

# Honor the Greats in Two Thousand Eight

## ASA National Convention May 1-4, 2008, Asheville, NC

Henry Skinner, Augie Kehr, and Chauncey Beadle chose to live and work in the Asheville/Hendersonville, North Carolina, area because of its many natural attributes. We invite you to visit and enjoy those same attributes as we host the Azalea Society of America National Convention on May 1-4, 2008.

We have chosen to highlight these three great plantsmen by visiting their gardens and having speakers discuss their achievements. The convention site is nestled on the edge of downtown Asheville near the intersection of I-26 and I-40, which is within easy reach of all of the tours.

The headquarter hotel is the **Holiday Inn**, which is a few minutes from the center of downtown Asheville, making shopping and dining quick and enjoyable. The hotel offers complimentary guest parking and reasonable rates, and it is a short distance from the Asheville (AVL) airport.

Tours are organized with short bus trips in mind. We are spending Friday in the Asheville area and Saturday in the Hendersonville area.

The alternate **Vaseyi Tour** and the post-convention **Southern Highlands Reserve Tour** are significant in several respects. Both tours are limited in size due to the impact of walking through the natural areas. Additional travel time is also required.

### Friday Tours—Asheville

#### Biltmore Estate Gardens (written by Aaron Cook)

The year was 1969, and I was 9 years old. It was my first visit to the Biltmore Estate, and it began a fascination that continues to this day. After touring the rooms that were open on the first floor, I quickly sped out into the garden. When my mother and the staff members from the estate found me, I was lying on the bank above the Bass Pond oblivious to the fact that I was supposedly lost on the grounds.

My next memory of Biltmore is of my grandmother and me filling bags with recently dug tulip bulbs from huge piles in the Walled Garden. The staff members digging the bulbs politely turned their heads and whispered: "We're just going to throw them away. We don't see anything." The bank outside my grandmother's backdoor was really impressive that spring.

In the years since, I have used every opportunity to return to the estate and wander through the grounds. I have volunteered to chaperone countless school trips, and for several years I held a season pass. Since becoming an instructor in the Landscape Gardening program at Caldwell Community College, I have encouraged our most promising students to become summer interns in the horticulture department at Biltmore.

In my 40 year relationship with Biltmore, I have discovered its long and distinguished horticulture heritage.



Photo Biltmore Estate

▲ The Azalea Garden at Biltmore Estate contains one of the country's largest collections of native azaleas. Covering 15 acres, it is the largest of Biltmore's<sup>TM</sup> gardens.

It is a heritage that began before the construction of the impressive chateau. It started with elaborate plans developed by Fredrick Law Olmsted and brought to fruition by Chauncey Beadle, Charles McNamee, Robert Bottomley, James Gall, the Boynton brothers, and many others.

In its heyday the Biltmore nursery, developed to provide millions of plants needed for the estate, became one of the largest commercial nurseries in existence. It covered almost 300 acres and had 75,000 square feet of greenhouse and coldframe space. At one time the Biltmore nursery catalog was so extensive and the plant descriptions so complete that it was used as a textbook for Plant Material classes in some universities.

One can only imagine what the planned arboretum would have been like if Olmsted's ambitious plan had been implemented. The idea for an arboretum was eventually abandoned, and many of the unusual specimens collected for it found a home in the Glen. Years later Beadle's collection of native azaleas was also added to the Glen, and the name was changed to the Azalea Garden.

