

# 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   |