
THE AZALEAN

Journal of the Azalea Society of America

Volume 11 Number 3

September 1989



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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 the series *Azalea* (subgenus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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THE AZALEAN

The Journal of the Azalea Society
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Address all editorial and business correspondence to The Editor, *THE AZALEAN*, 737 Walnut Avenue, North Beach, Maryland 20714.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Robert W. Hobbs

At the May 21 Board of Governors meeting the following goals for the Society were adopted:

- Double ASA Membership in five Years
 - 15% increase in membership per year
- Announcement of Chapter events in local newspapers by the end of 1990
- Color pictures in *THE AZALEAN* by 1993
 - Color cover on *THE AZALEAN* in 1990—same cover all four issues
 - Different colored picture on *THE AZALEAN* cover each issue beginning in 1992
- Produce a color brochure on Azalea Selection and Culture by the end of 1990
- Identify a national project by 1991 (a project of potential interest to the general public)
- Sponsor a National Symposium on Azaleas by 1993
- Explore producing an educational video by 1994

I believe that it is very important that the society have goals to serve as the focus for its activities, and I am very pleased that the Board of Governors adopted this particular set of goals. These goals are directed at growth and at ways of better fulfilling the aims of the society.

Obviously, this is an interrelated set of goals. Membership must increase before many of the other goals can be achieved. Local publicity will serve to stimulate interest in chapters and provide membership growth. If we can grow enough, we can achieve our goals of having color pictures in *THE AZALEAN* and that in turn will stimulate more growth. And so on. . .

I believe that these are achievable goals. The key to achieving these goals, however, is not just a lot of work by a few people. What is necessary is a small amount of work by a large number of people. All members can have a role in achieving our goals and fulfilling the aims of the Society.

Join your fellow members in making it happen!

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

Robert W. Hobbs

Photographs by William C. Miller III

The Society's eleventh annual meeting and convention were held at the Kanuga Center, near Hendersonville, North Carolina, on May 20 and 21, 1989. The Kanuga Conference Center, located at 2,300 feet elevation in the Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina was an ideal setting for this leisurely convention.

On the Kanuga grounds, the 68 people attending the convention were able to enjoy the native Flame Azalea *R. calendulaceum* in full bloom.

The Society's annual meeting was held on Saturday evening after the banquet and the keynote address.

Board of Governors Chairman Don Voss presided at the annual meeting.

Election of the new class of At-large members of the Board of Governors was conducted by the Chairman. Robert Hobbs, Glenn Taylor, Nels Nelson, Edward Rothe, and Eleanor Stubbs were elected unanimously to two-year terms.

Treasurer Glenn Taylor read the treasurer's report. The operating balance for the ASA was \$3,873.55.

President Robert Hobbs made a presentation on the status of the society:

The current membership is about 800. The membership has been about constant for several years. However,



Attendees at keynote address, May 20



Don Voss, BOG Chairman



Bob Hobbs, ASA President

membership growth is highly desirable. A goal of about 15% growth per year was suggested. A new membership brochure is available and was distributed to attendees.

Costs for producing *THE AZALEAN* currently require more than 80% of the yearly operating budget of the Society. This percentage will decrease if the membership increases. There is virtually no backlog of articles for *THE AZALEAN*. Members were strongly encouraged to submit articles. The Board of Governors has authorized a prize for the best article in *THE AZALEAN* each year. Potential donors of funds for the prize are being approached. An appeal was made for a chapter or chapters to consider sponsoring this prize.

The Publication Committee is developing plans for a color booklet describing cultivar selection and azalea culture. Some resources need to be made available to produce such a booklet. Up-front costs might be recovered through sale of the booklet for a modest price. Chapters were encouraged to consider providing the up-front resources needed.

Awards Chairman, Malcolm Clark, presented Distinguished Service awards to past ASA President and Board of Governors Chairman Ryon Page and to Charles Evans, past Editor of *THE AZALEAN*.



Malcolm Clark (right) presenting Distinguished Service Award to Ryon Page

The keynote speaker was Dr. John Creech, former Director of the U.S. National Arboretum. In his talk, which was illustrated by slides, Dr. Creech described his spring 1989 trip to Japan, including attendance at the International Azalea Conference and visits to other sites featuring azalea species and cultivars.

An article by Dr. Creech on this subject appears later in this issue.

On Sunday morning, the ASA Board of Governors met to discuss Society issues and policies. Sunday afternoon, Jeff Beasley (Transplant Nursery, Lavonia, Georgia) made a presentation on native azaleas and some of his favorite selections.



Dr. John Creech, Keynote Speaker



Jeff Beasley addressing Convention participants



James Harris speaking at Hendersonville Convention

Later on Sunday, James Harris described his hybridization program and some of his selections.

An article by Mr. Harris appears in this issue.

A breeders' round table was held Sunday morning, led by Malcolm Clark and Pete Vines.

The plant sale was more like an azalea exhibit. Malcolm Clark provided several truckloads of deciduous and evergreen azaleas in bloom for sale and for admiration.

ASA member Jack Wilson from Victoria, Australia held the record for being the farthest from home while at the convention. A good time was had by all who attended.

Special thanks are due Malcolm Clark who single-handedly made all the arrangements for the convention.

JAPAN JOURNEY – 1989

Dr. John L. Creech
Hendersonville, N.C.

Once again, Elaine and I led a tour to that remarkable country—Japan. This time it was in conjunction with the First Kurume Azalea Festival and Symposium held during April, with the symposium and main festivities on April 17. But we really arrived in Osaka, Japan on April 11 for the opening of the 10th International Bonsai Exhibition. We spent the morning of April 12 touring the exhibition where over 300 magnificent bonsai were on display, together with demonstrations of pruning and shaping. Perhaps the most outstanding and unique specimen was an Asiatic Amelanchier in full bloom. This tree needs far more consideration as a flowering tree here in the U.S. Our afternoon was spent with Kinya Washio, a landscape architect from the famous Araki Landscape Company. The objective was the 8th Century Katsuoji Temple, near Osaka where the Araki Company had recently completed a reconstruction project on this rare spot. Katsuoji is a truly natural landscape, void of urban impact and famous for its flowering cherries and maples, all of great age. It is a credit to Japanese craftsmanship to see how aesthetically correct the new waterfalls and rock arrangements appeared, almost as if they had been there for centuries.

