16, 1992, sponsored by the Ben Morrison Chapter. Eighty seven members registered for the meeting. The meeting featured talks, a visit to the collection of Beltsville hybrids, tours of pri-

vate gardens, and a tour of historic Southern Maryland.

Three talks on Thursday evening focused on hybrids developed in Maryland and Maryland hybridizer Ben Morrison. Richard West spoke to the group about his research at Ten Oaks Nursery where many Glenn Dale hy-

"Switzer's Land" George and Sue Switzer

"Switzer's Land"¹ is our home. The origin of the name is obvious and needs no explanation.

We acquired the property in 1961 (30 acres). We now have 16.1 acres, thanks to the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company transmission line from the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plants, and the right of eminent domain.

We built our home in 1972 and the first plantings were done at that time. What has slowly evolved over the past 20 years is a woodland garden in a typical eastern hardwood forest. The dominant trees are several species of oak, hickory, beech, and sweet gum with an under-story of holly, dogwood and mountain laurel.

The landscape plantings consist primarily of evergreen azaleas, perhaps as many as 20,000 mature plants and approximately 1,000 varieties. These are complemented by companion plants such as rhododendron, pieris, boxwood, leucothoe, franklinia, and perennials. We also have an orchard, vegetable garden, and propagation facilities (hoop house, cold frames, and His and Her greenhouses; we don't quite agree on how to manage a greenhouse!).

The principal landscape plantings, several acres in extent, are interconnected by a network of winding paths and roads. Some are mass plantings of one variety, others are mixed, and there are areas set aside for collections, such as Glenn Dales, Robin Hills, Back Acres, etc.

In 1991 we granted an easement on our property to the Maryland Environmental Trust, which assures that it will remain the beautiful woodland we cherish in perpetuity.

Sue and George Switzer also own Cavalier Nursery (appointment only). They provided the plants of Ben Morrison at each place setting at the Banquet on Saturday night and Sue arranged the centerpieces for the tables. They also ran the plant sales with their plants and plants from Azalea Trace (ed.).

1. 2870 Scientists Cliffs Road, Port Republic, MD 20676

brids were planted and raised after their distribution from the USDA Glenn Dale facility. George Switzer talked about the collection of Beltsville hybrid azaleas at the community of Scientists Cliffs, located about 15 miles north of Solomons, the convention site. The third talk of the eve-

ning, by Bill Miller, was about the life and work of Ben Morrison, hybridizer of the Glenn Dale azaleas. Articles based on these three talks are printed in this issue. Bob Stelloh, Chairman of the Harding Memorial Garden project at the American Horticulture Society River Farm, described plans for

the garden in the final talk of the evening. Friday evening Tony Dove, horticulturist at Tryon Palace in New Bern, North Carolina, talked on "B. Y. Morrison Hybrid Azaleas". He described his experience in using the Glenn Dale and Back Acre hybrids in formal gardens and landscape settings. An article derived from this talk appears in this issue.

The group visited the gardens of Sue and George Switzer, Charles and Wanda Hanners, and the Beltsville hybrid collection at Scientists Cliffs on Friday. Despite intermittent rain and drizzle throughout the day, the

"Wake Robin" Joe and Nuran Miller

"Wake Robin"¹ was named for the title of the book first published in 1871 and authored by the great naturalist, John Burroughs. Wake Robin is also the common name for Trillium. We acquired the property in 1986. We were captivated by the woodland setting, the existing gardens (although unkempt), and the challenge of leaving behind our "two-story colonial" for a problematic older river cottage with abundant charm but few closets! The property, originally part of Kingston Manor (a few hundred yards to the northwest on the Patuxent River), fronts on two sides of Big Kingston Creek which flows through a jetty to the Patuxent River. The Creek is tidal in nature and supports turtles, muskrats, Maryland blue crabs, great blue herons, and egrets. Red foxes, owls, rabbits, raccoons and deer frequently share our space here. This tidal ecosystem ensures warmer late autumn days and prevents late spring frosts from damaging the gardens. The north end of the property with its high cliff, however, is quite windblown and exposed to storms.

Wake Robin is a woodland garden. Oaks, tulip poplars, and common pines predominate with numerous dogwoods, hollies, wild cherry, gums, mountain laurel and cedars competing for space. Wildflowers include ground pine, lady slippers, and mayapples. Soil conditions range from a very porous sand to a light clay. In general the soil dries out rapidly and plants require heavy mulch to survive the summer heat, even though the gardens are almost entirely shaded. These conditions promote slow growth and somewhat open, leggy habits.

Approximately 115 azaleas were planted by Lester and Pearl Schlup, probably around 1965. The original beds were planted with Kurumes and Glenn Dales. Most plants are early bloomers with the height of the springtime display bursting forth in late April and early May. There are some mid-season and a few late blooming plants, probably Macrantha. All plant records have been lost; therefore, we are in the process of mapping beds and identifying the older plants. We are attempting to retain the original garden form, while expanding as time permits. We have added an herb garden, some perennials, irises, and many early spring bulbs. Our latest interest is an attempt to propagate and add an interesting, broader collection of azaleas, with the goal of extending the azalea blooming season and collecting a greater variety of cultivars.

'Nannie Angell'

Evergreen azalea. (Parentage unknown). Hybridizer unknown; raised, selected (1965), named, introduced (through Cavalier Nursery) and registered (1992) by Sue J. Switzer, Port Republic, MD; described by George S. Switzer. Slightly fragrant, pure white flowers, 2.75-3" wide x 2-2.4" long, are 5-lobed with individual, strap-like, smooth-edged petals, each 0.4-0.5" wide, with rounded tips. Occasionally, adjacent petals are fused together for a short distance. The green calyx is 0.6" long. Leaves are narrowly elliptic, convex, acute at apex, cuneate at base, 1.6-2" long x 0.6" wide; hairy above and below. The shrub is upright with an open growth habit, 6-8' high x 4-6' wide in 25 years from cuttings, moderately floriferous, and blooms late April to early May. It is plant and bud hardy to at least 0 F.

1. 2190 Kingston Village Road, California, MD 20619

sun broke through for these garden tours. Both of these gardens are described as part of this article. Lunch was served at historic Christ Church where we were able to tour the biblical gardens. On Saturday, the group toured the garden of Joe and Nuran Miller (see accompanying description), preceding the historical tour. The featured speaker at the Saturday night banquet was Fred Galle, former Director of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens, who talked about "My Favorite Azalea(s)". A transcription of his talk is printed in this issue.

A newly registered cultivar 'Nannie Angell', a white spider azalea, was introduced at the convention by George and Sue Switzer. The cultivar was named after Sue Switzer's mother.

President Malcolm Clark presided at the annual meeting. The results of the election of officers and directors were announced:

Secretary: Carol Flowers

Treasurer: Glenn Taylor

Directors: Tony Dove

Denise Stelloh

George Switzer

The current president (Malcolm Clark) and vice president (Bill Miller) were elected last year for two-year terms.

The Charter for the new Oconee Chapter was presented to Chapter President Jim Thornton.

A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Belinda Hobbs. The citation reads: "As the Society has grown, so too its workload. The great volume of this burden has fallen on one person. Measured only by the drudgery of words processed, envelopes stuffed and the like, your service is unsurpassed. But you are everywhere! Assistant to one, substitute for another, you cover every empty base within reach, all with a warmth and good cheer that belittles your efforts. Titles? None tell the story. 'Utility Infielder' won't do. 'The Great Facilitator' seems near the mark. Whatever, you have taken to heart the aims of the Society like no other. You are our model." □

"Azalea Trace"
Charlie and Wanda Hanners

Azalea Trace¹ is a new place; we are now enjoying our fifth growing season. We would like to suggest that the site was selected because the hilly terrain, large trees and acid soil are well suited for azaleas. In fact, we purchased the land as a country homesite more than 20 years ago. Job changes precluded settling here until we retired and had outgrown our one-acre lot in Bowie, Maryland. The seven-acre site looked like an ideal home for our "new" hobby, azaleas.

The house at Azalea Trace was completed in late summer of 1987. We moved 8,000 potted azaleas including our collection of 1,200 named varieties and many seedlings. The azaleas are planted in areas divided by trails or paths, hence the name Azalea Trace. We now have about 1,500 named varieties. The collection serves several purposes including a baseline for evaluating seedlings.

Most of our mature seedlings, more than 500, are planted on a hill facing the house front. Most of our named plants, about 1200, are planted on a hill facing the west and north sides of the house. New named plants and seedlings being evaluated, more than 5,000, are in pots on the hill-top to the rear of the house.

We have location charts of the azalea plantings and each azalea has a "permanent" label. The seedlings have numbers that enable us to trace them back to their seed lot. Of course, some tags have been lost.

We enjoy growing azaleas from seed, some from our own plants and some from the plant societies. Our objective is very broad—"better" azaleas for the local area. In growing from seed one of the problems is selecting the "best" plants. Some seedlings show unique characteristics early in their life, others mope along for four or five years and then could turn out to be excellent plants. Those susceptible to cold temperatures, root rot, etc., die out early. From those that survive very, very few have proven to be "worse" than some of the already named varieties.

We have established a computer data file for each of the named varieties and the seedlings we have selected to save. It will take many years to complete the file; data collection will never be finished. Much of the initial basic information in the file has been gathered from external sources and our work includes both evaluating existing information and gathering new information.

We are still clearing land, planting azaleas and collecting new varieties. Some we get from other Azalea Society members, some from commercial growers and some from local retail outlets. Mis-identification is a common problem so we try to sort out the "real" names and characteristics. Last year we thought we had found a source for 'B. Y. Morrison', but the plant proved to be 'Ben Morrison'. We have at least two very different versions of 'Tradition', both from reliable commercial sources.

While our primary interest is azaleas we have not neglected the companion plants, Japanese maple, holly, magnolia, hosta, laurel, boxwood, hemlock, dogwood, daffodils, cryptomeria and of course Rhododendron. Our task appears to be finding the best plant for each spot and planting with a minimum disturbance to the terrain and native plants.

Azalea Trace Nursery also provided many plants for the plant sale room and the beautiful plants for the registration desk (ed.).

1. 5510 Stephen Reid Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

The Search for the Real Benjamin Yoe Morrison

William C. Miller III
Bethesda, MD

The story of Ben Morrison's life is like a puzzle. Unfortunately, unlike most puzzles, the individual pieces (the facts) neither are provided for you nor are readily available. Such is the nature and the challenge of historical research. One has to search for each part of the puzzle, testing each new discovery to see how (or even if) it fits with what is already known. Historical research, a cumulative process, is a time-consuming endeavor which is no less challenging than a good murder mystery. Every discovery draws one closer to the completed picture, but the thrill of discovery is tempered by the realization that now at least two additional directions need to be pursued. The sensation of progress might be best described as an exercise in one step forward and two steps back...or the more I learn, the more I realize that there is much more to learn. I am pleased to report, however, that the story of Ben Morrison's life has begun to take shape.

