

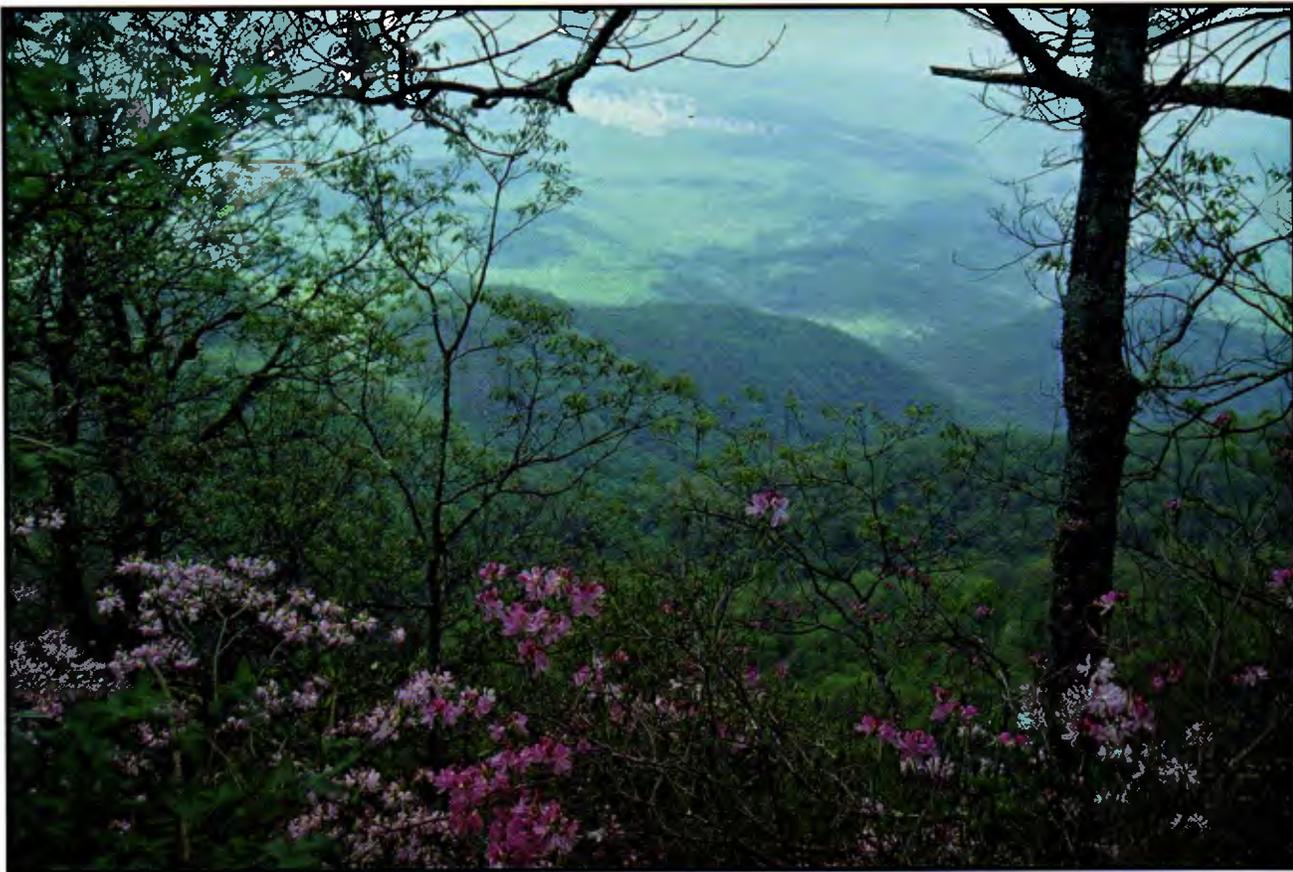
VOLUME 23

NUMBER 1

SPRING 2001

THE **A**zalea

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



Here Comes the 2001 Convention!

Celebrating Native Azaleas

Adventures in Growing Azaleas

Grafting Azaleas on Rhododendrons

Society Elections

By-Laws Amendments



Post Office Box 34536
West Bethesda, Maryland
20827-0536

President's Letter

William F. Bode — Covington, Louisiana

Fellow members, this is the last letter that I will write you as President of our Society. As you know, the President's term of office begins at an annual meeting and ends with the announcement of the newly elected officers at the second annual meeting following. The new officers will assume their duties at the annual meeting to be held at Asheville, North Carolina, June 14-17, 2001.

Those officers will be the most qualified of any we have presented in years. The nominating committee did its job to fulfill not only the letter, but also the spirit, of our By-Laws. My most sincere thanks to the nominating committee for their efforts that proved the system does work.

In leaving, I must say it was a pleasurable and rewarding experience. However, I despised acting as Secretary. So, there's good and bad in all events. To those of you who have participated in the Society's activities, such as attending chapter meetings, giving lectures or talks, writing articles for **THE AZALEAN**, sharing your knowledge on our Internet mail list, and trekking to the annual meeting, and simple things like answering your mail, I am most grateful. To those of you who did none of the above, I

urge you to come join those who did, and you will be rewarded by understanding why they enjoy it.

Those involved in the membership recruiting effort are to be congratulated. This last year the Society showed a gain in membership. Hopefully the decline in membership has stopped. I had hoped to gain more members in the western states, and to form chapters in the Carolinas and East Texas, but I leave that to those who follow. I urge all of you to continue with this effort in support of the new officers and the board of directors.

We have had some great meetings in the past few years; the meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, had the largest attendance of any of the Society's meetings. The meeting in 1999 in Mobile, Alabama, introduced us to deciduous azaleas that thrive in the Deep South. In 2001, we have a chance to view some of the best growing habitat for native azaleas. For those of us who have not experienced these in their native settings, **DO NOT PASS THIS UP!** Join us in Asheville in June.

Goodbye and thank you,
Bill Bode

On the Cover:

Rhododendron vaseyi, a native of the Blue Ridge Mountains, photographed at 4,900 feet on Pilot Mountain in Pisgah National Forest amid thousands of other *R. vaseyi* specimens. Looking Glass Rock is in the distance. Since this mountain-dweller blooms in mid-June, it should be in full bloom during the 2001 convention in Asheville.

[Photo by Ed Collins.]

Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of azaleas Subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

Officers for 1999 - 2000

President — William Bode
Vice-President — Joseph E. Schild, Jr.
Secretary
Treasurer — Robert Stelloh
Immediate Past-President —
James O. Thornton

Directors

Terms Expire in 2000
Robert Lee

Maarten van der Giessen
Stephen Schroeder

Terms Expire in 2001
Gen. Bryghte Godbold
Donald Hyatt
Col. Murray Sheffield

Chapter presidents serve as
ex-officio directors

Chapters

Brookside Gardens
(chartered Aug. 1979)
Dianne Gregg, Pres.

Ben Morrison
(chartered May 1980)
Mrs. Alan D. Jones, Pres.

Northern Virginia
(chartered May 1980)
David Nanney, Pres.

Louisiana
(chartered June 1981)
Dr. John Thornton, Pres.

Tri-State
(chartered Oct. 1981)
Robin Hahn, Pres.

Dallas Chapter
(chartered May 1989)
Roby Odom, Pres.

Oconee Chapter
(chartered Nov. 1991)
Dorothy Hester, Pres.

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual dues amount of \$25.00; life membership for an individual is \$500.00. Members receive **THE AZALEAN** and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society including those of the chapter with which the member affiliates. For information and a membership application, write to the Membership Committee, Azalean Society of America, P.O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

Editor
Barbara Stump

Advisory Editorial Board
Donald H. Voss
Jane Newman
Robert W. Hobbs, Ph.D.

Advertising
Jim Thornton

THE AZALEAN (ISSN-1085-5343) is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall and winter) by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

Additional copies of the current and back issues can be obtained from Azalean Back Issues, 875 Canyon Road, Wetumpka, AL 36093 (PHONE: (334-567-4974). All volumes 1 through present are \$1.00 per issue. Orders from outside the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, add \$1.00 per issue for postage.

Opinions and views expressed in **THE AZALEAN** are those of the contributors or the Editor, not necessarily those of the Society, and are presented to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of azaleas. Advertisements are presented as a service to our readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America. Advertising and other contributions to **THE AZALEAN** are used exclusively to help defray the costs of publishing **THE AZALEAN**.

Address all editorial and business correspondence to:

The Editor, **THE AZALEAN**
536 E. Pilar Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961-5113
936-569-2929
bstump@inu.net
Society website: <http://www.azaleas.org>
Mail list: azaleas@azaleas.org

Printed By:
Sunbelt Business Graphics
Nacogdoches, Texas

Table of Contents

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2001

- 2 President's Letter
William F. Bode
- 4 Celebrating Native Azaleas —
2001 ASA Convention Preview
Bob Stelloh
- 8 In Memory - Peter Girard, Jr.
- 11 Adventures in Growing Azaleas
Ben Blankenship
- Research Notes
- 12 Grafting Azaleas on Rhododendrons
Reprint from *The Garden*, 1897
- Society News
- 14 Report of the Nominating Committee
- 15 Society's Database is in Good Hands
- 16 Proposed By-Laws Amendments
- 18 Chapter News
- 20 New Members
- 21 Azalea Mart



Correction

The color photograph on page 76 of the Winter 2000 issue is, in fact, *Rhododendron austrinum* 'Millie Mac'; however, it was incorrectly attributed in the caption as an azalea selection in the "Maid in the Shade Series" of Transplant Nursery.

