

# Celebrating Native Azaleas

These photographs are only a sampling of the wide range of azaleas, gardens, and fun captured during the Society's latest convention, June 14-17, 2001 in Asheville, North Carolina. It was a blast! The native azaleas fulfilled the theme, with *Rhododendron calendulaceum* and *R. arborescens* in peak bloom along the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the balds. The headquarters was the dining hall of the University of North Carolina-Asheville, one mile north of downtown Asheville, with housing in the nearby Mills Hall dormitory. One hundred and forty two attendees could choose from one of five different tours during the day, and, after a good meal, hear some excellent talks in the evenings.



**1. Ed Collins:** Ed Collins was our able Master of Ceremonies for all the convention speakers and events. Well done, Ed. [Photo by Bill Miller.]

**2. Delectable Quilt:** Leslie Ann and David Nanney won the raffle for the magnificent commissioned wall quilt, entitled Delectable Mountain Azaleas. Shown here is Teresa Reilly, a renowned quilter, the author of *Five Seasons of Quilts*, and a teacher and lecturer on quilting. The quilt features *R. vaseyi* and other native azaleas worked into the classic Delectable Mountains quilt design. [Photo by Bill Miller.]



**3. *R. japonicum*:** This *R. japonicum* is a very delicate yellow-flowering Asian species, and Joe's favorite. This species has often been used as a pollen parent in native hybrid crosses. [Photo by Joe Schild.]

**4. *R. sanctum*:** *R. sanctum* has an upright habit and open single form. [Photo by Joe Schild.]



## Thanks for the Great Work!

Thanks to all our tour leaders who made each one a successful adventure for azaleaphiles: Wes Burlingame of Laurel Springs Nursery for the Blue Ridge Parkway Tour, Joe Schild for the Wayah Bald Tour, Aaron Cook for the Copper Bald Tour, Ed Collins on Friday and Bob Stelloh on Saturday for Hendersonville Gardens Tour, and to Doley Bell on Friday and Jim Holmes on Saturday for the Biltmore Estate Tour. Very special thanks to the owners of the private gardens that were on tour, for manicuring their gardens, serving refreshments, and being gracious hosts: Denise and Bob Stelloh, Mary and Ed Collins, Ev and Bruce Whittemore, Ted Manger, and Velma Haag.

# ASA 2001 Convention Photo Album



## Tours

Here are selected images from the Hendersonville Gardens Tour.

**5. Waterfall Garden:** The garden of Mary and Ed Collins has this outstanding waterfall, probably the largest private collection of Cowles hybrid rhododendrons, and a large variety of azaleas, wildflowers, and other ornamentals. [Photo by Bill Miller.]

**6. Yellow Salmon Flame:** As seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway Tour, here is a wonderful example of why so many Society members brag about the Flame Azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*. [Photo by Bill Miller.]

**7. Fiery Red Azalea:** This fiery red native hybrid is a native hybrid developed by Velma Haag from *R. arborescens* x *R. 'Camp's Red'* seen in her garden of hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas. She also has stunning hillsides of *Shortia*, *Galax*, *Trillium*, and other native wildflowers. [Photo by Bill Miller.]

**8. Waterfall and Ed Collins:** The tour ended in the Dupont State Forest for a foray into the woods to see Hooker Falls, Triple Falls (shown here) and a few native azaleas and wildflowers in the wild. [Photo by Bill Miller.]

More convention photos on page 64.

**9. Stelloh Garden:** Here, the tour group has refreshments at Bob and Denise Stelloh's garden. Shown (left to right) are: Ed Collins, David Nanney, Denise Stelloh, Barbara Bullock, and Earl and Verdie Sommerville. [Photo by Bill Miller.]