

THE

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VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

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Azalea

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



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Post Office Box 34536
West Bethesda, Maryland
20827-0536

President's Letter

"Hey, lady, can you spare a dime? Hey, mister, gotta minute?" Ok, maybe it's more like 32 cents, and maybe it will take more than a minute, maybe two, but that's about all it should have taken to have filled out the December ballot and been counted. Maybe you can't get to all the meetings, give presentations, and you can't get to the conventions...and all that stuff, but for a stamp and a few minutes of your time? Ok, so there were only single nominees on the ballot for officers and directors—but for the best article?

Maybe you didn't read many of them and had no idea which one to vote for...I don't think so, at least from the feedback I get from the Oconee folks! Do you know how many ballots we received? About 7%. So what's the big deal?

Well, the reason I bring this up is because I'm going to ask a favor of you, and again it's going to require a stamp, but this time it's going to take a little more than a minute or two, at least, I hope you'll spend a little more time on this project. I hope to receive more than 7%.

What I need is to find out what's on your mind when you think about the ASA...whether you are an officer, a director, chapter president or, last but not least, a chapter/at-large member! Tell us what's on your mind when you think about your chapter or the ASA. There's a lot of concern out there about membership, funding, participation and well, I don't want to prompt you, I want to see what you have to say. What should and could we be doing as a first rate society! (I've made a personal plea to our officers, directors, and chairpersons.)

Did you know we will soon celebrate our 20th anniversary? Ask yourself "What do we need to do to see us through the next 20!"

One last thought, "Someone recently asked me if I knew the difference between ignorance, not stupidity mind you, but ignorance and apathy?" [See the answer on page 36.]

Is this the way we feel about the ASA? I don't think so! Please send your response to me by the end of July. We'll publish the results.

Jim Thornton □

Letter to the Editor

A distribution of seed from Russia included a species unfamiliar to many growers—*R. sichotense*. In James Cullen's revision of the lepidote (scaly) rhododendrons, *R. sichotense* is described as one variant of *R. dauricum* (Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 1980, 39(1): 112-113). Cullen states: "*R. dauricum* is a widely distributed and variable species. Two variants have been described as species in the Russian literature, but I have not seen enough material to judge their distinctness." *R. sichotense* is also described in H. H. Davidian's *The Rhododendron Species*, Vol. I, p. 122. (continued on p. 36)

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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*On the Cover: Glenn Dale hybrid 'Dream'
Photographer: Don Hyatt*

MEET AN AZALEAPHILE—FRANK WHITE

Jane M. Newman
Great Falls, Virginia

This is based on a conversation of more than a year ago at Azalea Acres, the home in Lanham, Maryland, of Frank B. White, Jr. and his wife, Jean. The room was filled with books, photo albums and other mementos. Snoozing by the front window was one of their cats, the beautiful black and white Cupid. Passing by occasionally was the little dog whom they named Lucky after rescuing him from traffic on the parkway in front of their house—and who really should have been renamed 'Miracle' since, now blind, he had recently been rescued again by a kind person after he slipped out the front gate someone left open. Also with us were a couple of crippled mallards quietly eating in their mesh-sided playpen in the corner of the room. Several attempts to have another chat with Frank about areas not covered in the interview have been unsuccessful because of his medical problems.

Our mutual friend, the late Ruth Harrington, was garden editor for a string of local newspapers. Several years ago she wrote a wonderful article titled "Under the Spell of Azalea Acres." Ruth began with a brief history of evergreen azaleas in this country and particularly the efforts of Ben Morrison to develop a family of hardy azaleas that would bloom over a long period in succession and have a variety of bush forms and flower colors. Then she mentioned that you worked for Morrison when you were very young. Tell me about it.

I first went to work for Ben Morrison when I was 13, a green teenager, who hadn't known an azalea from a petunia. Morrison started me out working every day after school and on Saturdays and Sundays.

How did you meet him?

I went up to Glenn Dale, and I saw these flowers. As it turned out, they were his azaleas he was working with. At that time I didn't even know what they were. I didn't tell my parents for a long time that was where I was going on my bike every day after school and on weekends. He put me to work. I would pull weeds for him. He would have to show me what was a weed and what wasn't. I would haul water for him. In those days we had no water hoses. We used to carry water in two 10- or 12-quart buckets from a pond down at the entrance to the Glenn Dale grounds. I would carry the water and pour it on the plants and go back and get two more buckets. I would carry water all day. It was years before he even got hoses. One important thing—I was not a government employee. I just worked for Morrison. He paid me ten cents an hour. And he paid me out of his own pocket with nickels and dimes and quarters. I was too young to work for the government.

What happened? You fell in love with azaleas?

Yes. Morrison taught me what they were. At Glenn Dale at that time he was making his cutting propagations. These were little slips that he took from larger plants. We would root them in the greenhouses up there. We would keep watering them with my buckets, and after they were rooted we would transplant them into a Belgian clay pot, which was about a three-quart pot. We then would plant them out into the woods. They had no protection by glass or anything like that. They were planted directly into the woods, and there we would water them and take care of

them for a couple of more years. Some of these plants are still there after all these years, in the same place where Morrison and I planted them from our cutting beds.

Were these named Glenn Dales?



Frank White, early spring 1988.
Photograph courtesy Mrs. Frank White

Oh, these were all Glenn Dales, but as of that time there were very few of them that were named. I'll digress a moment and tell you how Morrison happened to name them and why there were so many named ones that are almost identical. I think it was in 1934 or 1935 that the Department of Agriculture was in sad shape up on the Hill with the Congress. They were short of money in their appropriation. At one time word came down to Morrison—"I'll use the same language they did—"name some of those **** Japanese flowers you've got up there"—the reason being that they had to justify their budget. Well, that took Morrison by surprise, and he didn't have names already figured out. That is the reason so many are named after women. These women were the wives and

girlfriends of men who worked at the Research Center. He put a name on everything he could find. Had Morrison had his druthers, he wouldn't have named half of them. He said to give him five or ten more years to test them and then he would put names on. No, no, we want names on them today. So that is the reason we have so many that we can hardly see the difference between.

It really is awfully hard to distinguish some of the 'Fashion' sisters. So you were working for Morrison, and then what happened?

Eventually I got a regular job, a regular temporary job, down at Beltsville. At Beltsville I worked with the same azaleas that we had grown at Glenn Dale, plus at that time we were also growing and testing the Gable azaleas. Now Morrison, of course, originated and grew all of the so-called Glenn Dale azaleas, but he also did work with the Gables. The Gables were originated and grown by Joe Gable up at Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, but those that were introduced down here were grown mostly by Ben Morrison at the same time he was growing the Glenn Dales. After Beltsville, I worked as a farm laborer for a while and then went on to the Maryland State Police. After that I went on the D.C. Metropolitan Police for a few months. Then Pearl Harbor came along, and I went into the Marine Corps. After the war I was unemployed for several months and then went back to work at Beltsville for the Department of Agriculture. Then I got a little better job at the University of Maryland in charge of their greenhouses—I think there were four of them at the time.

Any azaleas there?

No. Oh, there might have been a few, but those greenhouses were for the purpose of growing bedding plants for the campus grounds.

