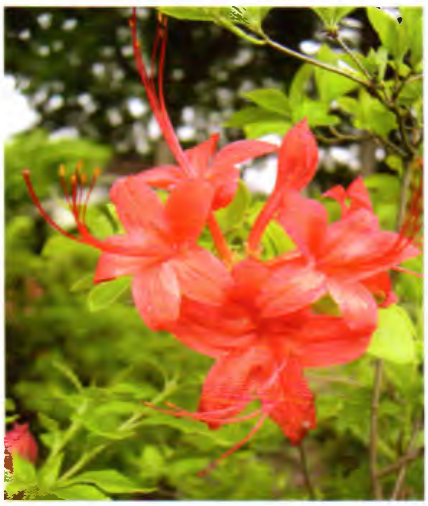
Schild Cumberland Collection ™

'Cumberland Gold'

Deciduous azalea *(R. cumberlandense* x *R. arborescens)*, 1986. I saw the first flowers in 1994, named it in 2003, and registered the name in 2005. Flowers are borne six to eight in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped with a narrow tube, and unscented. Corolla length is 1-3/4", width is 2-1/4". This azalea is very nice in full bloom with brilliant Yellow (13B) flowers and vivid reddish Orange (N30B) margins. Filaments and style are strong reddish Orange to strong Red (N34B-39A). The buds are brilliant greenish Yellow (4A) with strong Orange (N25A) tips. The flower trusses are above a background of glossy dark yellowish Green (136B) foliage. Shrub habit is dense, compact, and grows to 3' by 3' in ten years. Shrub is winter hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early June.

'Cumberland Fire'



Deciduous azalea *(R. cumberlandense* x *R. arborescens)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1994, I named it in 1996 and registered the name in 2005. The flowers are six to eight in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped, with a narrow tube, and unscented. The corolla is 2-1/4" long and 2-1/4" wide, strong Red (47B), filaments and style deep yellowish Pink (43C), stigma brownish gray (200A). A blotch of vivid reddish Orange (N30B) is on the dorsal lobe. The shrub is compact with dark yellowish Green (37A) foliage and grows to 2' by 2' in ten years. Shrub is hardy to -20°F and the buds -10°F. Blooms in mid-June.

'Senior Prom'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1994, was named in 2003 and registered in 2005. Flowers are six to eight in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped, moderately scented. Buds are pale greenish Yellow (2D) along ribs, strong purplish Red (63B) between. Corolla is 2-1/2" long by 2-1/2" wide, dorsal lobe white with strong purplish Red(63B) margins, blotch vivid Yellow (15A), other lobes strong purplish Red (63B), filaments light purplish Pink (62C), style light purplish Pink (62B), and stigma grayish reddish Purple (N77C). The outside is strong purplish Pink (62A) with vivid purplish Red (N66B) blushes. The shrub grows to 4' by 4' in ten years, has moderate Yellow Green leaves (138C, leaf tops) and moderate Yellow Green (138B, leaf bottoms), is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early June.

'Cumberland Cheer'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1993; I named it in 2005 and registered the name in 2005. The flowers are five to ten in a flat truss, tubular funnel-shaped, with a narrow tube, and strongly fragrant. The corolla is 2-1/2" long by 2-1/2" wide, moderate Red (47A), filaments deep Pink (48B), style Red (47A), stigma Red (47A) and anthers moderate Orange-Yellow-dark Orange-Yellow (164B). A large blotch of vivid reddish Orange (N30A) is on the broad dorsal lobe. The shrub is open with moderate Yellow-Green-strong Yellow Green (144B) foliage and grows to 6' by 4' in ten years. The shrub is hardy to -20°F and the buds -10°F. Blooms early to mid-June.

'Cumberland Coral'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first flowered in1993, I named it in 2003 and registered the name in 2005. The flowers are seven to ten in a flat truss and tubular funnel-shaped with a strong scent. The buds are strong reddish Orange-vivid reddish Orange (40C) with pale Yellow (11D) along their midveins. The corolla is 2-1/4" long by 2-1/4" wide, moderate yellowish Pink (39C), with Yellow (11D) center-lobes, filaments pale greenish Yellow (2D), style strong Red (47B), stigma moderate Red-deep Red (46A), and a blotch centered on standard lobe is brilliant Orange Yellow (6A). Outside of flowers is strong yellowish Pink (43D) along margins, Yellow (11D) along midvein to calyx, and has many glandular setae along tube and reverse of lobes. The shrub is dense, has leaves moderate Olive Green (137B, tops) and moderate yellowish Green-pale Green (N138C, bottoms), and grows to 4' by 3' in ten years. Plant is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms mid-June.

