



WE'RE 20! *Page 64*

1998 National Convention *Page 67*

Hybridizing Fever *Page 69*

RHS Colour Chart *Page 72*



Post Office Box 34536
West Bethesda, Maryland
20827-0536

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

An issue or so ago, I asked all members to respond to me concerning their thoughts about the ASA. Didn't get many, as forewarned, but I tried! So much for "ignorance and apathy"!

I did get one letter, not the most flattering to say the least, but from it, I got a few ideas on what we can do better in the future. The first thing, and I'll start right now, on our "twentieth anniversary" and that's to say...."THANKS"!

Thanks to all the men and women, who from day one, to the day any of you read this column... "Thanks" for serving the Azalea Society of America! Whether it was at the national level as an officer, director, chairperson or on projects or what, "THANKS"! For those of you who contributed at the local level, as officers or on committees, providing or presenting programs, refreshments, donating plants for sale, working on flower shows, conventions, bringing in new members or just simply attending meetings and paying your dues... "THANKS".... To all of you who devoted your time and talents in other ways and in a lot of cases, your out-of-pocket money that was never reimbursed... "THANKS".... And let's not forget all the members who make their way to the national convention because hey, it ain't cheap. But then we have a cause, don't we?

So...on behalf of the Azalea Society of America, I want to recognize all of you who have, over the last twenty years, contributed to the success of this society and in most cases gone unnoticed, no awards, no plaque, no certificate, no pat on the back. No.., there's never been a list showing how you made your contribution; but, none the less, we wouldn't be here today had it not been for folks like you. Again, and I can't say it enough, to those who have passed on and to those still among us... "THANKS"

I ask all members to stop a moment, reflect, think about these stalwart soldiers and the next time you see one of them, stop and say... "THANKS"! They deserve it!

SEMPER FI

Food for thought: "Who will step forward to serve during the next twenty years?"

Jim Thornton

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*).

OFFICERS FOR 1997-1998

President	James O. Thornton
Vice-President	William Bode
Secretary	William B. McIntosh
Treasurer	Robert Stelloh
Immediate Past-President	Stephen S. Brainerd

DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring in 1999	Terms Expiring in 1998
Gen. Bryght Godbold	Robert Lee
Donald Hyatt	Dr. Charles Owen
Col. Murray Sheffield	Stephen Schroeder

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

CHAPTERS

Brookside Gardens (chartered August 1979) Diane Gregg, <i>President</i>
Richmond, Virginia (chartered August 1979) Deanie McCluan, <i>President</i>
Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Alan Jones, <i>President</i>
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Joe Klimavicz, <i>President</i>
Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Bob Miravalle, <i>President</i>
Tri-State (chartered October 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>President</i>
Dallas Chapter (chartered May 1989) Roby Odom, <i>President</i>
Oconee Chapter (chartered November 1991) Earl Hester, <i>President</i>

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$25.00; life membership for an individual is \$500.00. Members receive **THE AZALEAN** and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society including those of the chapter with which the member affiliates. For information and a membership application, write to the Membership Committee, Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

THE AZALEAN
*Journal of the Azalea Society
of America, Inc.*

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

THE AZALEAN (ISSN-1085-5343) is published during March, June, September, and December by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

Additional copies of the current and back issues can be obtained from Azalean Back Issues, 5710 Azalea Drive, Rowlett, TX 75088 (PHONE: (214) 475-3401). Volumes 1 through 4 published from 1979 through 1982 consist of 15 issues at \$2.50 per issue. The price for each issue beginning with 1983, Volumes 5 through 18, is \$3.50.

Opinions and views expressed in **THE AZALEAN** are those of the contributors or the Editor, not necessarily those of the Society, and are presented to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of azaleas. Advertisements are presented as a service to our readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America. Advertising and other contributions to **THE AZALEAN** are used exclusively to help defray the costs of publishing **THE AZALEAN**.

Address all editorial and business correspondence to:

The Editor, **THE AZALEAN**
737 Walnut Avenue,
North Beach, MD 20714-9644

Printing of **THE AZALEAN** by:
Hour Printer
Silver Spring, MD

≡≡≡ **Table of Contents** ≡≡≡

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 4 DECEMBER 1997

- 62 **President's Letter**
- 64 **The Origins of The Azalea Society of America**
Alice Holland
- 65 **The First 20 Years: A Tabular History of the Azalea Society of America**
- 66 **The Polly Hill Arboretum**
- 67 **1998 Convention and Annual Meeting**
- 69 **Hybridizing Fever—The Quest for New Azaleas**
Don Hyatt
- 72 **Azaleas, *Vitis vinifera* and the RHS Colour Chart**
Maarten van der Giessen
- 73 **Chapter News**
Brookside Gardens Chapter
Louisiana Chapter
Dallas Chapter
Northern Virginia Chapter
Oconee Chapter
- 74 **Azalea Calendar**
- 74 **Chapter Achievement**
- 74 **Financial Report**
- 75 **New Members**
- 76 **Index for 1997**
- 78 **Azalea Mart**

On the Cover: Historic ASA logo which was the result of a contest held in 1979-80. The winning logo design, which is still the official ASA logo, was designed by Laurel Holland, the daughter of Alice and Graham Holland.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Alice Holland
Silver Spring, MD

I didn't fall in love until a few years after we moved to our new house in 1960. We occasionally would drive down Kensington Parkway in Kensington, Maryland, where in the spring there was a house whose whole grounds were one glorious azalea garden. We'd pull over to the side and just enjoy. At the time I didn't know that I'd ever have anything like that. I didn't know enough about gardening but I sure wanted to learn. I asked a neighbor whose passion happened to be roses if he knew of a good garden club that I might join. He recommended the Silver Spring Garden Club. I joined and met many wonderful people; among them were Paul and Rebecca Stadler of Stadler Nurseries, where I bought my first five azaleas. Paul would walk me all around his grounds to see the azaleas, which I think were his first love also. In later years the Stadlers sold their grounds to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to become a large part of Wheaton Regional Park, of which Brookside Gardens is a substantial portion.

Another kindred soul I met was Emile Deckert. In his postage-stamp sized back yard he was growing so many lovely azaleas. Emile started out as a hairdresser; I went to his home to have my hair done for years. When Brookside Gardens became an entity, Emile was responsible for the azalea gardens there. He made most of those old Glenn Dale azaleas from cuttings from Stuart Armstrong's garden and set them out all over the hills under the pines with mulch around them; they dug no holes. When the Silver Spring Garden Club voted to give Barry Yinger \$1,000 toward his trip to Japan to bring back Satsukis, Emile grew those too, from cuttings, in a special garden below the Stadler house. We both used to bemoan the lack of information on azaleas, although Fred Lee's *Azalea Book* was our Bible. I occasionally attended an ARS meeting but gleaned very little on azaleas. One evening I was discussing this situation with my husband and he said, "So why don't you start an azalea club?" I told Emile what he'd said the next time that I visited, and Emile said "Let's do it!" So we did. The following are the minutes of the first meeting:

On Friday, December 9, 1977 at 8:00 PM a meeting was held at Brookside Gardens for the purpose of forming an azalea society. Present were: George Harding, Mike White, Bob Caviness, Frank White, Emile Deckert and Alice Holland. We decided that it was premature to elect any officers. Emile was asked to be acting president and Alice was asked to temporarily be secretary-treasurer. We explored the feasibility of forming an azalea society and whether or not to be a part of the American Rhododendron Society. After much discussion we decided: 1. to be a separate entity, 2. to cooperate with ARS, and 3. to seek their support in a friendly manner.

Frank White felt there was a need for an azalea group everywhere in our country that azaleas are grown and rather than have a small local group, that we should be nationwide. So, everyone concurring, we became "The Azalea Society of America." Alice suggested that we become the Brookside Chapter and this also met with agreement. We discussed methods of acquainting prospective members with our organization. Frank has been discussing the possibility with azalea people up and down the coast and met with much enthusiasm. Also, Ruth Harrington writes a weekly newspaper column; Tom Stevenson and Carl Hahn write garden columns in the big Washington newspapers. We could pass the word through the Federation of Garden Clubs and through county agents.

We discussed our purpose. It was felt that our prime purpose should be education. Also, Frank White is very interested in setting up a workable system of awards. We are to write a purpose and bring it to the next meeting.

