



The Azalean

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

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DECIDUOUS AZALEAS, PART I: THE NATIVE AMERICANS

by Judson Hardy

To the general public, "azalea" means an evergreen shrub of medium height which for an all too brief period in early spring is covered with attractive flowers, usually red, but sometimes pink or white.

Up until the last decade, even relatively sophisticated gardeners knew very little about deciduous azaleas—species or hybrids—or the fact that most of the species are native to our own country and that the magnificent European hybrids have mainly been derived from our native species.

This situation has changed vastly in recent years. Whereas 20 years ago, only one or two nurserymen sold deciduous azaleas, now at least half a dozen mail order firms can furnish a wide variety of species and hybrids; and scores of professional and amateur hybridizers are developing new hybrids which provide a wider range of flower color and size than the evergreens. They also possess a delicious fragrance, and the blooming season, with various sorts, can last from earliest April through August. Some also possess colorful autumn foliage.

One reason for the growing popularity of deciduous azaleas is that plant scientists and skilled amateurs have developed methods for propagating them from cuttings, thus permitting superior forms to be reproduced in quantity. Another reason is the increasing attention given to them by specialty garden societies, arboreta, and the general gardening and home-decorating magazines.

Dr. Henry T. Skinner, retired from the directorship of the U.S. National Arboretum, is perhaps the leading pioneer in the field of deciduous azaleas, particularly the species native to the United States.

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ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

The first annual meeting of ASA, Inc., will be held during the afternoon of 18 May at the National 4-H Center in Washington (Chevy Chase). The schedule is as follows:

- 1:30 Meeting, current Board of Governors
- 2:00 General Meeting of all members, ASA
Greetings by President and Chairman of the Board of Governors
Business, old and new, including consideration of a proposal to change by-laws, and the election of a new Board of Governors
- 3:00 Speaker, George Ring, "The Gable Hybrids"
- 4:00 Meeting of the new Board of Governors

George Ring, the principal speaker, has hybridized azaleas and rhododendrons since 1967. His knowledge of the propagation of most ericaceous plants is wide, but he has developed a particularized interest in breeding small-flowered (and usually dwarf) long-blooming azaleas of unimpeachable hardiness.

Mr. Ring is a past president of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, the current Eastern Vice President of the ARS and the chairman of the national ARS convention in 1981. His special qualification for talking about the Gable hybrid is his chairmanship of the ARS' Gable Study Group (see Hybrids and Hybridizers, Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Eastern North America, Harrowood Books, 1978).

Activities of interest in Washington at the same time as the annual meeting are the Brookside Chapter's azalea show at

Annual Members Meeting (continued)

Brookside Gardens (see announcement below), Brookside Garden's own extensive azalea collection, the several azalea gardens at the National Arboretum, and the McCrillis Gardens, which will open for the first time on 12 April. This garden, donated to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission by the late William McCrillis, is planted with five spectacular acres of azaleas, rhododendrons and dogwoods. It is operated and maintained by Brookside Gardens.

How To Get There

National 4-H Center. From the Beltway (Route 495): South on Connecticut Avenue for one mile to campus cluster on your right (west). Drive to conspicuous J.C. Penney building. Some parking spaces flank J.C. Penney, but most are behind that building.

From downtown Washington: Out Connecticut Avenue, 3/4 of a mile beyond Chevy Chase Circle. Center is on your left.

Brookside Gardens. From the Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue, Route 97, for three miles to Randolph Road, Route 183. Right on Randolph to the second traffic light, Glenallen Avenue, then right on Glenallen to Brookside entrance, clearly marked.

From downtown Washington: North on Georgia, as above.

McCrillis Gardens. From the Beltway: South on Old Georgetown Road to Greentree Road, then right (west) to B910 Greentree near its confluence with Burdette Road. Park across the street at Our Lady of the Woods Academy. (Note: McCrillis Gardens is open from 10:00 to 4:00 on weekends only, 12 April to 1 June.)

From downtown Washington: North on Old Georgetown Road, left on Greentree Road, then as above.

Brookside Chapter's Azalea Show

"Salute to Azaleas", the first annual Azalea Show, will be held in the new conservatory at Brookside Gardens on Saturday, 17 May, 12:00-5:00, and Sunday, 18 May, 9:00-5:00.

Sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter, the program will feature competitive horticulture and design divisions, as well as educational exhibits demonstrating types and characteristics of azaleas and their propagation. Co-chairing the show are Cleo Mooseburger and Barbara LaGuardia. Chairman of the horticulture division is Dr. William Nickle, the design division, Bob Barry, and the educational division, Debbie Amory.

Entries will be accepted Saturday, May 17, 8:30-10:00 a.m. To save time and congestion then, horticultural exhibitors may obtain entry cards and numbers in advance at the Azalea Mart, or by contacting Mary Rutley, 933-2339. Schedules may be requested by calling Barbara La Guardia, 299-7911.

The awards ceremony will be held Saturday, May 17 at 3:00, at which time the Sweepstakes and 2nd Sweepstakes awards, contributed by Emile Deckert and George Harding, respectively, Best Azalea in Show award contributed by Frank White, Best in Design Division award, contributed by Cleo Mooseburger, and Second Best in Design Division award, contributed by Barbara LaGuardia, will be presented.

An Addendum On the Linwood Hardy Azaleas

As a sequel to the article about the Linwood Azaleas which appeared in our last issue, Volume 2, No. 1, January 1980, we asked George Harding to summarize his extensive experience in growing the Linwood cultivars, 19 of which he bought as three year old cuttings in April 1975, from G. Alpert (Al) Reid, their originator. The cultivars George bought then were the following:

Garden State Salmon	Linwood White	Slim Jim
Garden State Glow	Garden State White	Edward M. Boehm
Garden State Pink	Linwood Salmon	Tiny
Orchid Beauty	Linwood Pink Giant	Hardy Gardenia
Linwood Lavender	Opal	Peach Fuzz
Linwood Lustre	Salmon Pincushion	Garden State Red
	Pink Pincushion	

George has this report on their progress in his garden: All plants were placed in my lath house until mid-March, 1976, when I transferred them to a new test garden of about 3/4 of an acre. The area was an open meadow 550 feet above sea level. It sloped to the north and east some 30 inches to each 30 feet. The entire garden was without shade of any kind; full sunlight in summer and full exposure to north and west winds in winter. Temperatures ranged from 90 degrees in summer, to -10 degrees fahrenheit in the normal winter, but dropped to -15 degrees during the winter of 1978-79.

During the winter of 1976-77 the plants were exposed to several nights of -10 degrees fahrenheit, with about 1/2-inch of ice covering the ground. Temperatures during 1977-78 were about the same but with more snow cover. The summer of 1978 was extremely dry and plants made little growth. The winter of 1978-79 was the coldest I can remember, dropping to -15 degrees for several nights but about 15 inches of snow covered the ground for most of this cold spell.

The soil in the garden area is quite heavy with a considerable quantity of shale. The pH ranges from 6 to 6.5. The soil cover is orchard grass, alta fescue, bluegrass and weeds. No effort was made to remove this cover, except in the digging of each hole for the plants. All plants were spaced five feet apart, and into each hole thoroughly mixed one shovelful of peat moss and one of coarse sand, plus a small handful of gypsum. Plants were heavily mulched with tanbark or wood chips and watered during the first growing season.

By spring 1979, three hundred and fifty four clones, including Kurumes, Kaempferis, Glenn Dales, Gables, Robin Hills, Back Acres, Girards, Satsukis, Linwoods and miscellaneous azaleas were planted in this garden, ranging in age from four to eight years.

At the time of this report, February 1980, the Linwoods are eight years old, and as a group they are the most outstanding plants in the garden, retaining as much or more winter foliage than most, with winter foliage color exceeded by none. Garden State White, Linwood White and Linwood Pink Giant suffered more first-year dieback than most, but have recovered nicely and are shaping up well. When Mr. Reid recommends shade for his salmon colored clones, take his advice. These did not fare well in the open field. Color slides of the garden during blooming season, and the winter, draw your attention to this group immediately.

An Addendum on the Linwood Hardy Azaleas (Continued)

With more than fifty years devoted to growing plants of all kinds, I've learned the hard way to refrain from making hasty judgments as to their merits, and prefer ten years or more to become acquainted. But after the last three years, which have been the most difficult for azaleas in my memory, I can only say I believe Al Reid has produced a minor miracle, which even he cannot account for. I wonder what one of our MILD winters will do to change my opinion?

