After 29 years as curator of the azalea and rhododendron collection at the National Arboretum (USNA), Barbara Bullock has retired. On April 3, 2019, she sent an email alerting USNA staff and her friends and supporters in the azalea and rhododendron communities of her plans to schedule a “final presentation” on Wednesday, June 26th at noon in the arboretum classroom.

At the beginning of the presentation, Barbara was introduced by Carole Bordelon, her immediate supervisor in the Gardens Unit. Entitled “Best. Job. Ever.,” Barbara’s PowerPoint presentation was a retrospective of her 29 years of commitment and dedication to one of the largest plant collections at the National Arboretum [Fig. 1]. She highlighted the challenges she found in 1990, which included many acres overrun by vines, weeds, and ill-placed volunteer trees; logistical issues like the limited availability of watering resources for Mount Hamilton; topographical realities that exacerbated drainage and erosion; and the toll of periodic weather extremes (e.g., hurricane damage resulting in the loss of canopy). On the positive side, she acknowledged and thanked the many friends, volunteers, and part-time staff who over the years helped her rescue, manage, and improve the azalea and rhododendron collection.

Following Barbara’s presentation, Jim Kuznicki, a friend, read a poem that he had written for her. On behalf of the USNA, Carole Bordelon presented Barbara with a USNA coffee mug. A representative of the ASA presented Barbara with a sweatshirt from the 1995 ASA national meeting. The sweatshirt features a drawing of *Rhododendron vaseyi* that the meeting organizers had commissioned Barbara to create especially for that 1995 event [Fig 2]. The celebration of Barbara’s retirement concluded with a cake and refreshments, and she invited all in the audience who had worked with her over the years to come forward for a brief photo session.

Unlike many who retire from Federal service, Barbara is not leaving the area. However, her plans include “visiting many of our state and national parks...; biking, canoeing, or hiking; going to music festivals...; visiting friends in other states; (and) doing art, whether it be drawing, painting, or watercolors, or doing crafts.” She is charting a very active retirement to be sure.