Very little has been written about Ben Morrison, and there are comparatively few people around today who knew him well, so it has been necessary to identify and locate other sources of information. The best book to date which deals with Ben Morrison's life is *Hybrids and Hybridizers* by Philip A. Livingston and Franklin H. West, Harrowood Books, Newtown Square, PA (1978). While the chapter on Morrison is unquestionably the best source of information of its kind, it is not without problems. Attributed to friends and colleagues, it stumbles mightily on a number of small but important details. For example, it consistently misspells his middle name (Yoe), his father's name (Lisle), and refers to Morrison's brother "George" when he did not have a brother by that name. Those specifics notwithstanding, the book is a must for every azalea enthusiast's personal library.

Over the last ten years, the search for the "real" Ben Morrison has led to: Takoma Park, Glenn Dale, and Beltsville, Maryland; the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC; River Farm in Virginia; Pensacola, Florida; Memphis, Tennessee; and Gulfport and Pass Christian, Mississippi. The many memoranda and letters that have been discovered in long-abandoned file cabinets and aged cardboard boxes have contributed much to our understanding of Ben Morrison. He was, after all, an extremely prolific writer, and many of his letters to friends, colleagues, and acquaintances have survived to yield valuable insight into his character, his attitudes, his philosophy, and his plant material. The Freedom of Information Act of 1966 (FOI), which makes it possible gain access to official government files, has proven to be an invaluable tool, as well.

Ben Morrison's life is divisible roughly into thirds — his early life, leading up to his parents settling in Takoma Park, Maryland; his professional life, involving his productive years in various capacities with the Department of Agriculture; and his retirement years in Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Ben Morrison's early life is still something of a mystery. When his parents bought the house in 1913 on what is now Piney Branch Road in Takoma Park, Maryland, he was 22 years old. How the Morrison family got to Takoma Park from Atlanta, where he was born on November 25, 1891, is not clear. Attempts to



Ben Morrison

track the family's movements have only been partially successful. We know that Ben's brother, Louis Keith, and his sister, Phoebe, were born in Washington, DC, in 1895 and Takoma Park in 1902 respectively, and that Ben graduated from Central High School in the District of Columbia in 1909. The oldest address that I have turned up for the Morrison family is 103 Oak Avenue, Takoma Park, DC. It was to this address that Ben's father had the legal paperwork sent when they bought the house on what is now Piney Branch Road (1913). Part of Takoma Park is in Maryland and part is in the District. If that is not confusing enough, many of the street names have changed. When Ben bought his parents' house on March 9, 1938, the address was 116 Chestnut Avenue. Today, that same property is 7320 Piney Branch Road.

Similarly, Oak Avenue at some point became Cedar Avenue.

Ben Morrison attended the University of California at Berkeley from 1909 to 1913 and received a B.S. in Agriculture (*cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*). He studied Landscape Architecture at Harvard, received an M.L.A. in 1915, and studied Landscape in China and Japan under a Harvard Sheldon Fellowship from 1916 to 1917. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I as a private in the Medical Corps and later as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Sanitation Corps. Records indicate that duty stations included Allentown, Pennsylvania; Washington, DC; and New Haven, Connecticut.

Ben Morrison is probably best known for development of the 454 Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas, the five Belgian-Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas, and the 53+ Back Acres hybrid azaleas, the latter two groups being logical extensions of the Glenn Dale hybrid work that began in the privacy of his home in Takoma Park, Maryland, in the early 1920's. Azalea enthusiasts may even be aware of the major role he played in the creation of the U.S National Arboretum and that he was its first director. But, that is probably where common knowledge ends, and most people are unaware that he was really a man of many remarkable talents and incredible energy. Besides being a first-class horticulturist and landscape architect, he was an artist of considerable talent, and many of his horticultural drawings, which reflect his keen powers of observation, are still around to be appreciated. He had a solo-grade voice, and at one point early on, he considered a music career in New York. Much later, in Pass Christian, Mississippi, where he retired, he was very active in the music program of the Pineville Presbyterian Church, the beautiful little church on Menge Avenue (about 0.4 mile beyond the Montebella Road turnoff to the Back Acres) to which he donated his piano and devoted much of his energy. He once confided to a

friend that when things got tough he could "go to the little church where I keep my piano (our house is too small and Anderson with whom I make my home would not enjoy the practice) and in an hour or so, live in a quite different world." Ben Morrison was a man of many talents and yet operating an automobile was not one of them. He never learned how to drive, a basic and essential skill that we take for granted today.

Curiously, depending on whom you talk to, Ben Morrison appears to have been two very different men. It is evident that he was not the sort of person about whom one was neutral. People either liked him or disliked him, but everyone respected him. Some likened him to a hard driving martinet with a fiery tongue and no patience, while others described him as a very caring individual with remarkable drive who was extremely generous with his time and resources. My review of much of his personal correspondence suggests that there is an element of truth to both camps. I suspect that he was not the sort of person that you wanted to disappoint when he was depending on you. He expected of others the same level of performance that he required of himself. My impression is that you wanted him with you and not against you, as he could be a formidable opponent. I particularly like David Leach's description of him in *Hybrids and Hybridizers*: "He was invariably courteous, even charming, to me; but I was a little afraid of him in the early days. His acid tongue, devastatingly witty observations, and corrosive letters were famous. They were the product of a quick brain with friction brakes that worked in reverse. Friction, especially of mindless origin, loosened the rolling tongue. Ben Morrison was the Terrible Tempered Mr. Bang in the memory of many a singed horticulturist."

Ben Morrison's official employment record makes interesting reading. In 1914, he held the title of "Agent" and was paid \$3.00 a day un-

der a temporary appointment in the Bureau of Plant Industry. As his career progressed, some of the titles he held were Cartographer, Landscape Gardener, Scientific Assistant in Landscape Gardening, Assistant Landscape Architect, Junior Horticulturist, Assistant Horticulturist, Associate Horticulturist, Senior Horticulturist, Principal Horticulturist in Charge, and finally Director of the National Arboretum. Over his career his "headquarters" (duty stations) included: Washington, DC; Glenn Dale, Maryland; Bogota, Colombia; and Beltsville, Maryland. In 1937, he was named Acting Director of the National Arboretum in addition to his regular duties. Few people realize that he was the second Acting Director, succeeding Dr. Frederick V. Coville; and that it was not until April of 1951, seven months before he retired, that he was named Director. One theory has it that the Arboretum's Advisory Council was reluctant to push for a full-time director because of the uncertainty that the Arboretum would survive. Despite that curious situation, no individual did more to make the National Arboretum possible than Ben Morrison. On two occasions, he resigned from government service, once in 1922 to attend music school in New York and once in 1923 because the work for which his reinstatement had been requested had been finished. He was reinstated again six months later. There was no evidence of any official reprimands or adverse actions in his official file. In fact, a final report on the completion of a probationary period in 1920 was quite complimentary: "What has been stated in the initial and intermediate reports relative to Mr. Morrison still holds good. He has excellent initiative; has a rather wide knowledge of plant material; is adaptive, conscientious, energetic, and is a valuable asset in our landscape gardening work." One of the major milestones in his career came on July 1, 1941, when he was reassigned to "full time" at the Arboretum. Finally, toward the end of his career, his record

is punctuated by a number of periods of "leave without pay" which, with no additional explanation, seem to have been for personal reasons.

One of Ben Morrison's significant long-term interests was the American Horticultural Society (AHS). His service as president and later as the principal editor of the society's magazine for 37 years would be enough, but it does not really tell the complete story. Many of the covers of the magazine were Morrison's own wood-block prints.

The extent to which he personally subsidized AHS is not widely known, but in 1943, he applied for a personal loan from the American Security and Trust Company in Washington, DC. In the statement of his personal expenses that was submitted in support of the loan application he wrote: "My personal expenses, which are of my own making, involve two monthly payments, one of \$50.00 to the American Horticultural Society as my contribution toward the work, and a sum which usually amounts to about \$40.00 for lessons in Spanish, a self-imposed subject which is of great use in my present office and present work." That monthly \$50 donation to AHS in today's standard is significant, but it takes on even more meaning when you realize that it constituted approximately ten percent of his gross income at the time. His feelings for AHS also show through his personal letters to some of his friends. It is evident that when he moved out of the Washington area, the distance diminished his ability to influence the decision making process within the AHS, and that troubled him. Incidentally, the purpose of the above-mentioned loan was to pay for a collection of herbarium sheets that he had arranged to obtain for the Arboretum. His superiors had cancelled the procurement after the herbarium sheets had been delivered, leaving him in a seriously compromised position. He chose to pay for the sheets

himself rather than to create a hardship for the person from whom he had obtained the collection. Ben Morrison donated the collection to the Arboretum.

It is my belief that in March of 1952, Ben Morrison moved to Pass Christian, Mississippi on the Gulf coast to live at the "Back Acres," the family home of Ivan Anderson. I am uncertain of the actual date because I have not found any references to the move in any of his letters, and there is much to suggest that the move was transitional over a number of years. He officially retired from the Arboretum on November 30, 1951, but he must have had difficulty in letting go, since he held the official title of "Consultant" for one year. His file shows a change of "headquarters" from Washington, DC, to Pass Christian, Mississippi, effective March 17, 1952, which suggests that he left the Washington area at about that time. At the Back Acres, Ben Morrison continued his azalea breeding activities and, with the help of Frank Dowdle, tried to make a go of the Pass Christian Nursery. The nursery struggled for five years and then failed. Located approximately 2.5 miles north of Pass Christian about 0.2 miles outside the city's corporate limit, the Back Acres provided him with the privacy and the opportunity to pursue his considerable horticultural interests. It is ironic that many of the people in Pass Christian never really knew that much about Ben Morrison's past. He apparently never told them. Pictures of the Anderson property, probably taken in the 1950's, reveal that it was an absolute horticultural showplace and that, very likely, did most of his talking for him. There are numerous references in his letters about having to prepare for visitors, so being off the beaten track did not translate to total privacy. Regrettably, since Morrison's death, the "Back Acres" has been stripped of almost all of its treasures, but that is another story.

On May 3, 1954, the U.S. National Arboretum honored Ben Morrison by naming the azalea clonal garden after him. The clonal garden had been one of Ben Morrison's projects. Dating back to the mid-1940's, it was designed to display a collection of the Glenn Dale hybrids and to serve as a prototype for the development of other "unit gardens." Transcripts of the dedication ceremony, including his remarks, are available, and it is clear that he was deeply moved by the honor.

I had imagined that Ben Morrison might have died while busily tending to his latest and most beautiful azaleas. There might not have been a more fitting way for a man like him to go, but such was not the case, as reported by his personal physician, Dr. C. D. Taylor, Jr. On the evening of Sunday, January 23, 1966, Morrison called his doctor and complained of what he described as a spasm in his neck and upper esophageal area. In the early morning of the next day, the pain became severe, and the doctor sent him to the emergency room and had him admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport. His condition deteriorated over the day, and at approximately 7:00 p.m. on January 24th, Ben Morrison succumbed to a massive myocardial infarction (heart attack). He was 74 years old.

Ben Morrison is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Gulfport, Mississippi, in the Anderson plot. The plain stone, which marks his grave, is consistent with the way he lived his life, though it is poor testament to his many contributions and to the beauty that he created.

Bill Miller is Vice President of The Society, co-chairman of the Membership Committee and chairman of the Public Information Committee. He is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter and has served as chairman of Horticulture for the chapter's annual flower show for many years. He is a frequent contributor to THE AZALEAN. □

B. Y. Morrison Hybrid Azaleas

James (Tony) Dove, Jr.