Why did you decide to go into azalea growing as a business?

Well, as I said, I fell in love with the plants, but the most money I ever got working with them in a regular job was \$2.40 a day. I couldn't make it on that.

How did you come to get this property that you call Azalea Acres?

We bought it from my mother. This is part of the 20 or so acres my parents owned. I grew up in what was known as the Old White House at the top of the hill. It was a beautiful home, a two-story columned colonial built in 1803. When my dad died, my mother couldn't take care of the property, so she cut off a hunk of ground that included the house and rented it to some embassy people. They got drunk one weekend and burned the house down. About ten years later we bought the land, and we had a frame house at the top of the hill. We sold that and bought this parcel and built our present home right by the parkway. [Princess Garden Parkway, ed.]

Your catalogs described your Azalea Acres as having about two miles of foot trails winding through a naturalized setting planted almost solidly with more than 2,000 varieties of azaleas and rhodies and several hundred varieties of daffodils. Did you sit down and draw up a master plan for the trails, or did they just grow—like Topsy?

I just cut wood and made the paths.

How did you get your own collection of azaleas?

Oh, I got cuttings from Beltsville, the University of Maryland, the city of Takoma Park. I established a friendship with the people of Takoma Park that has extended all the way to this time.

I know you got a plaque from them thanking you for your azaleas.

They've given me all kinds of things like that. Takoma Park actually has a better planting than does the National Arboretum.

You think so?

Oh, yes.

I know Takoma Park calls itself "Azalea City" or something like that, but I'm really not familiar with it. Are the azaleas along the streets or in a park or what?

They've got them planted everywhere. They put bushels of them around what they call the administration building. I'm very close to those folks. They're fine people. And over the years I've learned—and it's a big help to me—that they just want azaleas. They bring trucks out here and dig enough plants to fill the holes they've prepared. They haven't been digging as many in recent years—they're pretty well filled up.

So, how long ago did you actually start in the azalea business?

About 1960, but the ones I send to Takoma Park I donate. Each year they have them appraised and give me a statement of the value and I tack it onto my income tax return.

Those deductions are helpful, of course, but they don't come anywhere near the income you would have gotten from selling the plants. And I remember the last time I was here someone connected with your neighbor, the Bible College, stopped by to express their appreciation for your generosity.

Oh, I've given them lots of plants, but I've never taken a deduction for them. [Frank's 1984 catalog invited visitors to the Ben Morrison Chapter azalea show to

drive through the campus of Washington Bible College, where he had planted in excess of 5,000 azaleas, rhododendrons, and companion shrubs and trees, plus about 5,000 daffodils, ed.]

If you really exercised your little gray cells, how many azaleas would you estimate you've propagated over the years?

I'd say a couple hundred thousand.

In your catalogs you sometimes mentioned how many varieties you had propagated the previous year. What is the highest number of varieties you remember propagating in a single season?

At the peak of my expansion I would say almost 2,000. That dropped way down because nobody would buy some varieties.

I remember buying rhodies from you one year.

Oh, yes I propagated some of them, but I was an absolute failure at deciduous azaleas.

A couple of years ago I got an azalea called 'Richmond', and the tag said it was your hybrid.

That was one of about 40 or 50 to which I assigned names associated with Virginia and gave to members of the newly formed Richmond chapter of the ASA.

Well, my poor 'Richmond' got busted off by my dogs chasing a little football before I ever saw it in bloom.

It seems to me it was a purple, but I'm not sure.

Speaking of the ASA, the big thing I wanted to ask you was how it got started.

Going way back in my memory, I would guess the first person to

put the idea in my mind was Alice Holland. Alice—I don't like the word—but Alice was the ramrod, the person who really started it. I merely tagged along. She pushed me into the limelight when actually it was Alice who was the person doing the work. Judy Groomes was one of the other very strong workers at the beginning.

There was a call or an invitation for a meeting at Brookside to see how many people would be interested in an azalea organization. Where did you get the names? Were they mostly your customers or members of the Silver Spring Garden Club, which used to have an azalea sale?

There weren't any garden clubs involved. They were primarily not only my customers but also individuals that people like Alice and Judy knew. Alice organized a group that included George Harding and me as the first men. A letter was sent out over our signatures inviting some people to George's home. This was really the first meeting of the Azalea Society, contrary to the belief that it began at Brookside. From the people who showed up at George's, we got suggestions for additional members.

Someone told me that you and Harding bankrolled the Society.

Oh, that wasn't much of a gift. We were at a stage where it just seemed we needed a better method than handwritten notes and telephone calls to get the group together. Both George and I would volunteer each other for work. I said I would give \$50 to foot the bill for stamps and stationery. George said that wasn't enough and moved that I kick in \$200. I made a substitute motion that I kick in \$100 and George kick in \$100. So we gave the \$200 to Alice, and she bought the supplies.

This was back when you were still meeting at his house?

Yes.

Well, you've done a lot of work to promote the Society. You've served as what? President, Vice President? What else?

Chairman of the Board of Governors. I did a lot of work in the early days. I would have one, two, or three trips a year to places where they were organizing a chapter. I'd box up a big bunch of Glenn Dales and Kurumes for them.

As I recall, you brought to the organizational meeting of the Northern Virginia Chapter some freebie varieties that were new to us. Speaking of spreading the gospel on new varieties, you wrote an article for **THE AZALEAN** on Reid's Linwoods. It's amazing that you found time in May to go up and check them out.

I learned that he was growing azaleas and calling them the Linwoods. The reason he was calling them the Linwoods was that his home was in Linwood, New Jersey. The people up there used to kid him about calling them the Linwood Hardies, and they would say "No, they're just hardy in Linwood." That turned out to be quite a hardy strain. I got to know Al Reid very well all the way up to his death.

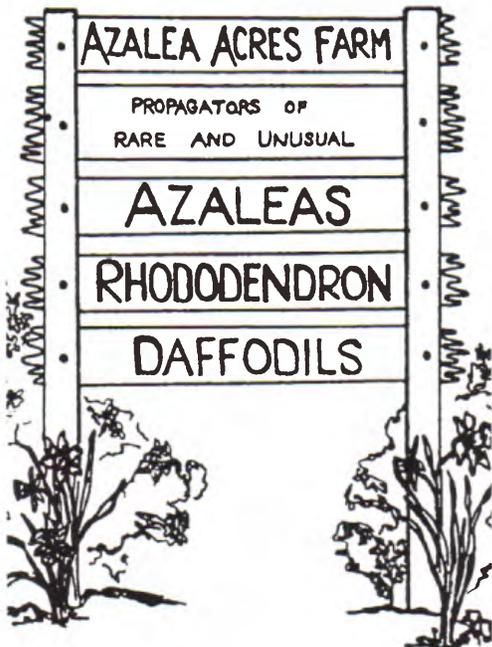
I met him at the ARS convention in 1982. He saw my name tag and started talking about the little plants he had just shipped to me.

Al was a very fine fellow. Now the history of the Linwood azaleas is that the Fischer people had about a dozen greenhouses up there. Their primary crop was African violets, which were sold all over the country. Al was working for them. He asked the Fischer family if he could grow some of his cuttings in their greenhouses,

which they allowed him to do. At that time he didn't think that his Linwoods were going to be hardy at all. Their degree of hardiness was an accident discovered several years later. By that time he had so many azaleas growing in Fischer's greenhouses that they were almost ready to stop growing their African violets.

