

# Azalea

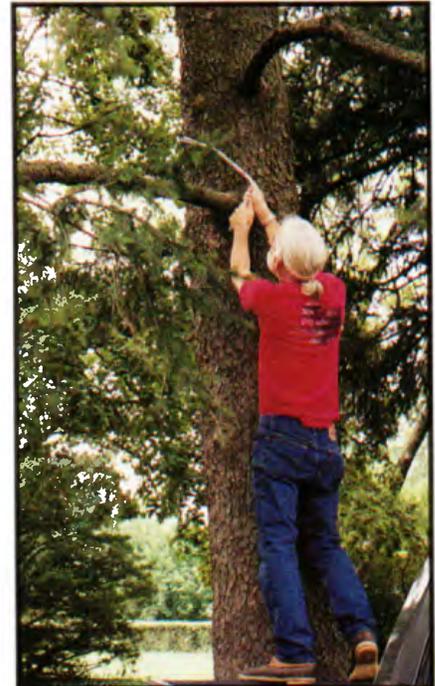
*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*



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Post Office Box 34536  
West Bethesda, Maryland  
20827-0536

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## Letter to the Editor

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One of my tasks as Chairman of the George Harding Garden Committee has been to keep track of all of the contributions to the garden, whether in time, money and goods, or plants. To date, the value of the combined contributions is almost \$30,000, of which over half is time at \$10.00 per hour, almost one third is money and goods, and the rest is plants at approximate retail value.

There are a total of 55 contributors to the garden, some of whom aren't even members of the Azalea Society of America. Of these, the top three contributors combined have given almost 50% of the total, and the next three contributors combined have given another 20% of the total. At the other end of the scale, 15 contributors combined have given less than 1% of the total, with differing numbers in between.

This garden is a memorial for one of the most influential and best-loved founders of the Azalea Society of America. It has been endorsed by the officers of the Society as a worthwhile activity, and it promises to be one of the more important public outreach ventures of the Society. So why, with over 900 members, have only about five out of every 100 members participated at all? And why have we allowed only three contributors to give almost half of the total?

Think about it this winter, and decide how you're going to help. Money is the easiest way for many of us to help. Since we will be establishing a trust fund to cover the long-term maintenance of the garden, we can always use more money. Another way to help is to contribute a memorial bench, or to contribute some specific azaleas we will be looking for soon. The article about the garden in this issue gives more information about activities and progress at the garden, along with the necessary contact information.

Robert T. Stelloh, *Chairman*  
George Harding Garden Committee

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### NOTICE Election of Officers 1994

A ballot for the election of Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors for the AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA is enclosed as part of this issue.

The terms of these offices is two years.

The others officers and Directors are elected on alternate years.

Please mark the ballot and return it to:

Mr. Robert Stelloh  
15241 Springfield Road  
Darnestwon, MD 20874

The ballot must be received at the above address by April 15, 1994.

**PLEASE VOTE!**

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*On the Cover:* The Harding Garden takes shape.

*Photographer:* Jean Cox

## 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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### OFFICERS FOR 1993-1994

**President** L. Malcolm Clark  
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Terms Expiring in 1995	Terms Expiring in 1994
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Fred Minch	Denise Stelloh
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Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

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Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$20.00. Life membership for an individual is \$300.00. Members receive **THE AZALEAN** and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society including those of the chapter with which the member affiliates. For information and membership application, write to the Secretary, Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

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Opinions and views expressed in THE AZALEAN are those of the contributors or the Editor, not necessarily those of the Society, and are presented to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of azaleas. Advertisements are presented as a service to our readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America. Advertising and other contributions to THE AZALEAN are used exclusively to help defray the costs of publishing THE AZALEAN.

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# 1994 Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting and Convention

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Ann Watts

Richmond, VA

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Left: Nachman garden

Right: April in Virginia.  
Scenes from the Watts' garden



The 1994 ASA Annual Meeting and Convention will be held April 28-30, at the Sheraton Park South in Richmond, Virginia. Richmond will have just concluded "Garden Week in Virginia", which is scheduled when the azaleas and dogwoods are spectacular. During the convention we have planned tours to show you some of the best historical gardens in Richmond. Of equal interest will be your visit to three gardens of our members which show how we can develop our own style and design of gardens using many plant materials and natural surroundings. Our Saturday night banquet speaker, Mr. Frank L. Robinson, Executive Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden of Richmond, will inform us on "Azaleas in the Japanese Gardens". Mr. Robinson is recognized nationally as an expert on Japanese culture and Japanese gardens.

The Sheraton Park South is about ten miles southwest of downtown Richmond. It is close to major traffic arteries, shopping, restaurants and the Chesterfield Towne Center. Convention registration and the hospitality room will open Thursday afternoon at 4:00PM. Thursday evening you will be free to dine and visit with friends.

Early Friday morning caravan tours will be provided to gardens surrounding two old historical homes. The Virginia Home, an ancient priory from Warwick, England, built in 1125, was rebuilt in Richmond in Windsor Farms in 1925. The gardens at Virginia House are formal gardens, terraced gardens, water and wild flower gardens. Almost all flowers native to this area are cultivated there. Its next-door neighbor is pre-Elizabethan Manor House, Agecroft, brought from Lancashire, England, and reconstructed on a large estate with beautiful sloping grounds stretching to the north bank of the James River. Its setting gives expansive landscaped views but also extensive English gardens around the manor.

Friday afternoon we will have short slide presentations showing new Kurumes, Greenwoods, Satsuki hybrids, Dewey Garretts and Polly Hills. During our social hour on Friday, the plant auction will be held. Time that evening will be scheduled for early entries to be entered into the flower show to be held on Saturday.

Friday evening's program will be presented by three members of the Richmond Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Nancy Swell will speak on hardy ferns and how ferns beautify and add interest and texture to azalea gardens. You will have a chance on Saturday to visit Nancy's home and to see the many ferns she has incorporated into her gardens. Nancy is a past president of the Richmond Chapter. Nancy and her husband, Leon, have opened a nursery which specializes in azaleas, ferns and hostas.

Rosalie Nachman, one of our at-large Directors of the ASA and a contributing writer to *THE AZALEAN*, will enlighten us on shade gardens. Her own garden, which she has developed over the years, is a show place for tours in Richmond. Rosalie is a master of creative Japanese gardening. With her small compact garden, she has been able to introduce most every plant available in just the right size and bright color to leave the viewer with a sense of awe and peace.

George K. McClellan, past president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, will talk on the use of bulbs in landscape plantings. George has spent years on his gardens in Gloucester, Virginia, and is an authority on bulbs and their special care and treatment.

Saturday will be a full day with tours of four gardens in the morning: Swells, Nachmans, Tiemes and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, where we will have lunch. In the afternoon before the social hour and annual banquet we will have the viewing of our flower show.

Two of our gardens on the tour are medium-size gardens in suburban settings. These gardens use every available square foot to display all the shade plants known to survive in our area. These are the Nachman and Swell gardens in the west end of Richmond. Driving further

west we will visit the Tieme's garden located on an acre of secluded woodland. This garden was started in 1960 with the purpose to preserve the natural environment. Its main features are native stones and plants displayed under a canopy of tall trees. Gus Tieme has built a terraced stone waterfall with a stream descending into a lovely pond and pond house.