New Bern, NC

The landscapes of modern gardens of the Eastern and Northwestern United States, as well as other countries, would be vastly different if the first director of the U.S. National Arboretum, B. Y. Morrison, had not undertaken the tremendous task of hybridizing the Glenn Dale azaleas. Begun in 1935, this monumental effort eclipsed all previous attempts. Although there were a few introductions immediately prior to World War II, most clones were introduced between 1947 and 1949. During this period Morrison evaluated over 70,000 seedlings. His main goal was to produce azaleas whose flowers would rival the Southern Indica varieties but be considerably more tolerant of cold. Another goal was to produce varieties that filled the gap that existed between early and late flowering clones. The wide range of forms and colors has made them very popular. Mr. John Bond, Keeper of the Garden at Windsor Great Park in England, has set aside a large display area for only the Glenn Dales.

Mr. Morrison's first problem was to choose the species and varieties of azalea that would contribute one or more of the traits that would help achieve his goals. *Rhododendron simsii*, particularly the variety 'Vittata Fortunei', was used extensively. The flowers of 'Vittata Fortunei' are white with flakes or stripes of red or purplish red. Most of the varieties of *R. simsii* mutate or sport freely. Some mutations may not resemble the parent plant at all in regard to flower color or the amount of floral variegation. Although this plant was extremely important in breeding for floral displays, it is unfortunately not very cold hardy. To increase cold tolerance, Mr. Morrison used several different species, varieties and cultivated varieties. The Korean azalea, *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* is, among the hardiest of the "evergreen" azaleas. Unfortunately the species itself retains only a small percentage of its summer leaves even in relatively mild climates. *R. kaempferi*, the most common native azalea in Japan, is slightly less cold hardy in many of its forms, but retains more of its foliage. Kaempferi Hybrid clones 'Alice', 'Louise', and 'Willy' were used, as well as 'Malvatica' whose origin was unknown. To achieve late flowers Mr. Morrison chose several varieties of Satsuki Hybrids, with their low stature and large, late blooming flowers that many times sport readily. *R. indicum* also has late flowers and a low, compact growth habit and is usually more cold tolerant than many Satsuki clones. Unfortunately for the home gardener, rabbits think it's candy! Some of the more hardy Southern Indian Hybrids with their large showy flowers and large evergreen foliage were also commonly used as parents. 'Modele', 'Miltoni', and 'Madame Margottin' were most commonly used. Many Kurume Hybrids, 'Amoena', *R. phoeniceum* var. *calycinum f. maxwellii* the Maxwell Azalea and the Dawson Hybrid 'Hazel Dawson' also contributed.

In 1947, B. Y. Morrison and Dr. John Creech made more crosses to incorporate the flower qualities of the Belgian Indian Hybrids into the considerably more cold hardy Glenn Dale hybrids. Ninety-six plants were evaluated and eventually five were selected and introduced in 1962. All five named plants were from a cross of a double pink Belgian Indica forcing azalea x 'Treasure'. They are hardy only to USDA Hardiness Zone 7b at best.

Mr. Morrison moved to Pass Christian, Mississippi, following his retirement from the USDA. His continued interest in late blooming, heat tolerance and double flowers continued in his development of the Back Acres Hybrids. Over 500 crosses were made, with 307 clones selected and evaluated. Some clones

were first introduced in 1964. In the very warm and humid regions of eastern North Carolina, these plants have continually looked better than any of the Satsuki azaleas or the varieties 'Gumpo' and 'Pink Gumpo'. Most are hardy only to Zone 7 on the USDA Hardiness Zone Map.

The following varieties of Mr. Morrison's azaleas are among the plants that I have grown or am growing in Maryland and North Carolina:

'Allure'—Early 2"+, light purplish pink, among the best doers of all azaleas I grow in Maryland. The buds are rarely killed by fluctuating warm and cold periods even in the "frost pocket" that occurs in my Maryland garden.

'Ambrosia'—2" yellowish pink, early, received the most positive comments of visitors at the London Town Publik House and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland.

'Ben Morrison'—Introduced 1972, not a Glenn Dale.

'Dayspring'—The best very early bloomer in Maryland. Flower buds killed in North Carolina in February after a hot spell.

'Dream'—Another very excellent performer. Never winter injured.

'Festive'—My favorite Glenn Dale. It sports freely. Has sustained damage to buds by late freezes.

'Treasure'—Seen everywhere, an excellent white, very tolerant of adverse conditions, flowers wilt badly in North Carolina.

'Zulu'—A great purple. No other azalea was affected by the Pinxster Gall fungus more than 'Zulu'.

James A. 'Tony' Dove has a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Maryland. Tony is currently working as the Branch Head, Horticultural Services for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Tyron Palace Restoration in New Bern. He is a long-time member of the Ben Morrison Chapter, and has served both as a Director and as President of the Azalea Society of America. □

Scientists Cliffs and Beltsville Azaleas

George S. Switzer
Port Republic, MD

The Calvert Cliffs, from 100 to 130 feet high, extend along the west side of the Chesapeake Bay for a distance of 25 miles, including the area now known as Scientists Cliffs, Calvert County, Maryland. They are world renowned for their abundance and variety of Miocene fossils (10 to 16 million years old). However, that is not how Scientist's Cliffs acquired its name.

In 1935, G. Flippo Gravatt and his wife Annie, both plant pathologists in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, were seeking a suitable site for establishment of a summer colony for scientists and other professional people of common interests. In 1935 they purchased 238 acres and later additional acreage for a total of 752. Then the colony was named Scientist's Cliffs and slowly grew, until by 1988 it had developed into a mostly year-round residential community of 450 members and 228 homes.

Henry E. Allanson became the first year-round resident. He had retired from the Plant Introduction Station of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Glenn Dale, Maryland, was a friend and colleague of Ben Morrison, and an azalea enthusiast. We built our summer cottage at Scientist's Cliffs in 1952, near Allanson, who quickly indoctrinated us into becoming azalea collectors and taught us how to propagate them. Others who followed Allanson included Eugene Hollowell, who introduced 'Dorsett', and August Kehr. Kehr owned property at Scientist's Cliffs for a time, but on retirement chose to go to Hendersonville, NC.

Flippo Gravatt died in 1969. The G. Flippo Gravatt Memorial Garden was established in his honor, and consists of a collection of Beltsville Hybrid Azaleas. The collection was originally complete, but unfortunately this is no longer so—many have died for one reason or another. The dwarfs especially suffered, for they were in two front rows alongside a heavily traveled road.

I am indebted to Dr. August Kehr for a detailed account of how the Beltsville collection went to Scientists Cliffs, in his letter to me of 8 February 1992. I would like to quote that letter to you, for it contains detailed information not previously known to me.

Hendersonville, NC 28739
240 Tranquility Place
8 February 1992

Dear Dr. Switzer:

I note you are giving a talk on the Beltsville hybrids and the Flippo Gravatt Memorial Garden at Scientists Cliffs. Perhaps I can give you a little help re the origin of the latter.

In the late '60's during the early period when I was Chief of the Vegetables and Ornamentals Research Branch, the Ornamentals Investigations of that Branch was having great financial difficulties. The thinking in Congress at that time was "if you can't eat it, wear it, or feed it, forget it." Consequently funds appropriated for ornamental plants simply did not cover the expenses of the greenhouses in Beltsville, staff salaries, and maintenance of field plantings. "Vegetable

funds" made up many deficiencies, because I had authority to transfer up to 20% of the budget between projects.

As a result the Beltsville azalea collection suffered from lack of maintenance. They were gradually becoming overgrown with trees, brush, and briars in a plot back of the National Agricultural Library. I discussed this problem with Dr. Holly Hollowell who was then intensely interested in rhododendrons and azaleas. He in turn discussed it with Annie Gravatt who had retired from Beltsville where she had been editor of Beltsville Publications in the Plant Science Division for several years. Annie agreed to set aside property for moving the collection to Scientists Cliffs.

Holly prepared the ground, brought in loads of sawdust and smoothed up the property. Meanwhile I arranged to have the plants dug and properly labelled at Beltsville. The plants were to be turned over to the Gravatt Garden gratis, provided the plants would be available to nurserymen and plantsmen for propagation purposes.

As I recall, Mrs. Gravatt provided funds for the land preparation and planting of the plants. Holly Hollowell supervised the planting and for the rest of his life he supervised the caretaking of the garden. Meanwhile I sent out large quantities of cuttings to all who requested them; also I believe Holly did likewise.

I had a complete collection of the releases of each and all of the azaleas released from Beltsville. I think that collection is in the archives of the University of Virginia Alderman Library, along with my letters, papers, and writings making up eight Hollinger boxes there.

At the initiation of the garden collection there were many cultivars of the Beltsville azaleas that were missing from the collection. I spent at least two years going through the records of the Ornamentals Investigations (as it was then called) to learn the names of the recipients of plants when they were released. By diligent and persistent searching I located plants of every single cultivar including all of the original 19 dwarf cultivars.

At one time Holly and I had the maps that located and identified each plant. I don't know where Holly's map went to, but I do know where mine went.

When I left Beltsville and retired here in western NC, there was absolutely no one interested in the garden. Holly had died and Mrs. Hollowell was not mentally able to do anything. I believe the grandson had a mild interest. Only one person expressed much interest and that was the owner of the Marshy Point Nursery near Baltimore (I do not recall his name¹). Therefore I gave him my copy of the map of the plots with the hope that he would propagate and continue to distribute the plants. Perhaps he still has that map. However, all the plants were carefully labelled with a good quality label. Hopefully they maintained identity.

1. Harry Weiskittel. William C. Miller III also has a list by row and number in the row, sent to him by Dr. Kehr in 1985.

When I left the Washington area, all the collection was doing well and was all complete. However, there was one plant near the back of the plot which represented the sole surviving cultivar (that I knew of) that was still languishing. I do not recall the name. (It was 'Mithra'².) I took a few cuttings once but failed to root them. It is possible that this is the sole cultivar that is lacking from the collection.

Many of the missing cultivars came from the azalea collection at the North Carolina State University Department of Horticulture.

The Beltsville azaleas were also known as the Yerkes-Pryor hybrids. Guy Yerkes is the person primarily responsible. During the time I was in charge at Beltsville (I came in December 1958) Bob Pryor was not very active in the breeding work. The collection in the woods certainly antedated 1958 when I came to Beltsville. Bob did introduce some later cultivars, especially those that were cream colored. I used some of the latter in my program of breeding yellow flowered azaleas. This program is still going on.

Hope the above will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,
August E. Kehr

2. There are now two plants of 'Mirtha', both doing well.

Later:

I have found the file on the Beltsville azaleas, including sources where I found missing clones, persons who received nearly complete collections (sent out at my expense—not the government). This is valuable historical data. Can the Azalea Society preserve it? If so, I will send it to the designated person.

