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On the Cover

‘Chojuho’, the small star-shaped Satsuki Hybrid with narrow petals which begins blooming in May as a red flower (see the insert), persists into the fall, and gradually undergoes a change in color through orangey red to brownish orange to greenish-yellow. Most ASA members were first introduced to ‘Chojuho’ when it appeared on the cover of The Azalean 23(2): Summer 2001, which was a special Satsuki issue. Since ‘Chojuho’ doesn’t resemble what most people think of as a typical azalea flower, it remains a collector’s curiosity. It dates back to the Taisho Era (1912-1926) in Japan, but nothing is known about its lineage. Morphologically, it looks remarkably similar to ‘Melba’s Dream’, which blooms earlier and whose greenish-yellow flowers also persist. (See related article on page 57. Text and photos by William C. Miller III.)