'Sunday Morning'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first bloomed in 1994; I named it in 2003 and registered the name in 2005. I was not impressed with this plant in 1994, so it was relegated to the back of rows of many other azaleas. In 2003, I rediscovered it in full bloom and the flowers are six to eight in a rather flat truss. The flowers are tubular funnel-shaped, 2-3/4" long by 2-1/4" wide, strongly scented. The buds are pale Yellow on tubes (11C), to white upper end of bud, deep Pink (47D) at tips. The corolla is bright white with a two-segment brilliant Yellow (7A) blotch on the standard lobe, style deep yellowish Pink (41B), filaments strong yellowish Pink (38A), stigma moderate Red (N34A), and anthers light Orange (26C). Outside of flowers white with midvein deep Pink (47D), and many yellow-white hairs and glandular setae along tube. The shrub is dense, growing to 3' by 2-1/2' in ten years, foliage semi-glossy moderate Olive Green (137B, leaf tops) and moderate yellowish Green-pale Green (138B, leaf bottoms). The plant is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early June. This is the only white-flowering azalea from the cross, and the photograph shows only a small truss of blooms, since I almost let it get by me.

'Rocky River Red'

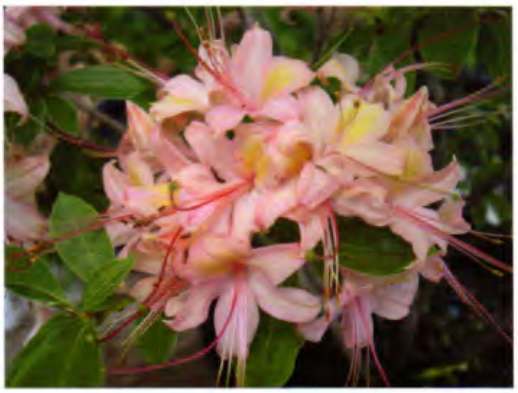
Deciduous azalea *(R. cumberlandense* x *R. arborescens)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1993; I named it in 1996 and registered the name in 2005. It is named for the Rocky River that cuts through a section of the Cumberland Plateau in Van Buren County, Tennessee, very near my property. The flowers are 20 to 24 in a small ball truss, tubular funnel-shaped, and slightly fragrant. The buds are strong reddish Orange-vivid reddish Orange (40C) corolla is 1-3/4" long by 2" wide, vivid reddish Orange (N30A) filaments vivid Red (41A), style vivid Red (44A), stigma moderate purplish Red-deep purplish Red (71A) with a blotch of vivid reddish Orange (N30B) on standard lobe. Outside is vivid reddish Orange (40B) with many glandular setae along the midrib of the tube. The shrub is dense growing to 3' by 3' in ten years, leaves dark yellowish Green (137A, tops) and moderate Yellow Green (138A, bottoms). The shrub is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early to mid-June.

'Fredonia Surprise'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. This azalea was a surprise when it first flowered in 1994; I named it in 2003 and registered the name in 2005. The surprise was the large ball truss of 25 to40 flowers that were tubular funnel-shaped and strongly scented. The buds are uniform pink strong purplish Pink (62A) with sparse glandular setae along the midvein. Corolla is 2" long by 2" wide, moderate purplish Pink (62B) with pink white at margins, filaments strong yellowish Pink (33C), style vivid reddish Orange (N30A), stigma moderate Red (60A), blotch strong Orange (24A) blotch. Outside light purplish Pink (62C), tube moderate purplish Pink (62B) with sparse glandular setae and hairs. The shrub grows an intermediate size, 4' by 4' in ten years, has foliage moderate Green (132B, leaf tops) and light bluish Green (133C, leaf bottoms), and is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. It blooms mid-June.

'Cagle Nocturne'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. Flowers are borne 15 to 28 in a ball truss, tubular funnel-shaped, with a strong scent. Cagle is a small community on the Cumberland Plateau near the turn-off to Savage Gulf, in Sequatchie County, Tennessee. It was almost dark when I spotted this azalea in bloom near the back of a large group of azaleas in my nursery, thus the name. Flowers are borne 20 to 25 in a ball truss. Buds are strong purplish Pink (68B), with many glandular setae along midveins of tubes. Corolla is 1-3/4" long by 2" wide, filaments light purplish Pink (68D), style deep purplish Pink (68A), stigma strong purplish Red (71C), nice blotch of strong Orange (25B) on dorsal lobe. The visual effect is a rich pink color. Shrub habit is open, 5' to 4' in ten years, has 3" by 1-1/2" dark moderate Yellow Green (137C, leaf tops) and light Yellow Green –moderate Yellow Green (138D, leaf bottoms), is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms mid-June.