Springtime would not be complete without a visit to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The garden's mission is one of horticultural displays, public education and botanical research. You will appreciate the identification labels on each plant in the garden. While there you will visit the Henry M. Flagler Perennial Garden with over 12,000 plants and 655 different cultivars; the Grace Arents Garden, a traditional geometric garden featuring colorful plantings surrounded by low boxwood and the Lora Robins Teahouse which overlooks the central lake. You will cherish the lunch hour on the lawn of the Bloemendaal House, a restored Victorian country estate decorated with a collection of period furniture.

The ASA annual banquet will be at the Sheraton Saturday at 7:00PM. We are pleased that our new Executive Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Frank Robinson, will share with us his knowledge of landscape and garden design. Frank Robinson is the former Executive Director of the American Horticultural Society. His degree in Japanese studies and his year in a Japanese university well prepare him for his address: "Azaleas in Japanese Gardens".

We look forward to your visit in April. Please find included with THE AZALEAN a registration form and a schedule of events. Please return your registration form and check by March 15, 1994, to Dorothy W. Robinson, Convention Registrar, 4424 Shoremeade Road, Richmond, VA 23234 (PHONE: (804) 271-1013).

*Ann Watts is a native of Virginia. She is a graduate of Lynchburg College, and she has a Master's degree in education from the University of Kentucky. She is active in The Presbyterian Church USA.* □

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## Report of the Nominating Committee

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**Robert Stelloh**  
*Darnstown, MD*

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The positions which are open for the 1994 election are Secretary, Treasurer, and three At-Large Directors, each to serve for a two-year term starting with the 1994 Annual Convention. The nominees were selected by the nominating committee based on their knowledge, enthusiasm, experience, and sociability, as well as, their geographical location, and their willingness to use their capabilities to serve the Azalea Society.

**For Secretary:**

**Bill McIntosh**, *Churchville, Maryland*

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Bill earned a B.S. from Virginia Tech and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, all in biology. He worked as an Associate Professor of Zoology at Ohio State University, and retired in 1986 after 24 years as a statistician for the U.S. Department of Defense. With an interest in horticulture and gardening most of his life, he became a very active member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the Azalea Society when he retired, and recently served the national society as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Bill has held a variety of positions in other organizations, including President of the Harford County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, President of his community association, and Chairman of his community Neighborhood Watch Program.

**For Treasurer:**

**Glenn Taylor**, *Lt. Colonel, USMC Ret., Springfield Virginia*

Glenn has served as your treasurer since 1984, and is also a charter member and long-time President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society. Glenn is well known to many members, having served the needs of the membership for many years.

**For At-Large Director:**

**Jack Beith**, *Carriere, Mississippi*

As the son of Janet Rhea and the nephew of Al Reid, Jack worked in Al Reid's nursery, and quite literally grew up with azaleas. After serving 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, he retired in 1980 as a Chief Warrant Officer. Jack is within a few credit hours of earning his A.A. in Horticulture from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and recently passed the state examinations to become a Certified Horticulturist and Licensed Landscaper in Mississippi. He has been the proprietor since 1986 of Linwood Acres Nursery, which recently became a member of the Southern Quality Growers cooperative. He is a long-time member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA, and has served as their Secretary. Jack is also a member of the Mississippi Nurseryman's Association and President of their Pearl River County Chapter.

**James A. 'Tony' Dove**, *New Bern, North Carolina*

Tony has a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Maryland. After a tour with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, he designed and developed the gardens at London Town Publik House and Gardens in Annapolis. He has been a consultant to the Keeper of the Royal Gardens of Windsor Great Park, Windsor, England, and he is a popular speaker on horticulture. Tony is currently working as the Branch Head, Horticultural Services for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Tryon Palace Restoration in New Bern. He is a long-time member of the Ben Morrison Chapter, and has experience at the national level, having served both as a Director and as President of the Azalea Society.

**Carol Allen**, *Germantown, Maryland*

Carol studied biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute for a time, and has been an avid amateur horticulturist for the past 30 years. Six years ago she founded Poplar Hill Design, a landscape design and installation company specializing in gardens featuring azaleas and native plants. For the past five years, Carol has been an active member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the Azalea Society, and has been a board member of the National Capitol Orchid Society. She is also a founding member and a board member of the Maryland Native Plant Society for the past two years. □

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# Some Thoughts on Hybridizing

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Joe Parks

*Dover, New Hampshire*

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Anticipation is the yeast that makes gardening such a pleasure. Whether prince or pauper (or something in between) we savor the anticipation of waiting for new life to burgeon from an inanimate seed, of seeing new sprouts thrust from the earth after a long winter's sleep or of watching a bud as it opens into an extravaganza of beauty. Too often, though, we miss the greatest pleasure of all, that of being involved in the development of a new generation.

If you've never had the joy of watching a plant grow that you designed and brought into being, then you've missed a supreme pleasure. New life springing forth from a dry, brown seed is a miracle. But when, as a result of your efforts, that life is unique, new to the world, then the miracle, and thus the pleasure, is beyond compare. And who is there among us who will deny the pride and pleasure in knowing "This is the result of my handiwork?"

Before going any further, perhaps I should tell you that this is not an article on how to hybridize. There are plenty of such articles—and written by the experts too. Instead of telling you how to hybridize, let me tell you some of the joys and pleasures. Also let me pass on a few tips, some of which I've learned the hard way and some of which I've picked up from real experts.

The truly wonderful thing about hybridizing is that it brings pleasure, not just once, but throughout the year. After pondering your objectives all winter, comes the search for appropriate parents. Having selected the parents you pollinate in the spring, you wait in suspense to see if seed pods form. After hovering over them all summer, seed is finally collected and planted. Now comes your real vigil, watching day-by-day to see them spring into life—and what better Christmas present than a flat of your very own new seedlings? After anxiously watching over them through winter's cold, summer's heat and drought, the onslaught of insects and disease, finally comes that wonderful, joyous day when flowers are produced. Whether or not bells truly ring or whistles really blow you'll never know, because you'll have heard them all the same—truly an adventure, an incredible journey; one that is new and unique each time you take it.

Determination of objectives is no minor consideration. For, as with most endeavors, without objectives you are depending on pure luck. Without objectives you will find too late that after a long journey you've arrived nowhere. While bound on such a journey to nowhere, there is of course no way to get lost, but you'll find that to be poor recompense for years of work with little return. So give careful thought to your objectives.

Objectives are also important for other reasons. There are already too many azaleas with little reason for existence; there is an excess of plants that bloom at the same time; far, far too many deciduous hybrids plague the landscape, either bare or diseased, for much of the year. Put another way, there is a need for hybridizers—and the world is their oyster—whose objectives are plants with increased hardiness, year-round beauty, disease resistance, or flowering times that extend the season.

Having decided on your objectives, next comes the planning of the crosses to achieve those objectives. For this you need to look at the characteristics of the proposed parents. At least one of them had better display the characteristics you want in the progeny. On the other hand, you should be aware that the parentage of most cultivars is so involved (with parentage sometimes misquoted) that if you grow enough seedlings of any cross you'll have some surprises, i.e., unusual plants.

The problem with this approach is that few of us have enough time or space to grow the hundreds of plants needed to get the surprises. I think the best approach for the amateur is to stick with parents that possess most of the virtues desired in the progeny. It's a simple fact that what you see in the parents is likely to be found in the children. If you wish to know parentage, *Azaleas* by Fred C. Galle is an excellent reference.