Were they just seedlings that he was trying out, or ones that he was propagating as named varieties?

No. I forget the names of the varieties that he used to pollinate, but there were several varieties that weren't hardy. But he would grow them and he would sell them to the florists in New York."



I know there were some that were patented. 'Dr. Alderfer' was one and 'Nellie'. They were patented by Fischer rather than Reid.

Yep, by Fischer rather than him. And he cross-pollinated these ones and came up with the group that later became known as Linwoods.

I miss your handsome redwood sign that more or less served as the logo for your catalogs.

One night some young punks got frustrated when they couldn't break into the house through the front door, so they knocked the sign down and threw all the annuals into the street.

Well, do you still have the AZALEAS vanity tag for your truck?

Yes.

Are you able to propagate any more, or are you just too limited physically?

I can't even bend over.

If you could only find someone to hire at ten cents an hour to take cuttings for you.

I've got the ground, and I've got the plants in the woods. Vines and things are just absolutely taking over my old plants in the woods. They are just choking them out.

Do you still have all your acreage?

Oh yeah.

And your plants? Do you have a master plan of where things are? That master plan is up there in your head? Do you think you should start getting some labels before you get to the forgetful stage?

Oh, I know where they are—most of them.

Jane Newman is a charter member of the ASA and a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. □

Cultural Note

In the 50's I purchased a 'Tanager' (Glenn Dale) that had dark red flowers. The late Mr. Close (propagator of Glenn Dales) saw it in bloom and said it was not correct. I ordered a 'Tanager' from Hohman that was like mine. A few years ago Mr. Hager informed me that he had seen rooted cuttings blooming dark red was told that they were 'Tanager' from Mr. Morrison. Hager grew them on and they gradually became a brilliant red. Why the changes? I believed that Mr. Hager used a fertilizer that contained sulphur, so I applied sulphur to 'Tanager' and last year the flowers were a brilliant red (as is the bird for which it was named).

In the 50's I saw potted young plants of 'Furbelow' for sale; white with red markings. The 'Furbelow' from Hohman in 1962 was white. I returned to the above nursery in 1965 and located their stock plant of 'Furbelow' (the name means showy or fancy) and it was white except for one low branch that had the correct flowers. I put this under a rock but next year it had turned white.

Why? Lee's second edition, page number 86—anthocyanins [blue, purple or red, ed.] are reddish when slightly acid conditions are present and bluish ('Tanager' and the colorless 'Furbelow') as the acidity diminishes. In my experience, the plant described in Monograph 20 as 'Furbelow' was distributed and turned white!

Dr. Neil P. Campbell
Washington, DC □

Society Honor Roll

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CULTIVAR EPITHETS—AGAIN!

Donald H. Voss
Vienna, Virginia

The Cultivated Plant Code (ICNCP)-1995

A fellow member of the Azalea Society called one evening, puzzling over the publication of a newly registered four-word cultivar epithet ('Little's Early Light Pink'). Mea culpa! Some time ago I published "Don't name that plant—until you have read this article!" [THE AZALEAN 13(2), June 1991], in which readers were exhorted to follow the rules of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP)-1980. But I later failed to alert readers in timely fashion to the 1995 revision of the Code. One rule in the 1980 Code restricted cultivar epithets to three words. Many readers will recall my illustrating this with Robert Gartrell's experience in naming the azalea 'Nancy of Robinhill': the epithet could not be registered with Robin Hill correctly styled as two words. In registering a new cultivar today, one would not have to resort to the subterfuge of combining words.

Cultivar nomenclature is now governed by a heavily rewritten and expanded "Cultivated Plant Code," the ICNCP-1995 (Trehane, et al. 1995). A new cultivar epithet must be a word or words in a modern language. Personal names and place names are acceptable. (The full name of a cultivar comprises the Latin botanical name, at a minimum the genus name, plus the cultivar epithet; for example, *Rhododendron* 'Treasure'.) The three-word limitation is gone for epithets established on or after 1 January 1996. In its place is a limit of "no more than 10 syllables and no more than 30 letters or characters overall, excluding spaces and demarcating marks." A word to those who had epithets rejected under the three-word rule of the old code: "Whoa!" Those proposed epithets may not be established under the new rule.

A rule change directly affecting the presentation of cultivar epithets is that these must be enclosed in single quotes (or typographic equivalent); for example, 'Sherbrooke'. Double quotes or the abbreviations "cv." and "var." may not be used with cultivar epithets. Also—no change from the 1980 Code but contrary to usage in many nursery catalogs—the multiplication sign (used in Latin botanical names to indicate hybridity) must not appear before a cultivar epithet.

Another issue relating to the presentation of cultivar epithets is their relation to trademarks. First, the ICNCP-1995 makes clear that: "The formation and use of trade-marks are not governed by this Code." Because a trademark is owned by an individual, partnership, or corporation, it is not available for use except as permitted by the trademark owner. In contrast, under Principle 6 of the ICNCP-1995: "Cultivar and cultivar-group epithets must be universally available in all countries for use by any person to denote a particular cultivar or cultivar-group."

This is the key to some of the strange entries seen in nursery catalogs. The ploy is to choose an "ugly" cultivar epithet and then attract customers with a trademark available only to the trademark owner or licensee—or, alternatively, with a trade designation. The cultivar epithet must be in single quotes, and the trademark should be distinguished typographically: an imaginary example for a registered trademark is *Vossia* 'Goopglop' EVENING STAR®. (For an unreg-

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) is a set of guidelines issued under the auspices of the International Commission for Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants of the International Union of Biological Sciences. Its authority comes not from legal sanction but from acceptance in the scientific and horticultural communities that a particular plant should be identified uniquely by a particular name.

Just as chemistry requires nomenclatural stability and would be a shambles if, for example, the name "oxygen" were to be applied variously to oxygen, nitrogen, potassium, and beryllium, so plant science and horticulture require precise application of plant names. Thus, Principle 5 of the ICNCP-1995 states: "Each taxonomic group of cultivated plants with a particular circumscription can bear only one accepted epithet." Those who work with plants (whether as a vocation or avocation) need to recognize the importance of and observe the codes governing botanical and horticultural nomenclature.

Certain laws, treaties, and international conventions also affect plant nomenclature. Their provisions are complex, and it is not an exaggeration to characterize them as a quagmire. As a lay observer of these matters, I shall call to the reader's attention some points gleaned from articles by experts with experience in the field of patent and trademark names (see references).

istered trademark, the symbol ™ is used.) Trade designations are governed by the Code; their presentation is typographically parallel; e.g., *Astroemeria* 'Statiren' IRENA.

I believe that it is desirable to achieve an appropriate relation between a cultivar epithet and the nature of the plant to which it is applied.

