VOLUME 17 NUMBER 4 • December 1995

THE Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America

1996 Convention and Annual Meeting *Page 80*

Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station *Page 82*

To Rogue or Not to Rogue . . . ! *Page 87*

Azalea Society of America

Post Office Box 34536
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Steve Brainerd
Dallas, Texas

AZALEA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

I have been pondering society membership from my own personal experience and have done some reading on national trends. I would like to share some thoughts with you and hopefully stimulate your introspection.

Organizational membership in general is down nationally. Passive membership (mailing a check with very little further involvement) has increased in proportion to active membership. The increased pace of life, continuous change in many of our lives, and lack of available personal time are cited as reasons. The explosive growth of electronic technology has driven us into isolation, away from human dependence and interaction, with reliance upon voice mail, computers, and passive entertainment such as television.

As human organizational strength weakens so does the fabric of our lives. The less we depend on each other, the less we care about each other. As larger percentages of us disappear into faceless human masses, individual responsibility deteriorates, complacency increases, and the ability to mobilize to accomplish common beneficial goals becomes more elusive. As the passive individual becomes more detached, the more he lives vicariously, content to view rather than do, by substituting the achievements of celebrities and his heroes for his own personal accomplishment.

Membership dues are very important to the Azalea Society whether it be from a member-at-large, a passive chapter member, or an active chapter member. Without the total contribution from all three sources, the Society could not perform at current levels.

Active membership, however, has advantages over passive membership. Azalea Society functions bring out the best in us, such as kindness, commitment, giving, caring, and sharing. Gardening in general reduces stress and promotes health. The different perspectives generated by various people looking at the same endeavor have always been appealing to me. One member's experiences are easily condensed for another's benefit, promoting learning and enjoyment. Life-long bonds are established through common interests and the sharing of plants, food, conversation and time spent together. Involvement often means accomplishment, getting into life rather than viewing it.

Active participation in the Azalea Society of America is about sharing your time with someone else. If you are a member-at-large separated geographically from everyone else, think about finding a person who would enjoy sharing your experiences in the garden and enjoy reading **THE AZALEAN**. If you are a passive chapter member, think about attending the next chapter meeting with a friend to enhance your personal experience. If you are an active member, how can you change your involvement to heighten your enjoyment?

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 azaleas Subseries Tsutsusi and Pentanthera of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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THE AZALEAN

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Table of Contents

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 4 DECEMBER 1995

78 **President's Letter**
Steve Brainerd

80 **1996 Convention and Annual Meeting**
Peggy Kirkland and Stephen Brainerd

83 **Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station**
Richard T. West and William C. Miller III

88 **To Rogue or Not to Rogue . . . !**
A Colloquium

90 **Cultural Note: Ovulinia Petal Blight**

91 **Help Wanted: Participate in Azalea-Sporting Research**
Richard T. West and Donald H. Voss

94 **Society News**
Ben Morrison Chapter
Brookside Gardens Chapter
Dallas Chapter
Louisiana Chapter
Northern Virginia Chapter
Oconee Chapter
Dues Notices Mailed
Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN**—1995
Report of the Nominating Committee

95 **Azalea Calendar**

96 **New Members**

96 **Index for Volume 17**

97 **Azalea Mart**

Election of Officers and Directors Please Vote!

Prize for Best Article in THE AZALEAN Please Vote!

Membership Dues--Please Remit!

On the Cover: Glenn Dale azalea 'Alexandria' . What may be the only living plant of 'Alexandria', one of the Glenn Dale hybrids, has been found at the U.S.D.A. Glenn Dale Station. In this issue, West and Miller describe their azalea research and other activities at the Station.

Photographer: Richard T. West

1996 Convention and Annual Meeting

Peggy Kirkland
Stephen Brainerd
Dallas, Texas

The 1996 ASA Convention and Annual Meeting will be held March 28-30 at the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza in Dallas, Texas. The Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza, located on the northeast corner of Highway 75 (listed on maps as Central Expressway in the greater Dallas Metropolitan area) and Meadow Road, is centrally located in relation to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and fine gardens in north Dallas.

Convention Overview

The 1996 convention program is packed with interest, but scheduled to allow the weary delegates chances to rest their legs during the day. Registration will be Thursday afternoon and evening. Following the dinner hour, an introduction to the Friday tours will be presented by Thomas J. Brinda, vice-president of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, and Naud Burnett, a landscape architect and founding president of the Dallas Chapter of ASA. Friday morning and afternoon will feature seminars and tours at The Dallas Arboretum followed by a visit to a spectacular garden which was visited by delegates at the 1993 ASA Convention. Lunch will be served at The Dallas Arboretum overlooking White Rock Lake. Delegates will listen to speakers at the Holiday Inn on Friday evening, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM. Paul Fields, a landscape architect with Lambert Gardens, will describe two private gardens to be visited on Saturday morning. Henry Painter, Director of the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens, will discuss his city's Japanese Garden. Two videos will then be viewed: first a tape produced by PBS Victory Garden on a private Japanese-style garden that delegates will tour, then a short video tape of the Ft. Worth Stockyards Historical District. Dinner Friday will be on your own. Saturday morning delegates will tour three private gardens. Following the garden tours, we will go by bus to the historic Stockyards in Ft. Worth, Texas. This area exemplifies the true flavor of the old west at the turn of the century and has been extensively restored to its former glory. Interesting shops and restaurants replaced the thousands of cattle, horses, mules, sheep and hogs that filled the pens and sheds earlier in this century. You will be on your own for lunch at any restaurant of your choosing in this compact area (menus and restaurant descriptions will be included in the registration packet). After lunch, we will go to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden for a tour of their Japanese Garden, which is extensively landscaped with azaleas. Saturday's banquet will be at the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza with Col. Ronald C. "Pete" Vines as keynote speaker.

Friday Events

The first stop on Friday will be gardens of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society (DABS). Lectures are scheduled at the Camp House on the grounds of the Arboretum. Limitations on seating in the Camp House will necessitate alternating seminars and tours. One seminar and tour will be offered twice in the morning. Two specialized seminars will be offered simultaneously after lunch, one in the dining room and one in the drawing room.

Naud Burnett will lead two consecutive tours of the Jonsson Color Garden. Mr. Burnett's September, 1991, article in **THE AZALEAN** details the early development of gardens at The Dallas Arboretum. The 65-acre grounds consist of two formerly residential estates with mature gardens and specimen trees overlooking a large city park and lake. A master plan for developing the arboretum from this beautiful property was prepared by Jones and Jones Landscape Architects, Seattle. DABS is the site of a 6.5-acre planting of more than 2,000 varieties of azaleas. Designed and built by Naud Burnett and Partners at a cost of three million dollars, the gardens were dedicated in the spring of 1990. The raised azalea planting beds consist of 60% finely milled pine bark and 40% coarse Canadian peat moss with 1-1/2 pounds of Micromax fertilizer per cubic yard. The annual budget for seasonal color is $400,000. A fog system in the fern dell provides mood and theatrical flair. The borders of perennial phlox are stunning. Within the azalea beds and fern dell are collections of all varieties possible of crape myrtle trees, redbud, dogwood, hardy fern, and ajuga with hundreds of species of other shade and sun loving plants.

Seminars will be given by Mark Wegmann, Pete Vines and Steve Brainerd. Mark Wegmann is an azalea bonsai expert who has been practicing his art locally for a decade. He has addressed the Dallas Chapter of the Azalea Society of America on three previous occasions during chapter meetings. His practical insights are invaluable for anyone interested in the culture of this dramatic plant material. His artistry is to be believed in the presentation of his bonsai

specimens. A cascade style 'Mizuho no kagami' azalea in particular has impressed hundreds of plant enthusiasts. This is a must-see collection for any azalea enthusiast. To be successful in azalea bonsai, plan to attend Mark's seminar on Friday morning.

Jonsson Color Garden, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society

Pete Vines is well known to members of the Azalea Society of America. He was an active hybridizer in the Washington, D.C. area before moving to Amelia Island, Florida, where he has continued his research and production. The Dallas Chapter is privileged to greet Colonel Vines whose work will be submitted for formal registration about the time of the convention. This is a quality hybridizer making a rare appearance to share successes, failures, luck, insight, and his advancing contributions with those delegates who are interested in hybridization and fortunate enough to be able to attend his seminar.

Steve Brainerd is a landscape designer and azalea enthusiast. He has written several articles on design in recent years for **THE AZALEAN.** His seminar will address form, color, texture and seasonal interest of azalea plantings.

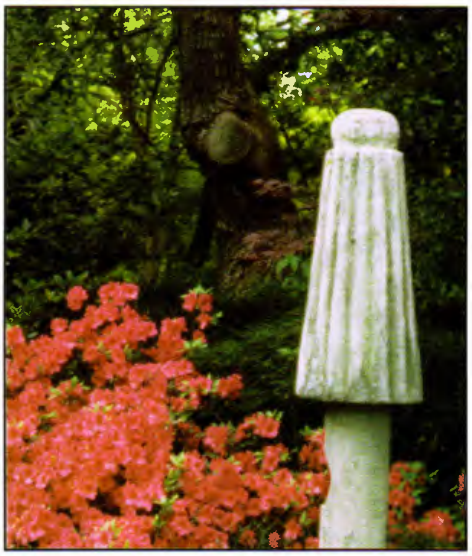
A visit to Texas is not complete without tasting the local barbecue. The Dallas chapter has contracted with an outstanding caterer to fulfill the barbecue experience. Lunch will be served on the Camp House patio overlooking White Rock Lake.