Commercial Availability of Azalea Species and Hybrids

The problems of putting together a definitive list of what nurserymen grow what azaleas has proven particularly difficult. The following list, put together in large measure by Buck Claggett, is, we think helpful -- more than helpful -- but not quite complete, as no such list ever will be. New growers always come along. Old growers expand their lists.

What we'd like is to encourage readers to send us any information which will expand or refine this list. Don't hold back just because the grower is a "mom and pop" operation, especially if mom and pop are specialty growers. Note always, please, whether the grower will ship or is tied to a purely local market. Clearly we're interested only in propagators and growers. No garden centers. With that introduction, here's the list:

- ✓ Azalea Acres Farm (see listing for Frank White, below)
- ✓ Azalea Acres Nursery and Landscaping, Inc., 2307 Pepper Lane, Clifton VA 22024
- Baldsiefen Nursery, Box 88, Bellevalle, NY 10912
Primarily rhododendrons, but also Exburys and some other deciduous hybrids such as R. Daviesii and R. Narcissiflora.
- Bovees Nursery, 1737 SW Coronado, Portland, Oregon, 97219
Species azaleas as well as rhododendrons. Also trees, shrubs, alpines and ground covers suitable as companion plants for ericaceae.
- Carlson's Gardens, Box 305, South Salem, NY, 10590
Strong on deciduous spp. and deciduous hybrids (Madison, Mollis, Ghent, Knap Hill-Exbury, Ilam) Gables, North Tisbury.
- Cavalier Nursery, PO Box 52, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
- Clapp, Allen T., 10301 Parkman Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903
Mollis seedlings only. Will not ship.
- S.D. Coleman Nurseries, Ft. Gaines, GA 31751
All the native species, plus Kalmia latifolia. An old-line nursery which hangs on to its pre-inflation prices.
- ✓ Columbia Nursery, 1903 Martha's Rd., Alexandria, VA, 22301
Glenn Dales, Gables, Back Acres, Exburys, Knaphills. All are field-grown. No shipping.

Commercial Availability of Azalea Species and Hybrids (Continued)

- ✓ Edwards Rhododendron Gardens, 6524 Elmdale Rd., Alexandria, VA 22342
Some mature plants of landscape size in the Gables, Kurumes, Glenn Dales.
Plus some of the Linwoods and Robin Hills. Even more rhododendrons.
- Girard Nurseries, PO Box 428, Geneva, Ohio 44041
- Grier Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene, Oregon 97401
Strong on species, plus small ornamental trees and dwarf conifers.
- ✓ Harding, George W., 22525 Wildcat Rd., Germantown, MD 20767
A very extensive selection. (See foregoing article.)
- Hill, Mary L.B., Vineyard Haven, Mass.
This is the "Polly" Hill of the North Tisbury hybrids.
- Holly Heath Nurseries, Box 55A, Calverton, NY 11933
Strong on Kurumes, Yerkes-Pryors, Kaempferis, North Tisburys, Robin Hills,
Linwoods, and just about anything else you can think of, plus an unusually
extensive selection of hollies (aquifolium, cornuta, cornuta "Burfordi",
aquifolium x cornuta, aquifolium x pernyi) and dwarf conifers.
- Holly Hills Nursery, 1216 Hillisdale Rd., Evansville, Ind., 47711
Good for species, plus a lot more.
- Island Gardens, 701 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene, Oregon, 97401
All the Exburys.
- Marshy Point Nursery, Chase, MD, 20214
Robin Hills, Linwoods, and others.
- Nuccios Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadina, CA 91001
Species, Kurumes, and others.
- Orlando Pride Nurseries, PO Box 1865, 145 Weckerley Rd., Butler, PA 16001
- Reid, G. Albert, 243 Blackman Rd., Linwood, NJ 08221
Obviously, the Linwood Hardys. This is their originator.
- A. Shammarello and Son Nursery, 4508 Monticello Blvd., South Euclid, OH 44143
The Shammarello hybrids.
- ✓ Stewart, Clyde M., 4412 Accotink Parkway, Annandale, VA 22003
Species, Gables, Glenn Dales, Exburys.
- Sweet Gum Farms, Route 2, Alma, GA 31510
- Thais Azalea Farm, 121 Line Kilm Rd., Fulton, MD 20759
Species, Mollis.