During the convention we visited the Gravatt Memorial Garden. It is small and the visit was brief. The plants have no visible labels, although I had with me a map made in 1980, at which time we found labels on 56 plants—12 of the original 19 dwarfs had survived, and 44 of the 47 others. Since that time there have been further losses but we have not updated the map. Unfortunately none of the lost plants have been replaced and the collection continues to deteriorate. Our main reason for seeing the garden was for you to know of its existence and, if you wish, to take advantage of the stipulation stated in Dr. Kehr's letter that "the plants would be available to nurserymen and plantsmen for propagation purposes". If anyone wishes to take cuttings please contact me and I shall be happy to make the necessary arrangements.

Dr. George Switzer is the former curator of the Mineral and Gem Collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. He is past president of the Ben Morrison Chapter, and maintains a large collection of azaleas in Southern Maryland. □

THANKS to all
who attended the 1992 Convention and Annual Meeting
of the Azalea Society of America
hosted by the Ben Morrison Chapter
at Solomons, Maryland
May 14-16, 1992

The Azaleas at Ten Oaks Nursery: A Preliminary Report

Richard T. West
Columbia, MD

A survey of azaleas at the Ten Oaks Nursery complex in Clarksville, Maryland, was begun in 1987 concurrent with historical research about the Nursery and the participation of the owners, the Adams, in the Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas distribution program. The largest grouping of azaleas is in an azalea arboretum which originally contained some 600 or more different cultivars when planted 40 years ago. Most of these represented complete, or nearly complete, collections of the Glenn Dale, Gable, and Chisolm-Merritt hybrid groups. A smaller azalea collection is in a display garden that contains about 100 cultivars, the majority of which are duplicates of plants in the arboretum, but which also includes unique specimens. Additionally, there are small groupings of azaleas elsewhere on the Ten Oaks property. Why these collections are special and the reason for the survey is that virtually all of the azaleas are the original plants as received from the hybridizer, and all were carefully tagged for identification. Consequently, the Ten Oaks azaleas can be considered the true and correct plants, and as such, represent a unique and highly valuable resource for azalea research and propagation.

Anyone who becomes serious about azaleas soon confronts the basic problem of correct identification: What azalea is it? What is needed are complete, correctly identified azalea collections for ready reference, but none exist. The overall goal of the Ten Oaks survey is to use the results to develop such complete collections. There are other related objectives as well: to find, propagate, and re-introduce rare or "lost" azaleas; to identify and publicize little known cultivars having notable characteristics and deserving of attention; to obtain data on mature plants; to summarize the experience of large azalea plantings over time; and to make available a large, fully documented gene pool for future hybridizing endeavors.

The first tasks at Ten Oaks to achieve the goal and objectives have been to find tags, validate plant identification at bloom time, re-tag plants and construct planting diagrams. This survey work is about half completed: most of the display garden has been done, but only a third or so of the arboretum has been searched, and tag-plant validation is in progress. Although work is still in the early stages, some interesting cultivars have been found and some things learned about the collections already. This article is a preliminary report on the survey progress and early findings.

Background

The history of the Ten Oaks Nursery and its participation in the Glenn Dale azalea distribution program has been documented in an article in **THE AZALEAN**¹. To summarize briefly, a condition of the distribution was that recipients should provide annual reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) on the status of each cultivar and the propagation experience. B. Y. Morrison suggested that one specimen of each Glenn Dale be set aside and allowed to grow to

full maturity. The Adams responded to this obligation by creating an azalea arboretum to serve as a test garden where natural growth could occur and be monitored. They planted not only the Glenn Dales, but also azaleas of every kind they could get. The arboretum, constructed and planted in 1950 and 1951 in an isolated area of the Adams' Ten Oaks property, has never been open to the public, and the azaleas have been left undisturbed to grow on their own.

For their azalea business, the Adams also designed a display garden near the main nursery buildings where their customers could see and inspect larger-sized versions of the azaleas offered for sale. Also planted in 1950-51, the garden contained selected Glenn Dales and other azaleas that showed high qualities and were popular with customers. By intent, some of the contents changed during the years after 1950, and the azaleas have been pruned, watered, and given other attention as have been the small groupings of plants elsewhere around the nursery buildings.

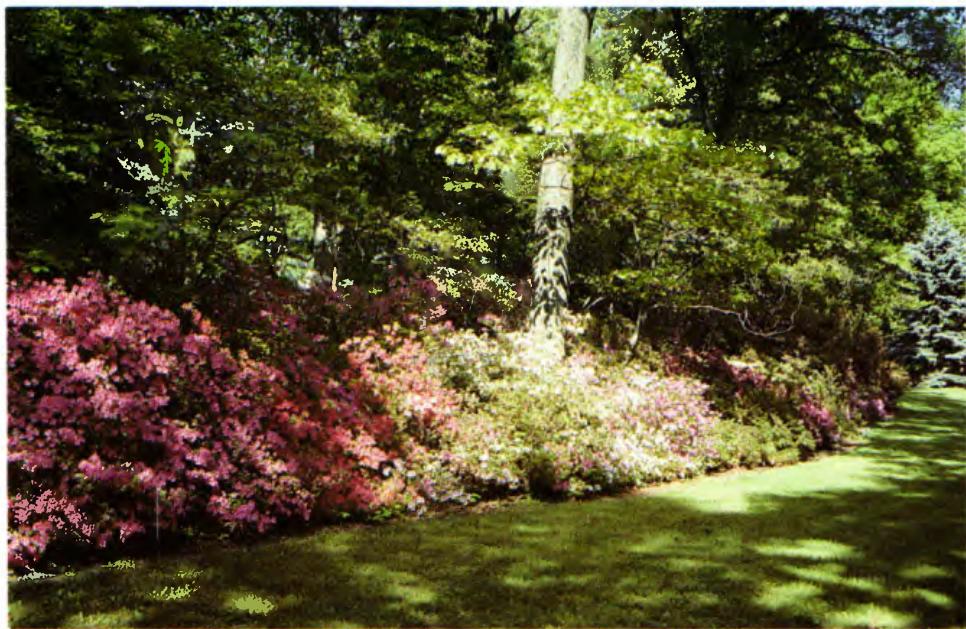
In the early 1960's, Ten Oaks ceased retail sales and became a wholesale nursery and contract landscape business. New company buildings were constructed at other places on the property, and the azalea collections became part of the Adams' residential property. Mrs. Roberta Adams, widow of Andrew Adams, Sr., the founder of the Ten Oaks Nursery, and Andy Adams, Jr., and his wife Ruth, have generously permitted access to the azaleas and have been supportive of the survey work. Their assistance, patience, and tolerance of the invasion of their privacy over the past five years is most gratefully acknowledged.

Some comments about the motivations for undertaking the survey need to be made because they have dictated to an extent how the work has gone so far. The problem of correct azalea identification for me began not long after I took Frank White's popu-

lar propagation class somewhere back in the 1970's². With Frank's training, I became successful in rooting cuttings from all kinds of azaleas located in many places, but without always knowing what they were. I soon discovered identification was going to be a real problem as there were no reference collections for comparison.

My fortunate experiences with Frank date back to the mid-1970's, and he has shared with me much knowledge about azaleas, but not always with my full understanding of what he was saying. For example, he would show me sister cultivars in one of the Glenn Dale crosses, and make remarks about shades of color as if I were familiar with all of the sisters. So, inadvertently, Frank began to fill my head with questions, and others over the years added to them. I remember, as another example, the late Art Frazer telling me at length how B. Y. Morrison was not right about the eventual height of the Glenn Dales, but he didn't explain if they grew taller or shorter, so there was another set of questions.

Shortly before getting involved with Ten Oaks in the mid-1980's, I began a continuing conversation with Bill Miller about a variety of azalea issues, especially with many of the Glenn Dales. As anyone knows who has followed Bill's writings in **THE AZALEAN**, he has particular interest in the history of the Glenn Dales, the proper identification of azaleas, the appearance of mature plants, and the phenomenon of sporting. We have debated how much plants might change over time and why, the notion of genetic drift, and the impact of environmental conditions among other things—scholarly stuff at which Bill is very good. When I mentioned to him that I was considering doing something at Ten Oaks, he was very encouraging, and Bill can be very persistent in his encouragement when it comes to azaleas. I must also say that Bill has been extraordinarily generous in sharing all of the Glenn Dale historical data and information he



has compiled over the years. It has been of great help in the survey work.

About the same time in the mid-1980's, I met and got to know Pete Vines. Pete very much impressed me with his thoughtful and careful observation and evaluation of azaleas, and his strong interest in the Glenn Dales. In his catalogs, he used to print a Glenn Dale "want list" as he was trying to compile a complete collection, and when he found out about the possibilities at Ten Oaks, he was just as encouraging as Bill Miller. Pete's want list was interesting because it included the rare or lost Glenn Dales as one might expect such as 'Niphos', 'Scherzo', and the ever-mentioned 'Luna', but also certain cultivars readily available in the marketplace about which Pete had questions concerning their true identity, plants such as 'Driven Snow', 'Pinto', and 'Aladdin'—a sort of "unsure" list of Glenn Dales.

So, the survey work at Ten Oaks started with my thoughts about a reference collection, what different azaleas really look like, and other questions formed over the years; Bill Miller's questions about mature plants and sporting; and Pete Vines' list of wanted Glenn Dales. The original idea was to be rather orderly in the progression of the survey: find



tags, validate plants, and the like, and then to start studies of mature plants and perhaps begin limited propagation. The truth is that the plan for orderliness hasn't worked as well as it should have because interesting finds and other azalea issues have arisen causing distractions that have taken some time away from the surveying.

Description of the Display Garden

The display garden is in a triangular shape that measures about 125 feet in length by 70 feet at the base. As



Upper Left: Azalea arboretum at Ten Oaks Nursery

Upper Right: Ten Oaks' 'Roberta'

Lower Right: Gable's 'Apricot'

stated, it contains about 100 plants, most of which are single representatives of a cultivar, but there are a few with multiple examples. Although there may have been some arrangement of azaleas by hybrid group originally, plant loss and replacement and the changing of plants for more popular varieties after 1951 have re-

sulted in what is essentially a random order for present placement. Tags have been found for some 75 to 80 plants (more about the tags later).

The contents of the garden are what one might expect for a display of popular and best selling azaleas in the 1950's: old stand-bys such as 'Delaware Valley White' and 'Indica Magnifica'; a selection of Kurumes such as 'Snow' and 'Sherwood Red'; some "old" azaleas such as *R. poukhanense* and Yodogawa; Gable hybrids such as 'James Gable' and 'Herbert'; a good number of Glenn Dales including 'Delight', 'Treasure', and 'Zingari'; and a few "mystery" plants such as 'Gov. Meyner' and "USDA #328."

'Gov. Meyner', a single bright red, was a mystery because no reference could be found for it in the standard sources. After much searching through the Ten Oaks Nursery records, I found the azalea listed in the 1962 wholesale catalog of the Julius Roehrs Company, Rutherford, New Jersey, as one of their new hardy varieties. Although the Roehrs plants were generally greenhouse forcing varieties, apparently the Adams liked 'Gov. Meyner' enough that they planted it out-of-doors, and it has done fine. "USDA # 328" is still a mystery, however, but it is assumed to be one of the U.S.D.A. Beltsville hybrids, probably in the Yerkes-Pryor hybrid group such as 'H. H. Hume' which it resembles. Ten Oaks was one of the azalea test cooperators for the U.S.D.A., and they received new hybrids for evaluation identified only by numbers. Some of the azaleas tested were later named and introduced. These hybrids are scattered in the Ten Oaks plantings, some identified by name and some only by number. "USDA #328" remains a mystery because no record for that number has been found, and Andy Adams doesn't

recall there ever being an azalea with that test number. At least for now, however, I have rigidly pointed to the tag with that number, and have re-tagged the plant accordingly, somewhat to the dismay and humor of Andy. So, what it is remains unknown, which is unfortunate because it is a fine azalea.