Our tour will begin with a bus ride along the Approach Road. We will try to imagine the area as it looked immediately after James Galls' crew finished grading the road and redirecting Ram Branch. At that time, it was a blank slate waiting to be planted in Olmsted's naturalistic

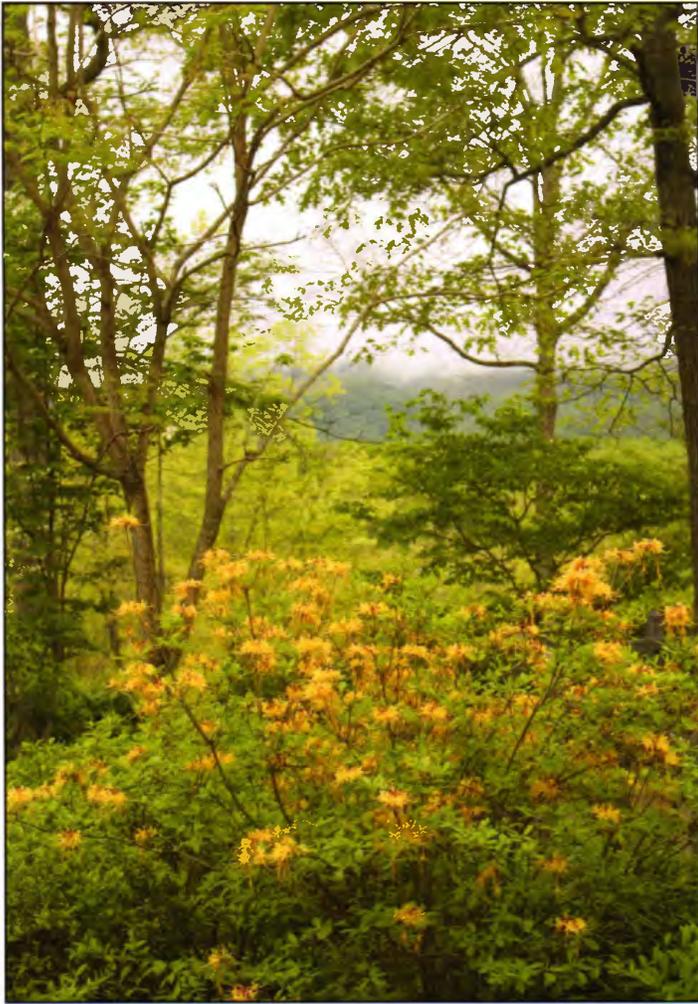


Photo: Michael Oppenheimer/The North Carolina Arboretum

▲ The National Native Azalea Repository at the North Carolina Arboretum features more than 100 accessions of 13 different native azalea species, cultivars, and hybrids.

style incorporating both native and subtropical plants to achieve his desired effect.

As we traverse the Approach Road, unique features of the landscape design and plantings will be pointed out by Biltmore staff. Everyone will then be dropped off at the entrance to the Shrub Garden to ramble. From here, we will take a self-guided tour through the Shrub Garden, Spring Garden, Walled Garden, and Conservatory before ultimately arriving at the Azalea Garden. The rest of our time will be spent in the Azalea Garden admiring the extensive collection of azaleas and other unique plants. The lower part of the garden contains magnificent examples of dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), China fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*), *katsura* (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), and bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*).

Planted under the trees is an equally interesting shrub layer. Look for the rare *Disanthus cercidifolius* peeking out from under the hydrangeas and tree-like *Cephalotaxus*. Other plants of interest include the large stinking cedars (*Torreya taxifolia*), a large Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), and cut leaf European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia').

The estate tour will be completed with a leisurely bus ride along the French Broad River. Bus captains will provide a brief history of the estate's agriculture and horticulture legacy.

For those who would like to spend more time on the estate to visit the Chateau and Winery, discount tickets will be available for purchase at the plant sale.

It is worth noting that Dr. Michael Dirr made an annual pilgrimage with students to the estate while teaching at the University of Georgia at Athens. Of the more than 325 genera listed in his *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, I have been able to find almost 200 represented at the estate.

### Charles Dexter Owen Garden

This fabulous garden belonging to Charles and Cary Owen is located in Biltmore Forest adjacent to the Biltmore Estate. A confusion of names might occur until you realize that Charles Dexter Owen is a cousin of Charles Owen Dexter, the hybridizer of the famous Dexter hybrid rhododendrons at Heritage Plantation on Cape Cod.

