

# THE AZALEA

*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*



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Remembering Dick West *Page 67*

Identifying the Native Azaleas *Page 72*



Post Office Box 34536  
West Bethesda, Maryland  
20827-0536

## Editor's Note

In this issue we acknowledge the contributions of Richard T. West to both the Azalea Society of America and to **THE AZALEAN**. Two articles in remembrance of Dick, who passed away unexpectedly on October 1, 1996 appear beginning on page 67.

The editor and associate editor wish to thank the Brookside Gardens Chapter for their generous gift which enabled us to take a training course in the desktop publishing program which is used to lay out and typeset **THE AZALEAN**. The course will help us to make **THE AZALEAN** better and to do so more efficiently than before.

## Azalea Calendar

1997

January 15	Deadline for receiving material for the March issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>
February 3	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at Davis Library at 7:30PM
February 9	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park
April 7	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at Davis Library at 7:30PM
April 15	Deadline for receiving material for the June issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>
April 17-19	Annual Convention and Annual Business Meeting, sponsored by Oconee Chapter, Atlanta, Georgia
April 20	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park
June 2	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at Davis Library at 7 30PM
July 13	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park
July 15	Deadline for receiving material for the September issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>
August 17	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park
October 15	Deadline for receiving material for the December issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b>
October 19	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park
December 7	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park

On the Cover: *R. calendulaceum*  
*Wayah Bald, NC*

Photographer: *Kathleen A. Kron*

## 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 Subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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Vice-President	James O. Thornton
Secretary	William B. McIntosh
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Dr. Charles Owen	Fred Minch
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<b>Oconee Chapter</b> (chartered November 1991) Earl Hester, <i>President</i>

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**Editor**  
Robert W. Hobbs, Ph.D.  
**Associate Editor**  
Belinda L. Hobbs  
**Assistant Editor**  
George S. Switzer, Ph.D.  
**Advisory Editorial Board**  
Donald H. Voss  
Jane Newman  
**Advertising**  
Niki Baker

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**Election of Officers and Directors  
Please Vote!**

**Prize for Best Article in THE AZALEAN  
Please Vote!**

**Membership Dues—Please Remit!**

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# IT'S ATLANTA

## The 1997 ASA Convention

### April 17, 18, 19, 20

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**James O. Thornton**  
*Conyers, GA*

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We didn't exactly have fanfare at the 1996 ASA convention as when Atlanta was declared the host for the 1996 Summer Olympics, but ladies and gentlemen....IT'S ATLANTA... for the 1997 Azalea Society of America Convention and Annual Meeting—your host, for the first time, the Oconee Chapter.

If you haven't already made up your mind to attend, then sit back and let us convince you to come. We're "gonna have fun," and you don't want to miss out!

The committees have been hard at work on their specific tasks, and we think we can come up with better than a "Most Exceptional" declaration for an Atlanta event.

First of all we'll start congregating April 17, at the Ramada Inn Northlake, located off I285 at Exit 28 LaVista Road. (See registration form for details.) You know the drill, come in and register, pick up a ton of info and get ready for the activities to begin with a social hour along with plant sales. We'll have the usual room for the plant sale, a cash bar, and a place to just visit with the folks you haven't seen since Dallas or an earlier convention. Really now, "ain't that what it's all about?"



*Garden of Dr. Charles and Virginia Owen*

You can see you are coming to the deep south, so brush up on "yore" second language (southern). If you can't get the hang of it "not to worry", we'll have plenty of interpreters on hand to help you. When we say deep south, can't you just see the azaleas, the magnolias, the crepe myrtles, the dogwoods, the kudzu....don't laugh, when viewed with a critical eye, kudzu can be quite picturesque—just use your imagination. Anyway, we have only one caveat....the weather! Horticulturally, Atlanta is shown on plant hardiness maps as being in zone 7b, but we've been higher and much lower, creating much confusion for our plants during our spring season. We never know what or when things will really be in bloom, even though for the convention we tried to be scientific about selecting the dates. You see, Dick Clapp, one our members, provided the tour committee with first bloom dates of over 100 varieties of azaleas for the last ten years in Atlanta. With this and using the old "SWAG," the committee committed! So..... whatever the weather, we'll have a good time.

Speaking of good times, our convention might coincide with a recent phenomenon that has been "happening" for the last few years..."freaknik"! It's when a whole bunch of young folks flock to Atlanta to do their thing, which is mostly "party" by driving around downtown Atlanta, around the clock, having a good time and tying up traffic. But don't worry, we'll be out of harm's way on the outer edge of the perimeter, which is another phenomenon and a down right hazard, so be careful if you are driving to the convention.

Thursday night we officially welcome you to the 1997 convention, and we'll have James Harris, long-time member and well known hybridizer, to give us an update on the Harris hybrids. Next we'll introduce a new hybridizer and chapter member, Fred Sorg. Fred has been crossing some of the Harris azaleas and some of the late

Satsuki varieties, and has come up with some interesting results. He'll have some for sale, so make sure you check them out.

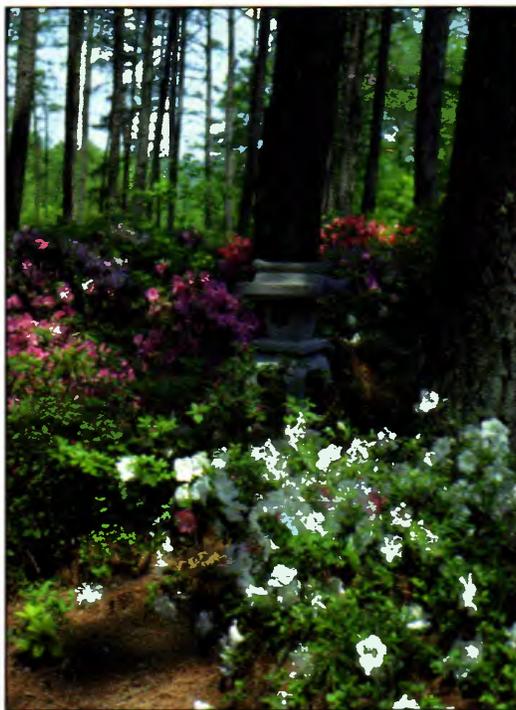
Following Fred is George Sanko, a chapter member and co-director of the DeKalb College Botanical Garden. George will tell us about using the rare and unusual native plants in and around azalea beds. By the way, as we travel to and from some of our tour gardens and during lunch breaks, we'll have several of our members share their experience and knowledge with us.

The tours start early Friday morning when we visit the garden of Lewis and Ginny Shortt. Theirs is a 35-year-old garden that continues to develop. It features perennials, rhododendrons, evergreens, and native azaleas, as well as other native plants. There is also a gorgeous moss garden. Lewis says it is a shady rock garden; anyway, it's beautiful.