The great majority of the Glenn Dale hybrids were distributed between 1948 and 1951, and they were available to Ten Oaks when the display garden and the arboretum were planted. Finding in the display garden 'Jubilee', 'Sambo', 'Zingari' and others that were among the last few cultivars distributed in 1952 through 1954 was useful because it helped to know where to locate these later introductions. Many of these later Glenn Dales were on Pete Vines' want list. There was another on his list, distributed in 1950, for which he had a serious identification question: 'Furbelow'. The 'Furbelow' in the display garden, however, did not match the official description given in Monograph 20, and that caused puzzlement and some concern until an examination of Glenn Dale records made available by Bill Miller showed that an error had been made in the description. This was reported in THE AZALEAN, and the process of investigating the problem and writing the report is typical of the kind of distraction that discoveries at Ten Oaks have caused.³

A personally gratifying find in the display garden was 'Roberta', a *R. kaempferi* seedling selected and introduced in the 1950's by Andrew Adams, Sr., and named for his wife.⁴ What turned out to be another special azalea find was the result of seeing a particular cultivar in bloom for the first time, an experience quite different from reading a description or even seeing a photograph. The Gable

hybrid 'Apricot' (80G) has a flower that is a lovely pastel peach color and very striking to see in bloom; words do not do it justice.⁵ This experience of being unexpectedly impressed with a bloom seen for the first time has happened many times at Ten Oaks.

Description of the Azalea Arboretum

The azalea arboretum is in a "U" shape that measures roughly 300 by 144 feet with the beds being about 50 feet deep. There are large, old oak trees in and round the arboretum, and the soil is light mica loam. It originally contained about 1,000 azaleas representing some 600 or more different cultivars. Although it was first thought that the entire planting was random, the survey showed this to be only partially true. Andy Adams confirmed that the azaleas are planted at random in 18 designated hybrid sections: six for Glenn Dales, representing the years of distribution; two for Gables; one section each for Kurume, Chisolm-Merritt, Beltsville, Japanese (Satsuki and older Japanese introductions), Arnold, and "old" azaleas; and four miscellaneous beds. Ten Oaks received three plants of each hybrid in the Glenn Dale distribution, six to eight inches in size, and they planted them in a triangular pattern in the arboretum. The plants were spaced about two and one-half feet apart, and the triangles of plants were spaced three to four feet apart. All of the other azaleas are singles and spaced about three feet apart.

The first questions asked by those who hear about the Ten Oaks survey are usually about the tags and identification: what kind of tags has lasted from the 1950's, and how is identification assured. The tags—flat and thin, one by three inches, of a semi-hard metal—are stamped, "G & C Dream Label." They were written upon with a pen filled with hydrochloric acid which caused a permanent and lasting chemical change in the metal. The tags were affixed to metal rose stakes which always were driven into the

ground in the exact middle of the Glenn Dale triangles, and near the crown of the single plants. Consequently, one always knows where to look for the tags, and if the tag is not seen at first, a little digging in the dirt at the right places has often turned up many which are still quite readable.

The Adams packed as much information as possible on the tags. For the typical Glenn Dale tag, the information included the hybrid group of Glenn Dale, the name, the Plant Introduction number, the flower color, the bloom time, and the date of distribution. Even with only parts of this information still readable, there is almost always enough in combination with section location and plant appearance to assure identification of the azalea. Thus far, about 200 tags have been found, about one-third of the estimated original total. Unfortunately, in a number of cases the stake has been found, but without the label.

The overall appearance and condition of the arboretum is surprisingly good considering the forty years of undisturbed growth. There are relatively few weeds and vines, and the ground is covered with a natural mulch of oak leaves. In some places larger azaleas have overgrown smaller plants, and along the edges, on the inside of the "U," there is a real competition for space and sunlight. In many places along the edges, the leaf and flower parts are some five feet or more away from where the azalea is actually planted and the label is located, which has made it a challenge to correctly follow the long stems and branches for tagging. Such long stems have resulted in a few cases of migrating plants where a branch has layered and the original plant has died so that the living specimen is some distance away from the tag.

Findings in the arboretum have been many and mixed, but almost always interesting. To mention only a few, it was a pleasant and unexpected surprise to discover how many hybrid groups are represented at Ten Oaks, and to realize that a number were complete collections. Inasmuch

as the first priority has been for the Glenn Dales, little work has been done on the Gables and Chisolm-Merritts, for example, despite the opportunity and temptation. Even still, one can't help but notice some things, especially when two flowering plants in different locations look very much alike. I now know exactly what Galle means when he states in his book on azaleas that 'Ryukyu' is similar to 'Mucronatum'; it can be seen at Ten Oaks, and, by the way, they are much the same as 'Japonica Alba'.⁶

Concerning the Glenn Dales, the most exciting experience has been to have so many of the hybrids together and to be able to finally make comparisons. A long-time personal problem has been telling the difference between 'Geisha' and 'Festive'. 'Festive' has been found in the arboretum, and a plant tagged 'Geisha' has been located in the display garden. 'Geisha' was distributed before World War II and Ten Oaks did not get an original distribution plant, but they did get plants after the war. The various ways to supposedly distinguish the two cultivars did not work for me at Ten Oaks: blotch presence, leaf form, and stripe color. I had hoped to be able to make the definitive statement on telling the difference, but I can't. The only difference I can see at Ten Oaks has to do with size: 'Festive' seems more upright and taller than 'Geisha', but this doesn't really help anyone with small plants. Looking at plants tagged 'Geisha' and 'Festive' at my house and elsewhere, I am inclined to agree with Jane Newman who wrote recently that the plants in commerce under the name of 'Geisha' are actually 'Festive' because they all remind me of the Ten Oaks 'Festive'.⁷

One of Pete Vines' "want" Glenn Dale cultivars was 'Scherzo', and it was found by tag in the arboretum in 1990. When it bloomed, it showed the described sport flower almost entirely, and almost nothing of the "white with Hortense Violet stripes" that is the official description. This fact was photographed and reported with a text speculating on why this might be

the case.⁸ Cuttings rooted from the sport parts of the plant bloomed this year (1992) with the same sport flowers, but branches on the Ten Oaks plants that were all white in 1991 did show some striped flowers. It will be interesting to see if cuttings taken from the white branches last year show the stripe in 1993. As Bill Miller has suggested, such blooming will give insight to the mechanism that controls sporting, but I suspect that the opportunity to see sports on a lot of mature plants will raise more questions before providing answers.

One other comment about Glenn Dale findings is about the opportunity which now exists to see and compare most of the cultivars that have flowers with colored borders or white edges. This group of Glenn Dales, believed to number as many as 28, has been of increasing interest in the last year or so, and this spring Bill Miller and I had the first chance to photograph and study many of the flowers together. Most of these cultivars are not well known even though they are quite nice; examples are 'Welcome', 'Susannah', and 'Oriflamme'.

Discussion

The large, identified collection of azaleas at Ten Oaks is a tremendously valuable resource. The survey is taking longer than expected, in part because there are so many interesting things to discover, but the work is progressing. The opportunity for research and study is extensive.

Activities have begun already to start building complete Glenn Dale hybrid collections. Barbara Bullock, Curator of Azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum, has directed a survey and evaluation of their cultivars, and she has produced a listing of needed plants. Last year, Steve Glenn, a Curatorial Intern at Brookside Gardens, undertook a complete survey and mapping of the McCrillis Gardens azaleas in Bethesda, Maryland. It is hoped that the combination of holdings at Ten Oaks, the National Arboretum, and McCrillis and Brookside

Gardens will enable all cultivars to be found.

The National Arboretum is committed to developing complete collections, and the idea has been raised also with Phil Normandy, Curator at Brookside, for possible placement at McCrillis, Brookside, or split between the two sites. This spring, the first delivery of one-year old Glenn Dales from Ten Oaks was made to the Arboretum. There were 20 plants for 11 cultivars. In July of 1992, cuttings were taken from 40 more cultivars at Ten Oaks for delivery next spring, but collections at public sites are only part of the goal.

In his January 1980 catalog for Azalea Acres Farm, Frank White made a special offering of complete collections of the new Linwood Hardy azaleas of Albert Reid and the Robin Hill azaleas of Robert Gartrell. He did it because he believed the way to assure that complete collections would be available in the future was to place complete collections in the private sector. Of course, this is exactly what has happened with Ten Oaks, and there is clear merit in the notion; in comparison, there have been some problems in the past with the collections at the National Arboretum.⁹

The original idea for providing azaleas to individuals was for Pete Vines to propagate and make available Ten Oaks plants, but his move to Florida last year changed that plan. Bill Miller and I have discussed the problem and possible solutions, including his most recent thought of a limited distribution of cuttings only. I have fantasized that one way to do the distribution would be to let interested parties contract with the sons of Andy Adams who now operate Ten Oaks Nursery for a large, fully identified azalea planting, rather than for the more common tree and boxwood-type of landscaping (of course, I have no idea what the Adams would say to this!). Solutions will depend on demand and interest, which is presently unknown. For now, the work will continue to focus on the public collections.

References

1. West, R. T., *Distribution of the Glenn Dale Azaleas and the Ten Oak Nursery*. THE AZALEAN, December 1989, 11(4), 69-73.
2. As I recall, Frank White of Azalea Acres Farm, Lanham, MD, offered the very good azalea propagation training through the Azalea Society of America a number of times in the mid-to late 1970s.
3. West, R. T., and Miller III, W. C. *Correction of the Official Description of 'Furbelow', a Glenn Dale Azalea*. THE AZALEAN, December 1991, 13 (4), 74-75.
4. For a reference, see: Galle, Fred C. *Azaleas*. Portland, OR. Timber Press, 1985, page 193.
5. I have propagated and distributed 'Apricot' for a few years, but it wasn't until this spring when I gave a plant to Bill Miller that I found out from him that it is listed as having "unrecorded parentage". Joseph Gable gave Andrew Adams, Sr., the parentage for most of his hybrids when Ten Oaks purchased them. 'Apricot' is from the cross of 'Louise Gable' (13G) by 34G ('Edna'), or specifically: (indicum x (poukhanense x R. kaemperi)) x (poukhanense x 'Hexe') x (R. kaempferi x poukhanense).
6. Galle, Fred C., *Azaleas*. Portland, OR, Timber Press, 1985, page 124.
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Dick West, a native of Washington, DC, is a long-time member of the Azalea Society and is interested in the Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas. He is an occasional contributor to THE AZALEAN. □

"My Favorite Azalea(s)"

Transcription of A Talk Given at the ASA Annual Meeting and Convention

Fred Galle

Hamilton, GA

"What is your favorite azalea?"—I could ask you that. I would say it's that one right over there on my table. That is 'George Lindley Taber'. They don't get really any better. That's the way I feel about azaleas. It's not picking only one, but it's the one I have right in front of me at the time. So that's the approach I'm taking. I think you would have the same response because many plants are a gift you've gotten from somebody or they're plants you've gotten at a meeting and so that every time you go out and see that plant, it brings back memories. It may even tie you to a friend that may no longer be on this earth. It also means you've had some neat associations. I've had many neat associations in my time and my yard is made up that way. Now I also have a lot of plants in my yard now that are UK's (unknowns), if you know what that means. I know a lot of people don't have that kind of problem, but I've made a point of trying to label everything. I have learned that deer like some labels—do you know that? It's horrible, and I blame it on rabbits when the label is lower down, but when they take a label off six feet high, I know rabbits can't climb that high.

