

tive azalea heritage, not only the many species we admire, but also the special places where these plants grow. We need to identify the best forms of our native azaleas, propagate them, and distribute this plant material to arboreta and commercial nurseries so that rare and superior forms are not lost forever. We also need to encourage commercial sources to propagate the natives and make them widely available so that there will be less pressure to steal plants from the wild. The general public is beginning to become aware of the native azaleas and will be looking for places to buy them.

We certainly must not forget that there is a very delicate balance in nature. Environmentalists of all kinds must look for solutions to the burgeoning populations of deer and other destructive animals that are colonizing as rapidly as we are. They pose a risk not only to our suburban gardens but also to many rare plants in wilderness areas that we don't often see. Technological advances have allowed us to travel easily around the world, but we have often brought back foreign pests that have become plagues in our local regions. We must be extremely careful not to introduce such pests or diseases into native populations, for they could devastate our native azaleas. How sad it would be if petal blight became established in the Appalachian Mountains, melting the glorious azalea display just as it opened.

There is much more to our native azalea heritage than an occasional orange flower in someone's garden or a glimpse of color along the Blue Ridge Parkway. We need to educate the general public so that others appreciate the wonderful diversity that exists in nature. They must also become stewards of our cause. If we can teach others to see the beauty that we see, perhaps there is a chance to preserve such treasures for future generations to enjoy. Mankind has been the cause of much destruction, but through education we can also bring a cure.

*Don Hyatt has been an avid hybridizer of azaleas and rhododendrons for over 30 years, with a particular interest in deciduous azaleas, and has been teaching mathematics 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. He can be reached by e-mail at [dhyatt@tjhsst.edu](mailto:dhyatt@tjhsst.edu).*

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## In Memory

The Society mourns the loss of Dr. August Kehr, September 27, 2001, at his home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He had been a member since 1979, was active in hybridizing azaleas, and was recently working to establish an Azalea Society Research Foundation. Contributions in his honor can be sent to the Pincrest Presbyterian Church, PO Box 191, Flat Rock, North Carolina 28739 or to the ASA, c/o Mr. Bob Stelloh, Treasurer, 585 Ransier Drive, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28739-7820. A more complete memorial article is in progress for the winter issue of THE AZALEAN.

## Position Opening

Full charge Horticultural Director needed at Quaker Hill Native Plant Garden. Duties include the training and management of a large staff of gardeners, maintenance of computerized plant record systems, design of tree, shrub and groundcover plantings, oversight of nurseries, development of research materials and horticultural library. Requirements include a deep knowledge of eastern U.S. native woody and forb plants, their cultivars and care, experience in large scale garden plantings management, and the ability to design and realize highly naturalized designs. This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits. Please reply by letter to:

Director of Design  
 Quaker Hill Native Plant Garden  
 PO Box 667  
 Dewey Lane  
 Pawling, NY 12564