

ASA Certificate of Recognition Given to Barbara Bullock

[At the Friday night banquet of the National Convention in Mobile, the Society presented Barbara Bullock with a special Certificate of Recognition for her long and devoted service to the Azalea Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum. This is her thank you letter to the Society, written that very night, ed.]

Letter from Barbara Bullock

April 2, 1999

Dear Mr. Thornton, Dr. Hobbs, Mr. Stelloh, Ms. Stump, members of the Azalea Society of America and National Arboretum volunteers who've worked on the Azalea Collection with me:

Thank you very much for this Certificate of Recognition. I was so overcome with gratitude tonight that I couldn't think of the right words to say . . . but I can now, later on, in my hotel room.

I couldn't have done the work in

the Azalea Collection without the inspiration from the many members of the ASA that I have known over the years, providing for me the impetus, and the drive to make the U.S. National Arboretum's Azalea Collection a world-class collection worthy of visitors such as yourselves. Through my association with you, I have gained an appreciation and a pride in the Glenn Dale azaleas and have collected them in order to establish a National Reference Collection of these and many other cultivar groups I have come to regard as important.

I have met so many wonderful people through the Society who have

provided plants, cuttings and moral support.

I want to add special thanks to Bill Johnson and the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the ASA, my special friend the late Dick West, Bill Miller, Don Voss, George Ring, George and Sue Switzer, Jean Cox, Ted Munter, Frank Daspit, Don Hyatt, Gordon Hagan, Nancy Swell, Ten Oaks Nursery, Emile Deckert, Bob Barry, Polly Hill, Wayne Mezitt, Bee and Bob Hobbs, Bob Stelloh, Jim Thornton, Jim Berry, Buddy Lee, Dr. John Creech, Frank Sobieski, Jim Plyer, Mary Rutley, Dottie Murphee, Jane Newman, Jim and Lee Blue, David

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excellent care and drought was not a problem. This may be an inherent risk in buying small plants at a nursery without blossoms. Thanks again!
Bob

From: "William C. Miller III"
bill@theazaleaworks.com
Date: Wed, 03 Mar 1999 21:15:31-0500
Bob,

Wasn't there a comment about root pruning earlier in the conversation? I think I remember you saying that you were advised to do it by the nurseryman. I cannot imagine root pruning having a positive effect on plant physiology. It seems to me that reducing the capacity of the root system to convey water up the plant might simulate drought conditions.

I'm glad to hear about the information from Sandra McDonald. Plant

behavior interests me.

Bill Miller
Bethesda, Maryland

From: John Hammond
HammondsRhodies@compuserve.com
Date: Fri, 19 Mar 1999 14:41:41 -0500

Hi There Bob:

I have a comment re your Azaleas that don't bloom . . . I find that many Azalea & Rhododendron enthusiasts are much too kind to their plants . . . they grow healthy and look great but a percentage tend not to flower . . . this is particularly relevant to some Species as well as Hybrids. I have come across a number of cases of this sort over the years where the plant continues to grow foliage like crazy and shows no sign of creating flower buds.

I would suggest you provide some

'shock' treatment before cutting them down . . . plant a couple in an area of poor soil which has a high level of sun but which will not 'burn' the foliage . . . do not feed them . . . do not water them other than to keep them alive . . . and if that does not result in flowers then it is time to say goodbye. Good luck.

John M. Hammond

From: Bob McWhorter
mcwho@erols.com
Date: Sat, 20 Mar 1999 07:59:11-0800

John:

Thanks for the suggestion. I have moved these bushes into several different locations and will be doing just what you suggested. Hope this spring is everything you wish it to be!

Bob

Lay, George McLellan, Bob and Jay Murray, Ed Reiley, Bob Stewart, Mike Welsh, Mike White, and Malcolm Clark. Finally, though they have passed away, my thanks to the late Gene Eisenbeiss, Ted Dudley, Fred Galle, and Andy Adams.

Sincerely,
Barbara L. Bullock
Washington, DC
Curator, U.S. National Arboretum
Azalea Garden Collection

AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Certificate of Recognition
Barbara Bullock

In recognition of the fact that the Azalea Collection at the United States National Arboretum represents an important legacy of Benjamin Y Morrison, an internationally recognized azalea hybridizer and first director of the U. S. National Arboretum, and

In recognition that the Azalea Collection has been vastly renovated and improved over the past eight years under the direction of Society member and Curator of Azaleas and Rhododendrons, Ms. Barbara Bullock, and

In recognition of the fact that members of the Azalea Society of America, in direct cooperation with U. S. National Arboretum staff, have participated in the activities involved in the renewal and expansion of the Azalea Collection,

We, the Board of Directors of the AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA hereby recognize the efforts of Ms. Barbara Bullock in the activity and urge that the U. S. National Arboretum continue in the program of renewing and improving the Azalea Collection

/s/ James O. Thornton
James O. Thornton, President
Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America
P. O. Box 34536
West Bethesda, Maryland

Presented at the Azalea Society of America
Convention and Annual Meeting
Mobile, Alabama, March 31 - April 1, 1999

Report of the Membership and Public Information Committee 1999

William C. Miller III — Bethesda, Maryland

Activity Report

For the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999, I submit the following report. Sixty-two items of correspondence, excluding email, were received from 21 states, one Canadian province (Nova Scotia), and three non-North American countries (Egypt, Belgium, and Germany). The most mail came from Maryland with seven, followed by Georgia and Louisiana with five each. November of 1998 and March of 1999 were the busiest months with twelve and eight items of correspondence, respectively. On the e-mail front, a growing means of communication, much email was received, but it was not always distinguishable from e-mail intended for The Azalea Works, so it will not be tracked.

Since the inception of my personal web page at www.theazaleaworks.com and the establishment of its "unofficial" ASA information and ASA membership application form, eighteen people have joined the ASA who otherwise might not have. Of those eighteen, five have joined since January 1, 1999, the start of the 1999 membership year. I expect the rate of new

members resulting from the various electronic sources of information to increase gradually. With the recent approval of the ASA's Board of Directors for the establishment of an official ASA website, the ASA's Internet presence will consist of my website, the Louisiana chapter's website, and the new official ASA website that is being created by Bob Stelloh and his committee. I predict that the increase in visibility will be a very positive development.

Mass Mailings

A mass mailing of membership brochures for 1999 went out in February and a number of new members have resulted. Many thanks to Bob and Bee Hobbs of THE AZALEAN. I have asked them to maintain their North Beach mailing permit so that we can continue to use it in the future.

A special plea to all you folks who operate nurseries and belong to state or regional associations (e.g., Southern Nurserymen's Association), please send me copies of your membership listings. I would like to tar-

get our mass mailings to such groups. I am convinced that there are a lot of azalea growers and sellers out there that would join, support, and benefit from the ASA if they knew about it. Also, a special thanks to those of you who sent me your catalogs and inventory lists as I requested. When I receive email questions asking where certain cultivars can be obtained, that's where I look first.

New Member Applications

As previously reported, all new membership applications should be directed to the official ASA mail box at the West Bethesda address. Sending them anywhere else significantly slows down the process to the detriment of the new member. This is important because a "new member welcome packet" is sent to all new members, and during certain times, the information is extremely time sensitive. The address for all new memberships is:

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