I would like to start out and give you a random kind of approach of some of the azaleas that sort of enlighten me or remind me of friends or other things and we'll just go from there.

The first slide is of an azalea given to me by a friend, Mr. Potter, who is living up in the northern part of New York State. He said he had a cold hardy azalea that he'd got from seed from Japan and later identified as *R. nupides*. It's one of the first plants that flowers in my garden in the spring. Some years it is killed by a late freeze; this year it was in full flower and then of course we had some cool weather which damaged it, but it's very cold hardy to 40 below zero in northern New York. I didn't expect it to even live in Georgia where we never get near that kind of temperature, but it is a beautiful deciduous azalea.

Next is some I had a hand in planting—*R. canescens*. You know we dug them literally by the thousands and then replanted them at Callaway Gardens all over the place. Some are big bushes, 18 feet high in some places and are really quite nice. Some are pure white. We even had a double flowering form that was found in the wild. This also reminds me, some time back I had a lady walk up to me and say "You know, you are the luckiest guy in the world, you have all these azaleas right here and you claim you had something to do with them". I said, "Yes ma'am, we are sure lucky". She just wouldn't accept the fact that they had been moved from the wild.

Let's take a look at *R. austrinum*. Not many of you have had the opportunity to just smell hundreds of these. Their fragrance is breath-taking. Going by a trail you don't even have to see them in flower—the aroma from these natives is breath-taking. This is a controlled cross of *R. canescens* x *austrinum*. It's very pale yellow or soft yellow.

You've got to get some of your friends' plants. This one Mr. MacDonald found and named for his wife 'Millie Mac'. That is a handsome azalea. This one has never flowered for me but I can still see Millie, and I can see MacDonald and remember the story that he found this plant in the wild and named it for his wife.

Next is *R. reticulatum*, a more common flower form of this and I still remember seeing this in Japan. I'd seen it in some gardens, but not to the extent you get a chance to see it in Japan.

Well, now let's start on some of the evergreens. Of course, it was fun but a challenge to work at Callaway; it's not fun to go back and see that some plants that you thought were quite fancy are no longer there. You get all kinds of answers as to why they died. I have seen deer eat an azalea but not completely destroy it, but that's one of the claims. I've also heard that we had too much shade which killed the plants. My garden has shade and you've got gardens with shade that have azaleas, and it's never killed them. 'Pink Pearl' is one of my favorites and I think it's one of the favorites in Japan, and it's neat to know that it's one of the basic parents of many of the old Kurume azaleas that came into this country. 'Debutante' is another one of those neat ones, always making a good display. This is 'Peach Blow' and that is another very good one. I like this because you can work it in with many other colors, including the lavenders, you can put it in with the strong reds or whites; it's a handsome azalea. 'Old Ivory' is another one that I like. This year it had more of the yellowish tones due to the cooler weather. 'Kintaiyo' is one of the old ones from Wada's Nursery in Mobile. 'Kintaiyo' is one of the first two-tones developed in this country instead of coming from Japan. 'Senka' is another one of the old Stevenson hybrids of Kurumes that were brought in, and you begin to wonder why more of his collection was never really distributed. It went to the Glenn Dale Station and just sat there until someone picked it out. A number of these azaleas have been lost, as you all know. I like this one, 'Ruth May'. I remember, going back 15 years or more, that this elegant couple came up and asked about the azaleas, and they said "Do you have 'Ruth May'"? I said that I did and that it was a great plant. "Well, son, I'd like to have you meet Ruth May". I've forgotten the man's name, but he owned a nursery up in Connecticut and he named a beautiful azalea 'Ruth May'. There they were standing right in the garden. Then we had to go and see 'Ruth May' and then visit the other

plants in the garden too. This is a beautiful Kurume hybrid. It's got some *kaempferi* in it but it's really neat and I like it. You have a much better display of flowers on 'Koromo Shikibu' here than we do in Georgia. But I can still remember the lady who walked up after seeing it and said, "Son, you can't tell me that's labelled right, because an azalea doesn't have that kind of petal, they all have a trumpet-like kind". "Ma'am, I'm sorry. We made the label but maybe we mislabelled it." That's what you have to explain to some of these people when they don't want to accept your labels. It's neat to know now that there are other color forms. Nuccio's has gotten seedlings of 'Koromo Shikibu' in lighter shades, and then there's a white form reported in Japan. 'Primitive White' is one of Tom Dodd's seedlings. This is another one of my little favorites. Most of you probably have *R. serpyllifolium* var. *alba* but this is the species of *R. serpyllifolium*, a little soft, very delicate pink. My plants now are probably getting close to four feet in height and I wish they would slow down so they could get even more flowers. They put on such a tremendous amount of growth late in the summer that it hides a lot of flowers. It doesn't in this is a picture I took in Seattle some years ago. It's really beautiful in a bonsai if you really want to try something challenging. I have a friend in Atlanta who has a bonsai of the plant that stands about eight inches high. He uses a magnifier on top of his glasses and gets in there to trim it inside as well as outside. 'Duchess of Cypress' is one of the very few Southern Indians developed in the South. As you know, most of the Southern Indians (originally from Belgium) came down from New York and then into Philadelphia and then finally down into the South. This one was a seedling sport growing in Cypress Gardens. And of course there is the old Southern Indian, 'William Bull'. It is very seldom seen in Atlanta. It's a prize when you can say you have this; it's just a beautiful old variety that should be used more.

I got to know Bob Pryor when he was working at Beltsville developing the Beltsville series. Fortunately he saved many of the dwarfs, now the Beltsville Dwarfs. This is 'White Nymph', and 'Pink Elf' is next—neat little plants. We have some now that are five to six feet high after 40 years, and people say, "Son, you've got those labelled wrong". Well, you know after 40 years it should get a little beyond two or three feet even if we say they are "dwarf". It just means they continue to grow for a long time.

This of course is a good old standard in anybody's garden and good in the South—'Delaware Valley White'. I always enjoy it because it's a good handsome plant, full of flowers, and makes a good show.

When I see this, I think of our friend Augie Kehr. Of course this is 'Anna Kehr'. He named this for his mother. It's a beautiful plant; he has also hybridized 'Great Expectations' and others. Augie is always in my garden when I see this plant in my garden. I hope that you have that same kind of reaction to a lot of plants in yours.

'Silver Sword' is one of the things I like. I was called by Wight Nursery some years back to see a special azalea that one of the growers had found. It was the grower that called me. When I got there we went out and he said "It's right on the edge of the path in that bed". We got there and the paths were all cleaned up, and that plant had gotten picked up and thrown out. It was variegated, which would have been a better color form than 'Silver Sword'. It was a variegated azalea right in their nursery, and before we ever got there that day it got dumped. We tried to find it in the trash, but it never did show up. They had been paying a royalty for growing 'Silver Sword' and they had their own that was destroyed. I like this in the fall and winter months. I enjoy the pink edge of the green leaf and the way it shows up in winter months. A lot of other variegated azaleas don't do this.

Well, going into the Glenn Dales; I'm not going to name all the ones that I think are my favorites, but I like the ones that sort of get happy and do their own thing like 'Cinderella'. It's one of those interesting plants. It's not often that you get three or four different colors form on one plant but it does happen, and it's neat to see. One that is just gorgeous is one of the best named plants I think of all the Glenn Dales and that is 'Gorgeous'. Every time I see it, I think there's just no other way to describe it; it just fits the name better than any of the others I know. Of course, this being 'Ben Morrison' (not named by Ben), it is nice to remember him and the problems that he had developing these plants. He was just a delightful man to me, and I enjoyed every minute I ever spent with him. It's again a reminder of a friendship we had that goes back many years. Also one of the seedlings of the Glenn Dales. Here's one of the Greenwood hybrids, 'Genie Magic', that came out of the Portland area. I had almost a whole set of them. I like this and 'Marianne' and many of the other dwarf-like plants that Bill Guttormsen selected.

'Sweetheart Supreme' is another one of those neat names and it could be your wife or sweetheart from a way back or whatever, but it is a well-named plant and a beautiful azalea. This is *R. yed.* var. *poukhanense* in the Botanic Garden in Nashville, Tennessee. Beautiful dogwoods are right behind it and it worked out very fine. Here's one of the very soft green variegated dogwoods which brought out the color combination. *R. macro.* 'Linearifolium', if you want to call it 'Seigai' but as you know now they are all one and the same. Again, you get a better show of flowers here and I can still see the plant in my own yard, and say well, maybe it will need to do better, or we'll take it down because it flowers and responds much better up in your cooler area than it does South, but it's still good to see it up here and my own garden too.

We're going to change now and see more deciduous azaleas. This is *R. alabamense*, a good fragrant azalea, more so than even *R. canescens* and *R. austrinum*, a lemony spice fragrance. The pure white form is typical. This one is a good light pink form. The lighter pink shades have some *canescens* in them. We don't need to go back and figure what has happened to them. Just accept the fact that they integrate and cross-pollinate, and we get these neat forms and they are all very nice. This is one I have by my door, going into my home. It's a cross of 'White Cap' x *R. alabamense*, has a beautiful fragrance, not quite the size of 'White Cap'; but 'White Cap' has already passed on many years ago, and this one stood about ten feet high until I brought it down just after it finished flowering this past week. The fragrance just walking into the home, is something to get excited about. Not many azaleas are that fragrant.

And then of course there are the *R. kiusianums*, I love those little plants. Not all of them are fully evergreen as you probably realize in your garden and in other gardens. This is the old fashioned 'Benichidori'. This is one of the neat ones that have yet to come in flower, it's later than many of the *kiusianums*, but it's good. I like this one, 'Komo Kulsham' with that white throat. Again, many of the newer *kiusianums* hybrids are not fully evergreen but a lot of them are much more cold hardy than we first thought. This little double hose-in-hose is 'Kokonoe'. I was real happy some years ago to meet with Julius Nuccio. I was going to surprise him and give him a plant, but he had already been over to Japan that same spring and brought one back too. You can't keep ahead of some of these guys, you know how it is. I've given up on ever trying to do that because they will say to me, "I've got this good one". "Oh," I say, "that's great, isn't it great!" And then someone will say "I've got 475 azaleas in my yard. How many do you have?" I don't worry about keeping count or keeping up with my neighbors, I just like their looks and grow the ones I

enjoy. Unfortunately, I don't even have 'Kokonoe' now. I made so many cuttings I lost the whole plant. This is a nice azalea too, 'Mayo's Magic Lily'. It's from the old Mayo's Nursery in Augusta, Georgia. It's now a big sub-division. This is one of their old azaleas 'Mayo's Magic Lily' and you can see it has more of a shape like a Rhododendron than many of our evergreen azaleas.