Next, we will head for Earl and Verdie Sommerville's garden, which is located at the foot of Kennesaw Mountain. This large, beautiful garden features many unusual deciduous and evergreen azaleas collected by the Sommers. Along with rhododendrons, Mrs. Sommerville's tall bearded irises are a pleasing display. A small stream enhances this beautiful garden. This is an immaculate garden with a variety of trees and shrubs.

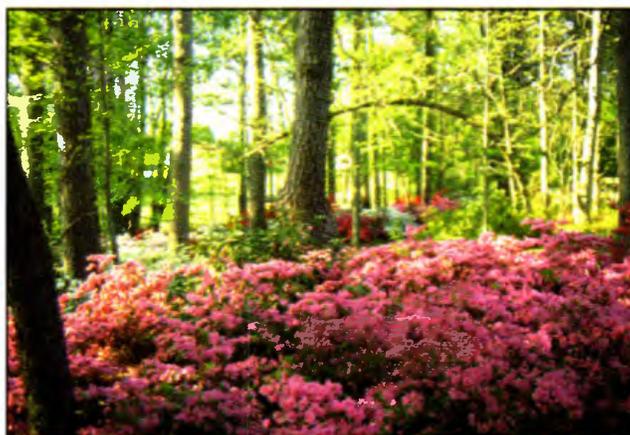
Dr. Charles and Virginia Owen's garden is our next stop. This garden is six acres, one-half of which is in wetlands, and host to many plants, such as: Gentian, Lobelia, Iron Weed, Bur-Marigold, Black Eyed Susan, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and many others. The "Hill" was planned by close friend and fellow chapter member Lewis Shortt; it features a scree with rocks, miniature plants and moss and is surrounded by rhododendron and deciduous and evergreen azaleas. Dr. Owen's main interest lies in breeding of the deciduous azalea with the Florida native varieties. Many of these fine azaleas can be found in this garden.

After touring the Owens' garden, and lunch, we head back into town, splitting up, to tour the garden of Dr. Gerson and Avis Aronovitz and the garden of Richard and June Clapp. The Aronovitzes have a beautiful early spring garden. Not only are deciduous and evergreen azaleas featured but also rhododendrons. This is a collector's garden, also featuring perennials and wildflowers. Here is an opportunity to study and learn plants because of the extensive labeling. The Aronovitzes have imported many unusual plants from their travels abroad.



*Garden of Dr. Joe and Donna Coleman*

At the Clapp garden, we'll find about 180 varieties of mature evergreen azaleas and a number of deciduous azaleas. An assortment of wildflowers, 25 rhododendrons, native shrubs and ornamentals are to be found surrounding the Clapps' home. Hopefully, at the time of our visit the garden will be in peak bloom.



*Garden of Jim and Patsy Thornton*

Now we head back to the hotel for a break and time for supper before we get back together for another group of speakers.

Friday night we'll present two fine speakers starting with member and hybridizer Raymond Goza. Raymond is known to many of us as an expert on rhododendrons and azaleas, both natives and evergreens. Ray will take us on a slide trip to Roan Mountain, Tennessee. I'm sure you'll enjoy the show and will want to plan your own trip to the mountain later this spring (or is it early this summer). Anyway, Ray will let us know!

Next, another expert in his own right, Dr. Joe Coleman. A noted collector, as you will see when we visit the Coleman garden on Saturday, Joe has exceptional knowledge of the Kurume azalea that he will share with us.

On Saturday, again bright and early, we head for the gardens of Dr. Martin and Carrie Hicklin. This garden features rhododendrons, evergreen and deciduous azaleas, hostas and other companion plants. It also highlights a number of unusual evergreen azaleas cultivated by Mrs. Hicklin from seed from the ARS Seed Exchange program. The blooms occur in a wide range of sizes, shades and colors. Next we're in for a treat as we tour the garden of Dr. Joe and Donna Coleman.

This four-acre garden mixes extensive collections of hundreds of varieties (they have stopped counting) of evergreen azaleas, hybrid rhododendrons and forms of both native and hybrid deciduous azaleas.) This collector's garden is also home to numerous Japanese maples, viburnums, laurels, hosta, daylilies, perennials, bulbs, wildflowers and several water gardens. "You can experience blooms from early March until it's too darn hot to get out and enjoy them."

Then it's on to Jim and Patsy Thornton's garden after a stop for lunch. On this three-acre garden spot you'll find a variety of evergreen, native and hybrid deciduous azaleas. Some of which are seedling plants grown by the Thorntons. Starting with a small stream, with its fountain, rock walls, you'll find many native ferns and other odds and ends of plant life. You'll see various varieties of trees and shrubs along with a spring vegetable garden. All-in-all, a nice place for a stroll.

By the way, on Saturday, we'll introduce Robert E. Lee and wife Dixie from the Louisiana Chapter. Robert, a.k.a. Buddy, has been developing some late-blooming evergreen azaleas that are now being distributed by Flowerwood Nurseries out of Mobile, Alabama. I'm sure you'll want to hear about these new plants. Just a few minutes and a few miles away, we'll be at Reid's Azalea Farm, owned by Dr. Ben and Lea Reid. This 20-acre farm and nursery is home of over 18,000 plants...over 1,300 varieties of azaleas. You'll also find native azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, blueberries and a host of exotic plants. Ben and Lea are participating in the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale project and are avid collectors of all kinds of plants. (P.S.: Ben is unsure about keeping the nursery open in 1997 but bring your pocketbook anyway; there may be some leftovers.)

Our final stop is a bonus when we visit the DeKalb College Botanical Garden, with host and co-director George Sanko. This wildflower center of Georgia, started in 1990 for educational purposes, features the state's native

plants. Today the garden's three and one-half acres are planted with over 1,300 native plant species and still growing with new varieties. It contains the largest collection of rare and endangered plant species in Georgia, or for that matter, the U.S. Over 11 federally endangered, 50 Georgia endangered, and more than 60 that are classified as rare species are now safe and sound at home here. It is also home for over 80 fern species.

Most of these plants are being propagated by George and his staff and will be available for sale, so if you're looking for the rare or unusual, bring your list! On my last visit I became the proud owner of a bunch of "White Top Sedge," a weed by heritage, but nonetheless, a unique plant!

We're only a short distance from our hotel for the final convention activities, where we'll take care of business and present our keynote speaker. We had a lot of input for tonight's speaker, but friend Bill Miller came up with the best. It was hands down, Dr. Kathleen A. Kron, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University. Since we'll provide you with a copy of Dr. Kron's curriculum vitae, I won't go into any details. [An article by Dr. Kron is on page 72 of this issue, ed.] Let's just say you'll be impressed! You don't want to miss this part of the convention. Finally, we come to the business meeting where we take care of the affairs of the society, and I'm sure all of you will want to participate. When we adjourn the plant sales room will be open (and again Sunday morning) for you to take something special home as a reminder of the 1997 convention and to help renew your support of the Azalea Society of America.

