



**Verification Study of the Glenn Dale  
Azalea Collection at the U.S. National  
Arboretum - 1993**

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**More Princess Azalea Introductions**

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## Editor's Letter

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If the reader believes that this is going to be another appeal from the editor for articles, then the reader is correct. A typical edition of **THE AZALEAN** is put together from whatever articles are in the editor's file at the time of the issue deadline—usually after making a few telephone calls to the handful of regular authors who will provide a few pages at short notice so that a 20-page issue will be possible. This more-and-more frequent scenario usually ends up resulting in the fact that **THE AZALEAN** will be sent to the printer a week or two late.

More importantly, only occasionally is there opportunity to put together an issue that provides a particular focus. Despite frequent appeals for more articles it is still a "hand-to-mouth existence". The editor does receive some suggestions for articles, and these are appreciated; however, most appreciated would be a more-or-less steady stream of articles submitted for publication in **THE AZALEAN** from you, the members of the organization.

As has been emphasized before, not every article submitted needs to be a polished literary work. What we are looking for, I believe, is material relating to azaleas that is accurate, informative, and original (meaning not previously published). Some editing is done on nearly every article. At some authors' request, a lot of editing is done on some articles, so lack of "writing ability" should not discourage anyone. In addition to full-scale articles of a few to many paragraphs **THE AZALEAN** will consider for publication:

- Letters to the Editor
- Cultural notes
- News item relating to azaleas
- Observations on specific cultivars
- News of chapter activities

If you decide to send material for publication in **THE AZALEAN** please remember that we would welcome color photographs to accompany your submission. We will be quite selective in choosing photographs to appear in **THE AZALEAN** because of the cost involved in printing color photographs.

The purpose of the society is to educate and to share information among the members. Many of us have information that would be useful to others. Please considering sharing it through **THE AZALEAN**. □

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*On the Cover:* Princess Mary Lee

## 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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## Letter to the Editor

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I find that some of the Brookside azaleas that George Harding gave to me as rooted cuttings do not agree with Barry's translation of Satsuki:

- (1) Yamiji-no-tomoshiba—flowers pale lavender, blooms late April.

Barry: White suffused vivid purplish pink, reddish purple blotch, BG-1137.

Could be: Yakusin—white to blushed purplish pink, early, BG-0942.

- (2) Yama-no-akebono—white with purple stripes, solid purple and sekidera. May.

Barry: White with pale yellowish green blotch. Variation of deep pink stripes to solid self. Early.

Could be: Yama-no-Hara—pale purplish pink, white towards center, occasional strips of darker purplish pink. Midseason, GB-1158.

- (3) Sakuragata—slow-growing low plant, flowers 1 - 1-1/2" at first pink changing to purple. Now white center with colored border, BG-1347.

Barry: White center with deep pink to deep purplish pink, border. 2 - 2- 1/2", upright spreading habit.

This plant resembles the Tamino-no-Yuki that I have but Tamino has no BG number.

For the first two plants one can easily see how they could have been mislabeled somewhere along the way, but this does not apply to the Sakuragata (so-called). Perhaps others may have had similar experiences.

My Glenn Dale azalea 'Alight' is white with a colored border (a la 'Boldface') and is so described under 'Luna'.

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

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## Verification Study of the Glenn Dale Azalea Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum - 1993

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Mark Priest and Barbara Bullock  
Washington, D.C.

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### Introduction

The foundation for a reference collection of Glenn Dale azaleas was established with the dedication of the Morrison Glenn Dale Azalea Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum in 1954 (Miller 1992). Unfortunately, four decades later, there is no complete collection of Glenn Dales anywhere in the country (West 1992). It seems remarkable that so many cultivars of such a popular hybrid group of azaleas are difficult to find in public or private collections. Fortunately, efforts are being made to locate all of the named cultivars of Glenn Dales that were introduced in the 1940's and 1950's by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (West 1989). Because there are so many Glenn Dale cultivars (454), it is difficult to establish a collection which contains all of them. Several cultivars were never introduced\*, and others have become very rare. Compounding the problem is the fact that many cultivars look quite similar and are difficult to distinguish from one another (Frazer 1983). It is not always easy to see the variations through the eyes of Ben Morrison, the hybridizer of this group, and to recognize the characteristics that he identified when he chose them to be named cultivars.

Two years ago Steve Glenn, an intern from Brookside Gardens, visited the National Arboretum and noticed that many of the Glenn Dale azaleas that were planted outside the walls of the Morrison Azalea Garden were incorrectly labeled. The co-author subsequently initiated a study to check all of the Glenn Dale azaleas at the Arboretum to determine their correct identity. In 1991, Azalea Society of America (ASA) member Frank Sobieski volunteered to assist the co-author one day a week with the verification of Glenn Dale cultivars. As a result of this effort, the magnitude of the task became evident. The project was too large and blooming over too quickly for two people working part-time to complete in one season.

In the Spring of 1992, the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) funded the first Azalea Collections intern, Beata Corcoran, to work on the project for four months. In the Spring of 1993, in collaboration with the Men's Garden Club of Montgomery County, FONA funded a second intern, the primary author, to continue the work.

### Identifying Azaleas

Many characteristics are used in identifying azalea cultivars. Leaf size, shape, and color can be important, as well as the size and growth habit of the mature plant. The most important characteristics are the floral ones.

The time of the bloom is very important, especially for Glenn Dales. One of Ben Morrison's goals in the Glenn Dale hybridizing project was to introduce azaleas with a wide range of bloom times.

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\*Dr. Roy Magruder (U.S. Department of Agriculture, retired), after considerable research, concluded that the following clones were never introduced:

Alexandria	Aries	Barchester	Berceuse	Candlelight
Etna	Horus	Orpheus	Pontiff	Touchstone



*Morrison Garden in October 1992*



*North End of Morrison Garden in May 1992*

One of the most important floral characteristics, and one of the most subtle, is coloration. Often the differences in color among cultivars are slight. Morrison, a talented artist, had an excellent eye for color, and he often selected azaleas for color differences that are difficult to distinguish even for azalea enthusiasts. Selections were also made based on subtle differences in striping, spotting, or blotch color. For example, the flower of 'Stardust' is almost identical to that of 'Geisha' except that the lavender sanding of the 'Stardust' flower is less prominent.

Flower size is also important in identifying Glenn Dale azaleas. Morrison bred the Glenn Dales to have large flowers and several cultivars have flowers that are four inches or more in diameter. Flower size is sometimes the most noticeable difference between cultivars.

Flower morphology is often a critical characteristic. There are Glenn Dales with single, double, and hose-in-hose flowers, as well as ones with stamens that have become petaloid and ones which have six-petaled sports. Sometimes the length and appearance of the stamens and pistils of the flowers can also be important.

Finally, sporting mutations can be useful in identifying certain azaleas. Many cultivars have characteristic sports that appear from time to time. The sports of some cultivars need to be removed

whereas the sport bearing branches of others may revert to producing the dominant colorations (Morrison, 1953).

#### **Study Methods at the U.S. National Arboretum**

For named cultivars that have several representatives in the Collection, we use the comparison method for identification. While the plant of a given cultivar is in bloom, its flower is checked against the written description and against other plants of that cultivar in the Collection. These azaleas have come from several sources over four decades. Identifications made using this method are straightforward and we feel fairly confident about the results.