The next two days, guided by our longtime friend, Miss Keiko Hirose, we travelled to Kyoto where the usual gardens and temples were visited the first day. The following day we visited the Kyoto Botanical Garden with Professor Tsukamoto, the "Dean" of Japanese horticulture and visited two private gardens which he arranged. It is only when a small group has the privilege of visiting an old Japanese garden without the interruption of large tourist crowds, that the serenity of strolling through gardens centuries old can be truly enjoyed. Everyone appreciated the fact that such occasions are of the once-in-a-lifetime nature. Of course, a day at Nara finalized our routine tourist schedule. Here, we made a side excursion

to the Manyo Botanical Garden. This small strolling garden is designed around plants which are mentioned in Japanese poetry and in it are displayed both the plants and characters of the poems in which they appear. Few people from outside Japan are aware of this delightful attraction.

Before flying on to Fukuoka and Kurume, on the morning of the 16th, Mr. Washio took the group on a walking tour of the flowering cherry park in Osaka. Then we boarded our flight to Fukuoka and on to Kurume by bus. Kurume, an industrial city of 230,000 people is one of the three largest nursery areas of Japan with over 600 nurseries and growers. It is also headquarters of the Bridgestone Tire Company. There is also a National Horticultural Research Station dealing with azaleas and vegetables. Our stay in Kurume was for three days. This included receptions and visits with the Mayor of Kurume, the site of the azalea festival and symposium, as well as nurseries and wilderness areas where wild *Pieris japonica* and *R. kiusianum* occur. In the Mayor's office, I was presented with a medal and certificate for distinguished contributions to Japanese horticulture and Kurume. The Azalea Festival site which was begun in 1987 covers some eight acres and is intended as a permanent azalea park and plant display area. For this particular occasion, over 30,000 azaleas were in full bloom and our group was invited to view the exhibits prior to the opening to the general public. Included in a fantastic series of garden displays were hundreds of Kurume azaleas in a large tent area as well as displays of garden azaleas from other countries. One spectacular Kurume azalea over 500 years of age was in full bloom. It looked like Hinodegiri. To coincide with the festival, a fine monograph 'Azaleas in Kurume', some 265 pages filled with colored plates of Kurume and other azaleas was published. There are sufficient English summaries together with English names

to all the plates that it will be a valuable guide to the vast scope of Kurume and related azaleas of Japan. Outside, gardens of azaleas were dispersed around the site and a huge Fuji-like pyramid of azaleas dominated the scene. A number of azalea bonsai were on display as well as various azalea species.

In conjunction with the Festival, Elaine and I had brought a collection of native American azalea species to Japan in 1987. These were a gift of Mary Beasley of Transplant Nurseries and this probably was the first such collection introduced into Japan. In addition, Skip March, of the National Arboretum, had hand carried to Japan in 1986 a collection of several hundred azalea cuttings that represented the American races of evergreen azaleas. So we were well represented. Later we visited the new Kurume azalea forest park located on Mt. Koura. With a fine view of the Chikugo River and Mt. Unzen in the distance, this park created for the festival is planted with 60,000 Kurume, Satsuki, and intergroup hybrids developed in Kurume. One priceless visit was that to the private azalea bonsai garden of Mr. M. Miyamoto where we have been welcomed every year. Mr. Miyamoto devotes his entire time to his azalea bonsai collection and took time to demonstrate finer techniques for pruning azalea bonsai. The azalea symposium occupied our afternoon; there were over 800 participants at the lectures. An evening reception and a sukiyaki banquet along with the other foreign participants, Dr. J. Heursel and friends from Belgium were part of the festivities. We returned to the azalea park a second time, visited the azalea forest, the cooperative nursery center, and the Fukuoka Enzai where nursery and garden supplies, including stone lanterns were sold. Our last day in Kurume took us to the famous Handakogen highlands where I always take visitors because it is the finest display of wild *Pieris japonica* in Japan. Here, the participants had a chance to climb a small peak to see how *R. kiusianum* grows in the wild, along with Japanese holly, willows, and rhododendrons. The handsome counterpart to our native *shortia* was neatly compacted into breaks in the old volcanic rock. This is *Shortia soldanelloides*. Our return took us through small mountain villages where carp flags flew in great numbers. One such village, Tsutate Onsen, stretches the carp flags and streamers across the river in a massive display of thousands of gaily colored carp for Boys Day. When we got back to Kurume a grand Ikebana show, 200 exhibits, was in progress at the department store next to the hotel and the group was warmly welcomed to this extra event by a dozen masters in full kimono costume.

We departed Kurume by coach on the 20th heading for Kirishima, home of the wild azaleas. At lunchtime, we arrived at the feudal city of Kumamoto where we visited the famous Suizenji Park which is laid out in the form of a strolling visit to all of Japan, including a small Fuji-like cone with the fine landscape displays and many azaleas in full bloom. The rest of the day was filled with delightful river and mountain scenery as we journeyed to our resort hotel, Hayashida Onsen. This is a typical Japanese tourist hotel with no westerners but us, where Japanese yuka-

ta are worn by everyone in the hotel and hot spring community baths are available. Most of our group joined in with the Japanese bathers. We also partook of the Japanese style dining in a banquet hall that seated 2,000 and enjoyed a floor show by native and other dancers. Some of the group were invited to join in the dances and performed admirably.

April 21 saw a visit to the famous Kirishima Jingu shrine which E. H. Wilson described in such detail in "A Monograph of Azaleas". The huge cryptomeria trees, centuries old, always astonish the pilgrim and the ground floor is a carpet of cryptomeria mulch in which seedlings of aucuba, ferns, and various assorted broadleaved evergreens flourish. The small nursery stand at the bus parking always has a supply of small Kirishima azaleas and the deciduous azalea, *R. japonicum*, in both yellow and orange flowers for sale. Despite a heavy rain, we bussed to the end of the Kirishima National Park to visit Ebino Plateau where the trees are mainly Japanese red pine and the sphagnum bog a home for seedling azaleas, Japanese holly, and the less common, longstalk holly (*Ilex pedunculosa*). We were too early to see azaleas in bloom but there was a fine display of the yellow flowering shrub *Corylopsis glabrescens*, better than I have ever seen it. Some vistas were masses of yellow and through the haze of rain and mist from the sulphur beds, made a spectacular show. After lunch the more hardy ones climbed through the forests of hemlock, flowering camellias and stewartia to the Oonami crater where the high cone is covered with *Kiusianum* azaleas. There, it does not flower until early June but the scenic aspects of the crater lake and surrounding plant life which included dwarf quince, *R. keiskei*, willows, and again the Asiatic counterpart of our *shortia* made the climb worthwhile. The evening gave us a chance to test the waters of the hot spring bath. Hayashida Onsen faces the city of Kagoshima and at night the lights of the airport runway below, together with the active volcano, Sakurajima, make a remarkable night scene.