Commercial Availability of Azalea Species and Hybrids (Continued)

Westcroft Gardens, 21B03 W. River Rd., Grosse Isle, MI 4B138

Weston Nurseries, E. Main St., Rt. 135, Hopington, MA 07148
Just about anything that a major old-line grower ever carried, but
reluctant to ship.

✓ White, Frank B., Azalea Acres Farm, 6419 Princess Garden Parkway, Lanham,
MD, 20801
Possibly everything.

New Chapters

The new Ben Morrison chapter organized in Glenn Dale, Maryland, on 17 February and elected Doug McDaniel its president. Activist from the beginning, the chapter immediately began to plan an early May show of early-blooming azaleas, and a series of propagation workshops in July. The chapter's mailing address is P.D. Box 4, Glenn Dale, MD, 20769.

In what seemed to be a flurry of late winter activity seventeen New Jerseyites organized themselves into the Robert D. Gartrell chapter, named in honor of the originator of the Robin Hills. Temporary president of the chapter is Jerry Goodman, 20 Willowbrook Drive, North Caldwell, NJ 07006.

Brookside Chapter's Annual Azalea Mart

✓ The Brookside chapter's Azalea Mart will be held on Saturday, 10 May, starting at 8:00 a.m., at the Suburban Trust Building parking lot located at the corner of University Boulevard and Grandview Avenue in Wheaton.

Available for sale will be a large assortment of evergreen and deciduous azaleas grown locally, including many unusual varieties for the collectors and hobbyists. Companion plants including perennials, wild flowers and ground covers also will be for sale. Information on the care and culture of azaleas will be available.

Proceeds from the mart will be used by the chapter for educational and civic activities designed to promote the appreciation of azaleas.

Brookside's Cutting Sale

✓ Brookside chapter's third annual cutting sale will be held early in July, exact date and time to be announced later. Anyone outside the D.C. metropolitan area, or not in the Brookside chapter, who wishes to attend, may obtain more details by writing to Buck Clagett at 17920 Bowie Mill Rd., Derwood, MD 20855, after May.

Color Slides of Azaleas Available

Color slides of azaleas are available on loan to chapters and individual members who will use the slides to encourage the formation of a new chapter. This series of slides almost certainly is the most complete collection anywhere of the Glenn Dales, Back Acres, Robin Hills, Linwoods, Satsukis, plus of course the category Miscellaneous. If you are interested in borrowing any of these sets of slides write to George Harding, 22525 Wildcat Road, Germantown, MD 20767, or telephone him at 301-428-0281. There is no charge for the loan, but because the slides are unique the Society asks that you bear the cost of insurance as well as postage.

Inflation Hits the RHS Colour Chart

In the January 1980 issue we told you how to send for the RHS Color Chart-- for \$15. Edwin K. Parker, the source for the chart in this country because he is the US registrar for new cultivars, now unhappily informs us that the cost has ballooned to \$17.50.

Contributions to the Azalean

We would very much like to hear from readers who have something to say: suggestions for future articles -- what would you like to read about? -- or, even better, articles themselves. Articles based on your own practical (or academic) experience, such as George Harding's An Addendum on the Linwood Hardy Azaleas are sought eagerly, even if your experience isn't up to George's. Send your ideas and your copy anyway, addressing it to the Silver Spring box listed on the masthead.

Dues Are Due

Dues (\$10) for calendar year 1980 should be sent to your local chapter, payable to that chapter, unless you are not affiliated. In the latter case, send your payment to the ASA, P.O. Box 6244, Silver Spring, MD 20906. Make your check payable to The Azalea Society of America, Inc.

Questions and Answers

Q: I have large branches of mature azaleas that died and then broke off last year. What should I do?

A: Your description of the problem is somewhat brief, and certainly is sketchier than we hope to get in future queries. Still, it is enough to suggest that your plants are affected by stem borer. Dr. William Nickle, an entomologist with the Plant Protection Institute at Beltsville, MD, advises us that there are two types of stem borer. One is a clear-winged moth called "*Synanthedon rhodendri*." It girdles deciduous azaleas and rhododendrons, usually at the base, just above ground level, attacking larger plants just when you feel they are established.

When and how to act to thwart this moth, you ask. Dr. Nickle sets sex-attract-and traps in order to establish the "when". Traps in his azalea garden showed that in the Beltsville area, in 1979, the week of June 6-13 was the most sexually active

Questions and Answers (Continued)

week for mature stem borers. During that week he caught 95 male borers in one trap. Some seven to ten days later would be the peak period for eggs being layed under the bark of azalea stems. And shortly after that (last week in June, first week in July) was the optimum time for azalea growers to attack the borer larvae by spraying the trunks of their plants with lindane.

