



Glenn Dale and Kurume hybrids at their peak in the Hillwood Gardens. Every year Mrs. Post would hold an annual garden party centered around the azaleas' bloom date, usually the beginning of May. (Photo courtesy of Hillwood Museum and Gardens)

Margie Jenkins Honored with SNA Award

Robert (Buddy) Lee —
Independence, Louisiana

Congratulations to our own Margie Jenkins, of Amite, Louisiana, for receiving the Slayer Wight Memorial Award from the Southern Nurserymen Association (SNA) on August 12, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This award dates back to 1956, and is presented annually to the person who has contributed most to the advancement of the nursery industry in the South. In the award's 50-year history, Margie Jenkins is the first lady to ever receive the award.

Margie has served on the national board of directors for the ASA and presently holds the position of treasurer of the Louisiana Chapter. She is very knowledgeable in the nursery industry and is considered an expert on evergreen azaleas. Again, congratulations, Margie. (Photo by Buddy Lee)



petal blight, and you couldn't even see over the azaleas they were so tall." All that changed in 1993 with a renewed emphasis on the gardens and the hiring of the first director of horticulture. The first major project? Thinning out the azaleas. In 1997 the museum closed for renovations, and a major restoration began of the gardens. The thinning of the azaleas continued to be evaluated and resulted in additional "weeding out." Horticulture staff reviewed photographs, home movies, and oral histories to determine cultivars appropriate to the time during which Mrs. Post resided at Hillwood.

In today's care of these stately gems of the garden, pine-bark fines have replaced shredded mulch, which had only served to raise the pH of the soil and turn the azaleas chlorotic. This past spring, the staff filled gaps in the garden with additional rhododendrons, azaleas, and dogwoods. With the move into summer, *Pulmonaria* and ostrich ferns found their way into little niches in the garden.

Visitors who want to experience the peak azalea bloom are advised to plan well in advance. Reservations are now being accepted for May 2006. Hillwood is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and select Sundays throughout the year. It is closed the month of January and on most Federal holidays. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$7 for students, and \$5 for children ages 6 to 18. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 1-877-HILLWOOD or visiting www.hillwoodmuseum.org.

Kelly Wilson has been the cutting-garden manager at Hillwood for five years. She has a horticulture degree from Virginia Tech. She is learning to like azaleas because of her work at Hillwood. She is a budding photographer and writer.

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