*Jim Thornton is a long-time azalea enthusiast. Jim is retired from the telephone company. He is the founding force behind the Oconee Chapter, and is currently Vice President of the Azaleas Society of America.*

*Photographs by Dr. Charles Owen, Dr. Joe Coleman, and Jim Thornton*



## PRIZE FOR BEST ARTICLE IN THE AZALEAN—1996

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  
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 1996 is on the wrapper of this issue. **PLEASE VOTE.** The prize for best article in **THE AZALEAN** will be awarded at the 1997 Convention and Annual Meeting.

### Dues Notices Mailed

Dues notices were mailed to all members in October. 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 notice.**

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# A Eulogy to Richard T. (Dick) West

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**Barbara L. Bullock**

*Curator of Azaleas, U.S. National Arboretum*

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Dick West passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on October 1, 1996. All who knew him are very sad, and the loss of his energetic and creative work in many areas will affect many more. At the Arboretum, for example, we are raising thousands of Glenn Dale azaleas due to Dick's efforts. Inspired by his enthusiasm, we azalea lovers were always traveling down the path of discovery. One moment it was finding a direct link between the breeding of the Glenn Dale azaleas at Glenn Dale, Maryland, and the thousands of azaleas planted up on Mt. Hamilton in the National Arboretum; the next, it was "I've found 'Luna'!" 'Luna' is a Glenn Dale cultivar previously thought to have been lost. Another time, it was making contact with a London garden as a possible source of lost Glenn Dale cultivars. Each spring was packed with the anticipation of how he would organize himself to observe, record and write as much as he possibly could—noting the correct descriptions and the locations of the plants he so dearly loved. These plants weren't merely azaleas, they were the Glenn Dale azaleas, complete with a rich legacy, steeped in scattered horticultural facts, just waiting to be pieced back together by someone like Dick.

Dick West was a historian in his own right. Yes, he loved the flowers, but he was intrigued by the amount of research and time that went into producing the Glenn Dale azalea group. Benjamin Yoe Morrison, who became the first director of the National Arboretum, selected and named 454 azaleas after observing thousands of seedlings through decades of study, hybridization and tests. Over the past half century, many of these disappeared from collections. With Dick's work, we had brought back about 250 azaleas to the Arboretum.

As the Curator of Azaleas at the National Arboretum, my first exposure to the history of the mighty collection of azaleas on the southern flank of Mt. Hamilton was through contact with Dick West. Dick made available to me a wealth of information that he and his friend and colleague, Bill Miller, had gathered on the Glenn Dale azaleas. Dick provided the catalyst for so many of my programs at the Arboretum. We initiated two separate flower-color studies in order to verify our Glenn Dale azalea holdings, and we began a volunteer program to restore the Glenn Dale Hillside that has endured to this day, spurred on by information that we were regularly getting from Dick. When we found long-lost labels, Dick knew what they meant. We participated in the Ten Oaks/Glenn Dale Distribution Project, initiated and organized by Dick. His interest in, and subsequent knowledge of, the Glenn Dale azalea program at Glenn Dale, Maryland, provides the backbone of a large part of my work at the Arboretum.

When I began my job, there was a threat of losing the entire Hillside—which was heavily infested with weeds and vines—due to the lack of knowledge concerning the identity of the azaleas and why they were planted there. Ben Morrison's contemporaries and colleagues were just about all gone (either deceased or unreachable). There were only a few people left in the world who might be able to tell what we needed to know about Morrison's azalea breeding program and documentation is difficult to interpret once found. Dick's analytical mind and perseverance pieced so much of it back together. He was as thorough with his research as anyone could possibly be. He also supported other programs in the azalea collection by frequently writing letters to the arboretum administration supporting and confirming the direction of our progress in the azalea collection. Without Dick West and the extensive data

that he and Bill Miller analyzed, the Azalea Hillside might have been lost and would not have had the administrative support that it has today.

Dick also left a legacy in the form of documentation and publication of his findings. He checked and rechecked before he would get enough information together to write an article. His many articles on the Glenn Dales can be found in **THE AZALEAN** and in *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. If he didn't have enough information to write up a formal paper, he still provided people like Bill Miller and me with his drafts, copies of original documents, old articles, etc. He left a trail of writings and documents any researcher would be proud of. And thanks to Dick's work, many of us are now growing many rare varieties of Glenn Dale azaleas again.

Without Dick, we are left with a lot of loose ends. We had so many more directions to go, so many leads, and we were kept energized by his boundless energy and enthusiasm. He will be sorely missed. The contributions he made to the body of knowledge of the Glenn Dale azaleas blazed a trail that will long be followed. Dick was so thorough in disseminating his information and hypotheses that we know what to do now because of him. Many of us have benefited through the Ten Oaks/Glenn Dale Distribution Project. Dick made all of us promise to uphold our agreements when he shipped us those cuttings. They aren't simply pretty flowers—they are the reminder of another legacy, that of B. Y. Morrison, a man respected by many. Much of Morrison's work might have been lost were it not for Dick West. We must not let Dick West's work be lost. We will miss you Dick; your mannerisms, your phrases, your humor, your leather tobacco pouch, but mostly, your friendship.

*Barbara Bullock has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture and a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Maryland. She is currently the Curator of Azalea Collections at the U. S. National Arboretum. She is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter. □*



*Dick West*

*Photograph obtained from Maryann West*



*Jim Shanks, Andy Adams, Jr., Dick West, and Bill Miller  
Photograph by Barbara Bullock*



*Dick West verifying  
Glenn Dale Azaleas  
Photograph by  
Barbara Bullock*

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## Reflections on the Real Richard Thurston West *August 15, 1941 to October 1, 1996*

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William C. Miller III  
*Bethesda, Maryland*

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Some years ago, as a logical consequence of my interest in azaleas, I conducted extensive research into the life of Ben Morrison. I quickly discovered that the picture that one developed of him depended on with whom one talked. The tale of the elephant and the blind men comes to mind. You will remember that each blind man described the elephant based on some anatomical feature. The blind man who examined the ear stated that the elephant was like a fan, while the blind man who found himself at one of the legs believed that the elephant resembled a tree trunk. People who worked for Ben Morrison painted a picture different from that by people who worked with him. People who knew him professionally described him differently than those who knew him post-retirement in Pass Christian, Mississippi. While this is not so surprising since many people do change over time, it is a bit disconcerting for the historian who has to satisfy himself that everyone is really talking about the same person.