The house, constructed in 1936, sits in the middle of the largest collection of Dexter hybrid rhododendrons in the South, exceeded only by the original Dexter garden, which provided the plants "by fully loaded boxcars."

### North Carolina Arboretum

The North Carolina Arboretum, established in 1986 by the North Carolina General Assembly, is an affiliate campus of the University of North Carolina. The Arboretum's mission, "to cultivate connections between people and plants," is accomplished through education, economic development, research, conservation, and garden demonstration.

Located within the Bent Creek Experimental Forest of the Pisgah National Forest, the 434-acre Arboretum property encompasses 65 acres of cultivated gardens and ten miles of forested hiking and biking trails.

Gardens are thematically designed to reflect the cultural and natural heritage of the Southern Appalachians, demonstrating the formal and informal, the man-made and the natural aspects prevalent on this property, and providing classroom space to help people understand the role of plants in their lives. Emphasis is given to the ecological, horticultural and educational value of plants native to the Southern Appalachian region, their relatives from other geographic regions, and other non-native plants, cultivars, and selections suitable for landscape use.

You will see several gardens during your visit, including the Quilt Garden, which features colorful raised beds designed after traditional quilt patterns; the Heritage Garden, which features plants used in traditional folk medicine and crafts of the Appalachians; and the Bonsai Exhibition Garden, which showcases one of the best collections of bonsai in the Southeastern United States with special emphasis on native plants, and perhaps most importantly the National Native Azalea Repository.

The National Native Azalea Repository, approximately eight acres in size, borders Bent Creek and has an overhead

canopy of pines and hardwood trees and an understory of native rhododendron, dogwood, New York fern, doghobble, and a multitude of seasonal wildflowers. Two level loop trails with secondary trails wind through the garden, allowing access to the various parts of the area.

The garden was established to maintain a germplasm collection of azalea species native to the U.S. and to interpret the diversity and value of native azaleas and companion plants. The collection currently holds more than 100 accessions of 13 different native azaleas species, cultivars and hybrids. *Rhododendron canadense*, *R. occidentale*, and *R. eastmanii* are not in collection holdings at this time.

The Baker Exhibit Center welcomes visitors and features special exhibits in science, art, and culture. On May 2, an exhibit titled “Dr. Entomo’s Palace of Exotic Wonders” will be in its third month. Reminiscent of a traditional circus sideshow, the exhibit features more than two dozen living and mounted bugs ranging from glow-in-the-dark scorpions to bird-eating tarantulas.

Other Arboretum facilities include: the Education Center; a state-of-the-art production greenhouse; and the Operations Center with “green roof” technology. While visiting the Arboretum, we will enjoy lunch at the Savory Thyme Cafe, with its nearby gift shops, The Garden Trellis and Connections Gallery.

### Haywood Community College

Haywood Community College is a two-year college offering technical, occupational, and liberal arts associate degrees, including course work in horticulture supported by its overall landscape plan and arboretum designed by Doan Ogden. A 1960s inventory of trees on the 80-acre campus documented more than 22 native species with a majority averaging 100 years old. Since then, 100 new species of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers have been added.

Ogden’s accomplishment includes a fine series of flower gardens (such as a dahlia garden, an Oriental garden, and a rose garden), a preserved native forest, a wonderful variety of trees (including a willow walk), and the Rhododendron Garden, one of the better rhododendron collections in this western region of North Carolina.

Designed to extend the blooming season as long as possible, the Rhododendron Garden follows a delicate rhythm in harmony with nature. Careful landscaping gives the effect of a long, leisurely walk deeper and deeper into the forest, even though the walk only measures one-third of a mile. The woodland canopy of tall oak, poplar, and hickory filters sunlight onto the rhododendrons which filter it yet again onto the herbaceous layer below, dense with ferns and wildflowers such as bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

### Vaseyi Tour: Pilot Mountain/ Pisgah Inn

The group will travel to Pilot Mountain near Brevard North Carolina in 15-passenger vans ending up at the north end of Pilot Mountain within a few feet of the Art Loeb trail.