The correct derivation is this: Floyd T. McDonnell selected it from a wild plant he discovered in the wild in Escambia County, Alabama, in 1950; he subsequently registered it officially in 1977. Floyd was an attorney for the Geological Survey of the US Corps of Engineers. When he dug it out of the woods, it was a sport. When he registered it, the registrar said it was one of those azaleas that didn't sport. The name honors Tom Dodd's wife Millie. See also the "Research Notes." Fall 2000, **THE AZALEAN** 22 (3): 62. [My thanks to John Giordano and William C. Miller III who forwarded these corrections to me, Ed.]

ASA Convention 2001

Asheville, North Carolina

Celebrating Native Azaleas

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, NC

[See detailed convention schedule on page 9; two copies of the registration form were included in the winter issue of **THE AZALEAN**, along with a sheet of instructions for filling one out to send in. Another registration form is included on the front inside cover of this issue's wrapper. Don't miss this wonderful event, Ed.]

Incredible Setting

When William Bartram explored the Blue Ridge Mountains, he wrote in his book *Travels* in 1791 ". . . suddenly opening to view from dark shades, we were alarmed with apprehension of the hill being set on fire. This is certainly the most gay and brilliant flowering shrub yet known."

The shrub was *Rhododendron calendulaceum*. It and the other 15 azalea species native to North America (nine of them growing in the Blue Ridge Mountains), and a few of the other 2,500 plant species native to this area, are the focus of the Azalea Society of America annual convention in Asheville, North Carolina, on June 14-17, 2001.

Our convention headquarters is the dining hall of the beautifully wooded and landscaped campus of the University of North Carolina-Asheville, one mile north of downtown Asheville, North Carolina. We will register in its entrance hall, serve ourselves in its cafeteria, and enjoy the evening meetings and presentations in its eating area.

Asheville is a marvelously interesting city to visit, with winding hilly streets and historic architectural gems, with hundreds of arts and crafts galleries, outdoor recreational opportu-

nities, and a variety of entertainment and nightlife. It was founded in 1792 in the valley formed by the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers between the Great Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains.

With a population of around 70,000, Asheville is the largest city in western



The golden yellows and oranges of the Flame Azalea, *R. calendulaceum*, are a major attraction along the Appalachian Trail on the way up to Copper Bald. Viewing this floral fire on the mountains are Bob Stelloh and Rob Eisenberg. [Photo by Ed Collins.]

North Carolina. Called the "Paris of the South," it has made a number of "top 10" lists: one of the ten healthiest places to live (Kiplinger, 1996); one of the ten best small Southern cities in which to live (*Money Magazine*, 1998); and one of the ten All-America Cities (National Civic League, 1997). At 2,200 feet elevation, Asheville in June may be as cool as 50° F in the evening, and as warm as 90° F during the day.

Plant diversity in the Asheville area is greater than anywhere else other than the tropical rain forests, due to a unique combination of circumstances. Around 10 million years ago, land bridges connected Asia, America, and Europe, and plants migrated freely. As the bridges disappeared and the climate changed, plants migrated to

the eastern coasts of Asia and America for more reliable moisture. About 10,000 years ago, glaciers pushed the northern species south, leaving some of them here as the glaciers retreated. Finally, the mountain tops, slopes, seeps, coves, and valleys provide a wide variety of habitats and microclimates due to the resulting changes in elevation, moisture, drainage, temperature, and wind and sun exposure, all within very short distances of each other.

The end result is a marvelously varied assemblage of plants, including hundreds of plant species found nowhere else or normally found only in the north. Many of these treasures are protected by being on public land and are readily accessible on foot by way of the Appalachian Trail and by car on the Blue Ridge Parkway. At Fetterbush Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway, for example, you can park your car, walk across the road and touch three

of the rarest woody plant species in the world while standing in one place (well, you might have to move your feet a little). Because it is such a good place for plants, it's also a good place for plant lovers. It's why a number of plant scientist retired to the Asheville area, including two of the five directors of the US National Arboretum.

Tours

Tours were chosen to expose you to a wide variety of the plants and sights of Asheville and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Most of the tours include at least one stop to experience native azaleas, rhododendrons, and other native plants in a wild setting. Each of the tours takes the entire day, and is the same each day except for tour P, which does not go to the North Carolina Arboretum on Saturday.

As you can only take two of the five tours, consider coming a day or two earlier, or staying a day or two later, to take the other tours on your own. We have driving directions on our website, including the tours, local nurseries, and other private gardens which will be open to you. These directions will be available at convention check-in, and we will mail a copy on request. You may also book your room on campus for a few days before or after the convention.

Tour B: Biltmore Estate and Gardens, North Carolina Arboretum (short drive, easy walks). We will have enough time to tour both the house and the gardens (we also have a limited number of reduced-cost tickets if you choose to visit the Biltmore Estate on your own). We will then visit the North Carolina Arboretum and its **National Native Azalea Repository**.

George Vanderbilt III began the Biltmore Estate in 1887 on 125,000 acres of forest and farm land. The house, with a 390-foot facade, 250 rooms and four acres of floor space, is the largest private house in America. After 1,000 men worked on it for six

years, the house was opened on Christmas Eve of 1895. Expect to spend about 90 minutes on a guided tour of the house.

Frederick Law Olmsted, best known for his design of New York's Central Park, created a several-hundred-acre forest as the setting for this outstanding house, along with 10 acres of beautifully crafted formal gardens near the house. One feature of particular interest to us is the informal **Azalea Garden**, a short walk from the house, planted with native azaleas collected from the southeastern states by Chauncey Beadle in the early 1900s.

The North Carolina Arboretum is sited on 426 acres in a beautiful natural setting a few miles south of Asheville. It features a number of theme gardens, miles of trails, an outstanding bonsai collection, and the **National Native Azalea Repository**. The repository, designed to preserve the germplasm of these important plants, is a five-acre naturalized planting, with many hundreds of native azaleas representing 13 species.

Tour C: Copper Bald (14 persons only - long drive, long hard walk, very nice plants). We will go to Copper Bald to see an amazing variety of *R. calendulaceum*, *R. arborescens*, *R. viscosum*, *R. cumberlandense*, interspecific hybrids, and wildflowers. After a long ride on the freeway, we go 11 miles up a winding road, a few miles past Wayah Bald to FS 711, the only paved Forest Service road in North Carolina. We will make a few stops along its 15-mile length to see wildflowers on seeps and in wet shady coves beside the road, and go a few miles further to Burningtown Gap at 4,236 feet elevation on the Appalachian Trail. From there we hike a fairly strenuous 1.7 miles up the Appalachian Trail to Copper Bald at 5,256 feet (yes, that's 1,020 feet UP). We eat our lunch at the "Mossy Log Cafe", and then go off-trail to experience the azaleas close up. After spending about an hour and a half meandering around, we hike that same 1.7 miles and 1,000

feet back down. As time permits, we will return part of the way on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

You should be in good shape, have some hiking boots, and expect to get tired. With luck, someone will see an interesting plant and call out "oh, look at this" now and then, to let you catch your breath on the way up.

Tour H: Hendersonville Gardens (medium drive, short easy walks, nice gardens). We visit a variety of private gardens, and then see native azaleas and wildflowers in their natural habitat on a short and fairly easy hike. Our first stop is the woodland garden of Denise and Bob Stelloh, with meandering trails through azaleas, rhododendrons, ornamental trees, and wildflowers. We then visit the nearby garden of Mary and Ed Collins, featuring an outstanding waterfall, and probably the largest private collection of Cowles hybrid rhododendrons, along with a large variety of azaleas, wildflowers, and other ornamentals. Our next stop is a roof garden and a spectacular rock garden with miniature mountains and streams, microclimates, and delightful whimsies created by Ev and Bruce Whittemore, which is planted with an amazing collection of alpine and other plants. We then go a few more miles to the Dupont State Forest for a quick foray into the woods to see some native azaleas and other wildflowers in the wild.

Tour P: Blue Ridge Parkway (long drive, short easy walks, nice plants, beautiful vistas). We travel south along the Blue Ridge Parkway, with stops and optional short hikes to see native azaleas and wildflowers in their natural habitat. We keep going up, to the highest point on the parkway at Richland Balsam. On Friday only, we will also visit the North Carolina Arboretum and its **National Native Azalea Repository**, thus spending less time on the Parkway.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is the "Appalachian Trail for cars." It runs 469 miles along the ridges of the Appala-