Without getting into the complexities of genetics, it will be helpful for you to remember a few facts: (1) every plant includes in its makeup all of the genes of each of its parents; (2) in a cross, the genes of one plant mix with those of the other; (3) some of the characteristics controlled by these genes will be displayed, others will be hidden; (4) the displayed characteristics of the parents tend to also be displayed by the children—but the more seedlings you have, the more likely you are to see some of the hidden characteristics of the parents displayed by the children. If you become really serious about hybridizing, I suggest you read a book on genetics—but I want to emphasize, you can have fun and make progress without it.

Of course, you know that pollen cannot be collected and used "willy-nilly," i.e., camellia pollen cannot be used to fertilize an azalea. What is not so well known is that some azalea (rhododendron) species and cultivars will usually not, or are very difficult to, cross with others; for example, deciduous with evergreen types. The fun, though, is in the trying. Neither the advice of experts nor old wives' tales always prove to be correct. Or, perhaps nature just insists on showing who really is boss. True, too, is the fact that if there were no mistakes—if, in all our endeavors, we always followed the rules exactly and never did something differently—there would be little progress in the world. Amateurs, because they have never learned that such and such "won't work" often succeed simply for that reason.

Here are a few things I've learned about selection of parents and the results you might expect—please notice I said "might expect" not "will get." Some of it I learned the hard way and some from those with more experience.

**Parent Choice:** Incredible arguments rage over which of the two parents should be chosen for the seed (female) parent. Often I do not have a choice, having obtained pollen from somewhere else, but if I do have a choice, I prefer the seed parent to be the one whose characteristics are the most desired.

**Flower Color:** Don't waste your time trying to breed for pastel colors. *Always* try for dark colors. Regardless of how careful you are in selection of parents, there will always be plenty of pastels amongst your new plants. Also you would be most wise to not choose parents based on flower color alone. There are far too many azaleas whose only desirable attribute is beautiful flowers—which last only two weeks. The one exception to this rule would be when you have a planned breeding program involving several crosses in succession. Here is a list of parent flower combinations most likely to produce a given color in the progeny:

**Purple:**

- 1st choice: both parents purple
- 2nd choice: one purple, other red\*
- 3rd choice: one lavender or mauve, other red or purple\*

**Red:**

- 1st choice: both parents red
- 2nd choice: one purple, other red\*
- 3rd choice: one lavender or mauve, other red or purple\*

*\*also likely to produce mauves and reds*

**White:**

- 1st choice: both parents white
- Other: very light pastels

*Note: "White" flowers often are actually a mauve that fades. Mauve will likely dominate in the progeny in such cases.*

**Yellow:**

- 1st choice: elusive (except for deciduous azaleas) as other colors tend to dominate in the progeny.

**Hardiness:** An elusive, apparently cross-linked factor. It appears that the

darker the flower color, the more tender the plant is likely to be. It is well worth the effort to try to defeat this apparent cross-linkage between color and tenderness by using a hardier species such as *poukhanense* as one of the parents.

**Leaves:** Attractive leafage is a very important attribute for which to work. Far too often, leaves are ignored because the flowers are desirable. However, remember that leaves clothe the plants year-round, while flowers last only a week or so.

**Compactness:** A desirable trait that is not always easy to achieve. One way is to watch for runts among your seedlings. Sometimes these are simply slow starters; others may be true dwarfs. I think it wise for anyone who grows azaleas from seed to take particular care of any and all runts. Even if they do not turn out to be particularly desirable, they can be useful for further breeding.

Another approach is to use a compact plant as one parent. This may compromise some of your other objectives but could well be the first step in a long-term project. Some seedlings do break out of the pattern though with delightful results. Creating an F<sub>2</sub> generation by crossing the best of the compact progeny with itself (or siblings) could bring out the desired characteristics.

**Disease And Insect Resistance:** Without doubt, the most important hybridization work that can be done today is that which will provide better disease and insect resistance. We all are aware of the push to stop use of insecticides and fungicides. This could well mean that in coming years (sooner than we think) we will have few remedies for the problems affecting our plants.

Probably the best solution (maybe the only one) is to develop insect and disease resistant plants. Certainly neither disease nor insects are going to quit enjoying our plants just because we ask them. Although there is plenty of evidence around, we hear little about the many azaleas that are insect and disease resis-

tant. I suspect a determined review would find plants that are resistant to one or more of all the problems affecting azaleas. Though there are means of transmitting resistance other than through hybridization, I suggest that our hybridization work should also recognize the importance of this resistance factor.

A number of deciduous azalea species, for example, display substantial resistance to mildew. There is also resistance to insect damage among various species and cultivars. For example, *R. arborescens* and *R. viscosum* var. *glaucum* are highly resistant to both disease and insects. This resistance is transmitted to many of their progeny.

White flies invade some cultivars in clouds; on others none appear. Some plants seem to have every leaf notched by black vine weevils; others show little or no damage. I have heard of plants that are resistant to phytophthora and petal wilt. A careful observer should be able to find species and cultivars that are resistant to most of the problems affecting azaleas. By using these for breeding we should be able to reduce the many insect and disease problems.

The finest, most beautiful azalea has yet to be developed; there are too few late flowering azaleas and too little attention has been paid to development of disease and insect resistance. Clearly, the field is wide open and you have as much opportunity as anyone else to make a significant advance. The opportunity for you to improve the genus is limited only by your imagination. Moreover, there is no gardening pleasure that exceeds that of seeing your own hybrids in bloom. Try hybridizing. You'll never regret it!!

*A hybridizer, gardener and author, Joe Parks hybridizes azaleas and rhododendrons in New Hampshire (Zone 5A); his next article will appear in the January (1994) issue of Fine Gardening. Joe also maintains the hardiness data base on New England azaleas and rhododendrons.* □

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# George Harding Azalea Garden - A Second Progress Report

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Robert T. Stelloh

Darnestown, MD

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The overall garden concept and progress was reported in previous issues of *THE AZALEAN*.<sup>1</sup> In summary, the purposes of the George Harding Azalea Garden are to be a memorial to George Harding and to carry on his work of exposing more people to the beauty and versatility of azaleas. The garden is on the grounds of River Farm, a 27-acre estate formerly owned by George Washington and now the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society. River Farm is along the Potomac River in Virginia, midway between Alexandria and Mount Vernon. The garden site is a strip of land running west from the river, about 400' long and ranging from 30' to 90' deep, beside the entrance road to River Farm and facing the front door of the headquarters building. Trees on the site include a number of mature hemlocks and Norway spruce, as well as some young dawn redwoods, franklinia, Virginia cedar and Norway spruce.

A garden committee was formed in late 1991 of members from the Brookside Gardens, Ben Morrison and Northern Virginia chapters. In 1992, the committee and other volunteers agreed on the garden site and the overall garden design, solicited money and plants from ASA members and friends for the garden, spent over 800 hours in site preparation and garden design work, and planned on a spring 1993 planting effort and garden dedication.

We didn't achieve the spring planting, and we are now running about one year behind our original schedule. However, the good news is that we have accumulated over \$5,000 in garden funds and have pledges of over 500 plants, thanks to the generosity of our members and others; we are still progressing, and the garden is slowly taking shape, to the point that it is now beginning to be recognizable as a garden in progress. As described below, the recent accomplishments include installation of an irrigation system, and another 800 hours spent in site preparation, developing a detailed planting plan, and actually starting to make the garden—making paths and planting some azaleas!