In marked contrast, I have discovered that there was only one Dick West. He passed away unexpectedly on October 1, 1996 and I attended his memorial service, which was held on October 6, 1996. During one part of the service, those present were given an opportunity to express their feelings. The extemporaneous comments from people representing every period and conceivable aspect of Dick's life from childhood playmate, to neighbor, to former colleague, to current colleague were as similar as they were heartfelt and sincere. They all described someone who had touched their lives in a very substantial way, someone who opened his heart to others and was there for them in their time of need, and someone who would be missed.

Barbara Bullock, from the National Arboretum, took part in the service and described Dick's many contributions to the U.S. National

Arboretum, to the Azalea Society of America, and to the azalea community as a whole. Another participant in the service was Peter Clepper who was a friend of Dick's from the National Library of Medicine. He spoke of Dick's many professional achievements. Because Peter and Dick had worked closely for all of Dick's Federal career, I asked Peter to supply a few comments about Dick's professional life and his other avocational interests:

"Readers of **THE AZALEAN** will be saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Richard West. His many contributions have won frequent praise. Dick was fifty-five and leaves behind a wife, two grown children, and numerous friends from every walk of life. His career as a program official and information scientist at the National Library of Medicine began twenty-five years ago, shortly after he received an advanced degree in library science from the University of Maryland. His interest in horticulture followed soon after, during the years he and his wife were improving a new house in Columbia, Maryland into a lovely home with a delightful garden.

"His entire Federal career was spent at the National Library of Medicine, as a program official in its extramural programs. His responsibilities included the full range of assistance grant functions: program development, scientific review administration, and planning and evaluation. His publications appeared in several leading medical information science journals. He was often invited to lecture on medical information issues at the University of Maryland School of Library and Information Services.

"Dick's remarkable intellectual curiosity was not easily satisfied. When something interested him, he made an effort to learn a lot about it. His professional knowledge covered everything from the printing trade to computer technology.

"He understood the function of knowledge in the broadest context of

health care, and he conducted program initiatives that won, and deserved, great praise. For the past ten years he had worked closely with leaders in American academic medical centers. These efforts were intended to assist the effective management of medical information of all kinds as an essential, national health care resource. He was recently honored by this medical community for his thoughtful and constructive efforts. Experienced colleagues everywhere sought his advice; younger workers always found a supportive mentor.

"He was a good and informed gardener, for whom azaleas in particular were endlessly fascinating. Frank White taught him how to propagate. From there he went on to classification, color identities, and, his passion in recent years, the identity, collection, and distribution of Morrison's Glenn Dale hybrids.

"Besides these activities, the knowledge he acquired of Victorian silver and American antiques reached the expert level. His painstaking genealogical researches into his family origins included a successful search for ancestors in Great Britain and France. In all these things, he was completely modest, always eager to learn and willing to share."

Peter's words above, like his remarks at the memorial service, are thoughtful and describe accurately the friend that I had learned to respect and admire. There was very little mystery about Dick West except perhaps how he managed to maintain his pace of activities, any number of which were full time job equivalents. Peter has also since informed me that Dick was to have received an award from the Director of the National Institutes of Health for his outstanding services. Similarly, it was reported to me that Dick was to be the 1996 recipient of the Brookside Gardens Chapter's F. P. Lee Commendation.

## A Collaboration and Friendship

I have been trying to reconstruct when my collaboration with Dick West began. It is curious how some events stick in your mind, but I remember the first time I ever saw him. I attended a Propagation Seminar given by Frank White at his Azalea Acres on Princess Garden Parkway in Lanham, Maryland in the Fall of 1979 or 1980. Dick was the quiet guy puffing on the pipe, and I do not think we spoke.

I looked back at the ASA membership rosters to see when Dick's name first appeared and determined that he joined the ASA either late in 1981 after the roster was created or early in 1982 before the new roster was published. Dick turned up again at several of the Glenn Dale Preservation Project Workdays at the Glenn Dale Station during the early to mid 1980's. Again, in his quiet way, he chopped and hacked with the rest of us, and he was just another of the multitude. When I realized where the Glenn Dale Preservation Project was going, or rather where it was not going, I concluded that it was very important to examine the files at the Glenn Dale station for whatever information that they might reveal about Morrison, the Station, and the azalea work that was performed there. In retrospect, the decision to focus on historic documentation was a very important, as events would later prove.

In 1989, I met Andy Adams, as a fellow traveler, when I had the opportunity to go on a special trip to Japan. I knew about the Ten Oaks Nursery and its participation in Morrison's distribution program for the Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas from my research. I recognized the historic significance and possibilities at Ten Oaks and had visited Andy several times, but my hands were full with work, family matters, Brookside Gardens chapter activities, and trying to keep the Glenn Dale project afloat. Dick was ahead of me there. Since Andy does not routinely volunteer much information (not a criticism), I

did not know how long Dick had been studying the Ten Oaks Nursery in Clarksville, which is just down the road from his home in Columbia, Maryland. Dick's first article was published in **THE AZALEAN** in the last quarter of 1989, and I am cited in the "Notes and Comments." So it must have been between my Spring trip to Japan and Dick's first article in late 1989 that we became acquainted.

Much to my surprise, I discovered that Dick shared my interest in the history of azaleas. I was happy to share with him every scrap of information that I had discovered at Glenn Dale, the National Arboretum, River Farm, Pass Christian, Beltsville, and Takoma Park as his enthusiasm was infectious. Dick's capacity for dealing with large amounts of data and information was astounding. His ability to grasp the significance and make sense out of something that had eluded me earned him my respect. He was the proof that two heads are better than one. I could bounce an idea off him and expect a timely and reasoned response. While we did not talk daily, we talked frequently. Somewhere in the following months, our acquaintanceship turned to a serious collaboration which resulted in the many articles that were published in **THE AZALEAN**, and two books—*The Bell Book* that was published in 1994, and a revision of Morrison's *Monograph 20* that was completed in manuscript form a week before his death.

### Sense of Humor

Dick was also a little ahead of me in the "parent/child space and time continuum"; that is, he had already experienced and successfully managed events that I was just now going through, e.g., a teenager getting his driver's license or selecting a school. He enjoyed sharing his experiences, and he always began with the suggestion that I should "take notes." Dick's easy manner was disarming, and at some point our collaboration evolved into a close friendship.

He had a delightful sense of humor and at times was a bit of a tease. As committed as anyone to

discovering the facts, he nevertheless delighted in teasing me about my penchant for obscure detail which he took great pleasure in characterizing as "esoterica."

