

In Memory



Ed Collins

Edward William Collins of Hendersonville and Hobe Sound, FL, passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at the age of 81. Because of his lifelong passion for rhododendrons and azaleas over the years, he was admired and recognized with awards as an enthusiastic leader, sharing his knowledge and skills. His family resided for 27 years in Hoot Owl Estates, Medford, NJ in the home which he built in his spare time. Ed and Mary have been members of the ARS Southeastern Chapter since they moved to Hendersonville upon his retirement in 1990 from RCA. He served as president, vice president, and District Director, and recruited many members for the chapter. He started a rhododendron and azalea display garden at Blue Ridge Community College; chaired our annual plant sale many times; and, hosted many meetings. He was awarded the Bronze Medal (the highest award made by an ARS Chapter) in 2000.

His quiet leadership led him to offices in both the Southeastern Chapter (ARS) and Vaseyi Chapter (ASA) as president. He was the primary factor in organizing the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA and served as president for six years, remaining a board member until his death. He was awarded the ASA Distinguished Service Award in 2008 and the Vaseyi Chapter's Augie Kehr Award in 2006. He served as president, served on the Board of Directors, managed the drawings for the gift plants, and most important of all, he always brought his famous German Potato Salad to our annual luncheons.

His homes on Wisdom Lane and Tranquility Place were showcase gardens that were included in national tours displaying his love for azaleas, rhododendrons, conifers, and wildflowers of all types. Ed propagated and distributed Tyler Arboretum Wister Hybrids and was considered to be the regional authority on hybrids produced by Jack Cowles at the former Dexter Estate.

Ed's interest on native deciduous azaleas exploded with his retirement. He started the SE-ARS Native Azalea Study Group and led many field trips to "The Balds," sharing information with experts and those of us less well informed.

Ed Collins was a source of knowledge, leadership, and friendship. Many of us owe our thanks to him for including us in all the rewarding activities initiated by his love of plants and people.

Richard Odom

Louisiana nurseryman **Richard Odom** passed from this life on May 27, 2013, a few days before his 69th birthday. Richard was a member of the Azalea Society of America for over the past ten years and was a great supporter of azaleas in Louisiana. His nursery, Country Pines Nursery in Forest Hill, Louisiana, grew over 100 cultivars of Southern Indica, Kurume, Encore®, Satsuki, and others for the nursery, landscape and garden center trade in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama. Richard was a "poor row crop farmer" turned horticulturist. He was admired by many and was recognized for his industry contributions many times by the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association and various organizations. Richard developed the "Crimson" series of azaleas (Majesty, Queen and Princess) from vegetative sports of the popular 'Red Formosa'.



Richard Odom with friend Margie Jenkins.