A second type of stem borer, Dr. Nickle explains, is a black and yellow cerambycid beetle which begins its life cycle by piercing the bark of the new green stems of azaleas, rhododendrons and mountain laurel near the base of the current year's growth. Then it lays its eggs in these lesions. Thereafter, the terminal leaf cluster yellows and wilts. When this happens, get busy. Search for small brown lesions below the wilted area and cut off the terminal leaf cluster below this point. Burn the wilted growth promptly. This will destroy the larva, and no further harm will result. If however, the borer is ignored or overlooked, it will start to tunnel downward through the larger branches the second summer, until it almost severs main branches and even the trunk. The plant above it then wilts and dies during late summer, and usually is snapped off by the wind.

The Robin Hill Azaleas

by Matthew Nosal

~~(This is the second part of a two part series which began in the January, 1980 issue)~~

Following are the Robin Hill azaleas that have been named but not registered with the ARS. Hopefully, the better and most popular of these cultivars will be submitted for registration by Mr. Gartrell, so some names may be altered to conform with requirements of the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants-1969.

Blue Tip: ('Malvatica' x unknown*) x 'Hosei'. Lavender 2-2½' single flowers; blooms in mid June. Mature plants will have a varying amount of flowers with white centers, enhancing the color and giving a blue appearance. (Z12-2).

Bob White: 'Oakland' X 'Dr. Bergmann'. White 2" single, hose-in-hose flowers, with occasional semi-double or double flowers; blooms mid to late May. The flowers' buds are pale green as they are about to open but, when fully open, the flowers are pure white with just a pale green blotch. Good petal texture adds to the brilliance of the flowers, and the beautifully-shaped corolla is mirrored by the hose-in-hose flower structure. If I were restricted to planting a single white azalea in my garden, it would be this one. Beautiful foliage and mounded growth habit complete the picture. (N42-6).

Chanson: ('Louise Gable' x "Tamagiku") X 'Sinyo-no-tsuki'. Pink (RHS 55B) 3" semi-double to double flowers; blooms in early June. Very broad petals create an unusual flowering appearance; broad, mounded growth habit. (U17-3).

Eliza Scott: 'Oakland' X 'Heiwa'. Pink (RHS 62A) 3" single flowers; blooms in late May and early June. A loose, somewhat upright, mounded growth habit. This cultivar will demand more room than most Robin Hills to be at its best. As with many azalea cultivars with a Kaempferi Hybrid as a parent, this cultivar cannot be appreciated

as a young plant since it has the faculty of forming a cluster of five or six flower buds at the terminal tips when well established in the garden. At this point, the growth habit is of little consequence when the size of flowers and floriferousness is considered. (T23-4).

Jeanne Weeks: ('Louise Gable x 'Tama-giku') X ('Kaigetsu' x Gable cv. 'Carol'). Light pink (RHS 65A) fully double 2" flowers; blooms in late May. Very beautiful as the flowers resemble rosebuds when opening, and the free branching, compact mounded habit shows the flowers to great advantage. Considered by many who grow the Robin Hill Hybrids to be one of the finest of the group. (U7-8).

Mme. Mab Chalon: ('Glacier' x 'Tama-giku') X 'Getsu Toku'. Pale lavender (RHS 65C) 3½" single flowers with occasional light purple stripes and splashes; blooms in late May. Good flower texture; strong growing, mounded habit. Very handsome foliage; large, round, dark green leaves that take on a dark burgundy tint in autumn make this a cultivar to consider when looking for summer texture and fall interest in the garden. (T16-7).

Mrs. Villars: 'Oakland' X 'Heiwa'. White 3½" single flowers; blooms in early June. Very ruffled petals and occasional pink splashing add interest; mounded growth habit. (T23-10).

Ormsby: 'Louise Gable' X 'Yozakura'. Pale red (RHS 39A) fully double 2½" flowers; blooms in late May. Very free branching, dense upright growth habit; growing slightly broader than tall and very heavy flowering. (T45-3).

