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Volunteers Wanted and Needed

The U. S. National Arboretum Azalea Collections have a high proportion of the disease *Botryosphaeria dieback*. The most effective control of this disease is to remove the affected branches during the months of November through March.

The Arboretum is seeking volunteers during these months to help carefully saw out affected branches and remove the cut pieces either to the road or to a nearby vehicle for immediate removal.

Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of four hours one day per week (Monday through Friday), and we are hoping to have teams of five people working together.

The south slope of Mt. Hamilton is generally warmer than anywhere else in the Arboretum during the winter months, but volunteers should be prepared for changing weather conditions. Appropriate gardening attire is a must. Bring your favorite gardening gloves, hat, water and lunch. All other equipment will be provided.

The Arboretum needs your support. Please call Mary Ann Jarvis of the Education and Visitor Services Unit (202) 245-4565 or Barbara Bullock, Curator of the Azalea Collections (202) 245-4511 for additional information or to volunteer your services. □

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* (sub-genus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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On the Cover: Grove Garden of Landon's Perkins Garden, Landon School, Bethesda, Maryland

Photographer: William C. Miller III

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Letter to the Editor

Your readers may be interested in a method of repelling animal pests in the garden. We all are aware of the damage pests can do and the need to be rid of them.

This method involves the use of moth balls or flakes and recycled 35mm film canisters. While it is not 100% effective on all animals, it does help eliminate some of the problem.

ANIMAL REPELLENT

Animal pests in your garden are not only annoying but costly as well. Placing barricades around plants or bushes can look unsightly. However, the need to protect prized bushes, plants and vegetables is certainly necessary.

Cats especially, always seem to visit near the bases of houses, bushes, plants, etc. The urine odor is very difficult, if not almost impossible, to remove.

The following information may be a simple, inexpensive solution to the problem. Placing recycled 35mm film canisters filled with moth balls or flakes around the outside of the house, around bushes, plants and vegetables may convince the pests to go elsewhere!!

Items required:

- (1) Paper punch
- (2) Moth balls or flakes
- (3) 35mm canisters with tops (obtained from photo labs)
- (4) Twine or wire ties

Begin by punching as many holes in the canister as you wish. Drill or punch two holes in the cover. This will allow you to tie a string or twist tie to hang the filled canister from a branch of a bush or plant.

"Thread" the wire or string to pass through the two holes in the cover and make a strong knot. Cut the twine or wire long enough so the canister will hang about four to six inches above the ground when suspended from a bush or plant.

Fill the canister with moth balls or flakes and secure the cover. Attach the filled canisters to the branches of bushes and plants. You may want to place some around the base of the house too, where cats frequent a special place.

When the moth balls or flakes have evaporated, simply refill the canisters. They will last quite some time in all kinds of weather.

John E. Miller
Carmel, IN

Letter to the Editor

The following may clear up a few of the questions ASA members have about numbered Linwoods on the market and some other plants that look like Linwood hybrid group members.

In a May 1981 letter, Al Reid wrote me that those untagged Linwood-looking azaleas purchased from S. Klein could indeed be members of the series, since Fischer Greenhouses sold the chain "the early Linwoods, unnamed, mixed with others, to sweeten up the order". And, yes, the Linwood-looking 'Rainbow' was E-2, 'Orchid Beauty' renamed by a Pennsylvania nurseryman. "Also, a nursery... is selling one of the Linwood white azaleas under their name, Oh, well".

When I asked about several plants being sold as numbered Linwoods, Mr. Reid said in a second letter that one of them, H-9, was the white also being sold as 'D____'s Double'. He explained:

"...There were several good whites resulting from one cross, I selected four, H-4, H-5, H-11, and from another cross L-30. These gave different plant habits with good flowers.

Fischer Greenhouses propagated other seedlings and sold them under the blanket name of Linwood White, none of which were named or registered.

The young plants of H-9 are not as winter hardy as the others, so I dropped it.

The O-17 and P-4 are Linwoods that Holly Hills purchased from me. I did not name O-17, and Holly Hills may if they wish.

The "P" series are apomicty, the result of an evergreen (K-19 from Bobbink and Atkins) pollinated by a deciduous-arborescens. I kept 8 "P"s, only for breeding—they are not much in themselves. Dr. Schroeder of Holly Hills wanted some of them, and that is that.

I later pollinated P-3 with pollen from one of Walter Kern's deciduous introductions, 'Pot of Gold', a deep yellow. From over 200 seeds, only three survived. The others lacked chlorophyll. Of the three only one lived to be five years old, and that one has done nothing, is only six inches high, never set buds, and I wonder why I bother to water it.

Please excuse my rambling. When someone mentions azaleas, I just take off!"

A year later, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Reid when he attended the ARS convention. I asked about the origin of 'Janet Rhea'. It turned out that he discovered those striking blossoms after brushing away leaves at the base of a plant he intended to sell.

Jane Newman
Great Falls, VA

1995 Convention and Annual Meeting

William C. Miller III

Bethesda, Maryland

The 1995 ASA Convention and Annual Meeting is being sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter and will be held May 4-6 at the Woodfin Suite Hotel in Rockville, Maryland. One of our primary goals in selecting a convention site was to avoid much of the local traffic and congestion of the suburbs close to Washington D.C. The hotel is very easy to find, the rooms are extremely nice, and there is plenty of convenient parking.

Registration opens on Thursday, May 4 at 4:00PM, and the registration table will be located in the meeting room itself. Supper is on your own. See information in your welcome packet on FOOD. Following welcoming remarks at 7:00PM, the first speaker for the evening will be Phil Normandy of Brookside Gardens. After a brief seventh inning stretch, the second speaker will be Jim Plyler of Natural Landscapes in West Grove, Pennsylvania. The evening's events will conclude with THE AZALEAN Roundtable sponsored by Dr. Bob Hobbs, the editor of THE AZALEAN.

Roundtable Discussion on THE AZALEAN

In order to maintain and improve the ability of the Azalea Society of America to achieve its goals of promoting interest and exchange of knowledge of the azalea, and to study the principles of hybridization, propagation, culture and care of azaleas, the editor of THE AZALEAN will lead a panel discussion as part of the 1995 convention and annual meeting. Since the Society's quarterly journal, THE AZALEAN, is the main means of communication within the society, it is essential that material published in THE AZALEAN supports these goals. The discussion will focus on general content, subjects for articles, the need for regular columns, format, and how to inspire contributors to the Journal.