I have several 'Mount Seven Star' covered with flowers along my path coming up to the house. It's fun if you know Polly Hill and of her growing plants from seed; it just brings memories back of Polly. It is one of the dwarf azaleas that would be good as a bonsai or a pot plant. 'Janet Rhea' is one of my favorites and a favorite of Al Reid. This is 'Easter Parade' and there's nothing better. 'Easter Bonnet' is very similar, it's just a beautiful plant to have. You can just see some little girl in a pretty little soft hat she has for Easter. A beautiful plant and thank God it's hardy in most of our areas. 'Gay Paree' is one of those neat azaleas that came from California. It's borderline hardy; if we get a mild winter, it's always neat to know I'm going to have some flowers like that in my own garden, and it's also fun to know it came from California. I still remember my younger days when I was in the service, visiting Paris after the war seeing the can-can girls, and I was happy to be alive so it was a 'Gay Paree' time. This is another from the West Coast, 'Starlight'. I have trouble growing this but I can still remember the young couple in California that had this big plant, right by their steps going into the house. It was in a huge tub and a spectacular plant. God couldn't have made a better plant than that, neat flower, very soft pink color, it's just handsome.

This is 'Elise Norfleet', one of the Back Acres. There are many Back Acres that are my favorites but Elise was not flowering well this year so I have to look at some of the others. Another seedling hybrid similar to the Back Acres—'Maggie Powell',

that came from Alabama. The azalea grower down in that area had the seedlings and he got the sport of the other one and it's 'Elise Norfleet'. They look identical but they flower in different seasons. 'Debonaire' has been one of my favorites, just a neat soft pink plant. Fortunately, this year the deer ignored it, I can't understand why, but I'm very happy that they didn't do an early pruning and let me do the pruning a little later. This is 'Red Slipper' and of course is one of the many Back Acres I have and love. It is a reminder of past friendships and memories of B. Y. Morrison.

This is 'Watchet'. I like all of the Robin Hills, but this is my favorite of the whole group. This is 'Fascination' and of course if you ever met James Harris you wonder how he ever had the appreciation working with machinery and motors all his life to get into the nursery business and then to grow some of the most beautiful azaleas. This 'Pink Cascade' is grown all over the world. We just have to keep reminding ourselves that Jim had his hands in a lot of things.

Coming out of Indiana this is 'Mrs. Henry Schroeder'. If you knew Doc Schroeder you know the fine gentleman he was and how his life was cut short by a tractor accident. At the time he was working on his azaleas and they were named later. He had this one he had planned on naming after his wife, and finally after he died it was his son who named it, 'Mrs. Henry Schroeder'. There are many others that they have hybridized for cold hardiness. They go along with the Girards and the Kaempferis. There is a good number of them; again, maybe they introduced too many but 30 of theirs make it quite well. This is one I have in my own garden. This is 'Carrie Amanda', another one of their hybrids.

Dropping back to some of the deciduous azaleas again, going to *R. flammeum* or as it used to be called the Oconee azalea or *R. speciosum*, and with us it is one of the most exciting natives because it integrates

with a great many other species. You find this in the wild, but you have all these various color forms. It's not fragrant until it gets mixed up with *canescens* or *alabamense*. But we'll show you some of the variations, like this or the next. This is an *R. speciosum* hybrid but some people would argue and say that it looks more like *R. canescens*, but again if you know the flowerbud conditions on it and the winter pubescent flowerbuds, it definitely has to be a hybrid. There it is close up. It flowers after *R. canescens* and when *R. flammeeum* is just coming in now. This one being a hybrid is fragrant where *speciosum* is not fragrant. The next one I have given the temporary name of 'Stop Light'. This was found in the wild in a group of *speciosum*. We just sometimes brag about what we have done and fail to give thanks to the MAN that brought in all of this. This is just a natural hybrid that turned out important. I didn't even collect this. When I got it I hadn't even seen the flowers. The gentleman who collected it was a representative of the Red Cross and he travelled and collected over the entire South. This definitely is an *R. speciosum* hybrid and is a striking color combination.

Going back to some of the evergreens—'Rosebud'. I was fortunate to meet Joe Gable; this is his 'Rosebud' and not a Rosebud named by others. I can still remember sitting with him in his living room and some of us were asking questions. Someone said (and this is the kind of answer you get from Joe Gable) "What do you think of the Glenn Dale azaleas?" And ole Joe, didn't have his red hat on which he'd normally had in the yard, but he said "Well, they wasted a lot of good names". We've got to remember that because we often want to name every one of our own little seedlings, and we could waste a good name by doing it. So stop and really look at it pretty hard before you name a seedling. Joe wore that red hat because he was nearly blind, and he would get out wandering around and couldn't

even see his house, but when they would call for him, he'd take his hat off and wave it up in the air so that they would know what direction to go to bring him back.

This is another one of those from the West Coast, but when you see it, it just tickles you to death. That's well named, because the name of it is 'Tickled Pink', and it's a neat little color combination and almost fully double. 'Keisetsu' is really nice, I like the blotchy kind of leaves much better than some of the other variegated forms. And of course it is nice with the picotee color combination, it's just excellent. It's early when compared to the other Satsukis, but it would be beautiful even if it weren't early. This is one that came from England, 'Vida Brown'—we had it at the gardens, and they were going to throw it out because it was too slow, so I took it home, and that plant is now 15 years of age. It's roughly about two feet across and about 12 inches high. It just stays small and compact. It's an unknown hybrid, but I'm sure because of its flower sequence and foliage, it belongs in the Satsukis. This is 'Gorin Nishiki' and this is one that's extremely variable. Again, it's one that causes a lot of conversation with less knowledgeable azalea people. We know that this can happen with these things in the azalea world, and it is fun to have. 'Yachiyo Red' is one of those that came into the West Coast without a label or the label was lost, and then they labelled it. I think it should have been 'Yachiyo Pink' instead of red. I had fun introducing this to some of the nurserymen all the way up into Long Island, and they called back and they say "Hey, you really ought to come up and see 'Yachiyo Red', it's better this year than it was last year". It's just their way of sharing the fact that they enjoy the plants they have, and they are proud of it too. It's a neat little compact plant of the Satsukis azaleas and it does quite well.

This is an interesting plant called 'Balsaminaeflorum'. Some years ago

(about six or seven), I was asked to suggest some azaleas for a replacement garden that was behind the Art Museum in Philadelphia. I was up looking at some of their plants and this plant fortunately had a few flowers on it; you can always recognize 'Balsaminaeflorum' just by the blooms alone, but it "snowed" me because it was standing up about six feet high and the trunks were close to 2-1/2 inches or larger. After looking at it, I said, "We've got to save this plant, I will prune it and we'll have to build around it". But, then I turned my back to start, and they said "This man's crazy about it, and he then cuts it down about half its size". But it's come back in good form with its beautiful looking double flowers. And another double—'Gyokurei'. This is one of the few doubles of the Satsukis. I have found that the rabbits, along with the deer just love them. Enjoy 'Gyokurei' in California rather than in the East. Of course, 'Macrantha'. There's nothing better than the foliage on 'Macrantha', I love it even when it's not in flower because you can remember the flowers and see the good linear foliage, always a good green; it's just a beautiful plant. 'Flame Creeper'—this is just right at my home again, it's always nice to have that. Should be in flower hopefully when I get home. Once again this was given to me when it was first introduced by George Beasley or James Harris, I'm not sure which, I'll give them both credit.

My azaleas remind me of my many friends — thank you.

Fred C. Galle was Director of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens during 1953-1973 and Curator until his retirement in 1983. He has served as a Governor of the Azalea Society of America and in a similar capacity in numerous horticultural societies and organizations including the Advisory Council of the U.S. National Arboretum. Author of numerous publications, his current book "Azaleas" is the most authoritative reference on the subject. □

"Out of Season" Azaleas

Steve Brainerd
Dallas, TX

With proper selection, care and cooperation by Mother Nature, you can enjoy flowering azaleas in your landscape on the Fourth of July and Christmas Day! [In the Dallas, Texas, area, ed.] The spectacular display of azalea color in the spring fosters a human association that often turns to disbelief when the fall blooming azaleas have an exceptionally good year. My criterion for "out of season" is the months other than March, April and May. My laboratory is the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society's (DABS) Johsson Color Garden and Palmer Fern Dell which are very young gardens, opening to the public in the spring of 1990, featuring over 2,000 cultivated varieties of azaleas. A history of the DABS azalea planting can be gleaned from the September 1991 issue of THE AZALEAN. This article's focus, however, is extending the azalea blooming season beyond spring.

The DABS azaleas are pampered. They are tended by professional horticulturists. An acid-injected irrigation system lowers the water supply's pH, which often is over nine, sustaining moisture levels at a slightly acid pH during dry weather. The azaleas are planted in raised beds of 60% fine pine bark and 40% chunky grade peat moss for proper drainage and moisture retention. Fertilization, disease control, and grooming are administered effectively. Insect pest control has not been a need to date. The plants are given what they require to maintain vigor and have been able to survive two harsh early winter freezes, one to -1 degree, with little to no "hardening off." Total losses of the 2,000+ varieties have been estimated at 3%, with Southern Indian varieties 'Jennifer', 'Kate Arendall', 'Mardi Gras', 'President Claeys' and 'Pride of Mobile' thriving. 'Judge Solomon', which is often thought to be relatively winter tender, has liked its environment.

A summer storm in 1989 uprooted or badly damaged a significant number of trees that were originally conceived as shading requirements in the gardens' design. Naud Burnett II, the landscape architect responsible for the design of the garden, decided to plant azaleas in areas as originally planned regardless of shade or the lack of it. A significant number of Satsukis, for example, can be found exposed to the western sun. The increase in sunlight has resulted, in many cases, in tight compact plants that flower more heavily than their counterparts in more shade.

With that introduction, I will share some of my notes with you. The "out of season" notables listed below have been viewed from February 1990 until February 1992. I am presenting only the highlights of notable flower bloom. Significant fall-flowering cultivated varieties such as 'Dorsett' and 'Opal' are not planted in the gardens. 'Indian Summer' bloomed extensively, but my notes are somewhat lacking because the plant was not tagged by name and I didn't discover its identity until late in the viewing period.