We decided to get a post office box and to give press releases that we are formed. We will need a letterhead and an application for membership. Frank can do our mailing with his bulk mailing from Lanham going for about 7 cents a piece. Each of us is to bring to the next meeting ideas for the letterhead, press releases and range of officers. Our by-laws should wait a while. We would like to have a public meeting in April and will need several meetings and a lot of work before then.

We discussed dues but came up with nothing definite except that they should be low because we will only need money for postage, paper and printing probably for some time. We decided to set up a bank checking account with Emile and Alice to be co-signers for checks. Frank White donated a check for \$200.00 and George Harding gave \$50.00. We will look into the possibility of a tax exempt status. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 19th at 8:00 PM at Brookside. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM.

*Alice Holland,
Acting Secretary*

Frank White and George Harding were both growers and well known among azalea people, so events mushroomed pretty rapidly. Present at our second meeting were Nathan Fitts and Bill Parsons, both lawyers, and Warren and Judith Groomes. Until he became ill and had to resign in 1979, Nate worked very hard on setting up the basic organization and the by-laws, as did Bill. Bill assumed more and more responsibility and was national treasurer for some years. Nate was our first editor of **THE AZALEAN**. That position was then assumed in 1979 by Jack Shaffer, a landscape designer with degrees from Harvard and Oxford Universities.

Right from the beginning we decided to have a board of governors (BOG). [Known as Board of Directors after 1990 change in by-laws. Ed.] Our first five were Emile Deckert - president; Frank White - vice president, Thais Spencer (a retired lawyer and a wonderful lady from Fulton, MD), Bob Mallet and Bill Parsons. We mostly met in the library at Brookside Gardens and sometimes at homes of members.

Our first public meeting was October 29, 1978 at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, MD. There were 43 of our over 100 members present. Ryon Page was introduced as our plant-sale chairman, Rusty LaGuardia as our hospitality chairman and George Harding to keep the slide library.

On January 3, 1979 a proposed slate for BOG for 1979 was mailed to the membership. Included were Emile Deckert, Frank White, Bill Parsons, Thais Spencer, Nate Fitts, Judith Groomes, George Harding, Dr. Neil Campbell (a retired physician who claimed he caught "azaleaitis" from a patient, Albert Close, who was chief propagator at Glenn Dale), Alice Holland and Nancy Swell. Nancy has been active from the very beginning. She would drive from Richmond, VA

to Silver Spring, Maryland, just to attend board meetings. She put together the Richmond Chapter and was their first president. We were attempting to move along as fast as possible.

Our annual meeting was held at the National Arboretum on March 25, 1979. Seventy-five members of our 140 were present. Ryon Page reported on the mart to be held in May. Nate Fitts announced that issue #2 of **THE AZALEAN** would be out shortly. Buck Clagett was putting together a source list. The slate for BOG was accepted unanimously. When Nate's resignation was put before the BOG, it was accepted with reluctance and Jack Shaffer was asked to take his place.

By the next year, 1980, we were able to confer charters on five chapters: Brookside Gardens, Richmond, Northern Virginia, Ben Morrison, and Robert D. Gartrell. The presidents of chapters were automatically made members of the BOG.

In 1981 Bob Barry chaired the work for ASA to be represented at Flora Fest at the US Botanical Gardens as one of 29 plant societies. While he was working there, a big, lovely man walked through. He was in Washington DC with the dairyman's association and was fascinated with the azalea display.

His name was John Rochester. He and Bob talked, and the result was a new chapter in Louisiana and a friendship that lasted many years and beyond John's death. John was the president of ASA in 1985.

I think that what pulls at my heartstrings the most is the memories of all the dear wonderful people. You know azalea people are very special. I felt that so many of the people that I worked with were my very dear friends: George Harding, Emile Deckert, Ryon Page, Bill and Thurza Parsons, Bob Barry, Nancy Swell, Jerry Goodman, Mal Clark, Gordon Severe, Roger Brown, Art Vance, Marge and Glenn Taylor, Rusty LaGuardia. It was a privilege for me to know Tony Dove, John Rochester, Frank White, Fred Galle, Don Hyatt, Charles Evans; and on and on and on. This eight years was a part of my life that I wouldn't give up for anything. When people say "Hey, who are you?" I say "I'm the lady that started the Azalea Society of America".

Alice Holland, a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, has a degree in Home Economics from the University of Maryland, and is an avid birdwatcher as well as an avid gardener.

□

The First Twenty Years: A Tabular History of the AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

STARTED IN 1977 AND INCORPORATED IN 1979 IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

FOUNDERS

NATHAN C. FITTS, W. H. PARSONS, WARREN AND JUDY GROOMES, BOB MALLET, FRANK B. WHITE, JR., WILLIAM L. CLAGETT, GEORGE W. HARDING, EMILE DECKERT, ALICE HOLLAND, AND THAIS SPENCER

FIRST ELECTED BOARD OF GOVERNORS (1979)

NEIL CAMPBELL, EMILE DECKERT, NATE FITTS, ALICE HOLLAND
JUDY GROOMES, GEORGE HARDING, BILL PARSONS,
THAIS SPENCER, NANCY SWELL, FRANK WHITE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIRMEN

1979 - FRANK WHITE
1982 - RYON PAGE
1986 - MALCOLM CLARK
1987 - RYON PAGE
1988 - DONALD VOSS

PRESIDENTS

1979 - NEIL CAMPBELL
1980 - ARTHUR VANCE
1981 - RYON PAGE
1982 - JERRY GOODMAN
1983 - TONY DOVE
1984 - JOHN ROCHESTER
1986 - RYON PAGE
1987 - MALCOLM CLARK
1988 - ROBERT HOBBS
1991 - MALCOLM CLARK
1995 - STEVEN S. BRAINERD
1997 - JAMES O. THORNTON

**AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
OBJECTIVES**

- PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN AZALEAS
- PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND THE DISSEMINATION OF TECHNIQUES FOR HYBRIDIZATION, PROPAGATION AND CULTURE OF AZALEAS
- STANDARDIZE THE IDENTIFICATION OF AZALEAS AND PROMOTE THE REGISTRATION OF NEW HYBRIDS
- CONDUCT STUDIES AND COMMUNICATE WITH ITS MEMBERS THROUGH PUBLICATIONS AND MEETINGS
- BRING TOGETHER ALL THOSE WHOSE INTEREST IN AND APPRECIATION OF AZALEAS FORM A BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

**GOALS OF THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
ESTABLISHED IN 1989**

- DOUBLE ASA MEMBERSHIP IN FIVE YEARS (15% INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP PER YEAR)
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHAPTER EVENTS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS BY THE END OF 1990
- COLOR PICTURES IN THE AZALEAN BY 1993
- COLOR COVER ON THE AZALEAN IN 1990 — SAME COVER ALL FOUR ISSUES
- DIFFERENT COLORED PICTURE ON THE AZALEAN COVER EACH ISSUE BEGINNING IN 1992
- PRODUCE A COLOR BROCHURE ON AZALEA SELECTION AND CULTURE BY THE END OF 1990
- IDENTIFY A NATIONAL PROJECT BY 1991 (A PROJECT OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)
- SPONSOR A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AZALEAS BY 1993
- EXPLORE PRODUCING AN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO BY 1994

NATHAN FITTS
JACK SCHAFFER
CHARLES EVANS
ROBERT W. HOBBS

ANNUAL MEETINGS

- 1979 - US NATIONAL ARBORETUM, WASHINGTON, DC
- 1980 - CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND
- 1981 - WHEATON, MARYLAND
- 1982 - RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
- 1983 - CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND
- 1984 - FREDRICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
- 1985 - MOBILE, ALABAMA
- 1986 - MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY
- 1987 - PORTLAND/EUGENE, OREGON
- 1988 - BETHESDA, MARYLAND
- 1989 - HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
- 1990 - NORTHERN VIRGINIA
- 1991 - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
- 1992 - SOLOMONS, MARYLAND
- 1993 - DALLAS, TEXAS
- 1994 - RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
- 1995 - ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
- 1996 - DALLAS, TEXAS
- 1997 - ATLANTA, GEORGIA
- 1998 - MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM

The Polly Hill Arboretum, Inc., has acquired the Barnard's Inn Farm in North Tisbury, on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and its horticultural assets from JoLouJeff, Inc. The property has approximately twenty acres of horticultural plantings and forty acres of woodlands, and contains the results of Polly Hill's forty years of study to define "the best plants and trees to grow on the Vineyard."

