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.

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