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The
Azalean
Journal of the Azalea Society of America



**2004 Convention Preview—Best
Bloomin' Azaleas in Bay Country
Hybridizing Evergreen Azaleas
Azaleaphile Margie Jenkins
25 Years Ago This Society Began**



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

President's Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

I had the good fortune, this past year, to attend numerous horticultural conventions and shows and to talk with many people in the horticultural field. From my "fair and balanced" point of view, azaleas continue to have a major influence in the horticultural industry. Some states in the Southeast have been calculating the financial impact that azaleas have on their economies. It turns out that azalea production, landscape utilization of azaleas, and sales of azaleas through the retail centers total up to a significant amount. Azaleas in the marketplace face strong competition from other ornamental plants. However, even with the skilled marketing of many other plants, azaleas still hold a strong traditional place with the gardening public. I strongly believe that education, not only to the general gardening public but also to the nursery industry, is essential to keeping azaleas' popularity on the rise.

Two of the places that I visited this year were the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden in Nacogdoches, Texas, and Auburn University's Azalea Evaluation Project at Camp Hill, Alabama. The Ruby Mize Azalea Garden, located on the campus of Stephen F. Austin University, is a public display garden with a large collection of azalea cultivars planted in a

relaxing park-like setting. The design of the garden by Barbara Stump is well thought out with wide trails winding through towering pine trees. The filtered shade, which the pine trees provide, creates an excellent environment for azaleas. This collection not only provides educational information for the general public but also serves as an azalea germplasm bank for the horticultural industry. In contrast, the azalea evaluation project at Auburn University is a large collection of azalea cultivars grown for the purpose of recording detailed data, such as height and width, disease resistance, cold-hardiness, etc. The azaleas are planted in elevated rows with irrigation provided and pine trees utilized for filtered shade. The information gathered will be beneficial to the nursery industry in selecting best performing cultivars of azaleas to place in production. This in turn will provide better quality azaleas for the gardening public. Both the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden and the Auburn University azalea evaluation project are very impressive, in their own individual ways, and I encourage the support of our Society for such programs as these.

Corrections

- From the Spring 2003 issue, p. 13: The Brookside Gardens' F. P. Lee Commendation Award was awarded to Robert Stewart for 2002, not 2003.
- From the Summer 2003 issue, p. 29: The caption for George Ring's photo of 'Dorsett' contained two identification errors. The correct numbers are: PI 85871 and NA 27348.

Best Bloomin'
Azaleas
in Bay Country

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the
Azalea Society of America
2004 National Meeting and Convention
May 6-9, 2004
Bowie, Maryland
Sponsored by the
ASA Ben Morrison Chapter
For info:
www.DonaldHyatt.com/BenMorrison
E-mail: asa.benmorrison@verizon.net
Tel: Bob McWhorter/410-923-6408

Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of azaleas Subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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Editor

Barbara Stump

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Address all editorial and business correspondence to:

The Editor, *The Azalean*
101 S. Sanders
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
PH: 936-462-7195
bsstump@sbcglobal.net

Society Web site: www.azaleas.org
Mail list: azaleas@azaleas.org

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On the Cover

This view of Joe Miller's garden, Wake Robin on Kingston in California, Maryland, is a sample of the many private gardens that will be open to Society members and the public during the 2004 "Best Bloomin' Azaleas in Bay Country" annual convention to be held in Bowie, Maryland, May 6-9, 2004. See details on page 76-80; register on the insert page facing page 85. (Photo by Joe Miller)

Azalea Society of America 2004 National Meeting and Convention

Debra Hughes — Lusby, Maryland
on behalf of the 2004 ASA Convention Steering Committee

We look forward to welcoming you to the “Best Bloomin’ Azaleas in Bay Country,” the Azalea Society of America (ASA) 2004 national meeting and convention, sponsored by the Ben Morrison Chapter.

Excitement is building for what we believe will be an enjoyable and educational event for all participants. The planning committee, chaired by **Carol Segree**, has been working diligently for more than a year to ensure its success, including a judged flower show sponsored by the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (both azaleas and rhododendrons will be accepted), the ever-popular plant sale, and fabulous tours of the surrounding areas and popular speakers. They all touch upon our theme, “Best Bloomin’ Azaleas in Bay Country” and on Benjamin Y. Morrison, the first director of the US National Arboretum and our chapter’s namesake.

For detailed information on hotel accommodations, schedule, registration form, and speakers’ biographies, please see the 2004 Convention insert following page 84. For more details on the judged flower show, including rules and an entry form, visit www.donaldhyatt.com/BenMorrison. Four all-day tours of both public and private gardens are scheduled, two on Friday and two on Saturday. Each offers a special feature, making selecting just one each day a difficult choice. We suggest that you reserve early to avoid disappointment.

Friday, May 7, 2004

Tour A: US National Arboretum Tour

The tour begins at Boxlee Azalea Farm in Glenn Dale, Maryland, and

includes a visit to two special private gardens in Silver Spring before continuing to the US National Arboretum.

Boxlee, owned by Courtland Lee, is a 10-acre farm and historic site that has thus far survived in a rapidly urbanizing area east of Washington, DC. The town of Glenn Dale is only a mile from the USDA Plant Introduction Station where Ben Morrison developed the Glenn Dale azaleas and Dr. George M. Darrow developed the Olallie daylily, both featured items at the US National Arboretum. Boxlee’s display gardens are set amidst tall tulip poplar trees. The farm propagates azaleas by growing cuttings from a number of old azalea collections from the Maryland area, with an emphasis on the “Ten Oaks” Glenn Dales. Other groups include the Linwood, Kurume, Satsuki, Kaempferi, Beltsville, Kehr, Gable, and Back Acres hybrids. Also grown are some unusual boxwood varieties, the Olallie daylily, and a few native azaleas. The tour will include a drive by the Plant Introduction Station, which unfortunately is being phased out by

the USDA and is in decline, with the last few years of drought having taken their toll.

Next we’ll visit the private gardens of **Bill and Karen O’Brien** and **William and Susan Poling**, both in Silver Spring.

“When we first saw ‘the azalea house’ in the spring of 1995, the stone pathways that wandered through the more than 250 azaleas were barely visible,” recalls Bill O’Brien. “Many of the 50-year-old plants appeared never to have been pruned, reaching 15 feet into the air. Accenting the azaleas were sprawling rhododendrons, fragrant boxwoods, white and pink dogwoods, hollies, mahonia, aucuba, a Chinese redbud, magnolia, crape myrtle, camellia, weeping cherry, pine, Carolina hemlock, ash, and mountain laurel, as well as ferns, Virginia bluebells, May apples, native ginger, snowdrops, wild strawberries, myrtle, jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, and a carpet of English ivy,” he noted.

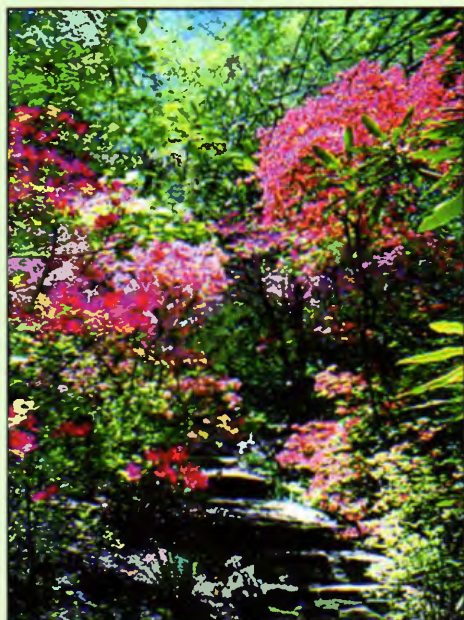
“We have since all but eliminated the English ivy, pruned back the azaleas, added a weeping China bell,

some unusual viburnums, chaste trees, butterfly bushes, witch hazels, winter hazels, nandinas, cherry laurels, hydrangeas (including an oak leaf), summer sweet, hostas, epimedium, Solomon seals, plumbago, liriopse, various ferns and, in place of an



View of Boxlee Nursery (Photo by Courtland Lee)

asphalt drive, created a perennial and herb garden. Since all of the above are shaded by, among other trees, half a dozen towering tulip poplars, ours is almost entirely a shade garden. The azaleas include a few Glenn Dales and some lovely surprises.”



View of O'Brien Garden
(Photo by Bill and Karen O'Brien)

In 1992, William Poling and his wife, Susan, became owners of a home built in the mid-1930s for Stuart Armstrong and his wife, Marion. “As explained in an article in *The Azalean* (March 1994), our current efforts to maintain and restore the garden began when we acquired the property, after it had suffered a long period of neglect,” William Poling noted.

“As many know, Stuart Armstrong was a neighbor and friend of Ben Morrison, the creator of the Glenn Dale and Back Acres hybrids,” Poling said. “He was also an avid amateur horticulturist who served as president of the American Horticultural Society between 1957 and 1960. Over a period of more than 30 years, Armstrong amassed a sprawling collection of Glenn Dale, Back Acres, and other azaleas in his yard overlooking Sligo Creek Park.