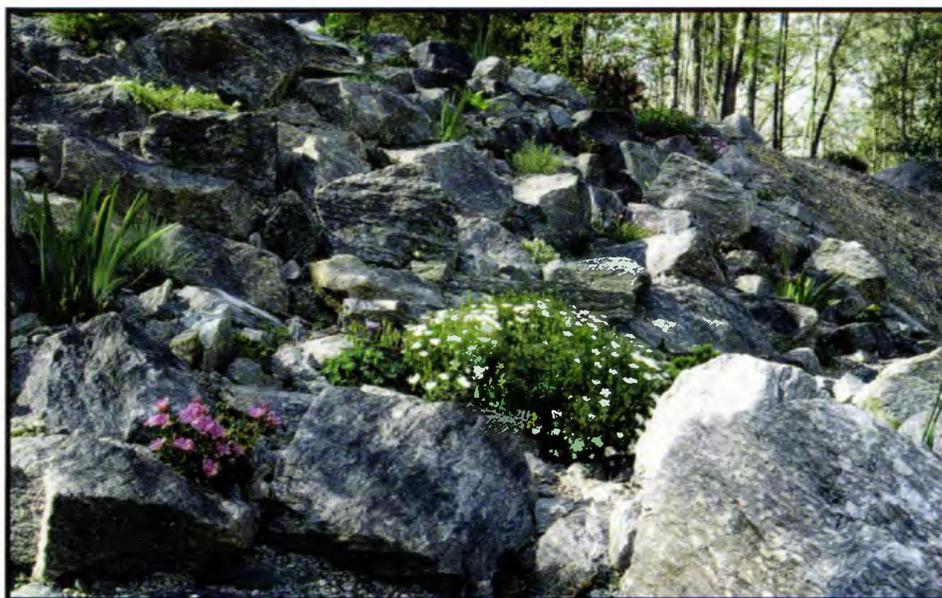


If you select Tour W, to Wayah Bald, you can expect to see clouds of white *R. arborescens*. Here, Theresa Ford is seen admiring a very healthy group.
 [Photo by Ed Collins, taken from the observation tower at Wayah Bald.]

chian Mountains, from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina. The Parkway has frequent turnouts and scenic overlooks for seemingly endless views of parallel ranges, cross ranges, and scattered hills, protected by an actively enforced prohibition against disturbing wild animals and plants in any way. Begun in 1935 as a Depression-era public works project, it was largely com-

pleted by 1967. Because of the range in elevation from 649 to 6,047 feet, peak bloom for a given plant species varies over a long period of time (about a day later per 100 feet higher in elevation). Thus, *R. calendulaceum* blooms in mid-May at lower elevations through mid-June at the higher elevations west of Asheville.

Tour W: Wayah Bald, Blue Ridge Parkway (long drive, short easy walks, breathtaking plants and vistas).



The rock garden of Bruce and Ev Whittemore is part of the Hendersonville private garden tour (Tour H).
 [Photo by Ed Collins, taken from the observation tower at Wayah Bald.]

We will see *R. calendulaceum* on the trip up to Wayah Bald, and a magnificent display of *R. arborescens* at the top, with a short optional hike along the Appalachian Trail.

After a long drive on the freeway, we go about 10 miles along a winding picturesque road to the base of Wayah Bald. We see large populations of *R. calendulaceum* along the even more winding road to the top. When we disembark, we walk a few hundred yards to the observation tower at the top to enjoy the vistas and some spectacular *R. arborescens*, with a short optional hike along the Appalachian Trail for more *R. arborescens* and late-blooming wildflowers. We then return via the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Speakers

Very informative speakers will share their extensive knowledge of native and evergreen azaleas with us each evening. They and others will host a native azalea propagation round-table discussion Sunday morning.

Thursday Night Speakers

Buddy Lee ("Azalea Hybridizing and Seedling Selection") has been involved with azaleas for almost 30 years, and is best known as the developer of the multi-season-blooming "Encore Azaleas." As the owner of Transcend Nursery, he is currently active in the development and testing of new evergreen azalea varieties. He is a long-time member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA and has been their president. He coordinated the 1991 and 2000 annual conventions, and he is currently a director of the ASA.

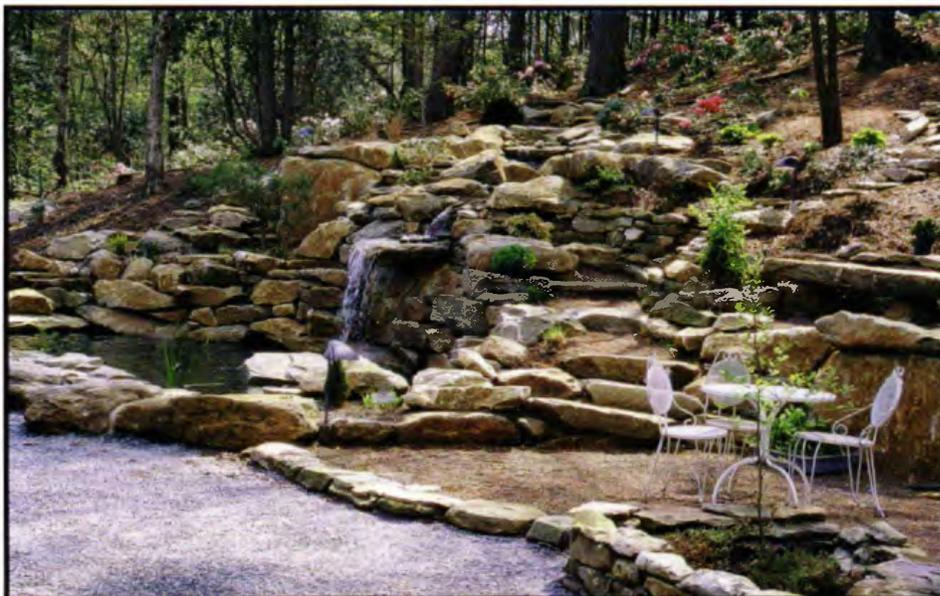
Ed Collins ("Copper Bald: Azaleas and Allies") became involved with rhododendrons and azaleas and plant societies in the mid 1960s. He was the founder and long-time president of the Pine Barrens ARS chapter, president of the Philadelphia ARS chapter, and chair of the ARS exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show for 13 years, chair of the 1976 ARS conven-

tion in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and the ARS district director for six years. Since moving to Hendersonville in 1991 with over 3,000 rhododendrons, he has been president of the Southeastern ARS chapter for five years, and ARS district director for another four years. He is currently the chair of the Native Azalea Study Group of the Southeastern ARS chapter, co-chair of the 2001 ASA national convention, and is working to start a new local chapter of the ASA. In his spare time, Ed is quite active in the Blue Ridge Horticultural Association, North Carolina Arboretum, and the Master Gardeners of Hendersonville, maintains his five-acre garden, goes hiking in search of native azaleas, and gives numerous lectures and presentations.

Ted Stecki ("Linwood Hardy Azaleas") has been a part-time nurseryman at his Hill House Nursery for over 30 years, propagating and growing rhododendrons and azaleas. He worked closely with Al Reid, evaluating his new crosses and compiling his data, including plants used for breeding, crosses, the naming/numbering methodology, and what Al envisioned for the future. A long-time member of the ASA and ARS, Ted is a past president of the Pine Barrens ARS chapter, and past chair of the ARS exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show for many years. He is now the Budget and Finance Committee chair for the ARS. If you want to know more about the Linwood Hardy azaleas—and you should—this program is for you!

Friday Night Speakers

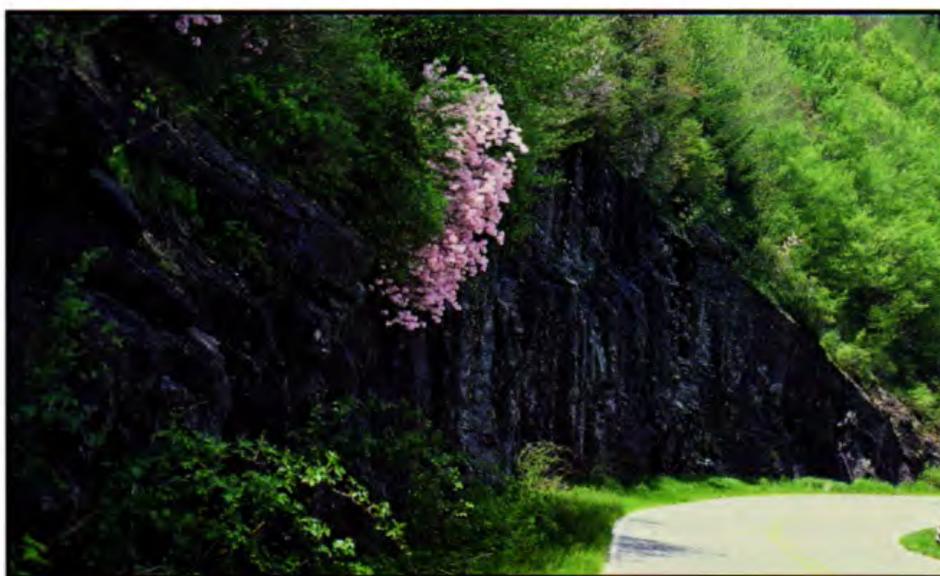
Joe Schild ("Deciduous Azaleas—East Meets West") has been an avid collector, propagator, grower and breeder of azaleas, and in particular the deciduous forms, for over 30 years. He has owned and operated a niche nursery for many years and continues to search for the best of the best to propagate. He is a past president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter ARS, current vice-president of the ASA, and president-elect of the ASA.



While on Tour H, you will see the Ed and Mary Collins' private garden, complete with a hillside of rock and a wonderful waterfall. [Photo by Ed Collins.]



As part of Tour H, Denise and Bob Stelloh have invited us into their own garden, "Kairaku", which means, translating from Japanese, "joint pleasures". [Photo by Bob Stelloh.]



The natives grow wherever they can get a foot-hold. Bob Stelloh says this is an example of God's idea of rock gardens: *R. vaseyi* on SR215 near the Blue Ridge Parkway (Tour P). [Photo by Ed Collins.]