Photo Ed Collins

▲ Designed to extend the blooming season as long as possible, the Rhododendron Garden at Haywood Community College follows a delicate rhythm in harmony with nature.

▼ The Doley and Melody Bell Garden includes 3,000 rhododendrons and azaleas.



Photo Doley Bell

We usually see a few early *R. flammeum* along the road and some *R. vaseyi* as we get near the parking lot. A moderate hike (i.e., not easy, not strenuous, but it is best to wear hiking shoes) along the switchbacks of the Art Loeb Trail through the masses of *vaseyi* will take a little longer than one hour each way. You will find strategically located surprises along the trail to spend a moment catching your breath and taking pictures of the Jack-in-the-Pulpits, Trillium, and ferns.

The view from the top of the mountain is a 360-degree wonder encompassing the Blue Ridge Parkway, Johns Rock, and surrounding territory. After returning to the vans, the party will make its way to the famed Pisgah Inn for lunch. The afternoon tour will include the Blue Ridge Parkway to Highway 215 and the Devils Courthouse. The Friday Vaseyi Tour can choose to include the North Carolina Arboretum on the way back to the hotel.

## Saturday Tours—Hendersonville

### The Doley & Melody Bell Garden

The garden began in the 1970s as a retirement venture for former educators David and Naoma Dean. Following David's death, Naoma married Dr. Allen Clague, and they continued improving and maintaining the garden until Doley and Melody Bell became stewards of the garden in June 2000.

The remarkable garden has 3,000 rhododendrons and azaleas, including Dexter, Haag, Leach, Kehr, Gilkey, Delp, Van Veen, Richardson, and Lee hybrid rhododendrons, and Glenn Dale, Back Acres, Exbury, and Girard hybrid azaleas. There are deciduous azaleas from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. Special plants include flowering peach, crab apples, hybrid dogwoods, hybrid laurels, *Franklinea*, camellias, Metasequoia, *Enkianthus*, *Pieris japonica*, Japanese maples, and more.

### The Stelloh Garden

Denise and Bob Stelloh moved to Hendersonville 12 years ago, along with 600 plants from their previous garden in the Washington, D.C., area. Their woodland garden covers a little more than two acres, divided by a half-mile of winding trails.

The hilly site had many native wildflowers, *Kalmia* and *R. maximum*, along with a few native *R. calendulaceum*, *R. arborescens*, and *R. viscosum*, under an overstory of mature oaks, tulip poplars, pines, sourwoods, and dogwoods. Twelve years later, about half of it is now interplanted with groundcovers, a variety of evergreen and deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons, and Japanese maples and other ornamental trees—and, thanks to some hurricanes, quite a few less overstory trees.

### The Collins Garden

The 2001 Convention tours included a visit to the garden of Ed and Mary Collins, and we will visit them again, but this time at a different garden. Two years ago Mary and Ed Collins purchased the Larus property, sold their existing garden, and made a rapid move to a beautifully established garden located on seven-plus acres with two streams. The garden included a large collection of dwarf indumented rhododendrons, evergreen azaleas, deciduous azaleas, perennials, wildflowers, unusual trees, and shrubs.

The Collins are in the process of incorporating the thousand-plus plants brought from their previous garden into the landscape by opening up an additional two acres to display Cowles hybrids and many deciduous azaleas.

### The James and Mary Ann Stewart (Kehr) Garden

Four years ago the Stewarts obtained the fabulous garden developed by Dr. Augie Kehr during the course of 24 years. The property encompasses some 10-plus acres with two streams. It is the garden that Augie used for his later magnolia hybridization work and has what may be the largest collection of magnolias in the U.S.

The garden has a large collection of azalea and

rhododendron hybrids, many developed by Augie. One of his goals was the development of a good yellow evergreen azalea using various propagation methods. Approximately a dozen plants in the garden are the result of this effort.

Augie's last plant registration was 'Memory of Fred Galle', a deciduous native azalea developed from seed given to Augie by Fred Galle. This plant will be available in the plant sale.