More than 2,000 individual species are now displayed around large meadows, including azaleas, camellias, clematis, crabapples, dogwoods, hollies, magnolias, pines, rhododendrons, and stewartia. Most of these specimens have been grown from seed as part of Polly's experiments to determine if the zonal characteristics of plants and trees can be extended to include the Vineyard if growth is initiated with seed.

Widely recognized as taking amateur horticulture to a new, higher level, Polly Hill has received numerous regional and national awards, the latest of which is the 1997 Gold Medal of Honor award of the Garden Club of America. The Polly Hill Arboretum, Inc., is a newly created public foundation founded to: preserve and enhance public access to the Polly Hill Arboretum; continue Polly's experimental approach; use the arboretum as an educational environment for students of all ages and conserve the property to enhance the rural character of the setting and add to the natural ecosystem in the area.

A life rights agreement with Polly to continue her seasonal residence and assume a leadership role in supervising the arboretum was integral to the foundation's acquisition. The foundation has also secured a unique consulting contract with the Garden Department of the Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, Delaware, to assist in the management of the arboretum.

"A garden is not static, it either grows or is lost," expressed Polly Hill, "so I am thrilled that the arboretum will be preserved and used for education.

Asked for advice for the future, Polly emphasizes, "Keep experimenting. There are three plants in bloom out there right now which everyone told me would never grow on the Vineyard." David H. Smith, founder and chairman of the Polly Hill Arboretum, states, "Polly's arboretum is an oasis of tranquility and beauty and has to be preserved. And Polly's knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment are truly inspirational. What a role model. If the United States had a system of recognizing national human treasures, Polly Hill would be at the top of the list."

The foundation's purchase has been facilitated by lead gifts from the David H. Smith Foundation, members of the Hill family, and anonymous horticultural colleagues of Polly Hill. The Department of Environmental Management of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided funds to place a conservation restriction on the property.

In order to conduct inventories and documentation and renovation of certain of the facilities, the arboretum will be closed to the general public until next spring. Group tours are available.

Press release, July 3, 1997. □

1998 CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter

The 1998 ASA Annual Convention and Annual Meeting will be held April 30 to May 3 at the Holiday Inn, Tysons Corner, McLean, Virginia. This hotel is located southwest of Washington, DC, near the Capital Beltway (I495), Route I66, and the Dulles Airport Access Road, where VA Routes 7 and 123 intersect. Next to the hotel are the Tysons Corner Center and the Galleria, featuring one of the nation's largest shopping complexes, including eight major department stores, hundreds of other fine stores, and theatres. The hotel is located midway (12 miles) between Washington National and Dulles International Airports.

Convention Overview

The theme for the 1998 ASA Convention is "Hybridizing Fever." After a review of past creations by some of our Northern Virginia azalea hybridizers, you will see and hear what is going on throughout the community of azalea lovers. Included is one example of how the activities of two local hybridizers, working in their own homes and yards, have produced some fantastic azaleas. The first evening program will be a panel discussion, from which it will be obvious how very exciting and rewarding this hybridizing hobby can become. You may even catch the fever yourself, and start experimenting with some crosses with your own plants. On Friday evening, Sandra McDonald and George McLellan will be the speakers. Harry Weiskittel will be the keynote speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening. Tours are scheduled on Friday and Saturday of ten local gardens, including the George Harding Memorial Garden, which has been established by Northern Virginia and Maryland chapter members on the grounds of the American Horticultural Society in memory of George Harding.

Thursday Events

The Convention will open officially at 7:30 PM Thursday evening (April 30). Prior to this, the Board meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Registration will begin at 3:30 PM, and plant sales will be open at 5:00 PM. You should plan to arrive in the afternoon, so you can be settled in for the opening meeting. Access to the hotel can be pretty congested during the afternoon "rush" hour, which begins around 3:00 PM, coming from Maryland or Washington, DC. Approaching from the west, to include Dulles Airport, will be easier.

Following welcoming announcements at 7:30 PM, the evening's program will set the stage for the theme of the convention. After a short moment to look back on the azalea heritage and contributions of several significant people in the Northern Virginia Region, we will begin our look to the future. Although Don Hyatt will give a brief slide preview of some of the gardens we will visit on Friday and Saturday, the primary focus of the evening program will be an introduction to the hybridizing efforts of several azalea breeders in Virginia. Featured hybridizers will include Joe Klimavicz, Bob Stewart, Walter Przypek, and Don Hyatt.

Friday Events

The garden tours planned for the 1998 ASA Convention will include a variety of garden types ranging from large estates to small private homes. On Friday, we will begin with a nostalgic look to the past as we visit the Harding memorial garden and some older, established gardens in the region. We will finish up with an exciting glimpse of the future as we see the latest creations in the seedling beds of Bob Stewart.

George Harding Garden - We will begin our tour by heading south of Alexandria to visit the George Harding Memorial Garden, an ASA display garden established at the headquarters of the American Horticulture Society at River Farm. Dedicated in May of 1994, this garden is a lasting memorial to one of the founders of the ASA, George Harding, and is a tribute to his work popularizing the beauty, variety, and versatility of azaleas. The garden contains over 500 plants contributed by individuals and nurseries, and demonstrates the wide diversity of flower, foliage, and form available in azaleas. Located on the Potomac River not far from historic Mount Vernon, River Farm Plantation was once owned by President George Washington.

Frazer Garden - Very close to River Farm is the Frazer garden, formerly Columbia Nursery, which was founded by the late Art Frazer and his wife, Anita. Established in 1960, their small nursery operation was one of the first places in Northern Virginia where azalea enthusiasts could find some of the more unusual azalea varieties including rare Glenn Dales, Back Acres, and Satsukis. Their one-acre residential landscape still has many of the original azaleas the Frazers used for nursery propagation, but also includes a wide range of other interesting plants. Anita has added to the wooded garden over the years.

Raden Garden - For lunch, we will stop at Dave Raden's beautiful two-acre garden overlooking parkland and the rushing waters of Accotink Creek. Dave and his wife, Sharon, moved to the majestic site only three years ago, but were able to bring hundreds of mature plants from their former garden to this new location. They truly enhance the existing landscape along this wooded glen.

White Garden - Margaret and her late husband, J. C. White, have been raising azaleas and rhododendrons on their 11 acre estate near Falls Church, VA, since 1939. The spacious setting,

garden vistas, and mature plantings make this garden one of the horticultural show places in Northern Virginia.

Stewart Garden - Bob Stewart, one of the region's most active hybridizers, is currently evaluating thousands of seedlings he is raising on his one acre hillside garden in Springfield, VA. Visitors are impressed not only with the healthy plants he maintains in framed nursery beds, but also with the next generation of superior azaleas varieties he will be introducing in future years.

We will return to the hotel late in the afternoon. Again, the plant sales will be open at 5:00 PM. Dinner for Friday evening is on your own. The meeting will commence at 7:30 PM with presentations by Sandra McDonald, followed by George McLellan.

Sandra McDonald has a Ph.D. in plant genetics and an M.S. in horticulture from the University of Connecticut. She and her husband, Ken, own and operate a nursery, Le-Mac Azaleas, Inc. in Hampton, Virginia. Sandra has been growing and hybridizing azaleas for many years. Some of her hybrids are listed in *Azaleas* by Fred Galle (see page 272). Besides these there are also, among others, 'Williamsburg', 'Dreamside', 'Sandra's Dwarf White', and the exciting 'Venus Baby'.

Sandra has been president of the Middle Atlantic Chapter, ARS, and edits its newsletter. She has been a technical reviewer for the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, is chairman of the ARS Editorial Committee, and is presently the editor of the *Holly Society Journal*, the publication of the Holly Society of America. Sandra and Ken have a garden named for them at the arboretum of James Madison University in appreciation for their gifts of many plants, most of which are native azaleas. They have also participated in the exploration of

the native azalea populations along the border between Tennessee and North Carolina.

Sandra will lay bare her secrets of hybridizing azaleas, a pleasant occupation for her and one which has yielded great success.

George McLellan is a most successful plantsman. His garden, located on a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay in Gloucester, Virginia, is both beautiful and comprehensive. There are many rhododendrons and azaleas grown to perfection, but there are also holly, hostas, and hellebores. There are ferns and trees, but perhaps his greatest treasure is his collection of native azaleas.