The panel will be held on Thursday evening, May 4, 1995, the first night of the convention. It is important that all of those attending the convention attend this meeting which will be about one hour in length. The format for the discussion will include brief presentations by three panelists, discussion among the panelists, and most important, comments and questions from the audience. The editor will summarize the discussion in closing remarks.

The brief remarks by the panelists will address the questions:

What is good about THE AZALEAN?

What changes would improve THE AZALEAN?

What should be specifically addressed in articles in THE AZALEAN?

The make-up of the panel will be an azalea novice, an experienced azalea hobbyist, and a professional azalea grower. If you would like to volunteer to be on the panel, please contact the editor:

ROBERT W HOBBS
737 WALNUT AVENUE
NORTH BEACH MD 20714-9644
PHONE: (301) 855-5269

If you decide not to volunteer, your telephone may ring sometime before May 4, 1995. □

On Friday morning, the registration desk will open at 8:30AM. The American style buffet breakfast in the hotel is free, so be sure to take advantage of it. We will board our buses promptly at 9:00AM to begin the tour. The first stop will be my place, a half acre, private garden featuring many unusual plants and landscape features. A mature landscape which I have only slightly modified (who enjoys mowing grass?), the overall theme is azaleas. Largely the vision and product of my in-laws, Lois and Paul Bowker, from whom we acquired the property four years ago, new beds have been created and a deck and patio/water garden complex have been created to take best advantage of the existing topographical characteristics.

The next stop will be McCrillis Gardens, the five-acre home of the late Virginia and William McCrillis, which was presented to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1978. It is managed by Brookside Gardens. Mr. McCrillis, a plant collector, was Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower. Beginning in 1941 with azaleas and rhododendron, he expanded his collection to include many rare, unusual, and exotic plants.

The tour continues as we proceed to the Landon School where we will have lunch, view the 16th Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Show, the Perkins Garden, and the forty-second annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival.

Our final stop on Friday's tour will be at Brookside Gardens, which is one of my favorite examples of what local government can do right. The fifty-acre public display garden is operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and has something blooming all of the time. Known for its colorful seasonal displays, Brookside Gardens offers extensive educational programs and information services for children and adults, and it maintains a 2,000 volume horticultural reference library.

Returning to the hotel, supper will be on your own. The first speaker for

Mr. Phil Normandy

Title: Glimpses of Brookside Gardens and McCrillis Gardens.

A native of North Carolina, Phil Normandy received his Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture in 1974 from the North Carolina State University (Raleigh). In the subsequent three years, he was horticulturist for the 100-acre arboretum of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories in Charlotte, North Carolina. From 1977-1979 he was a Fellow in the Longwood Program, which is sponsored jointly by Longwood Gardens and the University of Delaware. Since July, 1979, he has been on the staff of Brookside Gardens, a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) located in Wheaton, Maryland. As collections manager, he has responsibility for the acquisition and placement of the permanent plant collections as well as the supervision of garden maintenance. In addition, since 1986 he has been the grounds supervisor for McCrillis Gardens in Bethesda, Maryland, a five-acre mature azalea garden also owned by the M-NCPPC. Mr. Normandy has been an instructor in woody plants in the Landscape Design Program of the George Washington University since 1984. He has been a member of the Gold Medal Plant Award Committee of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society since 1981.

Mr. James I. Plyler, Jr.

Title: The Native Azaleas of Eastern United States.

Jim Plyler is the owner of Natural Landscapes, a native plant nursery located in West Grove, Pennsylvania. He lives and breathes native plants, and the native azaleas of the eastern United States have been a particular passion. This interest extends beyond the nursery, from mountain balds to coastal plain woods, where he photographs blooming populations of native azaleas, then returns to collect the seed to be grown in the nursery. The native azaleas have become some of the nursery's most requested plants.

Friday evening will be Barbara Bullock, the Curator of the Azalea Collections at the U. S. National Arboretum. Those of us who are familiar with the National Arboretum are more than just a little excited about Barbara's accomplishments there.

The second speaker for the evening will be Dick West, who will report on his activities at the Ten Oaks Nursery. Those of you who were with us in 1988 will remember that we visited Dr. Bruce Parلمان at the U.S.D.A. Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland where the Glenn Dale hybrids were developed. We are focusing this year on the Ten Oaks Nursery which is one of the remaining recipients of the original distributions from the Plant Introduction Station. We will have a rare opportunity to see the effect of 40 or 50 years on the actual plants that were received directly from the Station at Glenn Dale. Also, if you appreciate orchids, you are in for a real treat.

We will conclude Friday evening with an auction. A number of very exciting items have been assembled, and you will just have to wait to see what they are.

Saturday morning will come early, since we have miles to cover. The free breakfast buffet in the hotel cannot be topped. We will board buses at 8:30AM

Ms. Barbara L. Bullock

Title: The National Arboretum Azaleas: A Four Year Retrospective.

Barbara 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. Barbara came to her current position as Curator of the Azalea Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum with over ten years experience in the nursery and garden center industry (with specific training in nursery crop production) and a love of the outdoors and working with people. Barbara has held this position since July, 1990, and has been a member of the Brookside Gardens chapter of the ASA for three years.

sharp for a half-day's worth of activities at the U. S. National Arboretum. Barbara Bullock has planned a full program, and we will have lunch at the Arboretum. We will reboard our buses at 3:00PM to travel to the historic Ten Oaks Nursery in Clarksville, Maryland, where we will be met by Ruth and Andy Adams and Dick West. Our visit to Ten Oaks will conclude at 5:30PM

Mr. Richard T. West

Title: The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the Glenn Dale Distribution Project.

Dick West is a long-time member of the Azalea Society of America and occasionally writes articles for THE AZALEAN. He is especially interested in the Glenn Dale azaleas. Dick was born and raised in Washington, DC, and now resides in Columbia, Maryland. He works at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland, as a grants program officer. He has an undergraduate degree in psychology and the behavioral sciences from the American University and a master's degree in library and information sciences from the University of Maryland.

and we will return to the hotel. A happy hour will commence at 6:30PM, and the Banquet will begin at 8:00PM. Our Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Michael Raupp of the Entomology Department at the University of Maryland. The evening will conclude with the Society's Annual Meeting.