If the specimens do not match each other, or if there is only one specimen in the Collection, the azaleas are checked against the written descriptions. It is sometimes easy to make a decision as to the correct identity by using the description in *The Glenn Dale Azaleas* (Morrison 1953), which describes all of the Glenn Dale azalea introductions. Occasionally, it becomes necessary to consult the corrections to this monograph, many of which have appeared in **THE AZALEAN**. Particularly useful is a comprehensive article by Jane Newman (Newman, 1992). These are good methods for eliminating possibilities.

Sometimes it is obvious from the available descriptions that an azalea is incor-

rectly labeled. If the cultivar name printed on the label cannot be ruled out quickly by the description, the azalea is carefully studied to see if all of its characteristics match those described. This process is admittedly somewhat subjective. Although an azalea may fit one description well, it may fit other descriptions equally well. We consult Livingston and West (1978), to determine which other cultivars are similar to the one in question. Many of these can be ruled out when further investigated. Only when we are certain that the azalea in question matches the description of the name printed on its record label much better than any other description do we declare it to be correctly labeled. If a decision cannot be made on the basis of the description, then we must compare each specimen to a plant from another source.

When obtaining Glenn Dale cultivars for comparison purposes, it is important to use a source which has good documentation on the origin of its azaleas. Preferably, a source which was part of the original distribution of Glenn Dales (a primary source) should be used. Since there are very few primary sources, it is often necessary to use a secondary source. We can be fairly confident of the identity of azalea cultivars from secondary sources which can trace the cultivar back to one of the primary sources. The farther away a potential source is from a primary source, the greater the probability of an error in identification.

**Table 1**  
**The following Glenn Dale cultivars are represented in the**  
**National Arboretum's Azalea Collection:**

Acrobat	Circe	Everest	Jubilee	Padre	Shimmer
Adorable	Colleen	Fairy Bells	Kathleen	Paladin	Silver Cup
Advance	Commando	Faith	Kenwood	Paprika	Silver Moon
Aladdin	Commodore	Fakir	Killarney	Pearl Bradford	Simplicity
Allegory	Concordia	Fandango	Litany	Phoebe	Snowclad
Allure	Conquest	Fanfare	Lullaby	Picador	Stardust
Altair	Consolation	Favorite	Luna	Picotee	Surprise
Ambrosia	Constance	Fawn	Lustre	Pied Piper	Susannah
Andros	Consuela	F.C. Bradford	Madcap	Pink Star	Suwanee
Angela Place	Coquette	Festive	Madeira	Pinocchio	Swagger
Antares	Coralie	Firedance	Madrigal	Pinto	Swansong
Anthem	Coral Sea	Freedom	Mandarin	Pippin	Swashbuckler
Arcadia	Corsair	Frivolity	Manhattan	Pixie	Taffeta
Arctic	Corydon	Furbelow	Marmora	Portent	Tanager
Astra	Cream Cup	Galaxy	Martha Hitchcock	Prelate	Temptation
Ave Maria	Cremona	Ganymede	Mary Helen	Presto	Tristan
Bacchante	Crinoline	Geisha	Mary Margaret	Prodigal	Trophy
Bagatelle	Crusader	Glacier	Masterpiece	Puck	Troubador
Ballet Girl	Damask	Gladiator	Mayflower	Quakeress	Trouper
Beacon	Damozel	Glamour	Megan	Quest	Undine
Bishop	Darkness	Glee	Melanie	Radiance	Ursula
Blizzard	Dauntless	Gnome	Merlin	Red Bird	Valentine
Blushing Maid	Dayspring	Grace Freeman	Meteor	Red Hussar	Vanguard
Bohemian	Dazzler	Gracious	Minstrel	Refrain	Velvet
Boldface	Delight	Grandam	Modesty	Refulgence	Vespers
Bountiful	Delos	Grandee	Moirra	Regina	Vestal
Cadenza	Demure	Greeting	Moonbeam	Requiem	Violetta
Camelot	Dimity	Guerdon	Morgana	Reward	Vision
Cantabile	Dowager	Gypsy	Morning Star	Rosalie	Wanderer
Capella	Dragon	Harlequin	Mother of Pearl	Rosette	Welcome
Caprice	Dream	Helen Close	Motley	Safrano	Whimsical
Captivation	Duenna	Helen Fox	Muscadine	Sagittarius	Whirlwind
Caraval	Dulcimer	Helen Gunning	Nectar	Samite	Winedrop
Carmel	Echo	Herald	Nerissa	Samson	Winner
Carnival	Egoist	Hopeful	Niphetos	Satyr	Wisdom
Cathay	Elizabeth	Illusion	Nobility	Seafoam	Witchery
Cavalier	Ember	Ivory	Nocturne	Seashell	Yeoman
Chameleon	Emblem	Jamboree	Novelty	Sebastian	Youth
Chanticleer	Enchantment	Janet Noyes	Nubian	Seneca	Zealot
Chloe	Eros	Jeannin	Opera	Sentinel	Zingari
Chum	Eucharis	Jongleur	Oriflamme	Sheila	Zulu
Cinnabar	Evangeline	Joya			

The outside plant source we use the most in identification is the Ten Oaks Nursery of Clarksville, Maryland. ASA member Dick West has been able to recover many cultivars of Glenn Dales from this nursery, which was intensely involved in the original Glenn Dale azalea distribution program (West 1989). Dick has been instrumental in supplying the Arboretum with Glenn Dale cultivars that have become very rare.

Occasionally, we are unable to determine the identity of an azalea in the Collection even if it has a record label. In this case we consider the identity of the azalea to be questionable. This can happen when there is no source for the plant and the description is unusually vague and doesn't give enough detail for us to feel confident about the identification.

Azaleas with no record label are frequently placed in the category of questionable identity. The most effective way to determine the identity of an unknown azalea cultivar is to compare it to known cultivars that are similar. Occasionally we are able to identify unknown azaleas using this method. Using Livingston and West (1978), we can create a list of possibilities which can be checked against other azaleas in the Collection. We can also take advantage of our knowledge of the history of the Azalea Collection. For example, we now know a fair amount about the hillside planting of azaleas southwest of the Morrison Garden. Bell-numbered azalea selections were planted in groups of 10 to 15 plants on the hillside (West, Miller, and Bullock 1992), so we can hypothesize that contiguous azaleas that look alike are all from the same clone. ("Bell numbers" were assigned for internal control in the programs of the USDA Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland.)

The co-author discovered that several thirty-year-old record books are very useful in identifying older plants in the Collection. The record books contain information about the azaleas that were planted in the Morrison Garden prior to its reorganization in the 1970's. Dr. Roy Magruder, formerly with the Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, spent a considerable amount of time as col-

	Total # Labeled Glenn Dales at USNA	Percent Total Glenn Dales at USNA
Total Plants in Collection	672	100
Correctly Labeled Plants	408	61
Incorrectly Labeled Plants	143	21
Questionable Plants	106	16
Plants Not Checked	15	2
Number of Cultivars to Acquire	205	

Garden or Bed	Number of Glenn Dales	Percent Correctly Labeled
Morrison Garden	191	79
Beds M and N	70	41
Beds 1-6	197	86
Azalea Loop Area	214	91

laborator studying these old record books from 1966-1972. After making numerous evaluations of the Glenn Dale azaleas in the Arboretum's Collection, he was able to attach the names of the cultivars to the coded tags referenced in the books. When azaleas with these coded tags are found, we can determine their correct identity using Dr. Magruder's notations in the old record books.