George is a past president of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, and presently conducts its species program to discover the secrets of our native azaleas. He is a member of the Azalea Society of America and the Holly Society of America. He will talk to us about his trips to Gregory Bald, Wayah Bald, and other nearby azalea habitats. One of his first trips is documented in the article "Magic on the Mountain," which appears in the Spring 1996 issue (Vol. 50, Number 2), of the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. He will recount to us the azaleas he has seen, and share his magnificent slides with us. However, as you can imagine, the adventure in hiking to the summit, the trails and things encountered along the way, and the azaleas promises us a vicarious voyage of discovery.

Saturday Events

Continuing with our garden

tours on Saturday, we will visit the following:

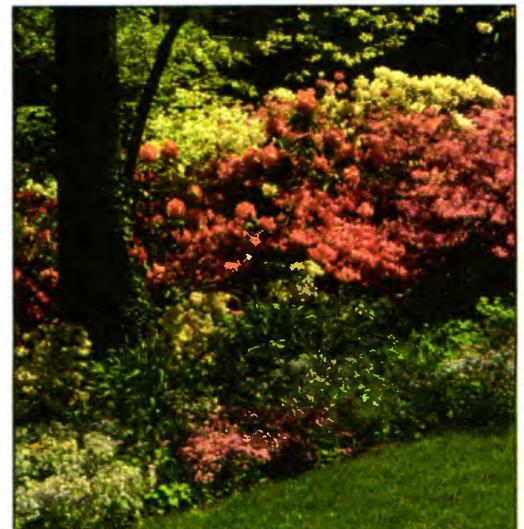
Klimavicz Garden - Since the late 1980s, Joe Klimavicz has been hybridizing azaleas in his one-third acre



Klimavicz Garden
(Linda and Sandra Klimavicz)
Photo by Joe Klimavicz



Lower Garden
Photo by Don Hyatt



Hyatt Garden
Photo by Don Hyatt

Vienna, Virginia backyard. This garden is an example of highly intensive azalea cultivation. Each year, Joe makes five to ten crosses and brings 500-1,000 new seedlings out of his basement and into his cold-frames. Specific hybridization objectives include a plant that is hardy, floriferous, and has a flower that is long lasting and bright in color. Only the best are selected for retention.

Beck Garden - Nestled among tall trees in the Herndon area, Carolyn Beck has been collecting many exciting new azalea varieties on her two-acre tract. The peaceful setting and beautifully manicured landscape contains an extensive collection of exciting new hybrids, including nearly all the introductions by Northern Virginia hybridizer Pete Vines.

Louer Garden - Frances and Phil Louer have amassed one of the largest collections of azaleas in the region on five beautifully landscaped acres near Haymarket, VA. They have over 2,000 varieties among those planted on the property and those in pots anxious to be put in the ground. Many rhododendrons are intermixed among the azaleas, along with wildflowers, thousands of daffodils, hostas, day-lilies, and many varieties of iris. The maturing plants put on an impressive display each spring, with old favorites, rare varieties, and new introductions growing in island beds along trails in the wooded setting.

Hyatt Garden - Located on three quarters of an acre in McLean, Don Hyatt's 45-year-old garden is now a mature landscape of rhododendrons and azaleas underplanted with many wildflowers, including large beds of the blue *Phlox divaricata*. Some remnants of Don's deciduous azalea and rhododendron hybridizing can be found in the back yard.

Beaudry Garden. Located on three acres adjacent to parkland in nearby Potomac, Maryland, the Beaudry garden is a beautiful hillside landscape of rare rhododendrons, azaleas, dwarf conifers, wildflowers, and companion plants. Over a period of many years, Norman and Jean Beaudry have renovated and enhanced this established horticultural treasure, the former garden of noted landscape designers Connie and Sandy Sanders.

We will return to the Holiday Inn Tysons in time for a rest, a cash bar social hour, and the plant sales. During the social hour, an auction will be conducted of special plants.

The banquet will begin at 7:30 PM in the hotel. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Harry Weiskittel. As many of you know, Harry Weiskittel owns and operates the Marshy Point Nursery, a wholesale rhododendron and azalea nursery at the head of Chesapeake Bay, which he established because of

his love for these plants. The nursery has been in operation for more than 20 years, and occupies most of Harry's time. He does, however, indulge himself in his favorite hobby, hybridizing azaleas. His introductions include 'Carol Kittel', 'Mary Ellen Thomsen', 'Lizette Lynn', 'Catherine Buckley', 'Kakie', 'Hugs', and 'Kisses'.

Harry will tell us about his nursery, its operation and plants, and also about the concepts and thinking which led to his use of certain parents and the results he has obtained. This talk promises to be enlightening and enjoyable as we follow Harry through his wins and losses in the game of hybridizing for the future.

A brief membership meeting following the speaker which will include the election of new Society Officers for the upcoming year. This meeting will officially end the 1998 ASA Convention.

Conclusion

It is planned to have final plant sales from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Sunday morning. A Board meeting will also take place from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. For those who wish to remain in the area for a while, some of our local gardens will be open for informal tours. Information on these gardens and directions will be available at the registration desk. □

HYBRIDIZING FEVER - THE QUEST FOR NEW AZALEAS

Don Hyatt

McLean, VA

Azalea hybridizing fever seems to be spreading in parts of Northern Virginia. Perhaps we are inspired by the work of former hybridizers from our region such as George Ring or Pete Vines, but quite a few members of the Northern Virginia Chapter, ASA, are now experimenting with this exciting aspect of azalea culture. We have been having fun, and we have had success, too. Some of the newest creations of our new hybridizers will be made available for the first time at the Azalea Society of America National Convention in the spring of 1998.

How and Why We Hybridize Azaleas

Making an azalea cross is relatively simple, so those of us who dabble in hybridization cannot imagine why more people are not giving it a try. When azaleas are in bloom, just remove a few stamens from one variety, twirl them around a bit to encourage the pollen to start coming out of the anthers. Then just dab that pollen on the pistil of another flower, and the cross is made. It is wise to tag the twig noting date of cross and parents involved, and then watch closely to see if a seedpod develops. Of course, bees rarely ever mark their crosses, and yet they have been responsible for some excellent hybrids, too.

Seed pods are usually collected in October just before they ripen. Most hybridizers will shake the seed out after the pods dry and split open. Seeds are usually sown on the surface of sterile potting medium, such as a mixture of moist peatmoss with some added sand or perlite. Seedlings are often grown indoors under artificial lights during the fall and winter months in order to give tiny azalea plants a head start. That way, larger plants can be moved outdoors in the spring. Not all crosses will produce viable seed, and those that do, may not produce the results the hybridizer is seeking. However, when most gardeners are rushing off to see what new varieties are on sale at the nurseries, an azalea hybridizer will be rushing to the seedling beds to see what exciting new hybrid has bloomed for the first time. Although both activities are enjoyable, I assure you that the latter is by far the most fun.

The fascination of hybridizing is in some ways similar to the allure of playing cards. Every time a cross is made, each seed will receive half of its inheritance, or genes, from each parent. This random process of doling out some of the genetic material from each parent is very similar to dealing a hand of cards in poker or bridge; we know what cards are in the deck, but we can never tell which ones will be dealt in the next hand. Ideally, the hybridizer wants to combine specific qualities from each parent to produce a seedling that has the best from both plants. Of course, the poker player looks to each new hand hoping for a "Royal Flush" and the bridge player longs for that "Seven No Trump" hand. Such things are possible but they do not happen often.

In reality, a typical azalea cross will produce many average looking seedlings that will be satisfactory for standard landscaping purposes, and might even produce a few some would consider ugly. However, that eye-catcher, that spectacular plant that seems to have it all is usually a rare occurrence, but it is also the force that drives our hybridizing fever. The more

seedlings that a hybridizer is able to grow, the greater the probability of getting that new azalea creation. That is why most of us in hybridizing will have backyards full of seedlings afraid to throw away a single plant until we see it bloom.

The rest of this article will focus on the experiences of two backyard hybridizers in Northern Virginia. These are not large nurseries, but typical azalea gardeners. Their new hybrids are not well known, but they have produced some excellent new plants. Those who attend the 1998 ASA Convention will have a chance to visit their gardens and experience first hand the results of their hybridizing program. There is still much to be done in the area of azalea breeding, and we hope that you will come join us in this exciting adventure.