## Plants

Initially, the committee selected azalea cultivars for the garden based on availability and preferences. We felt that every azalea in the garden should be generally available, so that visitors would be able to go to a local nursery to buy any azalea they saw in the garden and particularly admired. The committee has now decided to drop the availability requirement, and instead to propagate any azaleas in the garden which are not generally available. The American Horticultural Society has agreed to let us make those azaleas available for sale each year at a scheduled and publicized "Azalea Day" at River Farm, with the proceeds to be added to the maintenance fund for the azalea garden.

The preferences we considered included George Harding's known preferences, the collective preferences of the committee members, and the preferences of other interested Azalea Society of America members. We then selected particular cultivars based on those preferences, and only solicited pledges of those selected cultivars, usually three plants each for small cultivars or one plant for large cultivars. Now we're a little more relaxed about it, and generally work any azaleas we receive into the design whether they match the preferences or not. Also, it turns out that the cultivars we solicited aren't necessarily the cultivars we need, since we had not really considered the garden design when we solicited the numbers of different cultivars, and the design

largely dictates the numbers of plants of particular colors, bloom times, sizes and growth habits that we need. For example, since the site has a long back wall which we need to "hide" to control the view, we need many tall upright azaleas. And, since the garden is divided into many beds, we need many low spreading azaleas to go along the edges of the beds.

Another expressed desire was for contributions of nicely shaped plants which were about one-half to two-thirds their mature size, so the garden would "look right" from the very beginning. That was definitely wishful thinking. Plants from a nursery are what the nursery has, usually nicely grown plants in pots, anywhere from one to ten gallons, while the plants from an individual contributor are what the contributor has, usually mature plants dug from their garden, and sometimes rather poorly shaped specimens because of crowding. Our approach for the poorly shaped plants is to let them be for now, to maximize next year's blooms, and then to plan on pruning and shaping them later, either just after they bloom, or in the course of taking cuttings.

We now have pledges for over 300 different azalea species and cultivars, for a total of well over 500 azaleas. We also have three of the new *Cornus florida* x *C. kousa* crosses acquired from Rutgers University and donated to the garden by the American Horticultural Society, a sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*, which was one of George Harding's favorite native trees), a *Styrax japonicus*, and a planned-for *Stewartia pseudocamellia*. Of these plants, about half have been received and will be planted yet this year, and the other plants will be added next spring.

## Irrigation

While the Washington, D. C., area receives about 50 inches of precipitation annually, which is about the same as Seattle, rain in this area is not as predictable as it is in Seattle, and our gardens typically need supplemental water in the spring or summer for reliable growth, or just to keep the plants alive. Because of this, we agreed with the American Horticultural Society to contract for an irrigation system, and to pay a third of

the cost, with the American Horticultural Society to donate the other two-thirds. We also decided to wait for the water before we started to plant, both to make it easier to install the irrigation system and to ensure that our plants could easily be watered. That was a good decision for 1992, since we had a very hot, dry summer. However, this prevented any planting in the spring, since it took longer than we had anticipated to get the funds, select the contractor, and get the system installed.

The irrigation system was partially installed by the end of September, to the point that we now have four hydrants at about 100' intervals and can at least hand-water any plant with a 50' hose or a bucket. The complete system will also include popup sprinklers, impact sprinklers and a semi-automatic control system with four separately controlled watering zones. The different zones are important for this site because while it is generally poorly drained clay soil, those parts of the site with mature trees give the effect of good drainage. When the complete system is in place and operational, it can be turned on manually when needed, and will then turn itself off after delivering a preset amount of water to each of the four zones.

## Design

The garden design developed by the committee includes a central path running the length of the garden, with short paths leading from the edge of the garden into the central path about every 75' along the length of the garden. We feel this arrangement of paths invites visitors into the garden and encourages them to walk through the entire garden without giving them choices to go here instead of there and thus miss part of the garden. It also makes long slender garden beds, about three to five plants deep, such that visitors can stay on the paths and still be fairly close to any plant.

Each of the beds has one or two overall color themes, such as purple-pink, or orange-red and yellow-pink (salmon). Within a bed, the plants are generally sited by ultimate size and habit, with low spreading plants near the path, then medium height plants, and then tall plants

near the center. The plants are also sited by bloom time and color, to make pleasing associations that bloom together, to have pockets of plants blooming together rather than an isolated plant in bloom here and there, and to have those plants that are in bloom at any particular time spread throughout the garden rather than being clustered in one location. (Yes, we recognize it will take years of observation and rearranging of the plants to more completely achieve those goals.)

The garden plan consists of a set of computer-generated maps and lists.<sup>2</sup> The map shows the location of each plant by a circle showing the approximate ultimate diameter of the plant, with a number which cross-references the circle to the lists. The lists show the name of each plant, its characteristics (color, bloom time, plant size, growth habit, hybrid group), its contributor, the number of the garden bed it's in, and its coordinates<sup>3</sup> on the map. These maps and lists have been revised many times to reflect which plants are actually received, since they are typically different from the plants which were pledged a year or two ago. Also, different quantities are needed than were originally pledged of plants with particular growth habits and sizes and colors and bloom times, to maintain the design concepts as the design evolves.

## Planting

Since the beginning of September 1993, the committee and other volunteers have been working at the garden every Wednesday and Saturday, weather permitting, and working on other days to make up the time when we get rained out. The primary activity has been weeding, since the leaves we tilled in last year have produced bumper crops of maple, beech and other seedling trees, and Bermuda and crab grass – if the clay soil does as well with the azaleas as it did with the weeds, we'll have a terrific garden in a very short time. Now we are also preparing the paths by rough grading with shovels and rakes, rolling, and spreading wood chips.<sup>4</sup> And, finally, we're getting to plant some azaleas!