#### Color Determinations

The color determinations made in this study were done using the ISCC-NBS color chart.\*\* In order to translate the Ridgway color names found in Morrison's monograph into the names used in the ISCC-NBS Method of Designating Color, we consulted an article by Ruth Harrington in *THE AZALEAN* (Harrington 1988).\*\*\*

#### Results

Of the 454 cultivars of Glenn Dale azalea cultivars named by Morrison, there are 249 correctly identified cultivars represented in the National Arboretum's Azalea Collection at the time of this article (see Table 1). While most cultivars have numerous representatives in the Collection, some that we checked were represented by only one plant.

There are a total of 672 Glenn Dale azaleas with National Arboretum record labels throughout the Collection (see Table 2). The Morrison Garden itself contains 191 plants, beds M and N contain 70 plants, beds 1-6 contain 197 plants, and the remaining 214 are located on the hill above the Morrison Garden and throughout the Azalea Loop Area Collections (see Table 3; Figure 1). In the course

\*\* U.S. National Bureau of Standards [1965]. ISCC-NBS Color Name Charts Illustrated with Centroid Colors (Supplement to NBS Circular 553). Although now withdrawn because of some color shifts over time, the centroid color chips still provide a useful means of visualizing what is meant by the Inter-Society Color Council—National Bureau of Standards color names.

\*\*\* The color-name translation in the Harrington article is based on the "Dictionary of Color Names" included in Kelly, K. L. and Judd, D. B. 1976. *Color: Universal Language and Dictionary of Names*, NBS Special Publication Number 440, Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office, pp. 83-158

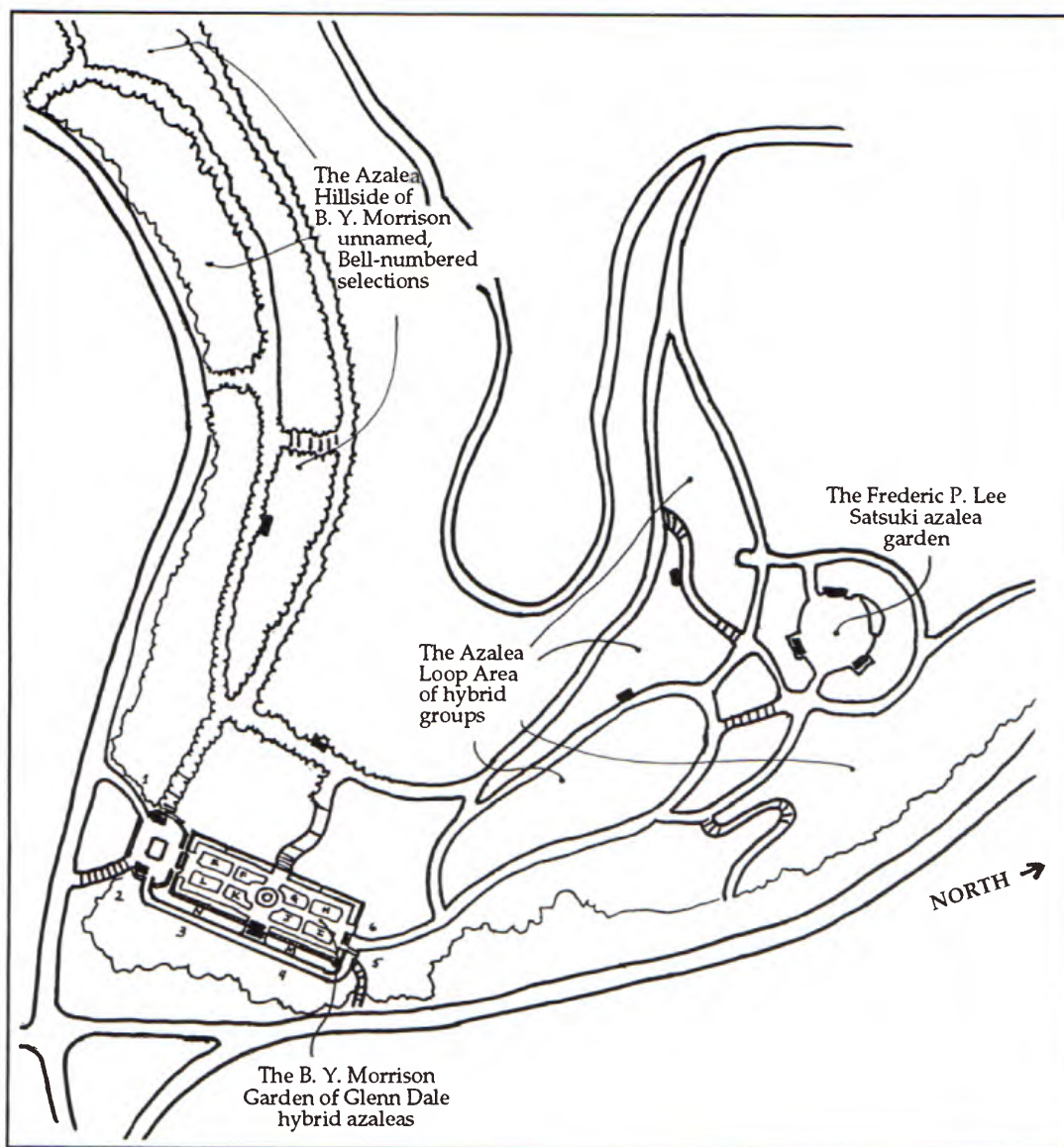


Figure 1 A map indicating the locations of the various beds discussed in this article.

of two flowering seasons, we have been able to check 657 plants. We have found that 408 Glenn Dales are correctly labeled. In other words, we are fairly certain that 61% of the Glenn Dales checked in the Collection belong to the cultivars named on their respective record labels. We also determined that 143 Glenn Dales are incorrectly labeled. We believe that these 21% are other Glenn Dale cultivars. We were unable to confirm the identity of 106 Glenn Dales, or 16% of those checked in the Collection. Fifteen Glenn Dales, or 2% of the Collection, have not yet been checked.

We did not find a constant percentage of correctly labeled azaleas across the Collection. Inside the Morrison Garden,

we found that out of 191 plants, 79% were correctly labeled. In beds M and N, of 70 plants, 41% were correctly labeled. In beds 1-6, of 197 plants, 86% were correctly labeled. In the Azalea Loop Area about 91% were correctly labeled. The mislabeled azaleas in Beds M and N accounted for almost 30% of the mislabeled Glenn Dales in the entire collection.

#### Discussion

Two years into our study we are beginning to get a clearer picture of the state of the Glenn Dale holdings of the U.S. National Arboretum's Azalea Collection. We have been able to verify the

identity of 61% of the Glenn Dales and we now have good information on the identities of over 80% of the Glenn Dales in the Collection. In most cases the remaining 20% have been determined questionable and we should be able to make more detailed determinations for these when we receive more cuttings from Ten Oaks Nursery and other sources.

One of the interesting findings that we made was the large number of incorrectly labeled azaleas in beds M and N, east of the Morrison Garden. After examining the accession information for these azaleas we found that most of them were received at the Arboretum in 1984



and 1985. It is very likely that a mistake was made when these plants were received, and that somehow their tags were mixed up. We are fairly confident that we will eventually be able to reunite the azaleas with their correct record labels. When we are able to sort out the mix-up in beds M and N, there will be an even higher proportion of correctly identified azaleas in the Collection.

When we are able to further evaluate the azaleas with questionable identity and those that are mislabeled, we may find that we have even more cultivars than previously thought. For now we are conservatively estimating that we will need to acquire all 205 of the cultivars that may be absent from the Collection. Moreover, we will need to acquire additional plants of several cultivars to facilitate the ongoing process of verifying questionable identities in the Collection.

