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The

Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America

**Azaleas in the Landscape —
2005 Convention Overview**

Massing Azaleas by Color

**50th Anniversary Celebration of
Morrison Garden Dedication**

Azaleas in Bay Country

Description of 'Clara Haler'



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

President's Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

Well another year has come and gone. I hope everyone had a very productive and successful past year. May the New Year bring you health, prosperity, and many relaxing gardening activities. The holidays are over, and as usual it is time for me to shed a few extra pounds. However, with all these colorful garden catalogs arriving in the mail, it's easier for me to just sit around during my spare time thumbing through them and admire the hottest new plants instead of exercising. Well, at least I have my priorities in the right place.

This past year has been a very successful year for our Society. We now have a new azalea chapter in Alabama, the archive project located at North Carolina State University is off to a great start, and our azalea city committee granted its first azalea certification to the city of Nacogdoches, Texas. Our membership enrollment is on the increase, and our online azalea discussion group continues to be extremely active. Our journal, *The Azalean*, which is the major communication forum for our Society, has had outstanding articles. A big special thanks to all the people that have worked so hard to make all these projects so successful. If any member would like to get involved with any of these activities, you are more than welcome to join in. Just contact any board member or officer, and I am sure they will be able to assist you.

It was truly an honor for me to present to the city of Nacogdoches, Texas, the first azalea city certificate from the Azalea Society of America. Joe Schild and the azalea city committee reviewed all of the documentation and unanimously accepted the application from the city of Nacogdoches. Joe also designed an

impressive plaque that was presented to the city. Barbara Stump and volunteers from Steven F. Austin University and local garden clubs did all the planning and preparing for the actual event. It turned out to be a beautiful day at the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, where the presentation was given. The cool weather, the clear blue skies, and the fall-blooming azaleas all helped in creating a perfect setting. This event was well attended and had extensive media coverage. I envision this as the first of many cities that will receive this wonderful distinction. Not only does it help to promote the city and our Society, but it also brings to the public attention the wonderful attributes of our favorite plant, the azalea.

It's hard to believe it, but it is almost time for our 2005 national convention in Michigan. John Migas and the convention committee have been working on this convention for the past couple of years to ensure that all activities run as smoothly as possible. From the plans that I have heard, I am sure this will be a very memorable convention. I'm looking forward to seeing all those blooming azaleas and tulips. This convention is scheduled to coincide with portions of the Holland Michigan Tulip Festival. This will be like getting two blooming festivals for the price of one. An extra day (or more) should be scheduled before or after the convention to give more time to take in all the sights and other activities. Hope you are able to come and join in on the excitement, May 19-22, 2005.

Have a wonderful 2005.

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*).

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The Azalean

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On the Cover

In this issue, William Pinkerton is introducing this new azalea, 'Clara Haler', which he found as a seeding beneath Glenn Dale hybrid 'Glacier'. Beautiful and hardy to -20° F, this azalea is described in detail on page 86 by Joe Schild. (Photo by Joe Schild; imaging services donated by Dr. John Root, Mt. Baker Research, Bellingham, Washington.)

Azaleas in the Landscape — 2005 Convention Overview

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan and
Sandra Wearne — Naperville, Illinois

Introduction

On behalf of the Lake Michigan Chapter of the ASA we welcome one and all to our 2005 National Convention, which will be held in Holland, Michigan, May 19th through May 22nd. The city of Holland, well known for their annual tulip festival, will be visited not only by the ASA Convention, but also by the hundreds of thousands of guests who attend "Tulip Time" each year.

Our theme for this year's convention is "Azaleas in the Landscape." Tours are scheduled for seven private gardens, three nurseries/private gardens, and two public gardens. Most of the gardens are at least 20 years old, with one being over 60 years old. If a mature garden is what you are after, don't miss this convention. Speakers come from Minnesota, Illinois, and Tennessee.

Information on the convention details is updated regularly on the Lake Michigan Chapter's Web site, which includes many more colored photographs of plants and gardens than can be included here. One very special feature this year is that the plant list for the plant sale is on the Web site, too. Visit: www.azaleas.lake-michigan.org.

Logistics

Please see the insert enclosed after page 84 for details on the convention schedule, travel directions to Holland, the convention hotel, and information on the speakers. Note that the registration form for the convention is on the inside front cover of the wrapper of this issue of *The Azalean* and on the last page of the insert. Send one copy in with your registration fee to the address shown

on the form before April 19, 2005, for a discounted registration fee.

Tours

Friday Garden Tours - May 20, 2005

Stop 1: Windmill Island

The tours begin with our first stop at Windmill Island. Visitors come by the thousands during Holland, Michigan's Tulip Time Festival in May. The colorful tulips, working Dutch windmills, klompen dancers, and spectacular multi-media show along with community parades and special events bring tour groups from all over the world. This island of over 20 acres will be most enjoyable.

Stop 2: Alexander and Hutchinson Gardens

Next, it is on to Fennville, Michigan, to the Alexander and Hutchinson gardens. These two gar-



dens are located across the street from each other. The Hutchinson property consists of over 30 acres; the garden is 4 acres and includes a stunning pond and gazebo. The Alexander property consists of many azaleas and rhododendrons, along with dogwoods and Japanese

maples, sitting amongst eastern white pines that were planted over 20 years ago.



View of Hutchinson Garden.
(Photo by Tony Greco)

Stop 3: The Hartsuiker Garden

A short ride to the east side of town takes us to the garden of Pete and Trevah Hartsuiker. They describe their garden as follows: "The inspiration for our landscaping came from the Flower Show in Chicago 30 years ago. We attended the show with friend, pharmacist, and landscape designer Ross Alexander and his wife Edna in 1975. By the following spring, Ross had prepared a design plan for us. Construction began immediately, with a June deadline for an outdoor graduation party. We, along with Ross and two of his sons, personally did all the excavating, planting, and grooming.

"In addition to several mature oaks, the garden includes numerous azaleas, rhododendrons, ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials. A special feature of the lawn is a beautiful pond with a fountain edged with railroad ties. There are various cedar fences, brick patios, and other seating areas that provide several places to relax and enjoy the beauty of the

plantings and extensive wildlife in this country setting. It has been a popular spot for several social functions and family portraits.”

Stop 4: The Hop Garden and Wavecrest Nursery

Our lunch stop will be at the home of Bruce and Carol Hop, which is located on the shore of Lake Michigan. We will enjoy a pig roast with all the trimmings. (A substitute box lunch can also be ordered through the hotel for those who don't like pork.) The Hop garden consists of many magnolias, dogwoods, and redbuds, along with 40-year old azaleas and rhododendrons.



View of Lake Michigan from Wavecrest Nursery.
(Photo by Carol Hop)

Also part of this stop will be a visit to Wavecrest Nursery, (www.wavecrestnursery.com) which is owned by Carol and Bruce. They say of the nursery, “When you visit Wavecrest, the experience will be unlike a visit to any other nursery. We are situated along the shore of Lake Michigan, and our garden center is nestled into a beautiful woodland setting just across the street from Lake Michigan.

“We specialize in rare and unusual plants, presently growing over 1,400 different varieties of hardy trees and shrubs and many of our own hybrid selections. Unlike most nurseries and garden centers, we propagate and grow nearly everything that we sell and try to focus on rare and unusual varieties that will add individuality and uniqueness to your garden. Our displays are arranged much

like a fine garden and will suggest many combinations of plants for your consideration.