“Armstrong died in 1970, but hundreds of his azaleas survive today in

our half-acre garden. Most are single specimens. In addition to very mature Glenn Dale and Back Acres azaleas that were obtained directly from Morrison himself, the garden retains numerous exotic hollies and other trees that date from Armstrong's time, including unusual conifers. Some azaleas still bear their original metal and/or plastic name tags. Most are not tagged, and their identities are uncertain.”

Neither the **US National Arboretum** nor the curator of the azalea collection, **Barbara Bullock**, needs an introduction to those who love azaleas. The Glenn Dale Azalea Hillside, the Morrison Garden, and the Frederic P. Lee Garden comprise the 12,000-plus Azalea Collection, the country's premier reference collection. Full credit for the extensive restoration of the Azalea Collection—which has not only improved the garden but has also resulted in the discovery and identification of many older plants—goes to Bullock and her team of volunteers. We'll have a box lunch and visit the Bonsai Collection and Herb Garden on our own prior to embarking on a 2-hour private tour with Bullock. If you haven't recently visited the Arboretum, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

Tour B: Baltimore Tour

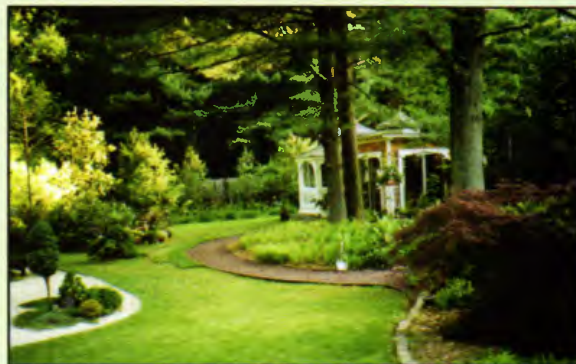
The Baltimore Tour begins at Marshy Point Nursery in Chase, Maryland, then visits the garden of **Jim Michaels** in Kingsville before heading to a gourmet catered lunch and a wander through the Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton. After lunch, the private gardens of **Bill and Phyllis Meyers** and **Bill and Ann Mangels** will be featured.

Marshy Point is located on two tributaries of the northern Chesapeake Bay and is blessed with a mile of waterfront (maybe not such a blessing after Hurricane Isabel). The nursery produces about 50,000 container

plants a year, the majority being azaleas and rhododendrons. While the gardens have many well-established plants, they are integrated with new varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons that are the result of Harry Weiskittel's hybridization efforts.

The garden of **Jim Michaels** features a Japanese miniature garden, a beautiful gazebo, a pond, and an allee of perennials and azaleas. “When I was a boy, for a number of years my parents and I would vacation at my mother's uncle's shore down towards Annapolis. He owned 800 acres that was almost wilderness—no electricity, water from a spring, coal oil lamps—I loved it,” Jim recalls. “Then one year we came down and almost all the trees were cut down and pushed into piles to make charcoal. There was electricity and the start of many small houses. I was devastated.

“Years later, I bought an old farm house and 20 acres from a speculator. The front and two sides were tomato fields and the back was pasture. As you'll see, it all has changed. In a small way, it's a return to 'yesterday,' I guess.”



Jim Michaels' Garden
(Photo by Jim Michaels)

Ladew Topiary Gardens has been called “the most outstanding topiary garden in America” by the Garden Club of America and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Developed between 1929 and 1971 by Harvey Smith Ladew II, the 15 individually themed flower gardens were designed to provide color for every season. Azaleas are featured in

the Victorian Garden, Pink Garden, White Garden, Yellow Garden (Exbury), the Portico Garden, and the Garden of Eden (Azalea-Orchard with Gable and other hybrid azaleas). The highlight of the 22 acres is the Topiary Sculpture Garden, which includes a unicorn, sea horses, French hens, and a hunt scene. Ladew had discovered the art of topiary in England in the 1920s during one of his many winter fox hunting trips. We'll have lunch in the restored barn—be sure select one of the two options on the Registration Form.

The garden of **Bill and Phyllis Meyers** is almost 3 acres of lawn and wooded areas surrounding a Victorian house. When the Meyers moved onto the property 31 years ago, the only flowering plants were three *Rhododendron maximum* and a few groupings of daffodils. The first 10 azaleas planted were 1-year-old 'Hershey's Red' purchased at a nursery. "Mystery" azaleas were acquired over a period of a few months when a local nursery sold its property and had customers dig their own plants. About 6 years ago, the Meyers met a member of the ARS who was an expert in rooting cuttings. They subsequently joined ARS and ASA and have propagated many plants from cuttings.

Their interest and knowledge continues to grow, and both hold offices in the Mason-Dixon chapter of the ARS; Bill is the current president. At the last flower show held by the club, a Best in Show ribbon was won for an azalea entry. Phyllis is now completing requirements for becoming a Federated Garden Club flower show judge.

Bill and Ann Mangels describe their garden as a "changing garden, not only by season but also by continued planting of rhododendrons and azaleas." Their 1-acre garden is surrounded by woods and includes beds with plants that range from fairly new plants to deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons, evergreen azaleas, and conifers at least 30 years old. Companion plants such as hostas and perennials are also interspersed. "On trips around the country and in England we have gathered plants and seeds. As a result, we have a smattering of Hachmann, Dexter, Gable, Delp, Leach, Robin Hill, Satsuki, Exbury, and natives," they note.

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Tour C: Annapolis Tour

On Saturday, the Annapolis tour will include three private gardens—Carol Segree Gardens, Rosa Gardens, and Netherwood Garden—as well as the Wm. Paca Garden and historic Annapolis and its waterfront, where we'll have our box lunch at City Dock. In the afternoon, we'll visit the always-popular London Town gardens. **Be forewarned: of all the tours, this one will require the most walking.**

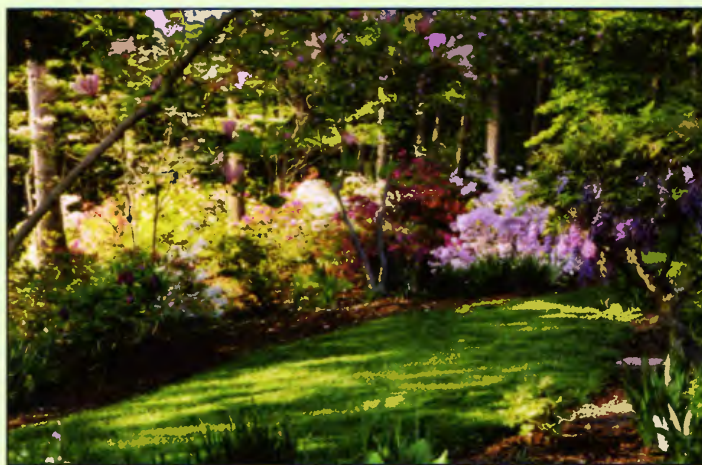
The day begins at the garden of **Carol Segree** in Gambrills. This 1-acre garden is characterized by its network of paths that add interest and aid navigation on the wooded knoll that is bordered on three sides by steep

ravines. Large trees—mostly oaks and tulip poplars—inhabit the property along with native hollies, dogwoods, and kalmia. Large- and small-leaf rhododendrons are blended with evergreen and deciduous azaleas.

The property, which had been farmland and woods, was purchased in 1987. After joining the ARS in 1991 and the ASA in 1993, Carol's small collection of white, pink, and red azaleas and 'Roseum Elegans' dramatically expanded to include more than 1,200 hybrid and species plants. She particularly likes the contrast of different textures and colors achieved by combining these plants, especially the deciduous azaleas with the evergreens.

Carol has grown many plants from cuttings or seeds; however, most were acquired from auctions at the various ARS/ASA chapter functions. She is an active member of the Ben Morrison Chapter of the ASA, and three ARS chapters. Her favorite azaleas are 'Sweet Christy', 'Wagner's White Spider', 'Fairfax', 'Nancy of Robinhill', 'Gay Paree', 'Yamato', 'Double Pleasure', 'Ben Morrison', the natives, and many, many more!

She is also partial to magnolias, Japanese maples, and peonies. Other plants of interest in this garden are deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) and dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*).



Carol Segree's Garden (Photo by Carol Segree)

Rosa Gardens, also in Gambrills, is the home of **Rosa and Bob McWhorter**. Bob, current president of the Ben Morrison Chapter, likes to say his favorite hobby is digging holes; Rosa's hobby is telling him where to dig them.

The vision of Rosa Gardens, begun in 1986, was slow to develop. The design of their home, lawn, and gardens is largely Rosa's work, with new plantings working their way from the front to the back year by year. They first selected azaleas and rhododendrons available from local nurseries. After joining ASA in 1997 and the ARS a year later, they increased the varieties of plants added. Now, Rosa Gardens consists of about 1,100 azaleas and several hundred rhododendrons, many with name tags. The gardens also include hundreds of daffodils, several varieties of

hostas, and a small rose and perennial garden.