On Friday afternoon the group will, by popular demand, visit a private garden visited during the 1993 national convention. Initial construction was completed in the fall of 1990. This exquisite garden is tended by three full-time gardeners. The site is dominated by a lake with an arched free-span bridge connecting the house to the tennis courts, gazebo, entertainment areas, and additional plantings. Sixty varieties of azaleas that bloom over a three-month period in the spring are complemented by Louisiana phlox, pansies, petunias, tulips, English daisies, and assorted flowering bulbs. Two 30-foot water fountains, white and black swans, and three waterfalls give an idyllic quality to this estate garden in an urban setting.

At the end of the day, buses will return to the Holiday Inn. The atrium bar at the Holiday Inn is a pleasant place to relax. Dinner is not a scheduled event. We will have lectures at the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza from 6:00 to 7:30PM.

Saturday Events

Saturday morning we will board buses for a drive through spectacular displays of azaleas in public and private gardens in Highland Park. We will walk through three private gardens. One, a Japanese-style garden, was featured in a PBS Victory Garden program. This is space in which compartmentalization is maximized for function and relaxation. Earth, water, wood, and plant material are the ingredients for garden construction which elicit contemplation, relaxation, and psychological distance from urban Dallas. Delegates will be



Japanese Garden, Fort Worth

treated to a spacious stone entry path, a vertical wooden entryway which effectively separates the city from the inner home and garden, the sound and sight of water, the line of architecture, a workshop wall which provides framing for plants, a Zen garden nook, a dry stream bed, a tea house, and a selection of plants based on years of discriminating taste and horticultural understanding. The other two gardens, a formal garden and a cottage garden, were designed and constructed within the last two years by Lambert Gardens, a Dallas-based landscape architecture firm.

After the garden tours, we will have a one hour bus ride to the Ft. Worth stockyards. Lunch will be on your own at any of the restaurants in this restored historic district. We have scheduled an abbreviated walking tour of the area. At 2:00PM we will board the buses and go to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden to tour the Japanese Garden.

Since 1973 the Japanese Garden has served as a cultural, architectural, and botanical attraction for visitors from near and far. Your journey through this 7.5-acre garden will introduce you to the philosophy of this style of stroll garden. As you walk the paths you will learn of the tranquillity that is achieved through the combination of different plant textures, shades of green, and running water. Enjoy watching and feeding the colorful koi, the Imperial

carp of Japan, at several feeding stations throughout the garden. Exercise your agility in crossing over the seven different styles of bridges that cross dry river beds, quiet pools, and running water. During the fall season, brilliant hues of orange, red, and yellow adorn the Japanese maples and other trees in the garden. Winter is a quiet, restful period in the garden, although beauty can be found in the branch structures of trees, the seed pods and berries of various plants, and the foliage of evergreen plants. Spring bursts forth in the Japanese Garden with the profusion of blossoms from peach, Mexican plum, flowering cherry, crab-apple, and redbud trees. In addition, different colors of azaleas add to the spring floral display in the garden. Throughout the year the Japanese Garden offers a place of tranquil retreat from the pressures of life.

We will return to the Holiday Inn Northpark Plaza in time for a rest, a cash bar social hour and a bonsai exhibit in the atrium prior to the banquet at 7:30PM. Col. Ronald C. "Pete" Vines will be the keynote speaker. A brief business meeting will follow the speaker and will end the 1996 ASA Convention.

The Dallas Chapter cordially invites you to join us March 28-30, 1996. Convenient transportation is available from Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport as well as Love Field (in Dallas). For a free 272-page Texas Travel Guide which will help you plan additional activities by motor vehicle, call 1-800-452-9292. Texas weather, generally quite pleasant in the spring, is characterized by spectacular temperature drops and sudden storms. You may need a raincoat and sweater. We look forward to a spectacular spring, 1996, and hope that you can join us for the seasonal color and social gathering.

Plan to Attend the Annual Meeting and Convention March 28-30, 1996 Dallas, Texas

Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station

Richard T. West
Columbia, Maryland
William C. Miller III
Bethesda, Maryland

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's old Plant Introduction Station (also called Plant Introduction Garden) is located at Glenn Dale, Maryland, about 16 miles northeast of Washington, D.C. This 70-acre facility was once a major focus in the U.S.D.A. program to locate and acquire new plant material from around the world. Today, the facility houses a part of the National Germplasm Resource Laboratory (NGRL) Quarantine Office, which has the primary responsibility of testing imported plants for the presence of plant pests, including viruses and virus-like organisms (1). It also houses elements of the U.S. National Arboretum.

During the 1930's and 1940's, Benjamin Y. Morrison directed the massive hybridizing program at the Station that resulted in the Glenn Dale azaleas, the 454 hybrids described in U.S.D.A.'s Agriculture Monograph 20 (2). He gathered together at Glenn Dale hundreds of different kinds of azaleas for the program and utilized both greenhouses and an outdoor planting in the azalea test area or azalea woods for hybridizing, growing, selection, and propagation for distribution. Many of the plantings in the azalea woods have remained untouched over the past 50 years or so.

Over the past three years, as a part of our efforts to re-establish the Glenn Dale azaleas, we have investigated the azalea plantings at Glenn Dale and their history. Preliminary surveys indicate that many, perhaps most, of the azaleas acquired for hybridizing—what can be called the Glenn Dale azalea parents—are still in place and can be identified. Some original Glenn Dale azaleas have been located, and a yet unknown additional number of selected but unnamed hybrids are believed also to be present. We recently reported on the status of our Glenn Dale research and preservation activities to the staff at the U.S. National Arboretum, and this article repeats much of what was in the report.

Background

The Glenn Dale Station consists of various office and maintenance buildings, greenhouses, fields and open lands, and the azalea woods area that comprises some five acres. Morrison described the woods in Monograph 20:

> The terrain on which the plants were set is gently rolling. The soil is light, well-drained, and quite dry in the higher parts, to uniformly moist in the lower parts. Typical acid-soil plants of the region grew naturally on the site, which was a rather open wood. Some trees were removed before the planting, but enough were left to provide a thin, high, deciduous shade. Before planting was undertaken, beds were prepared with a liberal application of commercial peat well mixed into the soil, so that an ideal site was given (3).

Hundreds of azaleas were acquired for the Glenn Dale program; some were purchased from large nurseries, such as the Fruitland Nursery of Augusta,

Georgia, and some came from U.S.D.A. staff, such as H. E. Allanson and Morrison himself. Most importantly, some azaleas came directly from agricultural explorers. For example, the *Rhododendron simsii* came from seed obtained by F. A. McClure, Bureau of Plant Industries, U.S.D.A., in Anhwei Province, China, in 1926 and sent to Glenn Dale. Other azaleas are identified in the records with the names of explorers such as R. K. Beattie who collected azalea cuttings in the Orient in 1928 for the Bureau.

Beginning in 1982, the Azalea Society of America (ASA) initiated a national project to restore and preserve the azalea woods, and to establish new collections of all recognized hybrid azalea groups (4). The intent was to clean up and maintain the old azalea plantings, and to add new azalea hybrid groups developed after the Glenn Dale program in order to create a protected, secure germplasm preservation garden for named and unnamed azalea cultivars. During the clean-up, it was hoped that the old azaleas could be correctly identified when in bloom. A permit for access to the facility and for the new planting was given to the ASA by the U.S.D.A. Leadership of the Glenn Dale Preservation Project was provided by Roger Brown, Frank White, August Dietz IV, and Bill Miller. Dr. Bruce Parliman, acting U.S.D.A. location leader at the Glenn Dale site, gave generous cooperation and encouragement. Although work in the first year involved many ASA members, the magnitude of the cleanup and maintenance task was such that it became obvious that the original intent could not be achieved. Historical research and some azalea plant rescue efforts were all that could be undertaken. Unfortunately, even accurate identification of the existing plants proved to be almost impossible. Despite the great reduction of planned activities, some progress has been made over the years, and Miller has made regular reports about Glenn Dale Preservation events in **THE AZALEAN** (5).

Concurrent with the azalea woods activity, Miller began a thorough search for records and other materials of the Glenn Dale hybridizing program at Glenn Dale at the Department of Agriculture and at the National Agricultural Library. Some records, such as the Bell number file, were still in use at Glenn Dale. Miller found and saved many items at Glenn Dale, made copies of everything found, and deposited the originals in boxes in the offices at the Station. Although not large in number, these records have proven invaluable in the work reported here.

Activities through the remainder of the 1980's and early 1990's were mostly basic maintenance of the paths into the woods area and some examination of individual azaleas. An exception was the research of ASA member Ed Rothe, who became interested in a planting of Ghent azaleas in the woods, and undertook a restoration and identification of the collection (6). Miller's Glenn Dale record research resulted in a series of articles about the Glenn Dale azaleas (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). His sharing copies of the Glenn Dale records with West resulted in more articles about the Glenn Dales (13, 14, 15, 16), and led to the collaborative Glenn Dale azalea research activity that has resulted in this report.

