

# In Memory

**FRANK B. WHITE, JR.**  
Bob Hobbs  
North Beach, Maryland

Frank White, friend of the azalea and the Azalea Society of America, died at the age of 83 on August 3, 1999. He was a founding member of the Society, and had served as its Vice President and Chairman of the original Board of Governors. Frank also served as the President of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. He was a member of the Ben Morrison Chapter of the ASA.

He grew up in Lanham, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC, and worked for the Maryland State Police, the DC Metropolitan Police, the US Department of Agriculture, and The University of Maryland where he was in charge of greenhouses. He served with the Marine Corps in World War II where he was an advance observer in the attack on Iwo Jima and participated in three other campaigns in the Pacific. He retired from the Interstate Commerce Commission as a transportation inspector in order to be able to pursue his interest in azaleas full time.

About 1960, he and his wife Jean (Jean and Frank had grown up together in Lanham) started an azalea business in Lanham, Maryland. Their nursery was known as Azalea Acres Farm, "Propagators of Rare and Unusual Azaleas, Rhododendron and Daffodils." Their home and Azalea Acres Farm are located on land that was part of the farm on which Frank grew up. The nursery was started from azaleas that Jean and Frank had started from cuttings and grown on at their home nearby

in Lanham. This was at a time when azaleas were relatively unknown in the Washington area. At one time Azalea Acres Farm had one of the largest collections of azaleas on the East Coast.

Frank was a strong supporter of his community, especially the Washington Bible College which adjoined Azalea Acres Farm. He was the first Commander of the Bryan-Toole American Legion Post 172 in Lanham, Maryland.

Frank was well known by Washington area azalea lovers. Many obtained their first azalea plants from Azalea Acres. Frank freely provided instructions on the propagation and culture of azaleas and donated to plant sales of the local Washington area chapters.

Frank began working with azaleas when he was 13 years old and started a part-time job with Ben Morrison at Glenn Dale. His love affair with azaleas began shortly thereafter, and continued until his death.

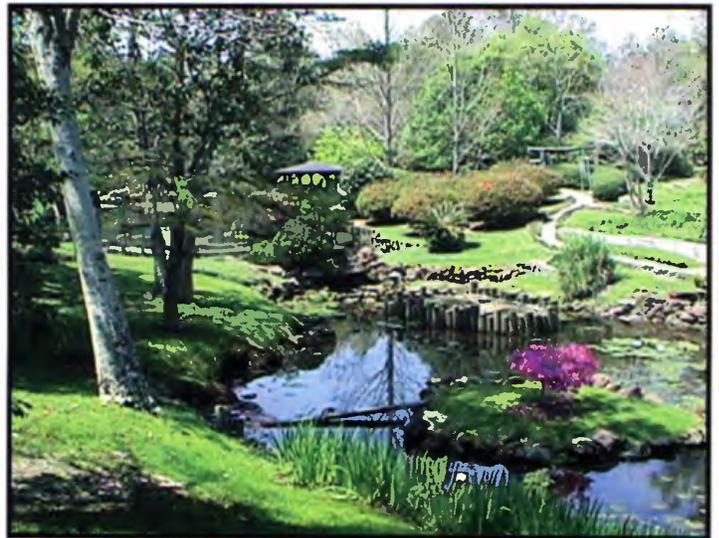
[An article, "Meet An Azaleophile: Frank White" by Jane Newman was published in the June 1997 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. 19(2): 24-27. Material from that article has been used in this article. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Ben Morrison Chapter, c/o Carol Flowers, 7195 Henson Landing Road, Welcome, MD 20693, Ed.]



*R. canescens 'Crain's Creek', with the species' characteristic pink tubular flowers in clusters, grown by Dr. John Thornton. Huge specimens of similar R. canescens and R. austrinum graced the gardens of Dr. and Mrs. Smith during the Society's visit to Mobile. Such are the memories surrounding truly generous plantsmen such as Dr. Smith and Frank White, Jr.*

## Dr. John Allen Smith

Dr. John Allen Smith of Magnolia Nursery in Chunchula, Alabama, passed away after a sudden illness, Monday, July 12. Dr. Smith was well-respected in the horticultural world for his extensive work with hollies, magnolias, and international and native American plants. He is survived by his wife Francis and three daughters. [Notice supplied by Maarten van der Giessen. A full article will appear in the December issue, Ed.]



*Japanese Garden at Bellingrath Gardens: Subtlety and art given form by wonderful plantings and careful design.*