'Summer Heat'

Deciduous azalea *((R. cumberlandense* x *R. prunifolium)* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1984. It first flowered in 1989, was named in 2003 and registered in 2005. The story of this azalea may be found in the Summer 1997 *Journal ARS* in my article "My September Song, Lost but Not Forgotten." The seed parent was numbered SH296 and later called "My September Song", an unregistered name. 'Summer Heat' is one of a number of seedlings that I am still evaluating and from which I will select more later. The flowers are borne six to ten in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped, without scent. Buds are strong Red (45A), corolla is 2-1/4" long by 2-1/2" wide, vivid Red (45B) with a strong reddish Orange (N34B) blush, a moderate Red-deep Red (46A) blotch on standard lobe, filaments and style strong Red (46B), stigma moderate Yellow Green (138B), anthers light Yellow (11B). Outsides of petals are vivid reddish Orange (N30A), with sparse white hairs along tubes. Shrub habit is open, growing to 4' by 3' in ten years, has leaves of moderate Yellow Green (143A, tops) and moderate Yellow Green (147B, bottoms), and is hardy to -13°F, the buds to -13°F, the lowest temperatures in my nursery. Blooms mid- to late June. The photograph speaks for this azalea. *(All photos by Joseph E. Schild, Jr.)*

All of my future introductions will be under the umbrella of the brand and will include some very nice selected cultivars of species and hybrids between some Exbury, Ilam, Knap Hill, and the species. This collection should contain azaleas that will be welcome in the landscape.

As a matter of reference, all color names and numbers are from the RHS color fans (1), and hopefully adhere to the standards of color name nomenclature (2). Also, some terms used were found in Fred C. Galle's book on azaleas (3). Keep in mind that the low winter temperatures listed are the lows tested on my Cumberland Mountain property, which is in Zones 6b to 6a where winter temperatures have gone down to –30°F. These hybrids may be even more cold-hardy, depending upon location.

***Joe Schild** has been an avid grower, propagator and breeder of azaleas for nearly 36 years. He has owned and operated a niche nursery specializing in the species for over 14 years. Joe is the founding president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter-ARS and past president of the ASA. He says he is better known as an azalea nut and chases the natives' bloom each year with many fellow enthusiasts. He is a frequent contributor to* **The Azalean.**

References

1. The Royal Horticultural Society. 2001. The R.H.S. *Colour Chart.* London.
2. Huse, Robert D. and Kenneth L. Kelly. 1984. *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture.* Edited by Donald H. Voss. The American Rhododendron Society. p. 20, 34, 37-43.
3. Galle, Fred C. 1987. *Azaleas.* Revised and Enlarged Edition. Timber Press.

[Editor's Note on Color Names in the Azalea Descriptions
Joe Schild provided the RHS color chart numbers for each element in the flower and foliage descriptions that follow. These RHS chart numbers are shown in parentheses. Editorial board reviewer Don Voss provided the Inter-Society Color Council-National Bureau of Standards color names for these RHS color references. These ISCC names precede the parenthetical RHS numbers.]

Azalea Mastery Series
Part 5. Raised Bed Method

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

If you recall a previous article on planting azaleas where the soil is heavy clay and the problems I encountered, this article will discuss an alternative method, growing azaleas in raised beds. Several important things to remember about this method are: use what ever organic material you have readily available in your area, make sure it drains well, has a low pH (4.5-6.0), and add some nutrients.

Now, we will look at the methods of building raised beds in a fashion that will give your shrubs a good environment and will have some aesthetic qualities. In my case, I had to first determine what materials I would use and came to the conclusion that I had an abundance of wood chips available from the local tree service companies. They were always looking for some place to dump or dispose of this valuable material free, and I had the room to store large loads over a long time while it composted.

Another source for organic materials is the local or city composting yards where they dump all the collected leaves in the city, chipped up tree limbs, and other stuff. For those of us living in the county, there is small fee per truckload, but for city residents it is free.

To wall or contain the beds, I also had access to mountains of stone, timbers and in a few cases, logs, though the latter will decay over time and must be replaced. In a pinch, I once used about two ricks of firewood, but do not recommend it, for I ran out of firewood to heat our house and had to buy more.

The other key ingredients for the soil mix in the beds are: pine bark, both small nuggets and fines; compost; and good soil. All of this combined with the bulky **composted** wood chips will provide the basic soil for the beds. Through years of experimenting, the use of some soil in the mix will encourage the azaleas to send out adventurous roots for faster establishment. The more compost you have the less soil is needed.

What I did was to determine where I wanted a new bed and marked off the boundaries. Since nature seems to avoid straight lines, most of my beds were marked off using a garden hose or with lime. Keep in mind that my native soil is about 4" to 12" of sticky yellow clay over limestone rock, so drainage is very important.

I killed out the existing vegetation within the bed area with a non-selective herbicide. To get rid of vegetation,