Bob likes a collage of colors, represented by the border of 'Tradition' azaleas in the front and the great views from many places along the trails that Bob created. Once the trails were established, filling in with azaleas (and rhododendrons) wasn't too difficult. The two-acre property slopes to the rear; while most trails are an easy walk, there are a few steps. Favorite plants include 'Rocket', 'Lord Roberts', 'The General', 'Solidarity', and an unknown but beautiful fragrant lavender rhododendron from the garden of Russ Parsons of the Mason-Dixon Chapter of the ARS. He is also partial to 'Blaauw's Pink', 'Sunglow', 'Day-spring', 'Purple Splendor', and all the reds! Rosa's favorites include 'Carrie Amanda', 'Pocono Pink', 'Treasure', and the deciduous azaleas.

Bob installed the Raindrip watering system about seven years ago and each of the 1,100 plants has its own dripper. Maintenance is simple, with surface hoses covered with mulch or leaves. The system has helped during the droughts the past few years.

The Ben Morrison Chapter has been working with Barbara Bullock, curator of the Azalea Collection at the US National Arboretum, on a conservation project, and an area of Rosa Gardens has been set aside for Arboretum azaleas.

Our next stop is **Wm. Paca Garden** in the center of historic Annapolis. Paca was a Revolutionary War-period governor of Maryland and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His house, built between 1763 and 1765, is now a National Historic Landmark and is surrounded by a two-acre garden carefully restored after the property was acquired by Historic Annapolis, Inc., which saved it from becoming a glass and steel office-and-apartment complex.

After a stroll through the garden, you'll have time for a self-guided walking tour of Annapolis. Box lunches will be distributed for al fresco dining at City Dock prior to our visit to historic **London Town and Gardens** in Edgewater. From 1683 to the late 1700s, London Town, with its ready access to the Chesapeake Bay, was the place to cross the South River by ferry. London Town was also a port of call for ships taking tobacco to Britain and for bringing in slaves and servants. Today, the 23-acre site features the largest ongoing archaeological exploration in Maryland. The eight-acre garden includes woodlands, native and exotic species, the Richard Hill Medicinal Garden, the African American Garden, and the Anne Lambeth Kitchen garden. (Note: the tour does not include a visit to the William Brown House, a c.1760 Georgian brick home and tavern house; however, a \$4.00 ticket may be purchased on site.)

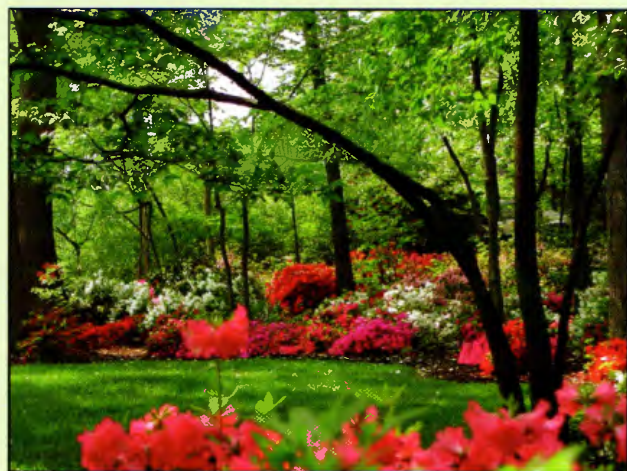
Our final stop for the afternoon will be the **Netherwood Garden** on the Severn River, the home of **Paul and Joan Netherwood**. With its small area (less than one-tenth of an acre) and steep terrain, landscaping proved to be a challenge. The owners, who inherited the Epping Forest property in June 1990, noted there were

"no gardens to speak of"; gardening began in earnest in 1994.

"We have really enjoyed working with the unusual size and shape of our property," they said. "The steep hills on three sides were/are both a challenge and a delight. We had retaining walls built and a new set of steps built to make our walk down to the water easier. Using timbers, rocks, driftwood, small fountains, and small pieces of sculpture, we planned and planted our yard as a collection of many small self-contained gardens.

"Because of the small size of our yard, we have planted many dwarf rhododendrons, azaleas, laurels, hostas, boxwoods, and European ginger as one of several ground covers. Where space allowed, we have planted small and medium-sized varieties of these same plants plus native plants and many ferns. To help control erosion, we have used small berm gardens to edge the waterfront yard, which is the only flat area on our property.

"Although the main emphasis of our garden is woody plants, we have some bloom most of the year. A collection of both standard sized and dwarf bulbs herald the coming of spring, with lilies blooming during the summer and many varieties of hosta blooming into mid-September. The hellebores and snowdrops give us color from December to March."



View of Rosa Gardens
(Photo by Bob McWhorter)



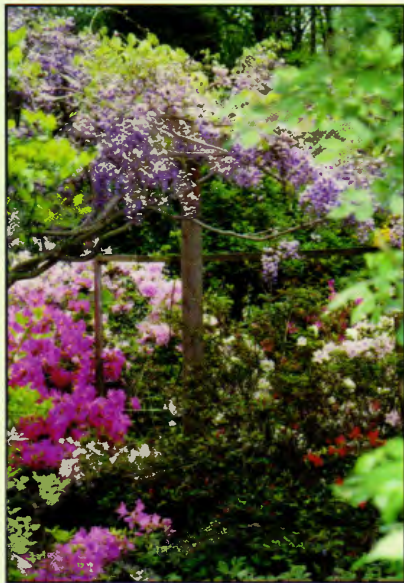
View of Netherwood Garden
(Photo by Paul and Joan Netherwood)

Tour D: Southern Maryland Tour

During the Southern Maryland Tour we'll visit five private gardens. It begins at the Hobbs Garden in North

Beach and continues through Calvert County to the Holms' Garden, and Annmarie Garden on St. John Creek, followed by a box lunch on Solomons Pier. We'll spend the afternoon at Wake Robin in St. Mary's County, and return via the Switzers' Garden.

When **Bob and Bee Hobbs** moved into their home near the Chesapeake Bay in the spring of 1981, there was not a single azalea in their one-third acre of lowland. Now, their woodland garden includes more than 350 azalea plants (mostly evergreen) ranging in size from small to taller than eight feet. Bob and Bee are not big into pruning, so the paths beside the azalea beds are often narrow—there is little lawn to mow. A variety of companion plants further invade the paths. A small pond (surrounded by azaleas) accents the garden. If you like to be truly surrounded by azaleas, this garden is for you. Listen carefully and you may even hear some organ music.



The standard wisteria in the Hobbs Garden
(Photo by Nedda Hobbs)

The Holms' garden reflects the country setting of their local community. **Dave and Eileen Holm** split their free time between azalea collecting and caring for their riding horses. They have selected cultivars for their garden with a goal of maximizing the blooming season. The resulting collection of Kurume, Glenn Dale, and Satsuki azaleas is set against a backdrop of split rail

fences, woodlands, and pasture. The garden has been a "work in progress" for 20 years, with a recent focus on propagating rare and unusual cultivars in cooperation with the US National Arboretum.

Annmarie Garden on St. John Creek is a 30-acre public sculpture and botanical garden dedicated in October 1993 after being donated to the people of Calvert County by **Francis and Ann Koenig**. The entrance to Annmarie Garden is unusual, with its 650-plus-piece glazed ceramic gate stanchions. Recently, seven pieces of sculpture on loan from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, have been placed throughout the garden, including the bronze sculpture *Monumi* (1958) by Italian artist Giacomo Manzù.

In Fall 1997, 113 varieties of Glenn Dale azaleas—each individually tagged—were donated to Annmarie Garden and planted by young gardeners. Since then, 514 more azaleas have been added to the collection.

Box lunches will be distributed for dining on benches on the boardwalk in Solomons Island, which features a number of interesting shops. From there, we'll go to **Wake Robin on Kingston** in California, Maryland, the home of **Joe Miller** and his late wife, **Nuran**. "We were captivated by the woodland setting and loved playing garden archaeology in the unkempt, existing gardens," Joe noted. The property, with its native trees and wildflowers, has 1,000 feet of waterfront on two sides of Kingston Creek.

Original owners planted approximately 115 azaleas, primarily Kurumes, Glenn Dales, Gables, and some Southern Indicas. There were a few mid- and late-season plants, notably 'Macrantha Double'. "All planting records have been lost; therefore, I am still trying to map beds and identify the older plants," Joe said. "I am attempting to retain the original garden form while expanding it, as time permits. Herbs,

daffodils, lavender, and some perennials complement the evergreen azaleas. You will find a few deciduous and species azaleas as well as rhododendrons added to the collection. My latest interest is an attempt to propagate to add an interesting, broader collection of azalea cultivars, with the goal of extending the blooming season. There are approximately 150 azalea cultivars."