Peg Hugger: ('Louise Gable' x 'Tama-giku') X ('Kaigetsu' x Gable cv. 'Carol'). Pale pink (RHS 49A) 2½" double flowers; blooms in mid-May. Compact, mounded habit. (U1-8).

Peter Pooker: ('Louise Gable' x 'Tama-giku') X 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. Lavender (RHS 73C) 2-3/4" single flowers; blooms in early June. Very ruffled flowers, with broad petals make the flowers appear larger; when in bud almost promises to open light purple, giving some contrast against the already open flowers. Low, broad, semi-dwarf growth habit; dark green foliage, best described as lush, makes a perfect backdrop for the flowers. Lavender is a color many people overlook when considering azaleas. Some consider it lifeless, others funereal, and still others just look at lavender as a poor relation of purple. However, I think this cultivar may change many a mind. (U15-1).

Pulken: Belgian Hybrid X Gable cv. 'Carol'. Purple (RHS 67A) 2½" single hose-in-hose flowers; blooms in late May. Flowers are very flatfaced and ruffled. Mounded growth habit. (T62-6).

Robin Dale: 'Oakland' X 'Heiwa'. White 3½" single flowers with pale green throat; blooms mid- to late-May. Very ruffled margins, and occasional semi-double to double flowers, with some pale red splashing add interest. Somewhat open, broad, mounded growth habit. (T24-8).

Sara Holden: 'Oakland' X 'Heiwa'. White 3" single flowers; blooms in late May. A dense compact mounded growth habit; light green foliage that remains fresh-looking on the hottest summer day, and flowers with ruffled margins that have light red splashing and stripes make this a very worthwhile cultivar. (T22-5).

Sir Robert: ('Glacier' x "tama-giku") X 'Getsu Toku'. Very pale pink (RHS 55D) with lighter center; 3-3/4" single, somewhat flat-faced flowers, with occasional flowers all white with pale pink sectors, or stripes; or pale pink flowers with white sectors, or sometimes all white flowers. Very variable; all the flower patterns may appear on just several branches, or the entire plant. Blooms during June, occasional flowers may start blooming in late May. Blooming is almost sparse at times, and then suddenly very heavy-blooming, and then slowing down again, affording bloom over a four to five-week period. Of course, this length of blooms is dependent on optimum weather conditions during June. One is almost teased, or bewitched, as each flower opens to reveal the different color patterns. With the different patterns, all in soft pink and white 'Sir Robert' has a flowering effect unique among hardy evergreen azaleas. The habit of growth is ideal; dense, compact, semi-dwarf. Very dark green foliage that appears crisp and clean is a perfect backdrop for the soft color tones of the flowers. (T15-8).

Turk's Cap: Parentage unknown. Bright scarlet-red 3 1/2" single flowers; blooms in late May. A loose, upright growth habit indicates that possibly 'Oakland' is one of the parents. The large flowers sometimes have recurving petals that resemble a Turkish-style cap, hence the name 'Turk's Cap'. This is not consistent from year to year, however. (T60-6).

Verena: 'Oakland' X 'Tama-giku'. Lavender 2 1/2" single flowers, with a slightly lighter throat; blooms in late May. Fast-growing, mounded growth habit. (T49-4).

Wee Willie: 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' X ('Louise Gable' x "Tama-giku"). Light pink (RHS 38B) 2-3/4" single flowers with lighter throat; blooms in early June. Dense, compact, semi-dwarf growth habit; perhaps the slowest-growing of the Robin Hill Hybrids that have been named. Bob Gartrell has had second thoughts about the name given this cultivar, however. He feels that any cultivar name using the adjective "wee" should be truly diminutive in habit. 'Wee Willie' may not stay as small as the name may imply, but it is still a very beautiful flowering plant. The flowers are a very delicate shade of pink, and having broad ruffled petals adds to their charm. The habit of growth, being very dense, makes each flower bud compete for space to open, so at flowering time the small plant is just smothered with beautiful pink flowers. (V2-10).

Welmet: 'Oakland' X 'Heiwa'. Lavender-pink (RHS 65A) 3-3/4" double flowers. Slightly loose, broad, mounded growth habit. (T25-5).

Wendy: ('Louise Gable' x 'Tama-giku') X 'Heiwa'. Light pink (RHS 38B) 3" single flowers with wavy margins; blooms in mid June. Compact, mounded growth habit. (T21-3).