The next day (April 22) took us down the mountain to Kagoshima where we first visited the ancient feudal garden of the feudal lord, Shimazu. The garden was laid out in 1660. Chiefly a strolling garden, we noted that it lies on a gentle slope facing Kagoshima Bay and the smoking Sakurajima volcano beyond. It was peony season and in order to protect the blossoms from the constant dust of ash, each plant was fitted with a small artistic tent of straw. Among the plant features of the garden was an ancient plant of *R. scabrum* in full bloom, probably one of the first brought up from the Ryukyu Islands. The first planting of the moso bamboo from China is said to be in this garden, brought to Japan in 1736 by the 21st Lord of Shimazu. Since trade with China was then proscribed, he indicated that it came from Okinawa. Culms of this bamboo are called the sweetshoot bamboo and reach 12 meters in a matter of weeks. The garden is replete with wild orchids, particularly *Calanthe* species. There is also a fine specimen of the evergreen cherry, *Prunus zippeliana* a distinguished tree with bright

mottled orange bark that is used for wood staining. This is another tree that is worthy of planting in the U.S. The Park also contains an armory with feudal costumes and weapons as well as equipment for daily life in the early centuries of feudal Japan.

The afternoon found us at one of the highlights of the trip for me because it was a first time even after so many trips to Japan. This is Chiran, a small village south of Kagoshima, site of a settlement of retainers of Lord Shimazu, originally named Sata. They were later promoted to the samurai class and served their Lord faithfully until the restoration in 1868. It was said that they excelled in the military art and literature and as a tight-knit society maintained a high cultural standard. With a clear river in view, each retainer had a garden constructed by masters from Kyoto, strongly influenced in style by the Zen gardens of the period—12th to 15th centuries. Along a narrow street, there are several such small gardens, of which six are open to the public with the admonition "not to peek in windows or trespass into backside of houses as the aged descendants of the samurai owners still live in the houses". Features of each garden are similar but with individual variations. Some may have mostly stones as the features, another will not emphasize stones but sheared azaleas and square stone stands for bonsai. Only one garden has a koi pond, reflecting the newer style of the times. Entrances are indirect so that stone walls could prevent a direct attack by the enemy samurai during the violent Edo period. In one garden, two rectangular basins stand between the gate and the garden, said to be for rinsing bloody swords after battle. Toilets were placed behind the entrance wall for convenience of visitors and, it is said, so the master of the house could listen in on conversations between passers-by! Because of the composition and continuity of maintaining the style, these houses are considered masterpieces among Japanese authorities. Another delightful aspect of Chiran is that a water channel courses down the main street and numbers of freed koi pass up and down. We made a short visit to the site where kamikazi pilots were trained and to the several monuments to their name, including a WWII Zero fighter plane in fine condition, to complete the day. We then bussed back up the mountain to our Onsen where a magnificent buffet dinner was prepared especially for us.

The next day (April 23) saw us off to Sakurajima volcano and Takatoge pass where *R. sataense* occurs. On our way, we paused at a loquat orchard where the owner explained the culture of this rather uncommon fruit. Here every fruit cluster is encased in a plastic sack to ward off insects and damage from the volcanic ash. We proceeded along the coast around the smoking volcano and on to the azalea park, passing occasional colonies of *R. kaempferi* hanging out of the cliffs. Unfortunately, we were a bit early for the peak of bloom of the Sata azalea but there was enough to impress our group with the scope of the area. We did see numerous other species, including *Eurya japonica*, *Hydrangea paniculata*, *Ilex crenata*, *Pieris japonica*, *Camellia japonica*, and the

handsome vines, *Stauntonia hexaphylla* and *Wisteria brachybotrys*. Lunch was taken at the foot of Takatoge in the company of numerous Japanese holiday picnickers. Our last trip up the mountain passed without incident and the group prepared for an early morning departure from Kagoshima to Nagoya. While in the Kagoshima area we were escorted by Professor Tagawa, a volcanologist/botanist from Kagoshima University.

Our stay in the Mt. Fuji area was to see the local flora and to visit shines, one of the unusual private botanical gardens, and of course, Mt. Fuji. Here we were guided by another outstanding botanist Dr. F. Konta, a delightful person with an excellent command of English. Our route on April 25 took us through the lake district to Shiraito Falls, the name meaning white fiber falls because the water flowing down from Fuji under terrific pressure is forced out of the fissures between different layers of lava. The fall is 120 meters wide and about 32 meters high. *Deutzia*, *Weigela*, and *Kerria* were in full bloom. We also stopped at the famous Honmonji Temple, replete with ancient lanterns, beautiful maples and old *Cryptomeria* trees, some 65 meters tall. The lovely *Prunus incisa* was in bloom also. The second day at Fuji took us to the farm of Mr. T. Ikeya, an old naturalist who has established a protected area for native plants. In addition, Mr. Ikeya has a small private garden around his house for special plants and we had the freedom of both places. Some tour members bought small plants of epimedium, hosta, and *R. kiusianum*. The weather by this time was beginning to cloud in but just as we were leaving Mr. Ikeya's farmhouse, the sun broke on Fuji and made for perfect photos. We then proceeded to the timberline of Fuji by bus but by the time we arrived, the ground was covered with fresh snow which limited our stay. Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan, 3,776 meters, with a crater 70 meters across and 200 meters deep. We did see the beautiful stands of *Betula ermanii* and *Larix leptolepis* at the high elevations while lower down, mixed conifer/deciduous forests included cypress, cryptomeria, maple, and hornbeam. Before returning we took the opportunity to walk in the famous Aokigahara forest where a compass fails because of iron deposits. Many people have become disoriented, lost, and are said to have died. It is an elfin forest with cryptomeria and other conifers covered with moss; the scene is eerie. We returned to our hotel, Kawakien where there is a fine small landscape garden with excellent hedges of indicum azaleas and plantings of broadleaved evergreens.