The Hybrids of Joe Klimavicz

Joe Klimavicz, the current President of the Northern Virginia Chapter, ASA, has been an avid hybridizer of evergreen azaleas since the late 1980s. He carries out his active program in the back yard of his one-third acre home in Vienna, Virginia. Each year, Joe makes five to ten crosses and raises 500-1,000 new hybrids that he moves out of his basement and into cold frames for the growing season. He raises most of his plants in a one-gallon size, but admits that he eventually throws 99% of them away, saving only the very best of each cross for further evaluation and breeding, or perhaps a prestigious spot in his garden. The Klimavicz hybridization program is aimed at developing sturdier varieties that are better able to survive neglect. Joe's three young children (ages 4, 7, and 9) also do their own azalea hybridizing.

Joe is a Northern Virginia native, and although he had grown azaleas for landscape purposes before, he first caught the hybridizing fever after seeing a relatively tender but boldly variegated Belgian hybrid 'Satellite' in bloom at the home of our other featured hybridizer, Bob Stewart. Joe took a few 'Satellite' flowers home, and since a hardy lavender 'Elsie Lee' just

happened to be in bloom, he made his first cross: 'Elsie Lee' x 'Satellite'. The success of this first hybrid cross encouraged Joe to expand his program.

Since then, Joe has been using a wide variety of hybrids and open pollinated plants in his crosses. As many hybridizers have discovered, Joe has learned that certain crosses consistently produce excellent plants, but crossing two great plants does not necessarily guarantee great offspring. 'Elsie Lee' is well known as an outstanding parent for azalea hybridizing since it is fertile and sets large seedpods. It also passes on hardiness and double flowers to its progeny, and so many people have been using 'Elsie Lee' in the development of new azalea hybrids.

Joe is always glad to share what did and what did not work. He can tell you from experience that 'Gay Paree' will not set seed, and that the big seed produced from crossing 'Haru-no-sono' x 'Elsie Lee' will not germinate. The cross of 'Elsie Lee' x 'Satellite' has worked extremely well for Joe, but some of the other crosses that he particularly likes include 'Pocono Pink' x 'Janet Rhea', 'Cha Cha' x 'Girard Fuchsia', 'Florence Waldman' x 'Dayspring', and 'Pocono Pink' x 'Satellite'. The crosses 'Elsie Lee' x 'Gay Paree', and 'Nancy Dippel' x 'Gay Paree' look good but need further evaluation.

Some of the crosses that did not produce great plants include 'Elsie Lee' x 'Dancing Butterfly', 'Addie Pope' x 'Red Red', 'Fairfax' x 'Satellite', and ('Dogwood' x 'Debonaire') x 'Fairfax'. Joe maintains a computer listing of all of his crosses, including plant number, flower and plant description, and hardiness.

Joe is also finding that some of his best new hybrids are coming from progeny of plants he had rejected in previous evaluations. Sometimes, the genes that would create a desired characteristic in a new hybrid are physically present in seedlings of a cross, but may not be outwardly apparent because they are masked by less

desirable or interfering traits that are present also. Joe has been making many back crosses and second-generation hybrids such as ('Elsie Lee' x 'Satellite') x ('Elsie Lee' x 'Satellite'), since sometimes those hidden characteristics can be "reshuffled" and will show up in the next generation.

When all of Joe's new creations start blooming in the spring, he says that he feels like a kid in a toy store. Choosing a favorite is difficult. However, at the 1998 ASA Convention, Joe will introduce his first hybrid - 'Caitlin Marie', named for his oldest daughter. Joe has raised several thousand plants from crosses of 'Elsie Lee' and 'Satellite', and this selection is the best of the lot. 'Caitlin Marie' (LS-9147) blooms in mid-season, and has 2" diameter flowers that are bright pink and extremely double. This plant is very floriferous, vigorous, medium height, very hardy, and has excellent dark green foliage all year. The most spectacular feature of 'Caitlin Marie' is its long blooming period due in part to its extremely tight, very double flowers.

Looking to the future, Joe is planning crosses using an open-pollinated *R. kiusianum* because it has unique tiny leaves that are very glossy and almost look like plastic. Joe would like plants with this foliage quality in a new hybrid, but desires other traits as well, such as a double flower possibly coming from 'Elsie Lee', or maybe thicker petals coming from 'Haru-no-sono'. He might try for an earlier flowering season using 'Festive' or 'Dancing Butterfly'. There are many possibilities. In order to make crosses of plants that do not bloom at the same time, Joe stores pollen in his freezer. Properly prepared and stored, this pollen will remain viable for many years.

Members of the Northern Virginia Chapter ASA are anxious for Joe to introduce his many outstanding new creations. I am fortunate to have one of his seedlings, an 'Elsie Lee' x 'Satellite' hybrid with large frilled flowers in a beautiful shade of tomato red. Because I salvaged the plant from Joe's discard pile (with his permission,

of course), I refer to this azalea as "Throw Away Joe". It did not meet his hybridizing goals, but I thought it was a real keeper!

Bob Stewart's Hybridizing Program

Bob Stewart, a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, is one of the most energetic hybridizers of evergreen azaleas currently in our region. Each year he grows about 4,000 azaleas selected from his collection of approximately 2,500 varieties. A native of Massachusetts, Bob came to Northern Virginia as a Navy enlisted man. He first became interested in azaleas because of their brilliant spring display in the local gardens here. After building his own home in 1959, he planted azaleas over a large portion of his yard to minimize the lawn on slopes surrounding his house. At first, he thought there were only three colors: pink, red, and white, but like most of us, he soon encountered the incredible diversity available in modern azalea hybrids.

For many years, Bob raised his azaleas from cuttings, and was always looking for that rare plant to propagate. He was very successful at collecting and propagating azaleas, and even purchased potentially tender plants from nurseries such as Nuccio's in California. At the base of the hill in his yard, Bob constructed a large number of raised cold frames where he continues to grow many hundreds of azaleas each year. Every plant in his yard is meticulously tagged, from tiny seedlings in four-inch pots to four-foot high specimens growing in cut-off, recycled 55-gallon plastic drums. An accomplished photographer, Bob had his photos of his azaleas and gardens published in the book *Azaleas* written by Fred Galle.

Bob has always experimented with azaleas, growing untested varieties, spraying selected plants with growth regulators, and covering the cold frames with a variety of materials. This fall, Bob sprayed some of his young azaleas with apple juice, because he had heard that the apple juice would stop vegetative growth and encourage flower buds to set. When we tour

Bob's garden at the Convention in May, we'll see how successful the technique turned out to be. In the 1980's, Bob started his own hybridizing program, growing large numbers of azaleas from seed in search of new and better varieties. Bob says that his hybridizing efforts are aimed at taking an azalea that might be tender and matching it up with one that is very hardy in order to produce a sturdier plant. Bob has not yet introduced any named azaleas; perhaps because he believes that we have not even scratched the surface of what is possible with azalea hybridizing.

Every fall, Bob fills his brightly-lit garage with his latest azalea creations. He treats his garage as a cool greenhouse and is able to force his plants to bloom a month or more ahead of schedule. His garage is an ideal location for making crosses. There are no bees to introduce foreign pollen, no rain to interfere with flowers or crosses, and plenty of time to hybridize since the garden is not very demanding during March. An added benefit is that flowers opening in the cool garage seem to last for an extraordinarily long time, allowing him time to plan, evaluate, and speculate on what might be possible. Because of his early start on the season, he can harvest his seed in July rather than October, and will have his seedlings well on the way in August rather than February. His seedlings are able to make extra growth under lights during the winter months, saving him a whole year from seed to bloom for most crosses. Bob destroys those plants that are not exceptional, and of course anything with a poor blossom is immediately tossed out.

When it comes to varieties favored by Bob when making crosses, he has used the hardy Shammarello hybrid 'Desiree' in many of his crosses as well as several of the Girard introductions that also impart extra hardiness. One of Bob's favorite azaleas is a hybrid that may have been an earlier Princess cross that was never introduced. Bob's best hybrid is a beautiful variegated flower that originated by crossing the white, coral-edged

Back Acres Hybrid, 'Margaret Douglas', with an unnamed/unknown Belgian azalea. He has two spectacular plants from this cross, one that is double and the other single. This year Bob made about 60 different crosses, and with such productivity and because he maintains excellent records, he is getting a good feel for which crosses work well and which ones do not.

Bob has a masterful eye when it comes to evaluating azaleas, and has served as a judge at flower shows for many years. He is very critical of his own creations, and will give other hybridizers an extremely honest and candid assessment of any new azalea hybrid. Such impartial evaluation is really essential for a hybridizer. As "proud new parents" of azalea creations we have raised from seed, we tend to be very impressed with the wondrous perfection of our own "brilliant children." However, a critical eye is needed to see how they rank against the best things in existence already and decide if these new plants are really worthy of introduction. When Bob finally registers some of his new azalea varieties, we can be certain that they will not be just nice plants, they will be fantastic.