In the spring of 1993, Miller brought West to Glenn Dale to see an azalea planting in the woods which he thought might be the Glenn Dale hybrid B.32140, the source of 'Cinderella' and 'Satrap'. (It was originally noticed by Roger Brown for another reason.) Unexpectedly, a metal identification tag found at a nearby azalea had on it the Plant Introduction number for 'Alexandria', a lost Glenn Dale hybrid which supposedly was never distributed. Using inventories of azaleas in propagation from the early 1940's and a planting list for Plot 9 (which was the woods area in question), we found that we could verify both the location and the identity of B.32140, and what is perhaps the only extant plant of 'Alexandria'. We realized the azaleas were still where they were originally planted; that is, they had remained untouched over the years even though other azaleas in the plot had been removed. This startling discovery caused us to reconsider our beliefs about the azaleas at Glenn Dale, to re-examine the historical records from a new perspective, and to initiate the surveys of the woods and related research that are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Description of Activities

Before 1993, we generally believed that the azaleas growing in the woods at Glenn Dale could not be identified. Almost no identification tags had been found. There were no row markers or anything else to delineate the planting or bed arrangements. There were no planting maps, and we had no records that indicated the current contents of the woods. The woods appeared to be just a mass of azaleas—a mixture of parent plants and Glenn Dale hybrids—that were the unidentifiable relic of the Glenn Dale azalea program.

The experience with B.32140 and 'Alexandria' in Plot 9 implied we didn't need current documentation to determine the contents of the woods, because we could directly relate historical records to the actual azalea plants in the ground. We hypothesized that the old records would enable us to reconstruct the original plantings from which we might be able to create current maps for the whole woods. Once existing azaleas were identified, histories and descriptions could be obtained from the information in the records.

Azalea Woods Survey

Utilizing a crude, 1930's hand-drawn diagram of the planting arrangement in the azalea woods discovered by Miller in an old file box and a later professionally drawn map

of the Glenn Dale Station, a tentative map has been constructed (Figure 1, page 86). It has plots of various shapes and sizes, and, from the diagram, the important placement of Row 1, Plant 1 is given for each plot as well as the direction of the planting in the row. Inventories of azaleas planted in the plots in 1937 and 1939, plus various other inventory and planting lists of the 1930's and 1940's, have been used to develop a tentative contents list. Some plots held only Glenn Dale parent plants ("in permanent location," as one inventory stated), some only Glenn Dale hybrids, some a mixture of parents and hybrids, and a few contain azaleas that were collected, but not used in the Glenn Dale program.

Surveys were conducted in 1994 and 1995 to test whether the map and contents list were valid and usable. Based on a random sampling of azaleas in the list, it was found that Plots 1 and 3, both locations of Glenn Dale parent plants, still contained most of the listed plants, although some azalea loss was apparent. Visual inspection of other plots suggested the likelihood that they, too, retained much of the original planting, while Plot 20, and perhaps Plot 16, which contained the majority of Glenn Dale hybrids, were found to be mostly empty of original azaleas and/or replanted with post-Glenn Dale azalea projects. From these surveys, our working hypothesis is that the great majority of Glenn Dale parent azaleas can be located, as can be some number of Glenn Dale hybrids.

Glenn Dale Records

Despite the historical research that has been undertaken and reported already, many key questions about the Glenn Dale program remain unanswered or the answers that have been given are suspect. For one example, we want to confirm the often-cited conclusion of Roy Magruder that ten of the 454 named Glenn Dales were never distributed. Our own partial study has suggested

The Glenn Dale Hybrid identified by the number B.32140 from which 'Cinderella' and 'Satrap' were asexually propagated.

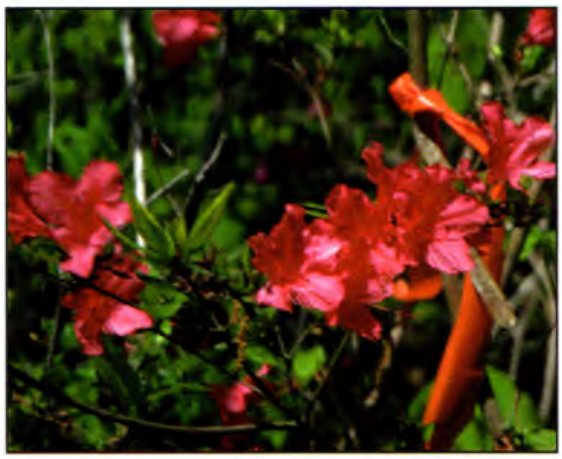
different azaleas may not have been distributed, and we're not sure who received the plants distributed.

More old records were found recently at Glenn Dale, including Plant Introduction Garden (P.I.G.) cards for acquisitions, plant inventory books, filled order receipts, general rhododendron records, and photographic negatives. With the assistance of NGRL Research Leader, Dr. Allan Stoner, and Dr. Parliman, the records had been set aside temporarily in a building on the property. Before the records could be examined thoroughly, catalogued and housed in a permanent location, an arsonist destroyed the building and all of the contents in May of 1995 We fear that what had been set aside in the building is not available elsewhere. This tragic event shows how frail historical records can be and the importance of acting in a timely fashion to preserve important materials of the past.

Original Glenn Dale Azaleas

We had always hoped to find original Glenn Dale azaleas at the Station, but it did not really happen until 1993 in Plot 9. Miller had found earlier handwritten maps showing the general location of some thirty named Glenn Dales transplanted to permanent positions, July 12, 1951, in the Plot 20 area near the path circle. We believed there was some intent to have a permanent display of Glenn Dales in the woods, but there was nothing that looked like

Glenn Dale hybrid 'Grenadier'



'Nerissa', a Glenn Dale hybrid much like 'Demure'.

a display planting, nor was there any information about its existence. We weren't even sure the proposed transplanting had ever begun.

From our experience with Plot 9, we now realize that other hand drawings show the approximate location of a few named Glenn Dales where they were originally set out in Plot 20 and presumably still remain, even though the plot was partially cleared after the Glenn Dale program for later azalea work. Additionally, another drawing identifies some Glenn Dales planted near the office complex. Preliminary searching in 1994 had located four Glenn Dales at the circle in addition to the 'Alexandria' found in Plot 9: 'Demure', 'Fanfare', 'Grenadier', and 'Nerissa'. In the spring of 1995, 'Allure', 'Concordia', and 'Red Hussar' were found also in the circle area. In addition to Plot 20, it may be that named Glenn Dales still remain in the other plots where they were originally planted.

Condition of the Azalea Woods

In the mid-1980's, the gypsy moth infested the old oaks in the azalea woods and killed most of them. The resulting loss of canopy has allowed significant weed growth in many of the plots. Survey work and searching for Glenn Dale azaleas has been greatly hampered by the difficulty of movement in the woods area because of vines and thickets. What Glenn Dales and other azaleas still exist are threatened by the weed overgrowth. Even more than before, the problems of cleanup and maintenance loom large in any consideration of future activities. Our experience last year was that it took half of a planned work day just to provide access to the plots and work sites.

Discussion

The azalea woods area at the Glenn Dale Station represents a unique and highly valuable azalea collection--it holds the results of plant germplasm collecting over seventy-five years as well as the hybridizing work conducted at Glenn Dale. Records and historical information can be used to determine plot boundaries and contents, and to locate individual plants. Propagations from the woods can help in the development of complete collections of the Glenn Dale azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum and at other sites, as well as providing clones of historic and important azaleas assembled for the Glenn Dale hybridizing project. Our Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project, for example, seeks to establish complete collections of the Glenn Dales at eleven other sites in the U.S. Many of the azaleas said to be at the Station have not yet been found at the Ten Oaks azalea arboretum (17, 18). We understand that Morrison did propagate many of the Glenn Dale parent azaleas for the National Arboretum collections, but we don't know what is still there.

The original objective of the Azalea Society's Preservation Project to maintain the woods collection and create a protected garden for new azaleas was wonderful, but, as before, there is not enough volunteer manpower today to make it work. Indeed, just the small amount of historical research, survey and site work we did last year for this report was almost too much for two individuals. Outside of very limited Glenn Dale azalea searching and propagation, and perhaps some historical record research, we cannot see much more being done in the present circumstances, despite the importance of the existing azalea population.

We have reported our research at Glenn Dale to staff at the National Arboretum who are now assuming greater responsibility for the Station (19). At the conclusion of the report, we itemized a short list of activities that required decisions, including provision of azalea cuttings from Glenn Dale, and maintenance of the woods. For now, Arboretum staff have approved continued access to the Glenn Dale Station in the manner that has been used over the years. Even though they are short-staffed, we hope personnel at Glenn Dale can provide some minimum maintenance of the azalea woods pathways and plots, and perhaps assist in propagation of original Glenn Dales. At the least, we trust permission will be given to take cuttings for the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project activity.

A much more difficult question to answer is what is to be done about the identification, preservation and propagation of the unique collection of Glenn Dale parent plants and the other azaleas in the woods. Some of this material may not be represented at the National Arboretum, or anywhere else in the United States for that matter. Unfortunately, doing nothing continues to subject the azaleas to damage and destruction because of canopy loss and weed competition. They have survived with minimum attention so far, but we fear the rate of loss may increase as the plants are more stressed than they were originally.