White Hart: ('Gumpo' x 'Glacier') X 'Snowclad'. White 3¼" single flowers with green blotch and ruffled margins; blooms in late May. This is an unusual hybrid in the respect that all the parents are usually on lists of recommended white azaleas. Each parent is a superb white azalea, and 'White Hart' certainly shows their fine qualities in flower; however, it has a stiff, mounded habit, and foliage that has a wrinkled appearance. These two slight drawbacks dominate the garden appearance just enough to keep 'White Hart' from being the best white Robin Hill Hybrid. (J12-1).

White Head: 'Glacier' x 'Getsu Toku'. White 3" single flowers; blooms in early June. Somewhat loose, mounded growth habit. (T2-4).

Unnamed Robin Hill Hybrids

Following are some Robin Hill Hybrids that have been grown by members of the New York Chapter Azalea Study Group, and in spite of being unnamed, have become favorites of many of the members.

H19-9: 'Jimmy Coover' X 'Glamour' Bright red (RHS 42A) 2" double flowers; blooms in late May and early June. Dense, semi-upright, broad compact growth habit; small elliptic to slightly-oblong leaves that turn maroon in autumn. Both parents are hybrids of *Azalea indicum*, and the fine foliage and growth habit qualities have been inherited by this Robin Hill Hybrid.

N26-2: ('Louise Gable' x 'Oakland') X (Belgian Hybrid x Gable cv. 'Carol'). Dark pink (RHS 39A) 2½" double flowers; blooms in late May. Compact, semi-dwarf mounded growth habit.

N33-2: (Belgian Hybrid x 'La Lumiere') X (Belgian Hybrid x 'La Lumiere'). Bright scarlet (RHS 44A) 2¼" single flowers; blooms in late May. Broad, compact growth habit; beautiful glossy foliage that turns deep maroon in autumn. This is just about the most vibrant flower color in the Robin Hill Hybrids. Combined with the very striking foliage and good growth habit, it makes a superb garden plant.

P4-7: ('Mary' x 'Beacon') X ('June Dawn' x 'Macrostemon'). Light pink (RHS 39C) 1-1/2" hose-in-hose flowers, with occasional double flowers; blooms in late May. Slightly upright, compact mounded growth habit.

P25-6: Parentage unknown. Pink (RHS 39C) 2" hose-in-hose flowers; blooms in mid to late May. Mounded growth habit. Beautiful flower form with sharp margins, which are enhanced by the hose-in-hose structure and deeper pink stripes (RHS 39B) with a lighter throat make this variety outstanding. The striping is not very definite; almost a gradation of the color tone, as if an artist has taken his brush and palette and touched up the flowers. Very unusual, and needless to say, a very beautiful garden subject.

T15-7: ('Glacier' x 'Tama-giku') X 'Getsu Toku'. Pink (RHS 49A) 3¼" single flowers; blooms in mid June. Very broad and ruffled petals; flat-faced flowers with the petals having a slight backwards curling create a very unusual flowering appearance. Nice, mounded growth habit.

AUSTRINUM is native in the low coastal plain belt in northern Florida and straight westward to southern Alabama and Mississippi. It is medium to tall. The flowers, which open in May in the Washington, D.C. area, are very small but in large clusters which in the darker shades of yellow can be rather attractive and with good fragrance. It is hardy to Zone 7a, and Skinner reports that it roots easily from cuttings. Crosses with Exburys have produced attractive flowers on plants which have thrived for ten years in south Mississippi.

BAKERI, also Cumberland Azalea, is found in open woodlands of Kentucky eastward to northern Georgia. It is a medium to tall grower, with low, spreading forms also. An example of this low form in my own garden has small, deep green foliage almost totally resistant to insects and fungal disease. Bakeri flowers in the Washington, D.C. area in June and early July. It is yellow to deep red, but mostly shades of orange. The flowers are quite similar to calendulaceum but slightly smaller. Very hardy, this native is badly neglected since it is one of our best garden shrubs and a good parent for hybridizing. The author has had many seedlings bloom two years after germination.

CALENDULACEUM, popularly called Flame Azalea, is generally believed to be our best native for garden use. It is distributed widely from upland Pennsylvania south through the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee. Tall, upright, very hardy, it blooms in late May to early June in the Washington, D.C. area. Flowers are up to 2-1/4 inches across their bell-shaped corollas, and range from pale yellow through orange to good reds. It is not fragrant, and it is hard to root from cuttings. The only known tetraploid native, it nevertheless crosses easily with the European hybrids which include its' chromosomes. The author's seedlings have taken up to five years to show their first blooms.

