

Legacy Project

Azalea Society of America

Legacy Project

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Version

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Overview

The Azalea Society of America, Inc., hereafter referred to as the ASA, has or has had a number of hybridizers who have developed beautiful hybrid varieties of azaleas.

Many of these varieties have not been introduced to commercial markets and have not been widely distributed.

The Legacy Project is a means of increasing the knowledge of these hybridizers and their hybrids. It also encourages the propagation and introduction of these hybrids to a wider population.

The key component to the Legacy Project is the Legacy Team, headed up by a Legacy Lead. The Legacy Lead coordinates all of the efforts of the team. Team members with particular skills may actually belong to multiple teams (e.g., someone skilled at plant propagation might perform that task for multiple Legacy Teams, as might someone skilled in creating PowerPoint presentations). The suggested team makeup is:

1. Legacy Lead responsible for coordinating all aspects of the team
2. Powerpoint (or other presentation software) expert (to create presentations)
3. Presenters (someone comfortable with giving talks on the hybrids)
4. Photographers (to record flowers and plant habit and to assist in providing photographs for the database and the presentations)
5. Data collectors/historians
6. Data entry personnel (someone who is comfortable entering data into a database)
7. Propagators (members who have success in propagating cuttings)
8. Nurserymen (members who can raise rooted cuttings to sale size – this can also include professional nurseries which offer the cultivars for sale)
9. Gardeners (members who have the cultivars planted and can provide cuttings)

Presentations

One of the goals of the Legacy Project is to develop and give presentations on the hybridizer and their hybrids. The team member with presentation software skills would put together the presentation, however content could be provided by other team members. Below are guidelines (**only**) for what information to include and how to structure the presentations.

- I. Introduction
 - a. Biography on the hybridizer
 - b. Pictures related to the hybridization or other photos from the period when hybridization occurred
 - c. Picture(s) of the hybridizer
- II. Hybridization Goals
- III. Parent Selection Criteria
- IV. Azalea Varieties (might want to group different hybrids which result from the same cross)
 - a. Parentage
 - b. Parental traits desired in cultivar
 - c. Descriptions (registration descriptions plus others as desired)
- V. Miscellaneous varieties (pictures for which there is minimal background info)
- VI. Legacy Gardens
 - a. Pictures from existing private and public gardens
 - b. Plans for introduction of Legacy plants into new Legacy Gardens
- VII. Commercial nurseries (if any) where cultivars are available
- VIII. Additional information as desired
- IX. Wrapup slide
- X. Backup slides

Website

The Legacy Project is currently hosted on the ASA website at <https://www.azaleas.org/legacy-project/>. However it is configured, it is suggested that there be a separate section for each hybridizer in the chapter's program and that the structure of each page be similar among the different hybridizers. This makes it simpler to navigate different hybridizer pages since the structure is similar. A suggested structure is listed below:

Legacy Project

1. Name of the overall Legacy Project lead with link to contact
2. Copy of the presentation on the overall Legacy Project
3. List of suggested artifacts to be included in each hybridizer's page
4. Other documentation

Hybridizer 1 - n

1. Name of the Legacy Lead with link to contact
2. Copy of the presentation on the subject/hybridizer
3. List of plants (it would be great if this list could later have hyperlinks to the photos)
4. Other documentation

The website may also contain a database which will allow easy access to information and photographs on the various cultivars within the hybrid group (this may also be maintained separately, however would be of limited utility). Additional guidance on the information and photographs is included in the Database section of this document.

Database

Data - A major component of website portion of the Legacy Project is the database of information on the individual cultivars. Each cultivar should have information on the particular cultivar and be identified as a cultivar within the hybrid group. The information to be included could vary, but it is recommended that the data elements, as a minimum, be those included when registering the cultivar with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Photographs - The database could also include photographs of the cultivars. The desired views of the cultivar are included in the Photograph section of the document.

Additional information in the database could include:

- Number and sizes of particular cultivars available in plant sales
- Locations (i.e., gardens) containing the cultivar (this could be useful for taking photographs or getting cuttings)
- Nurseries offering the cultivar

Plant Information

The standard information elements desired are the ones captured by the plant registration form when registering a hybrid with the Royal Botanical Society. These elements include:

- a. Parents
- b. Bloom time
- c. Bloom description
- d. Form
- e. Color
- f. Size
- g. Hardiness/performance
- h. Habit

Photographs

Photographs of the cultivars are a key element of information on the cultivar. These photographs may be used in the presentations and in articles, are a required element on the website and can be used to show the plant blooms in sales/auctions during non-blooming periods. Photographs may be taken specifically for the Legacy Project or may be obtained from others who have existing photographs of the cultivars. Types of photos might also include photographs of the cultivars as part of collections, for example public or private gardens. Also, photos of the hybridizer, propagation setup etc. would be of interest.

As a general rule, the identity of the photographer should be captured along with the photograph, and provided when the photograph is used. Permission for use of the photograph should also be obtained, although "Fair Use" provisions may apply.