### The Dot Turlington (Henry Skinner) Garden

Dot Turlington has owned the Skinner house for a number of years, maintaining the Skinner garden and nursery stock. The Skinner plants remaining represent his choices from 25,000 miles of travel across the Southeast in search of distinctive native azaleas.

### Vaseyi Tour: Pilot Mountain/ Pisgah Inn

The Saturday Vaseyi tour will be similar to the Friday tour except more time will be spent on the Parkway and Highway 215, and the group will not visit the North Carolina Arboretum.

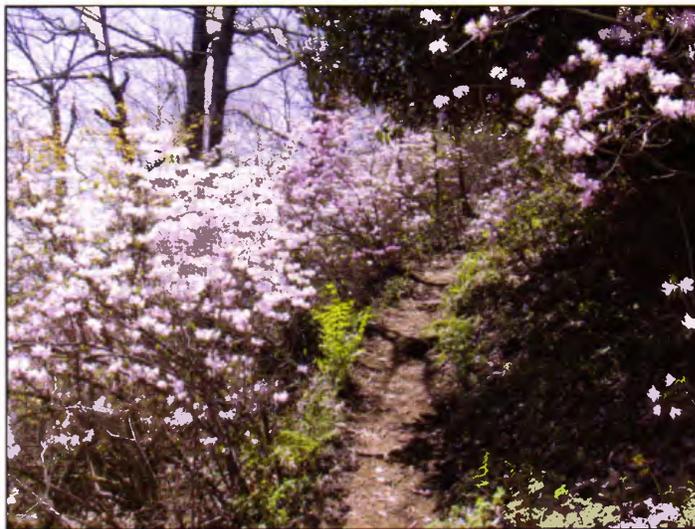


Photo John Brown

▲ The Art Loeb Trail at Pilot Mountain features masses of *R. vaseyi*.

▼ Entrance to Denise and Bob Stelloh's home.

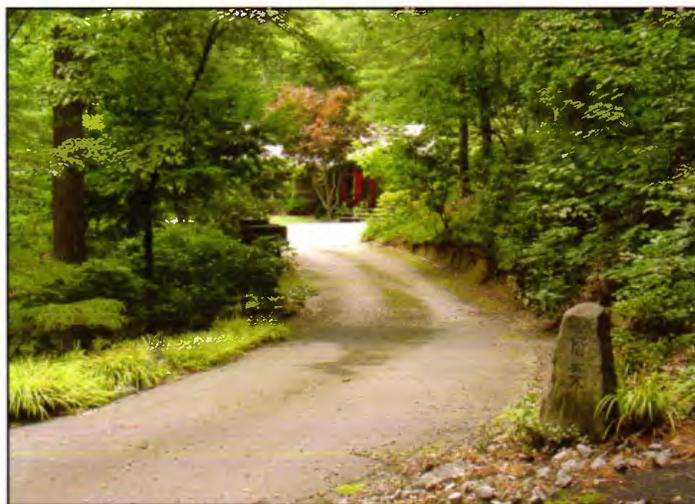


Photo Bob Stelloh

top of Toxaway Mountain to visit the Southern Highlands Reserve. SHR is a privately funded nonprofit organization which manages a 130-acre reserve at elevations up to 4,700 feet.

SHR is dedicated to the cultivation, preservation, and display of plants native to the Southern Appalachian Highlands.

The garden is divided into two distinct areas. In the Core Park, where plants are displayed according to their visual appeal, native plants and their cultivars are mixed. In the natural areas, where plants are placed in their natural communities, only native plants are used. The garden design is a combination of professional input combined with liberal use of native stone and local talent to achieve a must-see, once in a lifetime event.