On the next day (April 27) we took the bullet train from Odawara station into Tokyo. The train stops for three minutes precisely so the group prepared themselves for a quick dash into the car assigned to us. In Tokyo we transferred to the Tobu line to Nikko, arriving early enough in the day that the group could take an afternoon visit to the famous Toshigu Shrine before settling in to the Kanaya Hotel, one of the oldest western style hotels in Japan. Built in a great cryptomeria forest in veneration of the famous Ieyasu Tokugawa after his death in 1616, Toshigu is the foremost shrine of Japan. There

are 23 main buildings surrounded by trees said to be almost 1,000 years old. There is an Umbrella Pine about 23 meters tall and 121 lanterns made either of stone, iron or copper. The shrine is always crowded with tourists. The next day we took the serpentine Iriha-zaka Highway with its 52 hairpin curves up to Lake Chuzenji, and when we got to the top, the snow was falling heavily, to the point where travel became treacherous. But the group pushed on to the several waterfalls which were beautiful in the fallen snow. We made the elevator trip down to the base of Kegon Falls. Here we saw *R. pentaphyllum* just coming into bloom and several large specimens of Magnolia but because of the weather, little else. By the time we reached the Kanaya boathouse for a fresh trout lunch, everyone was frozen and enjoyed the chance for a lunch libation. Spirits undaunted we descended the serpentine road pausing for photos because *Prunus sargentii* was in bloom on the way down. When we got to Nikko there was no sign of the violent snowstorm raging up above. In the courtyard of the Kanaya is the finest specimen of *R. quinquefolium* I have seen in Japan and there are numerous others around the complex which were in flower. This azalea and its pink counterpart, *R. pentaphyllum* are tall treelike specimens distinguished by their flower color and the fact the bark of *R. quinquefolium* exfoliates on older trees. The next morning (29th) we visited the Nikko Branch Botanical Garden of the University of Tokyo, established in 1900. The garden features both woody and herbaceous plants over a ten-hectare area, and some 2,500 species are cultivated. The rock garden contained most of the rarer treasures, such as *Ranzania japonica*, *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Rodgersia podophylla*, and *Mukdenia sp.*, a new introduction from China. At this elevation, *R. kaempferi* was in full bloom both in the garden and along the roadsides as we began our return to Tokyo. We detoured to drive through the 26-mile long avenue of Cryptomerias where 17,000 trees were planted as a gift to the Lord Ieyasu and now a national treasure. It was along this route that we paused to observe the details of mechanized rice planting with several different types of equipment. Keiko-san remarked that we were lucky because most Tokyo bus drivers would not make the many stops and detours which we requested in order to take photos.

Our stay in Tokyo was a short three days and on Sunday we bussed up to Omiya, the bonsai village where we renewed acquaintance with Mr. Kato who began our tour at the Osaka Bonsai Exhibition. Mr. Kato and his wife entertained the group at tea, and we had the opportunity to see his famous bonsai collection, including the few specimens that were his personal choices. Mr. Kato's son demonstrated pruning techniques on an old juniper and each member was given a booklet as a memento of the visit. From here we drove on to Angyo, the largest nursery area of Japan dating from the 17th century. The first stop was the gigantic Nihon Kaki nursery where over 3,000 different plants are offered. Being Sunday, the garden center was jammed with buyers who went away loaded with plants. I was particularly interested in obtain-

ing the pink flowered forms of *Loropetalum chinese* and came away with two forms, one with normal green foliage and the other with purple foliage. Both have survived the trip home and are now at the National Arboretum. After roaming the greenhouses and nursery beds and several purchases of pruners, etc., we went on to the small bonsai nursery of Mr. Y. Shibahata and his charming wife, Hideko. She teaches Japanese at the Canadian Embassy and their sons are both graduates of U.S. universities. The nursery inherited from the parents is entirely of azalea bonsai and they give private lessons to a limited number of owners of collections. In addition to a delightful tour of the several hundred azalea bonsai, each member was presented with a handsome colored book on azalea bonsai. From here we went to the leading maple nursery in Angyo where I have often bought plants. This is Momiji-en and the owner estimated there were over 500 different varieties in his nursery. We were given a liberal supply of seed of a choice form of Japanese maple and Bob Bullington, a nurseryman on the tour has the seeds, intending to germinate them for later distribution to each member of the tour. On again to the Kawaguchi Cooperative Nursery Center where we were greatly impressed by the large number of cultivars offered to the buyers. We observed demonstration gardens which could be bought for prices ranging from \$6,000 on up. This idea seemed to catch on for a while in Japan but now they appeared somewhat bedraggled and apparently not so successful. This completed our day in Angyo and we returned by expressway to Tokyo. Monday was a Japanese holiday and one for the group also. Our last tour day in Tokyo took us to the Jindai Botanical Park, a fine garden not often visited by foreigners. On this day there was a beautiful display of alpine plants put on by the local society (12 persons) and there were four long display booths beautifully arranged. There was also a lovely Ikebana exhibition under cover.

The group was then free to roam the garden in the leadership of the retired Director, Mr. Shibamura. This garden has the finest collection of hedges constructed in the Japanese style, with a bamboo fence skeleton so that it can be trained in a narrow form. There are some 130 species demonstrated. A garden of peonies was in bloom and there were massive plantings of Kurume azaleas everywhere. I noticed a collection of varieties of Photinia with the flushes of growth in different colors, some pale orange others bright red, and there were variegated types. We could probably do with some of these forms in our nursery industry. We visited a display area on the use of bamboo in the garden for fences, entrances, edging and the like. This finished our visit and we said "arigato" to our friends for their hospitality and returned to metropolitan Tokyo where everyone was free for a last chance to shop. At a farewell party in the hotel, our lovely guide, Keiko-san appeared in full kimono regalia much to the delight of the ladies (and the men). The next day, May 3, we departed Japan with many new and fond memories of the Empire of the Sun.

THE JAMES HARRIS AZALEAS: A 25-YEAR STATUS REPORT

James Harris
Lawrenceville, Georgia

The hybrid azaleas listed in the accompanying table are the fruits of nearly a quarter-century of effort that began with collecting and growing azaleas in 1965. After reading widely on plant breeding, I started a hybridizing program by making over 50 crosses in 1970. Currently, I make about 10 to 12 crosses a year, using mostly my own hybrids as parents.

In developing my hybrids, I have used a wide variety of plant material—Kurumes, Satsukis, Kaempferis, Ga-

bles, Glenn Dales, and Back Acres. Over the years, the following have performed especially well as parent plants:

- * 'Grace Freeman #2' (a sport of 'Grace Freeman' found by the late Ralph Pennington in 1953; 'Grace Freeman' itself was not used)
- * 'Amagasa' (Satsuki)
- * 'Bunka' (syn. 'Bunkwa') (Satsuki)
- * 'Delos' (Glenn Dale)