David Sauer ("The New Kurumes") has been an avid collector of azaleas and rhododendrons for 40 years, along with his career as a fine arts teacher of painting and photography at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Steve Brainerd ("Designing with Native Azaleas") was a Navy fighter Top Gun pilot and has been a landscape designer for the past 10 years. He is currently working as Parks Development Superintendent for the city of McKinney, Texas, and is studying for a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Steve is a past president of the Azalea Society of America.

Saturday Keynote Speaker

Don Hyatt ("The Best of the Best: In Search of Native Azaleas") has been an avid hybridizer of azaleas and rhododendrons for over 30 years, with a particular interest in deciduous azaleas, and has been teaching mathemat-

ics and computer science for 32 years. His exceptional web pages at <http://www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/gardencenter.html> demonstrate his ability to combine his work and avocation. Don is a former district director of the ARS, and is now a director of the ASA and the president of the Potomac Valley ARS chapter.

As our keynote speaker, Don recounts his frequent hikes in the mountains in North Carolina and Tennessee to search for the finest forms of our native azaleas. Enjoy the magnificent views along the Appalachian Trail near Roan Mountain as he documents exceptional forms of *R. calendulaceum*. Stroll through the hybrid swarm of native azaleas on Gregory Bald as he tries to identify the "best of the best" in one of the greatest flower shows on earth. Through slides and commentary, Don will share his appreciation for the rich botanical diversity in these and other treasure spots in the southern Appalachians.

Other Convention Features

Plants, lots of them, will be on sale. We will have sizes ranging from rooted cuttings to specimen plants, and we will have many varieties of deciduous and evergreen azaleas from which to choose. Most will be available at fixed low prices, with others at a live auction and several silent auctions. We even have a number of rooted cuttings and a few specimen plants of the newly discovered *R. eastmanii* for you to buy!

Quilt. We have commissioned a truly magnificent quilted wall hanging, entitled "Delectable Mountain Azaleas." It features *R. vaseyi* and other native azaleas worked into the very old and well known (at least to quilters) Delectable Mountains quilt design. It is being designed and created for us by Teresa Reilly, a renowned quilter, the author of *Five Seasons of Quilts*, and a teacher and lecturer on quilting. When the winning raffle ticket is drawn Saturday evening, one lucky attendee will be going home with an heirloom.

In Memory

Peter Girard, Jr., died March 12, 2001, in Geneva, Ohio, from complications of a cerebral hemorrhage. Learning the nursery business from his father who started Girard Nurseries in 1946, Peter and his wife Caroline, daughter Roberta, son-in-law Jeff Forinash, and grandsons Peter and Joshua have built a wholesale, retail, and mail order nursery that specializes in both evergreen and deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons, conifers, and other companion and water garden plants. The nursery, with 15 acres of display area that Peter said included "no more than two of any single plant," was featured on HGTV October 24, 1999. More than just selling plants, Girard loved growing new varieties, up to 40,000

plants and grafted trees. In keeping with the motto, "A home is not a home until it's planted," Girard placed picnic tables, a gazebo, and benches throughout the nursery to encourage people to spend time with the plants, enjoy the displays, and take notes on what they might want to try.

Peter Girard, Sr. began breeding work on azalea and rhododendron hybrids in the 1940s. Well known for their hardiness and bright colors, the nursery offers over 40 cultivars. When he died, Peter Girard, Jr. was working on a number of new introductions: pink *Rhododendron* 'Girard Little Michelle' is now available; light salmon R. 'Girard Caitlin' and pink-salmon R. 'Girard Constance' are soon to be released. A deep pink rhododen-

dron, 'Girard Brandon', which has a huge truss and big flowers will be introduced in a few years.

Girard developed a passion for conifers, carrying over 2,500 cultivars at the nursery, and became very active in the American Conifer Society. He introduced a number of new cultivars, including *Juniperus x media* 'Girard Saybrook Gold', a patented juniper that remains bright gold year-round and the very dwarf, very white *Picea glauca* 'Girard Monstrosa' – Girard's Dwarf Monstrosa White Spruce.

The third and fourth generations are continuing the work of the nursery, which is a long-time advertiser in **THE AZALEAN**.

News and Notes from the Net – Lace Bugs and Merit

The azaleas mail list (www.azaleas@azaleas.org) is a great source for rapid interchange of ideas on azaleas and their care and culture. One very fertile subject of discussion recently was on lace bugs and how to control them. The following came from Marion Buehler in Brevard, North Carolina:

I have an easy solution for lace bugs for Patricia Phillips and anyone else who hasn't found it yet - Merit. It's a Bayer product (yes, the aspirin people). It's available to homeowners as "Season Long Grub Control" in granular form. It's a VERY residual systemic insecticide, virtually harmless to anything but insects and aquatic invertebrates. (Keep it out of the creek or you'll kill all the crayfish!) It is currently only "labeled" for grubs but co-incidentally kills all the chewing and sucking insects that plague azaleas including lace bugs and black vine weevils. It works best if applied with fertilizer (preferably liquid) as soon as the plants break dormancy since it takes about six weeks to transmigrate throughout the plant. I know that's not the right time to fertilize azaleas, but for this purpose, it speeds the absorption. Just scatter the stuff on the ground under the plants, water it in with Miracle-Gro, and after about six weeks any bug that bites it bites the dust-for a year or more!

There are over 17 e-mails in the Archives section of the ASA website that deal with comments and questions about this product. Joe Schild contributed the following hyperlink as a wonderful reference for finding out the labeling information and cautions for chemicals, including the MSDS number:

<http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp>

Once you get into the homepage, type in the brand name at the search prompt and click 'Go.'

Select! Don't Settle!

Hundreds of varieties &
hundreds of Color Photos at:

www.carlsonsgardens.com

Over 30 years growing and shipping
"Northern Grown & Acclimated"
Azaleas and Rhododendrons
Free Catalog

CARLSON'S GARDENS

Box 305A, South Salem NY, 10590 914-763-5958

ASA Convention 2001 Schedule

There are presentations each evening and tours on Friday and Saturday, along with the social functions and plant sales as shown.

Thursday, June 14, 2001

- 11:00-5:00 Check-in and Plant Sales-Dining Hall Entrance
- 11:30-1:00 Lunch
- 2:00-4:00 Board of Directors Meeting - Rear Dining Hall
- 5:00-6:00 Social Hour and Plant Sales
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-9:30 Presentations
 - Azalea Hybridizing and Seedling Selection,*
Robert (Buddy) Lee
 - Copper Bald: Azaleas and Allies,* Ed Collins
 - Linwood Hardy Azaleas,* Ted Stecki

Friday, June 15, 2001

- 6:30-7:30 Breakfast
- 7:30-5:00 Tours:
 - 8:00-4:30 (B) Biltmore Estate, NC Arboretum
 - 7:30-5:00 (C) Copper Bald
 - 8:00-4:30 (H) Hendersonville Gardens
 - 8:00-5:00 (P) Blue Ridge Parkway, NC Arboretum
 - 7:30-5:00 (W) Wayah Bald, Blue Ridge Parkway
- 5:00-6:00 Social Hour and Plant Sales
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-9:30 Presentations
 - Deciduous Azaleas — East Meets West,* Joe Schild
 - The New Kurumes,* David Sauer
 - Designing with Native Azaleas,* Steve Brainerd

Saturday, June 16, 2001

- 6:30-7:30 Breakfast
- 7:30-5:00 Tours:
 - 8:00-4:30 (B) Biltmore Estate, NC Arboretum
 - 7:30-5:00 (C) Copper Bald
 - 8:00-4:30 (H) Hendersonville Gardens
 - 8:00-5:00 (P) Blue Ridge Parkway
 - 7:30-5:00 (W) Wayah Bald, Blue Ridge Parkway
- 5:30-6:30 Social Hour and Plant Sales
- 6:30-7:30 Banquet
- 7:30-8:00 Plant Auction
- 8:00-10:00 Business Meeting, Keynote Presentation
 - The Best of the Best:*
In Search of Native Azaleas, Don Hyatt

Sunday, June 17, 2001

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast
- 8:00-10:00 Board of Directors Meeting - Rear Dining Hall
- 8:00-11:00 Native Azalea Propagating Round Table
- 8:00-12:00 Plant Sales and Good-Byes
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch

ASA Convention 2001

Asheville, North Carolina

Convention Logistics

Register by filling out the registration form—from this issue, the winter issue of **THE AZALEAN**, or from the website address: www.azaleas.org — together with your check in US funds payable to the ASA Convention. Mail both to:

*Denise Stelloh, Convention Registrar
585 Ransier Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739*

Meals are served cafeteria-style, with a salad bar, a choice of entrees, and many choices of side dishes, drinks, and desserts. The food is good, plentiful, and inexpensive (we didn't believe it either, until we ate several sample meals). All meals except the Saturday evening banquet are included in one \$60 price, rather than paying for each meal separately. Meals begin with Thursday lunch and continue through Sunday lunch, including box lunches on the tours, with vegetarian box lunches available on request. There is no rebate for meals you miss.

If you do not choose to buy the meals package, box lunches are available for \$10 each for the tours, and a wide variety of restaurants are within several miles.

Housing is in Mills Hall, with overflow housing in Founders Hall. Both buildings are air-conditioned, adjacent to the dining hall, and within easy walking distance of the **University of North Carolina-Asheville Botanical Gardens**, a peaceful 10-acre native

plant sanctuary. The rooms are organized as two-room suites with a shared bath, with each room sleeping two people on single beds. Each building has a number of rooms equipped for wheelchair access, with elevator access to all the floors. The housing is about 30 steps lower than the dining hall, with an elevator and a ramp for wheelchair access between the two levels.