For some agricultural and floristic crops, often from inbred lines or repeatable single crosses between two pure-bred lines, combinations of letters and numbers may be an efficient way to identify cultivars. This rationale can be extended to some breeding stock in the parentage of ornamental plants. Parent plants frequently do not have all the characteristics requisite for a good ornamental but are used in hybridizing to infuse hardiness or some other factor desired in the progeny. Such parent plants should be registered with the appropriate International Registration Authority (see ICNCP-1995) to provide a permanent record of their identity and features. It does seem, however, a waste of good names (all too hard to come by) to require replacement of the breeders' identification codes for plants not being marketed. For ornamental woody plants worthy of being marketed, I believe that a breeder's identification such as "RAM96-12," should not be acceptable as a cultivar epithet. Some sellers would probably find it unsuited for attracting customers. This sort of epithet is likely to elicit a cool rather than warm response from landscape clients and gardeners, and warm response means dollars to sellers. To the detriment of nomenclatural stability, sellers might ignore a cultivar epithet such as "RAM96-12" and turn to trade designations (possibly different from seller to seller). Worse, contrary to the Code, many would probably style them in single quotes in their catalogs. The chaotic result: several de facto names for a clone, the antithesis of an important objective of the Code.

Other ICNCP rules dealing with presentation of cultivar epithets have been made more explicit. Article 17.6. is quoted here, in part because of its special application to Japanese cultivar epithets frequently encountered: "Each word of a cultivar epithet must start with an initial capital letter unless linguistic custom determines otherwise. Exceptions are words after a hyphen; conjunctions and preposi-

tions other than those in the first word of the epithet; and the particle 'no' in transliterated Japanese epithet's. "Among the examples cited in the Code are: *Achimenes* 'Show-off', *Malus domestica* 'Beauty of Bath', *Narcissus* 'At Dawning', *Rosa* 'Pompon de Paris', and *Camellia* 'Ama-no-gawa'. If derived from a hyphenated personal or place name, capitalization of the word following the hyphen is retained; e.g., 'Celia Blakeway-Phillips' and 'Baden-Baden'.

Note that in cases involving transliterated Japanese cultivar epithets, the particle "no" is hyphenated before and after the particle; that the following word is not capitalized; and that the components of the epithet (as in the example given above) are not to be combined. The usual capitalization applies to Japanese epithets without the particle "no"; for example, *Hosta* 'Ogon Setouchi'.

Implementation of the ICNCP-1995 rule for the particle "no" is simple if one is presented with a transliterated cultivar epithet in which the particle is shown separately (whatever the capitalization). For example, 'Shinnyo no Tsuki' is readily brought into compliance with the Code by styling it as 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. But if faced with something like "Amanogawa" (in a genus other than *Camellia*), how does one determine whether it is correct as presented or whether the elements of "Ama-no-gawa" have been improperly run together? It is the classic question: "How do you unscramble an egg?" For azaleas, the best advice the author can offer with respect to this issue is to start by referring to Appendix D, "Transliteration and Pronunciation of Japanese," and the various plant lists in Fred Galle's *Azaleas*.

The rules for translation and transliteration of cultivar epithets have changed. Now, a cultivar epithet must not be translated into another language if the same alphabet is used. The Code states as an example that the cultivar epithet of kohlrabi *Brassica oleracea*

'Nichtsschiessender' may not be translated. For marketing purposes it is permissible to use a translation of the cultivar epithet as a trade designation. Thus, *Clematis* 'Blekitny Aniol' could be shown as *C.* 'Blekitny Aniol' BLUE ANGEL. A cultivar epithet in a modern language using a different script may be transliterated into Latin-alphabet script using pinyin for Chinese, Hepburn for Japanese, McCune-Reischauer for Korean, and U.S. Library of Congress (USLC) for others.

Many other changes are to be found in the ICNCP-1995. New rules are included for "cultivar-groups." The term "grex" may now be used only in orchid nomenclature. The duties and powers of International Registration Authorities (IRAs) have been spelled out, and the concept of "Standards" is introduced: "The Standard for a cultivar is the designated herbarium specimen or equivalent element to which a cultivar epithet is attached . . ." In some cases, illustrations may be designated as Standards (they may include paintings or photographic transparencies); these are often superior to herbarium specimens in delineating the diagnostic characters of a cultivar. Documentation associated with statutory registration or patents may also constitute Standards. The use of Standards is strongly encouraged. The various IRAs may have different practices in regard to documentation of cultivar registration.

The ICNCP editorial committee did yeoman work in preparing the new Code but could not eliminate its complexity. The reader desiring a full understanding should don his armor and enter the lists by purchasing a copy of the ICNCP-1995. In addition to the rules, the volume includes twelve appendices. Among these are guidance for IRAs, a directory of IRAs for various genera and groups of plants, a directory of statutory plant registration authorities, helpful guidance for those composing new cultivar epithets, a list of authors of checklists of ornamental cultivars in many genera, and a glossary.

Nomenclatural Implications of Plant Patents and Trademarks

The patenting of inventions has been possible under U.S. law since 1790. The Constitution (Art. I., Sec. 8., Clause 8) gave to Congress the power "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." To qualify for a patent, an invention must be new and useful, and must have taken physical form; it should be the result of creative genius, not just the work of a mechanic skilled in the art. Needless to say, there has been a long trail of litigation over the bounds of these requirements, and, on occasion, tension between the views of the judiciary and those of the Patent Office.

It was not until 1930 that new varieties of plants became eligible for patent protection under 35 U.S. Code 161. Plant-protection attorney and former American Rose Society president Gioia explains that plant-patent protection comprises power to exclude others from asexually reproducing the patented plant, as well as excluding them from selling or using patented plants asexually reproduced without the permission of the patent owner (Gioia 1996b). It is available to whomever ". . . invents or discovers and asexually reproduces any distinct and new variety of plant, including cultivated sports, mutants, hybrids, and newly found seedlings, other than a tuberpropagated plant or a plant found in an uncultivated state . . ." Note that a plant in the wild may not be patented, and that asexual reproduction is prerequisite to application for a plant patent.

While patent protection under 35 USC 161 is limited to the plant itself, a broader form of protection, referred to as a "utility patent," is available under 35 USC 101. This section embraces a "new and useful process, machine,

manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof . . ." Under this form of patent, protection may extend to one or more categories of seed, fruit, cut flowers, reproductive material, and other definable characters. Sexually reproducible new varieties may qualify for Certificates of Protection from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Originally, plant-patent protection extended for 17 years from the date of issue of the patent. Conforming to obligations assumed by the United States under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the protection under a patent issued on or after 8 June 1995 begins with its issuance and continues to 20 years from the date of filing of the application. The ICNCP-1995 (Arts. 2.4. and 27.2.) provides that the name under which a plant is patented becomes the cultivar epithet. This became the policy of the U.S. Patent Office in the 1980s, after the United States became a party to the UPOV (Union Internationale pour le Protection des Obtentions Vegetales) convention.

A trademark may be established by use; even if the mark is not registered, the owner has certain rights to its use (Gioia 1996a). The experts recommend formal registration of the trademark with the appropriate governmental authority to enhance the owner's ability to take legal action against infringement. As noted above, an unregistered trademark should be followed by the symbol TM (and a federally registered trademark by the symbol ®).