Conclusion

We look forward to continuing azalea research and development at the Glenn Dale Station, and to working with Arboretum staff in seeing what can be done to preserve and maintain this important and unique historic site. We are hopeful that some mechanisms of assistance can be identified to at least deal with the more immediate and pressing problems.

Acknowledgment

We wish to acknowledge the long-time cooperation and encouragement of NGRL Glenn Dale staff members Drs. Bruce Parliman and Howard Waterworth, and Ms. Deborah Leighton.

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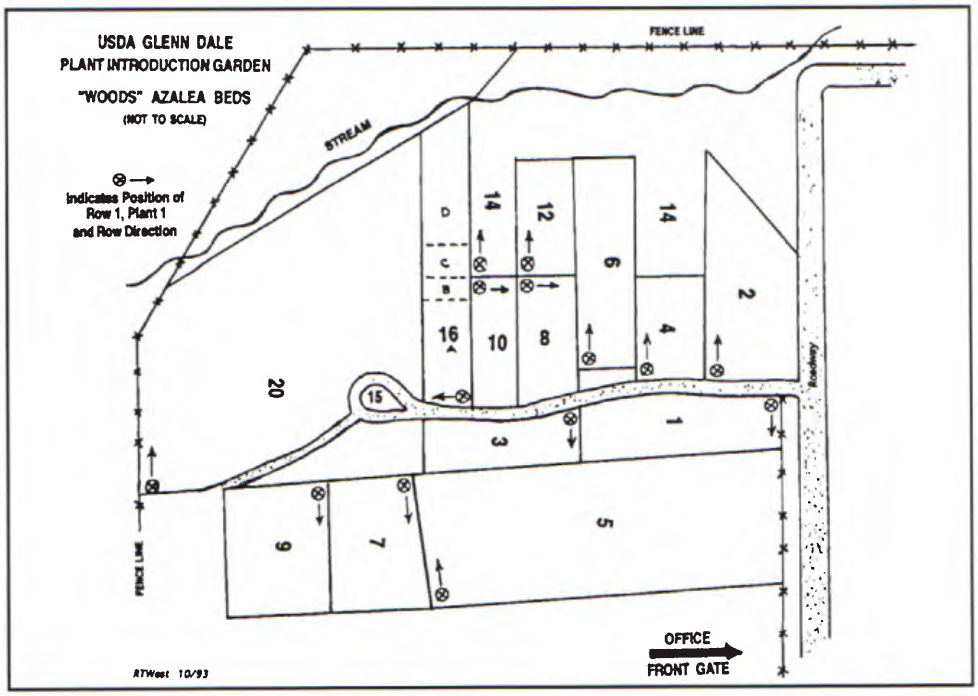

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Photographs are by R. T. West.

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TO ROGUE OR NOT TO ROGUE . . .

A Colloquium

This article shares with readers of **THE AZALEAN** a summary of discussions held over the past few years. The participants consider that propagation and distribution of plant material under cultivar names when such material is not true to name is—at a minimum—a disservice to the horticultural community. **Steve Brainerd** has had to deal with problems that this poses for the landscape architect in implementing plans and meeting clients' expectations. **Mal Clark**, not only through long-time study of azaleas but also from the experience of operating a nursery with a wide range of cultivars has provided unique perspective on the issue. **Maarten van der Giessen** contributes comments on the production and marketing problems that affect the large commercial grower's ability to rogue. Aside from a general proclivity for nitpicking, **Don Voss** has confronted the question of what is an acceptable range of variation in a cultivar, both in preparing the registration applications for many of the Robin Hill azalea names and in his volunteer work in the National Arboretum herbarium. **Dick West's** analysis of data from B. Y. Morrison's records at Glenn Dale and his critical study of original Morrison plants at the Ten Oaks Nursery give him special expertise on the occurence of variation in the Glenn Dale hybrids.

Basic Concepts

One meaning of the verb **to** rogue is, specifically in plant breeding, to remove systematically all nontypical or defective plants. In the context of this article, "nontypical" refers to plants that are propagated from a cultivar but differ in their characteristics (color patterning of flowers, for example) from the those embraced by the authoritative description of the cultivar. According to the Cultivated Code (1980): "Individuals propagated from a distinguishable bud mutation form a cultivar distinct from the parent plant." Such a distinct individual should be rogued (removed from the group of plants identified as belonging to the parent cultivar). It may be given a new cultivar name if it has unusual horticultural merit, may be used unnamed in ornamental plantings, or may be destroyed. In no circumstance should it be labeled with the cultivar name of the parent plant.

Why Rogue?

We start from the premise that plants to be sold, traded, exchanged, or donated as a given cultivar should be true to name. For nearly all woody plants, vegetative propagation (rooting of cuttings, layering, tissue culture, etc.) is necessary to reproduce a cultivar. Unfortunately, use of these techniques does not always yield the desired result. Errors in propagation can occur in many ways, including use of a stock plant that is not true to name, taking of cuttings from sporting branches (or from the intruding branch of an adjacent plant!), and mishaps in handling cuttings. Careful, methodical procedures in propagation may reduce the chance of error, but roguing still may be necessary to keep cultivar stock true to name. Most azalea enthusiasts can recite a litany of horror stories of someone's failure to do so. A favorite example is a handsome plant with large yellowish pink flowers that was labeled 'La Belle Helene', a cultivar with flowers that are matte white with a broad margin of strong purplish red.

Roguing requires not only human effort but also availability of indicative growth on the plants. When liners are sold, the propagator may never see a flower. This said, the fact remains that the grower has an obligation to his customers entailing due care. Cutting out or tagging sports on stock plants should reduce chances of propagating undesirable material. Checking the characteristics of plants purchased or received in exchanges or auctions against authoritative descriptions for the labeled cultivar names would prevent errors of the sort that have been observed in nurseries and private gardens alike. When plants are grown to the flowering stage prior to sale or exchange, the roguing of plants that are not true to name should be considered an imperative. Striving to ensure that plant material is true to name should be a source of pride as well as a moral obligation.

Dealing with Variation

Most gardeners who have progressed beyond 'Hinode giri' or 'Snow' will have seen azaleas that present variation in the color patterning of their flowers. Those who have 'Festive' (possibly labeled as 'Geisha') will sometimes find a self-colored flower among the white flowers variously flecked or striped with purplish red. As spring progresses, new shoots emerge from the terminal bud cluster that produced the self-colored flower. If these shoots are included in a batch of cuttings taken for propagation, the new plants will tend to bear flowers of solid purplish red, not the white-with-markings pattern characterizing 'Festive' according to the description provided by its originator, B. Y. Morrison: ". . .pure white with no blotch, freely sanded and occasionally striped with dull rose. . ." (3). The plants with solid purplish-red flowers are "a cultivar distinct from the parent plant" and should be rogued.

Variation within a cultivar presents unwelcome complications. Vegetative propagation is generally said to yield "carbon copies" (should this now be "Xerox copies"?) of a stock plant. In some genera, exceptions to this rule are rare. Not so in azaleas, many of which are the result of complex hybridity. Bud mutation is a frequent occurrence in some groups of azaleas, leading to the production of a cultivar distinct from the parent plant. The purpose of cultivar propagation is to increase the number of plants having the characteristics of the selected cultivar. But since the authoritative description of a cultivar may include a range in the color patterning or other characteristics of the named plant, the question may become one of degree—how distinct?

Lack of distinctness between a stock plant and plants propagated therefrom is a prime criterion for application of the cultivar name to propagated material. In describing a cultivar for publication and registration of the name, one should decide upon and clearly state the degree of variation in color pattern of flowers, foliage characteristics, and growth habit acceptable for application of the cultivar name; also, the geographic range where these were observed. Ideally, this should be done after adequate testing prior to naming of the cultivar. If the originator delays registration for too long, the circumscription may have to be broadened somewhat to take into account the propagation and distribution of mutations by others who have had access to cuttings or liners distributed for testing. This was a consideration in writing the registration descriptions for several of the Robin Hill azaleas.

In the introduction to Monograph 20, Morrison included a section on "Judging Flowers." He discussed the appearance and human impact of various flower colors and color patterns when viewed at close range and at a distance in the landscape. Clearly he considered these matters when selecting plants for naming and when selecting the names and providing descriptions. Unfortunately, he did not address sporting beyond noting the proclivity of certain crosses to produce variant color patterns. Thus we cannot be sure of his motives in recommending that sports be removed from a number of cultivars—indeed, we do not know whether these recommendations followed a specific rationale.

For certain cultivars (Figure 1), Morrison may have considered the described variations as consistent with his idealized visualization of those cultivars. For others (Figure 2), he appears to have considered the sports inconsistent with that visualization. Or he may have been concerned that in the latter cases the sports would become the dominant pattern, so that the plant would no longer match its published description. Alternatively, given his extensive experience in growing and propagating azaleas, Morrison may have been concerned primarily with keeping stock plants free of growth that could result in propagated plants not being true to name.