Because of the way the rooms will be assigned, you will probably have a private bath (the other room will be empty) if you sign up early. Or, you can guarantee a private bath by signing up for an entire suite at \$40 per person per night, single or double, until we run out of suites. **You may register for less than all three nights. You may not change the type of room (single, double or suite) from one night to the next.**

Changes to your choice of tours can be made until the buses leave, as long as we have the room. We also reserve the right to change the day you take a tour, and to change the specific tour itineraries, based on attendance and on what is in bloom next June.

Refunds are given in full before May 1, 2001, 50% during May, and not at all after June 1, 2001.

If you are flying: The Asheville Airport, served by Delta Airlines and USAir, is 10 miles south of the University of North Carolina-Asheville campus on I-26. Public transportation

to the campus is available (\$0.85, about 2 hours), you can take a private taxicab (\$20, about 30 minutes), or you can rent a car and drive to the campus.

The Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, served by many major airlines, is 70 miles south of the University of North Carolina-Asheville campus. Because of the distance, it may be least expensive to rent a car and drive to the campus, which will take about an hour and a half. From the airport, take I-85 north to I-26 west to US 240 east, and follow the further directions below.

If you are driving: Asheville is in the western corner of North Carolina, near the intersection of I-26 with I-40 and US 240. From the east or west, take I-40 to US 240. From the north, take I-81 to I-77 to I-40 west, or take I-81 to US 19/23 south. From the south, take I-85 north to I-26 west to US 240 east.

From the intersection of I-26, I-40, and US 240 (a few miles west of Asheville), take US 240 east to Asheville, bear left onto US 19/23 north (a left exit—*do not* take US 19/23 business or south) and follow signs to University of North Carolina-Asheville.

Registration. Once on campus, bear left to the dining hall on the left. **Convention check-in is in the entrance of the dining hall at the University of North Carolina-Asheville.**

**For additional information,
please contact**

**Bob Stelloh at 1-828-697-9959, bstelloh@mac.com,
or Ed Collins at 1-828-697-9228, azaleaed@brinet.com.**

Adventures in Growing Azaleas

Ben Blankenship — Stafford, Virginia

My adventures in growing azaleas have been very enjoyable and rewarding, but not very rewarding. You see, after learning back in the 1980s how easy it was to stick cuttings, cover them with fruit jars outdoors beside the chimney, and then transplant them to my garden the following spring-well, the idea of earning retirement income dawned. Even if there were little money in azaleas, I confided to a friend, at least I'd wind up someday with a yard full of lovely plants.

Today, I'm happy to report that everything has worked out nicely. Not that I've developed a retirement income jackpot, but at least it's been enough to help keep a Roth IRA going. Besides, the stock market during the past five years since I've retired has proven quite adequate as a pension supplement. Meanwhile, not only has my own yard of nearly an acre blossomed with lovely azaleas I never could have previously imagined, but neighbors in my community are also growing some of the plants I have come to love the most.

Over the years I've probably given away or donated to worthy fundraisers about as many azaleas as I've sold. That kind of satisfaction has been far greater than commercial success of the admittedly quite modest variety. In the process, I've learned several things: (1) Producing top-notch plants isn't easy. (2) Selling from the garden gets old fast, especially when boating weather beckons. (3) Work piles up, too.

In fact, while I used to stick a dozen or more big trays of cuttings each summer, the pace lately has slowed considerably. I still enjoy doing it, but my back doesn't anymore. So I thought now might be a good time, while I'm still in the mood, to list for you aficionados some of the azaleas that have done the best for me and my customers and friends here.

Azaleas of Aquia, my occasional nursery of truly modest dimensions in my back yard, is located in Stafford County between Washington, DC, and Fredericksburg. Don't take this as an ad, though. For if you perchance call, I probably won't be home, since the retirement pace hereabouts is hectic. More to the point, I've stopped selling plants altogether. Even so, I want to tell you about my favorite azaleas, the kind my wife wishes I would have kept rather than sold. They include the following:

- R. 'Hardy Gardenia'. I couldn't grow enough of these lovely plants for visitors who saw them in bloom. But the plants haven't been the easiest to get started and past the first year or so in the garden. I've grown them in beds, not pots.

- R. 'Mrs. Nancy Dippel'. Women especially like this one. I thank the Landon Azalea Festival I visited years ago in Maryland for my starts from a single plant that cost entirely too much, but has yielded great pleasure over many seasons.

- R. 'Geisha'. When its buds escape late frosts, the flowers are glorious in our area. Cuttings root easily, and the plants grow vigorously, tolerating drought conditions that were severe here a couple summers ago.

- R. 'PJM' and R. 'Olga Mezitt'. These early-blooming and very hardy azalea-rhododendron plants are equally easy to grow from cuttings. They make a lovely show massed in garden beds, but then are spent all too soon, just as the others are beginning to blossom.

I would love to go on about other favorites, like R. 'Damask Rose', a lovely old specimen that my wife won as a door prize at a Northern Virginia Chapter meeting some years ago. Then there's R. 'Treasure', whose cuttings I originally swiped from the

White House grounds during a Rose Garden speech by, yes, Ronald Reagan. And I can't forget R. 'I'll Be Damned', which fellow Virginian Don Hager developed and then provided me shortly before he retired from the business.

You can tell it's been a fun experience for my wife and me. For a hobby, azaleas are endlessly fascinating. From a business standpoint, though, they're for far more determined and skilled fellows—with sturdy, younger backs.

Ben Blankenship got interested in azaleas late in his career from a fellow bureaucrat where he worked for 20 years in Washington, DC, as head of economic information for the US Department of Agriculture. He's been growing them since 1987, when he first decided to establish a business at home, chose the name for his nursery, and joined the ASA. He wrote a tongue-in-cheek [his words] article for the March 1990 issue of THE AZALEAN and another article following the Richmond convention. He is a graduate of Texas A&M, in animal husbandry.



Research Notes

Grafting Azaleas on Rhododendrons

Reprint from *The Garden*, 1897

[The following article is being reproduced, with permission of the Royal Horticultural Society, from the "Stove and Greenhouse Section" of the October 1897 issue of The Garden, the journal of the RHS. ASA member Jim Inskip of Cobham, Surrey, England, found this article while researching the origins of Ghent azaleas. The methodology was referred to in the "How Azaleas Got to Our Gardens" article by Donald Voss in the Fall 2000 issue of THE AZALEAN. Spelling and phraseology are as in the original, Ed.]

In the year 1884 M. Seidel, senior, first suggested to his son (M. Rudolph Seidel) the idea of grafting the Indian Azalea on a Rhododendron stock, and, as an experiment, these two gentlemen, with the assistance of their foreman, M. Lauterbach, made a dozen grafts of this description. At the time MM. Seidel had little doubt that this operation was the first step in a thorough revolution in the culture of Azaleas, and that it would come into general practice. It was certain that it would not be adopted everywhere at once, and the greatest difficulty was that of securing for it a favourable general reception in the horticultural world. Soon, indeed, it had to encounter criticism, when, in the year 1894, MM. Seidel showed it for the first time, at the exhibition at Gand, the specimens which had been grafted in 1884. For vigour of growth, fine appearance, and unusually good flowering qualities these received a certificate of merit for advancement in the culture of Indian Azaleas. Notwithstanding this, MM. Seidel returned home to Saxony under a cloud of adverse criticisms. The Belgians, and many other people as well—nearly everyone in fact—asserted that these plants could not live long, that many varieties of Azaleas would unite only imperfectly with Rhododendron stock, and that they would be easily broken off in packing and in transit. Numbers of objections, in fine, were made which had no foundation, as the matter was

merely in the initial stage of experiment, and criticism could only suggest presumed possibilities. In spite, however, of all the hostile criticisms, Azaleas grafted on Rhododendrons made their way into favour. In the year 1894 MM. Seidel offered some specimens for sale, which, on account of their vigorous habit of growth and the fineness of their bloom, which surpassed that of the ordinary Azaleas in beauty and regularity, were so much preferred by purchasers, that every year since MM. Seidel have received more orders for plants than they have been able to supply, and to meet these daily increasing orders they have this year grafted 40,000 plants.

I do not know whether the critics still think that Azaleas grafted on Rhododendrons are of no value, but in any case I think they would do well to lay down their arms and join with those who have adopted this system, considering that last autumn plants grafted in this manner made their way into the forcing houses at Berlin (where Azaleas grown in the ordinary way had previously held the field without a rival), and gave great satisfaction there. Of course this does not imply that no other kind of Azaleas will be forced there, but the numerous orders which will be given this year by these same Berlin forcers will show at least the advantage, if not the superiority, which is attached to these plants.

The objections which were made against this system have been proved entirely unfounded, for up to the present Azaleas grafted in this way have done quite as well as those grafted on the Azalea stock, and always grow more vigorously. One cannot, of course, be certain that they will live as long as the old-fashioned kinds, some of which are now sixty years of age, while none of the plants grafted on Rhododendron stock are as yet more than thirteen years old. But even if they should not live for more than twenty years, the high reputation which they are gaining will suffer nothing in consequence, since Azaleas of that age are of very little or no use in a commercial point of view. It is quite true that certain kinds which, like Souvenir du Prince Albert, unite very badly when grafted on Azalea concinna or other Azalea stocks may not take well when grafted on Rhododendron stock, but the number of such kinds is so small, that no difficulty will be thereby raised in carrying out this system of grafting, and the circumstance cannot be considered a drawback. We may then come to the conclusion that this new method of grafting has a great future before it, and it would not be surprising if, in the course of time, it entirely superseded the other methods which are at present in use. Up to the present no attempt, at least so far as I am aware, at this method of growing Azaleas has been made in France, but the florists

of Paris may take heart, for undoubtedly they will soon be able to furnish their shops with these superb plants. M. Duval, the well-known nurseryman at Versailles, was this year to have commenced his first essays in this method of culture, which, with such a skilful operator will no doubt be crowned with success.