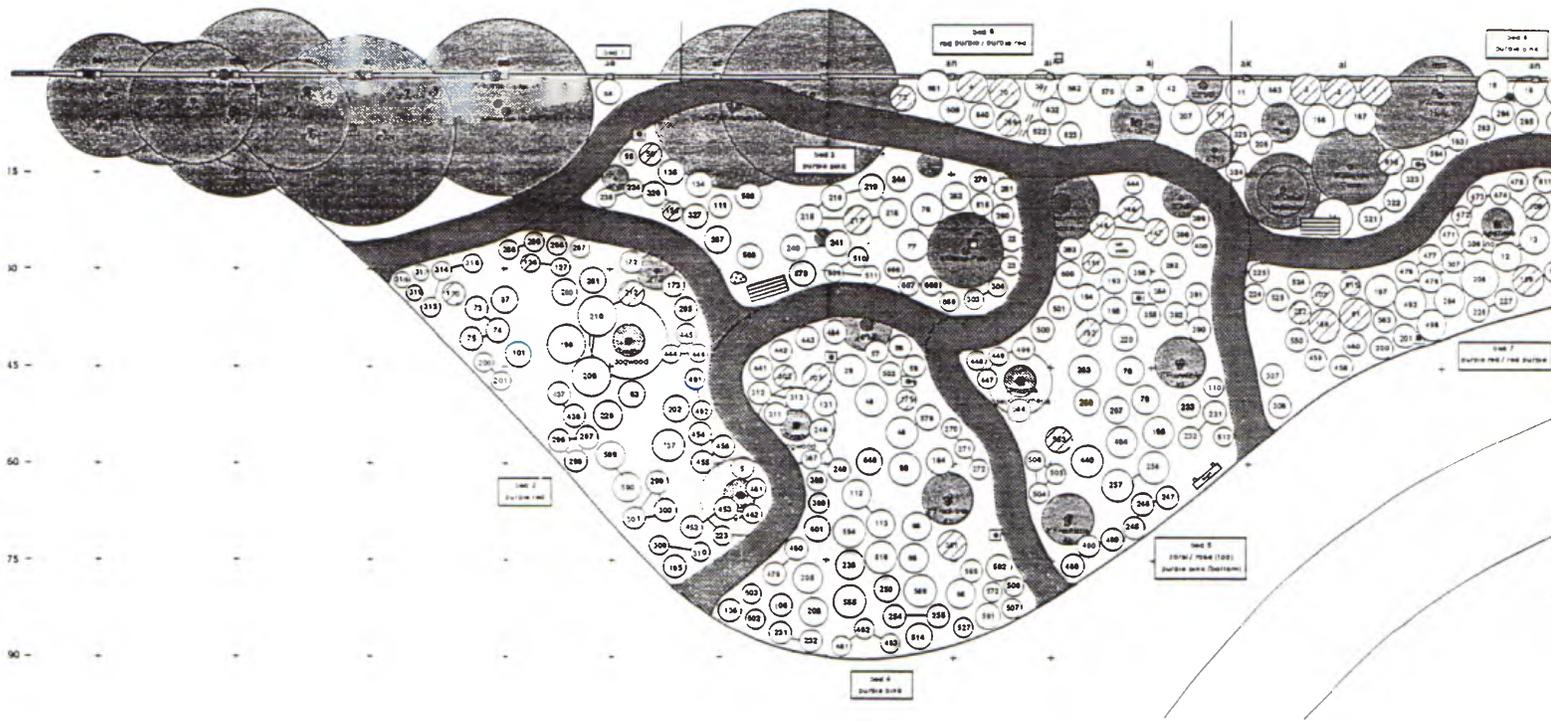
As a plant is delivered to the site, one person finds it on the list to see the plant's

map number and bed, finds that number on the map to see the general location of the plant, and tags the plant with a temporary tag with its name, map number and the map coordinates. Two people with 100' tapes then use the map coordinates to measure from the proper two posts in the back wall to locate the correct spot on the ground for the plant, and put it there. Another person then plants it, typically planting high because of the clay soil, and in some locations, poor drainage. Finally, another person mulches the plant with some donated pine bark and reports back that it has been planted, so it can be checked off on the map and the lists.

At least that was the planned approach, but it's hard to anticipate everything that can upset the plan, and it takes a while when anything out of the ordinary happens. For example, when a plant arrives that isn't on the list, it must first be integrated into the design, considering the available spaces in the garden and the size, color, growth habit and bloom time of the azalea. That also happens when a plant arrives that's on the list but isn't on the map for some reason. Or when the number of the plant has been changed on the list but not on the map, or vice versa. Or when you've walked out 50' or 75' or so with the tape and discover that the tape is on the wrong side of a big tree next to the wall, and you have to go all the way back. Or (since the map was drawn based on a fairly rough survey that is only good to within a foot or so) when the map coordinates, which are accurate to the inch, put the plant on top of an existing tree, or in the middle of a path – it doesn't help to be exactly right when you're approximately wrong. Or when the person measuring the coordinates or writing them on the label had transposed part of the information. Or when the plant that the list says is low and spreading arrives, and it's tall and upright because of its particular growing conditions or because the list is wrong (or is it because the plant is mislabeled – it's pretty hard to tell in the fall). Or when ...?

## Summary

While the garden currently has a group of plants here, a bit of path completed



there, and big patches of Bermuda grass or crab grass and big piles of wood chips or pine bark here and there, the committee is very pleased to see it starting to come together and look like a garden, at least in spots. While it's probably not the way you would typically plant your garden, it works when the plants are arriving at random, and you have a handful of overworked volunteers trying to do everything at once before it gets too cold.

It's turning out to be a magnificent garden at a very prominent site, fitting of its title and its purpose. With a lot of work, and an increasing amount of flexibility, we are getting it planted. Now we'll have the winter to line up the remaining plants we need, decide exactly where each of those plants will be located, develop a visitor's brochure for the garden, and get ready for another planting effort in the early spring of 1994. The dedication is now tentatively planned for May 1994, in time for the blooming season.

## Help

It's not too late to help, whether with money, plants, or just plain work. The

garden fund still contains almost \$4,000, but we can always use more money, since we still have a number of major expenditures coming up, such as printing the brochure and getting signs for the garden. We would also like to fund the ongoing garden maintenance costs from the interest on the fund, so the garden can last forever from a financial standpoint. Specific needs also include the *Stewartia*, and a number of garden benches which could include small brass memorial plates.

When the weather turns cold, and we get a chance to see where we stand, we will prepare a list of the particular azaleas we would like to have to complete the garden, and mail that list to the chapter presidents so they can circulate it to the membership. Or, if you would like a copy, ask Bob Stelloh around January 1994.

Finally, if you live in the general Washington, D. C., area, we can use more help as we finish the planting next spring. We will probably be working on Wednesdays and Saturdays, weather permitting, usually from 9AM to about 1 or 2PM. To get in on the fun, call Bob Stelloh at (301) 840-1714 or Milt Lerner at (703) 765-0225

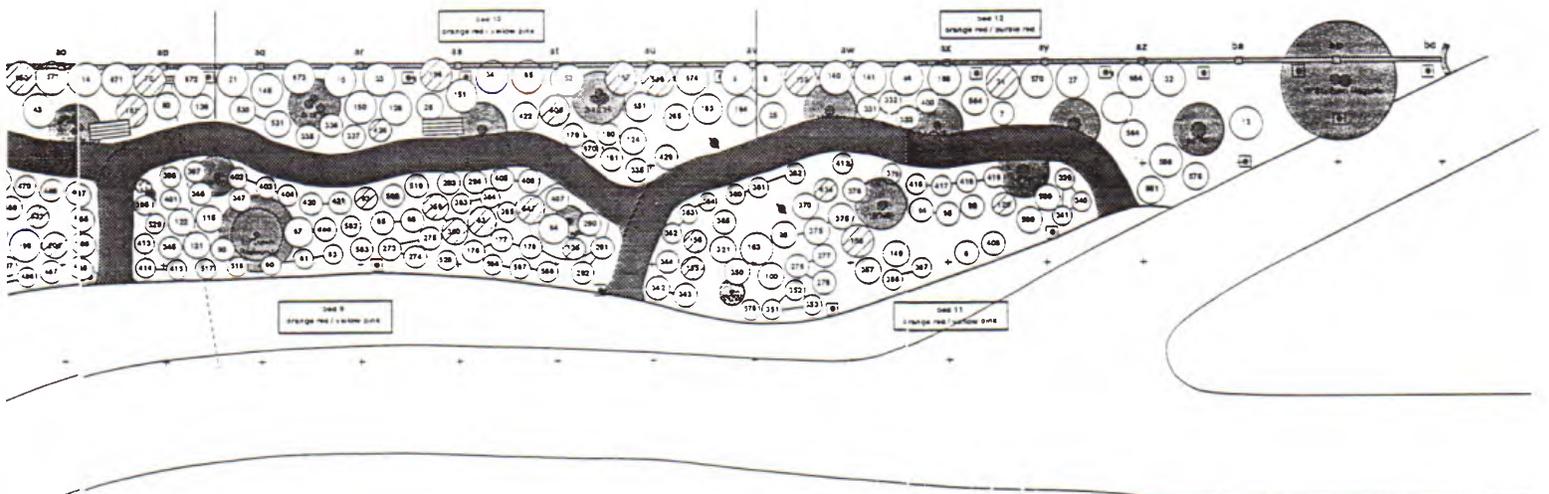
for driving directions, and to see whether we'll be there on the day you're interested in helping. River Farm is at 7931 East Boulevard Drive, just off the George Washington Parkway, about five miles south of US 495.