“Our garden center also has an extensive collection of hand-carved granite bird baths, with lanterns and benches, fine gardening tools, brass and bronze sundials and water features, cast stone, concrete and aluminum fountains and statuary, as well as Japanese lanterns, bonsai tools and equipment, and bird watching and feeding supplies.”

Stop 5: The Button Art Gallery

Our next stop will be to the Button Art Gallery, home of Arthur Frederick. The authentic English garden in Douglas, Michigan, has an aura that is reminiscent of the classic children's novel, *The Secret Garden*. It was designed and planted 38 years ago by Saugatuck horticulturist and landscape architect Charles Mann. Commissioned by the Gallery's founder, Russell Button, to create the natural masterpiece, Mann employed accents of rhododendrons, azaleas, flowering trees, and a multitude of plantings.

Mann said Button chose to have an English garden created because it reminded him of his English heritage. Frederick said the climate in Saugatuck resembles that of England, since the lake effect results in less severe winter temperatures and cooler spring weather than is typical of other parts of Michigan.

Japanese holly, heather, mountain laurel, day and garden lilies, maiden hair ferns, birch, dogwood, and numerous flowering trees fill the garden along with an assortment of other flowers and ground cover plants. This English garden also has an Oriental influence in such accents as Japanese oaks, pines, maples, and cherries.

Stop 6: Rosebay Nursery

Our final stop will be Rosebay Nursery, which was established in

1977 by Linda Charvat and Frank Pluta. After working at various Saugatuck nurseries, they saw a need for field-grown wholesale rhododendrons and azaleas that would be acclimated to the Michigan climate. The location was chosen for its sandy soil and mature pine trees. Areas were cleared to grow the plants between the pines, but soon plants were put in more open areas with good results. The nursery is on 14 acres and has 24 poly-houses, 27 Nearing frames, and test gardens around the house.

Due to Rosebay's varied growing environments, new plants can be tested in a number of conditions to determine their optimum growing requirements. This research is shared with customers to help them in designing and recommending different varieties. Over 60 varieties of rhododendrons, 15 deciduous azalea hybrids, and three *Pieris* are grown at the nursery.

Saturday Garden Tours-May 21, 2005

Note: Saturday's tours will not have as many stops as Friday's.

Stop 1: Veldheer's Tulip Farm

Our first stop is at the Veldheer's Tulip Farm. Enjoy the area's most beautiful flower displays amid windmills, drawbridges, and canals at Holland's only tulip farm and perennial gardens.

Veldheer's Tulip Gardens was established in 1945 by Verne Veldheer. It started as a hobby with 400 bulbs planted in single rows. Today they plant over 4 million bulbs each year with 400 kinds of tulips, 120 kinds of daffodils, and 200 kinds of accent bulbs, along with 400 kinds of perennials. These top quality products are distributed to all 50 states.

Stop 2: The Willis Garden

In 1977, Eric Willis and his wife Deona became owners of a home built in the mid-1940s, and since

continued on page 80

Massing Azaleas by Color

Sandra Austin — Burke, Virginia

One of the most effective ways to show off azaleas is by planting them in masses, or groupings of plants, instead of scattering them singly around your garden, yard, or estate. The colorful display presented by azaleas in bloom is one of the most spectacular shows put on by flowering plants. Here are some ideas for color groupings to inspire you for the coming year's planting.

- The most familiar (and probably to this audience, most overused) are the groupings of the common azalea colors—reds, oranges, purples, and pinks—with whites scattered around for accent. It's the introduction-to-azaleas planting style, and every spring, it's a flower show to grab everyone's attention. The reason is that there are big, bold blocks of strong, vivid colors with lots of contrast. **Try it without the whites.** Although the whites are added for accent, they sometimes make the combination have too many contrasts, and the plantings look brassy. Particularly if you're a person who doesn't like oranges or purples with reds, you may find that removing the whites makes you happier. What you'll be left with is a planting of colors that are darker than average. When you plant this color grouping in a shaded wooded area, even though the hues are very bright, they will not stand out as you might expect, but appear richer and more subtle, because their lightness (or darkness) is similar to that of the foliage of azaleas. But if you want these colors to really stand out, plant them against a lighter background—a fence or the facade of a house.
- **Try changing the relative amounts of certain hues.** Color combinations are more successful when

they do not use equal amounts of different colors. Think about the colors of your house: there's a base color with accent or trim colors in smaller amounts. It works in large part because you don't try to use the same amounts of all colors. Choose a favorite hue to be the predominant color, and add smaller amounts of the other hues. For example, use lots of purples, with lesser amounts of reds and maybe only one or two oranges. Or, if you like orange, choose predominantly oranges, with a much smaller number of reds and a few purples. You'll be surprised at how the feeling of a planting changes as the relative amounts of color change.

- If you are planting over a large area, an interesting variation is to **have smaller masses of the same colors, but have each smaller planting vary the predominant color.** Again, it's quite surprising how simply changing the different amounts of colors can change the feeling of a planting.
- Another variation is to **plant cultivars that have slightly different appearances, some detail that can only be seen close up.** So, from a distance, the purple flowers will look the same in a mass, but on close examination, they can be seen to have special characteristics. This is a good way for the collector to incorporate a number of different cultivars in a planting that still has a lot of visual impact.
- If you like all hues, but find such plantings too busy for your taste, you can have yet a different effect if you control the other aspects of the colors. **Try a mix of all light hues, such as pinks, lavenders, peach, and white.** Such a planting will really show up in a shady, wooded

garden—light colors make a strong contrast with the other, darker colors of foliage, bark, and soil. If you want to introduce a dynamic note, try adding one or two plants that have flowers that are much darker versions of the hues in your planting. It does the same thing that adding white to the traditional planting does, introducing a strong note of contrast to the planting.

- **You can also plant flowers of all hues that are not so brilliant.** There are azaleas that are more muted in their color, such as soft pinks, peaches and lavenders, and reds and purples that are deeper and less saturated than their pure hues. Although muted colors don't get much attention, these are the colors that are particularly useful when used around houses and other architectural features (statuary, fountains, gazebos), because they don't compete visually with the feature. Often, muted colors can be used very successfully in gardens that have a lot of other contrasts, including foundation plantings, giving a richness and variety to plantings, without looking too busy or garish.
- Another way to tie together multi-hued combinations of flowers is to **select plants for a border of the bed that will tie together the plantings in the bed.** The most traditional method is planting a low growing green planting such as boxwood or Liriope, or some shade-loving perennial, but it would also be striking to have a band of low-growing or ground-cover azaleas that repeat one of the colors in the main bed.
- If you find multiple hues too distracting for you in any of the above scenarios, **think about limiting the**

hues in each grouping to one or two that are similar in appearance. You can choose strong hues such as red or orange, or the more subtle pinks, peaches, and lavenders. Such groupings are relatively simple compared to their multi-hued companions, and so are more versatile in their use. If you choose cultivars that have early, middle, and late bloom, you can stretch the color display over a much longer period. There may not be a single spectacular display, but if it's your own garden, sometimes it's preferable to stretch the bloom times for your own enjoyment.