I will now describe the means which are employed in MM. Seidel's nursery for obtaining fine plants as speedily as possible by this method. The only variety of Rhododendron which is thus used as a stock is R. Cunningham's White, because, rooting well and growing vigorously, it yields excellent stocks on which most Azaleas take very well. The Rhododendron cuttings are taken in November and December, and, as far as possible, from wood a year old and in a good healthy condition. If cuttings are plentiful, the upper part of the shoot only is used, for this part produces the finest stocks, growing more rapidly and regularly than those obtained from any other part of the shoot. The cuttings are planted in a warm house on shelves covered with a layer of

sand 4 inches deep, topped with about a quarter of an inch deep of peat very finely crushed. These shelves are naturally closed in, and are warmed underneath by pipes or otherwise, so as to have a bottom-heat of from 69° to 76° F. The atmospheric heat of the house should be kept under 69° as much as possible. It is necessary to shade when the sun is shining, even in February and March, in order to keep the temperature down to this, as a high temperature induces thrips. The cuttings take root in about two months, but usually they are not potted off until the following April, when they are potted in 3-inch or 3-1/2-inch pots. The newly potted plants are then placed in a house with some bottom-heat under them to expedite their taking root. Later on they may be placed close together in frames, where they will be able to increase in length as they grow, as they must be grafted in the winter following, when they should have a stem as slender as possible and at least 6 inches to 8 inches long. Grafting may be done from January to April. For this purpose, the plants are placed in a house with a

temperature of 69° F., where in a few days they will be growing vigorously, with an abundance of sap flowing in their tissues. This is the right time to graft so as to ensure that the Azalea scion will speedily unite with the Rhododendron stock. The mode of grafting employed is plain whip-grafting, such as is practiced, in July and August, when *A. concinna* and *A. Hexe* are used as stocks. The treatment after the graft has taken is precisely the same as that described at p. 47 of *Le Jardin* for 1896, except that these small plants are planted out in the open ground in May or June, and instead of being potted in the autumn before they are sold, they are not potted until spring, so they will have been only six months in pot instead of a year. Another difference worth mentioning is that these plants sell for nearly double the price of plants of the same age grafted on *A. concinna* or other stocks, because they are more vigorous growing and of larger size, and exhibit a regular and robust appearance which recommends them to all good judges of plants.-E. Treillaud, in *Le Jardin*.



48th Annual • May 4, 5 and 6, 2001 • 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Landon Azalea Garden Festival

- Perkins Azalea Garden: 2 ½ acres • Thousands of Azaleas • 600 Varieties
- Azalea Society of America Show
- On Sale: Azaleas - Fieldgrown, Native, Unusual, Popular Hybrids - Wildflowers, Herbs, Annuals, Roses, Shrubs • Plant Experts Available
- Scholarship Fund Benefit

6101 Wilson Lane • Bethesda, Maryland • 301-320-1060

Free Parking Free Admission
Craft Show Admission \$6.00

Society News

Report of the Nominating Committee

ASA Officer Nominees

The Nominating Committee, in order to comply with the ASA By-Laws, wishes to officially submit the following slate of nominees.

President – Joe Schild

Vice-President – Robert Lee

Secretary – John Brown

Treasurer – Robert Stelloh

Director – Leslie Ann Nanney

Director – Maarten van der Giessen

Director – John Migas

We feel this slate is particularly strong because it includes both experienced board members who have provided excellent leadership for this organization in the past, as well as new faces who will bring in fresh ideas and different points of view. In accordance with the national scope of our organization, this slate has representatives from diverse geographical locations and also includes some gender diversity. The experienced candidates we submit here represent the wide range of interests and concerns in our organization, including those with private gardens as well as others from the education community and commercial nursery industry.

We respectfully submit this slate to be considered for election at the national meeting in Asheville this June.

Members of the Nominating Committee:

Donald Hyatt

William McDavit

Jane Newman

Donald Voss

Proposed Officer Nominees

Joe Schild, candidate for President. Joe Schild had been an avid grower, propagator and breeder of azaleas for

nearly 33 years. He has owned and operated a niche nursery specializing in the species for over twelve years. Joe is the current president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter-ARS, the current Vice President of the ASA, and a member of the Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association. He says he is better known as an azalea nut and chases the natives' bloom each year with many fellow enthusiasts.

Robert (Buddy) Lee, candidate for Vice-President. He has been a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA since 1983 and has served as president of this chapter from 1990 to 1992. He is a board member of the ASA, a member of the ARS, and the Louisiana Nursery Association. He was coordinator of the ASA national conventions in 1991 (New Orleans) and 2000 (Charleston, South Carolina). He owned and operated Savannah Spring Nursery, a wholesale plant nursery, specializing in container grown azaleas (1973-1986). Buddy developed the multi-season-blooming "Encore Azaleas". Presently active in the development and testing of new azalea varieties (through Transcend Nursery), he is also a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse who works with stroke, multiple-trauma, and brain and spinal cord injuries.

John Brown, candidate for Secretary. John and his wife, Carolyn, live in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, raising several varieties of hay for horses. He has served as a director of, and is currently serving as Secretary of the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS. Also, he is a worker on the Asheville 2001 Convention Committee looking forward to seeing you there.

His serious introduction to azaleas came about when Jim Egan founded

the Flame Azalea Chapter of the ASA in the early 1980s. In its short life, that chapter had such speakers as Fred Galle and James Wells, pretty heady stuff for a bunch of neophytes. Jim Egan suggested that he might like to investigate and collect the Glenn Dales. Sometime about then control ceased to be an operative word. The chapter's cutting sales (where they paid as much as 25 cents for six cuttings of *Rhododendron* 'Martha Hitchcock') have grown into three- and four-day trips throughout the Southeast marveling and filling the van with plants double-stacked. He is still collecting Glenn Dales and Back Acres, but has branched out into so many other favorites that it would not be possible to pick one favorite. As Freida Hill said "Favorite? That is probably the last one that I saw in bloom."

Robert Stelloh, candidate for Treasurer. Bob Stelloh has been azalea gardening since 1970, and has been a member of the ASA since 1980 and the ASA Treasurer since 1995. He develops and markets gardening software for the Macintosh, and spends a lot of time chasing down native azalea sightings in the North Carolina mountains. This year he is keeping busy helping to organize the 2001 Convention in Asheville, and hopes to see y'all there.

Board of Directors Candidates

Leslie Ann Nanney. Residing in Springfield, Virginia, Leslie is a charter member of the Northern Virginia Chapter (1980), currently serving as its treasurer. She is also a member of the Potomac Valley ARS Chapter and enjoys attending the regional and national conventions of both societies. She began collecting azaleas nearly 30

years ago, after receiving several plants from her mother, Frances Louer, an avid collector in her own right. Leslie Ann's azalea collection continues to grow, currently numbering more than 2,500 plants of over 1,000 varieties. She is concentrating on obtaining complete collections of several hybridizers, such as Robert Gartrell's Robin Hills, Pete Vines' Holly Springs, and the Huang azaleas.

Maarten van der Giessen. Maarten van der Giessen is the vice-president of van der Giessen Nursery, Inc. in Mobile, Alabama, a wholesale grower of azalea and woody ornamental liners and containers since 1990. A current ASA board member, Maarten was chairman of the 1999 ASA convention committee in Mobile, Alabama, and regularly emceeds the annual ASA plant auctions. He is a past president of the South Alabama Nurserymen's Association and an active member of the International Plant Propagator's Society. Maarten and his father, Peter, have been working on azalea evaluations at their nursery since 1994 to provide new and exciting selections to the industry.

John Migas. From Saugatuck, in southwestern Michigan, John has a harsh climate and short growing season to contend with when growing his 250 varieties of azaleas and 150 varieties of rhododendrons. He has been a member of the ASA since 1996, but has been growing azaleas for 10 years and hybridizing them for three. He runs both a general contracting firm and a primarily wholesale nursery. Most of his sales have been to landscapers and retail nurserymen in the area, who are very surprised to find the broad range of azalea cultivars he has successfully grown in his five-acre display gardens. He has found membership in the Society to be very rewarding, and he hopes to increase interest in the ASA in his area and increase the activity of the Tri-State Chapter.

The Society's Database is in Good Hands

[Thanks to David Nanney for providing material about Art Vance's contributions to the Society, Ed.]

John Brown Takes Over

We hate to see Art Vance leave his position as Society database chairman, but alas, he needs to relinquish the reins for health reasons. John Brown, candidate for the ASA Secretary, has been appointed by the Board of Directors to take up the work of managing the Society's database. John is quite computer-literate, hardworking, energetic, and has a good sense of humor.

Thanks, Art Vance!

Art Vance was one of the charter members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Art had frequented Frank White's nursery, Azalea Acres. Frank was then the chairman of the Board of Directors of the ASA and had the vision of expanding its membership across the country. Art and Frank had talked about plants and about the Society over a number of visits when Frank "encouraged" Art to host an organizational meeting in northern Virginia, resulting in the chapter being awarded a charter in 1980. We "rewarded" Art by making him our first chapter president. At the following Society meeting he was elected the president of the National ASA and served concurrently as president of both.