Federally registered trademarks now are issued for a 10-year term, with renewal for additional 10-year periods available indefinitely. "Common-law" trademark rights have no fixed term, but may be lost through nonuse. These rights can be lost, moreover, if the trademark owner fails to take action to suppress infringement. For example, "ASPIRIN" was at first a trademark of the Bayer Company, but absent an enforcement program became a generic term for the compound.

The issuance of patents and trademarks by governmental authorities may result in duplication of cultivar epithets listed in the registers of International Registration Authorities constituted under the ICNCP. Although the officials who issue patents and register trademarks seek to avoid duplication, the scope of their searches and the time and effort that can be devoted to searching are limited. A factor that narrows the scope of name-checking is the confidentiality of a patent application.

A further consideration is the lack of a common view of the relation of cultivar epithets, patent names, and trademarks on the part of applicants for protected status, plant-protection attorneys, and the officials administering the statutory processes. This lack may proceed from a genuine misunderstanding of relevant laws, of controlling legal authorities, and of the benefits of accepting a "one plant, one name" rule—or it may be driven simply by applicants' desire for a profitable outcome.

Some Pro's and Con's

The view of these matters from the standpoint of a large commercial nursery company is set forth in an article by Conard-Pyle's chairman of the board (Hutton 1992). Plant patents and trademark protection are seen as benefiting both producer and consumer. With such protection, the substantial costs of plant breeding, propagation, promotion, and marketing can be recovered gradually by the owner of the patent and trademark. Prices can be set lower and distribution may consequently be wider than in an unprotected situation where the originator of a new plant variety has only one to three years before competing growers have propagated and begun marketing a plant. The industry view, as expressed by Hutton, is that trademarks may be used not only as identification of the producer but also for identification of an individual plant cultivar.

From a different viewpoint, Longwood Gardens' curator of plants points out that the marketing of plants under patent names and trademark names turns on its head the basic principle that a plant should have only one correct name (Darke 1992). A trademark, he holds, should identify only the producer; for example, Conard-Pyle's STAR® roses include many cultivars identified by the STAR® trademark as being the product of Conard-Pyle. This use of trademarks can benefit buyers, who by experience will associate product quality with the trademark and hence with the producer. (The Darke article discusses additional convolutions of the patent and trademark system and should be consulted by interested readers.)

No doubt, the correct citation of the name of a trademarked, patented cultivar is cumbersome; e.g., *Ilex* 'Mesog' CHINA GIRL®, Plant Patent No. 4878. Each element is, however, necessary. 'Mesog', as the cultivar epithet, will fix the identity of the plant in references freely available for use in all countries—an important consideration to gardeners and scientists alike. The correct presentation of the trademark alerts all encountering the plant to the fact that "China Girl" is a trademark. Finally, inclusion of the patent number is a warning that the plant must not be asexually propagated without license from the patent owner during the period of the patent.

One reason why many believe trademarks should be restricted to their original function of identifying the origin of a product is that creation of both a cultivar epithet and a trademark name for the same plant causes confusion in secondary marketing as well as among final buyers. Whether deliberately or inadvertently, those publishing nursery catalogs and labeling plants for sale sometimes present plant-specific trademarks as cultivar epithets. This may lead to confusion in the horticultural and scientific literature regarding the identity of a cultivar.

Using the example of a trademarked, patented plant given above ('Mesog'), we may set forth several consequences of the present state of affairs:

- While the patent is in effect, the firm owning the patent may exclude others from propagating of the clone. As trademark owner, it also controls the use of the name CHINA GIRL®.
- After expiration of the patent, others may propagate and sell the plant—but only under the cultivar name 'Mesog'. CHINA GIRL® remains the property of the trademark owner until abandoned. Of course, many buyers will probably be seeking "China Girl," not "Mesog."
- For a given cultivar, different trademarks may be used in different sectors of the market.
- To complicate matters further, when a trademark is associated with a specific cultivar, the owners of the trademark are not precluded from changing the plant to which they apply the mark.

To those advocating nomenclatural stability, the last two possibilities are a horror. If the identity of a plant is to be preserved, the cultivar epithet and the trademark must appear together on labels and in catalog entries. Then, whatever trademark may be applied, the cultivar epithet provides a unique identifier for the plant (assuming that the rules of the Cultivated Plant Code are followed!).

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The ICNCP-1995 may be available in the United States from booksellers specializing in botanical and horticultural works, or possibly from plant society sales operations. It is available from RHS Enterprises, Ltd., RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB, United Kingdom. RHS Enterprises accepts Access/Mastercard/Visa/Amex credit cards (supply card number and expiration date; delivery address must be that of cardholder).

Acknowledgments

This article has benefited from suggestions by several readers, including Mr. Robert Bagwill (retired plant-patent examiner), Mr. Lynn Batdorf (International Registrar for boxwood), Mrs. Susan Martin (N. Amer. Repr., International Registrar for conifers), Mrs. Jay Murray (N. Amer. Repr., International Registrar for rhododendrons). Errors and infelicitous opinions are, however, solely the responsibility of the author.

Donald H. Voss is a retired international economist whose interest in botany and horticulture dates back to high school days. Since late 1985 he has been a volunteer in the herbarium at the U.S. National Arboretum. His current research focuses on botanical nomenclature and plant colors.



Focus on Azaleas

Don Hyatt

McLean, VA

'Dream'

The Glenn Dale hybrid 'Dream' is surely one of our most robust and spectacular azaleas. Blooming with the early Kurume and *poukhanense* hybrids, 'Dream' puts on an incredible show with opulent clusters of brilliant purplish pink flowers, a color so intense I just call it "electric pink." Although individual blossoms are single, they are frilled, fragrant, and nearly three inches across, appearing in such abandon as to completely hide the foliage in frothy masses of color.

As a young plant, 'Dream' tends to be a bit open, but that is true of many of the larger-growing azaleas. Genetically, 'Dream' must know that it is destined to become one of the most prominent azaleas in the landscape, so it wastes no time in getting there. After about twenty years or more, my plant spreads ten feet across and is about six feet tall. It is dense and full, covered in flowers every year from interior branches to the outer twigs. I suppose my plant should be significantly larger than it is right now, but I have had to prune it frequently to keep it within bounds. It has been crowding out several white 'Treasure' azaleas and a couple of yellow Knap Hill hybrids too. Since some of 'Dream's' shoots can grow as long as 18 inches in a season, I do try to chop them back a little, sometime before the fourth of July so that I won't be cutting off next year's flower buds.

With respect to hardiness, 'Dream' is also one of my best. Although a cross of a tender azalea species from China *R. simsii*, with a hardier, 300-year-old Japanese plant known as *R. mucronatum* var. *mucronatum* [often cited as "Mucronatum", ed.]. 'Dream' seems hardier than either parent. 'Dream' has never failed to put on a show for me, even though my garden has experienced low winter temperatures on the order of ten to fifteen below zero Fahrenheit at times. This spring, it even withstood a late freeze while showing color. The temperature fell to 25 degrees and the winds howled at 50 miles per hour all night, but two weeks later, 'Dream' was in glorious full bloom with no signs of nature's test.

'Dream' makes an excellent parent for hybridizing, too. Although it has not been used as much as the very hardy 'Elsie Lee', it has produced some excellent plants for me. My students and I are evaluating some beautiful seedlings of 'Dream' crossed with 'Nancy of Robinhill' which we started under artificial lights in our high school's Computer Lab. We have now planted them around the parking lot, and since most of them are pretty, it will be hard to choose a favorite!