Conclusion

As those of us who have played around with azalea hybridizing know quite well, we are involved in a very exciting and rewarding hobby that has few equals. We may have had that hybridizing fever for years, but we know our fascination will not wane. Each spring we will be making new crosses, marveling at first blooms on our latest crop of seedlings, and evaluating others that have bloomed before. We would like you to join us, so try making a few crosses of your own this year. Help us create the next generation of stunning new azalea hybrids, the plants that will grace the gardens of the next century. You won't regret the adventure.

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. □

AZALEAS, VITIS VINIFERA, AND THE RHS COLOUR CHART

Maarten van der Giessen

Semmes, Alabama

Two (of Many) Considerations Affecting Use of a Color Chart

Sooner or later, any color chart will suffer the ravages of time—the deleterious effects of light, moisture, heat, and atmospheric gases. Changes may involve chemical reactions between components of the colorant mixtures or the paper. Those who rely on color charts as standards must seek to minimize these effects. Kept dry, clean, and not exposed excessively to heat and light, a chart such as the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart should remain reasonably stable for many years.

In using a color chart, avoid contamination by moisture and matter! Using the holes in the center of the 1986 and 1995 RHS color patches is a questionable practice. It may assist in color evaluation to see the specimen color through the hole in a color patch, but there is substantial danger that moisture and matter from the specimen will adhere to the back of the patch. Then, when the color fan is closed, these contaminants may be transferred to the face of the following leaf in the fan.

The selection of a light source is very important for color evaluation. Artificial lamps designed for household or commercial use must be avoided. Color experts favor "full-sky" daylight—the blend of sunlight with horizon-to-horizon sky light—between two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset. Because this full-sky exposure may not be available and direct sunlight is too red, the use of "north-sky daylight" is often recommended. With clouds or some atmospheric haze present, this may be a useful light source. If, however, the north sky is perfectly clear, the light may be too blue for proper color evaluation.

The allegorical tale of woe by Maarten van der Giessen aptly dramatizes these concerns.

With great glee I found my RHS color (Colour) chart in yesterday's mail. Congratulating the English on their great wisdom in not shipping UPS [during the UPS strike, ed.], I hurried home to unravel the mysteries that have haunted me since the beginnings of azaleaphilisticism.

Reclining in my Lazy Boy and enjoying a glass of Merlot in the glow of the Yellow Red group, I leafed through card after card. Yes. THESE will do it. THIS is SCIENCE. No more poetic nonsense of Alizarine something or even Madder.

With Merlot and fan in hand I paraded to the garden. The early dew was on the grass, flowers softly glowing in the gentle morning light. "Do not use the chart in direct sunlight." Of course not. That was obvious. "Compare colours in an indirect northern light." Northern light? I glossed over this technicality and proceeded to the task at hand.

I've always been a little skeptical of my Robin Hills. It seems Gartrell took a perverse pleasure in choosing tones and forms maddeningly similar to each other. Each beautiful in its own right, but the devil himself to tell apart. In particular, 'Gresham' and 'Sir Robert' have always troubled my sleep.

I decided to approach my subject in an empirical manner. Galle's text would verify what the cards had to tell me. It should take no more than a

week to cover the four or five hundred cultivars in the garden and the nursery. Within the month I should be able to straighten out Mobile County and then ...

The dew on the flowers made the cards a little sticky. As it soaked into the paper the cards began to wrinkle a bit. Maybe it wouldn't hurt if the sunlight were a bit more direct. I laid the project aside for a few hours. When I returned sometime later I found to my horror that the cards had firmly glued to each other, and prying them apart left the paper backing on the chips. O.K., check for a color match on a couple of bushes and see if I can fix this later. At worst I should be able to approximate the right color, and let Galle pin it down.

I flipped through the deck quickly. Too rich, too dark, too purple, close, closer, closer...yes. 49C. That was the answer--no question. Of course it fades a little toward the edge, and maybe this isn't the freshest flower. A good quantitative analyst always runs three samples, so I check again. 56D. Was that what I got the first time? I rechecked the first flower. 56D. Wait a minute. Realizing that I was tampering with raw data here I dropped my doubts and bent down to analyze my final sample. 38D or I'm blind.

Later that evening I sat in a funk waiting for the North Star to rise above the horizon. I whipped out my sticky color cards and checked again in the fading light. Yes, if you looked at it this way then 55C would work. But so would 35C through 90D. And these mercury streetlights aren't helping. About then my cards began to flash electric blue. "Turn that damn light off, can't you see I'm working here?" I snarled at the patrol car parked at the curb. In the back seat of the cruiser, I couldn't help but notice that the crumpled blossom in my hand matched the Merlot stain on my white trousers almost exactly. I wondered if the vintage would matter.

Maarten van der Giessen is the Manager of the Van Der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Alabama. The nursery is a wholesale liner operation specializing in modern azaleas and other ornamentals. Maarten is a collector of azaleas. □

SOCIETY NEWS

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Dianne Gregg, *President*

A number of members went to Atlanta in April for the National Convention in Atlanta and enjoyed seeing spectacular gardens. There were excellent speakers and of course the legendary Southern hospitality by the Oconee Chapter.

Spring Chapter meetings featured Anne Brooks in April speaking on "Plants with Good Foliage," and in June, Gordon and Roberta Hagen exploring a new topic to many of us, "Magnolias as Good Companion Plants for Azaleas."

The first weekend in May featured the annual Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Show at the Landon School Azalea Festival. Bill Miller's 'Palestrina' won the top award. The Azalea Mart sale was held the second Saturday in May. This annual sale is happily anticipated by many people in the Washington area.

In July, the Chapter held a picnic at Lee and Jim Blue's garden. They were the lucky people who bought the Stelloh property. Fortunately, they are gardeners too.

In September there was another annual event, the Azalea and Companion Plant Auction at the National Arboretum. Bill Miller was again the Auctioneer. This auction is lots of fun and a good fund raiser for the Chapter and the Arboretum.

In the photograph at the right Bill Miller (left) and Bobbi McCeney (center), both members of the Brookside Gardens chapter, present a specimen of the new evergreen azalea 'Landon Pride' to Landon School Headmaster Damon F. Bradley (right) at a ceremony in the Perkins Garden at the 1997 Landon Azalea Festival in Bethesda, Maryland. A Miller F2 hybrid of two 'Kobold' open-pollinated progeny, 'Landon Pride' (syn. Landon #6) is a single, 2 to 2-1/4-inch flower. The flower is a very attractive, glowing purplish red, RHS86-60C, with darker dots on the upper lobe and a yellowish tinge in the throat. 'Landon Pride' was introduced at the 1997 Landon Azalea Festival and can only be obtained from the Landon School.



Photo by Dianne Gregg

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter met at Allison Fuqua's home/garden for an azalea cutting swap with 24 present. Members arrived and left at different times because of the weather. Allison demonstrated his method of propagation. Earl Hester, our president, asked members to introduce themselves and welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Maddox as new members. Earl expressed regret that he was not able to attend the ASA Convention. Earl volunteered his place for next year's (1998) cutting party. We are hoping to set up a regular meeting date and place to be able to schedule speakers.

A CD was purchased, and a donation to the ASA was agreed upon. The new meeting place will be at the Conyers Kroger meeting room. Jim Thornton, president of the ASA, discussed the ASA Board meeting and stated that the

Oconee Chapter now has 84 members, and that the Chapter and the ASA need more members.

At the next meeting, September 14, speaker Jim Thornton described the new fall-blooming azaleas. The Encore azaleas are from crosses made by a fellow ASA member Buddy Lee, Louisiana Chapter.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
Joe Klimavicz, President

The Chapter met on August 17, 1997. This meeting was the annual plant auction. The cutting exchange in July was a great opportunity for us to obtain cuttings for plants we may not have already in sufficient quantity. Of course, there is some risk that the cuttings we set will not take root. With the plant auction, that risk is not there, and you can just sit and watch the plant grow. All you need to do is make the highest bid on the plants you want, and they are yours for that price. This plant auction was especially important this year. We will be hosting the National Convention next year, and we will need extra money in our treasury to cover initial expenses and deposits. All proceeds went into our Chapter treasury.