- Don't forget the whites; a grouping of white azaleas can be really spectacular. It is sometimes

thought to be the most formal of all the colors, and shows up in a shady garden or at dusk more than any of the other azalea colors. One of the advantages of using single-color plantings is that you can more readily use plants, not only of different bloom times, but of differing heights and textures—large and small flowers, and single, split, and double flowers—all combine well when the color choices are limited.

You may feel that all this discussion of grouping and massing plants is only interesting to those gardeners with a lot of space. It is true that the most spectacular results occur over large areas, but anyone can group a number of azaleas in the corners or down the sides of a residential yard,

or in pots in the tiniest of townhouse lots, if you limit yourself to smaller and low growing plants, or resign yourself to serious and knowledgeable pruning. The effect can be really charming. As the garden grows and changes, you'll want to acquire new plants to add to or replace parts of these groupings. Each time you introduce a new plant, you'll have the opportunity to change your color scheme and create a new design.

Sandra Austin is a former instructor and director of The George Washington University's Landscape Design Program and is a graduate of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. She is the author of Color in Garden Design (Taunton Press, 1998).

50th Anniversary Celebration of Morrison Garden Dedication

Bob McWhorter — Gambrills, Maryland

On October 1, 2004, Ben Morrison Chapter members attended a 50th anniversary celebration of the dedication of the Morrison Garden at the US National Arboretum. The ceremony began with welcoming remarks by Scott Aker, Acting Gardens Unit Leader at the Arboretum. This was followed by opening remarks by Dr. Phyllis Johnson, Director, Beltsville Area, Agricultural Research Service.

William C. Miller III gave an outstanding presentation on the history of the Morrison Garden and the hybridization of the Glenn Dale azaleas, with many slides to add interest to this excellent presentation. Bill distributed printed materials that included selected dates and Morrison highlights; a short history of the Morrison Garden; the May 3, 1954 dedication of the Morrison Garden; and selected readings from

books and articles. Also included was a photograph and short article on the Hamilton Elementary School in Washington, DC, and its connection to the Morrison Garden.

Barbara L. Bullock, Curator, Azalea and Rhododendron Collections at the Arboretum, then spoke about recent developments in the azalea collections. During her tenure as curator Barbara has restored the collections, done much to identify those with missing or mistaken name tags, and improved the overall condition of the gardens. She is to be congratulated on the outstanding job she has done and on the sizeable "To Do" list for future enhancements.

Scott Aker discussed the future of the azalea collections and the Morrison Garden. A new visitor's center is to be constructed in close proximity to the Morrison Garden, which in the words of Dr. Johnson, is

the "crown jewel of the Arboretum due to the spectacular spring show" it offers. Mr. Aker also described a new Walk of Flowering Trees that will connect the major Arboretum collections and improve wheelchair access to them.

Special Remembrance

Buddy Lee, ASA president, was not able to attend the official 50th anniversary ceremonies, but he reported this special observance:

Friday Oct 1, 2004, at 12:05 pm at Evergreen Cemetery in Gulfport, Mississippi, I placed numerous azalea blooms at the gravesite of Benjamin Yoe Morrison. I also read out loud the invitation that was sent to me concerning the anniversary. This was my tribute to an absolutely wonderful person and also to the Ben Morrison Azalea Garden.

then it has been the homestead for three other families. One of the original owners still lives next door. She, her sister, and mother, with the help of a local landscaper, developed the original landscape. It included boxwoods, yews, junipers, *Viburnum*, dogwoods, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, *Trillium*, snowdrops, hemlocks, spruce, pine, larch, red-buds, ferns, honeysuckle, rhododendrons, and azaleas.

There were additions to the landscape from time to time over the years, including a water feature, but the landscape had gradually deteriorated. So, in 1997, when the property fell into the hands of owners with a vision and a gardening obsession, changes really began to occur. Since then, the garden area has tripled to include almost all of the 5-acre property. Additions include several wandering *allées* with beautiful views. Azaleas, hollies, rhododendrons, magnolias, witch hazels, Japanese maples, *Pieris*, *Euonymus*, *Cornus*, bamboo, *Stewartia*, pines, ornamental grasses, and ground covers including ivy, *Pachysandra*, myrtle, and *Ajuga* have all been added. We welcome you to the west coast of Michigan and are sure you will enjoy our landscape and the many others that our microclimate has made possible for garden enthusiasts in this part of the world.

Stop 3: The Flower Basket

Created by Charles and Lorna Mann, this was their home for over 60 years. The Manns were some of the first gardeners in Saugatuck, Michigan, to successfully grow rhododendrons, azaleas, and hollies, and they are noted for having one of the most beautiful gardens in the Midwest. Their garden was also used as a showcase for prospective customers of The Flower Basket, Mr. Mann's nursery and landscape business. Charles Mann's style was a very formal English one. Many flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, azaleas, rhododendrons, and ground covers were used throughout the property. The property sits on over 6 acres with the formal garden being over 1 acre, located high on a bluff overlooking the Kalamazoo River. There are garden rooms and outdoor living areas and spectacular vistas created through the use of different elevations and by the incorporation of terraces, sunken gardens, and stone walls.



Mann Garden – Azalea Path. (Photo by Tony Greco)

Stop 4: The Woodlands

This will be our lunch stop where we will have a BBQ with hotdogs and hamburgers. (Once again, a substituted box lunch can be ordered through the hotel.) This is the home of John Migas, and it is also used as a nursery. The property sits on over 15 acres, with his garden occupying 6 acres. Here he has been growing and testing azaleas and rhododendrons throughout the property since 1985. He began his hybridizing experiments after his visit to the 1997 ASA national convention in Atlanta, Georgia.



Formal Setting at Woodlands.
(Photo by Tony Greco)

Once you have visited it, you'll never forget it. The tall red pines planted in rows over 60 years ago create a natural, cathedral-like effect, sheltering many beautiful azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, crab apples, *Viburnum*, and lilacs from the Lake Michigan winds, which often sing softly in the treetops. The fragrance of these plants is also memorable, as you walk along the winding flowerbeds, following the natural undulation of the landscape, until you come upon the more formal English garden. This is edged with boxwood and yews and an ever-changing set of annuals such as *Impatiens*, petunias, begonias, marigolds, and gladiolas.

Stop 5: The Alexander Garden

This will be our final stop of the day, the home of the David Alexander and his family. David is the son of Ross and Edna Alexander, whose garden is on the Friday tour.

This beautiful new home on about 2 acres in Saugatuck has a lovely young garden and is an excellent example of the results that can be obtained in only a few short years. Many azaleas, rhododendrons, and companion plants have been arranged in gracefully curving raised beds with soils of varying composition. The garden also sports brick walkways and patios overlooking a peaceful pond. David loves to discuss his experiments with plants, fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides with his fellow gardening enthusiasts.

John Migas is president of the Lake Michigan Chapter; he has been a member of the Society since 1996, but has been growing azaleas for 10 years and hybridizing them for three. Sandra Wearne is Web Master for the Lake Michigan Chapter.

Azaleas In Bay Country

Robert W. Hobbs — North Beach, Maryland

[Based on a talk given May 6, 2004 at the Azalea Society of America Convention, in Bowie, Maryland, Ed.]

