

McComb, Mississippi, Awarded Azalea City Status

Buddy Lee — Independence, Louisiana

The City of McComb, Mississippi, was certified as an official ASA Azalea City as of March 28, 2005. The award generated a lot of excitement for the closing days of the McComb Azalea Festival. The meeting and luncheon was held on Thursday March 31 at the Icehouse, which is located in the historic district and is a very popular meeting site. The meeting was well attended with more than 125 people present. Louisiana Chapter members Margie Jenkins and Bill Bode were there and Margie gave a very informative talk on azaleas. Later we toured the Freeman Garden, which is a popular azalea garden destination in that area of Mississippi. The azalea bloom in McComb area was a little past peak, but still spectacular.

2005 marked the 47th annual Lighted Azalea Festival sponsored by the McComb Garden Club. The idea of having a lighted azalea trail came

from Reverend Earl B. Emmerich, who while serving as a missionary in Korea, had seen the traditional lighting of the cherry blossoms in Japan. Today, over 300 homes and businesses in Pike County light their trees, shrubs, and plants each night from March 13 through April 3 and the Pike County Chamber of Commerce has added additional events. For more information, visit the city's Web site at www.mccombms.gov or the chamber Web site at www.pikeinfo.com or call 1-800-399-4404.



Shown above, at the March 31, 2005, award ceremony (left to right) are Bill Bode, ASA president Buddy Lee, McComb City Planner George Rummel, Margie Jenkins, and Ms. Vickie Webb. Each city to achieve the Azalea City designation receives this attractive plaque, illustrated with both an evergreen and a deciduous azalea.

(Photo by LeWair Coker of McComb)

Book Review — continued

to chance! The chapter on plant disorders is profound and draws one's attention to plant observation to a much higher level. The chapters on cultural requirements, propagation, and landscape uses all guide one along with easy to understand instructions.

Chapter 4, written by Don Hyatt, a well-known former teacher and current president of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, is an excellent reference for anyone interested in learning how to add natives to the landscape. True to his generous sharing spirit, both of knowledge and plants, Don carefully separated the

natives according to color and then listed various cultivars in each shade! He also provided an approximate Sequence of Bloom Chart for his species, along with a Hardiness and Adaptability List, Fragrance lists and Size charts! Great!! One can easily feel prepared to delve into natives after a quick read of this informative, concise chapter.

How I wish I'd read this book 30 years ago when I first pushed a shovel into dirt! It would have saved me many, many hours of unnecessary labor and helped me avoid countless mistakes over the years! I highly recommend *Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas* to anyone interested in these beautiful plants.

Glenn Dale Azaleas—continued

Courtland Lee is a geologist by training. He has been a staff consultant to the US House of Representatives on mineral resource issues and is currently proposing the Patuxent River Agate as the state gemstone of Maryland. Examples of this agate are on display at the 10-acre Boxlee Azalea Farm in Glenn Dale, Maryland, an historic site in its own right. At Boxlee, he runs a part-time propagation nursery that includes the Glenn Dales and the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale project, many from Frank White's fabulous collection. Boxlee is open for sales on Saturdays in April and May.