Figure 1. Morrison's Notation of Sporting Without Recommendation For Excision

'Alight'	may throw striped sports
'Cinderella'	may give branch sports of brilliant solid red [cf. 'Satrap']
'Cocktail'	some sports
'Consolation'	may give occasional Light Phlox Purple sport with light center
'Delight'	rare branch sports . . .
'Galaxy'	rare branch sports . . .
'Martha Hitchcock'	strongly growing shoots produce self-colored flowers; do not remove, as laterals give flowers with correct pattern thereafter
'Progress'	some variation toward white at center
'Satrap'	may give branch sports of brilliant solid red
'Scherzo'	occasional branch sport with pale violet center and darker margin
'Valentine'	this clone is propagated from a branch sport of the original seedling
'Vespers'	only an occasional flower with Mallow Purple stripes
'Welcome'	occasional sports . . . show whitish centers

One type of variation in azalea color patterning appears to be different from what is commonly understood as sporting. Possibly related to the progression of weather from time of bud formation to time of bloom, this condition affects the appearance of a number of cultivars that vary from nearly self with a small white center to white with a colored margin. 'Welcome', for example, in some years is pink with a small white throat and in other

Figure 2. Morrison's Recommendations for Excision of Sporting Branches from Glenn Dale Azaleas

'Altair'	cut out all branches that sport to purple flowers
'Boldface'	cut out all branch sports reverting to solid color
'Cadenza'	self-colored blooms ... at times with white center ... should be cut out
'Chum'	shoots with red flowers ... should be cut out
'Cinnabar'	shoots with red flowers ... should be cut out
'Dowager'	cut out all shoots showing self-colored magenta flowers
'Egoist'	cut out any branch sports of purple
'Fantasy'	occasional red-flowering branch should be cut out
'Fawn'	cut out all branch sports with self-pink flowers
'Geisha'	all self-colored purple branches should be removed
'Harlequin'	cut out any branches showing self-purple flowers
'Helen Gunning'	cut out all branches with self-colored flowers
'Herald'	cut out all sports
'Memento'	cut out all self-colored shoots
'Moira'	cut out branch sports of solid red
'Moonstone'	colored branch sports ... should be removed
'Oriflamme'	occasional branch sports of pure white and a few of pale purple ... should be cut out
'Paprika'	cut out all branches that show solid red flowers
'Picotee'	cut out all self-colored sports
'Pied Piper'	branch sports of pure deep rose ... should be removed
'Pinocchio'	cut out any branches producing self-red flowers
'Pinto'	cut out self-red sports
'Puck'	cut out branches with white flowers
'Shimmer'	cut out all branches with self rose-colored flowers
'Silver Mist'	Magenta self sports ... should be cut away
'Sonata'	occasional branches of self-purple flowers ... should be cut out
'Susannah'	cut out all branches with solid-pink flowers
'Swagger'	cut out all shoots ... with flowers of solid red
'Vestal'	There is some tendency toward the production of petaloid stamens, so the plants must be watched for semidouble or double sports

years appears as a white flower with a pink edge. After an especially mild winter in Vienna, Virginia, all blooms on a plant of 'Fawn' were a solid purplish pink instead of white with a purplish pink margin; the plant had bloomed reliably with the margined flower for nearly 20 years and resumed this pattern following the one year of aberrant behavior. More frequent occurrence of the same type of variation has been observed in Robin Hill 'George Harding', 'Blue Tip', and 'Red Tip'.

A question may arise as to whether the characteristics described by the originator of a clone reflect the plant's "basic" form or a mutation. The plant of 'Scherzo' at Ten Oaks displays almost entirely the pattern described by Morrison as a sport in Monograph 20. It may be that the sport has "taken over" the plant, but it is also possible that the white-with-stripes color form selected by Morrison was—with respect to the plant's "internals"—the sport, and the margined flower was the basic or fundamental form. Regardless of a plant's inherent tendency to produce mainly flowers of one color pattern or another, the propagator should restrict the taking of cuttings to branches that bore only flowers conforming to the authoritative description of the cultivar.

Plant parentage may be a factor in assessing the nature of variability and sporting. Many of the Glenn Dale azaleas that have 'Vittatum' as a parent appear to follow the sporting rules set forth by Morrison, and it may be correct to say "cut out solid flowers" lest they dominate the plant in time. For plants with Satsuki parentage, however, variability tends to be the norm, and it may be that solid flowers do not threaten to take over. These possibilities, together with other factors affecting variability, are speculative at this time. We encourage interested azalea fanciers to report observations and experimentation bearing on the issue of sporting (see the following article).

In addition to distinctions in flower color and patterning, other characteristics detailed in the authoritative description of the cultivar set limits to the variation acceptable for application of that name. Admittedly there may be differences in growth habit related to climate or other cultural conditions. Basically, though, there should be a decent correspondence between

the description of a cultivar and its performance. For example, a conifer described as prostrate should not have the habit of *Juniperus* 'Skyrocket'. In some genera, the location on a stock plant from which cuttings are taken is said to influence the habit of the propagated plants, requiring that special care be exercised in the selection of cuttings. Unacceptable variation relating to habit is, however, much more difficult to identify in a small plant than is variation in floral characteristics. Where roguing is essentially foreclosed by this consideration, the greatest care must be exercised in the selection and handling of cuttings.

The Landscape Designer's Concerns

Prediction of flower color and other plant characteristics is essential in landscape design. The ability to predict accurately brings order. Inability to predict accurately brings confusion and often displeasure.

A landscape designer relies on knowledge of the known characteristics of a plant to visualize its impact in a landscape plan. Plant habit, flower color and form, leaf color (summer and autumn) and texture—all are important in the plan. These characteristics combine to make certain cultivars uniquely appropriate to implementation of the plan. Therefore, the landscape designer relies on specification of plants by cultivar name to assure proper execution of the plan.

A critical concern of the landscape designer is the "color value" of the flower (i.e., its impact on the observer). This is important in placing the plant in context with the overall design. High color value excites human emotion, creates an effective focal point, and shortens the perceived distance from the viewer to the colored object. Low color value calms human emotion, frames a focal point, and lengthens the perceived distance from the viewer to the colored object. A brightly colored plant errantly placed because of a grower's inattention to roguing can result in designer disapproval and client rejection.

Landscape designers are very aware of the need to safeguard a client's trust and the importance of effective visual and verbal communication. When working with a demanding client whose knowledge of plant material is poor, a good designer will make the extra effort to ensure that the client understands the "look" that is being purchased and the reasons for selecting certain cultivars. An azalea whose flower color does not match the description of the cultivar, the understanding of the designer and client, or perhaps serve to complement the color of brick on the house generally draws an unfavorable reaction. The designer's credibility is damaged and the client's trust is jeopardized.

The unfavorable impact on the landscaper of returning to a job site to replace rejected plants can be considerable. Replacement using the same size plants as those originally installed may not be adequate to match the growth in the bed, leading to client disfavor. The labor cost of returning to the job site and replacing plants most certainly does not help the bottom line. It is often difficult to ship economically the small number of plants required as replacements when these are not available in the installer's inventory. The immediate problems are probably dwarfed by long-term customer dissatisfaction, which has adverse consequences for business referrals and business reputation.

Nurserymen and Roguing

Understandably, commercial nurserymen have reservations about roguing—it is a labor-intensive, cost-raising task. Nurserymen who reject responsibility for marketing only plants that are true to name will have little difficulty in finding reasons not to rogue, but they may find this position counterproductive in the face of increasing competition. For the nurseryman striving to produce and sell true-to-name cultivars, cost necessarily remains a constraint; but substantial progress toward the goal may be achieved with implementation of some relatively minor changes in practice. Verifying the identification of stock plants, removing branch sports from them, and added care in taking cuttings may be possible with only a minor increase in labor cost. When liners are being produced and sold before flowering, full verification of identity is impossible, but the probability of error can be reduced materially by the aforementioned steps.

Once container stock is grown to the flowering stage, identification can be made. At that stage, however, plants exhibiting deviations from the authoritative description of a cultivar present a real dilemma. The substantial direct and overhead costs incurred in propagation, containers, growing medium, watering and other maintenance will then starkly confront the grower's interest in selling true-to-name cultivars. In many cases, the immediate impact on the bottom line of the profit and loss statement will determine the outcome. Abstractions such as the principles of the Cultivated Code, "true to name," "moral obligation," and even "good will" may be considered briefly (if at all), but in many cases a sporting or otherwise misidentified plant is likely to be shipped. In the short term, at least, this may be a sound decision because the bulk of consumers are not discriminating. The loss of a few knowledgeable buyers will have little effect on the bottom line so long as the mass market continues to buy whatever is offered.

Some growers (from specialist nurseries to large producers) do care about marketing plants that are true to name and attempt to use care in the various steps from propagation to the labeling of marketable plants. For groups of azaleas that are subject to variation, some take the additional

step of informing buyers of the proper description of cultivars (which should include variation recognized as acceptable in the authoritative description of the cultivar)and describe deviations that may occur in the plants they supply. The buyer is then in a better position to assess the risk of purchasing the listed plants. For cultivars in groups that sport promiscuously, this approach is welcome—though short of what is desired by the buyer (whether landscape architect, collector, or knowledgeable home gardener).