“Bay Country” is roughly centered on Herring Bay (a prominent feature of the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay) and extends roughly from Easton on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to just west of the District of Columbia and from north of Baltimore south to Point Lookout. The area includes all of Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Calvert, and Charles Counties, and parts of Talbot, Baltimore, and Montgomery Counties of Maryland.

A great deal of “azalea history” in North America has taken place in “Bay Country”: the formal entry of many azalea varieties and seeds into the United States from Asia at the USDA Plant Introduction Station (Glenn Dale Station) in Glenn Dale, Maryland; the development of the Glenn Dale, Belgian-Glenn Dale, Beltsville, Beltsville Dwarf, Chisolm-Merritt, Princess, “USDA,” and Marshy Point hybrids; and the introduction of the Loblolly Bay hybrids and the crosses that led to the Back Acres hybrids. This history will be described in this article.

Azaleas Native to Bay Country

Rhododendron periclymenoides (1), commonly known as Pinxterbloom Azalea (and Wild Honeysuckle) and formerly known as *R. nudiflorum* (see Photo 1), is quite common in the woods in Bay Country. We have *R. periclymenoides* in the typically very



1. *R. periclymenoides* (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

moist woods behind our garden in North Beach. The plants are medium in height and the roots are stoloniferous. White to pale pink flowers emerge at roughly the same time as the leaves. The stamens are typically three times as long as the tube. Selected plants can have very beautiful flowers.



2. ‘Choptank Rose’ (Photo by Don Hyatt)

R. atlanticum (2), the Coastal Azalea, grows in the margins of woods on the coastal plains just to the east of Bay Country. The flowers are white, emerging just before or with the leaves. The plants are low growing. *R. periclymenoides* and *R. atlanticum* cross readily, resulting in the selections known as the Choptank River hybrids. (‘Choptank Rose’ is shown in photo 2.)

The USDA Plant Introduction Station

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) established an Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction in 1898. In 1919 the USDA established the Plant Introduction Station (Glenn Dale Station, also known as the Glenn Dale Plant Garden) in the woods in Glenn Dale, Maryland, Prince George’s County, in the suburbs of Washington,

DC, under the direction of P. H. Dorsett, a well known plant explorer for whom the fall blooming azalea ‘Dorsett’ was named (3). Plant materials brought into the western US by plant explorers, scientists, nurserymen, and other travelers were processed through the Plant Introduction Station for inspection and quarantine. Plants so introduced into the US were given a Plant Introduction Station (PI) number once they had met approval of the Glenn Dale Station (4). Most, if not all, of the evergreen azaleas arriving from Asia, whether as plants, seeds, or cuttings spent some time at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station. Thus Kurume, Satsuki, Indica, and other azalea forms obtained

from Asia by plant explorers from the Washington, DC, area such as ASA member John Creech, R. K Beattie, and many others spent substantial time at the Glenn Dale Station. The Glenn Dale hybrids were developed by Ben Morrison while he was at the Glenn Dale facility (5). In the mid-1980s there were still many azaleas in the woods in Glenn Dale (see Photo 3) including deciduous and evergreen azaleas, a great number of



3. Azaleas in the woods at Glenn Dale Station, c. 1980s (Photo by William C. Miller III)

which had lost their identification tags.

In 1983 the ASA established a Glenn Dale Preservation Project in which members of local chapters worked with USDA personnel to preserve the original azaleas that had been planted on the grounds of the facility (6). During the course of this project, a Glenn Dale hybrid,



4. 'Alexandria' (Photo by William C. Miller III)

'Alexandria' (see Photo 4), which was named but never introduced, was found (7). Eventually, lack of support on the part of the USDA personnel at the Glenn Dale Station (based on the functions being transferred elsewhere) and the resulting loss of enthusiasm of local ASA chapter volunteers resulted in abandonment of the project. The Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale has been closed for several years now, and the functions have been dispersed into other regional centers. The planting of azaleas that remained in the woods has been gradually deteriorating, and what will become of them is uncertain.

Takoma Park, Maryland

The city of Takoma Park, Prince George's County, Maryland, had an important role in the development of the Glenn Dale and Back Acres hybrids. The home of Ben Morrison was in the Washington suburb of Takoma Park; the house is still there. There are many homes in Takoma Park that date from the middle part of the last century. Many of these older homes had extensive plantings

of azaleas. The "Morrison House" has passed through the hands of other owners since 1952 when Morrison moved to Mississippi; and, needless to say, not all of them have treasured a garden packed with azaleas.

The city of Takoma Park remembered Ben Morrison in 1989, when a plaque in memory of Ben Morrison was placed in a small park near the center of the town and near his former home (8). A representative of the ASA was present at that ceremony.

Within a mile of the plaque is the former home of Stuart Armstrong, a friend of Ben Morrison's who was the recipient of many azalea plants. Stuart Armstrong was once the president of the American Horticultural Society. In 1992 the

Armstrong house was owned by garden writer William Poling who wrote an article for *The Azalean* on the Armstrong garden (9). At that time it was an azalea jungle with over 50 azaleas for which the name tags were attached to or located near the plants.

Azaleas That Were Hybridized in Bay Country

Glenn Dale Hybrids. Horticulturist and plant breeder Ben Morrison, who was chief of the Plant Introduction Station and director of the US National Arboretum, started the work on the Glenn Dale Hybrids in 1935. The objectives of his breeding program were: to develop plants with flowers that were as large as the Southern Indian hybrids, which were hardy in the Washington, DC, area, and which provided flowers mid-April to mid-June (10). Introduction of these hybrids began in 1941, with most being introduced from 1947 to 1949 and a few after 1952. The introductions include plants that bloom from early to late; plant sizes from dwarf to large (up to at least 10'); a

wide range of colors; a wide range of flower forms such as single, double, and hose-in-hose; flowers that vary from lightly blotched to heavily blotched, margined, or with a striking contrast in the throat; striped, sanded, or completely fascinating such as 'Cinderella' (see cover photo, *The Azalean*, Summer 2004); and which bloom from mid-April to mid-June and can be grown from Zones 6b to 9a. In total, 454 clones were named. And then there is the Sweet Pea Group (shown in Photo 5), a group of pastel shades not individually named or introduced, but part of the Glenn Dale project.

There is an interesting story told by



5. Sweet Pea azaleas at Switzers' garden (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

the late Frank White (who lived in Bay Country and was a founder of the ASA) and others (11, 12) about the selection and naming of many of the Glenn Dales. At one point in the Glenn Dale hybridization program, the USDA was coming under pressure by Congress to justify their budget, so Ben Morrison was unexpectedly pressured to name some of those "expletive deleted" Japanese flowers. In response, Morrison named many of the cultivars being tested, and needing names, quickly chose names of wives and girlfriends of colleagues at the USDA.

Back Acres Hybrids. The Back Acres hybrids were developed by Ben Morrison following his retirement from the USDA in Washington to Pass Christian, Mississippi. The 53 Back Acres hybrids were introduced in 1964. Morrison's work in



6. 'White Jade' (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

Mississippi was based on 124 flats of seedlings moved from his home in Takoma Park, Maryland (13). An extension of the Glenn Dale Hybrid Project, the Back Acre hybrids were based on his interest in late-blooming and double-flowering plants. Most of the Back Acres azalea plants are as cold resistant as the Glenn Dales (Zone 7a), but some flowers are not that cold resistant. 'White Jade' is not a double, but the bloom is 2-1/2" to 3", with wavy edges, and is one of my favorites (see Photo 6).