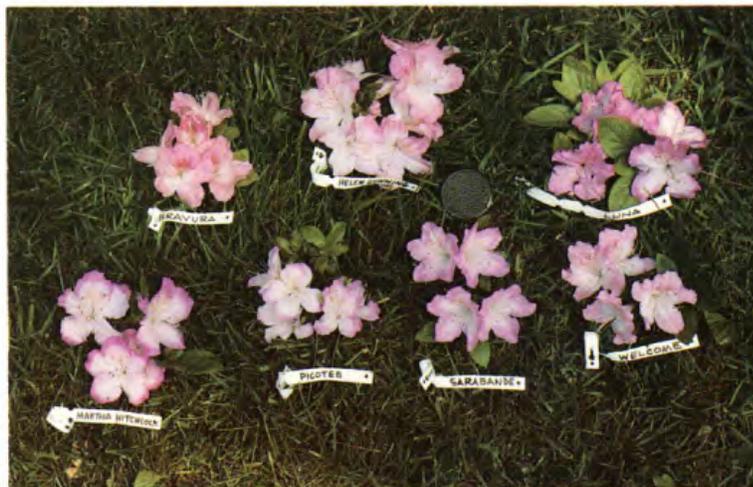
Dr. Michael J. Raupp

Title: Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone and What Can Be Done About It?

Michael Raupp is a Professor of Entomology and Chairman of the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He holds advanced degrees from Rutgers University and the University of Maryland. His appointment is split between research and extension. His research interests focus on the mechanisms of plant resistance and biological control of insect pests of ornamental plants. He has published more than 80 papers that deal with the ecology and management of insect pests, and he has delivered over 100 invitational seminars or symposium presentations on these topics. Dr. Raupp's extension activities include the development, implementation, and evaluation of Integrated Pest Management programs for landscape plant systems. He recently wrote the first definitive review of this subject for the Annual Review of Entomology. He has received four regional or national awards for excellence in extension programming, the most recent of which was the ESA Branch Award for Distinguished Achievement in Urban Entomology. He works very closely with the tree care, landscape, and nursery industries to develop better methods of pest control. Dr. Raupp currently advises several graduate student committees. He has taught graduate level courses in Integrated Pest Management and Larval Taxonomy and assisted in teaching International Pesticide Problems, General Entomology, Programs in Integrated Pest Management and Extension Entomology.



ABOVE: The Miller Garden, a private, mature, garden in transition, featuring many evergreen and deciduous azaleas and companion plants. Photo credit: William C. Miller III.



LEFT: The Glenn Dale hybrids of the Ten Oaks Nursery. First row, left to right, 'Martha Hitchcock', 'Pico-tee', Sara-bande', and 'Welcome'. Second row, left to right, 'Bravura', 'Helen Gunning', and 'Luna'. Photo credit: William C. Miller III.

National Officers, Directors, and Chapter Presidents or their assigns should note that there will be two Board of Directors meetings, as is customary. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, from 2:00-5:00PM. The second meeting will be Sunday, May 7, from 9:00-12:00 noon. Both meetings will take place in the Columbia Room. Chapter Presidents are reminded that if they cannot attend, an alternate should attend in their place. Every chapter should be represented.

Travelers are reminded that Washington is famous for its rush hour traffic. Rush hour begins around 4:00PM and begins to let up around 7:00PM.

William C. Miller III is co-chairman of the Membership Committee and chairman of the Public Information Committee. He is a former Vice President of the ASA. He is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter and has served as Chairman of Horticulture for the chapter's annual flower show for many years. He is a frequent contributor to *THE AZALEAN*. □

George Harding Memorial Azalea Garden— A Major Milestone

Robert Stelloh

Darnestown, Maryland

Dedication Ceremony

The George Harding Memorial Azalea Garden, at the River Farm site of the American Horticultural Society headquarters, was dedicated on the morning of Saturday, May 14, 1994. It was an appropriately beautiful sunny day. The Hardings were well represented, with 35 (out of 37) of George's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on hand to take part in the ceremony.

The dedication program started with some talks, continued with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and finished with refreshments, garden tours and general discussion. Dr. Marc Cathey, President of the American Horticultural Society, spoke first about the significance of the garden to the general public and to the plant societies. Malcolm Clark, our Society President and a very good friend of George Harding, then spoke about George, with an emphasis on his integrity, humanity, and basic good-heartedness (as evidenced by our building a garden in his honor, and by so many of his descendants in attendance). Finally, Bob Stelloh spoke about the garden itself, and the people involved in planning and building it (and, to his horror, omitted mentioning the Swells as contributors, and of course they were there to hear the omission—at least they could also hear the apology).

The Hardings then participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally open the garden to the public. As a special treat, Lynn Hertel, a professor at the

George Washington University School of Music, performed on her flute before and after the talks. The soft clear voice of the flute floats through the garden as a pleasant background sound, somewhat akin to bird songs, and Ms. Hertel is an accomplished flutist with a great deal of experience, in gardens as well as in concert halls.

Building the Garden

The purpose of the garden is to be a lasting memorial to George Harding, to carry on his work of popularizing the beauty, variety, and versatility of

Mrs. George Harding was joined by her family in cutting the ribbon at the Harding Garden dedication. Photo credit: Robert W. Hobbs.



centuries, the winter form and leaf color are the most important elements to use in selecting azaleas for a garden—natural or trained. We at River Farm look forward to viewing these seasonal changes, connecting them to the many cultivars and species available, and issuing with the Azaleas Society suggestions for new landscape opportunities. And, of course, we will also learn which types have persistent and tough flowers to survive our seasons of cold, heat, drought, flood, and pests. Within the azalea already exists the "elite forms" on which we can build our new environmentally responsible and sustainable gardens.

We also need to find large type azaleas, in plant size and flower size, color, contrast, which can be used in the new more natural landscapes. The azalea is already pre-sold in the minds of all gardeners. We must now work to meet those dreams with realities. The Harding Memorial Garden at the AHS is truly a good beginning.

Let the education begin! □

Dedication of Azalea Garden/Collection at the George Washington River Farm of the American Horticultural Society (AHS) Alexandria, Virginia

H. Marc Cathey, President

American Horticultural Society

Any collector of plants must continually seek to update the kinds of plants which are included in his gardens. There is no group of plants that needs this reappraisal more than the azalea—deciduous or evergreen. Although they are some of the most profitable plants to market for the nursery industry, the selections available are often limited to a few trusted cultivars such as 'Delaware Valley White', 'Coral Bells', and 'Hinodegiri'. These selections tend to be planted over and over again because of their tolerances to pests and stresses, while the year-round landscape needs are ignored. Azaleas, like all of the plants used to create a garden, must not only contribute to the structure and layers of the garden, but must also display seasonal changes that make the garden exciting to visit all twelve months of the year. Many gardeners have come to take azaleas for granted as being a ten-day wonder of color and an 11-month/20-day green blob.