### Conclusion

We have made significant progress in the first two years of our study of the Glenn Dale Azaleas in the National Arboretum's Azalea Collection. Our Glenn Dale holdings are becoming more reliably identified and labeled, and already there are noticeable results from our work. Azalea Society and Rhododendron Society members are taking renewed interest in the Azalea Collection (especially the Glenn Dale holdings) as a reference collection.

The Arboretum's Azalea Collection has always been important and informative for azalea enthusiasts from around the country. This past Spring many visitors toured the Collection with notebook in hand making wish lists for their own gardens. These visitors were pleased that we are addressing the problem of mislabeled azaleas and were very supportive of the work in this study.

In the years to come we will continue our efforts to achieve a complete collection of Glenn Dales and other azalea hybrid groups. An important goal of the Azalea Collection is to maintain reference collections of important azalea hy-

brid groups. In addition to the Glenn Dale hybrid group we hope to develop reference collections of the Beltsville Dwarfs and Yerkes-Pryor groups, the John Creech and H. T. Skinner selections, the Robin Hill and Linwood groups, the Shammarello and Gable groups, and the North Tisbury, Kurume, and Satsuki hybrid groups. As with the Glenn Dale azaleas, each of these groups will undergo a process of verification and study.

Achieving these goals will require a long-term commitment. Assembling a complete collection of Glenn Dales will itself take a tremendous amount of effort spread out over many years. A considerable number of cultivars must still be acquired; some are extremely rare and a few may have been lost altogether. In addition, plants that die must be replaced and the many questionable and mislabeled plants must be further evaluated.

We have to examine other hybrid groups in order to correct similar problems in these collections. The co-author has already begun the process of checking many of the Satsuki azaleas in the Frederic P. Lee Garden. These are more difficult to study because detailed written descriptions are not as readily available as they are for the Glenn Dale hybrid group. In the coming years we hope to complete the verification of all of the azaleas in the Arboretum's Collection.

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*Mark Priest was an intern at the National Arboretum's Azalea Collection in the Spring of 1993. He was funded jointly by the Friends of the National Arboretum and by the Men's Garden Club of Montgomery County to assist the Curator with the Verification Study of the Glenn Dale Azalea Collection. Mark holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and has worked as a Research Assistant on several long-term experiments in plant ecology.*

*Barbara L. Bullock has a bachelor of science degree in Horticulture with a specialization in Landscape Design as well as a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Maryland. Ms. Bullock came to her current position as Curator of the Azalea Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum with over ten years of experience in the Nursery and Garden Center industry (with specific training in nursery crop production) and love of the outdoors and working with people. Barbara has held this position since July, 1990, and has been a member of the Brookside Chapter of the Azalea Society of America for three years. Inquiries and comments concerning this article or other pertinent questions can be made by calling Barbara at (202) 447-6801. □*

# Armstrong's Azaleas

William Poling

Silver Spring, Maryland

The name Stuart Armstrong is a familiar one to many in the azalea community, particularly those with a historical bent. A former president of the American Horticultural Society, Armstrong was a friend and neighbor of Benjamin Y. Morrison, the legendary creator of the Glenn Dale hybrids. Armstrong's name is said to have been inscribed on a bench in the National Arboretum, though I've never found it. I have found a small park not far from his former home, named in his honor. Morrison himself named two of his Back Acres hybrids after Armstrong and his wife Marion.

In the mid-1930s, the Armstrongs moved into a spacious, new brick home overlooking Sligo Creek Park in Silver Spring, Maryland, not more than a mile from Morrison's home in Takoma Park, Maryland. Over the years, the Armstrongs cultivated a large garden with hundreds of azaleas, rhododendrons, hollies and other trees and shrubs. It was a life-long avocation. Armstrong died in 1970. Marion Armstrong, who resides today in another Washington suburb, remarried and continued to live in the Silver Spring house until the mid-1980s.

The next owner of the property allowed much of the garden to fall into a state of disrepair and neglect. By January of 1992, a good bit of Stuart Armstrong's garden had grown into a sprawling thicket. Andromeda and azaleas in one area competed for light by growing unattended to heights of over ten feet.

Elsewhere on the property, scores of plants were choked with ivy, honeysuckle, wild grape, Virginia creeper and other vines. Some, matted with layers of vines, fallen leaves, and tree limbs, were dead to the root, their metal name tags dangling hopelessly in the cold. Saplings gathered in what was once a pond. One garden path was blocked by a fallen tree. Others were obscured by weeds and invaded by unkempt azaleas. This was the condition of the Armstrong garden when my wife and I bought the place in 1992.

Dilettante gardeners that we are, we're still asking ourselves, "Where do we start?" We have hacked much dead wood and have cut some of the overgrown giants down to size, but we have moved nothing and, so far, have killed nothing worth keeping, we think.

Despite the passage of time and the years of neglect, over 40 azaleas have been found with plastic and/or metal name tags. But for every plant with a tag, we have four or five without one. Several tags have six-digit numbers and other notations, including a few that include Morrison's initials, such as "Samite BYM NRI". One can only guess here, but NRI could stand for National Radio Institute, where Armstrong spent most of his professional life as an advertising executive. But what's the connection?

Nearly a dozen tags have been found loose on the ground, including 'Marion Armstrong'. If there is a 'Stuart Armstrong' on the property, we don't know where it is. Of course, nothing is certain about these tags. The tags for 'Bravo' and 'Moonbeam' are on plants that seem to have common roots.

Armstrong himself apparently fell victim to uncertainty from time-to-time. One label has a question mark following the word Gable, along with the note

**For what it's worth, here's a list of the tags we have found on and about the grounds:**

Tag	Status	Tag	Status
Acorn	Alive	Kusadama	Alive
Ambrosia	Alive	Leonore	Alive
Andros	Alive	Mme. Butterfly	Alive
Angela Place	Alive	Malaguena	Loose Tag*
Baroque	Alive	Marion Armstrong	Loose Tag*
Bravo	Alive	Moonbeam	Alive
Bridesmaid	Alive	Nocturne	Alive
Cinderella	Alive	Pilgrim	Dead
Cora Brandt	Alive	Pinto	Alive
Darling	Alive	Prosperity	Alive
Dazzler	Alive	Prudence	Alive
Defiant	Alive	Psyche	Alive
Duenna	Alive	Rosette	Loose Tag*
Emblem	Alive	Salmon	Alive
Eucharis	Alive	Samite	Alive
Faith	Alive	Scout	Alive
Gable ?	Loose Tag*	Sea Foam	Alive
Galathea	Loose Tag*	Shell Pink	Alive
Geisha	Alive	Suwanee	Dead
Grenadier	Alive	Swan Song	Alive
Helen Close	Alive	Trousseau	Alive
Ivan Anderson	Alive	Vespers	Alive
Ivory	Loose Tag*	Vision	Loose Tag*
Jongleur	Dead	Whimsical	Loose Tag*
Joseph Hayden	Alive	Winner	Alive
Kintano	Alive	Yeoman	Alive

\* [Loose tags were not attached to any plant, ed.]

"Pink H in H". Alas, the tag was not attached to a plant when we found it. Only recently did we learn that "Gable" is a group of hybrids and not some potentially priceless cultivar wasting away in a tangle of ivy.

We may have an example of the elusive Glenn Dale 'Luna', a rarity recently found by Richard West in the Ten Oaks Nursery (see **THE AZALEAN** 15 No. 1 (1993): 12-16), but we don't know for sure.