Chisolm-Merritt Hybrids. The 59 Chisolm-Merritt hybrids were introduced around 1947 from crosses made in 1934 by a nurseryman named Julian J. Chisolm in Garrett Park, Maryland (14). Later the plants were turned over to Dr. E. I. Merritt who named and introduced them. The hybrids are hardy from Zones 7a to 9, and are mid-season bloomers on medium to tall shrubs with single flowers. The typically similarly colored flowers are 1-1/2" to 1-3/4" in size (14). Photo 7 shows Chisolm-Merritt hybrid 'Pink Lady'.



7. 'Pink Lady' in Bill Steele's garden. (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

Beltsville (Yerkes-Pryor) Hybrids. Development of the Beltsville hybrids was begun by Guy Yerkes and Robert Pryor at the USDA Beltsville Station (Prince George's County) in 1939 (15). Upon the retirement of Yerkes in 1946, the work on these hybrids was continued by Robert L. Pryor at the Glenn Dale Station. "The objectives were the production of hardy outdoor evergreen azaleas and plants suitable for forcing by florists" (16). From an original 50,000 seedlings grown, 300 were saved, and from these 47 were named and introduced from 1950 to 1959. Many of these hybrids are white, not surprising because Kurume 'Snow' was used in 30 of the 47 introduced hybrids. One example, 'H. H. Hume' ('Indicum



8. 'H. H. Hume' (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

Album' x 'Snow'), has white 2" hose-in-hose flowers in clusters of three to five blooms on an erect spreading plant (see Photo 8).

Beltsville Dwarfs. The Beltsville Dwarf hybrids were selected by Robert Pryor from the Beltsville hybrids. In the early stages of the Beltsville Hybridization Project, the smaller seedlings were usually discarded. That procedure was changed and small seedlings were grown on, which resulted in a race of true genetic dwarfs. 'Snow' is a common parent

for the Beltsville Dwarfs. Therefore, eight of the 18 Beltsville dwarfs are white. "The dwarfs are very low growing with a compact spreading habit, with normal size flowers, early blooming with characteristics of



9. 'Flower Girl' in Bill Steele's garden (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

Kurume hybrids. Plants after 15 years vary from 16" to 24" wide and 12" to 30" high, with an average growth of 1.5" per year." (17) All are hardy in Zones 7b to 9a. Photo 9 is a Beltsville Dwarf, 'Flower Girl'.

Bob Pryor was interested in developing a yellow evergreen azalea (15). Pryor did not introduce the elusive yellow evergreen azalea that he was pursuing, but out of his research came 'Pryored', a true blue-less red, which was not introduced by him, but was later introduced by Dr.

Frank Santamour at the US National Arboretum.

Of special interest to the latter two groups of hybrids is the **Gravatt Garden**. The interests of those who have control of the funding at the USDA have changed throughout the years. In the late 1960s, the funds available for ornamental plants were not sufficient for the research on and maintenance of existing plantings. August Kehr, who was at that time chief of the Chief of the Vegetables and Ornamentals Branch in Beltsville, arranged for the Beltsville and Beltsville Dwarf hybrids to be dug and labeled for planting in the G.

Flippo Gravatt Garden in Calvert County, Maryland (18, 19). The garden was located on the high cliffs overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, which are world renowned for their 10- to 16-million-year-old fossils (20).

Mr. Gravatt and his wife Anne were plant pathologists in the USDA who had purchased 752 acres on top of these cliffs in order to establish a summer colony for scientists and other professional people. When Mr. Gravatt died in 1969, Mrs. Gravatt established a G. Flippo Gravatt Memorial Garden for the purpose of hosting the Beltsville azalea collection. Plants of all 47 of the Beltsville hybrids and 19 Beltsville Dwarf hybrids were planted there. However, through the years the garden has suffered from diminishing maintenance. When the garden was visited during the 1992 Convention, 44 Beltsville and 12 Beltsville Dwarfs remained. Last summer we visited the Gravatt Garden only to find that it has deteriorated further in the intervening 11 years. Some fine specimens still exist, however.

Loblolly Bay Hybrids. The Loblolly Bay hybrids were selected from natural seedlings of Glenn Dale azaleas by Lee Amann of Bozeman, Maryland (21). Bozeman is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in an area almost completely surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay. Seedlings were collected in the areas near 'Buccaneer', 'Dayspring', 'Geisha', 'Glacier', and 'Merlin', so that these Glenn Dales are expected to be the seed parents. The plants are known to be hardy in Zone 6. One of the best of the Loblolly Bay hybrids is 'Mystery', whose flower has strong purplish pink margins, with white to yellowish throat, and 2-1/2" petals. It blooms in mid-season and is upright in form. The name 'Mystery' probably means that the parents of the plant could not be guessed! (It was the cover photo for *The Azalean*, Fall 2004.)



10. 'Seattle White' (Photo by William C. Miller III)

USDA Hybrids. Two plants from the USDA Glenn Dale Station were introduced by John Creech: 'Mrs. LBJ' (22) and the very popular 'Ben Morrison' (23). 'Ben Morrison' was developed by its namesake, but was not introduced by him, and instead was introduced by John Creech in 1972. 'Mrs. LBJ' has 'Seattle White' as a seed parent. 'Seattle White' (24) was a florist's plant obtained by Ben Morrison in Seattle, Washington, and used in several crosses. In the 1980s there was one existing plant of 'Seattle White' at the Glenn Dale Station (see photo 10). It was subsequently registered by Bill Miller (25).

'B. Y. Morrison' (Photo 11) is a clone that was selected and named in honor of Ben Morrison by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nursery (23). 'Dorsett', a selection of *R. kaempferi* seed from Japan, was selected and named by Eugene Hollowell (26) for its consistent fall flowering.



11. 'B. Y. Morrison' (Photo by William C. Miller III)

In 2002 Bill Miller introduced a new cultivar 'Brookside Delight' (27), which originated at the Glenn Dale Station from a cross made by Albert Close. Albert Close was an English-trained gardener who was chief propagator at the Glenn Dale facility from the mid-1930s until the 1950s. The seed parent was 'Seattle White'.

Belgian-Glenn Dales. The Belgian-Glenn Dales were developed by B. Y. Morrison and John L. Creech at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station. The crosses were made in 1947 to try to incorporate some of the flower characteristics of the Belgian Indian hybrids into the Glenn Dales (28). Five culti-



12. 'Pink Ice' at the US National Arboretum (Photo by Bob Hobbs)

vars were introduced in 1962. One of the most popular of the Belgian-Glenn Dales is 'Pink Ice' (see photo 12). The Belgian-Glenn Dales are hardy in Zones 7b and 8, and bloom in mid-season. The plants are described as being upright rounded to 4'-6', although most that I've seen in this area are spreading, but not tall. There are additional Belgian-Glenn Dales, including 'Satellite' but they were never officially introduced.