The New Azalea Garden/Collection at the George Washington's River Farm offers the visitor a full statement of how azaleas can be selected to be integral players in the New American Garden Style. The more than 300 cultivars exhibit the full range of flowering, foliage, and form potentials of azaleas, while identifying the seasonal changes and design potential. In fact, as Asian gardeners have known for

azaleas. The garden runs along the south border of River Farm and covers just under a half acre. It was designed in late 1990 by Ralph D'Amato, a landscape architect and member of the Society. That design was then refined and built by 21 volunteers, primarily the "steadfast eight": Jean Cox, Joan and Milt Lerner, Jane Newman, Denise and Bob Stelloh, and Sue and George Switzer. They came twice a week during the fall of 1992 to clear the land, spread 200 cubic yards of composted leaves and rototill the soil. They then came twice a week during the fall of 1993 to lay out the paths, weed, and plant the azaleas. Finally, they came twice a week this spring for more weeding and planting, along with improving the paths and refining the drainage patterns discovered during the winter rains. The steadfast eight were ably assisted by Carol Allen and Irmo, Lou Aronica, Buck Clagett, Bob and Bee Hobbs, Bill McIntosh, Deac Moore, Leslie and David Nanney, and Nancy and Larry Stipa.

The garden currently includes over 500 azaleas and a few ornamental trees, with about 100 more azaleas yet to be acquired and planted. The plants have been contributed by both individuals and nurseries. The individual contributors are the American Horticultural Society (several of the new *Cornus florida* x *C. kousa* introductions from Rutgers University and a host of interplanted daffodils), Lou Aronica, Brookside Gardens (Phil Normandy—some Satsukis from the Brookside Gardens collection at McCrillis Gardens), Jean Cox, Joan and Milt Lerner, Jane Newman, Denise and Bob Stelloh, Bob Stewart, Sue and George Switzer. The nurseries are Azalea Trace Nursery (Wanda and Charlie Hanners), Chandler Gardens (Malcolm Clark), Eastern Shore Nursery (Robin Rinaca), Marshy Point Nursery (Harry Weiskittel), Northern Neck Nursery (David Lay), Roslyn Nursery (Harriet and Phil Waldman), Shepherd Hill Farm (Gerry Bleyer), Stubbs Shrubs (Eleanor and Art Stubbs), Swell Azaleas (Nancy and Leon Swell), Transplant Nursery (the Beasleys), and White's Nursery (Mike White, one of George Harding's grandsons, who is carrying on George's tra-

dition as an azalea grower). While some of the plants from the nurseries are young, there are already enough mature plants to make it look like a proper azalea garden.

Financing the Garden

Although all plants and labor have been donated, the garden could not have been built without the financial help of over 40 members and friends, who have contributed a total of \$5,700.00 to date. The "top ten" cash contributors contributed \$4,500.00 of the total. They are the Ben Morrison Chapter, Brookside Gardens Chapter, Gartrell Chapter, Northern Virginia Chapter, and Richmond Chapter of the Azalea Society, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, and Pegg Johnston, Bill McIntosh, Deac Moore, David Sauer, Don Voss, and members of the Harding family. Some of the money has already been used to pay for one-third of the irrigation system, several memorial benches, herbicide, plant labels, equipment rental, and just recently a large redwood sign. More is earmarked for brochures, mulch, and timbers for the paths. After the garden is completed, all remaining funds will be invested. The interest from that investment, along with proceeds from sales of rooted cuttings from the garden, will be used to purchase mulch and other on-going supplies. The goal is to ensure that funds are available to keep the garden well maintained into the foreseeable future.

Notable non-cash contributions include two-thirds of the irrigation system and ten yards of wood chips (from an historic Osage orange tree said to have been planted by George Washington as a gift from Thomas Jefferson, which made very attractive paths until the rains washed it out) from the American Horticultural Society, 200 yards of composted leaves delivered by Arlington County, and 55 yards of pine bark delivered by T. H. Blue and Company of South Carolina (although we did pay an unplanned towing charge to pull their rig out of the mud last fall, after trying to do it ourselves for at least three hours!).

Still More to be Done

This fall, the garden committee is acquiring and planting some more azaleas to fill out the garden (we're now down to once a week). And we're still looking for someone to donate a nice ornamental tree, preferably a *Stewartia pseudocamellia* or something similar (upright and fairly open, with nice bark and flowers, suitable for a semi-shady location). Finally, we're beginning to discuss companion plants, such as groundcovers, ferns, hostas, and wildflowers with the American Horticultural Society, which will coordinate with other plant societies to acquire and plant them under our general supervision.

This winter, the committee will be working on a brochure for garden visitors. We will also be planning our first Azalea Day at River Farm for next spring. Each annual Azalea Day will be our opportunity to sell rooted cuttings of the less-available plants from the garden, answer questions about azaleas, and recruit new members for the Azalea Society of America.

River Farm is a beautiful 27-acre property bordered by the Potomac River, near Washington, D.C. It's located at 7931 East Boulevard Drive, just off the George Washington Memorial Parkway, about halfway between Alexandria, Virginia, and Mount Vernon. It's about ten miles south of National Airport and five miles south of the I-495 Beltway. River Farm is open to the public without charge from 8:30AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday and some weekends. Call them at (703) 768-5700 for more detailed directions and further information.