The problems of maintaining stock true-to-name and dealing with variability in azaleas are especially difficult for the nurseryman serving a mass market. For example, mostlarge nurseries cannot handle variability. They expect a 'Hinode giri' to have the common decency to remain a 'Hinode giri' and produce respectable Hino progeny. In the past thirty years only relatively genetically stable hybrids have been mass-produced commercially.

In the mass-production environment, much of what has been suggested above as ways of keeping output true-to-name cannot be implemented economically. The bread and butter of the azalea industry is the trade gallon container. Typically, these are potted in the early spring and sold the following spring. Cuttings are taken during the first summer for the following year's crop. The propagation cycle involves only vegetative stages. ***From cutting to finished product, the nurseryman may never see the plant in bloom.*** The blooming period, moreover, coincides with the shipping season. In the spring this can mean as many as twenty to thirty thousand azaleas per employee must be graded. pulled, tagged, and shipped in a three- to four-week period. No one has the requisite skilled labor to excise, rogue, or tag sports at that time.

Nonetheless, when plants are sold as cultivars, the buyer deserves true-to-name plants. This calls for the grower to rogue—eliminating misidentified stock plants, liners (sometimes foliage or growth habit may indicate errors), and container or field-grown stock at the flowering stage.

The message to readers is:

Buyers—you must recognize that price and quality are often positively correlated.

Sellers—you must recognize that buyers (who are becoming more knowledgable and selective) expect that plants tagged with cultivar names should be true-to-name.

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CULTURAL NOTE

Ovulinia Petal Blight

It is frequently mentioned that *Ovulinia* might not spread outside the milder winter areas of the USA; i.e., north of, say, New Jersey. Let's put that to rest. The Gartrells, Robin Hills, and *nakaharae* and its hybrids along with a few other hybrids, especially 'Polar Bear', *R. camtschaticum* are plagued here [Halifax, Nova Scotia]. With no signs of it this year (due to an attempt at control) the sclerotia still appeared on a few plants. The problem starts after June 12. Let's get it straight--*Ovulinia* is perfectly cold hardy.

Contributed by John Weagle

Help Wanted: Participate in Azalea-Sporting Research

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Here is an opportunity for you to be involved in important azalea research. We don't know of previous participatory research of this kind by Azalea Society members. But if it works, it might lead to other studies and expand our knowledge of azaleas. Specifically, we seek a better understanding of sporting in azaleas. (A sport is mutant growth that has characteristics outside the range recognized as defining a cultivar or a botanical taxon.) In this study we propose to concentrate on flower sports.

What, exactly, is an azalea flower sport, and how do sports occur? Questions frequently arise about sports and sporting, such as how does one know if an odd flower is a sport, and what is known about year-to-year variation in flower color patterning. We have found little published information about azalea sports, but a few experienced individuals have provided anecdotal data that seem to match the rather large amount of mostly undocumented common knowledge. We also have heard what might be myths about sporting; one example is the belief that sports, if not removed, will "take over" an azalea and become the dominant flower (we have thus far not found this to be true). These bits and pieces of data are all interesting, but not very useful in answering with confidence the questions posed.

What is needed is a large amount of systematically gathered information about sports and sporting, and what better way to do it than to invite you, members of the Azalea Society, to participate in a program of research. As you will see in the following paragraphs, **what is involved is not difficult.** You can choose what to do, and your contributions will provide valuable information. The more who join in the research, the more data will be available for consideration, and we may finally be able to develop some consensus about sporting.

Definitions and Discussion

For this presentation, we are taking our examples from the Glenn Dale azaleas with which we are especially familiar, but the issues relate to any cultivar. B. Y. Morrison, who directed the development of the Glenn Dales, gave some directives about sports in the descriptions of the individual cultivars in U.S.D.A. Monograph 20, The Glenn Dale Azaleas (1). In general, Morrison directed that sporting branches should be removed, and we think he probably did so to assure only the correct flower was propagated. Morrison appears to have believed, as most do, that you get what you cut: that what is cut and propagated remains stable, so if one propagates from a branch bearing a solid-color flower, only solid-color flowers will be produced regardless of the parent plant. However, it may also (or perhaps only) be because he wanted sports removed to maintain a certain plant appearance; that is, too much sporting of solid-red flowers might change the effect from a distance for an azalea such as 'Festive' which is stated as appearing flesh white when so viewed.

Morrison summarized some of his experience from the Glenn Dale work in a brief statement and drawing entitled "Pattern of Sporting". He concluded that most (or all?) sporting came from an azalea flower that was a white with colored stripes, and from it came the solid white, solid color, color-bordered, and white-bordered flower sports (2). He suggested that some sport forms did not produce further sports, or were comparatively stable.

A sporting flower is one which differs from that described in the authoritative publication of the cultivar name. For example, a sport would be a solid-color flower appearing on an azalea that is described as having white flowers with red stripes. The flower identified in the description may not eventually be the dominant flower of the azalea. It would indeed be desirable if those naming cultivars were to test them thoroughly to assure that there is a genetic basis for the described flower being the most typical. We are, however, bound by the rules of the Cultivated Code that tie use of a cultivar name to the published description.

For this research we define bud sports as terminal bud clusters that have produced variant as well a "normal" flowers, and branch sports as branches on which *all* of the flowers vary from the normal. Our experience suggests there may be four categories of azaleas with regard to sports: (1) a stable cultivar which never sports, (2) a cultivar which has occasional or infrequent sports, (3) a variable cultivar which usually produces three or four different flower patterns, and (4) a changeable cultivar that may completely change flower appearance year to year. Examples of a stable cultivar are 'Treasure' (white) and 'Aphrodite' (pink); of an occasional-sporting cultivar, 'Cocktail' (white with red stripes and some sports); of a variable cultivar, 'Shimmer' (white with rose sanding, flakes and stripes, and solid-color sports); and of a changeable cultivar, 'Welcome' which, in our experience, has been an all pink-bordered flower one year and a solid-pink flower the next year.

The point of categorizing 'Shimmer' as variable is to test whether the "normal" flower of this cultivar (and some others like it) is really three or four different flower appearances, including solid colors, and, therefore, there is really no sport flower despite the description. For bordered flowers like 'Welcome' (and maybe others), the wholesale change of flower is probably not any form of sporting and is likely caused by environmental factors not yet understood. We recognize that these four categories may not be the most appropriate, or there may be other categories; the research results will tell us.

By the way, we would like to hear from anyone who knows of published studies of azalea sporting, or who has already compiled information. It also seems likely that there have been some studies on plant genetics that would be relevant, and we would like to know about them as well. We would like also to hear from experienced azalea growers who might care to express their opinions.

Research Designs

We propose three studies: two of which are essentially observation, and one which involves propagation of cuttings. To participate, you will need to have access to azaleas such that you can observe their flowering over two or more years and be able to tag them as needed. (If needed, we direct your attention to the various advertisers in **THE AZALEAN** as a possible source of larger Glenn Dales and other azaleas that can be used in this research.)

To begin, create a record for each azalea under study that includes the name, approximate age, the authoritative description of the flowers (which may or may not include sporting), and its location. If possible, select azaleas with different kinds of flowers: stripes, borders, etc. Then choose one or more of the following studies, and remember you don't have to do everything suggested to participate:

Study 1 - Observation to determine the behavior of sports

Observe and record appearance and location of bud and branch sports; tag some to assure precision of location. Also, tag some branches that have all normal flowers. (Avoid using yarn or other material that is likely to end up in a bird's nest.) Note if one or more bud sports subsequently appear on a branch that previously had only normal flowers, or if the opposite is true. Determine and record the location of sporting from year to year. Have bud sports produced further sports or has flowering reverted to the "normal" pattern? See if the tagged normal-flower branch is still all normal flowers.

The kinds of questions to be answered with this study: what kinds of sports occur on what kinds of azalea; what is the proportion of sports to normal flowers, and does it change; do new shoots growing from the locations that produce sports also produce sport flowers; or do bud sports come and go at random? A benefit from this knowledge would be that normal branches, *if* they don't change, need to be marked only once to assure proper cuttings for many years in the future.

Study 2 - Observation of the persistence of sporting after the removal of sports

Observe and record the appearance and location of bud and branch sports; tag some locations. Note the overall ratio of sports to normal flowers. Remove (cut-out) all shoots bearing bud sports, or all sport branches, or both. The following year, determine the return, if any, of bud sports, branch sports, or both, and whether the return is in the same locations. (For experimental purposes if one would be willing to risk it, it would be interesting to reverse the removal by cutting-out all of the normal flowers and seeing if they return—and in what manner—the following year.)

The kinds of questions to be answered with this study: will the removal of sports decrease or even stop sporting; what happens if one kind of sport is removed; does the ratio of normal to sport flowers persist regardless of removals? One benefit from this study would be to know if, following removal of sports elsewhere, a normal branch then produces sports which, if it does, has negative implications for assuring cuttings of normal flowers.

Study 3 - Propagation to determine the stability and vitality of cuttings

Tag normal flowers and all kinds of sports for taking cuttings and propagation. If possible, cut highly variable azaleas such as 'Shimmer' and those with bordered flowers, such as 'Welcome' and 'Martha Hitchcock'. If possible, cut both infrequent sports and the normal flower as on an azalea like 'Vespers'. Carefully label cuttings as to what they are. Upon flowering, determine if the propagation flower is the same as what was cut, and, upon second flowering, see if it is still the same. (A variation of this study is to propagate sports that show petaloid stamens; such as 'Vestal' and 'Carrara', to see if semi-double or double ,flowers are produced and are stable.)