Princess Hybrids. The Princess azaleas for greenhouse forcing and landscape planting were developed at the University of Maryland, College Park, Prince George's County, Maryland (29). The original crosses using 'Vervaeenium' as the seed parent with Kurumes and other azal-



13. 'Princess Lindsay' in Joe Miller's garden
(Photo by Bob Hobbs)

as were made in 1950 in order to produce large flowers on relatively compact plants. Controlled crosses continued to be made until 1977. The original five introduced plants were selected by Andy Adams, Jr., of Ten Oaks Nursery and Professor Emeritus Jim Skanks of the University of Maryland and were made available to the public for the first time in the spring of 1993. The plants are broader than high. Additional selections were introduced later, making up a total of 16 Princess azaleas introduced (31, 32, 33). Photo 13 is 'Princess Lindsay'.

Marshy Point Hybrids. The Marshy Point hybrids are developed by Harry Weiskettel of the Marshy Point Nursery in Chase, Maryland. There is very little information in the azalea literature about the parentage of the hybrids. Some of the plants bear very attractive flowers.

Miscellaneous Bay Country Hybrids

In 1992, Sue and George Switzer of Port Republic, Calvert County, Maryland, introduced and registered an azalea, 'Nannie Angell', named for Sue's mother. The plant, whose parentage is unknown, has pure white strap-like petals and is slightly fragrant (33).

"Wagner's White Spider #1" was hybridized by local Maryland hybridizer Dave Wagner (34). 'Koromo-shikibu' is one of its parents. It is pure white with pointed strap-like petals "which are not fused into the usual tubular corolla but are separate."

'Landon Pride' was hybridized and introduced by Bill Miller in 1997 at the Landon School Azalea Festival (35). It has a single 2" to 2-1/4" flower, glowing purplish red with darker spots on the upper lobe and a yellowish tinge in the throat (see photo 14).



14. 'Landon Pride'
(Photo by William C. Miller III)

Acknowledgments

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A Description of 'Clara Haler'

New Azalea Introduction by William R. Pinkerton
Genesis Gardens, Crossville, Tennessee

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Though William (Bill) Pinkerton is introducing this exciting new azalea, he has allowed me to write the description. Bill's excitement over his stunning azalea is infectious, and I too caught the bug. I am blessed with having one shrub of 'Clara Haler' now in my garden to please the eye.

Bill discovered the original seedling beneath 'Glacier', a Glenn Dale hybrid. Once he saw it in flower, he had to choose a name and decided upon 'Clara Haler', to honor a long-time friend in 1989. I cannot believe he hid this delightful azalea so long. From 10 feet away, the impression of the flowers is white, but kissed with a blush of pink, set upon the dark green, semi-glossy leafy background. With the

extremes of temperature in Crossville, Tennessee, this azalea shrub will be hardy to -20°F and bud hardy to -13°F. I predict 'Clara Haler' will be a "must have" for every gardener and azalea collector. Specimens will be in the 2005 convention plant sale.

Description: 'Clara Haler'

Evergreen azalea. 'Glacier' x unknown, selected seedling (1982), grown to first flower by William R. Pinkerton (1980), named by William R. Pinkerton (1989), introduced by William R. Pinkerton, Genesis Gardens (2004), REG (2004) by William R. Pinkerton, Crossville, Tennessee. Flowers: 3/truss, flat truss, broad funnel/hose-in-hose with wavy lobe margins, 5.4 cm corolla length, width 6.8

cm, 4-5 lobes. Flower color: buds strong violet pink RHS 68C, inside flower throat white, margins RHS 68D, moderate purplish pink, filaments white, anthers brown, style white, stigma greenish white, standard lobe spotted RHS 68C, outside flower yellowish white, yellowish pink margins, greenish pedicel. Leaves: length 5 cm, width 3 cm, upcurved, elliptic, cuneate, and broadly acute. Upper dark green RHS 133A, lower light green RHS 133A, young hairs greenish and mature to greenish white along leaf margins and mid-rib on lower. Shrub height 6', width 5' in 10 years, habit intermediate and is hardy to -20°F and bud hardy to -12°F. Blooms late April, a mid-season azalea.

Society News

2003 Treasurer's Report

Bob Stelloh, Treasurer

This report is in a revised format suggested by John Brown and Jim Holmes who served as the ASA financial review committee, and is the same as is used for monthly reports as of October 2003.

ASA Financial Position at December 31, 2003

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

Azalean Income	\$3,376.55
Dues Income	\$18,111.00
Gift Income	\$4,849.00
Interest Income	\$1,211.70
Other Income.....	\$1,653.80
Total Income	\$29,202.05

Expenses

Awards & Memorials	\$100.00
Azalean Expense	\$19,126.02
Dues Expense	\$2,481.97
Member Roster	\$1,132.41
Other Expense	\$3,690.66
Other Postage	\$414.68
Web-site Expense	\$31.88
Total Expenses	\$26,977.62
Income - Expenses	\$2,224.43

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Checking	\$11,616.11
Investments	\$50,000.00
Harding Garden Reserve.....	\$5,151.65
Total Assets	\$66,767.76

Liabilities, Reserves, Operating Funds

Liabilities.....	\$0.00
General Reserve.....	\$42,455.08
Research Reserve.....	\$1,900.00
Harding Reserve	\$5,151.65
Operating Funds	\$17,261.03
Total.....	\$66,767.76

Submitted for publication 12/20/04

Highlights of the Board of Directors Teleconference and Proposed By-Laws Amendment

John Brown, ASA Secretary

The board of directors met in a teleconference on October 18, 2004, to review the status of the organization. Reports from the treasurer and editor, and from the azalea city, membership, nominations, 2005 convention, and archives committees were accepted as presented with no major actions taken by the board. Current and previous articles on the various subjects in *The Azalean* cover the details of the reports.

The board reviewed and approved the application for charter that was submitted by the Alabamense Chapter. The charter will be presented to chapter representatives at the 2005 Convention.

At a previous meeting, the board of directors reviewed and approved an amendment to the By-Laws to be submitted to the membership. The change addresses the limits placed on the treasurer and the executive committee in our investment practices. The motion is as follows:

It is moved that the words "Federally insured" be deleted from Article IX.C. Deposit of Funds, which now reads: "All funds of the Society shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the ASA in such Federally insured bank, trust company, or other depository or depositories as the Executive Committee may select."

If approved, the revised Article IX. C will then read:

All funds of the Society shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the ASA in such bank, trust company, or other depository or depositories as the Executive Committee may select."

This motion will be presented to the membership at the 2005 Annual Meeting for ratification to be held in Holland, Michigan, on May 21, 2005.

To meet the "Federally insured" requirement, all endowment funds have been deposited into certificates of deposit (CDs). Years ago the treasurer established a "ladder" of CDs of different lengths maturing at different times during the year. One reason was to have maturing CDs provide the money needed to meet our major expenses every few months. Another reason was to even out swings in interest rates over time. Interest rates have now been low for so long that all our CDs have come due during the current period of low rates. By shopping for special deals, the treasurer has been able to maintain the average interest rate on our CDs at around 3%. While that is good in the present environment, it is not good at all in terms of maximizing the income from our Endowment Fund of around

\$40,000. It is, however, about the best that can be done within the "Federally insured" restriction.