There is more to see and enjoy than time and energy will allow in a one-day visit. Features of the Reserve include: the **Woodland Glade** featuring native groundcovers; the **Wildflower Labyrinth**, a centuries old seven-ring design featuring *Coreopsis* and butterfly weed in early May and a late summer display of native meadow wildflowers; the **Azalea Walk** featuring Gregory Bald seedlings; the **Vaseyi Trail** featuring *Galax* beds under a canopy of *R. vaseyi*; the **Vaseyi Pond**; the **Viewsite and Firepit** featuring a view limited only by weather and imagination; and many more walking possibilities.

A short hike toward the mountaintop leads to what may be the largest colony of *R. vaseyi* in existence. The trail is in a very preliminary form, and care should be taken to avoid damage to the area.

Lunch will be provided in the garden, and the group will return to the hotel on Sunday afternoon.

If you plan to sign up for this trip, please do so early. The Reserve Management has limited our group size due to the special and fragile nature of the area. Sign-ups will be on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 28 people.

#### Thursday Speakers

**Bill Alexander** will speak about "Chauncey D. Beadle: Botanist, Nurseryman, and Azalea Hunter." Alexander is a native of Asheville and has worked at Biltmore Estate since 1978 in varying positions, including: Horticulturist, Greenhouse and Gardens Supervisor, Landscape Manager, Landscape Curator, and now as Landscape and Forest Historian.

He studied forestry and horticulture at Haywood Technical College and earned the North American Certificate in Horticulture through the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in 1982. Research, study tours, and professional meetings have led him throughout much of the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and Switzerland.

Alexander currently serves on the board of directors for the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association and the Southern Forestry Foundation, an advisory panel for Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and the U.S.F.S. Southern Region Recreation Resource Committee. He is a member of

the Forest Guild, the Forest History Society, the Southern Garden History Society, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks. He frequently lectures on Biltmore Estate's landscape, forestry and agricultural history to diverse audiences regionally and nationally.

Botanist Chauncey D. Beadle came to Biltmore Estate at the beginning of its construction in 1890 to take charge of the new Biltmore Nursery. The Nursery was the vision of Frederick Law Olmsted and was established to produce millions of trees, shrubs, and other ornamental plants for reforestation and landscaping the extensive acreage of George Washington Vanderbilt's estate. The nursery, under Beadle's guidance, became a commercial enterprise in 1898 and produced one of the largest offerings of ornamental plants in the world until a devastating flood closed it in 1916.

During Beadle's 60 years at Biltmore, he not only supervised the nursery operations, but carried out Olmsted's extensive landscaping plans, assembled the most comprehensive herbarium of southern *flora* in existence at the time, and became an internationally known botanist. He is best known, perhaps, for his contributions to the discovery and knowledge of native azaleas and many other plants including the complex genus of *Crataegus* (hawthorns).

**Barbara Bullock** will speak about Henry Skinner. Bullock is the curator of Azaleas and Rhododendrons for the U.S. National Arboretum and oversees a 40-acre garden featuring more than 15,000 azaleas.

Since joining the U.S. National Arboretum in 1990, Bullock has overseen the restoration of more than 10,000 50-year-old azaleas. Under her leadership, pedestrian pathways were rebuilt and almost 3,000 new plants were added to the collection.

Bullock has worked in the field of horticulture since 1980, starting as a cashier at a local garden center while completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts.

She later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Maryland, where she worked as a research assistant in the Entomology Department and illustrated the university's woody plants manual.

**Dr. Dan Veazey** will speak about "August Kehr: The Gentleman Behind the Plants." Veazey's gardening background originated with genes from both sides of his family. His paternal grandfather worked for the Soil and Water Conservation Service and was a formidable propagator of camellias. His maternal grandmother was born with two green thumbs.

When he moved to Hendersonville in 1984, his gardening interest flourished. "I was introduced to Dr. Kehr by his neighbor and shortly thereafter, Dr. Kehr introduced me to the ARS. Thomas Jefferson, indirectly, encourages me in gardening. As a history major at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I began to admire Jefferson and his interests. His knowledge of gardening was certainly an inspiration for my gardening journey."