Bob Stelloh and his wife, Denise, knew George Harding for a number of years, and have a number of plants from George's garden, along with many fond memories of time spent with him. Bob retired several years ago from a career of computer programming. They currently market and support a computer program Bob has developed to help public gardens and serious plant collectors manage their plant information. □

A Few Common Problems of the Azalea

Jim Thornton

Conyers, Georgia

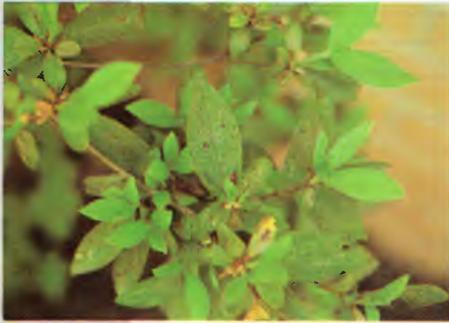


Figure 1 Leaf damages due to azalea lace bug



Figure 2 Leaf yellowing due to poor soil conditions



Figure 3 Lichens on azalea stems



Figure 4 Azalea petal blight



Figure 5 Azalea leaf gall

For some time I have wanted to attend a program on various problems confronting the azalea: a down-to-earth type of program with photographs, where you could walk away with a basic idea of what the problem was—weather, diseases or insects—and what to do about it. I didn't want the scientific details from an entomologist, biologist, botanist or some other card-carrying Latin-speaking presenter. Not needed was someone who would give me a headache and leave me walking away still not understanding what it was that plagued my beloved plants or how to help them. So, finally, I decided to do it myself!

I promised our new chapter President, Dave Butler, that I would present, in our next program, a few common ailments of the azalea.....photographs and all! This was going to be a snap. First, I would call our Azalea Society of America Slide Librarian, to procure some slides. All that would be left would be to pick a few of the slides, jot down some notes and just do it. Simple? Nope!! It didn't happen that way; not at all. In fact, it caused me a lot of stress, loss of sleep, and several bucks. But down to the eleventh hour, I came up with a few photographs, made the presentation, and now I want to share it with all of you.

Remember, you won't obtain credits for your horticultural degree, but hopefully you'll learn to recognize the problem and what to do about it. Fair enough? By the way, you'll have the benefit of learning some tips from some of our members who participated in the discussion during our meeting.

First, let's start with yellowing of the leaves. To some folks, lace bug (*Stephanitis pyrioides* Scott—O.K., so a little Latin won't hurt!) draws attention to discolored leaves. Not exactly yellow, except on older leaves (see later discussion). But lace bugs are very common to the azalea and can be very damaging. This damage starts out with a silvery-gray, mottled coloration on older leaves (Figure 1). Why? The bugs feed from the underside of the leaf, causing it to lose vitality and thus the discoloration on top. The bottom side becomes rust-colored and covered with a tar-like substance. The lace bug over-winters as eggs inserted into the leaves. Come spring, they hatch, feed, lay eggs, and the cycle is repeated. The solution? Spray!

The most available insecticides for control of lace bugs are Diazinon, Malathion, Orthene and Cygon. Be careful with Cygon. It's more toxic, and I've had a bad experience with it. Start your spray program in early spring when the little buggers begin to hatch. I usually spray again in mid-summer, plus I use a dormant oil spray during the cold months to help kill off additional over-wintering insects. By the way, you can mix your insecticides with the dormant oil.

Another leaf-yellowing problem can be caused by poor soil conditions, either a poor pH factor or lack of iron. Usually the soil here in Georgia has enough iron, so by checking your pH, you can get to the bottom of this problem. Stay in the range of 4.5 to 6.0 and you should be all right. If you do have a problem with iron deficiency, a lot of fertilizers now contain iron (at least 0.1%) and other micro-nutrients that will also be beneficial. You'll find most of your problem areas near the foundations of buildings because of mortar contained in the soil. I recently had a problem with some plants near my greenhouse, which during the summer I keep painted with a "shading-type" paint...lime-based, no less! Anyway, you can easily tell this yellowing problem by noting the leaf begins to yellow but the veins will remain green (Figure 2). For all practical purposes, a yearly dose of a fertilizer for

acid-loving plants should keep your azalea a healthy green and a happy plant.

Now, the real leaf-yellowing problem. This one's not really a problem, but one that gets most folks upset. It's called leaf senescence. This is a normal, God-intended thing the azalea will do in the fall and late summer during drought periods. The bright yellow leaves get one's attention, but this winter look around and observe. Look at your red- and purple-flowering azaleas. Notice the autumn colors on some of their leaves—not quite as predominant as the bright yellow on your whites and pinks, but again, the same thing—leaf senescence. It's the ageing process of the leaf. Normal—not to worry!

Now, here's another alarming sight, (Figure 3) not necessarily a problem, but symptomatic of problems worth pursuing. The papery growth is "Lichens" and according to Webster, it is a "fungus in symbiotic union with an alga". It uses the bark as a growth site, not a feeding site. Therefore, it's not harming the plant, but is nonetheless an ugly sight. Lichens can be controlled by chemicals, but again, it's indicative of an unhealthy plant. Therefore, you should do something.

Let's see...how about some ugly stuff? Nasty—really nasty, slimy, yucky stuff. Like petal blight, A.K.A. *Ovulinia azaleae*. This is one of the most serious and devastating diseases of azaleas. It was first reported in the 1930's in South Carolina and has spread throughout the USA and to other parts of the world.

Starting with small spots (Figure 4) actually occurring before the bud opens, it spreads rapidly, becoming a slimy mess as the fungus progresses. **It is an ugly sight!** This disease, this fungus, does not go away. Adhering to the plants, living in the soil surface, the leaf mulch, *Ovulinia azaleae* waits for the next blooming cycle to start

again, spreading further into your garden, infecting more and more plants. You have to stop it, get it under control, and it won't be easy. From a personal note, the picture in Figure 4 came from my garden. This was the second year this plant was infected (still confined to one area, thank goodness) simply because I forgot to do anything about it. What should I have done?

A few sanitation measures would have helped a little, but the main defensive measure? Spray, spray, spray! Starting with a spray program of a fungicide, you begin at weekly intervals, just as the bud begins to open, and continuing until it opens. It may not help, but I think it would be wise to spray the beds of the infected plants during the off season. During our meeting, several products were suggested from folks who have had to fight this battle, and who have won. I guess from the discussion, Bayleton (Triadimefon) was touted as the most used. Zyban (Thio-phanate Methylmaneb), Daconil 2787 (Chlorothalonil), Dithane (Mancozeb), Benlate (Benomyl) and Fung-away were others. Since I haven't used any of these, I have to defer to the experts, so if you have any experience, please let me know. I understand some of these products, such as Bayleton are not easy to find. In any case, if you've got this problem, don't do like I have done. Don't delay your spraying!

One more ugly looking problem and I'll stop: *Exobasidium vaccinii*, a fancy name for leaf gall (Figure 5). Depending on weather conditions, this can be a problem overlooked, or it could be very bad and damaging to plants. A little preventive measure, such as spraying with a fungicide can keep this problem to a minimum. Start when the bud breaks and continue two to three weeks later. Any of the above fungicides, including products containing Captan, should do the trick.