Our phone conversations usually took place in the morning. His voice had a certain character to it, and the office staff easily recognized him when he called. Due to the earliness of the hour, he usually got the same secretary when he called. On several occasions, when he called and I was not there, he told her that he was the "FBI" or "CIA" calling for me. Suffice it to say, I did a double-take when I read the phone message slip the first time. When he would call and I was not there, he would launch into a monologue when I got around to returning his call. "We," meaning all of the other Federal employees in the world, "are here... hard at work for God and country, while you are off somewhere goofing off." It did not matter whether I was a few minutes late due to traffic or just unavailable to take his call.

Fortunately, he could take it as well as dish it out. Living in Columbia, Dick frequently experienced his own traffic problems due to weather or accidents which made his commute to work understandably trying. It was now my turn, and I reminded him that that was the price he had to pay for choosing to live in a "planned community." Columbia, Maryland, when it was conceived many years ago, was supposed to be the wave of the future in that it would avoid many of the common urban problems by "superior planning."

Our respective computers also served as an opportunity for a little good-natured ribbing. There has always been a bit of a competition between people who like the IBM compatible platform and those who prefer the MacIntosh platform with its graphic user interface. My computer orientation is IBM-compatible and Dick liked the Mac. Apple's primary selling point was that it was supposed to be so much easier to learn. I never missed an opportunity to remind him that I could never take seriously a company (Apple) whose primary thesis seemed to be that people were too stupid to

learn Microsoft's Disk Operating System (DOS).

### Quiet Leadership by Example

Dick West was a little bit "old-fashioned" by current standards. For example, he had a "creed" (a word that you do not hear much any more) that he lived by. It was truly personal in the strictest sense of the word and was not something that came up in any of our conversations. In fact, I was unaware of it until it was mentioned in his memorial service, and yet, I immediately recognized it as his operational philosophy. According to Maryann, his wife and an English teacher, it was his distillation of a famous poem that he adapted into a way of life:

"I shall pass this way but once;  
Therefore, any good that I can do,  
Let me do it now,  
For I shall not pass this way again."

He was extremely dependable and true to his word, as Bob Hobbs, the editor of **THE AZALEAN**, was to discover and appreciate. On several occasions, out of frustration and desperation, Bob called around trying to locate suitable material to publish in **THE AZALEAN**. From time to time, Bob has had commitments from people who, without any explanation, failed to deliver. Dick believed in **THE AZALEAN**. A number of the sixteen articles authored or coauthored by Dick were begun after the article receipt deadline and specifically in response to Bob's situation. Dick was a marvelous "wordsmith" who made writing look easy. And, if he said the manuscript was in the mail, you could depend on it.

Dick was content to operate in the "background." He shunned the spotlight and, except when "obliged," preferred to be behind all cameras. He was incredibly modest, though he never failed to recognize the efforts of others. His quiet confidence, enthusiasm, and energy were highly motivating to his associates, and his involvement with a project was a near guarantee of success. The Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project is just such an example. Dick was the main driving force behind the project which was

designed to reestablish the Glenn Dale hybrids in parks and arboreta around the country. The project had recently taken on international implications when we discovered that gardens in England had received shipments of Glenn Dales azaleas in 1947 and 1960 and thus might serve as sources of original Glenn Dale plant material just like the Ten Oaks Nursery.

#### Memories

It was the family's request that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) in memory of Richard T. West for the support of the azalea program at the U. S. National Arboretum. [The address of FONA is: 3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, ed.] Dick spoke often of his recollection of visiting the Arboretum as a youngster with his father shortly after it first opened to the public in 1949. Together, they especially enjoyed the azaleas at

a time when the azaleas were still relatively new to the local gardening public.

We all had the good fortune of knowing the real Dick West, if only through his writings. For those of us who worked closely with Dick in one endeavor or another, we are better for the experience. I will miss his intellectual stimulation, his friendship, and the challenge of keeping up with the pace that he set. He was a good example of a good example. A perpetually positive influence, his legacy will last as long as we have our memories.

*William C. Miller III, co-Chairman of the Azalea Society of America's Membership Committee and Chair of the Public Information Committee, is a recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award. He is a former Vice President of the Society and a long-time ASA member. He is a frequent contributor to THE AZALEAN. He is a co-sponsor of the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project. □*

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## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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**For President: James O. Thornton, Conyers, Georgia.** Jim is best known as a founding member and first President of the Oconee Chapter. Retired from AT&T after 31 years, he and wife Patsy now preside over an ample and rather mature garden of mostly azaleas (he also does orchids). From ASA point of view, it is his great skill as an organizer, mover and shaker, that recommends him to you.

**For Vice President: William F. Bode, Covington, Louisiana.** Bill retired as a hospital division manager for a pharmaceutical company. He is a past president of the Baton Rouge Men's Garden Club and a past president of the Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. He has been interested in azaleas for 30 years.

**For Director: Gen. Bryghte D. Godbold USMC (Ret.) Dallas Texas.** Bryghte holds a Ph.D. degree from NYU and is Director Emeritus of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the U.S. National Arboretum. He was Director of "Goals for Dallas" in 1963, a blueprint for development which lead growth strategies for the city of Dallas into the 1990's.

**For Director: Donald W. Hyatt, McLean, Virginia.** Don has a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry with a double major in Horticulture and a Masters degree in Computer Science. He has taught mathematics or computer science in the Fairfax County, Virginia public schools for 28 years Don has been president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, and served on the Board of governor's in the Society's formative years. He has been hybridizing azaleas and rhododendron for over 30 years.

**For Director: Col. Murray Sheffield USAF (Ret.), Wetumpka, Alabama.,** Murray made a career in the Air Force and served from 1941 until 1945 and 1948 until 1971. He has been gardening with azaleas for many years. He and his wife Inez, have a four-acre garden with 4,000 azaleas in the ground (250 varieties). He has had good success working with thousands of cuttings, liners, and mature plants, both purchased and started from scratch.

## TO ALL ASA MEMBERS

With the change in the dues schedule that was approved by the Board of Directors for 1997, the Membership committee wishes to take this opportunity to remind "all hands" that all old membership applications should be disposed of or modified to reflect the increase in dues. Since a number of chapters have taken the initiative to create their own versions of the ASA membership brochure, it is imperative that the chapters ensure that the information contained in their brochures is current and complete. Applications with insufficient funds are returned which is awkward, expensive, and preventable.

Finally, dues notices for 1997 were mailed in October. There is no advantage in waiting. If you have not already responded, please take a moment to do so now. If you have misplaced the pre-addressed envelope that we provided, send your check in the amount corresponding to one of the membership categories to:

Membership Committee  
Azalea Society of America  
P.O. Box 34536  
West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536

The new dues structure for 1997 is:

Annual	\$ 25
Contributing	\$ 50
Sustaining	\$100
Endowment	\$200
Life	\$500

As always, your generosity and cooperation are appreciated.