**Dr. Thomas Ranney and/or Jeff Jones** will present “New Insights into Chromosomes, Breeding, and the Evolution of *Rhododendron* spp.” Dr. Thomas Ranney is professor in the Department of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University. He has directed and performed plant research at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher, North Carolina, since 1989.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State University in 1981, a Master of Science degree from Cornell University in 1986, and a doctoral degree from Cornell in 1989, specializing in Landscape Horticulture, Plant Production, and Plant Physiology. His focus is on evaluation and improvement of nursery crops, including ornamentals.

With more than 800 species, the genus *Rhododendron* is complex and diverse. In many respects our knowledge of the genus is still rudimentary and information on basic genetics is amazingly sparse. It is well known that polyploidy (more than two completed sets of chromosomes) occurs naturally in some rhododendron species, particularly within the *Pentanthera* and *Rhododendron* subgenera, with ploidy levels ranging from three to twelve.

However, this information is based on limited sampling, and data on specific populations and cultivars is generally lacking. Polyploidy has been an important pathway in the evolution of plants and can contribute to reproductive isolation, increased heterozygosity, novel gene combinations, modified gene expression, enzymatic multiplicity, and ultimately divergence and speciation. For plant breeders, ploidy level is an important consideration because it can influence fertility, crossability, plant vigor, and gene expression. Ongoing research is investigating polyploidy in this genus with surprising findings and implications.

#### Friday Speakers

**Jay Jackson** will present “From Seed to Seed - Searching for the Best Production Methods.” Jackson and his wife, Lindy, have grown deciduous azaleas for years. For the last 10 years, all their plants have been grown from seed. The process has led to a production method that brings most seedlings to flower in two to three years. They have recently founded Appalachian Native Plants Inc. and built their first commercial greenhouse with a capacity of producing 50 to 70 thousand native azalea liners from seed annually.

Jackson still makes a living going to sea as a Captain in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Lindy is retired and is going to school as well as keeping things growing while J. is at sea. He hopes to retire soon from the sea and spend more time growing, selecting, and hybridizing native azaleas.

**Joe Klimavicz** will speak about “Developing New Evergreen Azalea Hybrids.” Klimavicz will discuss the wide variety of azaleas used in his hybridization program, his idea of a perfect plant, his small garden, hybridization processes, and his new azalea hybrids. He will also talk about the future of azalea hybridization.

Klimavicz is the Chief Information Officer and Director of High Performance Computing and Communications for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He is responsible for the acquisition, management, and use of NOAA’s information and information technology resources.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1983, and a Master of Engineering degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1988. Major areas of study included geodesy, photogrammetry and imaging systems.

Klimavicz is also an avid hybridizer of fine evergreen azaleas—a passion of his since the late 1980s. He grows between 500 and 1,000 new azalea hybrids each year, but discards almost all of them after they flower, retaining only the best. The Klimavicz hybridization program is aimed at developing a plant that is vigorous, and disease and insect resistant, with a flower that is unusual and long-lasting.

He lives in Vienna, Virginia, with his wife, Brenda, and their three daughters who began their own hybridizing in elementary school.

**Dan Krabill** will present “The Glenn Dale Azaleas - Digital Photos, Growing Experiences, and Recommendations.” Krabill has been growing azaleas for the last 25 years and taking digital photos of them since 2002. He has been a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of ASA since 1987, where he served as vice president for four years and president for four years. He served on the Finance Committee of the ASA Board in 2005 and 2006, and currently serves as ASA Treasurer.

Krabill grows approximately 1,000 varieties of azaleas at his home in McLean, Virginia, including a great majority of the Glenn Dales. He has published an article “Photographing the Glenn Dale Azaleas” in *The Azalean*, has a number of photos on the ASA’s web site, and has distributed a CD consisting of digital photos of most of the Glenn Dale azaleas.

#### Saturday Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Joe Coleman** will present the keynote address, “Evergreen Azaleas: The Beginning and the End.” An ardent gardener and collector of azaleas, rhododendrons, Japanese maples, and native plant material, Dr. Coleman and his wife, Donna, have a four-acre garden featuring thousands of varieties of beautiful plants.