NOTE: To folks who don't spray, folks who did and missed some plants, those with just a few plants, or those with lots of plants who like to get out among their shrubs: Simply pick off the galls and destroy them!

There was one other problem I wanted to present, but I didn't have a slide—the dreaded *Caloptilia azaleella* Brants [azalea leaf miner, ed.]. I'll just wait until I can get a picture to show.

Speaking of photographs or slides, if you have any, or want to make some, please forward to me. I'll write up something and send to our Azalea Society of America Slide Librarian. Like I said, "With a few slides, what could have been easier?"

**WARNING!
BEFORE USING ANY CHEMICAL,
READ THE LABEL**

REFERENCES

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- (2) "Azalea Culture for Georgia Gardeners", Cooperative Extension Service; University of Georgia College of Agriculture; Athens, Georgia.
- (3) "1993 Georgia Pest Control Handbook", Cooperative Extension Service; University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Athens, Georgia.
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'Providence' (Linwood)

Malcolm Clark

Southern Pines, North Carolina

[The new cultivar 'Providence' was introduced by Malcolm Clark at the ASA 1994 Convention and Annual Meeting. A picture of 'Providence' was on the cover of the September 1994 issue of *THE AZALEAN*, ed.]

'Providence' is an early mid-season double white of mounding habit in the general class of the earlier Linwoods.

PARENTAGE: 'Nancy of Robinhill' x 'Tracy White'. The pollen parent is an early blooming hose-in-hose white with orange-pink stripes, etc., bred and introduced by George Harding. Though its parentage is unreported either publicly or privately, it is almost certainly a 'Rose Greeley' hybrid. Its seed parent would be one of the striped Glenn Dales, probably not one of the early ones. A reasonable guess would be 'Pinto' or one of its sisters.

HABIT: Internodals typically 2" to 3". The original seedling was 18" x 36" at ten years without any pruning beyond 36 cuttings, i.e., about the size, shape, and vigor of the seed parent. It is important, however, that vigorous crown cuttings not be taken or one will get plants as high as wide, though probably only "in youth", i.e., less than 30 years.

FOLIAGE:

Shape: Spring leaves oval to slightly ovate, summer leaves more ovate, both cuneate and mucronate.

Size: Spring leaves up to 1.65" x 1.2" on commercial feeding schedules, about 15% smaller in the average garden. Overwintering terminal cluster of the smaller summer leaves varies from 10 to as many as 20 if heavily fed and B-Nined. As is typical, size increases downward from the terminal bud.

Color: Olive green, depth and finish dependent on feeding schedule. Commercially grown the color is slightly stronger and deeper than RHS 137A and the finish slightly glossy. The upper leaf surface is covered with appressed brownish hairs which prevent a really glossy finish, regardless of feeding schedule. In the average garden 137C is close to what can be expected.

FLOWERS:

Color: White with a greenish blotch uncommonly variable in depth of color.

Confirmation: Double (calyx foliaceous, stamens rare) with 12 to 18 petals (15 typical) of equal length. True petals funnel shaped and slightly reflexed at the edges, giving a "wide open" face to the whole. Pedicel gently reminiscent of 'Rose Greeley', softening the carriage.

Size and Number: Heads or two to three flowers with about equal frequency. Occasionally one per head in low light conditions. Florets 2.5" to 3" in diameter depending on culture and/or head count.

Season: Generally called "early mid-season". Using benchmarks, after, but overlapping 'Coral Bells' and before, but extending into 'Treasure', i.e., with *Cornus florida* and mainly before petal blight. No Fall flowering has been reported.

Durability: In full "cornfield" sun some burn appears on the fourth day and corollas quite brown by the end of seventh day, i.e., good but not excellent among

whites. Grown in the sun and shown in the shade, which most azaleas appreciate, the flowers will last three weeks.

USES: The uses are those of a fairly low-growing white with a soft finish. It looks best in light to moderate shade, i.e., more shade than Kurumes. In a massed bed of azaleas dressed to the ground, it is naturally a second row plant, but may be sheared into the first row at some expense to its gentleness.

HARDINESS: The winter of 1993-94 was certainly a "testing winter" in eastern North America and 'Providence' gets a preliminary -10°F, about the average of its parents, even allowing for the lack of such bud hardiness in its parent, 'Nancy of Robinhill'. Two additional notes: here in the South, where bark split is much more common than in the North (the ground does not freeze, which eliminates the natural buffer against widely fluctuating winter temperatures), there has been no case of bark split. Also, liners on an open but favorable site suffered no losses on consecutive nights of 0°F, -2°F and +1°F. In sum, not "a tender thing".

COMMENTS: What? Another white! Two to four weeks later in the season there are a number of good double whites. 'Hardy Gardenia' is probably "the standard", though it has a floral calyx and does not "make up" fast enough for most commercial growers. 'Bride's Bouquet' and 'Lila Stapleton' are upright, at least in youth, and Kehr's 'White Rosebud' is almost tree-like. Pete Vines has recently released several fine double white first cousins ('Nancy of Robinhill' x 'Shinnyo-no-Tsuki'), of which 'Saint Moritz' is most similar in appearance, but three weeks later, "greener" and slightly larger.

Earlier in the season we seem to have only two double whites, the Glenn Dale 'Ranger' (its parent 'Shishu' seems at best rare), and recently, 'Toby Elizabeth', which is sparingly striped. Both,

however, are "Tyukyu", i.e., plants of some five feet in height, hairy stems, etc.—an altogether different class of plants.

In the general class of Kurume, both Japanese and American, the only double seems to be 'Haku Botan', which has not been introduced(?) and seems rather ten-petaled and upright. Among American hybrids in this class there seem to be no true doubles. The closest hose-in-hose in season and habit is the Beltsville 'White Squall', the lowest of the non-dwarfs. (Why this cultivar is not "in the trade" mystifies.) The earlier white Linwoods are all hose-in-hose and among the most Kurume-like of those plants.

Finally, seven plants of 'Providence' exist under the label 'Alpha-1'. Those labels should be changed, as well as any propagations from them.