## Notes

1. The George Harding Azalea Garden at River Farm, **THE AZALEAN**, March 1992; The George Harding Azalea Garden at River Farm - Part II, **THE AZALEAN**, June 1992; and George Harding Azalea Garden - A Progress Report, **THE AZALEAN**, December 1992.

2. As anyone with a computer knows, "computer-generated" is somewhat of a misnomer. "Computer-assisted and printed" is really more like it, since one spends quite a bit of time developing and revising the map and lists, and the computer helps primarily by adding up quantities to give the totals, and by sorting the lists by name or number.

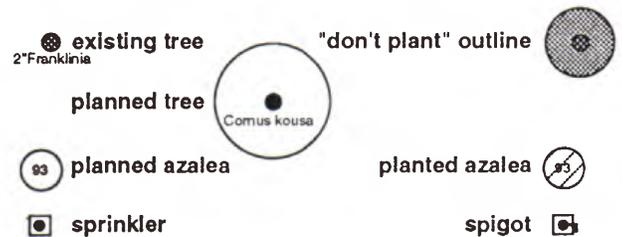
3. The garden has a low brick wall along its back edge, with posts about every 15' which we labelled consecutively from left to right as post A, B, ...,



### Design Concepts

- visitor access paths to get into the garden and among the plants
  - minimum number of paths, minimum choice at intersections
  - maximum access to plants
  - equally spaced garden access points, equally sized beds
- plants are arranged by size, color and bloom-time, not hybrid group
  - size: low toward paths, tall in centers of beds and along the wall
  - color: beds with color themes, whites as visual breaks
  - bloom-time: same time clumps are spread throughout the garden

## George Harding Azalea Garden at River Farm



BA, BB, etc. The coordinates of a plant are its distance from any two of those posts, such as A15C34 to show that it is 15' from post A and 34' from post C. Thus, we can plan the garden on paper, measure the plant coordinates on the map, and use those coordinates to precisely locate the plants on the ground according to the plan.

4. Not just any old wood chips, but a truckload of wood chips recently created by pruning an enormous 200 year old osage orange tree (*Maclura pomifera*) behind the main house at River Farm. This tree is said to have been given to George Washington by Thomas Jefferson, so our visitors will be walking on history!

### Note Added in Proof

A lot more has been done in the month of November, with the help of some very nice weather on some of the workdays and in spite of a few cold and/or wet workdays. The good news is, that due to the dedicated efforts of the committee members and several other volunteers, the weeds are all gone, the paths are all made, and almost 400 plants are in the ground.

The latest planting efforts have gone much more quickly than the earlier efforts. Since we now have a number of plants carefully located by their measurements, we can use those plants as markers, to locate the plants that go between them by eye. For example, as you can see by looking at the map, the new plant is about halfway between this plant and that plant, and just a little bit off of a straight line between them, and it "looks right" right about here. So, instead of spending ten minutes or more just to locate one plant, we can locate many of the plants on the ground almost as fast as we can find them on the map and get them to the right bed. Of course, there are still the problem children that can't be found on the map, or the space for them on the ground doesn't match the way it looks on the map.

The bad news is that only the current crop of weeds is gone, and we'll still have to take care of their offspring next year, and the next year, ..., and the next year. And, shortly after the paths were all outlined, smoothed and rolled, and the historical wood chips spread (the truckload of chips, about ten cubic yards, just did cover all the paths), the rains came. We

had a record rain in early December, between five and six inches in one day, and that much water in a short time definitely showed us the drainage patterns in the garden. It moved parts of the paths and much of the bark and wood chips we had spread between the plants. Interestingly, since we've generally planted high, it left the bark around the plants, and just moved the mulch from between the plants to the low spots. Of course, some of those low spots were parts of the paths. And, since we were getting tired of tripping over the stakes that outlined the paths, we had just pulled all of them up. But all in all, the record rain did surprisingly little damage, and we're reasonably confident such a rain will do even less damage in the future, when all the area is mulched to slow down the water and help it soak in.

*Bob Stelloh and his wife, Denise, knew George Harding for a number of years and have many plants from his nursery, along with many fond memories of time spent with him. Bob retired a few years ago, and is currently developing and marketing a computer program for garden information management.* □

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# *Rhododendron farrerae*

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David C. Purdy

Omaha, Nebraska

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*R. farrerae* is a little-known deciduous azalea in the Schlippenbachii series. The only reason I know anything about it is because I have encountered it in the wild while at loose ends on a weekend during a business trip in Hong Kong.

It seems to be public policy in Hong Kong to concentrate the people in dense neighborhoods, leaving the bulk of the land in its natural state. As a result, it is easy to get to the countryside. All I had to do is to take the subway a few stops from the business district of Kowloon and walk straight uphill. Within about three quarters of a mile, I was beyond the last habitation and on a steep hillside.

The vegetation of Hong Kong was not at all what I expected. The climate is tropical and wet. At some seasons, cloud cover hovers a few hundred meters above sea level. However, the vegetation is not lush. Instead, the hills are covered with shrubby scrub, usually not more than knee high. A few trees are found in ravines. This is the natural habitat of *R. farrerae*.

The examples I saw were at and nearby a location named Tait's Cairn. This location is about 500 meters above sea level. The plants were scattered in the scrub. Flowers observed on April 1 were pink, white or pale lavender. There were one or two flowers per head. In some cases the flowers had appeared ahead of the leaves. In other cases they were nestled among obviously new leaves. The plants were about 18 inches tall, and somewhat wider than they were tall.

I tried to gather some pollen from the plants. The pollen did not survive the trip back to the United States, but then, being unprepared, my techniques were unsatisfactory. A few years later I obtained some *R. farrerae* pollen from an avid rhododendron collector, Harold Epstein of Larchmont, New York, and made a successful cross with *R. viscosum*. Unfortunately, the seedlings died of damp-off when very small. I wish I could try the cross again.

A little library research indicates that *R. farrerae* was discovered very early by occidental botanists, in 1829<sup>1</sup>. It was early known as *Azalea squamata*<sup>2</sup>. It is very tender. The British<sup>1</sup> rate it as H1-2, which means that it is barely hardy enough to grow outside in a protected English garden. In its native habitat, cold hardiness is not important. Hong Kong and the surrounding area have seasons, but even in January a temperature of 70°F is not unusual.

The Chinese call *R. farrerae* "ding xiang dujuan" which is translated as "lilac rhododendron"<sup>3</sup>. This designation is probably a reference to the most common color form, although my limited experience indicates that flower color is variable and other colors are common.

The natural habitat of *R. farrerae* is in the south China coastal provinces, from Guangxi to Fujian. One source<sup>4</sup> says that it also grows in Hunan and Jiangxi provinces, which are still in southern China, but inland. These regions are tropical [or subtropical, Ed.] .