Parents	Name	Color*
'Albert-Elizabeth' x 'Fedora'	'Gloria Still'	Pink and White (variegated)
'Amagasa' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Cille Shaw'	pale purplish Pink 65D, border deep purplish Red
'Amagasa' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Frances E. Seidler'	pale purplish Pink 62D, border moderate Red 51A
'Amagasa' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Mary Ann Egan'	pale purplish Pink, border deep Pink 52B
'Amagasa' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Sue Bell'	light purplish Pink 56B, border deep Pink 47C
'Banka' x 'Target'	'Edith Henderson'	yellowish Pink, blotch Red
'Banka' x 'Target'	'Joan Garrett'	yellowish Pink, blotch Red
'Banka' x 'Target'	'Lee Thomas'	Pink, blotch Red
('Boudoir' x 'Satellite') x 'Martha Hitchcock'	'Carolyn's Day'	White, bordered with Red
'Bunka' x 'Hinode Giri'	'Pride of Lawrenceville'	Pink, border Red
'Bunka' x 'Target'	'Frosted Orange'	White, border strong reddish Orange
'Caroline Dorman' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Mattie Barron'	White, striped light reddish Purple 186C
'Chikyo no Haru' x 'Sunrise'	'Ann Lee McPhail'	light Pink 55C
'Delos' x 'Amagasa'	'Betsy Monnen'	deep purplish Pink 68A
'Delos' x 'Amagasa'	'Betty Hemmingway'	White
'Delos' x 'Amagasa'	'Rhonda Stiteler'	Pink
'Flame Creeper' x 'Otome'	'Low Boy' **	deep Pink
'Grace Freeman #2' x 'Amagasa'	'Buddy McMakin'	pale purplish Pink 65C, border vivid purplish Red 66B
'Grace Freeman #2' x 'Amagasa'	'Dorothy Clark'	light Pink, border light Red
'Grace Freeman #2' x 'Amagasa'	'Fascination'	Pink, border Red
'Grace Freeman #2' x 'Amagasa'	'Vibrant'	White, border Pink
'Hershey Orange' x 'Hershey Red'	'Miss Suzie'	strong Red 53D
'Kokoku' x 'Pink Gumpo'	'Ming Chu Wen'	White, marked light purplish Pink
'Martha Hitchcock' x 'Wakaebisu'	'Harris Purple'	dark Purple
'Moonbeam' x 'Lilacina'	'Georgia Giant'	White
'Moonbeam' x 'Lilacina'	'Rain Fire'	vivid Red
'Mother's Day' x 'Red Slipper'	'Margaret Rowell'	deep Red 53B
'Okina Nishiki' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Seven Dwarfs'	White, variously marked light purplish Pink
'Pink Cascade' x 'Bunka'	'Coronado Cascade' *	deep yellowish Pink, blotch Red
'Pink Gumpo' x 'Grace Freeman #2'	'Bryan Harris'	light Pink, center lighter
'Red Red' x 'Red Slipper'	'Midnight Flare' **	very dark Red
'Sherwood Orchid' x 'Fedora'	'Ellie Harris'	light Pink
'Sherwood Orchid' x 'Fedora'	'Parfait'	Pink, center White, spotting Red
'Sherwood Orchid' x 'Fedora'	'Rivermist'	light reddish Purple 78D
'White Gumpo' x <i>R. keiskei</i> (Azaleodendron)	'Bruce Hancock'	White with Pink border
'Windsor Buttercup' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	(not named)	Yellow
'Windsor Daybreak' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	(not named)	Yellow
'Windsor Daybreak' x <i>R. austrinum</i>	(not named)	Yellow
<i>R. nakaharae</i> x 'Bunka'	'Pink Cascade'	deep yellowish Pink, blotch Red

- + 'Red Red' (Shammarello)
- ** 'Red Slipper' (Back Acres)
- * 'Target' (Back Acres)

Among my own hybrids, 'Georgia Giant' is producing some interesting results when pollinated by *R. austrinum*. Although only two or three viable seeds per capsule were produced, the resulting plants tend to be very vigorous. These plants (none yet named) have been evergreen, with flowers in shades of pink and lavender. I now have second generation plants from recrossing with *R. austrinum*.

'Pink Cascade', a weeping azalea, has been patented in France and The Netherlands and is being grown by tissue culture. Over 23,000 plants were sold in 1988, and production of 35,000 was scheduled for 1989. Another weeping azalea is 'Coronado Cascade', a new basket

and ground-cover plant. The branches of this plant are more limber than those of 'Pink Cascade'—they can even be tied into a knot!

Several of my new hybrids are not included in the table:

- * A bright red flower, 3-1/2" in diameter.
- * A heavily blooming bright red, 2-1/2" in diameter.
- * A white flower with pink and green in the throat (170-A).

To date, I have named 35 hybrids. Eleven have been named for ladies of the Ralph Pennington Chapter, ASA. The latest to be named for the distaff side is 'Carolyn's Day' (for my daughter-in-law). This is a bicolor that should be very hardy, as it has 'Mucronatum' (from 'Martha Hitchcock') and Kaempferi in its background.

The accompanying table lists my hybrids grouped by parentage to highlight the relationships within the series.

Diameter	Size	Years	Comments	TABLE NOTES:
2-3/4"	24" x 36"	5	large truss. forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Where RHS color-chip numbers are shown, the associated color names conform to Table 2 in Huse, Robert D., and Kenneth L. Kelly, <i>A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture</i>. American Rhododendron Society, 1984. ** Newly named.
3-1/4"	18" x 26"	10	single	
3-1/4"	18" x 26"	10	single	
3-1/4"	28" x 36"	10	single	
3"	30" x 28"	10	single	
4-1/2"	42" x 42"	9	single	
5"-6"	36" x 48"	9	single	
5"	21" x 34"	10	single	
3"	—	—	single	
2"	42" x 60"	10	single	
3-1/2"	30" x 36"	9	very late	
3"	20" x 34"	1	very double	
3"	44" x 33"	10	6-lobed	
3-1/2"	24" x 21"	19	double	
3-1/2"-4"	tall	10	double	
2-1/2"	30" x 24"	9	double: variegated leaves	
3"	12"	10	single	
3-1/2"	28" x 24"	10	single	
4-1/2"	36" x 36"	9	single	
4-1/2"	42" x 42"	9	single	
4"	24" x 36"	9	single	
2"	24" x 36"	10	hose-in-hose:compact	
2-1/2"	24" x 36"	—	low, compact	
3-1/2"	42" x 42"	9	hose-in-hose	
4"-5-1/2"	54" x 42"	8	star-shaped	
3"	24" x 30"	8	single: sun tolerant	
3"	14" x 19"	10	Semi-Double.hose-in-hose	
2-1/4"	24" x 60"	9	variegated leaves	
3"	—	—	stems very flexible	
3-1/2"	36" x 36"	9	single: 'Gumpo' foliage	
3"	—	—	vigorous growth	
2"	42" x 36"	10	hose-in-hose	
2"	42" x 42"	10	single: slightly fragrant	
2"	42" h	9	up to 30 in truss	
3-1/2"	48" down	5	cascading	
2"	—	—	leaves obscure flowers	
3"	—	—	ball truss of 21 flowers	
3"	—	—	ball truss of 60+ flowers	
2"	30" x 36"	10	spreading, cascading	

JUDGING ETIQUETTE AND PROCEDURES FOR AZALEA FLOWER SHOWS

William C. Miller III
Bethesda, Maryland

Azalea flower shows represent unique opportunities for Azalea Society of America (ASA) chapters to reach out to the public. Held in cooperation with some local spring-time activity or in their own right in a public place, they are marvelous tools for public education, are consistent with the educational mandate of the ASA's charter, and provide a means for directly acquiring new chapter members. While even the simplest show requires planning and considerable individual effort, the size and complexity can be adjusted to match the interest of the chapter members. Fortunately, a number of ASA chapters have experience in producing shows, considerable help is available, and holding a show—like sponsoring a national convention—is not as insuperable a task as some might lead you to believe.