Our final stop for the day will be **Switzers' Garden** in Port Republic, home of **George and Sue Switzer**, founding members of the Ben Morrison Chapter. Their 16 acres include three acres of azaleas, which have contained as many as 1,000 varieties and 20,000 plants (see the September 1992 issue of *The Azalean* for the Switzers' description of their property). At the 1992 ASA convention, the Switzers introduced a new azalea variety they had registered, 'Nannie Angell', which has petals similar to 'Koromo Shikibu' but white. The Switzers' interests also include the "Sweet Pea" azaleas, the Beltsvilles, and the Beltsville Dwarfs. Sue and George have each served as president of the Ben Morrison Chapter, and George was a member of the ASA board of directors.

Debra Hughes and her husband, Peter, joined the Ben Morrison Chapter after moving to southern Maryland and are lucky to have fallen in with a great group of people far more knowledgeable about azaleas than they could ever hope to be. They are looking forward to learning even more at the upcoming ASA 2004 convention, their first.

We especially want to thank those who are graciously opening their gardens for the tours and to Donald Hyatt for stepping in to create and design Web pages for the 2004 ASA Convention and for hosting them on his Web site:
www.donaldhyatt.com/BenMorrison

Hybridizing Evergreen Azaleas— My First Attempts

Tijs Huisman — The Netherlands

For many plant lovers, hybridizing is the best thing to do. At least it has been for me—for the past 20 years with rhododendrons, and the last 6 years with evergreen azaleas as well.

I think that only hybridizers know and understand the tension in all the aspects of hybridizing. This “tension” can develop into a real obsession after the first results, even if some of them are a disappointment. It depends on what you expected. Certainly after some fine results, you want more and better results. It starts by you thinking and reflecting what your next crosses will be. Walking through your fields and garden with named cultivars, you feel the tension of what to cross next. What could or would be a fine combination? Thinking about what you really want to get as a result. Better flowers? But what is better? Bigger? Or do you want flowers more or less like the Satsuki? Or, do you want plants with mahogany-red leaves in winter and early spring? Dark glowing leaves? A

combination of all these qualities? Sure, and with bicolor flowers,and double, or even triple, blooms!

So it is a tense moment when the plants start to flower. Bringing some fine hybrids or good results of your own hybridization into the greenhouse. Taking small scissors to cut off the filaments of the flowers. Or taking a pair of tweezers and pulling off some anthers with pollen and going to the flowers to cross with and putting the pollen onto the stigma of the other flower(s). Or taking pollen from azaleas in the garden as soon as the flowers open, while the bees are competing with you.

It is the start of creating something new!! From this moment on, you can watch how the ovary is growing, bearing the children of a new generation of azaleas. For me it is working as a human architect with the great creations of God, the Great Architect! We can only discover what He has planned and created.



“Trippie”, an open-pollinated cross of ‘Labe’.



A salmon-orange bloom resulting from ‘Fascination’ x ‘Gunki’.



‘Lyric’ x ‘Robin Hill Congo’.



‘Lyric’ x ‘Surprise’. (All photos by Tijs Huisman)

We have to wait one growing season to see the plant itself. And then to wait another season to see the first flowers. It does not have to take more years if you plan things right.

Then, continuing our “crossing-story,” in September, when the seed capsules turn brown, it is collecting time. Collect the seeds from the capsules and name them correctly, with the mother plant’s name first. If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse with bottom heating and daylight tubes, the seeds can grow out to small seedlings at the end of February. Then plant out the seedlings in small pots, just the best of some (ten) thousands of azalea babies. Even at this early stage you can see if the flowers will be light-colored/white, or dark/red or purple. Just look at the small stems of these baby plants: if they are light green, the flowers will be light flowers; dark green to red stems mean dark flowers.

And in every part of this hybridizing story you have these tense feelings—what will the plant be in two years? Will your expectations come true? Or maybe, and I always hope for it, will it be something really new? Perhaps a plant with variegated leaves? Sadly, this trait mostly disappears after the second pair of leaves. What will happen when I cross a hose-in-hose flower with a double flower? Like ‘Ho-Oden’ with ‘Elsie Lee’?

Some hybridizers are like chess players, studying many chess books about how to start your first moves, etc. I am not such a “chess playing” plant-crossing player. I like spontaneity, surprises and no calculation. If you get only what you expect, where is the tension? Anyway, in hybridizing you will always have surprises, if you want them or not.

Open-pollinated Azalea Crosses

Another question is whether we do better than the bees or other pollen-spreading insects. Some of “my” best new hybrids are created by insects, so maybe the bees should be honored more for their contribution.

About six or seven years ago, just as I began with hybridizing rhododendrons, I started by collecting seeds of open-pollinated flowers, just to see how evergreen azalea hybridizing works. Some varieties make seeds very sparingly, especially hose-in-hose types like ‘Ho-Oden’ or ‘Peggy Ann’. Other varieties like ‘Knorr’s Lilac’, ‘Labe’, and ‘Canzonetta’ were more fruitful, so I picked out seeds from those plants, and did not have bad results, actually. All these parent-plants are very cold hardy and tough.

As I said at the Chattanooga ASA Convention, here in Holland and Germany we need plants that are “winter-tough”! By looking at these results I can guess what azalea was the father (pollen parent). For example, seedling 99-1’: mother ‘Labe’ (we always know the mother, right?) and father probably sport of ‘Easter Parade’, which stands

next to the ‘Labe’ plant. And what about the extremely cold hardy ‘Knorr’s Lilac’, with glowing rounded leaves and lilac flowers? It has seeds as hairy as on a dog; the results are not spectacular in flower color, but fine hardy plants. Also as mother, crossed with ‘Helen Curtis’, it can have good results, like seedling 99-14, with white, more or less hose-in-hose flowers, that are very cold hardy. And what makes it so nice is the fact that we have here a hardy kind of a Satsuki, flowering in mid-May, with now and then white flowers with pink stripes, or even pure pink/lilac flowers! Again using ‘Labe’, still open-pollinated, one result is a very hardy compact plant, with small leaves, and entirely covered with small salmon/pink flowers, that look triple!! Since the flowers are both hose-in-hose and double, they really look like they have three rows of petals: five petals from the sepals, five from the corolla, and five from the stamen. When I introduce it, I will name it ‘Trippie’ (Photo 1).

Oh, yes, bees and other insects are fine artists! I am still talking about open-pollinated flowers. ‘Canzonetta’ and ‘Brunella’ are just two of Mr. Hachmann’s beautiful introductions with mahogany/bronze leaves in winter and early spring. I like this quality, since it gives an additional pleasure in a dull time of the year. When there is some snow, and it melts, you can see these leaves peeping out of the snow as “treasures in white.” One of the results of such plants is my seedling 99-28². It is like ‘Maruschka’, with glowing bronze leaves, but it grows much faster and has double dark rosy/red flowers. This is also a good starting point for further hybridizing. In recent years I have continued to take open-pollinated seeds from ‘Maruschka’, which is Hachmann’s best mahogany/bronze-leaved introduction. Most of the offspring also have this fine color in winter. I have one with these glowing leaves and more or less double dark pink flowers with white anthers!

Crossing for Specific Traits

Of course, playing the role of a “big bee,” I did quite a lot of hybridizing myself. But what parents should I use? I like orange very much, which is also a common color in deciduous azaleas. So, ‘Fascination’ would be a good parent, so would ‘Flame Dance’ and ‘Midnight Flare’, which is the darkest red azalea! So, why not cross with them, as in ‘Flame Dance’ x ‘Midnight Flare’.

For orange, I cross ‘Fascination’ x ‘Gunki’, though I don’t know anymore if it is the Kurume or the Satsuki form. The result is pure salmon/orange flowers, some with a white center or even a darker blotch (Photo 2).

Joe Klimavicz taught me that if you want a double flower, cross with ‘Elsie Lee’. So, I wondered if I could I get a double orange flower by crossing ‘Elsie Lee’ with ‘Fascination’? I’ll try. I am 55 now, so I hope to have time enough to see the children of this cross!

My experience with 'Elsie Lee' is that many of the seedlings are not double, and most are in the color range of pink/purple/lilac. Joe does not like orange, and that is my luck, because he will send me cuttings of plants with more or less orange flowers, which he would throw away. And for all of you: If you don't like orange, please think about me.

Now you know a bit about my hybridizing priorities—double, orange, clear colors—or even better—bi-colors, hose-in-hose flowers, mahogany leaves in winter.

I asked before what would happen if we cross a hose-in-hose with a double flower? Crossing with a hose-in-hose flower is a difficult thing anyway. In Galle's book on page 412 you can read about it in an informative article by Dr. ir. J. Heursel. If we cross a single-flower form as the mother with a hose-in-hose flower, then we can have again a hose-in-hose flower. As follows:

*female single flower x hose-in-hose male = half single
and half hose-in-hose*

*female hose-in-hose x hose-in-hose male = sterile
female hose-in-hose x single = sterile also.³*

Conclusion: If you want a hose-in-hose flower, cross a female single with a male hose-in-hose!!

This occurs with homozygotic flowers, that are "pure" and not from complicated crosses. Another complicating thing is, that this quality of hose-in-hose is connected with the Q gene in the production of quercetin. And they are located on the same chromosome.