William C. Miller III  
for the Membership Committee

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# IDENTIFYING THE NATIVE AZALEAS

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Dr. Kathleen A. Kron  
Winston-Salem, NC

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The deciduous azaleas are among the showiest of our native shrubs. Their primary beauty is due to their flowers, which range in color from white to pink, and orange to red. Early in the history of European plant collecting in this country, native azaleas were used to develop numerous cultivars (Ghent, Knap Hill, Exbury, and Mollis azaleas). These cultivar azaleas were the result of initial crosses of *Rhododendron molle* (from China and Japan) and the North American azaleas, or *Rhododendron luteum* (from the Caucasus region) and the North American azaleas. Although these cultivars offer marvelous displays of color in the spring, the native azaleas have their own delicate beauty.

Like other members of the genus *Rhododendron*, the native azaleas have the petals fused into a funnel or cup-shaped corolla. Most of the native azaleas belong to a subgroup of rhododendrons named *R.* section *Pentanthera* [*Rhododendron vaseyi*, a rare azalea found in the southern Appalachians, is in the closely related *R.* section *Rhodora* (1)]. The members of *R.* section *Pentanthera* share several unique characters that indicate a unique common ancestry. These characters include a narrow corolla tube and five stamens that are much longer than the petals. Several members of the section have a darker-colored blotch on the upper petal, others lack this blotch. This is in contrast to the evergreen azaleas (*Rhododendron* subgenus *Tsutsusi*) that have spotted petals, usually ten stamens that are not much longer than the petals, and wide corolla tubes.

There are 15 species of *R.* section *Pentanthera*. *Rhododendron molle* (Mollis azalea, *R.* subsection *Sinensia*) is the most distinctive of the *Pentanthera* azaleas. It has a broader corolla tube than the other members of section, with spots on the interior surface. Its color ranges from yellow, in China and Japan, to orange-red, in Japan only. This species has been extensively used in the development of many cultivars of azaleas. The remaining 14 species of section *Pentanthera* (*R.* subsection *Pentanthera*) are very closely related and therefore the differences among these species are often subtle. All of these species possess a narrow corolla tube and stamens that extend beyond the end of the petals. These azaleas occur as understory shrubs, often under a canopy of oaks. They are less frequent on north-facing slopes because, although they are understory plants, they require a fair amount of sunshine. If the canopy is too dense, azaleas will be absent. They can vary in height from less than a meter to ten meters tall. Although in the past most of the azaleas were reported as non-rhizomatous, they are actually often rhizomatous or stoloniferous. Two species occur outside of the southeastern United States. *Rhododendron occidentale* (Western azalea) occurs along the west coast of southern Oregon to southern California. This species is extremely variable in flower color, but is generally white with a yellow blotch on the upper corolla lobe. It is the only member of *R.* section *Pentanthera* that occurs along the west coast. *Rhododendron luteum* (Pontic azalea) is native to the Black Sea and Caucasus region. Its flowers are bright yellow with a deeper yellow blotch. This species is reputed to have caused Alexander the Great's troops to fall ill after eating honey made from its flowers. This is likely due to the andromedotoxin that is prevalent in the nectar of many members of the genus *Rhododendron*.

All of the remaining 12 species of *Rhododendron* subsection *Pentanthera* occur in the southeastern U.S. The easiest first line of investigation for identification purposes is flower color. Three main groups can be identified using this criterion: (1) white, (2) pink, and (3) orange to red. Within these color groups the timing of flowering and leaf expansion, the type of pubescence (hairs) and characteristics of the flower bud scales are useful characters for identifying species.

Among the white-flowered group are *Rhododendron alabamense*, *R. arborescens*, *R. atlanticum*, and *R. viscosum*. Although the flowers of these species are consistently white, they may occasionally be pale pink or tinged with pink. Of these, *R. alabamense* is unique because it possesses a yellow blotch on the upper corolla lobe and a very delicate sweet fragrance. This azalea is almost entirely confined to Alabama and its periphery. It flowers early in the spring, before the leaves are expanded. *Rhododendron atlanticum* is restricted to the Atlantic Coastal Plain. It is usually a strongly rhizomatous shrub, often less than a meter in height, growing in acid sands. The flowers of *R. atlanticum* bloom before the leaves expand and have a very strong musky-sweet odor. The flowers are densely covered with gland-tipped hairs that are extremely sticky. *Rhododendron arborescens* and *R. viscosum* are two closely related



*R. viscosum*, the clammy azalea

species with white flowers that bloom after the leaves have expanded. *Rhododendron arborescens* is restricted to the mountains, and the flowers have a bright red style with a cinnamon-like fragrance. The entire plant of *R. arborescens* is smooth and shining due to the lack of soft white (unicellular) hairs that are usually common on plants of *R. viscosum*.

The most widespread species of deciduous azalea is the clammy azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*. Its geographic distribution ranges from Maine south to peninsular Florida, west to eastern Texas and from eastern Oklahoma to southern Arkansas east to the Atlantic coast. This is the most variable of the southeastern azaleas and has been divided into several segregate species: *R. coryi*, *R. oblongifolium*, and *R. serrulatum*. In the northern part of its range the white corolla is often tinged with pink. The flower bud scales of this species often have a distinctive dark brown line around the edges. This characteristic has been used to separate *R. serrulatum* from *R. viscosum* in the southeast, where the dark brown band is most common. However, the dark brown line can be found far north in some populations of *R. viscosum*. *Rhododendron coryi* and *R. oblongifolium* have been separated from *R. viscosum* due to their long narrow corolla tubes. Plants named *R. coryi* are stoloniferous in habit, whereas plants named *R. oblongifolium* have hairier leaves than many individuals of *R. viscosum*. However, all of these "species" have white flowers with gland-tipped hairs that are in lines up the outside of the corolla tube. They lack a blotch on the upper corolla lobe and have greenish-whitish colored filaments and styles. They all flower after the leaves have fully expanded and have a sweet-musky fragrance. When all of the characters are compared over the entire range of *Rhododendron viscosum* it is apparent that *R. coryi*, *R. oblongifolium*, and *R. serrulatum* represent random local variants of *R. viscosum*, and therefore should not be recognized as distinct species.