Does *R. farrerae* have any importance to American azalea growers? It certainly does not have enough cold tolerance to grow in most of the United States. On the other hand, it does tolerate high temperatures more than most azaleas and it does root easily<sup>5</sup>. Other deciduous azaleas are hard to root. It comes in a clear pink color form, it is floriferous, and it is smaller than most deciduous azaleas. Perhaps its genes have a place in a breeding program to produce versatile varieties capable of coping with the continental climate found in the central United States.

*R. farrerae* is representative of the many Chinese azaleas that are little known outside the orient. Reference 2 lists 11 species of azalea as growing in the same region as *R. farrerae*. Only two (*R. molle* and *R. simsii*) have been used in occidental breeding programs. Tam<sup>4</sup> lists 15 additional newly discovered Chinese azalea species. This collection should include genes that would be useful to future azalea development.

[D. F. Chamberlain and S. J. Rea, *A Revision of Rhododendron IV—Subgenus Tsutsusi*, Edinb. J. Bot. 47(2) :145 (1990) place *R. farrerae* Tate in Section *Brachycalyx*, citing it as the type species of the Section. Chamberlain and Rae state that it was introduced by Capt. Farrer from China in 1829. Ed.]

## References

1 *The Rhododendron Handbook*. The Royal Horticultural Society, 1980.

2 *The Species of Rhododendron - Azalea Series* as reprinted by The Pacific Rhododendron Society.

3 *Rhododendrons of China* published by the American Rhododendron Society and The Rhododendron Species Foundation, 1980.

4 *A Survey of the Genus Rhododendron in South China* by Tam Puicheung, World Wide Publications, Hong Kong, 1983.

5 *Azalea Squamata* in the Botanical Register, vol. 33, 1847.

*David Purdy has been growing and breeding azaleas for many years, initially in central Virginia, then for twenty years on Long Island near New York City and currently in Omaha, Nebraska. His favorite azaleas on Long Island were a group of R. nudiflorum x Ilam hybrid, and a group of Martha Hitchcock x an unknown azalea. He is currently trying to cope with Nebraska's climate. If anyone has pollen or plants of R. tschonoskii to send him, he would appreciate it. Iron hardiness is a necessity for a breeding program in Nebraska.*

*By vocation, David is an engineer engaged in power plant and railroad projects. □*

## Prize for the Best Article in THE AZALEAN-1993

In 1989, the Board of Governors authorized the editor of THE AZALEAN to establish an annual prize for the best article to appear in THE AZALEAN. The concept was to acquire through donations, a fund which when invested would provide an annual prize for the best article published in THE AZALEAN. Funds were donated by the following chapters to establish the prize:

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

As stated in the September 1990 issue, the best article each year will be selected by a poll of the membership. The prize will be announced and awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Society. This year we are doing some "catching up". Both the 1992 prize and the 1993 prize for best article in THE AZALEAN will be awarded at the 1994 convention and annual meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

Included in this issue as part of the ballot for election of officers is a ballot listing all of the articles published in 1993. Please mark your ballot and mail it to:

Mr. Robert Stelloh  
15241 Springfield Road  
Darnestown MD, 20874

The ballot must be received at the above address by April 15, 1994!

## Azalea Calendar

1994

February 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
February 7	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at the Silver Spring Library
February 22	Dallas Chapter meeting at 6:30PM, Tuesday, at the Highland Park Town Hall. Naud Burnett will speak on companion plants for azaleas.
February 25-27	Dallas Chapter will sponsor a booth at the Arlington Convention Center, Neil Sperry's All Garden Show in Arlington, TX
April 4	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at the Silver Spring Library
April 5	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum
April 28-30	Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting and Convention sponsored by the Richmond Chapter; Board of Directors Meeting
April 29-May 1	Brookside Gardens Chapter Flower Show at the Landon Azalea Festival, Bethesda, Maryland
May 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
May 5-8	ARS Annual Convention in Asheville, North Carolina
May 15	Dallas Chapter Plant Sale
June 7	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum
August 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
September 21	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum
October 7-9	ARS Western Regional Conference in Lynnwood, Washington
November 1	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
November 1	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30PM, Tuesday, at the Highland Park Town Hall

**Ben Morrison Chapter**  
Dale Flowers, *President*

Our last meeting was held at the Dunkirk Library and Information Center on September 19, 1993. Bob Hobbs gave a very nice slide presentation of the convention in Dallas this year.

Lots of thanks to our members who were willing to cover an Azalea Society table at the Homestead Gardens Center on the weekends of October 1-2 and 9-10. Bobbie & Allen Jones, Bob & Bee Hobbs, Margaret Church, June Thomas from our own chapter and Bill Miller from the Brookside Gardens Chapter contributed lots of time and effort to promote membership in our society. Thanks again.

The next meeting will be our annual Christmas Party to be held December 12, 1993 at 2:00PM at the home of Dale and Carol Flowers. □

**Brookside Chapter**  
Bill Johnson, *President*

The July 31 meeting was on one of the few nice days in July. We were treated to a very informal cook-out at Debby Emory's garden. Debby has one of those very comfortable stroll-type gardens that both young and old can enjoy. We were all impressed with the large Koi in the spring-fed pond. Of course, the garden is filled with azaleas but the range of companion plants creates interest in other seasons. Debby makes use of the borrowed landscape by planting into the woodland park that joins her property.

The plant exchange was lots of fun with people getting rid of things they had too much of and leaving with some new additions for their gardens. About 50 plants were exchanged by lottery.

Carol Allen presented plans for the Ryon Page Memorial project at Parklawn Cemetery. Her plans were approved by the membership and we are committed to implementing hopefully this autumn. We will be receiving a number of Satsuki azaleas from McCrillis Gardens that Ryon Page actually helped propagate. Carol Allen has been active in soliciting labor

from the Silver Spring Garden Club and contributions from other chapter members. For further information or to volunteer your support, contact Carol at (301) 258-0313.

On a sad note, Denise Stelloh will be passing the torch as chairperson for the flower show at the Landon Azalea Festival. Denise has been doing a superlative job in this position for ten years. Although Denise will be a tough act to follow, it is now time for another member to rise to the occasion—however, given the growth in the Festival, the job may require two members.

The auction held in the auditorium of the National Arboretum on September 12 was once again very successful with over \$1,000.00 raised. At the next meeting we will vote on the amount to be shared with Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA). The money we give to FONA will benefit the azalea collection at the Arboretum. A special thanks to all who donated plants for a job well done. Even with fewer plants this year, our auctioneer, Bill Miller, did an excellent job getting the best prices. In addition to the auction, we also had a raffle which gave the small investors who were frequently outbid a chance to participate. Jean Cox and Mary Rutley were great at the information table answering questions, selling raffle tickets, collecting the proceeds and signing up three new members. We must also single out Barbara Bullock who worked very hard with the set-up, organization, and making sure everything was labeled. And thanks to all who helped with the refreshment table—VERY tasty.

At the October 18 meeting, Carol Ottesen was the speaker. Carol is a garden writer who lives and gardens in Potomac, Maryland. Carol has authored and co-authored several popular garden books; her latest project, a calendar, is in the bookstores now. She did all the photography for the 1994 Mid-Atlantic Gardening Calendar published by Starwood Press. "Twenty Companions for the Azalea Garden" was the topic of the meeting. □

**Dallas Chapter**  
Stephen Brainerd, *President*

In October, the Dallas Chapter was treated to a presentation on the Exbury Gardens in England. Peggy Kirkland provided the attendees with some incredible historical facts and a memorable pictorial tour with help from slides loaned by the Garden staff for this specific presentation. Her photography and the garden slides were absolutely beautiful. The presentation was so well received that an encore is obviously indicated.