Well, in spite of these difficult matters, I tried (of course) to see if this is true. I crossed my own hybrid seedling 99-1' (which is 'Labe' x probably sport of 'Easter Parade') having a single flower, x 'Peggy Ann', with a hose-in-hose flower, and guess what? I had about 20 seedlings of it, and they were all hose-in-hose. That's good luck for a hardworking hybridizer.

And what about blotches? I like blotches so much. I have some results from the cross 'Lyric' x 'Robin Hill Congo' with some nice children (Photo 3), and with 'Lyric' x 'Surprise', resulting in white flowers and a prominent yellow blotch (Photo 4), but actually not prominent enough. How nice would it be to have, let's say, a double orange flower, or hose-in-hose, crossed with some flower with a dark blotch? But, does anyone, hybridizer or not, know a named azalea with a good dark blotch? Just tell me. Give me a golden tip. 'Ho-Oden' could be such a partner. But then it would be used as the father, so it must have good pollen. See the schedule above. Well, maybe I am doing a bit of studying to be a good chess player. At least you must know some principles.

Sometimes it looks like you have a fine new hybrid. For instance I crossed my hybrid ('Flame Dance' x 'Midnight Flare') x 'Johanna' to get dark flowers with bronze leaves. Well, some plants have leaves that turn bronze, okay, and

flowers are indeed very dark, some even double, but in bright sunlight they fade very much. Another plant to cross with would be 'Galathea'; at least the offspring would have bronze leaves.

In the last few years I have become a bit of a follower of Joe Klimavicz, who hybridizes with some indoor azaleas that are not so hardy, but that are magnificent plants, like 'Satellite' with a combination of pink and white double flowers. So he crosses it with 'Elsie Lee' for hardiness. He has several very fine varieties like the recently registered 'Caitlin Marie' with very double flowers. But do I want to copy someone else? I should not invent the same wheel as others. So I also used 'Satellite', but crossed it with quite different varieties and my own hybrids. Some seedling plants are doing very well, with dark pink/red and double flowers. But in this color range there are already so many cultivars.

What about flower forms? Do you know 'Nannie Angell', 'Purple Pinwheel', or the creamy flowering 'Melba'? All have more or less split corollas. So, last year I crossed 'Melba' with red varieties and hybrids of my own, such as seedling 99-28², and later I should cross again, F-2, to get separated petals in red, or purple, pink, and maybe salmon/orange. And, of course, I hybridized between these last three "pinwheel-formed" flowers. Now I have small seedlings, and I will take care of them like a hen cares for her chickens! I also have an open-pollinated seedling from 'Maruschka', with dark purple and split flowers. I could use this one, too. Oh, dear readers, in writing this article I have gotten the brightest ideas!

So, I have to think about plans for the future and to be practical. Should I do what other hybridizers don't? Some years ago I talked with Mr. Dick van Gelderen of Esveld Nurseries in Boskoop, and he thought that all this hybridizing would not lead to anything useful or better. If this is so, would or should we as hybridizers stop with this obsession?

Now it is time to end this hybridizing story with some words of the man who hybridized so much and whom we will always miss, "Mr. Hybridizer," Dr. August Kehr:

"A beginner should heed a word of warning before he embarks on a plant breeding adventure. The progression from rank beginner to full-fledged hybridizer usually runs as follows:

*Makes A Few Crosses
Increasing Interest
Permanent Addiction*

This progression, once started, is non-reversible, and the ultimate 'disease' is incurable. ...A breeder spends years in anticipation and the rest of his life in satisfaction".⁴

All that I can say now is: "You were and are right, Augie."

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Azaleaphile: Margie Jenkins

First Lady of Louisiana Nurseries

Robert (Buddy) Lee

[This article appeared originally in Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Magazine, Fall 2002. Reprinted by permission of LN&L Magazine and the author, Ed.]

Bryant and Margie started their nursery business around 1965 with a planting of wax ligustrum in the field. They were dairy farmers at the time, also growing watermelons as a cash crop. The ligustrum crop turned a good profit; and, with some of the money they purchased azalea liners to grow in the field. Bryant fertilized the azalea crop as he would have fertilized a corn crop and killed every one of them. In the late 1960s, they started a small container yard on land about 3 miles from their home. Margie was mainly in charge of this. In 1974 they were involved in building a new home on the site of the old home, which they had moved. Margie and Bryant were doing a lot of the work on their new home by themselves and had two ladies working in the nursery. The two ladies lost interest in working in the nursery and, since sales were slow, Margie just turned off the water to the plants and closed the nursery. The dairy was taking care of the family. They moved in the new home in January 1976, and that summer Margie commuted to Louisiana State University and took a course in plants and designs under Dr. Neil Odenwald. After that, Margie had a clear vision of what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. In the spring of 1977 she went back to the nursery and hired six women. The goal of the nursery was to grow native, new, unusual, and old-fashioned plants for the landscape trade. Today most of the customers are landscape contractors. When Bryant was in the final stages of cancer, the nursery was put into a limited liability company (LLC), of which Margie is the manager. She was 82 on her birthday in September and has no intention of retiring.

There is always an air of excitement at Jenkins Farm and Nursery located just east of Amite, Louisiana. Early in the morning, landscape contractors, retail nursery buyers, and numerous types of "plant people" wait for the gates to open. Seldom late, Margie Jenkins arrives and greets each person with a "Good morning," a smile, and an occasional hug; then she opens the gates. Another busy and exciting day has just begun at a place that most people have come to know lovingly as Miss Margie's Nursery. Margie Jenkins, along with four of her children, Margie Ann, Tim, Jeff and Mark, own a family nursery cooperative that is highly respected in the nursery industry. Quality plants, knowledge of plants, and friendly individual care of each customer seem to be the key components of this unique business. A personal tour of the nursery by Miss Margie in her golf cart or in her car can be most enjoyable and educational as well.

Margie Jenkins is a charter member of the Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, which was founded in 1982. When most nursery operators in the 1970s were content with growing just a few of the "tried and true" cultivars of azaleas, Margie was actively growing and testing many different groups of azaleas. Although she has many "favorite" azaleas, she will admit that her all around favorite group is the Robin Hill hybrids. Some of her favorite deciduous azaleas are from a cross that she made in the early 1980s between *Rhododendron canescens* and *R. pericylmenoides*. These

seedlings, now approximately six to eight feet tall, have flower colors ranging from dark pink to lavender pink. Recently, Margie has rooted cuttings from these selections and hopes to have plants available in the near future. One plant that Margie has named is 'Tchefuncte', a beautiful light pink strap petal form of *R. canescens* that Margie named after the creek that winds through her property. Although she loves azaleas, Margie collects and grows a broad spectrum of plant species. She is well known for her knowledge of native plants and is very active in numerous native plant societies.

Margie Jenkins is very active in numerous horticultural organizations and societies and has held or is presently holding various offices such as board of director member for the Azalea Society of America and Senator of the Louisiana Division of the American Nursery and Landscape Association. She has received many awards and achievement plaques from numerous organizations. She is a very interesting and much sought-after speaker and is active in the "politics" of the nursery industry.

One of Margie's most pleasurable pastimes is collecting, growing, and evaluating many different kinds of plants. She loves to grow plants from seed and see what variations occur. Many horticultural groups tour her nursery and are amazed with the wide diversity of the nursery stock. Margie is a generous host and serves a tasty and satisfying meal at such occasions. Everyone has an enjoyable time and usually leaves with more

plants than they can carry.

If you ever go with Margie on a tour of nurseries, botanical gardens, or any horticultural event, you had better bring along your good walking shoes. Once we were on a tour of gardens in the Washington, DC, area, and it was raining heavily when the bus stopped at the next garden to be toured. Margie was the only person that started preparing to get off the bus. As she was exiting the bus, she handed me a disposable rain poncho and chuckled, "I've traveled too far not to be able to see this place. Let's go." It is always a pleasure to travel with her, as she always turns even the most negative situation into a positive one.

In March 2002, Miss Margie and I went to Callaway Gardens, located in Pine Mountain, Georgia, to attend a memorial service for Fred Galle. We decided to leave early in the morning so we would not be too rushed. However, before we had even started, we spent about an hour admiring the native azaleas that were in full bloom at her nursery. As we traveled along the way, the yellow pitcher plants (*Sarracenia alata*) were in full bloom on some burned-over land in Mississippi. We needed to drive slowly so we could admire them. A little farther down the road, just east of Wiggins, Mississippi, the buckwheat plants (*Cliftonia monophylla*), also known as titi plants, were in full bloom, so we decided to look for a unique form. We saw many other plant species along the roadside that drew our attention, so we took our time and enjoyed the ride. Margie has a long list of close friends in the nursery industry, and we visited with several of them in the Semmes, Alabama, area that day. The conver-

sation between Margie and Tom Dodd was fascinating as they reminisced about the changes that had taken place in the nursery industry over the years. Needless to say, it was late in the evening before we left southern Alabama, and we still had several hours of driving before we would arrive in Pine Mountain. However, the conversation was very lively as we discussed plants and "plant people" throughout the long drive. Margie talked about her trips out of the country where she had toured gardens and looked for new plant material. She thoroughly enjoyed seeing new places and meet-



Margie Jenkins with her *R. canescens* x *periclymenoides* seedling selection.
(Photo by Robert Lee)

ing people. She also talked about the foot-and-mouth disease that was affecting the livestock while she was in England and also about the horror and heartache she felt after the terrorist attacks while she was in Washington, DC, on September 11, 2001. It was way after midnight by the time we arrived to our destination, but the time passed so quickly. It was absolutely a wonderful trip that I will always remember.