Under the new wording, the executive committee would have the goals of (1) maintaining the safety of the principal, and (2) providing as great an income stream as possible within the constraints of (1). In other words, the investment policy would follow a "safety first," instead of our current "safety only" approach. Another organization similar to ours has over \$100,000 earning around 8%, primarily from bonds and preferred stocks chosen by a professional fund manager-who happens to also be a life member, and performs this service at no charge. To put it into perspective, another 5% on \$40,000 is \$2000, or the same as the Society's income from another 100 members. The board recommends the adoption of this motion.

2005 Nominating Committee Report

The following slate of officers was proposed to the board of directors at the October 18, 2004, teleconference meeting. The board approved this slate.

Society members can vote by mail using the ballot provided on the wrapper of this issue of *The Azalean* or vote in person at the national meeting to be held May 21, 2005.

President — Robert (Buddy) Lee
Vice President — Bill McDavit
Secretary — John Brown
Treasurer — Bob Stelloh

Board of directors nominees to serve the 2005-2007 term are:

Joe Coleman, Aaron Cook, Mary Rutley

Aaron Cook and Mary Rutley will be new to the board. They both have been very active in the ASA and attend the national conventions. Joe Coleman has been a very active member and has served the society in numerous capacities both at the chapter level and national level. He has agreed to serve a second term. Thanks to Aaron, Mary, and Joe for accepting the nomination to these important positions.

Submitted by the nominations committee,

Robert Hobbs, Robert Lee

Robert (Buddy) Lee, candidate for president, resides in Independence, Louisiana. He has been a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA since 1983 and served as president of this chapter from 1990-1992. He is serving his second year as president of the ASA. He is also a member

of the American Rhododendron Society and the Louisiana Nursery Association. He served as coordinator of the ASA national conventions in 1991 (New Orleans) and 2000 (Charleston, South Carolina). Buddy developed the multi-season blooming Encore Azaleas™. He is presently active in the development and testing of new azalea varieties (through Transcend Nursery). In his work life, he is also a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse who works with stroke, multiple-trauma, and brain and spinal cord injuries.

Bill McDavit, candidate for vice-president, is a retired electrical design specialist from the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. He and his wife of 50 years, Mary, lived in Oxon Hill, Maryland, before settling into Sunset Beach, North Carolina, in 1988. They collect rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and iris species and varieties. Their 3/4-acre garden and nursery, called "Azalea Sunset," serves as a site for in-ground evaluations. Bill lectures on what he's learned about how to extend the bloom season to a variety of audiences.

John Brown, candidate for secretary, lives with his wife Carolyn in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, raising several varieties of hay for horses. He has served as an ASA director and has been the secretary of the ASA since 2000. He has been an azalea enthusiast since the early 1980s. He is still collecting Glenn Dales and Back Acres, but has branched out into so many other favorites that he says it would not be possible to pick one favorite.

Bob Stelloh, candidate for treasurer, has been our Society's treasurer since 1995. He is an avid azalea enthusiast and former software engineer. He is currently very involved with the azaleas e-mail list and the ASA Web site, promoting the establishment of the Azalea Research Foundation, building a comprehensive azalea photo gallery for the Society, and finding and documenting native stands of *R. vaseyi*.

Board of Directors Candidates

Joe Coleman, of Lithonia, Georgia, is a very familiar name to members of the ARS and ASA. He has been a member of the Society since its founding, gaining his early inspiration from none other than George Harding. Now an active member of the Oconee Chapter, he and his wife Donna organized the flower show for the joint ARS/ASA Convention in Atlanta in 2002.

Aaron Cook is a biology and horticulture instructor at both Caldwell and Mayland Community Colleges. He earned his BS in biology and MA in biology education at Appalachian State University in Boone. He did his graduate research on the genetics of a rare Linville Gorge plant *Hudsonia montana*. He is an active member in the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, ARS, ASA, and the International Plant Propagators Society.

Aaron lives with his wife Lisa and two children in

Valdese, North Carolina. He is an experienced trip leader for the Nature Conservancy, annually leading trips to Bluff Mountain, Yellow Mountain, Panthertown Valley, and Bat Cave. He has led trips to the Florida panhandle, Big Bend National Park, and over a dozen birding and ecology trips to the Outer Banks. He enjoys teaching all ages, from working with third graders on their school science projects to leading nature excursions with retirees. His hobbies include hybridizing daylilies and rhododendrons, birding, and experimenting with plant propagation and genetics.

Mary Rutley is a long-time member of the ASA Brookside Gardens Chapter and has served as vice-president of the chapter for a number of years. She is also a member of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS and the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). She is a frequent volunteer at the Brookside Gardens (adult guide, conservatory, and information desk) and serves on the board of directors of the Friends of Brookside Gardens.

Mary has three children and four grandchildren, all of whom are at least semi-interested in gardening-much to her delight. Mary enjoys her own garden and also visiting other gardens and nurseries.

Glenn Dale Photo CD

Dan Krabill-McLean, Virginia

In an article in the Summer 2004 issue of *The Azalean*, I indicated that I would be preparing and making available a CD containing digital photos of Glenn Dale azaleas. In September, I completed a CD that contains 372 pictures of what I hoped were 370 named Glenn Dales. Each photo appears twice on the CD, once in a file arranged alphabetically and once in a file arranged by cross. I have since distributed a number of the CDs to members of the Northern Virginia chapter of the ASA, people who have been particularly helpful to me, and other individuals who requested them. The images that are on the CD have also been posted in the ASA's on-line photo gallery at:

www.pbase.com/azaleasociety/glenndales.

This CD should be viewed as the first edition of a project that I plan to update in 2005 and 2006, and maybe later. Planned improvements include confirming the accuracy or inaccuracy of a number of photos and finding accurate photographs and plants of varieties that seem to be wrong. Another improvement will be to add pictures of a number of the 84 Glenn Dales that are not included on the CD. I would also like to get better pictures of many of the varieties

I would be happy to send a CD that includes all 372 photos to anyone who wants one. Please contact me at dkrabill@securagroup.com or 703-534-7441 for details.

Chapter News

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Newsletter Editor
plouer@msn.com

The July 11 meeting at the home of **Bob** and **Eve Harrison** introduced members to their “little part of Heaven that West Virginia is so famous for.” **Don Hyatt** told the group that when they host the ASA convention, that the focus will be on local azalea hybridizers, and that he hoped members will be able to propagate plants for the event. President **Barry Sperling** also asked members to look for records on the early years of the ASA to send to the Society’s archives project. Then the group had fun “selecting cuttings for future landscaping fantasies” and toured the **Harrisons’** lovely garden.

The chapter’s annual plant auction was held August 29 at the home of **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** in West Springfield, Virginia. Members were invited to bring both plants to auction and new friends to introduce to the ASA. The August issue of the *Azalea Clipper* contained an interesting article by chapter president **Barry Sperling** in which he recounted how difficult it is to choose “his favorite azalea.” After saying he liked **Harris’** ‘**Coronado**’ as the best red he knows, **Glenn Dale** ‘**Prudence**’ for growing well for him and covering itself with flowers, and the bi-colors ‘**Martha Hitchcock**’ (**Glenn Dale**) and ‘**Ashley Ruth**’ (from **Bob Stewart**), he set out his criteria for what it takes to be the best:

1. Looks good in the landscape as a focal point plant,
2. Grows vigorously enough to be a “foundation plant” in a few years (i.e., a plant with real substance, not necessarily planted around the foundation),
3. Is floriferous, covering itself densely,
4. Has a flower and truss that look

good on close inspection,

5. Has a flower that is bi-color (or tri-color), with the darker color a strong one, such as a good red or purple,
6. Is a low-maintenance plant,
7. Appeals so much to non-azaleaphiles that they say, “Where can I get one?”, and
8. Causes azaleaphiles to say, “That looks good! Why don’t I get one?”