The speaker for the October 12 meeting was Bill Steele who has a nursery in West Chester, PA. He traveled down here to talk about "Tales of Azalea-holic." His talk was accompanied by slides. Bill grows and sells about 2,600 varieties of azaleas in his nursery. Some of us have been there to purchase his plants. In talking to other customers while there, one finds that many people come from long distances in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to buy azaleas from him. Bill is Chairman of the Azalea Study Group for District Eight of the ARS. He has been an officer and Board member of the Valley Forge Chapter, and has received a Bronze Medal for his achievements. One of his goals is to build a complete collection of the Holly Springs azaleas. □

Chapter Achievement

Following is a list of Chapter membership numbers as of December 1, 1997:

	Members	
	Total	New plus Renew
Ben Morrison	35	20
Brookside Gardens	129	66
Dallas	51	25
Louisiana	35	16
Northern Virginia	63	27
Oconee	86	45
Richmond Virginia	39	15
Tri-State	24	19

AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

1996 SOURCES & USES OF FUNDS

	Totals
INCOME (SOURCES)	
The Azalean	399.50
Membership Dues	14,605.00
Gifts	831.00
Interest	1,737.01
Other Income	0.00
Total Income	17,572.51
EXPENSES (USES)	
Awards & Memorials	0.00
THE AZALEAN	12,400.81
Dues Expense	3,315.40
Member Roster	1,226.00
Other Expense	87.97
Other Postage	369.67
Total Expenses	17,399.85
Income less Expenses	172.66

Total, All Accounts 45,349.94

R. T. Stelloh, Treasurer 6/15/97

Azalea Calendar

1998

January 15	Deadline for receiving material for the March issue of THE AZALEAN
April 15	Deadline for receiving material for the June issue of THE AZALEAN
April 30-May 3	Annual Convention and Annual Business Meeting, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter, McLean, Virginia
July 15	Deadline for receiving material for the September issue of THE AZALEAN
October 15	Deadline for receiving material for the December issue of THE AZALEAN

New Members

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Acq & Serials Branch
National Agricultural Library
Curr Ser Rec/Room 002
10301 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-2326

Phil & Clara Beaman
312 Cambridge Drive
Tarboro, NC 27886
PHONE: (919) 823-7646

John & Carolyn Brown
1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

Roger Fish
104 Harfford Tpke
Eastford, CT 06242
PHONE: (860) 974-2199

Mary Anne Herndon
816 Wheelwood
Hurst, TX 76053
PHONE: (817) 589-2936

Howard W Jackson
12126 Hwy 8 NW
Olympia, WA 98502-9446
PHONE: (360) 866-8426

Brian Kung
129-02 Hook Creek Blvd
Rosedale, NY 11422
PHONE: (718) 527-1545

Mass. Horticultural Sec.
300 Massachusetts Ave
Boston, MA 02115

Bill Moon
1108 Kari Knoll Circle
Birmingham, AL 35244
PHONE: (205) 988-2441

Ogrod Botaniczny Pan
Ul. Prawdziwka2
00973 Warszawa, Poland

Nancy & Bill Ritchie
324 Plantation Drive
New Bern NC 28562-9507
PHONE: (919) 633-2396

C. Wesley Reynolds
26 Teatown Road
Croton-On-the-Hudson, NY
10520

Bradley B Ronco
RFD #1, Box 460
Kerns Hill Road
Manchester, ME 04351-
9710
PHONE: (207) 622-9834

Roger A Thompson
3225 NW 20th
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
PHONE: (405) 948-7748

Richard Zanard
19 Lake Julia Drive South
Ponte Verde Beach, FL
32082
PHONE: (904) 273-5893

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

B. K. Atrostic
9607 West Bexhill Drive
Kensinton, MD 20895
PHONE: (301) 933-5627

Janie Busch
Rr 2 Box 2149
Glenville, PA 17329
PHONE: (717) 854-0077

Larry M Coles
447 Curtis Ave
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
PHONE: (609) 317-1432

Lois Edwards
20 Lincoln Street
North East, PA 16428-1206
PHONE: (814) 725-3368

Margaret Harrison
4977 Battery Lane, #708
Bethesda, MD 20814
PHONE: (301) 986-8875

Judy Karpen
712 Schindler Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20903-
1330
PHONE: (301) 434-1010

Dr. Edward M Kelly
3261 Arters Mill Road
Westminster, MD 21158
PHONE: (410) 346-7949

T. E. Ong
6919 Newberry Drive
Columbia, MD 21044

PHONE: (301) 827-5449
Lourdes Saenz
6612 Whittier Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817
PHONE: (301) 229-0861

Marilyn J Simon
5241 43rd Street NW
Washington, DC 20015
PHONE: (202) 537-0014

Jeffrey H Wolfe
328 Walnut Hill Lane
Havertown, PA 19083
PHONE: (610) 446-7009

DALLAS CHAPTER

Max & Billie Clark
P.O. Box 276
Mineral Wells, TX 76068
PHONE: (817) 682-4214

Paula O Duckworth
4502 Abbott Ave., #108
Dallas, TX 75205
PHONE: (214) 521-0895

Kathy Enwright
5306 Morningside Avenue
Dallas, TX 75206
PHONE: (214) 827-5503

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Jim & Jan Baggette
333 Beylors Ferry Road
Rileyville, VA 22650
PHONE: (540) 743-2475

Karen & Seth Baldwin
1018 17th Street South
Arlington, VA 22202
PHONE: (703) 892-2670

Mary N. Dowell
10226 Cedar Pond Drive
Vienna, VA 22182-2907
PHONE: (703) 242-4231

Bill Snyder
9945 Woodrow Street
Vienna, VA 22181
PHONE: (703) 319-0079

Barry Sperling
7732 Schelhorn Road
Alexandria, VA 22306

Diana D. & Alan E. Taylor
6931 Barrett Road
Falls Church, VA 22042
PHONE: (703) 536-5156

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ray Lewis Bullard
678 Pond Springs School Rd
Chickamauga, GA 30707
PHONE: (404) 375-3638

Lee & Diane Casey
2700 Stanton Road
Conyers, GA 30094
PHONE: (770) 388-9015

Herbert C. Dodd
4240 Webb Bridge Road
Alpharetta, GA 30005-4253
PHONE: (770) 475-5491

Jami & Patrick Duncan
3 Johnson Circle
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
PHONE: (908) 306-1209

Gardening Know-How
Margery Morstein, Publisher
225 Ridgeland Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
PHONE: (404) 378-0603

Gary Gleason
950 Highway 20
Lawrenceville, GA 30245
PHONE: (770) 963-2406

Dr. Kathleen A Kron
2171 Sallies Lane
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
PHONE: (910) 759-5321