The pink group of deciduous azaleas are all early flowering species that bloom before the leaves are fully expanded. These azaleas are *R. periclymenoides* (Piedmont azalea), *R. canescens* (sweet azalea), and *R. prinophyllum* (roseshell azalea). Their flowers range in color from pale pink (almost white) to a deep cherry color and all lack a blotch on the upper corolla lobe. *Rhododendron prinophyllum* can be distinguished from the other two pink azaleas by its longer flower stalks (pedicels) covered with gland-tipped hairs, a broader corolla tube, gland-tipped hairs on the margins of the sepals and on the ovary, and conspicuously fringed (ciliate) leaf margins. This azalea is more northern in its distribution than *R. canescens*, which is restricted to the southern Coastal Plain. It is the only pink azalea that occurs in Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as in the northeast as far north as New Hampshire. Because it is often covered with soft unicellular hairs it has been confused with *R. canescens*. However, *R. canescens* has very narrow corolla tubes and the fruits lack the gland-tipped hairs common in *R. prinophyllum*. *Rhododendron canescens* is common in swamps or bottomlands in the Gulf Coastal Plain. This azalea has a sweet, sometimes slightly musky odor and flowers just before or as the leaves expand. *Rhododendron canescens* is very variable in pubescence (hairiness) and in corolla color. In some Mississippi populations *R. canescens* has such densely hairy (unicellular hairs) leaves that they appear whitish. The flower bud scales of *R. canescens* are also often white with dense hairs. The outer surface of the corolla is densely covered with unicellular hairs as



*R. calendulaceum*, the flame azalea

well as gland-tipped hairs. This is in contrast to the closely related *R. periclymenoides*, which has very few unicellular hairs on the bud scales and corollas lacking gland-tipped hairs.

There are five species that have orange to red flowers—*R. austrinum*, *R. calendulaceum*, *R. flammium*, *R. cumberlandense*, and *R. prunifolium*. The plumleaf azalea, *R. prunifolium*, is the rarest of the deciduous azaleas and has been proposed for federally endangered status. Restricted to just a few counties on the southern Alabama-Georgia border, *R. prunifolium* flowers after the leaves have expanded. Its deep red-orange to apricot-colored flowers essentially lack any hairs, and



*R. prunifolium*, the plumleaf azalea, at Calloway Gardens

the bud scales and leaves are also smooth and shining. This species is the most heat tolerant of the red-flowered azaleas. *Rhododendron austrinum* (Florida azalea) is restricted to the panhandle of Florida and a few nearby counties in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Although it can resemble *R. canescens* because of the general shape of the corolla (the flower color varies from yellow to orange with a dark pink tube), *R. austrinum* has a deep yellow to orange blotch on the upper corolla lobe. Like *R. canescens* it has densely pubescent bud scales, but (unlike *R. canescens*) the bud scales have glands along the margins. In addition gland-tipped hairs are common on the petioles, lower edges (margins) of the leaves, and flower stalks of *R. austrinum*. This species is generally restricted to the bluffs above the Apalachicola River and thus is ecologically isolated from *R. canescens*, which prefers wet or poorly drained soils. The Oconee azalea (*R. flammeum*) is another red-flowered species with a restricted range. This species is found in upland woods on dry slopes and ridges, or on bluffs of rivers or streams. It is found in the Flint River gorge area of Georgia and along the bluffs of the Savannah River. *Rhododendron flammeum* is almost entirely eglandular [lacks glands, ed.], and flowers after or as the leaves expand. Plants of *R. flammeum* are generally flat-topped and the leaves tend to be smooth and lacking very many hairs. Perhaps the most difficult species to distinguish within the red-orange group are *R. calendulaceum* (flame azalea) and *R. cumberlandense* (Cumberland azalea, diploid flame azalea). Both species are variable in flower color although *R. cumberlandense* is usually darker red and flowers after the leaves have expanded. This species also has smaller flowers and leaves that are usually glabrous and shining on the upper surface and glaucous (covered with a whitish-bluish wax) on the lower surface. In addition, plants of *R. cumberlandense* can be distinguished from *R. calendulaceum* by the lack of gland-tipped hairs on the sepal margins and pedicels. *Rhododendron cumberlandense* is primarily found at higher elevations in the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains. *Rhododendron*

*calendulaceum* (flame azalea) is a common component of the understory in the mountains of Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. This species is tremendously variable in flower color and leaf pubescence. Flowers of this species are generally larger than those of *R. cumberlandense*. This may be due to the fact that *R. calendulaceum* is a tetraploid, whereas all other members of *R.* section *Pentanthera* are diploid. The flame azalea (*R. calendulaceum*) flowers before or as the leaves expand and has gland-tipped hairs that are prominent on the pedicels and sepal margins. It is much more common than the Cumberland azalea (*R. cumberlandense*) and flowers early in the spring. Some may be wondering "What about *Rhododendron bakeri*?" This name has been and is currently used by many for the diploid flame azalea. Unfortunately, the name *R. bakeri* was based on a specimen that is a hybrid of *R. flammeum* and *R. canescens*! Therefore, it can only be applied to hybrids of *R. flammeum* and *R. canescens*, and there is already an older name for such a hybrid (although naming natural hybrid individuals is not recommended). The correct name for the diploid flame azalea, then, is *Rhododendron cumberlandense* (2).

The example of *R. bakeri* (= *R. flammeum* X *R. canescens*) points to the importance of natural hybrids among the native azaleas. Most species of azalea can be crossed and produce fertile offspring. The natural barriers to hybridization among the native azaleas are primarily related to habitat preference and the time of flowering. For example, *R. flammeum* is found in well-drained upland sites, often facing rivers or streams. Usually this is not the preferred habitat for *R. canescens*, which is almost always found in poorly drained soils. However, at the northern edge of the range of *R. canescens* it occurs in habitats similar to that of *R. flammeum*. Under these circumstances hybridization can occur. A particularly well-documented case is that of *R. canescens* and *R. flammeum* and their numerous hybrid individuals on Stone Mountain, Georgia. Because *R. canescens* (pink-white flowers, no blotch) is distinctive from *R. flammeum* (red-orange, blotch on

upper corolla lobe) the hybrid individuals are easy to identify. Usually they are pink to white with a yellow blotch on the upper corolla lobe. Other aspects of these hybrids are also intermediate between the parents. Plants of *R. canescens* are tall with a round top, while plants of *R. flammeum* are shorter with a distinctive flat-topped shape. Hybrid individuals are intermediate in height between *R. canescens* and *R. flammeum* and have neither the flat-top of *R. flammeum*, nor the rounded shape of *R. canescens*.

Although hybrids can be locally common, as in the case of Stone Mountain, Georgia, the phenomenon is not as pervasive as often suggested in the literature. Much of the emphasis on problems of hybridization has been due to collectors' emphases on areas where hybrids are known to occur, e.g. Gregory Bald in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. However, much of the variability in flower color and pubescence is due to natural variation in the species of native azaleas.

#### Literature Cited

- (1) Judd, W. S. and K. A. Kron. 1995. A revision of *Rhododendron* VI. Subgenus *Pentanthera* (sections *Sciadorhodion*, *Rhodora*, and *Viscidula*). *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 52, pp. 1-54.
- (2) Kron, K. A. 1993. A revision of *Rhododendron* section *Pentanthera*. *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 50, pp. 249-364.