At Margie's nursery, you will find many different types of plants, many that she has purchased from overseas sources. One order from China arrived late one evening and, as usual, Margie was still at the nursery when the boxes arrived. Since I had

some plants in the order, she called to tell me the plants had arrived. Wishfully, I was thinking that we could attend to the plants early the next morning. However, when it comes to plants, the time of day is no deterrent for Margie. Even though both of us already had had a long and busy day, Margie was more than eager to start opening the boxes and taking care of her new plants. Each new plant group that we unwrapped triggered much discussion and some searching through many of Margie's plant books for additional information on that particular species. Several hours later the plants had all

been unwrapped, separated, and watered. Listening to Margie talk and realizing just how much knowledge she has about plants is surely an inspiration to anyone involved in the horticultural industry. After we had finished taking care of the plants, I drove my truck through the main gates and onto the road, where I paused to make sure that Margie returned safely to her car after closing and locking the gates.

Another busy and exciting day was coming to a close at Jenkins Farm and Nursery. While driving away, I looked back to wave goodbye and I heard Margie say, "Enjoyed your visit, come back when you have the time." Everyone always feels welcome at Miss Margie's.

Robert (Buddy) Lee is the current president of the Azalea Society of America for 2003-2005. He has been a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA since 1983, serving as president of the chapter from 1990-1992. A true promoter of the azalea, he coordinated two national conventions for the ASA, one in New Orleans (1991) and the other in Charleston, South

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25 Years Ago This Society Began

[In 1997 Alice Holland of Silver Spring, Maryland, described the founding of the Azalea Society of America in "How It All Began," *The Azalean* 19(4): 64-65. In honor of our 25th anniversary year now ending, the article is reprinted here, Ed.]

I didn't fall in love until a few years after we moved to our new house in 1960. We occasionally would drive down Kensington Parkway in Kensington, Maryland, where in the spring there was a house whose whole grounds were one glorious azalea garden. We'd pull over to the side and just enjoy. At the time I didn't know that I'd ever have anything like that. I didn't know enough about gardening, but I sure wanted to learn. I asked a neighbor whose passion happened to be roses if he knew of a good garden club that I might join. He recommended the Silver Spring Garden Club. I joined and met many wonderful people; among them were Paul and Rebecca Stadler of Stadler Nurseries, where I bought my first five azaleas. Paul would walk me all around his grounds to see the azaleas, which I think were his first love also. In later years the Stadlers sold their grounds to the Maryland Capital Park and Planning Commission to become a large part of Wheaton Regional Park, of which Brookside Gardens is a substantial portion.

Another kindred soul I met was Emile Deckert. In his postage-stamp sized back yard he was growing so many lovely azaleas. Emile started out as a hairdresser; I went to his home to have my hair done for years. When Brookside Gardens became an entity, Emile was responsible for the azalea gardens there. He made most of those old Glenn Dale azaleas from cuttings from Stuart Armstrong's garden and set them out all over the hills under the pines with mulch around them; they dug no holes. When the Silver Spring Garden Club voted to give Barry Yinger \$1,000 toward his trip to Japan to bring back Satsukis, Emile grew those, too, from cuttings, in a special garden below the Stadler house. We both used to bemoan the lack of information on azaleas, although Fred Lee's *Azalea Book* was

our Bible. I occasionally attended an ARS meeting but gleaned very little on azaleas. One evening I was discussing this situation with my husband, and he said, "So why don't you start an azalea club?" I told Emile what he'd said the next time I visited, and Emile said, "Let's do it!" So we did. The following are the minutes of the first meeting:

On Friday, December 9, 1977, at 8:00 pm a meeting was held at Brookside Gardens for the purpose of forming an azalea society. Present were: George Harding, Mike White, Bob Caviness, Frank White, Emile Deckert, and Alice Holland. We decided that it was premature to elect any officers. Emile was asked to be acting president and Alice was asked to temporarily be secretary-treasurer. We explored the feasibility of forming an azalea society and whether or not to be a part of the American Rhododendron Society. After much discussion we decided: 1. to be a separate entity, 2. to cooperate with ARS, and 3. to seek their support in a friendly manner.

Frank White felt there was a need for an azalea group everywhere in our country that azaleas are grown and rather than have a small local group, that we should be nationwide. So, everyone concurring, we became "The Azalea Society of America." Alice suggested that we become the Brookside Gardens Chapter and this also met with agreement. We discussed methods of acquainting prospective members with our organization. Frank has been discussing the possibility with azalea people up and down the coast and met with much enthusiasm. Also, Ruth Harrington writes a weekly newspaper column; Tom Stevenson and Carl Hahn write garden columns in the big Washington newspapers. We could pass the

word through the Federation of Garden Clubs and through county agents.

We discussed our purpose. It was felt that our prime purpose should be education. Also, Frank White is very interested in setting up a workable system of awards. We are to write a purpose and bring it to the next meeting.

We decided to get a post office box and to give press releases that we are formed. We will need a letterhead and an application for membership. Frank can do our mailing with his bulk mailing from Lanham going for about 7 cents apiece. Each of us is to bring to the next meeting ideas for the letterhead, press releases and range of officers. Our by-laws should wait awhile. We would like to have a public meeting in April and will need several meetings and a lot of work before then.

We discussed dues but came up with nothing definite except that they should be low because we will only need money for postage, paper and printing probably for some time. We decided to set up a bank checking account with Emile and Alice to be co-signers for checks. Frank White donated a check for \$200 and George Harding gave \$50. We will look into the possibility of a tax exempt status. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 19th at 8:00 pm at Brookside. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Alice Holland, Acting Secretary

Frank White and George Harding were both growers and well known among azalea people, so events mushroomed pretty rapidly. Present at our second meeting were Nathan Fitts and Bill Parsons, both lawyers, and Warren and Judith Groomes. Until he became ill and had to resign in 1979, Nate worked very hard on set-

ting up the basic organization and the by-laws, as did Bill. Bill assumed more and more responsibility and was national treasurer for a number of years. Nate was our first editor of *The Azalean*. That position was then assumed in 1979 by Jack Schaffer, a landscape designer with degrees from Harvard and Oxford universities.

Right from the beginning we decided to have a board of governors (BOG). [Now known as the board of directors, Ed.] Our first five were Emile Deckert—acting president, Frank White—acting vice-president, Thais Spencer (a retired lawyer and wonderful lady from Fulton, Maryland), Bob Mallet and Bill Parsons. We mostly met in the library at Brookside Gardens and sometimes at homes of members.

Our first public meeting was October 29, 1978 at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. There were 43 of our over 100 members present. Ryon Page was introduced as our plant-sale chairman, Rusty LaGuardia as our hospitality chairman, and George Harding to keep the slide library.

On January 3, 1979, a proposed slate for BOG for 1979 was mailed to the membership. Included were Emile Deckert, Frank White, Bill Parsons, Thais Spencer, Nate Fitts,

Judith Groomes, George Harding, Dr. Neil Campbell (a retired physician who claimed he caught “azaleaitis” from a patient, Albert Close, who was chief propagator at Glenn Dale), Alice Holland and Nancy Swell. Nancy has been active from the very beginning. She would drive from Richmond, Virginia, to Silver Spring, Maryland, just to attend board meetings. She put together the Richmond Chapter and was their first president. We were attempting to move along as fast as possible.

Our annual meeting was held at the US National Arboretum on March 25, 1979. Seventy-five members of our 140 were present. Ryon Page reported on the mart to be held in May. Nate Fitts announced that issue #2 of *The Azalean* would be out shortly. Buck Clagett was putting together a source list. The slate for BOG was accepted unanimously. When Nate’s resignation was put before the BOG, it was accepted with reluctance and Jack Schaffer was asked to take his place.

By the next year, 1980, we were able to confer charters on five chapters: Brookside Gardens, Richmond, Northern Virginia, Ben Morrison, and Robert D. Gartrell. The presidents of the chapters were automatically made members of the BOG.

In 1981 Bob Barry chaired the work for ASA to be represented at Flora Fest at the US Botanical Gardens as one of 29 plant societies. While he was working there, a big, lovely man walked through. He was in Washington, DC, with the dairyman’s association and was fascinated with the azalea display. His name was John Rochester. He and Bob talked, and the result was a new chapter in Louisiana and a friendship that lasted many years and beyond John’s death. John was the president of ASA in 1985.