D. L. & Geneva Maddox
95 Melody Drive
Covington, GA 30014-3619
PHONE: (770) 786-8088

TRISTATE CHAPTER

John Migas
P. O. Box 561
Saugatuck, MI 49453
PHONE: (616) 857-1505

TITLE INDEX VOLUME 19

1997 Convention-Atlanta:			
An Overview	Hobbs, Robert W.	44	
1998 Convention and Annual Meeting		67	
Azalea Calendar		75	
Azalea Calendar		37	
Azalea Calendar		17	
Azalea Calendar		42	
Azaleas, <i>Vitis vinifera</i> , and the RHS Colour Chart	Giessen, Maarten van der	72	
Brookside Gardens Chapter		33	
Brookside Gardens Chapter		73	
Brookside Gardens Chapter		15	
Chapter Achievement		57	
Chapter Achievement		17	
Chapter Achievement		37	
Chapter Achievement		75	
Cultivar Epithets-Again!	Voss, Donald H.	28	
Cultural Note on 'Tanager'	Campbell, Dr. Neil P.	27	
Dallas Chapter		15	
Feeding Azaleas	Frazer, Arthur and Anita	13	
Ghent Azaleas	Inskip, Jim	2	
Glenn Dale Hybrid 'Dream'	Hyatt, Don	32	
Glenn Dale Preservation Project 1997	Miller III, William C.	16	
Good Companions	Harrington, Ruth	52	
Hybrid 'Willie Belle Mayo'	McDavit, Bill	2	
Hybridizing Fever			
Identifying the Native Azaleas	Kron, Dr. Kathleen A.	48	
In Praise of EZcart	Stelloh, Robert	10	
Kurume Azaleas-Personal Reflections	Coleman, Joe	45	
Letter to the Editor	Voss, Donald	22	
Louisiana Chapter		15	
Louisiana Chapter		33	
Meet an Azaleaphile-Frank White	Newman, Jane M.	24	
Minutes of the Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting.....1997	McIntosh, William B.	25	
Mr. Lionel and His Azaleas	Kuehn, Jacquelyn A.	3	
Native Azaleas on Roan Mountain, Tennessee	Goza, J. Raymond	54	
Native Companion Plants	Sanko, George	52	
New Members		57	
New Members		75	
New Members		37	
New Members			
Northern Virginia Chapter		16	
Northern Virginia Chapter		73	
Northern Virginia Chapter		54	
Northern Virginia Chapter		34	
Oconee Chapter		16	
Oconee Chapter		54	
Oconee Chapter		34	
Oconee Chapter		73	
Personal Experiences in Hybridizing Azaleas	Sorg, Fred	51	
Pine Bark and Azaleas	Brown, Larry	4	
President's Letter	Thornton, James O.	22	
President's Letter	Thornton, James O..	62	
President's Letter	Thornton, James O.	43	
The First Twenty Years: A Tabular History		65	
The Origins of The Azalea Society of America	Holland, Alice	64	
The Polly Hill Arboretum		66	
The Quest for New Azaleas	Hyatt, Don	69	
Transplanting Your Azaleas	Frazer, Arthur and Anita	13	
Treasurer's Report		75	
Tri-State Chapter		57	
Wanted: Information on Hybrids and Hybridizers	Thornton, Jim	12	
Watering From Your Deck	Stelloh, Robert	11	
Where Can I Find that Azalea?	Cantrell, Allen	50	

SUBJECT INDEX VOLUME 19

Azalea Cultivars	Glenn Dale Hybrid 'Dream'	32
Azalea Culture	Feeding Azaleas	13
Azalea Culture	Good Companions	52
Azalea Culture	Native Companion Plants	52
Azalea Culture	Pine Bark and Azaleas	4
Azalea Culture	Sources for Species Azaleas	12
Azalea Culture	Transplanting Your Azaleas	13
Azalea Culture	Wanted: Information on Hybrids and Hybridizers	12
Azalea Hybridizing	Hybridizing Fever-The Quest for New Azaleas	69
Azalea News	The Polly Hill Arboretum	66
Azalea Personalities	Meet an Azaleaphile-Frank White	24
Chapter News	Brookside Gardens Chapter	15
Chapter News	Brookside Gardens Chapter	33
Chapter News	Brookside Gardens Chapter	73
Chapter News	Dallas Chapter	15
Chapter News	Louisiana Chapter	15
Chapter News	Louisiana Chapter	33
Chapter News	Northern Virginia Chapter	16
Chapter News	Northern Virginia Chapter	34
Chapter News	Northern Virginia Chapter	54
Chapter News	Northern Virginia Chapter	73
Chapter News	Tri-State Chapter	57
Chapter News	Oconee Chapter	16
Chapter News	Oconee Chapter	34
Chapter News	Oconee Chapter	54
Chapter News	Oconee Chapter News	73
Gardening Aids	In Praise of EZcart	10
Gardening Aids	Watering From Your Deck	11
Horticulture	Cultivar Epithets-Again!	28
Horticulture	Azaleas, <i>Vitis vinifera</i> , and the RHS Colour Chart	72
Hybrid Groups	Mr. Lionel and His Azaleas	3
Hybridizing Azaleas	Personal Experiences in Hybridizing Azaleas	51
In Memory	In Memory-Bryant Edward Jenkins	14
In Memory	In Memory-Glenn Taylor	14
In Memory	In Memory-Ralph Bullard	36
In Memory	In Memory-Sam Jones	36
Letter to the Editor	Ghent Azaleas	2
Letter to the Editor	Hybrid 'Willie Belle Mayo'	2
Native Azaleas	Identifying the Native Azaleas	48
Native Azaleas	Native Azaleas on Roan Mountain, Tennessee	54
Native Azaleas	Where Can I Find that Azalea	50

Subject Index Volume 19, continued

President's Letter	President's Letter	43
President's Letter	President's Letter	62
Presidents' Letter	President's Letter	22
Seed Distribution	Letter to the Editor	22
Society Business	Azalea Calendar	17
Society Business	Azalea Calendar	37
Society Business	Azalea Calendar	42
Society Business	Azalea Calendar	75
Society Business	Chapter Achievement	17
Society Business	Chapter Achievement	37
Society Business	Chapter Achievement	57
Society Business	Chapter Achievement	75
Society Business	New Members	57
Society Business	New Members	75
Society Business	Prize For Best Article in THE AZALEAN	53
Society Business	Report of the Public Information Committee	35
Society Business	Society Honor Roll	27
Society Business	Treasurer's Report	75
Society History	The First Twenty Years: A Tabular History	65
Society History	The Origins of The Azalea Society of America	64

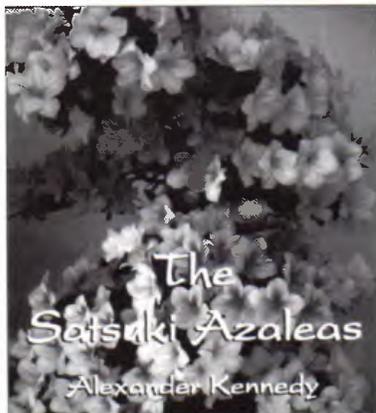
AUTHOR INDEX VOLUME 19

Brown, Larry	Pine Bark and Azaleas	4
Campbell, Dr. Neil P.	Cultural Note on 'Tanager'	27
Cantrell, Allen	Where Can I Find that Azalea?	50
Coleman, Joe H.	Kurume Azaleas-Personal Reflections	45

Frazer, Arthur & Anita	Feeding Azaleas	13
Frazer, Arthur & Anita	Transplanting Your Azaleas	15
Giessen, Maarten van der	Azaleas, <i>Vitis vinifera</i> , and the RHS Colour Chart	72
Goza, J. Raymond	Native Azaleas on Roan Mountain, Tennessee	54
Harrington, Ruth	Good Companions	52
Hobbs, Robert W.	1997 Convention-Atlanta: An Overview	44
Holland, Alice	The Origins of The Azalea Society of America	64
Hyatt, Don	Glenn Dale Hybrid 'Dream'	32
Hyatt, Don	Hybridizing Fever-The Quest for New Azaleas	69
Inskip, Jim	Ghent Azaleas	2
Kron, Dr. Kathleen A.	Identifying the Native Azaleas	48
Kuehn, Jacquelyn A.	Mr. Lionel and His Azaleas	3
McIntosh, William B.	Minutes of the Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting1997	25
McDavitt, Bill	Hybrid 'Willie Belle Mayo'	2
Newman, Jane M.	Meet an Azaleophile- Frank White	24
Sorg, Fred	Personal Experiences in Hybridizing Azaleas	51
Stelloh, Robert	In Praise of EZcart	10
Stelloh, Robert	Watering From Your Deck	11
Thomton, James O.	Wanted: Information on Hybrids and Hybridizers	11
Thornton, James O.	President's Letter	11
Thornton, James O.	President's Letter	61
Thornton, James O.	President's Letter	13
Voss, Donald H.	Cultivar Epithets-Again!	18

NEW!

Floral Treasures of Japan



A brand new beautiful book about Satsuki Azaleas

Explores Satsuki and their history as well as how they are grown and shown in present-day Japan. Covers some of the many practical aspects of caring for these wonderful plants. Plus photographs and descriptions of some of the Satsuki most readily available in the West. Inspiring and informative. Loaded with over 160 beautiful color photos. 196 pages. 8 1/2" x 11" **Hard Cover.**

\$29⁹⁵

PLUS SHIPPING

Contents:

What are satsuki?
Wild origins and relatives
Satsuki in the garden
Satsuki as bonsai
Satsuki flowers
Kanuma - home of satsuki

Satsuki festivals and
exhibitions
Satsuki growth and pruning
Satsuki propagation
Creating a satsuki bonsai
Cultural requirements
Popular satsuki varieties



*Order your
copy
now!*

Send only \$29.95 plus \$2.00 shipping

(U.S. and Foreign surface mail)

Massachusetts residents please add sales tax

Stone Lantern Publishing Company

Dept. A. P.O. Box 816 Sudbury, MA 01776 978 443-7110



MasterCard and VISA accepted.
Provide card number and expiration date.