When we mentioned Morrison's name to one of Armstrong's sons, who paid a surprise visit recently, he waved his arm across our half-acre and said, "Yeah, this is all his stock". Blockhead that I am, I didn't follow-up and ask, "What exactly do you mean by that?" So we don't know, yet. What we don't know could fill this garden, and has.

In a moment of panic a few months after we arrived, I posted a note on a computer bulletinboard under the heading "Azalea Jungle", hoping for some guidance on how much pruning some of my ancient giants could withstand. By a lucky accident, my electronic message caught the eye of ASA member Nancy Swell of Richmond, VA. Nancy put me in touch with Bill Miller of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, who was then the Society's Vice President and co-chairman of the Membership Committee. After adroitly recruiting me to join the chapter, Bill suggested an article such as this to inform **THE AZALEAN** readers about the fate of the Armstrong garden.

I can report that the state of the Armstrong garden is improving slowly. The property consisted of three adjacent lots in Armstrong's time. One is not ours, and is losing a battle with pokeweed and honeysuckle. Our side, two of Armstrong's original three lots, is gradually revealing its secrets.

*William Poling is a journalist by profession. His new "hobby" was brought about by circumstance when he bought his current house. □*

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## The Origin and Children of "Kermesina"

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Tijs Huisman  
*The Netherlands*

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Just by accident (?) I turned over the leaves of my "Azalea-bible"—as I call the book by Fred C. Galle.<sup>1</sup> On page 180 I read about 'Kermesina': "(old variety in Boskoop, parentage unknown): strong purplish red; very hardy. Also listed as a *R. kiusianum*."

Who am I to doubt what Mr. Galle writes? But this made me curious, and I looked at the beautiful book of Mr. Schmalscheidt.<sup>2</sup> He tells something different, as I will describe below.

"Kermesina" is probably a hybrid of Georg Arends. Mr. Ernst Stöckmann, who owns a nursery in Bad Zwischenahn-Rostrup told the following story:

About 1955 he bought a collection of evergreen azaleas from a garden-architect, Mr. Hermann Brumund in Oldenburg, who had laid out some beautiful gardens. He had also a garden-area in Blohenfelde, a part of Oldenburg. This Mr. Brumund had worked as garden help at the nursery of Mr. Arends and had taken these azaleas from his nursery. He called them "Kermesina rosea". When he got older (he died rather young) he asked Mr. Stöckmann to take over these about 100 Kermesinas.

And if this Mr. Stöckmann tells the truth, this must be the right story. Nevertheless it is still uncertain, what the parents of this azalea are.

After the introduction of 'Kermesina', many hybridizers made crosses with it as father or mother. Hans Hachmann for instance has had some fine results:

'Granada' = 'Rubinstern' x ('Red Pimpernel' x 'Kermesina')

'Gabriela' = 'Muttertag' x 'Kermesina'

'Rosalind' = 'Kermesina' x 'Jeanette'

'Schneeglantz' = ditto; how is it possible? 'Rosalind' clear pink; 'Schneeglantz' pure white with a small yellow blotch.

'Rubinetta' the same cross as 'Gabriela'

'Schneewittchen' = 'Kermesina' x 'John Cairns'

Also Mr. Urban Schumacher made the cross 'Kermesina' x 'Muttertag'. The result: 'Ruhrfeuer', a clear red low growing plant.

The last cross that I know of is from Mr. Heinrich Meyer in Uchte: 'Patricia Barmold' = 'Kermesina' x 'Blue Danube'

'Kermesina' has produced also some sports. In 1972 the nurseryman August Wemken found on the plant a sport with pink flowers but now white edged—called 'Kermesina Rose'. On this sport he found in 1978 a pure white sport and he called this descendant 'Kermesina Alba'.

The last note that I found is 'Diamant Weiss'. This hybrid does not belong to the other 'Diamant' plants which are from Mr. Carl Fleischmann. This 'Diamant Weiss' is a cross between 'Kermesina' and *Rh. prinophyllum* (*Rh. roseum*) and made by Mr. Stöckmann.

All these 'Kermesina' plants are rather compact, hardy to at least -10 degrees F and have flowers between 4 and 5 cm. Flowering is late to very late.

### Reference

1. Galle, Fred C. *Azaleas*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1985.
2. Walter Schmalscheidt, *Rhododendron—und Azaleenzucht in Deutschland*, Verlag Heinz Hansmann, Rinteln, Germany. □

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# More Princess Azalea Introductions

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James B. Shanks and Andrew N. Adams, Jr.  
*Beltsville, MD and Clarksville, MD*

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The Princess Azaleas are a new hybrid group characterized by medium to large, double and hose-in-hose double flowers of clear colors on compact, hardy, evergreen plants. Bred for greenhouse forcing and landscape planting, they have been developed at the University of Maryland, and are being propagated and introduced by Andy Adams, Jr. of Ten Oaks Nursery, Clarksville, Maryland.

The first five introductions were announced one year ago in a March 1993 article in *THE AZALEAN* [1]. They were: 'Princess Andrea', light red, hose-in-hose double; 'Princess Deborah', salmon-pink, hose-in-hose double; 'Princess Megan', light pink, hose-in-hose double; 'Princess Ruth', pink, slightly ruffled, partial double; and 'Princess Sharon', white, slightly double flower.

## Background

As explained in some more detail in the March 1993 article, the original crosses were made in the spring of 1950 for the purpose of producing larger flowers on the popular Kurume and other azaleas having a fairly compact growth habit. The large-flowered Belgian variety 'Vervaeneana' as the seed parent was pollinated with 'Amoena', 'Coral Bells', 'Hexe', 'Hinodegiri', 'Mucronatum', *Rhododendron kaempferi*, 'Pink Pearl', *R. simsii*, and two azaleas of unknown origin, one pink and one white. From 1954 until 1977, controlled crosses were made of selections from the resulting group of plants and their progeny with additional cultivars being included in the program beginning in 1958.

Selection was made for plants with a moderately vigorous, but compact and free-branching growth habit with medium-to-large flowers of clear colors. Other characteristics looked for were early flowering, floriferousness, and long-lasting flowers. While the initial emphasis was on selections for outdoor planting in the central Maryland area (U.S.D.A. plant hardiness zone 6B, 0 to -5F), the major emphasis from 1960 to 1977 when the last crosses were made was to produce types for greenhouse forcing. All seedling plants were eventually planted out-of-doors to ascertain their winter survival characteristics.

## New Introductions

This article introduces four more Princess Azaleas: 'Princess Allison', 'Princess Connie', 'Princess Mary Lee', and 'Princess Tessa.' The following gives pedigree and descriptions for the new introductions. Sizes stated are in centimeters (2.54 cm = 1 inch). Color descriptions are based on the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart of 1966, and, unless stated otherwise, the comparative bloom times were for 1983 at College Park, Maryland.

'Princess Mary Lee' was selected and named in honor of Mary Lee Banfield who, with her husband, Paul Landon Banfield, founded the Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland. The school is the site of the Landon Azalea Garden Festival which features the Perkins azalea garden. Limited numbers of one-year old plants of 'Princess Mary Lee' and the three other new introductions will be made available to the public for the first time at the 41st Annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival, April 29—May 1. Additionally, limited quantities of the first five hybrids introduced last year will also be available. Twenty-five cents from the sale of each plant will be donated to the Horticultural Research Fund at the University of Maryland at College Park.

*Jim Shanks is Professor of Horticulture, Emeritus, The University of Maryland at College Park. Andy Adams is retired President of Ten Oaks Nursery of Clarksville, Maryland.*

### 'Princess Allison'

Large double white flower (to 7 cm. dia.), spring leaves 1.25 x 3.5 cm., plant habit round-spreading to 25 cm. at three years. Bloom May 7.