I think that what pulls at my heart-strings the most is the memories of all the dear wonderful people. You know azalea people are very special. I felt that so many of the people that I worked with were my very dear friends: George Harding, Emile Deckert, Ryon Page, Bill and Thurza Parsons, Bob Barry, Nancy Swell, Jerry Goodman, Mal Clark, Gordon Severe, Roger Brown, Art Vance, Marge and Glenn Taylor, Rusty LaGuardia. It was a privilege for me to know Tony Dove, John Rochester, Frank White, Fred Galle, Don Hyatt, Charles Evans; and on and on and on. These eight years were a part of my life that I wouldn’t give up for anything. When people say, “Hey, who are you?” I say “I’m the lady that started the Azalea Society of America.”

Azaleaphile – continued

Carolina (2000). He owned and operated Savannah Spring Nursery, a wholesale plant nursery specializing in container-grown azaleas from 1973-1986. Along the way he found time to develop the multi-season-blooming Encore™ Azaleas now marketed through Flowerwood Nursery in Loxley, Alabama. In 2000, the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association recognized his significant contribution to the industry by awarding him a Professional Achievement Award, presented during the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in Mobile, Alabama. He is presently active in the development and testing of new azalea varieties through Transcend Nursery.

Hybridizing Evergreen Azaleas—continued

Footnotes

1. A photograph of seedling 99-1 was on the cover of *The Azalean*. 25(3): 49.
2. See *The Azalean*. 25(3): 61 for a photograph of seedling 99-28.
3. Galle, Fred. *Azaleas*. Revised and enlarged edition. Portland: Timber Press. p. 412; on p. 408 in the first edition.
4. Galle, op.cit., p. 341.

Tijs Huisman, from The Netherlands, is a gardener of many years and is really crazy about plants. He started with a rhododendron garden 20 years ago and also hybridizes. He has been a member of the ASA since 1993 and is very active in growing azaleas. He has

a seven-acre garden with many of his own hybrids, and is testing hundreds more. In the spring of 2002, his first introduction of a new rhodo hybrid, ‘Helen Martin’, received a “Certification” at a rhododendron show in Germany, and he has many fine plants coming. Tijs has written articles for numerous publications: The Azalean, Journal-ARS, and publications of the German and Dutch Heather Society and a new Dutch magazine De Tuin Exclusive. He has also presented a number of programs in the US in the last 10 years. You can learn more about his horticultural experience by visiting his Web site <http://www.rhodoland.nl>. He is a professional teacher of German in high schools.

Society News

2004 Nominating Committee Report

Three board of directors positions are up for election at the 2004 national convention. These positions are presently held by Robert Hobbs, Don Voss, and Margie Jenkins. Robert Hobbs has agreed to serve a second term. Due to their many other obligations, Don Voss and Margie Jenkins have asked that they not be nominated for a second term. The nominees for the board to serve 2004-2006 term are:

Robert Hobbs
Ronald Hooper
Tom Milner

Ronald Hooper and **Tom Milner** will be new to the board. They both have been very active in the ASA and attend the national conventions. **Robert (Bob) Hobbs** has been a very active member and has served the society in numerous capacities both at the chapter level and national level. Thanks to Robert, Tom, and Ronald for accepting the nomination to these important positions.

Submitted by the nominations committee,
Jim Campbell
Robert Lee

Board of Directors Candidates

Ron Hooper resides with his wife Nancy in Aiken, South Carolina, and works as an analytical chemist. Ron started collecting rhododendrons while living in east Tennessee. He became an active member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of ARS and served one term as vice president. He also served as a board member for the University of Tennessee Arboretum for several years, providing specific input on their rhododendron collection. After moving to South Carolina, Ron changed his focus to native plants, particularly native azaleas. He joined the Vaseyi Chapter when it was formed and has become an avid collector of native azaleas. Ron enjoys attending the regional and national meetings of both the ASA and ARS.

Tom Milner is a soon-to-be retired helicopter pilot of 40 years, who has been a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA for 10 years. He lives in coastal Mississippi and has plans for a small niche nursery featuring azaleas and rhododendron following retirement at the end of 2003.

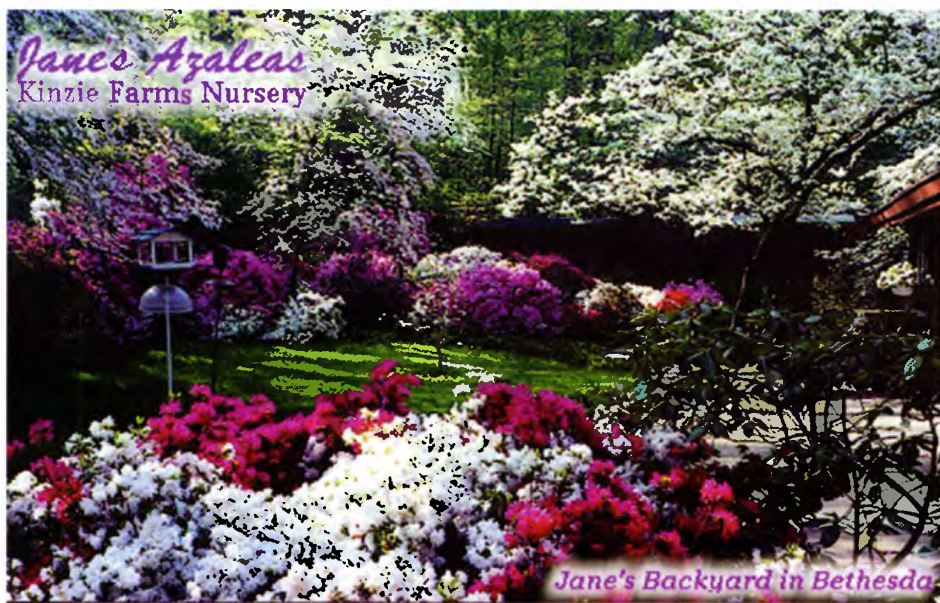
Proposed By-laws Amendment

The following proposed change was approved by the board of directors and will be presented to the membership for a vote at the 2004 annual meeting.

Article VIII.D Committees. Executive Committee.

Intent of change: 1) to add the Secretary to the Executive Committee.

Proposed change: change the word "five" to the word "six" in the first sentence, and add the word "Secretary," between the words "Treasurer," and "Editor of the Azalean," to read "The Executive Committee shall consist of at least six but not more than seven members from the Board of Directors, including the President, the immediate Past President, the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor of *The Azalean*, and other directors chosen by vote of the Board."



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Kinzie Farms

Tel: 301-365-4226

Fax: 301-365-0625

Email: Jane@KinzieFarms.com

Web: www.KinzieFarms.com

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Co-Editors: Bob Hobbs —
rwhobbs@mindspring.com
Carol Flowers —dflowers@bellatlantic.net

September 7th the chapter met at the home of Jim and Lois Duffy for the annual picnic and plant auction. Don Hyatt acted as auctioneer for the great assortment of azaleas, companion plants, and the piece of etched glass that Bee Hobbs donated. Thanks to all who participated in this great fund-raiser.

The Christmas holiday meeting was held at "Wake Robin," home of Joe Miller. The meeting was filled with good food and merrymaking, as well as further planning for the 2004 convention, which the chapter is hosting.

Future meetings: February 8, 2004, Bob Hobbs will speak on azalea hybridizing in "Bay Country." March 21, 2004, the chapter will conduct a series of workshops hosted by Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville. Guest speakers include Barbara Bullock (1:00 pm., "How to Plant and Care for Azaleas"), Bob Hobbs (2:00 pm, "Choosing Azalea Varieties"), and Bob McWhorter (3:00 pm., "Do-It-Yourself Raindrip Watering System Installation and Maintenance").

Lake Michigan Chapter

Reported by Tadeusz Dauksaz —
td@att.com

On October 18th, 2003, the first ever meeting of the Lake Michigan Chapter of the Azalea Society of America was held in Saugatuck, Michigan, with 12 members present.

After brief introductions, John Migas proceeded to explain the reasons for having a chapter, and he then presented a slate of possible officers who would represent the chapter for the next two years. Results of the election are as follows:

John Migas—President
Sandra Wearne—Vice President
Joe Lamantia—Treasurer
Sharon Kunst—Secretary
Tadeusz Dauksza—Board Member

Sandra Wearne—the owner of UNETY, a Web-site-designing company—has volunteered to build a Web site for the chapter.

The rest of the meeting then centered on the 2005 ASA convention that will be hosted by the Lake Michigan Chapter. Holland, Michigan, was chosen as the site, and the theme will be "Azaleas in the Landscape." The group discussed possible garden tours, alternate tours, plant sales, local hotels, and the need for volunteers. Lots of ideas were discussed like possible speakers, lunches, brochures, flower truss show, and bus tours.