CANESCENS, or Piedmont Azalea, is found in moist coastal plains from North Carolina to Florida and westward to Texas. Tall, vigorous, it is hardy to Philadelphia. Flowers appear in late April and range from white to pink, often with a yellow blotch. The long tube often is pink, and it has a distinctive fragrance. Good forms are attractive garden subjects.

NUDIFLORUM, commonly known as Pinxterbloom, is found at lower elevations from Massachusetts south to Tennessee. Medium to tall in height, it is very hardy, and blooms quite early in the Washington, D.C. area--mid-to-late April. The flowers are smallish but in large clusters white to pink, often with bright pink tubes. The books say it is stoloniferous and fragrant, but the author's plants are neither (and therefore may be hybrids of some kind). Old bushes can be quite attractive in a woodland setting.

OCCIDENTALE is a beautiful azalea which thrives along coastal hills from Oregon south to southern California. For no known reason, it refuses to grow in the midwestern and eastern states. This may be

changed through hybridizing with eastern natives, and those experiments are now in progress at many locations.

PRUNIFOLIUM, or Plumleaf Azalea, is native to a restricted area along the central Georgia-Alabama border, where it is found in moist ravines and on creek banks. Tall and a strong grower, it has dark green foliage which does not show color in the fall. It is hardy to Zone 7a, stoloniferous, and propagates fairly well from cuttings. It flowers in late July and often straggles on into early September. The blooms are about 2 inches across and are light yellow to deep red, with a bright orange-red in between. Very resistant to insects and fungi, the author believes it to be one of our most desirable woodland garden azaleas. Like calendulaceum, it takes forever to bloom from seed--that is, 4 or 5 years.

ROSEUM, or Roseshell Azalea, is native to open woods from New England southward to mountainous areas in Virginia. It flowers in the Washington, D.C. area in early June in shades of clear pink to violet red. Very hardy, but tends to resent being moved around from one spot to another.

SERRULATUM is native to damp Gulf coastal lowlands from Georgia and northern Florida westward to Louisiana. Tall and vigorous, its flowers open in July and August in the Washington, D.C. area. They have distinctively long tubes which are quite sticky. Color is usually white, sometimes with violet-red flush. It has a nice fragrance.

SPECIOSUM grows in open, wooded hill country of central Georgia and South Carolina, and probably elsewhere in that general area. It is low to medium height and hardy throughout Zone 7a. Flowers appear in the author's garden in early May, and are very attractive in shades of yellow to pink to a very fine deep red. This is a rare and lovely wilding for shaded gardens. Not fragrant, it blooms in 2 or 3 years from seed.

VASEYI, also known as Pinkshell Azalea, is rated very high as a garden subject. A tall, upright grower, its mid-April flowers are bell-shaped and up to 2-1/2 inches across. The color is white to rose pink, with a green flush in the throat and dotted with red flecks. It has colorful fall leaves and is an excellent garden plant in the Washington, D.C. area when grown in partial shade. Not fragrant but very hardy. It comes from higher elevations in North Carolina.

VISCOSUM, or Swamp Azalea, is indigenous to moist locations from Maine to Alabama and Tennessee. Low, dense, and stoloniferous, it blooms in June and July with small, pure white flowers and long tubes which are quite sticky. Attractive pink forms are probably hybrids with arborescens or perhaps bakeri. Very hardy and fragrant.

A complete series of native deciduous azaleas can be seen grouped together at the Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, Maryland. Many of these varieties can also be viewed at the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., although they are scattered there. There are numerous examples in the McCrillis Garden, Bethesda, Maryland. A sizeable number can be seen in Philadelphia at the Morris Arboretum where Skinner's specimens are labelled and grouped. What may be the two most impressive collections of native deciduous azaleas can be seen at the Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia, and in the Gardens of the Biltmore Estate near Asheville, North Carolina.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Most but not all of the above article was printed as a supplement to Volume 1, No. 2, of The Azalea a year ago, and distributed in only a few copies to members of the Brookside Chapter. It now is rerun, in expanded form, for wider distribution, as the first of a two-part series. The second part, for a future issue, will cover the Asiatic deciduous species.)

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