In the spring of 1983, a set of judging standards and criteria was developed to establish a common basis for the evaluation of quality in azalea specimens in competitive shows. The Brookside Gardens Chapter has held competitive shows for many years, and it had been our experience that, in the absence of some agreement on what constitutes quality, the judging process was frequently driven or influenced more by the "loudest" individual than by the "most knowledgeable." There was general consensus that a means was needed for normalizing the individual preferences and prejudices of the individual judges and that a uniform approach to measuring quality would ensure greater consistency and equity. The resulting judging criteria, standards, and weighting system were formally adopted by the Brookside Gardens Chapter and subsequently published in the March 1986 issue of *THE AZALEAN*.

The development of judging criteria proved to be a worthwhile exercise, and the quality of the judging in our shows improved. However, despite the establishment of uniform criteria, the human element remains a very significant variable. From year-to-year, we have found that no two panels of judges could be expected to function alike. The focus now becomes what should a judge do in the normal performance of his or her duties? And conversely, what should they not do?

It is an honor to be asked to judge at an azalea show. It is a compliment, a statement of confidence in one's knowledge and expertise. After many years of participation in the Brookside Gardens Chapter's azalea show as Chairman of Horticulture and having served as a judge myself in other shows, I submit the following comments to address problems and situations that I have witnessed. They strike me as mostly common sense and pertain particularly to our show, though they are generally applicable.

- (1) Preparation — In preparation for judging a show, a judge should become very familiar

with how the show is organized. This information is contained in the show schedule or program, which lists the rules, identifies the members of the show committee, describes the awards and ribbon system, and presents the schedule of classes. In addition, a judge should become familiar with any specified judging criteria or standards currently in use. All of this documentation should be provided by the Chairman of Judges well in advance of the show to give the judges adequate time to review it.

- (2) "Who is in charge here?" — Any time prior to judging, questions of a general nature, logistics, location, timing, etc., should be directed to the Chairman of Judges or to the Show Chairman for action or referral. Once judges have entered the floor and begun judging, the organizational focus changes. Questions involving procedure, placement, or horticulture should be directed to either the Chairman of Horticulture or the Show Chairman. Judges should feel free to ask questions.
- (3) "I only like doubles!" — All biases, personal preferences, and prejudices should be checked at the door prior to the judging. The established judging criteria or standards are the sole basis for evaluating entries.
- (4) "When I was in St Louis last month. . . ." — There is no place for unnecessary chatter while a judging is in progress. Discussion of matters unrelated to the evaluation of specimens wastes valuable time and detracts from the business at hand. Most shows are run on a tight schedule and have a specified time by which they are supposed to open to the public. Conversation should be kept to a minimum and at a moderate level, though judges are encouraged to think out loud as they examine specimens. In that way, they share their knowledge and experience with the other judges and the assigned panel of aides.
- (5) "Oh, I didn't see those three entries. . . ." — Judges should make use of the panel of aides assigned to them. Judges' Aides are there to assist the judges with the logistical aspects of judging, such as the punching of cards, the writing of notes for the exhibitor (see item 8 below), and the identification of where classes begin and end. Judges should ensure that they understand the "boundaries" of each class so that entries are not left out of con-

sideration. Such an error necessitates rejudging and often results in different award selections, tags having to be changed (punched a second time), and confusion. Judges should not proceed to the next class until the aides have marked or punched the entry cards properly. Under no circumstances should the judges enter into discussions with the aides over the relative merits of any of the entries.

- (6) **Classes and Subclasses** — Judges are permitted to lift specimens for the purpose of examining the tag or inspecting the entry. Judges may not divide classes into subclasses, combine existing subclasses into single classes, or move specimens between classes. Any entry deemed by the judges to be out of place warrants a note to that effect and should not be considered for an award but should be brought to the attention of the Chairman of Horticulture.
- (7) **Improving Specimens** — Under no circumstances may a judge "improve" a specimen prior to or during judging. The removal of imperfections by a judge is inconsistent with the fact that a competition is in progress. Obviously, an entry in need of improvement should not qualify for a ribbon since it was not properly groomed.
- (8) **Communications and Education** — Judges are encouraged to leave notes or "constructive criticisms" for the benefit of the exhibitors. One of the goals of any show is to educate the exhibitor as well as the public. These notes should be placed face down beneath the container. Judges' aides can provide the necessary materials. Reasons for leaving a note include but are not limited to: that the entry is in the wrong class, that it is misidentified, or that it is a poor (atypical) example of the cultivar. Judges should also bring to the exhibitor's attention any specimens which are significantly over-sized or poorly groomed. A single note from a panel of judges can do more to educate an exhibitor than a dozen "how to" lectures. Judge's communications are strictly for the benefit of the exhibitor and need not be signed.

Judges should exercise care to avoid reporting environmental variability as mislabeled material. Environmental variation can be considerable and can have significant impact on flower size and color. In most situations, a better case can be made for specimens being

atypical, or bad examples of the cultivar, e.g., an entry of 'Vespers' which has too many stripes.

- (9) **Ribbons** — Guidance on awards should be contained in the Show Schedule. Generally, only one blue ribbon (1st), one red ribbon (2nd), and one yellow ribbon (3rd) are given in each class. The judges may give as many white ribbons (honorable mention) as they see fit. All of the blue ribbons in a section should be reviewed to identify the one specimen to receive the green ribbon (Best-in Section) for that section. After the initial pass is made and the specimen meriting the green ribbon has been identified in each section, the selection of "Best-in-Show" is made. The entries awarded green ribbons may or may not be assembled in one area, at the discretion of the judges. The selection of "Best-in-Show" is solely the responsibility of the horticultural judges. That responsibility may not be passed on to or shared with any other personnel. At no time may artistic design judges be called in by the horticultural judges to select "Best-in-Show."
- (10) **Special Considerations** — Weather should be taken into consideration by the judges. Severe winters, last-minute plunges to sub-freezing temperatures, or severe downpours just prior to the show may result in damage to even the hardiest of cultivars. It is theoretically possible for no ribbons to be given in a show, but that would make little sense. In any group of entries, it always is possible to select specimens which more nearly approach the ideal standard. Judges should be as generous as possible with ribbons—certainly to the extent that their collective consciences will permit. The working perspective on balance, then, is that it not possible to give too many ribbons, even in the worst of years.

