

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.

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration of Morrison Garden Dedication

Bob McWhorter — Gambrills, Maryland

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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.