#### Pedigree

Year	Cross	Progeny Designation
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Coral Bells'	MD 50-2-3
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Pink Pearl'	MD 50-7-44
1957	MD 50-7-44 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-3
1960	'Chimes' x 'Crimson Glory'	MD 60-3-2
1960	'Chimes' x MD 57-1-3	MD 60-7-4
1960	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x MD 50-7-44	MD 60-11-1
1961	'Chimes' x U.S.D.A. B.44838	MD 61-10-1
1964	MD 60-7-4 x 'Dr. Alderfer'	MD 64-39-1
1965	MD 60-3-2 x MD 64-10-1	MD 65-17-1
1968	'White Christmas' x MD 65-17-1	MD 68-13-3
1968	MD 60-11-1 x MD 64-39-1	MD 68-46-5
1977	MD 68-13-3 x MD 68-46-5	MD 77-8-5

'Princess Allison'

### 'Princess Connie'

Original seedling was a large hose-in-hose double flower (to 6 cm. dia.), candy stripe pink (RHS 61D) on white mutating to present pink with white edge form, leaf 1.25 x 4.5 cm. Plant habit broader than high, plant canopy at three years 28 cm. diameter x 22 cm. high. Bloom May 7.

#### Pedigree

Year	Cross	Progeny Designation
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Amoena'	MD 50-1-1
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Coral Bells'	MD 50-2-3
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Mucronatum'	MD 50-5-7
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Pink Pearl'	MD 50-7-3
		MD 50-7-41
		MD 50-7-44
1953	MD 50-1-1 x MD 50-5-7	MD 53-5-1
1957	MD 50-7-3 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-3
1959	'Triumph' x MD 50-7-41	MD 59-4-11
		MD 59-4-20
1959	U.S.D.A. PI 226144 x MD 53-5-1	MD 59-14-2
		MD 59-14-3
1960	'Chimes' x MD 57-1-3	MD 60-7-4
1960	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x MD 50-7-44	MD 60-11-1
1961	'Chimes' x U.S.D.A. B.44838	MD 61-10-1
1962	MD 59-14-2 x MD 59-14-3	MD 62-30-1
1964	MD 60-7-4 x MD 59-4-20	MD 64-39-1
1966	MD 59-4-11 x MD 60-7-4	MD 66-17-1
1966	MD 61-10-1 x MD 62-30-1	MD 66-51-2
1968	MD 60-11-1 x MD 64-39-1	MD 68-46-5
1969	MD 66-51-2 x MD 66-17-1	MD 69-41-1
1973	MD 69-41-1 x MD 68-46-5	MD 73-13-5
	Mutating to (sport)	MD 73-13-5B

'Princess Connie'

### 'Princess Mary Lee'

Large, hose-in-hose double flower (to 6 cm. dia.), clear pink (RHS 55B), leaf 1.5 x 4 cm. Bloom May 10.

#### Pedigree

Year	Cross	Progeny Designation
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Amoena'	MD 50-1-1
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Coral Bells'	MD 50-2-3
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Mucronatum'	MD 50-5-7
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Pink Pearl'	MD 50-7-3
		MD 50-7-41
		MD 50-7-44
1953	MD 50-1-1 x MD 50-5-7	MD 53-5-1
1957	MD 50-7-3 x MD 50-2-3	MD 57-1-3
1959	'Triumph' x MD 50-7-41	MD 59-4-11
		MD 59-4-20
1959	U.S.D.A. PI 226146 x MD 53-5-1	MD 59-14-2
		MD 59-14-3
1960	'Chimes' x MD 57-1-3	MD 60-7-4
1960	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x MD 50-7-44	MD 60-11-1
1961	'Chimes' x U.S.D.A. B.44838	MD 61-10-1
1962	MD 59-14-2 x MD 59-14-3	MD 62-30-1
1964	MD 60-7-4 x MD 59-4-20	MD 64-39-1
1966	MD 59-4-11 x MD 60-7-4	MD 66-17-1
1966	MD 61-10-1 x MD 62-30-1	MD 66-51-2
1968	MD 60-11-1 x MD 64-39-1	MD 68-46-5
1969	MD 66-51-2 x MD 66-17-1	MD 69-41-1
1973	MD 69-41-1 x MD 68-46-5	MD 73-13-3

'Princess Mary Lee'

### 'Princess Tessa'

Large hose-in-hose double flower (to 6 cm. dia.), deep salmon (RHS 47C), leaf 1.25 x 3 cm. Bloom May 12.

#### Pedigree

Year	Cross	Progeny Designation
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Amoena'	MD 50-1-1
1950	'Vervaeneana' x 'Mucronatum'	MD 50-5-7
1950	'Vervaeneana' x <i>R. simsii</i>	MD 50-9-1
1953	MD 50-9-1 x MD 50-1-1	MD 53-3-1
1953	MD 50-1-1 x MD 50-5-7	MD 53-5-1
1958	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x MD 50-7-41	MD 58-13-1
1959	U.S.D.A. PI 226144 x MD 53-3-1	MD 59-14-4
1959	'Triumph' x MD 53-5-1	MD 59-4-2
1961	'Chimes' x MD 58-13-1	MD 61-13-3
1962	MD 59-14-4 x MD 59-4-2	MD 62-31-1
1966	MD 61-13-3 x MD 62-31-1	MD 66-54-1
1967	U.S.D.A. B.44838 x 'Dr. Bergman'	MD 67-13-3
1977	MD 66-54-1 x MD 67-13-3	MD 77-1-A

(Use of "A" in number indicates plant is fine for landscaping, but less suitable for forcing.)

#### Reference

(1) Shanks, J. B. and A. N. Adams, Jr. *Introduction of the Princess Azaleas*, THE AZALEAN, March 1993, 15(1), 9-11. □

# Observations On Azalea Culture

Courtland Lee

Glenn Dale, Maryland

Last summer (1993) was one of the hottest and driest on record for Maryland, east of Washington, D.C. The temperature remained in the high 90's—even 100's—for weeks in July and August. Although humidity was high, there was little precipitation. Perhaps all our rain fell in the Mississippi Valley. It did afford some interesting observations of how mass azalea plantings survived these drought conditions.