L. Malcolm Clark has been active in the Azalea Society since its beginning. Mal is a past chapter president and national president, as well as our current national President. He retired from a career as teacher and administrator in the Caldwell, New Jersey public school system in 1986 and moved to his home town, where he works as the third-generation proprietor of Chandler Gardens Nursery, propagating over 3,000 different azalea cultivars and working on his own hybridizing program. □

Designing with Azaleas

Stephen S. Brainerd

Dallas, Texas

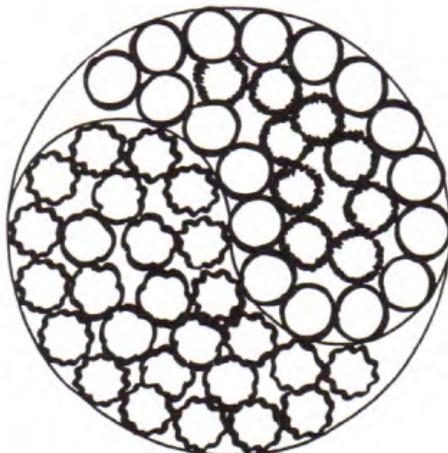
Here is a cookbook approach to designing with azaleas. Read further and you will get practical ideas on form, color selection and color sequencing.

Form is the first quality to consider when designing a planting plan. Don't be intimidated by the thought of drawing. To lay out a plan, all that is needed is a pencil, paper, compass and a ruler. The examples discussed below illustrate how to create plans for these situations. The technique for drawing the layouts is detailed first.

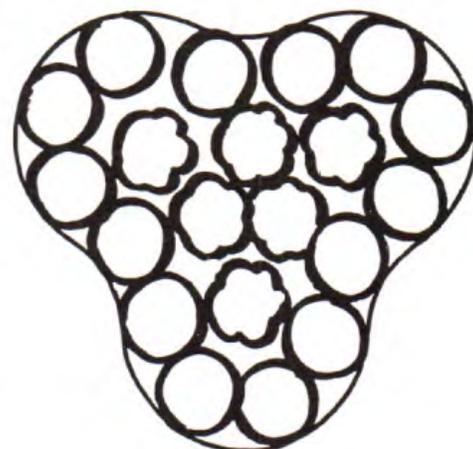
In the examples, circles represent two-foot diameter plants. Example number 1 was constructed starting with a straight line drawn horizontally across a piece of 8-1/2" x 11" paper. The compass point was placed on the center of the line and a circle 8" in diameter (4" in radius) was drawn around the point. Next the compass point was placed on the middle point of the line between the center and the circle. A semi-circle was drawn 2" in radius above the line followed in like fashion by a semi-circle below the line. Plant circles 1" in diameter were then drawn in to fill the spaces. Example 2 was drawn using three radiating straight lines from a central point. Three circles at equal distance from the central point on the lines were then drawn onto the paper. Arcs the same radius of the circles then were drawn to connect the circles. Example 3 began with a straight line. A light semi-circular line was drawn above the straight line. The compass was moved and a light semi-circular line was drawn below the straight line intersecting the first semi-circle. Circular plants were then drawn along the S shape from the inside and outside. These planting designs assume azaleas planted about two-foot on center.

Example 1 would be appropriately viewed from an elevated position. A suggested planting for very early flower color in Dallas (February to early March) would be a ground cover of creeping phlox, light blue in one half and pink in the other half. Over the light blue phlox would be azaleas 'Geisha Pink' on the outside and azalea 'Rose Greeley' in the center. 'Rose Greeley' has the additional benefit of being fragrant. Over the pink phlox would be azalea 'Festive' in the center with azalea 'Christmas Cheer' on the outside. The light blue, pink and white combinations here are show stoppers!

Example 2 could be a design for early blooming (March to early April in Dallas). Louisiana purple phlox would be the ground cover. Azalea 'Hinode Giri' would



EXAMPLE 1 (Not to scale)



EXAMPLE 2 (Not to scale)

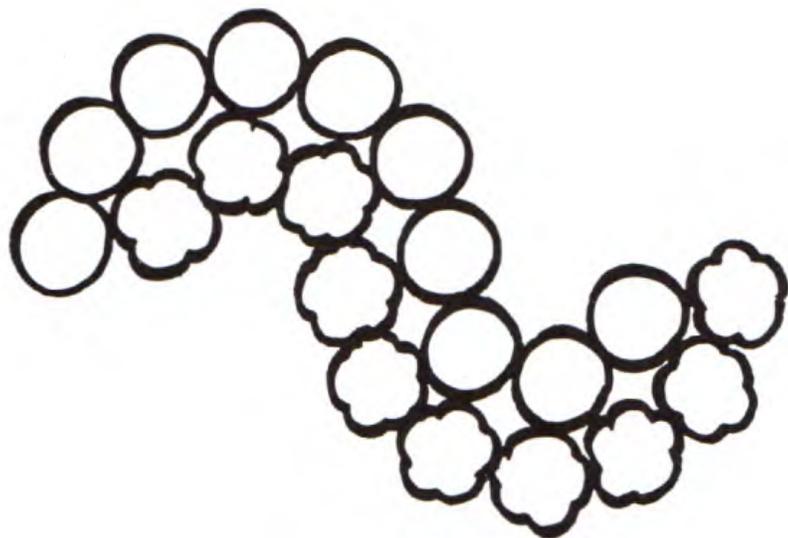
be on the outside with azalea 'Refrain' on the inside. This is a particularly striking planting for most of the year. The Louisiana purple phlox draws the purple out of the 'Hinode Giri'. 'Refrain' sports are very close in color to the 'Hinode Giri' but provide the white flowers as well. Give this planting sun and you will have a stunning winter leaf combination of green phlox, bronze 'Hinode Giri' and yellow-green 'Refrain'. 'Refrain' tends to grow upright whereas 'Hinode Giri' is relatively rounded and layered in growth habit.

Example 3 could also be a design for early blooming (March to early April in Dallas). Strawberry begonia would be the ground cover. Plant azalea 'Sherwood Red' with azalea 'Trouper' behind. The yellow-green leaves of the strawberry begonia are stunning with the red orange flowers of 'Trouper' and 'Sherwood Red'. It is difficult for me to distinguish between 'Trouper' and 'Sherwood Red', but 'Trouper' has a much more upright growth habit while 'Sherwood Red' is relatively rounded and layered. These azaleas'

leaves also take on a deep bronze color if given sun in the winter.