The kinds of questions to be answered with this study: is the "what you cut is what you get" rule of thumb an absolute truth for all azaleas, or do some kinds—say, highly variable—give variable-flowering propagations from any cutting; do propagations of bordered flowers always begin as solid flowers as suggested for some Glenn Dales borders such as 'Martha Hitchcock'; are infrequent sports stable and do normals always eventually produce the infrequent sports?. The obvious benefit of this study is to confirm the stability of various kinds of propagations.

Participants should carefully document and perhaps photograph for the record any very unusual sporting. We have heard those exceptional stories of solid white flowers suddenly appearing on 'Surprise' or some other fantastic flowering event, but there is little permanent evidence available for these stories.

Conclusion

We recognize the results from this research will take waiting for a year or two (perhaps that's why not much has been done on sporting), but it is the only way to gather the needed data. Everyone who participates by undertaking a study or studies and reporting results will receive credit in a future article about the results. When reporting, document what kind of study was done as well as the results. We are curious about how many of you might participate. Could you drop us a brief note if you are planning to do a study? Any questions and all correspondence should be addressed to Dick West, and thanks for your help (3).

References

(1) Morrison, B. Y. *The Glenn Dale Azaleas* Agriculture Monograph No. 20. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., October 1953.

(2) Evans, C. and Miller III, W. C. "Pattern of sporting". **THE AZALEAN**, 7(1), March 1985, 1-2.

(3) Dick's address is: Richard T. West, 5042 Ten Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

***Richard T. West** and **Donald H. Voss** are long-time members of the Azalea Society of America and are frequent contributors to **THE AZALEAN.** West is especially interested in the Glenn Dale azaleas. Voss has written about the Robin Hill azaleas and matters relating to description of azaleas.*

BEN MORRISON CHAPTER
Niki Baker, *President*

The Ben Morrison Chapter held its October meeting at Green Landing Nursery with a tour by Mrs. Maggie Slicker and a discussion of herbs and companion plants. During the brief business meeting, the possibility of holding an Azalea Show in 1996 was discussed, and the Christmas party was scheduled for December 3, 1995 at 4:00PM at member Deac Moore's home.

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER
Carol Allen, *President*

Ethyl Dutkey presented a very comprehensive program on azalea diseases at the June meeting. The members present showed a high level of expertise in the questions that were asked. Reports were given on the 1995 Convention and the Landon Show.

The cutting exchange and pot luck picnic was HOT, but FUN! A most congenial group met at Debby Emory's beautiful garden to sweat and party on July 15, 1995. As usual, the food was first rate and there was plenty of ice! The Koi pond looked very inviting at that temperature, but no one went in. Some very nice plant materials was exchanged and everyone enjoyed cool walks through the gardens. Thank you all who worked hard to make it work and thank you all who attended!

Bill Miller as auctioneer and Bill Johnson as organizer put together a fine auction on September 9, 1995. Jean Cox and Dottie Murphree collected over $950.00 for plant material sold. The plants were exquisite and a good time was had by all!

It is with profound sadness, that I report the passing of Mary Ann Thane. A charter member and an active participant in the annual show, Mary died on Monday, September 18, 1995 after a long illness. She will be greatly missed.

DALLAS CHAPTER
Jim Garrison, *President*

John Bracken was our speaker on September 26th and everyone seemed to really enjoy his interesting observations on growing azaleas in our area.

Also at the September meeting, names were placed in nomination for next year's officers. They include:

President: Peggy Kirkland
Vice President: Gene Westlake
Treasurer: Keith Johansson
Secretary: Scott Weddington

We will take the vote for officers at the October meeting.

Everything seems to be progressing smoothly for planning for the national convention here in Dallas next year (March 28-30, 1996). We continue to appreciate all the arrangements Peggy Kirkland and others have made and look forward to this exciting event for our city.

LOUISIANA CHAPTER
W. F. Bode, *Interim President*

The fall meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America was held recently at the LSU Experiment Station, Hammond, Louisiana. At this meeting, attended by members from the southeastern parishes of Louisiana and neighboring counties in Mississippi, plans were finalized for the Chapter's participation in the upcoming Fall Garden Festival to be held in New Orleans City Park, October 21 and 22.

This year's participation will consist of a presentation of colored slides of fall/off-season blooming azaleas with commentary by W. Larry Brown, Ph.D., and a display of blooming azaleas from local wholesale nurseries.

Also Mr. Robert J. Miravalle of Franklinton was elected Vice President to succeed W. F. Bode, who is serving as interim President.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
John Zottoli, *President*

The July meeting of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America was held on July 9, 1995 at the Pimmit Hills Regional Library, Falls Church, VA. This meeting was our annual azalea cutting exchange. There were abundant cuttings available, and all present had an opportunity to take quite a few home for rooting.

Announcement was made of an upcoming joint meeting of the area azalea and rhododendron societies on October 28 at the "Far East" Chinese restaurant in Rockville. The theme will be the Asian Influence.

As usual, excellent refreshments were available during the time people were choosing cuttings. Door prizes were awarded to lucky winners.

OCONEE CHAPTER
Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter met at the home of Allison Fuqua, June 10, 1995. Members began arriving around 9:00AM. Allison gave tours of his garden, identified plants and allowed members to take cuttings.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30AM by the President, David Butler. David reported on a telephone conversation from Steve Brainerd, President of the Azalea Society of America, who requested feedback of ideas from each of the chapters. Ralph

Bullard and Jim Thornton gave very favorable reports about the excellent speakers and tours at the Azalea Society of America Convention.

Allison Fuqua then demonstrated his techniques for rooting azaleas and led a round table of ideas from members.

David thanked Allison for this bonus plant clipping session and all 17 in attendance enjoyed a beautiful buffet luncheon provided by Allison.

On July 9, 1995, the Oconee Chapter met for a cutting party at the home of Patsy and Jim Thornton, with 17 members present.

The meeting was called to order by the President, David Butler. A stunning Georgia marble garden bench, donated by Mark Hill, was auctioned. Stormy Chappellar gave the winning bid. A door prize of the new 'Seattle White' azalea, donated by Jim Thornton, was won by Tom Anderson. Thank you Mark, Jim, and Stormy.

Jim Thornton gave a guided tour through his garden while members collected cuttings and information. The meeting closed with refreshments provided by the Throntons, and the swapping of cuttings provided by club members.

Dues Noticed Mailed

Dues notices were mailed to all members in November. Please send your dues in the envelope provided in a timely manner to ensure that you continue to receive **THE AZALEAN.**

Prompt return of your dues in the envelope means that the Membership Committee will not be required to send you a second dues notice (first class postage).

PRIZE FOR BEST ARTICLE IN THE AZALEAN—1995

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

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

As stated in the September 1990 issue, the best article each year will be selected by a poll of the membership. The prize will be announced and awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

A ballot for the prize for 1995 is on the wrapper of this issue. PLEASE VOTE. The prize for best article in **THE AZALEAN** will be awarded at the 1996 Convention and Annual Meeting. Please vote.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For Secretary: Bill McIntosh, *Churchville, Maryland.* Bill earned a B.S. from Virginia Tech and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, all in biology. He worked as an Associate Professor of Zoology at Ohio State University, and retired in 1986 after 24 years as a statistician for the U.S. Department of Defense. He currently serves the national society as Secretary. He is a member of Brookside Gardens Chapter.

For Treasurer: Robert T. Stelloh, *Darnestown, Maryland.* Bob has been an azalea enthusiast for more than 20 years and in recent years has been developing an extensive azalea and rhododendron collection in the woods around his home in Maryland. Bob retired a few years ago, from a career in Computer Programming, and is currently developing and marketing a computer program for garden information management. He is a member of Brookside Gardens Chapter.

For Director: Dr. Charles Owen, *Cedartown, Georgia.* DDS, University of Tennessee 1947. Retired 1989. He is a member Oconee Chapter. Interest in evergreen azaleas began in the 1960's, now a hybridizer of deciduous azaleas.

For Director: Stephen Schroeder, *Evansville, Indiana.* BS in agriculture, Murray State University. Operates Holly Hills Nursery in Evansville, Indiana. He is a member of Tri-State Chapter. Family introduced the Schroeder Azaleas, 1983 Bronze Medal Award from Great Rivers Chpater of ARS.

For Director: Robert E. (Buddy) Lee, *Independence, Louisiana.* BS in biology. Trauma nurse in Intensive Care Unit. Past president and member of the Louisiana Chapter. Served as host for the 1991 national convention. Past president of Louisisana Nurserymen's Association, District 3. Hybridizer of evergreen and deciduous azaleas.

The ballot for the election of officers and directors is on the wrapper of this issue. PLEASE VOTE.

