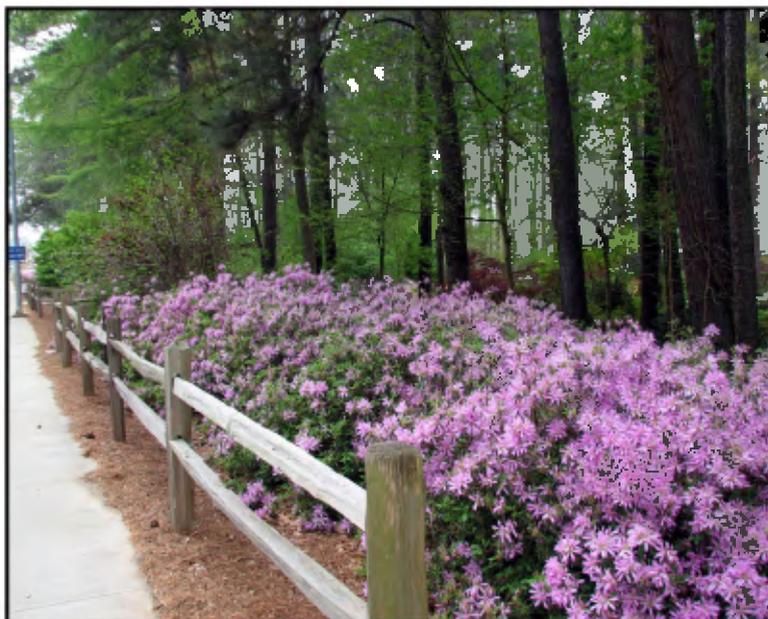


More about the Cover Photo: Rhododendron ‘Koromo Shikibu’

Barbara Stump, Nacogdoches, Texas

This 700-foot-long row of Rhododendron ‘Koromo Shikibu’ lines the front side of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden at Stephen F. Austin State University’s SFA Gardens in Nacogdoches, Texas. This year’s national convention participants will see this fabulous lavender frontage—if the temperature is cool enough at the end of March. These plants appear to be hybrids between of *R. linearifolium* (giving it the split-petal form) and a wild form of *R.*

stenopetalum (formerly *R. macrosepalum*). Every one of these plants was propagated by Miss Margie Jenkins, owner of Jenkins Farm and Nursery in Amite, Louisiana. They were planted in 1998. In 2010 SFA Gardens was again given the opportunity to develop another eight-acre garden right across the road (University Drive). Again, we went to Miss Margie for enough additional ‘Koromo Shikibu’ plants to make a mirror image planting along the front of that garden as well. She is truly a gifted ASA propagator and plant advocate.



that Miss Margie was the only person he knew who could propagate it. What a gift. A further surprise gift is the sport of ‘Koromo Shikibu’ that occurred naturally in the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden row. This is a paler lavender with prominent purple-red speckles; we call it “Speckled Spider.”

Barbara Stump is Research Associate for Development for SFA Gardens in Nacogdoches, Texas. She has helped develop both the gardens mentioned in this article.



We were introduced to the first plants at the Hammond Experiment Station of Louisiana State University (now the LSU AgCenter) by ASA vice president Bill Bode in 1997. He told us this azalea would grow just as well for us as for them, since Nacogdoches was also in Zone 8b, but

The Azalean Publication Schedule

ISSUE	DEADLINE	PUBLISHED
Fall 2014		February 2015
Winter 2014	February 15, 2015	March 2015
Spring 2015	March 15, 2015	May 2015