I have thought to myself, if I could grow just one azalea, which one would it be? Now as I watch a certain "electric pink" azalea in my back yard engulf all that grows nearby, I realize that in time, 'Dream' will have made that decision for me. I will have but one azalea, 'Dream'.

Wagner's "White Spider #1"

At a flower show many years ago, Dave Wagner, one of our local Maryland hybridizers, exhibited some of the seedlings he had produced from his azalea breeding program. One of his entries was most unique, a pure white azalea with narrow pointed strap-like petals which were not fused into the usual tubular corolla but were separate. It looked just like a white form of the familiar lavender spider azalea known as 'Koromo Shikibu'. Dave confided in me that 'Koromo Shikibu' was one of the parents, but I do not remember what the other one was. I do not even remember if his seedling won a prize that year, but as far as I was concerned, it was the Best in Show.

Admiring the delicate beauty of this new seedling, I asked Dave if I could take the spray home and try to root some cuttings. I have had great success rooting azaleas from flower shows, and there is always that satisfaction of knowing that the plant I want is the one I see in bloom. He said certainly, but call it "White Spider #1" since he had another white spider, and he was not sure which one was best.

I rooted several cuttings of the white spider that year, and shared them with other interested members of our chapter. I have lost track of Dave Wagner over the years, but I haven't lost track of his marvelous azalea. My plant is probably fifteen years old now and has secured a very prominent spot at a focal point in my garden. The plant is not as rapid a grower as 'Koromo Shikibu', since it is only three feet high by four feet wide in all those years.

The airy texture of the white blossoms of this azalea gives the same effect in the landscape that Baby's Breath gives to a flower arrangement, or that touch of lace gives to a lady's blouse. It is delicate, it is pristine, it is that subtle finishing touch to a carefully designed ensemble. I never saw "White Spider #2", but as far as I am concerned, Wagner's "White Spider #1" is good enough!

Don Hyatt has been hybridizing azaleas and rhododendrons for over 30 years. He has been president of the Northern Virginia Chapter, and currently serves on the Board of Directors. He has taught mathematics and computer science in the Virginia school system for 28 years.



Wagner's "White Spider #1"

Photograph by the author



BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Dianne Gregg, *President*

Speaker Ed Reiley gave an excellent talk at the February meeting on the selection and culture of azaleas and rhododendrons. Besides all of his advice on soil preparation and plants, he had a great suggestion on keeping deer off azaleas: blend six eggs, put them, one gallon of water and some "sticker-sprayer" into a sprayer and spray on the azalea foliage. This stays on for months and doesn't wash away in the rain.

Bill Miller is doing a membership drive mailing to the members of the American Rhododendron Society. Brookside Chapter members are helping to address the envelopes.

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Robert Miravalle, *President*

At the March 2 meeting, approximately 20 members and guests were in attendance. Dr. Larry Rogers, Director of the Louisiana State Agricultural Experiment Station, was our guest speaker. Dr. Rogers gave us an overview of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Louisiana State University (a land grant institution), collectively L.S.U. He said that L.S.U. is investigating lace-wing control and petal blight control in azaleas. He reviewed azalea research at land grant institutions in the U.S.—there's very little. Funding is the big obstacle to starting new research, followed by finding scientists to do the research. Dr. Rogers told us that he learned a lot about azalea research in preparing his remarks and was personally impressed with the beauty of azaleas.

Dr. Warren Meadows, Director of the L.S.U. Burden Research Plantation in Baton Rouge, joined in with Dr. Rogers and presented an outline of plans to plant an azalea demonstration garden at Burden funded by the Burden Foundation. He announced that he is registering five previously released azalea cultivars bred by Dr. Richard Stadther (now deceased). The names of these cultivars will be included in the next Society News from the Louisiana Chapter. Dr. Meadows also reviewed the procedures at L.S.U. for release of ornamental cultivars bred by L.S.U. researchers.

Dr. Rogers said he will give favorable consideration to a petition from the LA Chapter of ASA to provide volunteer work on the maintenance and upkeep of the azalea garden and other ornamentals planted at the Hammond Research Station. Injury liability has been a stumbling block to such volunteer work in the past.

The Chapter participated in the Hammond Azalea Festival on Saturday, March 22 by exhibiting and selling azaleas. The Chapter benefits financially from this sale.

By vote of the membership it was decided (due to participation in the Hammond Azalea Festival) not to exhibit at the Spring Garden Show at the New Orleans Botanical Garden, April 5 and 6.

It was noted that Bill Bode is a candidate for Vice President of ASA and to please vote for him. Bill generously donated a membership in ASA to the St. Tammany Public Library in Covington, LA.

Discussion was held on making a bid for the ASA National Convention. The members present were equally divided on a fall vs. spring convention. A compromise was offered to break the deadlock; postpone making a convention bid until flowering data are collected on the dependability of blooming of fall blooming azaleas planted in the landscape. We will revisit the question of a fall convention once these flowering data are collected and analyzed. Data collecting will start this fall (1997). In the meantime, Society members are invited to contact Bob Miravalle or other Chapter members to arrange for personal tours from November 1 - December 15. Chapter members will personally escort Society members on a tour of our fall blooming azaleas. This invitation was extended at the Atlanta National Convention.

It was also decided to discuss at our June meeting the possibility of hosting an Azalea Improvement Conference. Such a conference was proposed at our September 1996 meeting but at the time was tied together with hosting the Society National Convention. Now that a decision on hosting the National Convention has been postponed, hosting an improvement conference will be taken up as a separate item.

Seven members showed up on Saturday, March 8 to weed and clean up the Azalea Demonstration Garden at the Hammond Amtrak RR Station in preparation for the Hammond Azalea Festival. Replacement plants were also identified for planting.

The Chapter voted to endorse Long Term Care Insurance offered by John Hancock. This endorsement is at no cost to the Chapter but will benefit members through reduced premiums.

The next Chapter meeting will be June 1st at 2:00 p.m. at the Hammond Research Station. Our member, Wally Warren, will speak on planting and maintenance of azaleas in St.

Tammany, Washington, and Tangipahoa Parishes and methods of propagating azaleas from cuttings. The public will be invited.

Future meetings, speakers and topics are:

September 7 Dr. John Thornton and Lloyd Cotton: Exbury hybrids and deciduous azaleas.

November 30 Dr. John Thornton: Discuss his support of and participation in exploration for *R. oldhamii* species, their introduction, distribution and use in breeding summer blooming azaleas.

Dr. Thornton and Lloyd Cotton are longtime members of the LA Chapter and operate Pushepetappa Gardens of Franklinton, LA.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER Joe Klimavicz, *President*

The Northern Virginia Chapter met on February 23, 1997 in the Library at Green Spring Gardens Park. There were about 25 members present.

It was announced that there is a strong possibility that the National Convention could be held here in 1998. Our Chapter would be the host. The upcoming convention in Atlanta will make the determination.