Don't forget the fall for azalea flower color. I particularly like azalea 'Opal' planted with *R. yedoense* 'Poukhanense' [*R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* ed.]. 'Opal' blooms heaviest for me in Dallas in the fall. Planted in front of 'Poukhanense', 'Opal' provides a foliage screen for the semi-evergreen Poukhanense which puts on a light flower bloom. This is a balanced combination in a lavender color.

Consider matching flower color with leaf color as suggested earlier with strawberry begonia and azalea 'Sherwood Red'. Another combination is 'Poukhanense' which flowers in Dallas in winter months with the yellow-green leaves of many of the white flowered azalea varieties. Azaleas 'Vittata Fortunei Purple' and 'Sherbrook' are two other dependable winter bloomers having lavender flowers that look good with the yellow-green leaves of white flowered azaleas.



EXAMPLE 3 (Not to scale)

I enjoy the azalea winter leaf color as much as the dramatic spring flower show because it lasts so much longer. Design plantings to display red flowered azaleas 'Hinode Giri', 'Stewartstonian', 'Fashion', 'Girard's Hot Shot', 'Girard's Rose', 'Tilly', and 'Trouper' with white/pink flowered azaleas 'Glacier', 'Delaware Valley White', 'Pink Pearl', and 'Snow' to provide pleasing color throughout the fall and winter.

There is no color without light. Subtle changes of intensity of light within the planting are the stuff of exquisite azalea design. I am particularly fond of a planting which I designed and placed under live oak trees. The design is similar to Example 3 except that azalea 'Hinode Giri' was placed at both ends and azalea 'Refrain' placed in the center. The planting is positioned so that the 'Hinode Giri' is in shade and the 'Refrain' in sun. During most of the year it appears that there is a spotlight on the planting. The relatively light colored leaf of the 'Refrain' is enhanced by sunlight, the 'Hinode Giri' fading to the outside.

My hope is that you will be inspired to get a pencil, paper, compass and ruler out of the drawer and into your hands.

Enjoy your azaleas!

Stephen S. Brainerd graduated from Oklahoma State University with a B.A. in Chemistry. He is a 20-year veteran of U.S. Naval Fighter Aviation. He has worked with an extensive azalea collection in Dallas as a landscaping contractor and currently works for the City of Highland Park. An avid azalea gardener, Steve has served as president for the Dallas Chapter and is currently Vice President of the Society. □

Ben Morrison Chapter

The last meeting of the Ben Morrison Chapter was held September 11, 1994 at the Fairview Library. Joe Miller will be chairman of a committee to organize the Flower Show to be held May 14, 1995 in Southern Maryland. Charles Hanners of Azalea Trace presented our program with a video of his property during and after the ice storm of 1994. It was both an exciting and horrifying event to behold. Jean Cox reported that the George Harding Azalea Garden bench has been installed. Our next meeting will be our annual Christmas Party to be held December 11, 1994. □

Dallas Chapter

Election of officers was held November 1, 1994. Jim Garrison is the new President. Jim is a landscape contractor with an outstanding knowledge of azaleas. His home garden is beautifully diverse, rivaling the finest private azalea collections in the city. Wayne Mann is the new Vice President. Wayne, who is the senior horticulturist at the Dallas Arboretum, has worked extensively with the azaleas in the Jonsson Color Garden. Linda McDowell is the new Secretary. Formerly an educator, Linda is completing her Master's degree in Landscape Architecture. Keith Johansson is beginning his second year as the chapter's Treasurer. Keith is our rhododendron expert with a garden that boasts rhodies, azaleas and Japanese maples.

The chapter expects to begin construction of an azalea greenhouse at the Dallas Arboretum in early 1995. The intent is to provide new members with a practical laboratory to learn the propagation and cultural practices of azaleas. The chapter membership will also study the 2000+ collection of azaleas. Our purpose will be to educate the public on the superior performing varieties of azaleas. □

Board of Directors Meeting

The fall meeting of the Azalea Society of America Board of Directors was held at the U.S. National Arboretum in

1995

January	Dallas Chapter starts construction of greenhouse at Dallas Arboretum
January 15	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the March issue of THE AZALEAN
February 24	Dallas Chapter lecture before the Dallas Garden Club
February 24-26	Dallas Chapter booth and seminar at Neil Sperry's All Garden Show, Arlington, Texas
March 11-12	Dallas Chapter booth at the Dallas Arboretum
April 4	Dallas Chapter meeting at 7:00PM at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society (DABS)
April 15	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the June issue of THE AZALEAN
May 4-6	Azalea Society Annual Meeting and Convention to be held by the Brookside Chapter in Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C.
May 14	Ben Morrison Chapter Flower Show in Prince Frederick, Maryland
June 6	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 7:00PM at the DABS
July 15	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the September issue of THE AZALEAN
September 26	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 7:00PM at DABS
October 15	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
October 24	Dallas Chapter Meeting at 7:00PM at DABS

Washington, D. C. on October 29, 1994. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the azalea gardens at the arboretum led by the Curator of the Azalea Collections, Barbara Bullock.

A major concern of the Board is the decrease of membership in the Society in 1994. Several reasons and remedies for this decrease were discussed.

The Board approved the budget for 1995. The Board also authorized one-year subscriptions to **THE AZALEAN** for several colleges and universities with large horticulture departments and for two city library systems for the purpose of increasing interest in the society.

Dues Notices Mailed

All current Azalea Society of America members should have re-

ceived renewal notices for 1995 by the time they have received this issue. Please return the notices with your dues for 1995 as soon as possible; if dues for 1995 have not been received by mid-January 1995 a second notice will be sent by first class mail. The necessity of sending the first class reminder causes additional work for the volunteers of the membership committee, as well as requiring first class postage which costs about three times as much as the bulk-mailed notices mailed in November.

If you have not received a renewal notice, please contact the membership committee at:

THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
 POST OFFICE BOX 34536
 WEST BETHESDA MD 20827-0536 □

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Transplant Nursery

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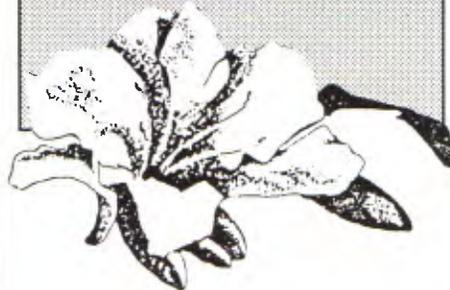
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