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# Society News

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## Continuing Society Concerns

At the September 23rd Board of Directors teleconference meeting, three issues were raised that may have a big impact on the Society:

- 1) photographic reproduction quality in **THE AZALEAN**;
- 2) disposition of back issues of **THE AZALEAN**; and
- 3) need to increase support of Azalea Projects at the National Arboretum.

As the Society's journal, **THE AZALEAN** is the most visible and vivid image the Society presents to the public. It is also a key means to recruit new members. As such, it

needs to be of the highest quality, while using the most cost-effective processes. A committee has been formed of Don Hyatt, Art Vance, and Barbara Stump to examine potential methods that could improve the photographic quality. The group will report to the board before the annual meeting in Charleston in 2000. A key issue in this group's work is to find the best sources for slides of azaleas within the membership. Members may provide feedback on this topic to Barbara Stump (contact information page 67).

Since requests for back issues seem to be low, the backlog in personal storage being handled by member Col. E.M. Sheffield is getting out of

hand. Also, future electronic storage of the text is available. The board suggested the Society develop a list of worthy institutions which could benefit from gifts of complete sets. The Chapters and At-large members should suggest institutions they consider worthy. Make these requests to Jim Thornton.

The most effective indication of the Society's sincere support of the U.S. National Arboretum's Azalea Projects would be for members to write a large number of personal letters to their State Representatives. Gen. Bryghte Godbold will be contacting chapter presidents; At-large members can write directly.

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*Azaleas in Mexico - continued*

plants, but there are lots of others that are not available. It is a problem to import plants to Mexico, so it is not easy to get new ones. Besides the troublesome permits we need the cooperation and personalized service of the sender, so we can retrieve them from customs at the airport as soon as possible. But as I said at the beginning I am a plant lover and will do anything to get more!

Three years ago in New Zealand I saw Vireyas for the first time, and I

became very excited about them. I would like to grow some, and I am going to order some. I also have a home in Texas, near Lake Conroe, and that would be an easier place to have them sent to. I extend an invitation to visit my place to anyone that is interested, just let me know.

*Esther Salinas lives in Mexico City and is a new member of the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society, but she has been growing and*

*propagating azaleas for many years. Her greatest hobbies are growing plants and flower arranging. She has been a garden club member since 1968 and belongs to clubs in Mexico and belonged to clubs in Houston when she lived there. She has been President of every club she's belonged to, as well as the Mexican Federation of Garden Clubs. At present, she is President of the Judges Council of Mexico City, and she is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.*

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## Azaleas Online II

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

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In the June issue, we showed several complete threads, or topics, that online members have been discussing. Here we summarize a few of the other threads on the <azaleas@azaleas.org> maillist, and how to find them in the online archives. [Editor's note: any text within angle brackets < > is something the computer user would type in.]

### Cuttings Clearinghouse: Trade Mart

Tom Hughes mentioned a wish for some Satsuki cuttings in a private message to Bill McDavit, but sent it to the list by mistake. John Kaylor saw it, thought it would be a good idea to have a clearinghouse for such requests, and coined the term Trade Mart. With some help from Nancy Swell's experience with an ephemeral seed exchange for the North American Rock Garden Society, John Brown

developed the Trade Mart guidelines and is chairing the clearinghouse. It works like this:

- you post a <[TM] Want Cuttings> e-mail to the list describing the plants you want and your mailing address
- someone with those plants sends a private message to you, and you two work out the details via private e-mail

- when someone sends some cuttings, they also post a <[TM] Sent Cuttings> e-mail to the list naming the cuttings and the recipient

- the recipient posts a <[TM] Got Cuttings> e-mail to the list naming the cuttings and the sender.

### Maillist Conventions

The <[TM]> at the beginning of the subject is an <azaleas@azaleas.org> convention to let readers know the general topic, so they can easily delete it without taking the time to read it if they are not involved with cuttings.

<[OT]> for off-topic is another convention, to indicate an e-mail which is not directly related to azaleas, and <[admin]> indicates a message from the list owner to announce things such as a new feature.

### E-mail Attachments

Most maillists do not accept attachments to e-mail, as they are usually quite large compared to a normal e-mail, and consume too much time to send them to all the subscribers at once. As of mid-July, <azaleas@azalea.org> accepted images and text file attachments. To solve the time problem, it removes the attachment from the e-mail, stores it on the computer, and puts its URL (Universal Resource Locator, or website address) at the end of the e-mail. You can use that URL with your web browser to see the attachment.

### Little Fat Colored Satsuki Bible

Bill McDavit made an offer to send a spreadsheet he had developed which indexes this book. If you have the book, you know why you need the spreadsheet. It lists the 850 Satsuki in the "Bible" in alphabetic order, with descriptions, and with page references to the 340 of them in Galle's *Azaleas*. In the course of the thread, it was also rather well established that the plural of Satsuki is Satsuki.

### Petal Blight

A lot of discussion indicated that, while picking off infected blossoms and also cleaning them off the ground is good, spraying with Bayleton at the first sign of bud color is the control practiced by most list members.

### Bloom Time

There have been many e-mails on when the first azalea bloomed where this year, when the last azalea bloomed where, and what factors affect the time of bloom. So many that you will have to search the archives to look at them.

### E-mail Archives

All <azaleas@azaleas.org> e-mail sent after April 1, 1999 is archived, and may be read at any time. To see the archives, use your browser to go to <<http://www.azaleas.org>> and choose <Archives> from the pull down menu or click it at the bottom of the page. This goes to the archives page, which has links for each month as well as a search facility.

To see the e-mails by date and thread (topic), click the link for the month of interest. That shows a page of e-mail subjects, authors and dates, ordered by date and subject. If an e-mail is a reply to another e-mail with the same subject, it is shown under the original regardless of date. This makes it easier to follow a "thread" of e-mails on the same subject. Sometimes, however, an author will change the subject line slightly, which "breaks the thread" and puts it in date order. While computers are good with exact matches, they generally don't handle "almost exact" matches well. You'll have to look around to be sure you've seen all the e-mail on the same or almost the same subject.

Navigating within Archives: Clicking an e-mail in this list shows its complete text and any attachments. Clicking your browser's <Back> button

then returns to the index list.

Search Tips: If you know a word or phrase that is apt to be in the e-mails you are interested in, you can do a search for that word or phrase. Type it into the search box and click <Search>. That shows a list of all the e-mails containing your search text, ordered by the number of matches for each. As with the date lists, clicking one shows that e-mail.

The simplicity of the search box and button is deceptive, as computer searching is somewhat of an art, and how best to search is different for each website. This search has a long <Help> page which explains different ways to find just those e-mails you are interested in—no more and no less.

You may also review the archives via e-mail. To get started, send an empty e-mail to <[azaleas-index.1-500@azaleas.org](mailto:azaleas-index.1-500@azaleas.org)> to get a list of all the e-mail subjects, authors and dates in the archive. When you see one that looks interesting, note its number, such as 287. To get it, send an empty email to <[azaleas-get.287@azaleas.org](mailto:azaleas-get.287@azaleas.org)>. Or, to get all the messages with that same subject, send an empty email to <[azaleas-thread.287@azaleas.org](mailto:azaleas-thread.287@azaleas.org)>. If you know you want to look at the entire thread, or keep it for future reference, that's much faster than visiting the archives, since the archives only show one e-mail at a time.

While we have only been in business for a few months, there are a lot of interesting discussions in the archives. Happy hunting!