Future meetings were discussed and are scheduled for January and April 2004. A chapter membership roster was then presented to those who attended the meeting. John Migas then led a garden tour of his Woodlands Nursery.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Phil and Frances Louer,
Newsletter Editors
plouer@msn.com

The August 24th annual meeting at the home of Dave and Sharon Raden was a big success, with plenty of plants available for auction. The other big news of the fall was hurricane Isabel.

October 5th, William C. Miller III from the Brookside Gardens Chapter presented "Glenn Dales, Glenn Dale, and Other Azalea Issues." An avid azalea hobbyist since the early 1970s, having recently retired, Bill now has more time to devote to all things azalea. The Glenn Dales are a very

important chapter in the history of the azaleas in America. Bill presented views of selected Glenn Dales that he considers some of the best available, with an informative comparison of them. In particular, he told of many unknown and undistributed varieties that are still located in the woods at the suburban Maryland agricultural station that is now closed to the public. A major concern is that if this facility is completely abandoned, the long-neglected plantings could be lost to destructive development.

In the October *Azalea Clipper* newsletter president Barry Sperling wondered about the possible causes of the variation between the quantities of spring bloom from year to year and welcomed thoughts from members on this topic. This past season has been "very wet and cloudy (September to September) that followed years of drought. What will this foretell for the spring? Will the rain-inspired growth of this year produce a lot of flowers, or will the dreary cloudiness inhibit flower formation?"

The topic for the November 23rd meeting was digital photography, led by Walter Pryzpek. Besides this expertise, Walter also has experience in growing and hybridizing azaleas. He introduced 'Walter's Pinwheel', which forms a mounding plant with pink strap-like petals like 'Koromo Shikibu'.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
Rudie2rudie@aol.com

[The October chapter newsletter contained many technical articles. There is enough information for several articles in *The Azalean*. Look for these in future issues, Ed.] Our October newsletter included a discussion of the differences between flower blight and petal blight, a summary of Clemson University's horti-

cultural azalea propagation practices, Allison Fuqua's suggestions on growing azaleas, and a large table of chapter members' own azalea propagation practices.

November 9th chapter member Dr. George Sanko presented an illustrated lecture, "Pictorial Tour of the Botanical Garden at Perimeter College, Including Native Azaleas, and Using Native Plants in Georgia Gardens." Dr. Sanko was instrumental in developing the botanical garden, which has one of the largest collections of native plants in the US. If you want to visit, it is located in Decatur, Georgia, at 3251 Panthersville Road. The garden hosts an annual spring plant sale and periodic flower walks.

The chapter donated the "Azalea Society of America" banner they purchased for an event held at Callaway Gardens last year to the national ASA. It was used at the Chattanooga convention on the registration table.

Frank Bryan and Maarten van der Giessen developed an article for the summer 2003 issue of *The Azalean*. Dr. Eugene Aromi sent this message to Frank about the Aromi hybrids article that began life as an overview in the Oconee Chapter newsletter:

"I appreciate the work that you put forth in the article in The Azalean. My wife and I are working with Maarten van der Giessen to transfer most of our breeding project. So, in the near future you should hear of the van der Giessen hybrids. People interested in hybridizing are rare in these parts, so I appreciate Maarten's interest...I hope that all of the work that Jane and I have done will lead to the enjoyment of many in the South. It's been a mountain of labor, but also a mountain of joy for us."

Sincerely, Gene Aromi

The award winning CD "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" is still available. For more information, contact Frank Bryan.

New Members

The following members joined the Society as of January 9, 2004.

At Large

David J. Ballantyne
4457 Tyndall Avenue
Victoria, BC V8N 3S4
Canada
250-477-4823
d.ballantyne@bigfoot.com

David F. Bortner
1071 Country Club Road
West Chester, PA 19302
610-793-0251

Anna Dahlstein
North Carolina State
Univ. Libraries
Special Collections and
Univ. Archives
Campus Box 7111
Raleigh, NC 27695-7111
919-515-7467
Anna_Dahlstein@ncsu.edu

Patricia Lesnansky
1715 Dewey Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405
patlesnansky@earthlink.net

James Stadler
2217 Philip Avenue
Corcoran, CA 9312-1646
559-992-5345
stadlerjames@comcast.net

Brookside Gardens

Bob Seal
1202 Halesworth Drive
Potomac, MD 20854

Tim & Catherine
Wallenmeyer
5 Goshen Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-963-2404
c_wallenmeyer@hotmail.com

Lake Michigan

Jack Strom
1954 First Street #114
Highland Park, IL 60035
stromjack@yahoo.com

Louisiana

Rieta Johnstone
PO Box 112 KLOOF 3640
Kwazulu Natal
South Africa
031-7675933

Merrilleon Wing
PO Box 2902
Nantucket, MA 02584
508-257-9671
mwing@gis.net

James R. Kuykendall
60151 Ritter Road
Amory, MS 38821
662-256-5929

Northern Virginia

M. Lyn Herdt
9666 Springs Road
Warrenton, VA 20186

Phyllis Rittman
10840 Fairchester Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030
Prittman@erols.com

Oconee

Gardenwright Nurseries
Inc.
Carl Wright
1910 Melodie Lane
Cumming, GA 30041
770-887-4070
<http://www.gardenwright-nurseries.com/>

Vaseyi

James H. Burwell, Jr
PO Box 549
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-287-3726

Thorn Cary
14 Greenbriar Road
Asheville, NC 28805
828-296-0603
tcary@charter.net

EnergyXchange/Project
Branch Out
Tamara McNaughton
66 EnergyXchange Drive
Burnsville, NC 28714

828-675-5541
energy@yancey.main.nc.us
<http://www.energyx-change.org>

Ken Justus
275 Garren Road
Hendersonville, NC
28792
828-685-8167
joapples@bellsouth.net

Steven A. Mannina
PO Box 332
Black Mountain, NC
28711-0332
828-669-0378
samannina@att.net

Jamie & Merri Oxley
2055 Polly Spout Road
Marion, NC 28752
828-738-3000
info@we-du.com

Stephen S. Semanchuk
172 Monnie Jones Road
Weaverville, NC 28787

Tim & Sue Towner
136 Camellia Way
Hendersonville, NC
28739
828-694-0473
tmtowner@mchsi.com

Correction

From the Fall 2003 issue, p. 68: Our apologies to the new Brookside Gardens Chapter member Bill Harris, who was listed as Jill Harris, and to Vaseyi Chapter member David Ballard who was listed as Davd Ballard.

In Memory

Neil Porter Campbell (1906–2003)

William C. Miller — Bethesda, Maryland



It is with great sadness that we report that Dr. Neil Campbell passed away on October 26, 2003. Born in Washington in 1906 and a long time DC resident, Dr. Campbell was a practicing physician for many years. Among his patients was Albert Close, a friend from whom Dr. Campbell jokingly used to say he contracted "azaleaitis." A member of the first elected ASA board of governors, Dr. Campbell served as the first ASA president in 1979. A keen observer, a collector, and recognized expert on the Glenn Dale hybrids, he was always willing to share his vast knowledge with others. He was one of the first to recognize and report "curiosities" in plant behavior in the Glenn Dale hybrids. Dr. Campbell had a marvelous sense of humor just below the surface. In a 1986 interview, he confessed that when he brought a new plant home, his wife would ask, "What part of the roof are you going to plant it on?" His favorite Glenn Dale hybrid was 'Helen Close'. Other Glenn Dale hybrids that he liked were: 'Dragon', 'F. C. Bradford', 'Dream', 'Nocturne', 'Fakir', 'Masquerade', 'Alight', and 'Martha Hitchcock'. He quickly added that "Martha" should be "pruned rather hard."

Ian Donovan (1932-2003)

Ian Donovan lost his battle with prostate cancer on December 27, 2003, caused by his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam (see his article in *Journal ARS* 57(4): 206-7). Ian was an at-large member of the ASA and was working with Bob Stelloh on establishing an Azalea Research Foundation. Memorial gifts to the Foundation in Ian's name would be welcome and can be directed to Bob Stelloh.

As Susan Clark reported to the Rhodo e-mail list, "This group has lost another true rhodoholic, full of passion and enthusiasm for rhododendrons and azaleas, even when he could no longer work in his garden or at his computer. Ian was one of the most active and hard-working members of the Massachusetts Chapter of the ARS, past chapter president, past editor of our newsletter, and current editor of the Rosebay."

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More Azalea Research Foundation Donations

In September, Don Hyatt gave an outstanding lecture and slide show on native azaleas at the North Carolina Arboretum. The program, open to the public and very well attended, was sponsored by the Vaseyi Chapter-ASA and the Southeastern Chapter-ARS. He suggested his honorarium be donated for research. This resulted in another \$100 donation on his behalf to the Azalea Research Foundation. Also in September, Bill and Mary McDavid donated \$100 to the Foundation, and Bill agreed to serve on its research committee. The Foundation, which the ASA board of directors is considering establishing, now has total funds of \$1900.

Please contact Bob Stelloh or Buddy Lee if you are interested in serving on the research (plants) committee or the development (money) committee.