Despite all that, Art remained an active member of the northern Virginia Chapter, co-chairing their plant sales and keeping them straight. A few years ago, Art gave up the hectic life in Northern Virginia to retire to New Bern, North Carolina, for the Southern experience. He remained a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, while serving the ASA as the database chairman, a job requiring patience and precision, as well as knowledge of computer databases. Art has also served as a member of the Board of Directors, and is the Society's slide chairman.

When he got started in azaleas his intent was to have a complete collection of Robin Hills and Ben Morrison's Back Acres, but that was never fulfilled because some of the sources dried up and so did the well at their house in Annandale, Virginia. By the time they were tied into the county water supply, they decided to move to North Carolina. The Coastal Carolina experience has made it clear that not all azaleas like hurricanes and the resultant wet feet in the flooded back yard. It is now time for the natives!

Attention Satsuki Aficionados!

Bill Miller, the ASA Membership Chairman wants to be sure you don't miss out on the summer issue of **THE AZALEAN**. Our quarterly journal is worth the \$25 annual dues alone. But this next issue will have a major article on Satsuki hybrids you won't want to miss.

If your membership is in danger of lapsing, or you have friends who are looking for a reason to join, tell them

about the convention in Asheville and the summer issue. Both are very good reasons to learn more about azaleas with the ASA.

You can join the ASA electronically by visiting ASA website, www.azaleas.org and pay by credit card or by check. Or, following the instructions on the ASA website, you can send a \$25 check to the West Bethesda address there indicated.

Proposed Amendments to Azalea Society of America By-Laws

[Published in accordance with stipulations of By-Laws. These proposed amendments have been discussed and approved by the Board of Directors and will be presented for a vote of the membership at the annual Society meeting during the convention in Asheville, North Carolina, Friday, June 16, 2001. Actual changes or additions to each existing By-Law affected are shown in italics, Ed.]

Article III.B.2 Membership. Classes of Membership.

Intent of change: 1) to limit a life membership to one or two persons; 2) to document our handling of deceased life members; and 3) to formally "grandfather in" existing organizations with life memberships.

As amended: 2. Life Membership.—Life membership is open to any individual eligible for membership in ASA (including two persons residing together in a single household and sharing a single membership), upon payment of the full dues appropriate for this class of membership at the time of application. A life membership confers eligibility to a single vote at membership meetings. Organizations, firms, institutions, and clubs are not eligible for life membership. *The surviving member of any two-person life membership shall continue to enjoy all the privileges of membership. Any existing life membership of an organization, firm, institution or club shall continue until it legally dissolves or resigns from membership.*

Article III.C Membership. Dues.

Intent of the change: 1) to specify the handling of payment for future dues in the event of membership termination for any reason—to resolve the question of what to do with unused advance dues payments and life membership dues of members who die; and 2) to specify that dues paid in advance are valid regardless of future dues changes.

As amended: The Board of Directors shall determine from time to time the amount of dues to be paid by members of the Society subject to dues payment, as well as the apportionment of dues between the Society and its affiliated chapters. The Board shall determine

and disseminate to the chapters and the membership the procedures for collection of dues, including specification of the respective responsibilities of Society and chapter officials. *Life membership dues and dues paid in advance of the year for which they are due shall be and remain the property of the Society upon receipt, regardless of any future termination of the membership for which they were paid. Such dues shall be full payment for the period for which paid, regardless of any future change in the dues amounts.*

Article III.D.1 Membership. Termination of Membership. Failure to pay dues.

Intent of the change: to formally recognize our current organization and allow for future changes (today, renewal dues come to the Treasurer, not to the Membership Chairperson).

As amended: 1. Failure to pay dues.—The membership of any annual member for whom the appropriate dues have not been received by the Society's dues recipient as designated by the Board on or before the first day of March shall be terminated without notice. Memberships so terminated may be reinstated by application to the Membership Committee and payment of the full amount of dues for the current year, as established by the Board.

Article IV.D.2 Chapter Organization. Dues and Membership Records.

Intent of the change: obtain member e-mail addresses.

As amended: 2: By the first of March each year, a responsible officer in each chapter shall provide to the ASA Membership Chairperson a list containing the correct current address and, if ap-

plicable, telephone number (including area code) and e-mail address for each chapter member.

Article IV.I Chapter Organization. Dissolution of Chapter.

Intent of the change: to allow National to get the money and other assets of a defunct chapter. The way the section is now worded, National only gets back "ASA property," which may be nothing, and everything else is the property of the chapter, to be disposed of per their By-Laws. The intent is that all assets and property of the chapter should come back to National.

As amended: In the event of the dissolution of a chapter, all *chapter monies* and ASA property in possession of said chapter shall be returned to the Society, and all property and other assets of the chapter shall be disposed of in the manner specified in the By-Laws of the chapter or in applicable state statutes and regulations. The By-Laws of the chapter shall provide for disposition of the property and other assets of the chapter in a manner approved by the United States Internal Revenue Code for the disposition of the assets of a tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Article V.C Meetings of Members. Notice of Meetings.

Intent of the change: allow use of e-mail to notify members of a meeting.

As amended: Written notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of the members of the Society shall be delivered either personally or by mail or e-mail to each member entitled to vote at such meeting. A printed notice in THE AZALEAN shall constitute an appropriate form of notice. Notice of

meeting shall be delivered at least thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting or any special meeting. The notice shall be given by or at the direction of the President, or the Secretary, or the members calling a special meeting. In the case of a special meeting, or as required by statute or these By-Laws, the notice shall clearly state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at the address appearing on the records of the Society and with proper postage prepaid. *An e-mail notice shall be deemed to be delivered when an acknowledgment of its delivery is received by the sender from the recipient. If such an acknowledgment is not received with twenty-four (24) hours, the notice shall be sent by United States mail as specified above.*

Article VI.D.3 Board of Directors. Election of Officers and Directors.

Intent of the change: simplify the counting procedures.

As amended: 3. Counting of Ballots.—*Ballots shall be counted by one or more persons designated by the President, and shall be retained for thirty (30) days after the annual convention to resolve any dispute. In case of ties, the Board of Directors as a group shall cast one vote to break each tie.*

Article VI.H.3 Board of Directors. Meetings of the Board. Notice of Meeting.

Intent of the change: allow use of e-mail to notify Directors of a meeting.

As amended: 3. Notice of Meeting.—With respect to meetings of the Board other than the regular meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the members, the Secretary or other official of the Board shall, at least twenty (20) days before the date set for a regular or special meeting, provide to each member of the Board who is entitled to vote due notice of the place, date, and hour of meeting. Distribution to the officers and directors

of minutes containing a resolution stating the place, date, and hour for a regular meeting shall constitute due notice of such a meeting. Otherwise, notice of meetings of the Board may be transmitted to the Board members personally or sent by mail or telegram or e-mail to their addresses shown in the records of the Society. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope properly addressed and with first-class postage thereon prepaid. If notice be given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed delivered when the message is provided, together with appropriate payment therefor, to the telegraph company or its designated agent. *An e-mail notice shall be deemed to be delivered when an acknowledgment of its delivery is received by the sender from the recipient. If such an acknowledgment is not received with twenty-four (24) hours, the notice shall be sent by United States mail as specified above.* Notices of all special meetings, as well as notices of regular meetings that will include consideration of matters requiring special notice of intent to act, shall state the purpose or purposes for which called. Any director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

Article VI.I Board of Directors. Quorum.

Intent of the change: allow use of telephone conference calls for board meetings.

As amended: At least one-quarter of the Board of Directors (including ex-officio members of the Board) must be present in person to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board; provided, that in the absence of such a quorum, a majority of the directors who are present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. Proxies may not be counted in the determination of

the presence of a quorum. *For purposes of this article and article VI.J below, "in person" shall include being on the telephone and connected to a meeting of the Board of Directors being held via a telephone conference call.*

Article VIII.F.1 Committees.

Intent of the change: legalize our current operations over the past few years.

As amended: 1. Composition.—*The Nominating Committee shall consist of one or more members who, if serving as elected officers, are not eligible for re-election at the next annual meeting of the Society. The chairperson and other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board; vacancies occurring on the committee shall be filled by action of the Board. In the event that the spouse of a member of the Nominating Committee is serving on the Society's Board or is being considered for election thereto, such committee member shall withdraw from all deliberations and actions of the committee so long as said spouse is being considered.*

Article X.C Amendments. Proposal of Amendments by Members.

Intent of the change: to ensure that members receive written recommendations regarding By-Laws amendments from the Board of Directors.

As amended: A written request for amendment of the articles of incorporation or the By-Laws, signed by at least one-tenth of the members entitled to vote and delivered to the Secretary of the Society, shall be sent to the directors with the notice of the first meeting of the Board of Directors to be mailed by the Secretary following receipt of the request. The Board shall give due consideration to such request and in due course inform the entire membership *in writing* of the substance and effect of the proposed amendment, together with the Board's recommendations, in order that the members may vote thereon at a subsequent annual or special meeting.