Azalea Calendar 1996

January 15	Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements and chapter news) for the March issue of **THE AZALEAN**
February 4	Ben Morrison Chapter Meeting at the Visitor's Center/Fairview Library at 3:00PM
February 27	Dallas Chapter Meeting, Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM
March 28-30	ASA Annual Meeting and Convention, Dallas, Texas
April 16	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
May 6-11	ARS Annual Convention, Oban, Scotland
June 4	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
September 24	Dallas Chapter Meeting, Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM
October 22	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM

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TITLE INDEX VOLUME 17

TITLE	AUTHOR	PAGE
"Broyhill Walking Park"-A New Home for the Glenn Dales	Suddreth, Keith & Wanda	69
1995 Convention and Annual Meeting	Hobbs, Robert W.	52
1995 Convention Reminder		23
A New Gall Midge Pest Infesting Pinxterbloom Azalea Flowers....	Gagne, Raymond J.	37
ASA New Members		22
ASA New Members		43
ASA New Members		71
ASA New Members		96
Azalea Calendar		25
Azalea Calendar		44
Azalea Calendar		68
Azalea Calendar		96
Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station	West, Richard T. and Miller III, William C.	82
Ben Morrison Chapter News		24
Ben Morrison Chapter News		44
Ben Morrison Chapter News		72
Ben Morrison Chapter News		94
Brookside Gardens Chapter News		24
Brookside Gardens Chapter News		44
Brookside Gardens Chapter News		72
Brookside Gardens Chapter News		94
Construction of a "Cool Frame" for the Propagation of Native.....	Little, Parker L.	33
Correction of Descriptions for Glenn Dale Azaleas 'Alexandria',..	West, Richard T.	41
Dallas Chapter News		24
Dallas Chapter News		44
Dallas Chapter News		94
Flowers, Fungus, Bugs, and Worms	Miller III, William C.	20
Further Princess Azalea Introductions	Shanks, James B. & Adams Jr, Andrew N.	39
Glenn Dale Preservation Project—1995	Miller III, William C.	25
Glimpses of McCrillis Gardens and Brookside Gardens	Normandy, Phillip M.	57
Growing Evergreen Azaleas in the Great Plains	Pair, John C.	34
Help Wanted: Participate in Azalea Sporting Research	West, Richard T. & Voss, Donald	91
High Variability of Rhododendron calendulaceum...	Little, Parker L.	22
In Memory--Mrs. Allison Fuqua		25
In Praise of the Glenn Dale Azalea 'Dream'	Amason, Carl R.	32
Letter to the Editor	Bill McDavit	68
Louisiana Chapter News		94
Minutes of the ASA 1995 Annual Meeting		70
New Officers Elected		44
Nominations for Officers and Directors		95
Northern Virginia Chapter News		72
Northern Virginia Chapter News		94
Notice: Election of Officers 1995		2
Oconee Chapter News		24
Oconee Chapter News		44
Oconee Chapter News		72
Oconee Chapter News		94
Ovulina Petal Blight	Weagle, John	91
President's Letter	Brainerd, Steve	30
President's Letter	Brainerd, Steve	50
President's Letter	Brainerd, Steve	78
Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN**-1994		3
Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN**-1994		39
Report of the Nominating Committee		24
Report of the Nominating Committee		95
Report of the Public Information Committee	Miller III, William C.	44
Roundtable Discussion on **THE AZALEAN**	Hobbs, Robert W.	69
Summary of Registration Data for the Robin Hill Azaleas	Voss, Donald H.	4
The National Arboretum—A Four-Year Retrospective	Bullock, Barbara	65
The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the Glenn Dale Distribution Project	West, Richard T. & Miller III, William C.	53

TITLE INDEX VOLUME 17

TITLE	AUTHOR	PAGE
To Rogue or Not to Rogue... A Collquium		87
Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone And What Can Be Done About It?	Leddy, Paula M. Raupp, Michael J. Davidson, John A.	60

SUBJECT INDEX VOLUME 17

SUBJECT	TITLE	PAGE
Azalea Cultivars	"Broyhill Walking Park"-A New Home for the Glenn Dales	69
	Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station	82
	Correction of Descriptions for Glenn Dale Azaleas 'Alerandria',..	41
	Further Princess Azalea Introductions	41
	In Praise of the Glenn Dale Azalea 'Dream'	32
	Summary of Registration Data for the Robin Hill Azaleas	4
	The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the Glenn Dale Distribution Project	53
	To Rogue or Not to Rogue.....	87
	Flowers, Fungus, Bugs, and Worms	20
Azalea Culture	Growing Evergreen Azaleas in the Great Plains	
	Help Wanted: Participate in Azalea Sporting Research	91
Azalea Gardens	Glimpses of McCrillis Gardens and Brookside Gardens	57
	The National Arboretum—A Four-Year Retrospective	65
Azalea Pests	A new Gall Midge Pest Infesting Pinxterbloom Azalea Flowers....	37
	Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone And What Can Be Done About It?	60
Azalea Propagation	Construction of a "Cool Frame" for the Propagation of Native.....	33
Azalea Species	High Variability of Rhododendron calendulaceum.....	22
Letter to the Editor	Letter to the Editor	68
President's Letter	President's Letter	30
Cultural Note	Ovulinia Petal Blight	91
Society Business	Ben Morrison Chapter News	72
	Brookside Gardens Chapter News	72
	Glenn Dale Preservation Project—1995	25
	Minutes of the ASA 1995 Annual Meeting	70
	Northern Virginia Chapter News	72
	Notice: Election of Officers 1995	2
	Oconee Chapter News	72
	Report of the Nominating Committee	95
Society News	1995 Convention and Annual Meeting	52
	1995 Convention Reminder	23
	ASA New Members	22
	Azalea Calendar	25
	Azalea Calendar	45
	Azalea Calendar	68
	Azalea Calender	96
	Ben Morrison Chapter News	24
	Ben Morrison Chapter News	44
	Ben Morrison Chapter News	72
	Ben Morrison Chapter News	94
	Brookside Gardens Chapter News	24
	Brookside Gardens Chapter News	72
	Brookside Gardens Chapter News	44
	Brookside Gardens Chapter News	94
	Dallas Chapter News	24
	Dallas Chapter News	44
	Dallas Chapter News	94
	In Memory—Mrs. Allison Fuqua	25
	Louisana Chapter News	94
	New Members	44
	New Officers Elected	44
	Northern Virginia Chapter News	73
	Northern Virginia Chapter News	94
	Oconee Chapter News	24
	Oconee Chapter News	44
	Oconee Chapter News	73
	Oconee Chapter News	94
	President's Letter	50

SUBJECT INDEX VOLUME 17

SUBJECT	TITLE	PAGE
Society News (continued)	President's Letter	78
	Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN**-1994	39
	Prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN**-1994	2
	Report of the Public Information Committee	44
	Roundtable Discussion on **THE AZALEAN**	69

AUTHOR INDEX VOLUME 17

AUTHOR	TITLE	PAGE
	To Rogue or Not to Rogue... A Colloquium	87
Adams Jr, Andrew & Shanks, James	Further Princess Azalea Introductions	41
Amason, Carl R.	In Praise of the Glenn Dale Azalea 'Dream'	32
Brainerd, Steve	President's Letter	30
Brainerd, Steve	President's Letter	50
Brainerd, Steve	President's Letter	78
Bullock, Barbara	The National Arboretum—A Four-Year Retrospective	65
Davidson, John, Leddy, Paula & Raupp, Michael	Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone and What Can Be Done About It?	60
Gagne, Raymond J.	A New Gall Midge Pest Infesting Pinxterbloom Azalea Flowers....	37
Hobbs, Robert W.	1995 Convention and Annual Meeting	52
Hobbs, Robert W.	Roundtable Discussion on **THE AZALEAN**	69
Leddy, Paula M. Raupp, Michael J. & Davidson, John A.	Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone And What Can Be Done About It?	60
Little, Parker L.	Construction of a "Cool Frame" for the Propagation of Native....	33
Little, Parker L.	High Variability of Rhododendron calendulaceum.....	22
McDavit, Bill	Letter to the Editor	68
Miller III, William C. & West, Richard T.	Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station	82
Miller III, William C.	Flowers, Fungus, Bugs, and Worms	20
Miller III, William C.	Glenn Dale Preservation Project—1995	25
Miller III, William C.	Report of the Public Information Committee	44
Miller III, William C.	The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the Glenn Dale Distribution Project	53
Normandy, Phillip M.	Glimpses of McCrillis Gardens and Brookside Gardens	57
Pair, John C.	Growing Evergreen Azaleas in the Great Plains	34
Leddy, Paula M. Raupp, Michael J. & Davidson, John A.	Why Are Azaleas So Pest Prone And What Can Be Done About It?	60
Shanks, James B. & Adams Jr, Andrew	Further Princess Azalea Introductions	41
Suddreth, Keith Suddreth, Wanda	"Broyhill Walking Park"-A New Home for the Glenn Dales	69
Voss, Donald H.	Summary of Registration Data for the Robin Hill Azaleas	4
Voss, Donald H. & West, Richard T.	Help Wanted: Participate in Azalea Sporting Research	91
West, Richard T.	Correction of Descriptions for Glenn Dale Azaleas 'Alexandria',..	41
West, Richard T. & Miller III, William C.	Azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station	82
West, Richard T. & Miller III, William C.	The Ten Oaks Azaleas and The Glenn Dale Distribution Project	53
West, Richard T. & Voss Donald H.	Help Wanted: Participate in Azalea Sporting Research	91

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