February 1990, 1991, and 1992

- 'Festive'
- 'Vittata Fortunei'

June 1990 and 1991

- 'Macrantha Orange'
- 'Sonoma Dwarf Pink'
- 'Beth Bullard'
- 'Sir Robert'
- 'Vermillion'
- 'Pink Pancake'

Summer 1990

- 'R. oldhamii' (16 weeks) heavy bloom

Summer 1991

- 'R. oldhamii' (16 weeks sporadic light bloom)
- 'Narihira' (June 30-November 2) heavy bloom
- 'Abbot' (7-gallon cans, full sun, 16 weeks, leaves yellow)

September 1, 1991 - November 2, 1991

- Huang 4-7-13
- Huang 4-6-71
- 'Lady Louise'
- 'Baton Rouge'
- 'Glamour'
- 'Pink Cloud'
- 'Gratitude'
- 'Ho Oden'
- 'Choyo No Hikari'

September 28, 1991 - November 2, 1991

- Huang 3-5-72
- 'Oakton'
- 'Keepsake'
- 'Gartrell 230-3'
- 'Cille Shaw'
- 'Cherie'
- 'Sekidera'
- 'Copperman'
- 'Dayspring'
- 'Dorothy Clark' (solid blooms - no picotee)
- 'Hoko'
- 'Kayo No Homare'
- 'Wakaebisu' (full sun)
- 'Rusty' (flowers bleach in full sun)

November 7, 1991 - January 15, 1992

- 'Dayspring'
- 'Vittata Fortunei'

'Vittata Purple'
'Red Slippers' (continually
increasing show)

December 1991

Sherbrook'

Freezing weather in early November 1991 eliminated open blooms in the gardens and caused bud damage to the flowers of some varieties in the spring of 1992. 'Dayspring' erupted in color with a vengeance following the November freeze. January 15, 1992 was the first freeze of 1992, reaching 20 degrees F.

Some initial observations are worthy of note. The quantity of fall flowering is positively influenced by increasing sun exposure of the plants to sun. The relatively cool weather of fall and winter extends the life of azalea flowers. 'Narihira' bloomed profusely in full sun through the heat of the summer. 'Abbot' flowered heavily in heat, but the leaves looked stressed and yellow. Observations in Dallas will not totally agree with observations in other parts of the United States. I am finding different forms of flowers as well as growth habits on like named plants which are very familiar to friends in the deep south and northeast.

Azalea enthusiasts in chapters east of Texas will please excuse my exuberance, because until 1990 Dallasites enjoyed 30 or so varieties that bloomed heavily in spring, never appreciating the color in the three other seasons that can be achieved with selection, care and a little help from Mother Nature. Azalea plantings become much more enjoyable if planted for year round interest rather than just for the spring show.

Steve Brainerd is a landscape contractor and President of the Dallas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America.

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Prize for Best Article in THE AZALEAN—1991

In 1990 an annual prize for best article in THE AZALEAN was announced. The prize was established to encourage authors to submit articles for publication in THE AZALEAN. Funds for the prize were donated by five chapters:

Ben Morrison Chapter
Brookside Gardens Chapter
Northern Virginia Chapter
Richmond, Virginia Chapter
Tri-State Chapter

Interest from the prize fund is used to provide an annual prize of \$100.00. The prize for 1990 was awarded to Ajit K. Thakur, Ph.D. for his article "The Enchanting Satsuki".

A ballot listing all articles in 1991 issues of THE AZALEAN is included with this issue. Please mark your ballot and mail it to:

AZALEAN Prize Article
P. O. Box 585
Glenn Dale, MD 20769

The prize for 1991 will be presented at the 1993 Annual Meeting, to be held in Dallas, TX. □

☰ Azalea News ☰

North American Plant Preservation Council

The North American Plant Preservation Council (NAPPC) is a non-profit organization comprising of some of the most well known and respected names in horticulture today.

It is modeled after the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens at Wisley, England, and has been formed with their assistance.

The NAPPC goals are to:

- (1) Encourage the conservation of uncommon plants that are valuable because of their historic, aesthetic, scientific or educational value by propagating and distributing them as widely as possible.
- (2) List plants held in important collections and gardens.
- (3) Stimulate the widest possible cultivation of uncommon and endangered plants by arranging conferences, exhibitions, discussions and visits to gardens, specialized plant collections and nurseries.
- (4) Encourage the re-introduction and distribution of uncommon and endangered plants.
- (5) Establish and support National Collections of specific genera and other defined collections of plants for the enjoyment and information of the public and the benefit of science.

The Council seeks inquiries from those parties both private and institutional including botanical gardens, arboreta, colleges and nurseries who are interested in holding "National Collections." A guide will be published listing those collections.

For more information and application form write:

North American Plant
Preservation Council
Route 5
Renick, WV 24966 □

Society News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Sue Switzer, President

The Ben Morrison Chapter held their annual cutting picnic on Sunday, July 12, at the Switzers' followed by pot-luck lunch. Unfortunately the rainy weather made cuttings a little scarce but most got something to take home.

The Ben Morrison Chapter wants to express our thanks to the following people for the items you found in your registration packages:

- A great big thank you to Hour Printer (Tom Phillips) for the beautifully printed scratch pads. Hour Printer is located at 8744 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 PHONE: (301) 585-2175.
- Thank Wentworth's Nursery for the rulers you found in your registration bags by buying at their locations. They have three locations with hours Monday-Saturday 9AM-7PM and Sunday 10AM-5PM: Route 4 in Prince Frederick, MD, PHONE: (305) 855-9245, 535-3664; Route 235 in California, MD, PHONE: (301) 862-5292; and Wentworth's Garden Center and Landscape Office, Route 5 and Oaks Road in Charlotte Hall, MD, PHONE: (301) 884-5292, 870-3060, 274-3884

We want to thank the following for opening their wonderful gardens for our tours:

- Joe and Nuran Miller of "Wake Robin"
- Sue and George Switzer of Switzer's Land
- Charlie and Wanda Hanners of Azalea Trace (Azalea Trace is a regular advertiser in THE AZALEAN)

We also wish to thank the speakers:

- Thursday night: George Switzer, Robert Stelloh, Richard West, and Bill Miller

- Friday night: Tony Dove
- Saturday night banquet: Fred Galle

We'd also like to thank the following Ben Morrison Chapter members:

- Alan Jones for the beautifully done signs for each of our rooms.
- The wonderful, personable people who manned the Registration Desk who included: Bobby Jones, Margaret Church, June Thomas and Nuran Miller.
- June Thomas and Jean Cox for the morning coffee and donuts. What a sacrifice for the early morning!
- Jean Cox for the artfully done tee shirts (let us know if you'd like to order one) and the fine azalea badges.
- Dale and Carol Flowers for arranging the Keller buses and providing refreshments at all the bus stops.
- Air transportation provided by Heritage Travel arranged by Ed and Nancy Rothe.
- Ed Rothe and Dale Flowers for transportation provided for some of our out-of-town attendees.
- Sewell "Deac" Moore for the set-up, take-down, and tour of Christ Church Gardens.
- Kitty Beck Wilson and Marge Scerbo of Kitty's Kitchens for providing a "flowery" box lunch at Christ Church.
- Nancy Rothe and Cindy Salmon for manning the tee shirt and glass etching table in the plant room.
- Thais Spencer for providing tables and running our door prize activity.
- And last but far from least all those who attended the convention and made it possible. Without you there would not have been a con-

vention! We can't thank you all enough for your contributions of time and talents.

An article on the Annual Meeting and Convention at Solomons is included elsewhere in this issue. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Bill Johnson, President

The June meeting of the Brookside Chapter was held Tuesday, June 2nd at the Davis Library in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was well attended, and it was good to see Ryon Page (past chapter president, past society president, and past chairman of the ASA board of governors) looking so good.

Our speaker for the evening was Lawrence "Larry" Lee, the curator of the Asian Valley Collection at the National Arboretum. The first part of his slide presentation was an introduction to some of the most famous gardens in Japan, emphasizing the qualities and the artistic design forms for which the gardens are widely known. He then shared with us the slides from his plant collection trip to China. The fantastic mountain scenery was impressive and provided sharp contrast to the formal gardens of Japan. He concluded his presentation by showing slides of companion plants that have been distributed to nurseries around the country. Among these were *Hosta plantaginea 'Aphrodite'*, a double-flowered and fragrant variety and three camellias that were bred for hardiness: 'White Rose', 'Snow Flame', and 'Winter Charm'.

The business meeting followed the guest speaker. The financial report of the spring sale at the Arboretum and the Mart, held at Kensington Orchids this year, was presented.

The auction held at the National Arboretum last year was such a success that we have decided to do it

again. Reservations have been made for the Arboretum's Administration Building Auditorium for Saturday, September 12, from 1-4 pm. As before, it is requested that members donate plants and see if the nurseries where they deal can possibly donate some. Plants for the auction do not have to be limited to azaleas. Finally, "all ASA hands" are invited to attended the auction. All of the other ASA chapters are cordially invited. For more information regarding the auction, contact Bill Johnson at (301) 946-2908, Barbara Bullock at (202) 475-3854, or Jean Cox at (703) 971-8669.

□

Louisiana Chapter Robert Lee, President

The Louisiana Chapter held elections of officers at the February meeting. The following persons are our new officers;

President: Margie Jenkins
Vice President: Roy Constantin
Secretary: Jack Beith
Treasurer: Jerry Ladner

The annual Spring Azalea Show and Display was held at the Hammond Research Station. Despite a rainy weekend, the attendance was excellent. A large number of azaleas representing many hybrids groups were on display.

Discussions are now underway to have planned regional azalea tours next spring which would include our annual azalea show and private azalea gardens. Roy Constantin has been working on this project.

Margie Jenkins was speaker at the New Orleans Spring and Garden Show. Her discussion on how she first got involved in growing azaleas and the varieties she likes most was well received.

Robert Lee and John Thornton will be speakers at the August 21 meeting of the New Orleans Horticultural Society. Topics will include plant breeding and varieties that do well in the deep South. □

Azalea Calendar

September 19	Glenn Dale project workday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
September 27	Ben Morrison Chapter meeting at the Dunkirk Library
October 10	George Harding Garden work day at River Farm
October 11	Executive Committee meeting
October 17	Glenn Dale project work day, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
October 18	Northern Virginia Chapter meeting at 1:30 PM at Tysons Public Library
October 20	Dallas Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM at the Highland Park town hall.
October 24	Board of Directors meeting, Richmond VA
November 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
November 21	Glenn Dale project work day, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information contact William C. Miller at (301) 365-0692.
December 13	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at 1:30 PM at Tysons Public Library
December 13	Ben Morrison Chapter Christmas Party

ASA New Members

At-large Members

Robert A. Batts & John Ottens
213 Northridge Circle
Nashville, TN 37221-5308
PHONE: (615) 662-2077

Mrs. Richard S. Ellwood
12 Quldwood Lane
Rumson, NJ 07760
PHONE: (908) 842-7945

Joseph E. Gutierrez, MD
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Washington, D.C. 20037
PHONE: (202) 331-0844

John B. Hart, Jr.
502 Plantation Drive
Kinston, NC 28501-8303
PHONE: (19) 527-9760

Marcia G. Robeson
340 Pinegrove Avenue
Rochester, NY 14617

Margaret L. Sibert
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02568
PHONE: (508) 693-5343

Peter F. Wallace
427 W. Carolina Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483
PHONE: (803) 871-7365

Brookside Gardens Chapter
Ted Munter
615 Aster Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850
PHONE: (301) 762-0295

Dallas Chapter
Juniper Hill Farm
9740 E. 121st Street
Bixby, OK 74008

Northern Virginia Chapter

Hildred Lindamood
7410 Gary Street
Springfield, VA 22150
PHONE: (703) 451-1762

Oconee Chapter

Earl & Dorothy Hester
Peach State Growers Supply
P. O. Box 720
Fayetteville, GA 30214
PHONE: (404) 461-9786

John & Lynette Richbourg
Richbourg's Nursery
RR3/Box 126
Monticello, FL 32344
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