For those involved in planning and management of an azalea show, as well as for those entering plant material, the selection of "Best-in-Show" is the climax of many months of preparation. While the judges perform their task in a matter of hours, the competitive show, as we know it, would not be possible without their participation. We are grateful to those dedicated individuals who accept the challenge to serve as azalea judges.

Bill Miller is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter and has served as Chairman of Horticulture in the chapter's annual flower show for many years. He is a frequent contributor to *THE AZALEAN*.

ASSIST THE SOCIETY TO SERVE YOU BETTER! A NOTE ON DUES COLLECTION

Robert W. Hobbs

Just as the goals of our Society are interrelated, so are the financial capacity of the Society and its ability to provide service to its members (including improvements in *THE AZALEAN*). Time, effort, and money lost because established procedures are not followed inevitably detract from effectiveness. Please help your fellow members realize the goals of the Society more fully by adhering to the procedures discussed below. The local chapters are the focus for many activities of the Azalea Society of America. Among the most important of these is dues collection. If a member's dues are not forwarded to the National Membership Chairperson promptly by the chapter, that member's March issue of *THE AZALEAN* will not be mailed in the bulk mailing that takes place about mid-March. Subsequent mailing of *THE AZALEAN* costs ten times the bulk rate of 8.3 cents per copy.

You can make an important contribution to the smooth and economical operation of the Society by following the dues collection process prescribed by the Society By-laws and summarized below.

Annual dues are due and payable January 1 each year. Notices are sent to all members by the Society's membership committee in November. As part of the dues notice, chapter members are instructed to send their dues for the following year to their chapter treasurer. At-large members are instructed to send their dues to the Society's Membership Chairperson.

In the case of a regular member, for example, the chapter's treasurer will receive \$15.00 in payment of dues. The chapter treasurer should promptly deposit these dues checks and record the payer's name. At the end of each month during which dues are collected, the chapter treasurer should retain the chapter's share (\$5.00) and forward to the Society's Membership Chairperson, Mrs. Marjorie Taylor, the remainder, together with a list of names and addresses of the members who have paid. Thus, the amount to be forwarded will be \$10.00 for a regular member, \$20.00 for a contributing member, \$45.00 for a Sustaining Member, etc.

It is the responsibility of each chapter to send out reminders to individuals who do not pay their dues in a

reasonable amount of time after the January 1 due date. I suggest that these notices should be sent out about January 15. (Reminders to At-large members are sent out by the Society's Membership Committee.) Hopefully, these delinquent dues can be collected and forwarded to the membership chairperson by the end of February so that all members' copies of the March issue of *THE AZALEAN* can be in the mid-March bulk mailing. Remember! Those who dues are not paid as of March 1 are dropped from the membership rolls.

Timely forwarding of the dues to the Society's Membership Chairperson is essential for three reasons:

- (1) The operation of the Membership Committee is, like all other Azalea Society of America Committees, done on a volunteer basis. Prompt and responsive attention to the procedure outlined above makes the job (and it is a big one) of compiling the roster, compiling the mailing list for *THE AZALEAN*, compiling the names of new members for publication in *THE AZALEAN*, and forwarding the dues to the Treasurer for deposit a manageable one by spreading it out in a predictable way.
- (2) Mailing late copies of *THE AZALEAN* represents an unnecessary expense to the Society and requires special outlay of time and effort by another member. All unnecessary expenses contribute to the difficulty in maintaining the dues at their currently very reasonable rate.
- (3) For renewals and new members alike, it is important to respond in a courteous and efficient manner. Members have a right to expect businesslike handling of their dues payments and recognition of their membership status when dues have been paid.

Members and chapter officers are urged to conform to these procedures for the benefit of all in the Azalea Society of America.

1990 Annual Meeting and Convention

sponsored by
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

May 17-19

Tysons Corner, Fairfax County, Virginia

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AZALEA CALENDAR

Oct. 1	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Pimmit Library, 1:30PM.		
Oct. 2	Brookside Garden Chapter Meeting, Bethesda, MD		
Oct. 14-15	Delmarva/Ben Morrison Regional Meeting, Rehoboth, DE		
Oct. 21	Glenn Dale Preservation Project Workday, 9:00AM-1:00PM. For directions and more information contact: Roger Brown at (301) 577-7509.		
Oct. 22	Louisiana Chapter meeting in Franklinton, LA		
November	Tri-State Dinner/Banquet Program		
Nov. 5	Annual Meeting and Plant Auction of Richmond Chapter at the Garden		
		Nov. 18	Center of Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, 4015 Hermitage Road at 5:00PM.
		Nov. 18	Glenn Dale Preservation Project Workday, 9:00AM-1:00PM. For directions and more information contact: Roger Brown at (301) 577-7509.
		Dec. 3	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting at Pimmit Library, 1:30PM.
			1990
		Jan. 14	Louisiana Chapter First Annual Banquet, Covington, LA
		May 17-19	Twelfth Annual Meeting and Convention, Tysons Corner, Fairfax County, Virginia

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Five Governors will be elected by the membership early in 1990. Each is to serve a term of two years. The nominating committee has submitted the following slate to the Board of Governors who hereby announces it to the membership. Additional nominations may be made by petition, each to be supported by the signature of twenty members of the Society. Such petitions should be forwarded to the chairman of the nominating committee before January 1, 1990 so that ballots may be prepared for inclusion in the March issue of *THE AZALEAN*. The slate is as follows:

Malcolm Clark, *Southern Pines, North Carolina*

Long an active member. Mal has served the Society as both Chairman of the Board and President and continues as chairman of two committees. In his retirement from public education. Mal has returned to his nursery roots as collector, breeder, grower, and sometimes seller.

John L. Creech, Ph.D., *Hendersonville, North Carolina*

Director Emeritus of the U.S. National Arboretum and the 1989 recipient of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal of the American Horticultural Society. John needs no introduction anywhere in the horticultural community. The huge majority of our plant introductions over the last thirty years bear his name and we are blessed that his special interest has long been azaleas.