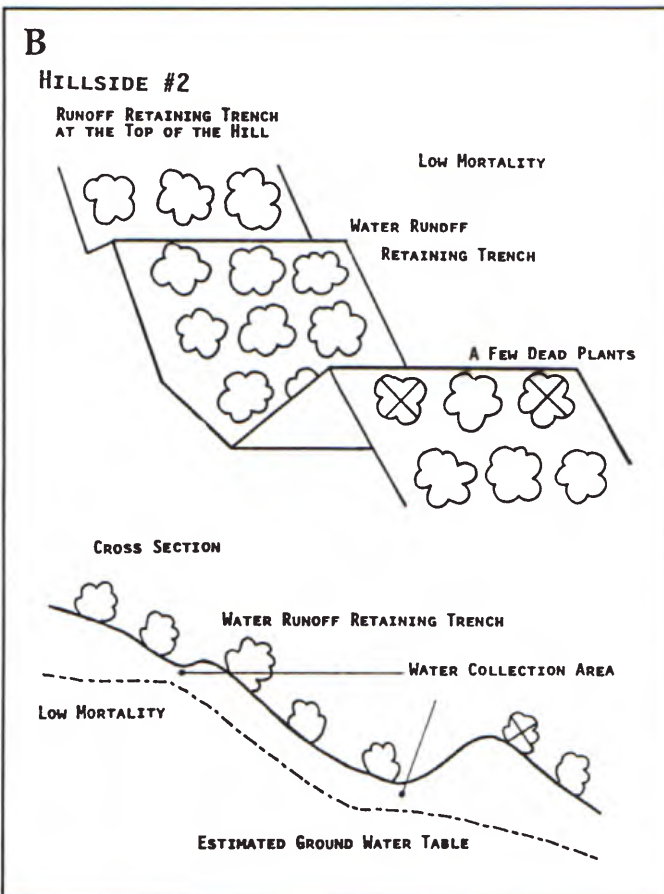
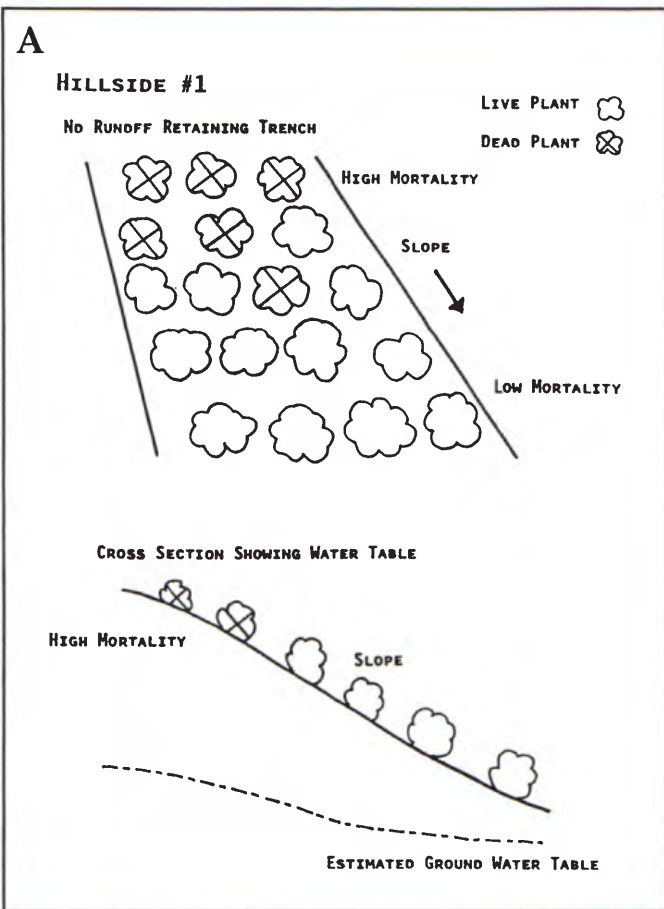
Of particular concern for these observations were several local embankment plantings of many varieties and numerous individual plants. A pattern of mortality was noticed and a theory is proposed to explain these observations. It appears to this author that failure of plants was more a question of ground water hydrology than one of hardiness of a particular cultivar. No tests were directed to drought hardiness of particular cultivars. Where moderate watering was done in the morning or evening on beds containing several hundred cultivars, including many of the Glenn Dales, no problem seems to be cultivar-specific.

Over the past few years we at Boxlee have transplanted, largely from Frank White's collection, many of his named varieties and have had success in establishment of well over 95%. Of those plants that did not make it, most were planted too deep or the mice got to them the first winter. It should be noted that Frank White did not use the light pine bark medium that seems to be catching on today. For the many other cultivars which were not from Frank White that were transplanted in a pine bark medium, care and extra watering had to take place to ensure a "wick" effect didn't dry out the plant before it became established. Our success ratio with these plants was not as high. Mulching helps, as well as mixing some native soil at planting time. Our soil is a mixture of sand and clay. It should be noted that none of these plants are in the direct sun.

From the above background I made the following observation of some large commercial embankment plantings of azaleas in the area. It seemed that the greatest mortality of newly transplanted plants occurred at the top third of the slope. Not all plants died but the pattern was obvious. Also, in one case where there was a level gouge in the embankment where water could collect, little mortality occurred even though in an identical level planting nearby mortality was up to 50%. It is the opinion of this author that the explanation of this lies in the behavior of the ground water relative to the surface of the bank, and that after a period of hot searing weather the hardened ground is not receptive to rainfall and most subsequent rain immediately runs off. The Diagrams A and B illustrate these observations.

The conclusion is that some sort of trenching along a slope in an area unlikely to be watered will improve transplant success. In addition first year transplants need watering in dry spells since they can become points of selective drying due to the light planting medium.

*Courtland Lee is an azalea grower and a Certified Professional Geologist. Boxlee is a 10-acre historic site a mile from the Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, MD. Mr. Lee has been a long-time member of the Ben Morrison Chapter of the Azalea Society of America.* □



# Book Review

*The Bell Book: Indexes of Cultivar Names, PI Number, Bell Number and Seed Lot and Sisterhood Tables for the Glenn Dale Hybrid Azaleas* by William C. Miller III, and Richard T. West. Published by the Azalea Works, 7613 Quintana Court, Bethesda, MD 20817. \$22.00 plus postage, and \$1.10 Maryland State Sales Tax where Applicable.

The Bell Book is presented as a companion to Monograph 20, the little book by B. Y. Morrison that serves as the basic reference on the Glenn Dale azaleas hybridized by Morrison at the Department of Agriculture Plant Introduction Station. The Bell Book is named after a record-keeping system used at the Plant Introduction Station in which a "Bell Number" was assigned to a card in file on which was recorded "events" such as the making of a particular cross, the selection of a seedling for further study, etc.. The Bell Book was developed using the Bell Number cards, notes, and any other data that was available at the Plant Introduction Station and presents the data from these records in a form that can shed considerable light on the errors and oversights that appear to have been printed in Monograph 20. That errors exist in the succinct listings and descriptions of Monograph 20 is not surprising considering the magnitude of the breeding, growing, selection and distribution process that was required to produce the 450 or so Glenn Dale hybrids. However, the extensive records made as part of the Glenn Dale hybridization program were kept by the Department of Agriculture and these are the records that have been used by Miller and West in putting together the Bell Book.

The major elements of the identification scheme used at the Plant Introduction Station at the time of the Glenn Dale Azalea project are the Seed Lot number which identified the particular cross, the Bell number which was used to track a specific plant, and the PI (Plant Introduction) number which was used to identify a plant that was selected for vegetative propagation and distribution. The book consists of a few pages of informa-

tive text followed by four sections of data in tabular form. The first table is arranged alphabetically by cultivar name and includes the "PI number, Bell number, the seed lot number, the seed parent and the pollen parent". The other three tables contains exactly the same data, but the second table is presented in order by PI, the third table in the order of Bell number and the fourth in

order of Seed Lot number. Each of these tables is conveniently printed on a different color of paper. The book is bound in a soft, but apparently durable cover. The Bell Book is a must for the serious azalea collector or anyone interested in careful identification of or knowing the relationships between the Glenn Dale cultivars.

Reviewed by Robert W. Hobbs □

## Azalea Calendar

1994

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| April 4        | Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at the Davis Library   |
| April 5        | Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum   |
| April 9        | Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day   |
| April 28-30    | Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting and Convention sponsored by the Richmond Chapter                                  |
| April 29-May 1 | Landon Gardens Azalea Festival and Brookside Gardens Chapter flower show held at Landon School, Bethesda, MD               |
| May 1          | Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the June issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>      |
| May 5-8        | ARS Annual Convention in Asheville, North Carolina   |
| May 15         | Dallas Chapter Plant Sale  |
| June 6         | Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at the Twinbrook Library   |
| 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 September issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b> |
| September 17   | Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day   |
| September 21   | Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum   |
| October 7-9    | ARS Western Regional Conference in Lynnwood, Washington  |
| October 15     | Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day   |
| November 1     | Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>  |
| November 1     | Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30PM, Tuesday, at the Highland Park Town Hall  |
| November 19    | Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day   |

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

Our last meeting was our annual Christmas Party held December 12, 1993 at 2:00PM at the home of Dale and Carol Flowers. Fun and lots of food was had by all.