The speaker was Barbara Bullock, Curator of the Azalea Collection at the US National Arboretum. She gave a very interesting talk about the efforts to restore the gardens originally planted by Ben Morrison. Her slides showed the awful state of neglect over the years, with vines and wild growth completely covering the original plants. There were 1200 cultivars there in 1946, but with no map of the hillside, and labels difficult to find, the project of restoring the collection required a lot of time and effort. Barbara has to depend on volunteers for her major source of labor in this venture. She is also getting professional help from Bill Miller in the process of restoring the entire Glenn Dale collection.

The April 27 Chapter meeting was at Dave & Sharon Raden's home. The program for this meeting involved member participation.

Since it is impossible for each of us to visit the gardens of every member, Dan Krabill suggested that each of us bring a branch or flower from our favorite azalea bush for show and tell. If the branch is not available at this time, perhaps you have a picture you could bring and describe the features that attract you to this particular azalea.

Dan has another request. For the next chapter meeting, scheduled for July 13, the annual cutting exchange, it is suggested that each member provide a list of the cuttings we would like to receive at the exchange to this upcoming meeting. The lists will be compiled and listed before the exchange so we may have a better chance of bringing the clippings wanted most by the members.

Joe Klimavicz and Dan are working on a method to make this revision to the process result in a more satisfying adventure for us all. Hopefully, someone in the Chapter has the plant you have been longing to find, and all we have to do is match up the two members.

There will be a plant exchange as usual, and door prizes for lucky attendees.

OCONEE CHAPTER Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter of the ASA met at the First Baptist Church, January 26, 1997. Twenty-two persons were present. Our President, Earl Hester, called the meeting to order and welcomed members, Judson and Marjorie Wingard (from Lexington, SC) and visitors Rosalinde Yates and Leland Cabiness (we hope that they will return). The proceedings were then turned over to Ralph Bullard.

Ralph gave a very interesting and informative talk on daffodils. His talk in-

cluded his great admiration for Berma Abacromby and a video that toured her garden of over 200 varieties of daffodils. Suggestions for successful daffodil cultivation were that the soil should be acidic with drainage. She uses peat moss in the beds. Don't buy soft bulbs. Plant a few each year, in August through October. Fertilize and divide them in the fall. The book "Daffodils to Grow and Share" was recommended.

After refreshments, which were supplied by Jim Thornton, there was a business meeting at which the treasurer's report was given.

Jim Thornton, the Chairman of the ASA Convention, gave an update on the forthcoming convention. We have received our first registrations for the convention. Everything seems to be on schedule. Deposits have been paid for the buses and banquet.

Jim also reported that Garden South will provide our Chapter with space to hand out ASA Convention information during the Southeastern Flower Show.

Garden South also wants our Chapter to have another Azalea Flower Show again this year. The tentative date is May 10; we hope that members will have late-blooming azaleas to display.

After the business meeting, Ralph Bullard showed part of a video on Bonsai Azaleas. Many techniques of the use of Satsuki azaleas were given, such as varieties to use should have small to medium flowers and glossy leaves.

At the meeting at the First Baptist Church, March 16 at 2:00PM, Earl Hester, Chapter President, spoke on the "Do's and Don't's of Azaleas... Things a Commercial Grower Knows." This will help us be better shoppers and collectors...and growers! An inside view—Don't miss this one. And Tom Anderson, a past president, will speak on "Flowers of Viet Nam." As a veteran who survived the tortures and turmoil of war, with his camera, Tom was able to capture the beauty of the flowers there. This is a program we've been waiting to see! □

Report of the Public Information/ Membership Committee for 1997

William C. Miller III, Chairman

For the period May 1, 1996, and ending April 30, 1997, I submit the following report. Seventy-one items of correspondence were received from twenty-seven states, one Canadian province (Ontario), and five non-North American countries (Chile, Suriname, Australia, England, and Germany). The most mail came from Alabama and Maryland (six each) followed by New Jersey and Pennsylvania (five each). Apparently, some Alabama newspaper carried an azalea article which stated that lots of "free information" was available. June of 1996 and March of 1997 were the busiest with eleven items of correspondence each. Sadly, one very nice letter was received in which the writer forgot to include a return address. Despite attempts to locate an address for the person using the Internet and a phone call to the best lead, the person could not be located.

My thanks to the nurserymen who favored me with their catalogs this year. Please keep it up. Many times people are desperately searching for a special cultivar, and I have been able to assist them because of your thoughtfulness. Thanks also to those folks who made mention of the ASA in their catalogs and lists. Every little bit helps, and it makes a difference. Please revise your notices to reflect the dues increase that took effect this year.

For those who have not discovered it, the Louisiana Chapter has its own web site. It includes information on ASA membership and at least one individual living in Maine joined the ASA as a result. The URL is www.1-55.com/plantweb/azaleasociety/. Check it out and see what a great job they have done.

In an effort to do something positive about increasing ASA membership, the membership committee reviewed and revised the ASA membership brochure late last year, a task that was made necessary by the Board of Director's decision to increase the dues. The new brochures were distributed to the chapters in February in

time for most of the 1997 azalea season. In addition, brochures were sent to an ASA member in Canada who offered to distribute them at two horticultural meetings. Similarly, brochures were sent to a contact in Takoma Park, Maryland, a.k.a. "Azalea City" in an effort to generate membership there. Finally, members of the Brookside Gardens chapter pitched in and hand addressed nearly 1500 of the new membership brochures and a mass mailing exercise was launched. Fourteen new members have resulted to date. I would like to thank Mary Rutley, Barbara Bullock, Dottie Murphree, Lenora Brown, Tina Kelley, Bill Wallenmeyer, Bunny Carroll, Bill Johnson, Rosalie Bison, and of course Bee and Bob Hobbs without whom mass mailings would not be possible. □

Minutes of The Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 19, 1997

President Steve Brainerd convened the annual membership meeting at 9:45 PM, following the well-received presentation by the featured guest speaker, Dr. Kathleen Kron. The first order of business was an expression of appreciation to a variety of individuals. First, he thanked the assembled members for attending the convention. Next came the officers of the Society for the past two years, the Vice President, Jim Thornton, the Secretary, Bill McIntosh, and the Treasurer, Bob Stelloh. Then he thanked Bob and Bee Hobbs for their untiring efforts to produce **THE AZALEAN** four times a year. And he added a plea to all of us to make the Hobbs' job easier by submitting articles for the journal. Then he reiterated a year-old plea for an understudy for the Editors. Retiring Directors Rosalie Nachman, Fred (and Jean) Minch, and Art Vance were commended for their service, Bill Miller for his numerous contributions to the Society, and Don Voss, George Switzer and Jane Newman for serving on the Advisory Editorial Board.

