

periences as awe-inspiring; however, the mind becomes bored and tired with sameness and demands choice and variety. Early settlers described the great tall-grass prairies of the Midwest as oceans. The Passenger Pigeon flocked in numbers that astounded the observer. Pine forests in the southeastern United States have this abundant quality today that is simple in its presentation, texturally consistent, and unified in color. Good landscape design provides a simplicity and order to the observer. The human mind seeks clarity in perception. Simplicity in design is soothing. Landscape design is enhanced when simply presented at a distance and when the viewer is traveling at high speeds in relation to the landscape.

Complexity should be introduced to the landscape design when the viewer is stationary and is in close proximity. Small details and variation are not perceived at a distance; only when the observer advances close to the landscape planting does the variation become noticeable and available for study. Native azaleas occurring in swarms exercise both aspects of human perception. Amassed from a distance, native azaleas in flower provide appealing color that can be awe-inspiring. Upon close examination, however, the variation in flower color becomes the collector's quest.

Nature demands the attention of successful gardeners. Being a student of nature will enhance the placement of native azaleas in our gardens and contribute to the enjoyment of our North American heritage.

Steve Brainerd is a former president of the Azalea Society of America. He is completing a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Texas at Arlington. He was recently the recipient of a Certificate of Merit from the American Society of Landscape Architecture for scholastic achievement; was inducted into Sigma Lambda Alpha, a national scholastic honor society; and was awarded a Richard B. Myrick scholarship. He is the Parks Development Superintendent for the City of McKinney, Texas.

Research Notes

Ben Morrison Chapter — US National Arboretum Project: Conserving Old Azalea Varieties Bob McWhorter — Gambrills, Maryland

Barbara Bullock, Curator of Azaleas and Rhododendrons at the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA), was the featured speaker at a Ben Morrison chapter meeting on February 4, 2001. Her presentation was about her efforts to restore USNA azalea gardens, to identify as many of the azaleas as possible, and to perpetuate the oldest varieties in the collection. As part of this effort, she distributed a list of the oldest varieties at the USNA and offered the chapter an opportunity to obtain cuttings from them.

Barbara's plan was to have chapter members become registered sources of these azaleas for the USNA as a backup source in the event the USNA plants died out. She asked that good records be kept of the names of the members who took the cuttings, the varieties they took, and that quality labels and coated wire be used to identify each cutting and subsequent plant.

On July 13, two days before the Ben Morrison chapter cutting picnic, Bob and Rosa McWhorter, Dave and Eileen Holm, and Joe Miller met with Barbara Bullock at the USNA and obtained cuttings from the list that she had provided. A list of the cuttings taken by the chapter is shown on page 86.

Bob and Rosa McWhorter have one complete set of the cuttings that have been started. Dave and Eileen Holm, who run a wholesale azalea business from their home, have a misting system that yields a high percentage of plants from cuttings. They generously offered to take the remaining cuttings and start them.

Chapter members will meet at the Holm's residence next year to pot up all the new plants. Following this, additional chapter members will

"adopt" plants they want and register themselves as auxiliary sources with the USNA. In addition, some of the excess plants propagated in this way will find their way to the 2004 ASA National Convention that will be hosted by the Ben Morrison Chapter.

This project would not have been possible without Barbara Bullock's detailed knowledge of the USNA collection. She provided a great overview of the history of the arboretum azalea gardens and her work with them. She knows the gardens like the back of her hand. This is perhaps made easier by a very good database that she has established that is cross-referenced to garden maps. Because of these records, Barbara was able to go to the precise spots and find all the plants that the chapter had selected in advance. She also let us do some "inspiration shopping" and to take some additional cuttings not previously requested.

We had a wonderful day and obtained an excellent group of cuttings that will yield plants that will enhance chapter gardens in years to come, meanwhile ensuring the USNA will have sources for its azaleas for the indefinite future. The chapter has already discussed the possibility of returning next year to work with Barbara on this project. We regard both the US National Arboretum and Barbara Bullock as national treasures and are grateful for her professionalism, kindness, and friendship.

Bob McWhorter is the current president of the Ben Morrison chapter.