If taking photographs for the website, the following views are desirable

1. Individual blossom
2. Cluster of blossoms
3. Plant as a whole
4. Bud
5. Foliage (spring, mature, fall/winter)

Propagation

A key goal of the Legacy Project is to increase the numbers of the hybridizer's cultivars which are available to the general public. This is done primarily through nurseries and plant sales. This requires an active propagation program for the hybridizer's cultivars.

There are many different methods available for propagation, some of which are posted or linked on the Azalea Society of America website. One example is provided by Don Hyatt <http://www.donaldhyatt.com/ARSPVC/articles/azaleacuttings.html> .

Legacy Leads can leverage their team members with propagation skills to propagate cuttings of the desired cultivars. The Legacy Team should determine what cuttings should be propagated based on inventories and demand of cuttings. Consideration should also be given to the amount of time required to raise a cutting to sale size (approximately 2 years for a 4 inch pot to 3-4 years for a gallon pot).

Others should also be encouraged to propagate Legacy cultivars. This can be done by providing cuttings of the cultivars for exchange at annual cutting exchanges. This might also provide you the opportunity of enlisting additional propagators on the team.

Plant Dissemination

A major goal of the Legacy Project is to increase the number and variety of a hybridizer's cultivars available to the general public. The primary means of doing this is to feature the cultivars in plant sales and auctions, convention sales and through commercial nurseries (addressed separately).

At the plant sales, cultivars for each featured hybridizer could be grouped together. Short biographies and a picture of the hybridizer could be posted in the vicinity of the plants. A sample is below:

Joe Klimavicz



Joe is a resident of McLean, VA and a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Joe has been hybridizing evergreen azaleas since the late 1980's on his 1/3 acre Vienna, Virginia backyard. Joe makes 10 crosses a year and brings 50-100 new seedlings per cross into the cold frames. He discards most of them after blooming...retaining only the best. His specific hybridization objectives include a plant which is hardy, floriferous and has a flower which is long lasting and bright in color.

Booklets containing plant characteristics (e.g., color, hardiness, plant habit etc.) should be available to answer questions on the cultivar. If the plant is not in bloom during the sale, pictures of the blossoms should be posted with the cultivar.

Legacy Teams should set inventory goals for each variety and have a propagation program in place to provide the needed numbers of cultivars for the sales. Teams should also maintain inventory databases of their cultivars.

Publication

Articles on Legacy Hybridizers and their cultivars should be written and submitted to plant publications, such as **The Azalean**. The articles should include pictures of the various hybrids. Other information is up to the author, however those elements of information suggested for the presentations could also be considered for the articles.

Legacy Gardens

Legacy Gardens are gardens, both public and private, which feature the cultivars of Legacy Hybridizers. To be identified as a Legacy Garden, a garden must have at least 10 different varieties or 20% of the different named cultivars (whichever is larger) of a given hybridizer.

Legacy Teams can work with public gardens to create and help maintain Legacy Gardens. One way to do this is to raise Legacy cultivars to garden size and to donate them to the public garden. Additionally, the Legacy Team, working through the azalea chapter and in coordination with the garden, could fund the placement of signage to educate the public on the hybridizers and their cultivars.

Ideally, information on the gardens, featured hybridizers and available cultivars, should be included in the overall cultivar database.

Legacy Nurseries

Legacy Nurseries are nurseries which provide copies of Legacy Cultivars. Introduction of these cultivars to large commercial nurseries might be difficult, however there are a number of small nurseries, many owned by Azalea Society of America members, which might be amenable to propagating, raising and selling Legacy Cultivars. Criteria for being named a Legacy Nursery are the same as for being a Legacy Garden. Ideally, information on the Legacy Nurseries should be included in the overall cultivar database.

Output

Teams are provided guidelines to follow in implementing the program. All functions might not be performed and some additional functions might be substituted. Some of the output guidelines for the project are:

2. Biographical information on each hybridizer (e.g., education, family, reason for interest in azaleas/hybridization etc.).
3. Plant listings to include, if available (selected data entered on our chapter website):
 - a. Parents
 - b. Bloom time
 - c. Bloom description
 - d. Form
 - e. Color
 - f. Size
 - g. Hardiness/performance
 - h. Habit
 - i. Background on plant name (i.e., short description on who/what the plant was named after)
 - j. Hybridizers goals and rejection criteria (e.g., overall hybridization goals, specific characteristics of parent plants they wanted to capture and whether the characteristic was passed to the hybrid etc.)
4. Pictures of all the named (and numbered) varieties, if possible
5. Presentations on each hybridizer (e.g., Powerpoint).
6. Copy (ies) of each of the hybridizer's cultivars in member gardens and propagated for sale to the public in chapter plant sales/auctions.
7. Introduction of the cultivars to public "Legacy Gardens."
8. Introduction to or knowledge of commercial sources for the cultivars