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Joan Sweeney, Newsletter Editor

jsweeney@netscape.net

The chapter's Christmas meeting was held December 10, 2000, at Bob and Rosa McWhorter's home in Gambrills, Maryland. Don Hyatt, the featured speaker, showed slides and described his summer 1999 trip to the gardens of England, Ireland, and Scotland. Don is and ASA board member and President of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS. At the short business meeting, the chapter unanimously approved the proposal to host the 2004 ASA convention to be held in Annapolis, Maryland. Carol Segree will serve as the Planning Committee Chair, with Bob McWhorter as Co-Chair. They will use a convention checklist provided by Denise Stelloh.

The chapter's executive committee met November 5 to discuss the meeting schedule for 2001, plans for a plant sale as a fund-raiser, a spring membership drive, and a proposal to host the ASA convention in 2004. Members of the executive planning committee are: Charles and Wanda Hanners, Carol Segree, Bob and Bee Hobbs, and others as they volunteer. A point under consideration is increased collaboration with London Town Gardens and use of their facilities, which should increase media interest in the ASA.

Some very clever membership drive activities are in the works, as targeted efforts in the north, central, and southern sections of the chapter's region in April or May. Both people and promotional communications are involved: Teams of chapter members will visit major azalea nurseries during the height of azalea sales season to show pictures of members' gardens in bloom supported by flyers and information on joining the ASA, while helping with selection and purchase of azaleas. Promotional materials

would include the ASA membership brochure as well as plant tags that promote ASA membership and the chapter plant show/sale. The tags would read: "Learn how to take good care of me. Join the Azalea Society of America's local chapter in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties, Maryland. Call: 410-923-6408 or 301-855-5269. Thanks, I feel better now!" They are exploring whether it will be advisable to have the host nursery's name on the back of the tag as an inducement to authorize the membership activities.

Newsletter editor Joan Sweeney asked members in the January 2001 edition of *The Azalea Alert* about reducing production costs by sending the newsletter out by e-mail to those members who have it. Currently the newsletter is sent out to 55 members

The February 4, 2001, meeting was held at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Barbara Bullock, Curator of Azaleas and Rhododendrons at the National Arboretum, gave a slide presentation and discuss azalea propagation. Then she led a tour of the National Arboretum's azalea propagation area, including some cuttings that were blooming. She also provided a list of older azaleas in the collection and discussed how chapter members might get cuttings. Ben Morrison chapter invited members of Brookside Gardens and Northern Virginia chapters to attend.

The March 4 meeting at London Town Gardens featured Bill Johnson's presentation "Till the Gardens Open Again," which discusses the Merriweather Post Garden azaleas, companion plants, and older azalea varieties.

Northern Virginia Chapter

David Nanney, Chapter President

nanney@erols.com

Bob Hobbs, of the Ben Morrison Chapter, is one of the Society's members who has been studying the many hybrid azalea groups and how to present this information to other enthusiasts. February 25, 2001, he gave a presentation to the Northern Virginia Chapter entitled "Help! I'm Trying to Understand Hybrid Groups" at the George Mason Branch of the Fairfax County Libraries. He covered about 13 different groups. It is hoped that this material will become an article for publication in **THE AZALEAN** soon. A special bonus was the talk on planting azalea seeds given by Don Hyatt in the same session.

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Dianne Gregg—President

Glassnob@aol.com

At the December meeting, the chapter awarded the Frederic P. Lee commendation to William F. Steele, Jr., owner of Steele's Nursery in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Bill Steele has been a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter for many years. He has been introducing new varieties of azaleas from Brookside Gardens Chapter member hybridizers and others. A very significant feature of his plants is that his identification tags are all complete and correct.

Don Voss was the featured speaker at the meeting, presenting a slide version of his presentation, "How Azaleas Came to our Gardens," given to the 2000 ASA Convention. Since many members missed that convention, it was real treat. [See also article with same title published in **THE AZALEAN**, Fall 2000, 22 (3): 56-62.] It helped members understand the history and geographical origins of azaleas in American gardens.

Note that Brookside and McCrillis Gardens are now featured on the Brookside Gardens homepage—www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside/. The site includes: a garden overview, a "planning a visit" section with graphics and a map, a current calendar of events and conservatory shows, basics on library service, and the Friends of Brookside Gardens group, an illustrated "What's in Bloom," where to go for more information on programs for adults and children, as well as how to schedule a wedding or other special event at the gardens.

New Chapters Forming?

The Society appears to be attracting new centers of interest in the Hendersonville, North Carolina, and in the Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, areas. We hope these groups of interested people will organize in time to be approved by the ASA Board of Directors at the 2001 Convention in Asheville. In the meantime, if you would like to offer support, or get in touch with these groups, here are contacts:

For the Hendersonville, North Carolina, area contact:

Ed Collins
 136 Finley Cove Road
 Hendersonville NC 28739-7937
 828-697-9228
azaleaed@brinet.com

For the Norfolk, Virginia, area if you have e-mail, contact:

Mike Andruczyk
 6700 Azalea Garden Road
 Norfolk VA 23518-5337
 757-441-5831
nbg@infi.net

For those without e-mail, contact:

William T. Lloyd
 4020 Timberland Drive
 Portsmouth VA 23703
 757-484-1816



Mary Rutley, Brookside Gardens Chapter Vice-President, presents the 2000 Frederic P. Lee Commendation to Bill Steele of West Chester, Pennsylvania, at the chapter's annual meeting.



Here, the individual flower of *R. vaseyi* shows the brilliance of its coloration in a close-up taken at milepost 419.2 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This native is the namesake for a new ASA Chapter forming in the Hendersonville, North Carolina, area. The formative meeting was set for March 25th. The Vaseyi Chapter will be applying for its charter at the 2001 convention in Asheville, North Carolina. [Photo by Ed Collins.]

NEW MEMBERS

At-Large

Donald H. Bailey
1208 Wilmington Island Rd.
Savannah, GA 31410
912-633-5393 *

Eddie Baldree
1116 Kempsville Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23320
757-549-9667 *

Beaverdam Nursery
10111 Farys Mill Rd.
Gloucester, VA 23061
804-693-5591

Leslie Benson
3009 Carolina Rd.
Suffolk, VA 23434
757-539-3140

Aaron Cook
804 Piedmont Ave
Valdese, NC 28690-3161
828-879-2879 *

Martha Derthick
1618 Meadowbrook Hts Rd.
Charlottesville, VA 22901 *

Will Ferrell
700 N. Elm St.
High Point, NC 27262
336-887-3212

Norman Grose
1217 Prince Edward Way
Norfolk, VA 23517-2260
757-627-6911

Deirdra Halley
302 Woodbridge Dr.
Charleston, WV 25311
304-342-5197 *

Glynne Jones
CWMRHAIADR FARM
GLASPWLL
MACHYNLLETH,
POWYS SY20 8UB,
WALES, UK*

Sylvia Knox
13735 Creekside Pl.
Dallas, TX 75240-3551
972-392-2195

David R. Kreutz
5937 Wycliffe
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-441-2680 *

Joe L. Lewis
109 Airport Rd.
Milledgeville, GA 31061 *

Mrs Joyce B. Lloyd
4020 Timberland Dr.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
757-484-1816

Graham Lock
Bolding Hatch Farm
Bishops Stortford Rd.
Roxwell, Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 4LF ENG.
+44 1245 231 232 *

Claude F. Lym
5204 Brockie St
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Jackson & Pamela McCarter
280 Trammel Rd.
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
864-834-9721 *

Leon Pace
Rt. 4 Box 284-H Old CCC Rd.
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-692-7518

Samuel R. Pattison
PO Box 182
South Kortright, NY 13842

Personalized Plantings, Inc.
124 Old Wears Valley Rd
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
865-453-5640

W. R. Pinkerton
5203 Genesis Rd.
Crossville, TN 38558-0218
931-484-6241

Harriett Ratcliff
9 Windy Pines Ct.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
757-483-7911

Doris J. Reynolds
429 Columbia St., Apt. B
Portsmouth, VA 23704
757-397-6239

Richard & Betty Roemer
208 Mossbough Ln.
Flat Rock, NC 28731
828-697-2692 *

Peter F. Ross
5103 Wehawken Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20816-2224
301-229-2495

Yin Chun Shen
433 Alida Way, Rm. 712
S. San Francisco, CA 94080
650-877-0780

Larry Smith
2094 Pope Rd.
Hiawasee, GA 30546
706-896-1397 *

Don & Kathy White
428 Carmel St.
Watsonville, CA 95076
831-724-9283 *

Brookside
GardensChapter
Howard R. Kline
500 Plum Creek Rd.
Leesport, PA 19533-9584
610-488-6445

Hendrik Van Oost
LULSTRAAT3 B9770
KRUISSHOUTEM, BELGIUM
329-386-0597 *

Ben Morrison Chapter

Annmarie Garden on
St. John
175 Main St.
Prince Frederick, MD
20678
410-326-4640

Gray & Delores Carter
9107 High Banks Dr.
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-4331 *

London Town
Foundation, Inc.
Gregory A. Stiverson, PhD
Executive Director
839 Londontown Rd.
Edgewater, MD 21037
410-222-1919 *

Northern Virginia Chapter

Jeanne Hammer
1265 Lafayette Ln.
Charlottesville, VA 22902
804-295-1307 *

Oconee Chapter

Atlanta Botanical Garden
Library
1345 Piedmont Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-876-5859 *

James G. Boyes
557 Cottonfield Cir.
Weddington, NC 28173 *

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Cowan
167 Homestead Estates Dr.
Statesville, NC 28677-1701

NOTE: *See online roster for
e-mail addresses for these
new members.