Azalea Society of America – Ben Morrison Chapter

U.S. National Arboretum Azalea Cuttings – July 13, 2001

List of Plants on file with the USNA Plant Records Office

The following *Rhododendron* cultivars and /or species were taken, and will be raised by:

Bob and Rosa McWhorter
1666 Preakness Drive
Gambrills, MD 21054

David and Eileen Holm
1530 Sixes Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Joe and Nuran Miller
23730 Kingston Village Rd.
California, MD 20619

Mr. McWhorter is the current president of the Ben Morrison Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, and arranged for his chapter to come to the USNA to take these cuttings. Members of the chapter will raise these in permanent gardens with permanent labels. The USNA is welcome to take cuttings should something happen to the original plants. Approximately 10 cuttings of each were taken. The numbers shown before each cultivar name are National Arboretum accession numbers, used to record entries into the plant collections.

57079-H	<i>Rhododendron eriocarpum</i>	270-H	R. 'Higashi Yama' (Kurume)
8039-H	<i>R. indica atropurpurea</i> [1-R-11]	4182-H	R. 'Hokorobi' (also 4182-CJ, Kurume)
7044-H	<i>R. macrosepalum</i> var. <i>linearifolium</i> (now <i>R. stenopetalum</i> var. <i>linearifolium</i>)	4163-H	R. 'Ima shojo' (Kurume)
1175-H	R. '151-G' (Gable)	6094-J	R. 'Iroha yama' (Kurume)
66851-H	R. 'Anthem' (Glenn Dale)	216-J	R. 'Kagaribi' (Kurume)
4177-H	R. 'Aya-no-kamuri' (Kurume)	45419-H	R. 'Kagura' (Kurume)
4162-H	R. 'Beni Kirishima' (Kurume)	4158-H	R. 'Kocho no mai' (Kurume)
63755-H	R. 'Blushing Maid' (Glenn Dale)	4185-H	R. 'Kogasane' (Kurume)
68718-H,J	R. 'Buncho' (Satsuki)	4157-H	R. 'Koshikibu' (Kurume)
9294-H	R. 'Colleen' (Glenn Dale)	66878-H	R. 'Madeira' (Glenn Dale)
30782-?	R. 'Dauntless' (Glenn Dale)	66277-J	R. 'Madrigal' (Glenn Dale)
8828-H,V	R. 'Dragon'	54466-CH	R. 'Maihime' (Satsuki)
45415-H	R. 'Ezonishiki' (Kurume)	276-H	R. 'Mikawa Murasaki' (Kurume)
17862-H	R. 'Flirtation' (Beltsville)	9328-H	R. 'Minstrel' (Glenn Dale)
66870-HG	R. 'Grenadier' (Glenn Dale)	18530-J	R. 'Modesty' (Glenn Dale)
45422-H	R. 'Gunki' (Kurume)	4156-H	R. 'Momiji Gasane' (Kurume)
4186-H	R. 'Hana Asobi' (Kurume)	206-H	R. 'Momozono' (Kurume)
45435-H,V	R. 'Haruno Sato' (Kurume)	34156-H	R. 'Morgana' (Glenn Dale)
4183-H	R. 'Hatsunami' (Kurume)	2631-H	R. 'Niagara' (Glenn Dale)
		4933-T	R. 'Nubian' (Glenn Dale)
		208-H	R. 'Ogikasane' (Blaauw Kurume)
		8881-H	R. 'Pink Ice' (Belgian Glenn Dale)
		68733-H	R. 'Rice Kernel'
		9342-CH	R. 'Rising Sun' (Glenn Dale)
		269-CH	R. 'Sakura kagami' (Kurume)
		68957-H	R. 'Salmon Elf' (Beltsville Dwarf)
		4161-H	R. 'Shiro Satsuki' (Kurume)
		69-H	R. 'Shishu' (Mucronatum)
		66788-H	R. 'Snowscape' (Glenn Dale)
		4176-H	R. 'Surisumi' (Kurume)
		48419-H	R. 'Tanager' (Glenn Dale)
		66286-H	R. 'Tomboy' (Glenn Dale)
		4164-CH	R. 'Tsuta Momiji' (Kurume)
		274-H	R. 'Usuyo' (Mucronatum group)
		8013-H	R. 'Vickie' (Gable)
		9358-CH	R. 'White Star' (Gable)
		32885-P	R. 'Winedrop' (Glenn Dale)
		4160-H	R. 'Yaeshojo' (Kurume)
		32888-H	R. 'Zealot' (Glenn Dale)