The next meeting of the Ben Morrison Chapter will be held in conjunction with the dedication of the Harding Garden at the American Horticultural Society Headquarters at River Farm.

The chapter voted to close the Glenn Dale Post Office Box due to the fact that Ed Rothe is retiring and will not be in that area very often. Mail will be forwarded to Dale and Carol Flowers at 12 Henson Landing Road, Welcome, MD 20693. □

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

The last meeting of the Brookside Chapter was held December 6 at the David Library in Bethesda. The speakers were Barbara Bullock and Susan Belsinger. Barbara Bullock, curator of the Azalea and Rhododendron collections at our National Arboretum, spoke about propagation of azaleas. The talk was directed to first-time propagators. Barbara demonstrated stem cuttings and showed examples with roots forming.

As a holiday treat to those in attendance Susan Belsinger shared some ideas to keep the holidays filled with spirit. Hope you took notes if you love flowers and appreciate good food. Susan is an open-minded cook who teaches and writes about food and gardening near Brookeville, Maryland.

Bill Johnson has received the F. P. Lee commendation for 1993. He is the first sitting president to be so honored.

Our future meetings will be April 4 at the Davis Library and June 6 at the Twinbrook Library. □

**Oconee Chapter**  
Pheleta Hambrick, *Secretary*

A meeting of the Oconee Chapter of the Azalea Society of America was held on November 14, 1993 at 2:00PM at the First Baptist Church of Conyers with 19 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by president Jim Thornton. Mr. Thornton reminded us that this was his last official meeting as president and introduced David Butler, the in-coming president for 1994. Jim also introduced the incumbent officers for the year, who will remain in their offices for 1994. They are: Tom Anderson, vice-president; Fred Vick, Treasurer, and Pheleta Hambrick, secretary. Mr. Thornton stated a new position had been added, which he would fill: Public Relations and Membership Chairman.

Jim explained the pictures shown in our newsletter were possible due to the convenience of the computer scanner the chapter purchased for use by our Editor, Jim Hambrick.

A sign-up sheet was circulated requesting volunteers for presenting programs, providing refreshments and other activities during 1994.



*Bill Johnson, Brookside Gardens Chapter President, is presented the F. P. Lee Commendation for 1993 by Mary Rutley, Chairman of the F. P. Lee Commendation Committee.*

An Executive Board meeting will be up-coming to plan the 1994 programs.

Mr. Allison Fuqua presented the first part of our program demonstrating proper soil mixture, method for watering and types of containers used for seed propagation of azaleas. This was most interesting and Mr. Fuqua gave the materials he had brought to anyone who desired to have them.

Following Mr. Fuqua's presentation, we had a refreshment break. Our thanks to Mr. Fuqua for the delicious candy-coated peanuts and to Patsy Thornton for cookies and beverages.

Mrs. Mary Beasley of Beasley's Transplant Nursery in Lavonia, Georgia presented the second part of the program. Mrs. Beasley gave an interesting slide presentation showing some of her favorite azaleas along with rhododendrons and native azaleas. Mary and her folks at Transplant Nursery welcome all to come see her place.

A drawing was held for a Porcelain Azalea. The winner was John Andrews.

Again, Mr. Thornton reminded each of us to enlist new members and to encourage attendance at our meetings. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned. □

**Glenn Dale Preservation Project 1994**  
William C. Miller III

The ASA's National project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 12th year. The natural transformation of the woods area, where the majority of Ben Morrison's azalea work was done, is ongoing. A fascinating exercise in "succession," the tall oaks that provided the primary cover have begun to topple. The loss of shade has provided favorable conditions for "industrial-grade" weeds including some very pernicious members of the rose family (thorny weeds).



At the invitation of Dr. Ned Garvey, a meeting was held at his office at the Glenn Dale station on December 3, 1993, to review the ASA's existing permit, to bring him up to date on our activities, and to discuss the future of the ASA's project at the Glenn Dale station. In attendance were Dr. Garvey and his technician, a representative from the property office at Beltsville, Dick West, Barbara Bullock, Dr. Bruce Parlman, and myself. Dr. Garvey expressed his interest in our activities and indicated a willingness to provide limited assistance. We brought to his attention the need for help in dealing with the fallen trees which hinder access. In addition, we stressed the importance of periodic maintenance of the major paths into the woods area which have become badly overgrown.

The woods area which contains the azaleas is divided into discrete plots. With the assistance of Dick West, a thorough analysis of Plot 9 was undertaken. Based on documents describing the contents of Plot 9, Dick was able to reconstruct its organization and contents which included many rare Glenn Dale hybrids. We believe that we have

discovered a specimen of 'Alexandria', one of the Glenn Dale hybrids that was never officially distributed. In addition, we were able to confirm the identity of B32140, the plant from which 'Cinderella' and 'Satrap' were derived. We look forward to having an opportunity to evaluate the tentatively identified azaleas when they next bloom.

The Glenn Dale workdays for 1994 will all be Saturdays, as is the custom. The specific dates will be April 9th, September 17th, October 15th, and November 19th. Work will commence at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m. or whenever we get tired. Gloves, shears, loppers, saws, and axes will be useful implements to bring. There are no rain dates, but anyone interested should check with me at the last minute to see if any problems have arisen which have resulted in the workday being canceled. As a matter of routine, I confer with Drs. Parlman and Garvey sometime during the preceding week to make sure that our planned presence does not present any problems for them. Occasionally, certain station activities, such as field sterilization, raise safety issues which necessitate

cancellation of our plans.

All are reminded that the National Germplasm Quarantine Center (formerly the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale) is not an "open" facility. ASA members wishing to visit the station on other than scheduled workdays must make advance arrangements at least two weeks prior to the desired date by contacting me at (301) 365-0692. Consistent with the terms of the permit, I will request the necessary permission from the proper authorities to make the visit possible.

□

### In Memory

Mrs. Janice Monyeen Carlson of South Salem, New York died Wednesday, November 10 at her home after an extended illness. She was 60 years old. Her husband of 35 years, Robert, operated Carlson's Gardens in South Salem for the past 25 years. Mrs. Carlson was born in Plattsburgh, NY, and was a 1951 graduate of Holy Name Academy in Albany and received her bachelor's degree in merchandising from Syracuse University in 1955. □

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## Azalea News

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### New Director of the U.S. National Arboretum

Thomas S. Elias, who headed the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA, has been appointed director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

Elias had been director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden since 1984. He also had served concurrently as the chairman of the Department of Botany at the Claremont Graduate School.

Before becoming director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Elias was assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden's Cary Arboretum from 1972 to 1984.

He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the California Academy of Sciences, and he received the Cooley Award from the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. He was president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists in 1986-87. □

## NOTICE!!!

*The dedication of the George Harding Memorial Garden will be held on May 14, 1994 from 10:00AM until 12:00 Noon at the American Horticultural Society's "River Farm". There will be plants of the azalea varieties which are in the garden for sale!! For information call (301) 840-1714. Come and help make it a great event for 1994!!*

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## ASA New Members

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K. W. Gross  
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