At this point the podium was turned over to Bob Hobbs. Bob thanked Steve for the plea for articles, and reiterated the thanks to Jane

Newman and Don Voss. He also announced that George Switzer had asked to be relieved as Assistant Editor, and praised George's long, and quality service in that position. Bob next turned to the annual prize for best article in **THE AZALEAN** since the last convention. Before announcing the winner Bob said that the awards for next year would be expanded and then noted that there was an unplanned expansion this year, because voting produced a tie between 'An Azaleophile Salute—Fred Galle,' June, 1996, by incoming President Jim Thornton, and 'Identifying the Native Azaleas,' December, 1996 by the guest speaker, Dr. Kron. Bob then closed his presentation with a reminder to all that **THE AZALEAN** is the journal of the ASA, and that comments on it are always welcome, as are all articles for publication. He then returned the podium to Steve Brainerd. Steve's first announcement pertained to those who attended the 1996 convention in Dallas, to wit—the azalea table favor previously identified as *R. oblongifolium* is now considered by Dr. Kron to belong to the species *R. viscosum*. The Northern Virginia Chapter has agreed to host the 1998 convention. He then said that when the Society can afford it, we will continue to support research. And Steve said that as his term as President was drawing to an end, he was physically tired but emotionally uplifted. His last announcement was the election of officers, voted on by mail ballot. The new incumbents are:

President: **Jim Thornton**

Vice President: **Bill Bode**

Directors at Large:

Gen. Bryghte Godbold

Donald Hyatt

Col. Murray Sheffield

The podium was then relinquished to Jim Thornton, who thanked the various Oconee Chapter members who helped make the convention a success. In particular, he thanked the Oconee Secretary, Ruth Bryan, who so ably stepped into the void left by the untimely passing of Ralph Bullard. Jim's next words, a motion for adjournment, were met with applause.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. McIntosh, Secretary □

IN MEMORY

RALPH BULLARD

We're gonna miss him, especially me; he was our Vice President, one of our stalwart soldiers, and one of our friends. Folks, Ralph passed away February 19, 1997.

As far as I know Ralph had been a member of the ASA since 1989 and a member of the Oconee Chapter since 1991, and if a club, society, or any organization wanted a better member, I don't think they could find one better than Ralph Bullard. When he decided to join something, he participated, he just didn't pay dues...he accepted responsibility, he...well, he joined.

Ralph and as always, Carol, somehow made it to the meetings giving programs, providing refreshments, even though it took about an hour each way for them to come. And it wasn't just our meetings; they were active in other organizations. Ralph was past president of the local ARS chapter, member of the Iris Society, and he was deeply involved in the Boy Scouts. Since Ralph joined our Chapter, he and his brother Ray attended our national conventions.

This year is our convention and guess who was one of the first to step up to the plate and offer his services? Of course, he was the one who nominated me for chairman, but then I nominated him for co-chairman. He didn't back down, and we spent many hours on the phone planning the convention or just plain visiting.

Although I spent awhile mulling over what to tell you about Ralph it wasn't until I attended the memorial services that it started to come clear about what kind of person Ralph Bullard was. The last speaker, a fellow Scout talked about Ralph and I think he said it all...at least he gave me a few words to pass on to you and explain why Ralph was a joiner. Simply, he was a Scout.

You see, Ralph took the Boy Scout oath seriously, and he applied it to all the groups he joined in. It says: "ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST...TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY...AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW. TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES...TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

Do you remember the Scout law? "A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN, AND REVERENT. He was a Scout .

We're gonna miss him!

Jim Thornton

SARA JONES

Mrs. Sara Jones passed away Tuesday, March 4, 1997. Sara was the wife of the late L. S. Jones; she was a friend and was one of our early members. In fact, she and L. S. were very staunch supporters long before we became a chapter.

L.S. passed away several years ago, but Sara maintained her membership and her support to us. She was our secretary for a short time.

We kept in contact with visits and over the phone because she wanted to keep on taking care of all the azaleas L. S. had planted and grown on their property. Tom Anderson and I had plans to go later on this spring and help her prune some unruly shrubs.

The Chapter will miss Sara as a member, but a lot of us will miss her as a friend.

Jim Thornton □

(Letter to the Editor, continued from p 22)

The type specimen, designated by Russian botanist Pojarkova when she named the species, was collected around the Ol'ga Bay in the Ussuri Region. This is on the east coast of Russia's Maritime Territory, NNE of Vladivostok and roughly opposite Sapporo on Japan's Hokkaido Island. Inland from the coast lies the Sikhote-Alin' (or Sichote-Alin', depending on transliteration) mountain range. According to the key presented by Cullen, the leaves of *R. sichotense* are dark olivaceous green above, rusty brown beneath, and overwintering. Those of *R. dauricum*—are bright green above, lighter beneath, and at least some overwinter. The corolla of *R. sichotense* is said to be larger than that of *R. dauricum* and to have broad orbicular lobes with overlapping margins. In a few years, those who have grown plants to flowering will be able to report on the accuracy of this description.

Donald H. Voss (3 March 1997) □

The answer to the president's question on page 2:

"I DON'T KNOW, AND I DON'T CARE"

NEW MEMBERS

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Hal & Charlotte Bill
RR#4, Box 1230
Enosberg, VT 05450
PHONE: (802) 933-2004

Edward P. Cole
P. O. Box 385
Empire, MI 49630
PHONE: (616) 326-5502

Wilbert Cressman
222 New Street
Quakertown, PA 18951

Gary & Judith Dayton
1137 Long Hill Road
Cheshire, CT 06410

Jeannette Dupey
1608 Samish Way
Bellingham, WA 98226
PHONE: (360) 734-4587

Everett & Shirley Hall
P. O. Box 3484
Florence, OR 97439
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Roy A. Larsen
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Mary Jo Nutt
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Thomas G. Scuderi
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PHONE: (410) 758-1411

BEN MORRISON CHAPTER

Col & Mrs. Philip L. Yeats
1414 Cedar Lane
Lusby, MD 20657-2953
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BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

H. Melvyn Blaufuss
2 Dogwood Drive
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PHONE: (201) 543-4589

Diane S. Moritz
2811 Plyers Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902-4209
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Jeffrey Trunzo
and Herman Goodyear
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Takoma Park, MD 20912
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Peg Van Patton
Box 53B
Skillman, NJ 08558
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LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Warren A. Meadows
3737 Essen Lane, #25
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
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OCONEE CHAPTER

James A. Casey
3177 Wicks Lake Drive
Marietta, GA 30062-6713
PHONE: (770) 509-8964

Chapter Achievement

Following is a list of Chapter membership numbers as of May 21, 1997:

	Members	
	Total	New
Ben Morrison	35	5
Brookside Gardens	121	14
Dallas	46	2
Louisiana	33	2
Northern Virginia	62	5
Oconee	81	9
Richmond Virginia	38	3
Tri-State	23	1

David L. Dethero
P. O. Box 159
Zirconia, NC 28790

William P. & Carolyn B. Dunaway
902 11th Street, NE
Jacksonville, AL 36265
PHONE: (205) 435-3231

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Anne C. Dickerson
P. O. Box 429
Irington, VA 22480-0429
PHONE: (804) 438-5316

Azalea Calendar

1997

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|-------------|---|
| July 13 | Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park |
| July 15 | Deadline for receiving material for the September issue of THE AZALEAN |
| August 17 | Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park |
| September 7 | Louisiana Chapter Meeting at the LSU Hammond Experiment Station at 2:00PM |
| October 15 | Deadline for receiving material for the December issue of THE AZALEAN |
| October 19 | Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park |
| November 30 | Louisiana Chapter Meeting at the LSU Hammond Experiment Station at 2:00PM |
| December 7 | Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park |