William C. Miller III, *Bethesda, Maryland*

A charter member and past president of the Brookside Chapter. Bill may be most widely known as a frequent contributor to *THE AZALEAN* where he has served as Education and Scientific Director. Still his dedication and boundless energy extend his contributions into every facet of the work of the Society, our Glenn Dale Project being a special pet.

Robert T. Stelloh, *Darnestown, Maryland*

A two-term governor and our current Vice President. Bob is a charter member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter and long one of its prime movers. Under the ministrations of Bob and his wife, Denise, a major

SOCIETY NEWS

clonal garden is evolving in Darnestown.

Donald H. Voss, *Vienna, Virginia*

A two-term governor now in his second year as Chairman of the Board, Don is also serving as President of the Northern Virginia Chapter, our 1990 convention host. All this aside, his frequent publications, both in and out of *THE AZALEAN*, put him at the forefront of our community.

BEN MORRISON CHAPTER

On May 13 and 14 the Ben Morrison Chapter held its second annual azalea show at London Town Public House and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland and it was a great success. This year a plant sale was held in conjunction with the show. Plants were donated by local nurserymen and chapter members, and more than \$600 was added to the Chapter treasury.

The annual cutting picnic was held at the home of Sue and George Switzer in Port Republic, Maryland, on July 15. After a delicious potluck lunch and a brief business meeting, a plant sale and auction was held. The 23 members who attended dispersed around the Switzer's garden to take cuttings.

October 14 and 15 are the dates set for on ASA regional meeting, jointly sponsored by the Delmarva and Ben Morrison Chapters, in Rehoboth, Delaware. This two-day fall meeting has attracted some outstanding speakers, and promises to do so again this year. Rehoboth is a delightful place in October. The weather is splendid and the summer crowds have gone.

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

The third regular meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter for 1989 was held at 7:30PM on June 5 at the Davis Library on Democracy Boulevard in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was called to order by Chapter President, Brian Barr. He reported on the chapter and society activities since the last meeting which included the highly successful flower show at Landon School, the azalea mart at Woodward High School, and the Na-



Denise Stelloh presenting Brian Barr the Brookside Gardens Chapter Best-in-Show Award

tional Meeting that was held in Hendersonville, North Carolina. He concluded his report by thanking Denise Stelloh, Teresa Dunnington, Buck Clagett, Warren Groomes, and the respective committee workers who made the chapter activities so successful. Moving to new business, he announced that the August 7 chapter meeting would be the annual chapter auction and that Bill Miller had agreed to serve as auctioneer. Denise Stelloh, the show chairman, presented Brian with the Brookside Garden Chapter Best-in-Show Award which is a perpetual plaque given to the individual whose entry is selected Best-in-Show. Brian's award winning entry was a beautiful specimen of *Rhododendron periclymenoides*. The public was delighted and many people remarked that they had never seen so exotic and delicate an azalea before. They were astonished to learn that it was the local native azalea. Malcolm Clark, the immediate past president of the society and a member of the Flame Azalea Chapter, attended the meeting and presented Dr. Charles H. Evans with a National award in recognition of his many years of service to the society. Charlie was out of town on business so the award was received on his behalf by Bill Miller.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Ajit K. Thakur, a Biostatistician with Hazleton Laboratories and a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. His presentation was entitled, 'A Slide Program on Satsuki Azaleas'. The first part of his presentation was a review of what we know about the history, culture, characteristics, and behavior of Satsukis. This was followed by slides of unusual specimens which included many favorites from his extensive collection. A question and answer period followed and the evening con-

cluded with a brief refreshment and social period.

The fourth regular meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter was held on Monday, August 7, 1989. The meeting was called to order by Brian Barr, the chapter president, who gave a brief introduction to the evenings scheduled event, the annual chapter auction. Brian recognized and thanked all of the people who generously donated plants to the auction. The list of people who donated plants was considerable and included: Mike White, George Harding, Debby Emory, Denise and Bob Stelloh, Buck Clagett, Andy Dietz, Roger Brown, Malcolm Clark, Bill Miller, and Judy Springer. The plant material consisted of named/numbered/unnamed evergreen azaleas, deciduous American native azalea species, Rhododendron species, Acuba and Taxus cultivars, and additional companion plants in all sizes from yearlings to significant landscape sizes. Bill Miller, who served as auctioneer, was assisted in the movement and handling of the plants by Cay Miller, Teresa Dunnington, and Brian Barr. The thirty members and guests in attendance spent \$886.50 in the two and three-quarter hours that it took to exhaust the supply of plants. A beautiful seven gallon specimen of 'Kinsai' lead all items and fetched a record high bid of \$40.00. The high spender for the night took home \$110.00 worth of plants. Refreshments, provided by Denise Stelloh, provided a welcome diversion to the

sometimes intense but friendly bidding that always characterizes what has become one of the more popular chapter events. As expected, everyone had a good time, many beautiful plants found new homes, and the chapter coffer benefited from the fresh infusion that will be applied to supporting chapter operations.

The next meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter will be on October 2, 1989 at the Davis Library on Democracy Road in Bethesda, Maryland. Bill Miller will present a slide program on his recent 23-day trip to Japan with the group lead by Dr. John Creech that attended the First International Azalea Festival in Kurume. Due to the length of the program, it will begin promptly at 7:00PM. All interested persons are invited and especially those who read Kanji, Hiragana, and Katagana. For more information, call Bill Miller at (301) 530-7683.

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

The Northern Virginia Chapter cordially invites all to attend the twelfth annual ASA Convention to be held at the Westpark Hotel located on Route #7 going North from the Washington, D.C. Beltway (I495) just past Tysons Corner, Fairfax County, Virginia on May 17 through 19, 1990.

The Convention will be combining presentations with tours and exhibits of residential and public landscapes.

Convention registration will be held

the evening of Thursday May 17, 1990. Detailed information on the Convention will be published in *THE AZALEAN* December 1989 issue.

ASA AWARDS

Two Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the 1989 Annual Meeting. The award citations are as follows:

AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Distinguished Service Award — 1989
RYON A. PAGE

The formative decade of our Society was shaped by one person. He harnessed our disparate talents, obscured our frailties and undertook the many loose ends himself. With patience and wisdom he dodged the pits and shoals, quelled the raging infernos and leaves us now poised to move smoothly upstream!

Thank you, Ryon. We could not possibly have done it without you.

AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Distinguished Service Award — 1989
DR. CHARLES H. EVANS

In March of 1983, *THE AZALEAN* was suddenly transformed into a journal of record, meeting the highest professional standards. For six crucial years in our development its unflagging quality continued. The grueling effort behind this was masked by the polish of the product.

Thank you, Charlie. You have both secured our place in the horticultural community and raised our individual sights.

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