

New Azalea Gardens

Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl Dedicated

Callaway Gardens was founded in Pine Mountain, Georgia, by Cason Callaway and his wife, Virginia, and opened in 1952. It is now a 14,000-acre garden especially famous for preservation and propagation of the native Plumleaf Azalea, *Rhododendron prunifolium*. The newest theme garden in the park is the 40-acre Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl dedicated March 27, 1999. A gift of Ely Reeves Callaway, Jr., founder and chairman of Callaway Golf, the garden was built in honor of his father, Ely R. Callaway, Sr. and his uncle Fuller E. Callaway, Sr., father of Cason Callaway.

Described as "the world's largest azalea garden," the \$3 million construction project took over two years and involved eleven outside contrac-



With the mirror pond and the new bridge in the background, Kurume azaleas highlight the Brothers Azalea Bowl and a new entrance trail into the park. Tall light pink *R. 'Glory'* in the foreground contrasts well with the shorter, red *R. 'Christmas Cheer'*, a Domoto introduction (syn. 'Ima Shojō').

tors as well as Callaway Gardens staff to complete. Designed for year-round horticultural interest, the Brothers Azalea Bowl forms a new entrance to Callaway Gardens. Azaleas are the primary feature in the

wealth of plant material: 3,400 hybrid azaleas represent 100 varieties, including Kurumes from the original Overlook Garden cared for by Fred Galle; 13 species native to the Southeast are displayed in 850 specimens. Nearly 15,000 additional plants fill the garden, including 2,000 other trees and shrubs of 120 varieties. Meandering along the one-mile walking trail is a 620-foot natural stream with six overlooks. A one-acre mirror pond, a wooden gazebo, and a 100-foot bridge provide architectural accents. For more information, contact Callaway Gardens on the web at <http://www.callawaygardens.com>, or phone 706-633-2281 or 1-800-225-5292.

Photograph © and permission generously given by Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia

University In East Texas Is Building a World-Class Azalea Garden

Barbara Stump — Nacogdoches, Texas

In 1923, Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) began as a teachers' college near the intersection of El Camino Real and a major north-south Indian and Mexican trading trail called El Calle del Norte (now U.S. Highway 59). This intersection made the town of Nacogdoches, Texas, a center of trade, industry, and culture for east Texas. Among the many events marking the university's celebration of its 75th anniversary were the ground-breaking, May 23, 1998, and initial Phase I planting of the new SFA Azalea Garden, the weekend of December 5, 1998.

Envisioned since 1992 when the university realized the LaNana Creek floodplain site could not be built upon for parking, the 8-acre SFA Azalea Garden is scheduled for completion March 2000. Situated along busy University Drive just south of the SFA

Coliseum, the site is highly visible for community and university alike. From the road, passersby view the garden through stately 50-year-old loblolly pines, pecans, and sycamores, with the occasional sweet gum, bois d'arc (*Maclura pomifera*), and many lovely Florida maples. Three exotic plant genera will make up the bulk of the introduced plantings: first and foremost, 4,500 hybrid, species, and native azaleas selected for bloom times, color, and fragrance to last from spring through fall; 100 camellias to spark fall and winter; and finally, a fine collection of 180 Japanese maples to light up the site with lacey foliage color.

To carry the SFA school colors, the purple of *R. 'Koromo Shikibu'*, The Spider Azalea, will contrast with many white-flowering ornamental trees planted throughout the tall dark pine

cathedral-like spaces. We have THE AZALEAN and Dr. Roy Constantin of the Hammond, Louisiana, Agricultural Research Station to thank for introducing us to this delicate and most unusual azalea now planted across the entire 700-foot frontage of the garden.

A central feature is the council ring, encircled by two berms planted with Indica and Formosan azaleas offset by an inner square of vibrant deep purple *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' and an outer ring of Chinese Fringe Trees, *Chionanthus retusus*. For fragrance and fire, native *R. austrinum* hybrid crosses such as 'Sunrise' will begin the Native Azalea Trail through the western side of the garden, to be planted fall of 1999. Nearly a quarter of the design is devoted to native azaleas, with interpretive material about the new work being done by nurserymen and hybridizers to bring these rarities into culti-