*Photographs by the author*

Dr. Kathleen A. Kron, Dept. of Biology, Wake Forest University Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7325

*Dr. Kron's Ph.D. dissertation was a revision of the Rhododendron sect. Pentanthera. She also published a revision of the rest of the deciduous azaleas with W. S. Judd. She's currently working on the evolutionary relationships among the major groups of Rhododendrons using DNA sequence data in the Department of Biology at Wake Forest. □*

### Brookside Gardens Chapter

Bill Johnson, *President*

At the September Plant Auction at the National Arboretum Bill Miller did his usual great job as auctioneer for a total of \$994.00. The event is sponsored by Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA). As usual there were many more plants than people, but everyone there seemed to be having a good time. Even if you were not interested in obtaining more plants, just watching the excitement of the bidding exchange can be more entertaining than television. Sorry if you missed the auction, we can hope Bill will entertain us again next year.

Barbara Bullock, curator of the azalea and rhododendron collections at the U.S National Arboretum, was the speaker at the October meeting. Barbara gave us an update on the amazing work being done to restore the health and beauty of the azalea hillside. This is an on-going project that Barbara has been working on with a team of very dedicated volunteers.

At the meeting the chapter voted to send FONA 20% of the proceeds from the September auction plus an additional \$1,000.00 in the memory of Dick West. The next meeting is set for December 2 at Davis Library at 7:30PM.

### Oconee Chapter

Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The flower show at the Garden South, April 20-21 was very successful. It even attracted hummingbirds into the store. There were over 100 azalea entries supplied by members. Jim Thornton and James Harris conducted seminars on "Maintenance of Azaleas" and "Native Azaleas." The seminars were well attended, and chapter members discussed azaleas frequently throughout the two-day event with viewers of the exhibit. Eight persons signed up as new members during this show. We now have 86 members. Garden South wants the Chapter to come back next year.

The chapter met May 19 at the First Baptist Church of Conyers. Earl Hester, our president, called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Ralph Bullard who introduced the speaker, Doug Reynolds. Doug spoke about azalea bonsai. He demonstrated the traditional Japanese method of pruning azaleas. As reference material, he suggested the books of Yoshi Muera "Miniature Trees and Landscapes", John Naka "Bonsai Techniques", the magazine, "Bonsai Today", and the video "Satsuki Azalea".

After a brief intermission, Earl called a business meeting to order. The minutes were read and the treasurer's report given.

The dates for the ASA Convention were set for April 17-19, 1997. There was a discussion of various committees.

The new members attending their first meeting (Ann Ezell and Doug Reynolds) were given an azalea donated by Fred Sorg. Fred also brought other azalea and hosta plants that were sold to Chapter members. Thank you, Fred.

On June 9, the Oconee Chapter met for the annual azalea cutting swap at the home of Ruth and Frank Bryan. There were 26 in attendance, including new members Jeanne Abbott, Ann Adams, and Mary Sue, Erin and Steve Bryan. Many varieties of azalea cuttings were available to select. Additionally, Doug Reynolds gave every one in attendance a daylily. A brief shower made the group run for shelter. The group then discussed plans for the 1997 Convention. Many lingered over refreshments and strolled the grounds.

The next meeting was held September 23, 1996 at the First Baptist Church of Conyers with 15 in attendance.

Earl Hester called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Ralph Bullard, Program Chairman, who introduced the speaker and member Steven Yeatts.

Steve distributed a list of deciduous species, which gives names, habitat, color, bloom time and maximum height of each species. He also distributed a list of sources of deciduous azaleas. (This will be published in the next newsletter.) He discussed the pleasure of collecting and the species that were more successful in various areas. Some that do well in this area, of course, under proper conditions, are *farrerae* and *canadense* species. His ideal collecting procedure is to find the azaleas in the wild while in bloom and mark them. Then return in the winter to dig them up. Be sure, however, to get permission to enter private grounds. He recommended the book "The Distribution of the Vascular Flora of Georgia," which is out of print but in the Department of Botany, University of Georgia, Athens. After Steve's very informative program, refreshments were served.

The business meeting was called to order. The next meeting was set for November 10. Earl Hester brought azaleas to sell for benefit of the Chapter treasury. Dr. Charles Owen brought bamboo shoots for those who asked for them previously. Thank you, Earl and Charles.

Jim Thornton, Chairman of the Azalea Convention, 1997, informed the group about plans and hopes for next spring.

### Northern Virginia Chapter

John Zottoli, *President*

Many of our Chapter members participated in a banquet sponsored by our chapter, other Azalea Society chapters and the Potomac Valley Chapter of the Rhododendron Society. One of the featured speakers was Steve Brainerd, the national President of the Azalea Society of America. Steve's comments focused on incorporating azaleas into the landscape. The event included a book sale and plant auction; and everyone left with two or more plants as door prizes.

Election of Chapter Officers for the 1997 year will be held at the December 8 meeting. The nominating committee has produced the following slate:

<b>President:</b>	Joe Klimavicz
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dan Kraybill
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alfred Stober
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Krogmann

NEW MEMBERS

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

El Vergel  
Casilla 2D  
Angol CHILE  
PHONE: (045-712103)

R. Steven Fratoni  
1315 Tinkham Road  
Wilbraham, MA 01095-2658  
PHONE: (413) 596-9373

Jack Gold  
100 W 57th Street  
New York, NY 10019-3327

Thoms E. Head  
218 E. 3rd North Street  
Morristown, TN 37814  
PHONE: (423) 581-6119

Richard W. Lazaro, MD  
1131 Mall Drive  
Las Cruces, NM 88011  
PHONE: (505) 522-7676

Albert Penland  
1741 McDaniel Mill Road  
Conyers, GA 30207  
PHONE: (770) 918-9254

Jerry Pittman  
6470 Dauphin Island Pkwy  
Mobile, AL 36605  
PHONE: (334) 443-6540

Mathias C. Zack  
P. O. Box 293  
Deep River, CT 06417  
PHONE: (860) 526-5100

**BROOKSIDE GARDENS  
CHAPTER**

Dan Holik  
4300 Underwood Street  
University Park, MD 20782  
PHONE: (301) 699-9012

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
CHAPTER**

Margaret R. Mahoney  
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Midlothian, VA 23113  
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Helen Pearson  
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PHONE: (804) 598-5832

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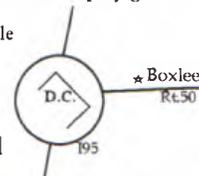
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ter membership numbers as of  
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members for 1996:

Members	Total	New
Ben Morrison	31	3
Brookside Gardens	130	6
Dallas	57	11
Louisiana	35	9
Northern Virginia	69	2
Oconee	87	17
Richmond Virginia	42	4
Tri-State	23	2

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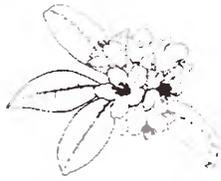
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