Starting with their original home, Joe discovered the wonder of azaleas in the garden, particularly the fact they didn’t have to be mowed weekly. This fact led to growing pinestraw islands that had to be filled with a greater variety of flowers.

After meeting George Harding in the late 1970s, Dr. Coleman joined the ASA. The results of all their acquisitions can be seen today in the garden they created starting in 1980 in Lithonia, Georgia.

Over the years, Joe has served as a director of both the ARS and the ASA, and acted as chairman of the 1984

national ARS convention. He has served in numerous local offices, presented numerous talks, opened his garden to annual cutting parties, dabbled in hybridizing, and served as chairman of flower shows. Today, he continues hitting on friends for new and interesting cutting material and hounds nurserymen to provide more and better azaleas!

### The Plant Sale

The members of the Vaseyi Chapter have been busy propagating many of the convention plants. We are anxious to showcase seedlings and registered plants from Augie Kehr, Chauncy Beadle, and Henry Skinner. We will also feature rare azaleas and rhododendrons from many other plant collectors and hybridizers.

Some of the plants that will be offered include 'Snowbird', the polyploid version of 'Snowbird', 'Fragrant Star', 'Memory of Fred Galle', 'Dawn at the River', and selected seedlings from Henry Skinner and Zophar Warner plants.

We will also include wildflowers and an extensive collection of companion plants including hollies, conifers, Japanese maples, witch hazels, and redbuds.

### Hotel Reservations

Please make reservations directly with the hotel and request the ASA convention rate.

Holiday Inn Asheville - Biltmore West  
435 Smokey Park Highway  
Asheville, NC 28806

Phone: (828) 665-2161  
or 1-800-315-2621

Fax: (828) 667-9744  
Room Rate: \$79 double occupancy

### Convention Website

<http://www.azaleas.org>  
and click on "Conventions"

### Registration Deadline

Early Registration  
Closes March 1

Registration  
Closes April 1

Registration after April 1  
is subject to space availability  
and will have a \$25 surcharge added.

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, May 1, 2008

Registration Open	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
ASA Board Meeting	1 to 4:30 p.m.
Plant Sale	4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 10 to 11 p.m.
Dinner on Your Own	
Opening Program: Welcome	6:30 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Tom Ranney/Jeff Jones	6:45 p.m.
Dr. Dan Veazey	7:15 p.m.
Bill Alexander	8:10 p.m.
Barbara Bullock	8:55 p.m.

#### Friday May 2, 2008

Load Buses	7:45 a.m.
All Tours Depart	8 a.m.
Return to Hotel	5 p.m.
Plant Sale	5 to 6 p.m. and 10 to 11 p.m.
Dinner on Your Own	
Speakers: J. Jackson	7 p.m.
Joe Klimavicz	7:45 p.m.
Dan Krabill	8:40 p.m.

#### Saturday May 3, 2008

Load Buses	7:45 a.m.
All Tours Depart	8 a.m.
Return to Hotel	5 p.m.
Plant Sale	5 to 6 p.m. and 10 to 11 p.m.
Buffet Dinner	6:30 p.m.
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joe Coleman	7:15 p.m.
ASA National Annual Meeting	8:15 p.m.
Plant Auction	9 p.m.

#### Sunday May 4, 2008

ASA Board Meeting (breakfast provided)	7:30 to 9 a.m.
Hybridizers Roundtable	9 a.m. until ??
Post Convention Tour Load and Leave	9:30 a.m.
Return to Hotel	4:30 p.m.
Plant Sale	7 to 10 a.m.

### Convention Information

Registrar: Bob Stelloh  
65 Sierra Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739-7963  
Phone: (828) 697-9959  
E-mail: [bstelloh@mac.com](mailto:bstelloh@mac.com)

Convention Chair: Ed Collins  
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Phone: (864) 697-9228  
E-mail: [azaleaed@bigfoot.com](mailto:azaleaed@bigfoot.com)

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