The newsletter also announced that **Mich** and **Bill Steele** were closing their nursery. **Jim Fry**, president of the New York Chapter of the ARS has purchased all of their liners (1000 varieties of azaleas and close to 300 varieties of lepidotes). He will carry on where the **Steeles** left off.

September 26th, chapter vice-president **Dan Krabill** presented images from his CD of **Glenn Dale** azaleas as mentioned in the article in *The Azalean* [26(3): 28-31]. He provided the narrative for the 350-plus **Glenn Dale** images, and members were able to ask questions.

Ben Morrison Chapter

Co-Editors: **Bob Hobbs** —
rwhobbs@mindspring.com
Carol Flowers —dflowers@bellatlantic.net

October 1, 2004, chapter members attended the special ceremonies recognizing the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the **Ben Morrison Garden** at the US National Arboretum. (See article by **Bob McWhorter** on page 79.) The October 31 meeting was held at the home of **Dave** and **Eileen Holm**, at which time members drew numbers to decide which lucky home would “grow on” the rooted cuttings from the US National Arboretum that the chapter is growing for the 2006 national convention. Members then brainstormed ideas for meetings for 2005.

At the November 19th meeting at

the home of **Bob** and **Rose McWhorter**, president **Carol Segree** led a discussion of what future chapter activities should be. She also suggested it would be helpful if a few standing committees could be responsible for planning the meetings and special events, as this would increase member participation and add some diversity to the meetings. The annual holiday celebration was held at the home of **Dale** and **Carol Flowers** on December 5, 2004.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
Rudie2rudie@aol.com

The July newsletter reported on the 2004 convention and the ASA archives project, and contained a very detailed listing of all the hybrid groups of evergreen azaleas, including many that have been developed since **Galle’s** 1987 encyclopedic book.

The August 15 meeting covered three topics: 1) **Allison Fuqua’s** new procedures for rooting cuttings, including soil and hormone, 2) **Jim Thornton’s** slides of tropical plants and other sights from his recent trip to Southeast Asia, and 3) discussion of what constitutes members’ favorite azaleas. The newsletter asked members to review the following list of “proven performers” that the Azalea Chapter of the ARS published in 2000:

‘**Beth Bullard**’
‘**Boldface**’
‘**Conversation Piece**’
‘**Corsage**’
‘**Elsie Lee**’
‘**George Lindley Taber**’
‘**Glacier**’
‘**White Rosebud**’
‘**Koromo-shikibu**’
‘**Marian Lee**’
‘**Midnight Flare**’
‘**Gumpo White Sport**’

Similar listings were submitted by

the Birmingham and Chatahoocnee chapters of the ARS and published in the Winter 2003 issue of the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*.

The November 14 meeting speaker was Mike Francis, owner of Greenhouse Nursery and Maple Farm in Decatur, Georgia. His slide presentation was "Japanese Maples from A to Z," and included varieties well adapted to the northern Georgia area.

The November 2004 newsletter included a long technical article by Frank Bryan on "Nutrients for Plant Growth, Survival, and Health." [To be published in a forth-coming issue of *The Azalean*, Ed.]

Chapters Organizing and Reorganizing

The Alabamense Chapter has 35 members and will receive its official charter at the national convention in May 2005. Carlton LeMond, president and other members are busy speaking to garden clubs and holding seminars. Contact Carlton at cllemond@direcway.com (or 205-665-9089) for more details.

Some members of the Dallas Chapter met in Nacogdoches, Texas, November 6 and decided to work toward reorganizing the Texas members into a Texas chapter, with a focus on East Texas activities. Revised By-Laws will be presented to the ASA board of directors at the national convention. Contact Barbara Stump (bsstump@sbcglobal.net or 936-462-7195) for more details.

New Members

The following members joined the Society as of December 20, 2004.

At Large

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925-254-0624

William Shulleeta & Virginia Kilgour
2618 Linbrook Drive
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Alabamense Chapter

Jerry D. & Michele Y. Womble
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Ben Morrison Chapter

Luella Ferguson
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Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Brookside Gardens Chapter

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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-3770

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Louisa E. Landwehr
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Vaseyi Chapter

Mountain Mist Nursery
Larry M. Mucci
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Fairview, NC 28730
lmucci@bellsouth.net



Official ASA Address

Remember the official Society mailing address is:

Azalea Society of America
c/o John Brown, ASA Secretary
1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635-9789

Call for Azalea Pictures

If you haven't looked recently, take a few minutes and go to www.pbase.com/azaleasociety to see some of the azalea pictures we have been accumulating for the Society. Be sure to see the collection of Glenn Dale pictures and the collection of Aromi deciduous hybrid pictures.

Our goal is ambitious—we want to have accurate representative pictures of all possible azalea species and hybrids. **To do that we need your help, because you're the one taking pictures of them, whether in your garden or other gardens.**

The pictures we want for each plant include:

- the plant, far enough away to show its habit;
- a spray, to show the arrangement of flowers on the stems;
- a close-up of one or more flowers, to show the lobe shape and the col-

ors, with more pictures as needed to show any flower variations;

- a close-up of a flower from the side, to show the flare and the calyx; and
- a close-up of the leaf shape and arrangement.

The picture standards for the Web site are:

- picture size of 640x480 pixels at 72 pixels per inch,
- file size of 60KB or less,
- the name of the plant,
- the name of the photographer, and
- where and when the picture was taken.

Images from digital cameras include the date and information about the exposure in its so-called EXIF information. If you edit the picture, include that when you save it, and our picture site will automatically show the EXIF information.

Send your azalea pictures to Bob

Stelloh. If you have a lot of pictures, send them on a CD formatted to ISO 9660 standards (your CD program may offer that as an option). For a few pictures, attach them to an e-mail sent to bstelloh@mac.com. If your pictures are bigger, (they will be from most cameras), and you don't know how to make them smaller, or you don't have the time, send them as is and he will edit them to the site standards.

If you don't have any pictures to send, lend us your expertise instead—look at the pictures on the Web site carefully, and let Bob Stelloh know if you think any of them are mislabeled.

By working together, we will soon have the most comprehensive collection of azalea information and pictures available anywhere. Better yet, by being published on the Web it will be readily available to everyone interested in azaleas.

Azaleas in Bay Country—continued

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33. Hobbs, Robert W. 1992. "1992 Annual Meeting and Convention." *The Azalean*. 14(3): 57.
34. Hyatt, Don. 1997. "Focus on Azaleas." *The Azalean*. 19(2): 32.
35. _____. 1997. "Society News-Brookside Gardens Chapter," *The Azalean*. 19(4): 73.

Bob Hobbs is a retired astronomer and aerospace engineering manager. He is a past president of the Ben Morrison Chapter, national vice-president, president, and he and his wife Bee were editor and associate editor of The Azalean for 10 years. Bob and Bee have a small garden full of azaleas at their home in Holland Point, North Beach, Maryland.

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