The chapter elected a new slate of officers for 1994. They are:

**President:** Steve Brainerd  
**Vice President:** Jim Garrison  
**Secretary:** Cathy Garrison  
**Treasurer:** Keith Johansson

A special commendation is extended to Ronnie Brown for carrying the mantle of secretary for the four years of the chapter's existence. Ronnie's contributions, particularly during the National Convention, were outstanding.

The next chapter meeting will be held at 7:00PM on Tuesday, February 22, 1994 at the Highland Park Town Hall. Naud Burnett will give a presentation on companion plants for azaleas. □

**Oconee Chapter**  
Jim Thornton, *President*

The Oconee Chapter of the ASA met at 9:00AM at Ben Reid's Azalea Farm for our cuttings and swap session on July 10, 1993. Seventeen members were present, and as of July 10 we had a membership of 89.

Chapter librarian Cilla Cartwright and her husband are in the process of placing our library materials in their computer. Hopefully, our library will be available for use soon.

Ben Reid presented the program. The first part of the program, Ben gave explanations and answered questions on how to propagate azaleas from cuttings. The second part consisted of swapping cuttings given by Ben Reid, Allison Fuqua, Ralph Bullard and Jim Thornton. These

were in plastic baggies and labelled. Jim Thornton furnished additional baggies for members' use. He explained that you should take at least three cuttings of each variety, put them in the bags and keep them in a refrigerator until planted. Rooting powder, supplied free-of-charge by the chapter, and Captan were also available. (Captan should be mixed one tablespoon to one gallon of water. This is a fungicide and helps prevent damp-off.)

At the beginning of his presentation, Ben gave some information about the farm he and his wife Linda share. Although they have had the land for about 20 years, they did not move there until about ten years ago. Their azalea farm is more of a hobby than a business and consists of 1,360 different varieties, in addition to their blueberries and four goats. Ben said he discovered by accident that goats will not eat azaleas. Deer are another story! (See June 1993 issue of THE AZALEAN.)

Their farm is on a computerized watering system and waters three days a week, twice a day—at 12 noon and 12 midnight—easily watering while Ben and Linda sleep. Ben feels keeping azaleas wet produces prettier flowers and he uses a whirly-bird type, screw-on sprinkler or mister for best results. Also, contrary to some beliefs, Ben said azaleas will grow in the sun. He showed one area of azaleas which had morning shade only.

To root his azaleas, he prepares the medium by mixing six parts pine bark mulch, three parts peat moss and one part sand. He suggests using a flat which holds 30 small containers. After preparing the medium and placing it in the containers, water completely 24 hours prior to placing cuttings in the well soaked containers. Ben stated he preferred the peat moss in the mixture because it produced good root systems and he liked his plants to be root bound when he replanted them. He said to allow approximately six weeks for rooting, remembering to keep misting and water the cuttings. During the six-week period, Ben said he takes the cutting out to see if a root ball is forming and then easily returns it to the container. He does not strip the

cutting prior to planting, nor does he use rooting hormones.

Mr. Reid does not prune any of his plants after mid-June, and then clips his cuttings for rooting about July 1. For his older, larger plants, he uses Sierra Blend 18-7-10 fertilizer. Another fertilizer commonly used is Osmocote. At the end of his presentation, Ben donated two Glenn Dales, 'Dayspring', to be auctioned.

Following this first part of our program, we stopped for a short break. The cold drinks and cookies were especially refreshing since we were meeting outside and the heat was already building. Our appreciation to Patsy Thornton for these cooling refreshments, and to the Reids for the delicious cookies.

The second part of our program consisted of everyone swapping cuttings, placing them in baggies, and obtaining the root powder and Captan. Ben also gave us a guided tour of his garden estate.

In addition to the Glenn Dales donated by Ben, Jim Harris brought two of his plants to be auctioned. One was 'Coronado Red' and the other was 'Vivacious'. Mr. Harris said they were "one of a kind," or, in other words, a new Harris introduction.

At the September 12 meeting, the speaker was Mr. George Sanko, Botanist, who established the DeKalb College Botanical Garden on DeKalb's South Campus in 1990. He gave us a walk-through via slides of the garden. Beginning with the jungle-like growth on the property, until the landscaped, grassy pathways and flower surrounded rocks centered in the middle of the garden that are now continuing to grow and give pleasure to so many visitors. This garden is now home to more than 800 species of native plants, including 60 species of ferns and fern allies, 13 species of trillium, six species of blue stars and seven species of wild gingers. The new Sun Garden, scheduled for completion by the end of 1994, includes several plant family beds, some rare and federally endangered species and a three-acre meadow. Many of the endangered species are now being propagated at the gardens.

The Botanical Garden is located at 3251 Panthersville Road, Decatur, Georgia behind the parking lot adjacent to the Occupational Education Building. You may tour the garden, Monday through Friday, 11:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information you may call (404) 244-5077.

At the conclusion of this most interesting program and by unanimous decision of the membership, the Hugh Caldwell azaleas left from our Spring Plant Sale were donated to Mr. Sanko for the Botanical Garden.

John Ayers won our door prize. □

### In Memory William M. Walker

William M. Walker, 85, a retired self-employed commercial artist, died June 20, 1993, in his home in Virginia Beach, VA.

Mr. Walker was born in South Shields, England. He emigrated to the U.S. from Liverpool, England, on the SS Havefore and applied for U. S. citizenship on April 23, 1923. He became a U.S. citizen on March 10, 1930. He was a veteran of World War II, U.S. Army Air Force 34th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron. Before moving to Virginia Beach in September 1992, he resided in Burke, VA.

Bill was well known by the nickname of "Mr. Azalea Man" by many in his community. His expertise included articles about his garden which were published in the local newspapers. Bill was a member of the Azalea Society of America and took a lifetime of enjoyment from this hobby. Many an azalea in Homewood originated in Bill's "cold frame" where he rooted some of his prized azaleas to share with his friends.

For 40 years Bill created and nurtured a beautiful azalea garden in the neighborhood of "Homewood" in Burke, Virginia. Bill turned a wooded lot into an azalea fantasy land...with thousands of azaleas, many dog woods, and beautiful walking trails throughout. He opened his garden each spring to his neighbors and the general public to enjoy. □

## ASA New Members

### At-Large Members

Duncan & Davies  
Nurseries  
Waitara Road  
Brixton, Waitara  
NEW ZEALAND

Tom & Wilma Walker  
8640 Winding Lane  
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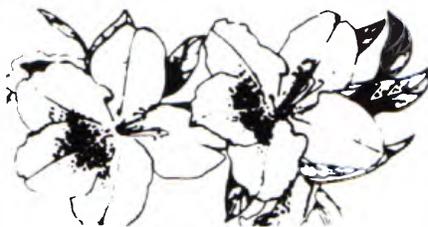
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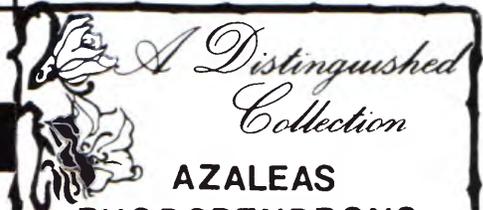
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