

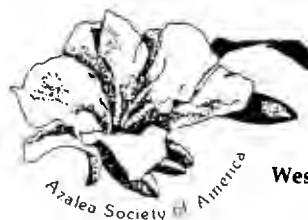
**THE** **A** *zalea*  
VOLUME 12 NUMBER 4 • DECEMBER 1990  
*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*



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**Azaleas in the Shenandoah Valley** *Page 76*



Post Office Box 34536  
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# President's Letter

Robert W. Hobbs

As 1990 comes to a close, it is time to look back and to see what has been accomplished during the year. As individuals we often find this a discouraging thought. However, as focussed groups the prospects are much better. For example, I would like to summarize what we have accomplished in 1990 with **THE AZALEAN**, and to thank all of those who have contributed. In 1990 we achieved the objective of having a color photograph on the cover of **THE AZALEAN** which I believe greatly enhances its usefulness as a flower society journal. The thanks go to many people.

First, to the members who contributed articles, and willingly signed up for the dues increase.

Second, to the Board of Directors who provided support and as always, constructive suggestions.

Third, to the editorial staff for providing thorough, thoughtful, and timely help.

Fourth, to the advertisers whose financial support was extremely important, and whose display ads make the journal ever so much more useful.

Again, thanks to all, and best wishes for a happy, healthy and floriferous 1991! □

## *Please Vote!*

A ballot for the election of officers and directors of the Society for 1991 is enclosed. Please vote, by checking the appropriate boxes on the ballot or by writing in your selection, and mailing the ballot as soon as possible but in no case later than 1 May to Ms. Carol Flowers, Secretary, ASA, 12 Henson Landing Road, Welcome, MD 20693.

## *Reminder!*

**Please renew your membership dues for 1991.**

Dues for 1991 should be mailed by December 31, 1990.  
Send to: Membership Committee, Azalea Society of America,  
P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.

Please inform the Membership Committee of any changes of address that occur during the year. If you move and do not tell us, you are unlikely to receive **THE AZALEAN** since the post office is not required to forward items that have received the bulk mail rate.

*On the Cover: Rhododendron Canescens* by James Campbell

*About the Artist:* Mr. James Greene Campbell is a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. He is employed by Bradley-Miremont and Associates of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Campbell is active in associations and has exhibited his drawings throughout Louisiana.

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

### OFFICERS FOR 1990-1991

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**THE AZALEAN**  
Journal of the Azalea Society  
of America, Inc.

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THE AZALEAN is published during March, June, September, and December by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, Maryland 20827-0536.

Additional copies of the current and back issues can be obtained from the Treasurer, Glenn W. Taylor, 5203 Queensberry Avenue, Springfield, VA 22151, (703) 321-7053. Volumes 1 through 4 published from 1979 through 1982 consist of 15 issues at \$2.50 per issue. The price for each issue beginning with 1983, Volumes 5 through 11 is \$3.50.

Opinions and views expressed in THE AZALEAN are those of the contributors or the Editor, not necessarily those of the Society, and are presented to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of azaleas. Advertisements are presented as a service to our readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America. Advertising and other contributions to THE AZALEAN are used exclusively to help defray the costs of publishing THE AZALEAN.

Address all editorial and business correspondence to:  
**The Editor, THE AZALEAN**  
737 Walnut Avenue,  
North Beach, Maryland 20714.

Lay-out of THE AZALEAN by:  
Donna Ziegenfuss  
North Beach, Maryland  
Printing of THE AZALEAN by:  
Hour Printer  
Silver Spring, Maryland

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## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

We are deeply indebted to Ajit Thakur for his fine two piece article entitled "The Enchanting Satsuki" (**THE AZALEAN**, December 1989 and January 1990). Indeed, those who attended his Friday evening presentation at the ASA National Meeting in Northern Virginia gained additional insight into this significant group of hybrid evergreen azaleas. Because of Thakur's thoroughness, the story of the Satsuki has, for the first time, been put into perspective. This now affords us an opportunity to focus on some of the major issues that surround this very interesting and highly complex group.

In part two of his article, Thakur repeats the popular belief that it is a mistake to refer to 'Koromo Shikibu' as a Kurume or Kurume hybrid. Similar remarks are frequently made about the evergreen azalea 'HoOden', a particularly nice cultivar that was introduced many years ago by R. Kent Beattie of the United States Department of Agriculture as a result of his travels to Japan. The rationale seems to be that the cultivars in question do not exhibit the characteristics of the Kurume hybrids. The problem with this is that there really are no "Kurume characteristics." Kurume is the name of a city, just as Glenn Dale is the name of a city. It is no more proper to talk about "Kurume" foliage than it is to talk about Glenn Dale foliage, which can be quite variable from cultivar to cultivar. Kurume azaleas, then, are azaleas associated with or originating in or around Kurume. Therefore, 'Koromo Shikibu', which may well be derived directly or indirectly from *Rhododendron macrosepalum*, should be considered no less a Kurume hybrid than 'Coral Bells' and 'Hinode Giri'. If that is not confusing enough, the people in Kurume are busy developing new Satsuki hybrids. Should they be called Satsukis or Kurumes? And, who should make the decision?

Regarding Thakur's remarks as to the uniqueness of 'Chojuho', the persistent flowered azalea, I would draw

his attention to *R. kaempferi* var. *tubiflorum* which resembles 'Chojuho' and demonstrates this same tendency to retain its flowers. There are references to this variety in Galle and in the Winter 1976 issue of the ARS Quarterly Bulletin in an article on Kaempferi written by Hideo Suzuki of Kumagaya, Japan. The cultivar is called 'Eij-yuho' or "longevity treasure." I have not had this plant very long, but it, too, exhibits the characteristic of persistent flowers.

It is fair to say that within the Satsuki hybrid ranks can be found some of the most interesting azaleas. For example, I am fascinated by the Satsuki cultivar 'Saotome' ('Sa Otome', after Thakur). It is described by Thakur and others as having orange-red flowers. I have had a nice specimen for five or six years and have never seen it set buds much less bloom. I do not know anyone who has seen it bloom. It is a curious plant and I have been unable to find any explanation for its unusual "lack of behavior."

The story about 'Kinsai', the unusual strap-petal Satsuki, has been a matter of considerable interest for me for some time as well. I am only marginally inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to the nurseryman who still maintains that 'Kinsai', 'Kinzai', 'Ki-no-sai', 'Ki-no-zai', and 'Polypetalum' are all different. But, in all fairness, the answer to or explanation of the controversy may simply involve mislabelings (accidental or otherwise) that have been carried forward. First, the names 'Kinsai', 'Kinzai', 'Ki-no-sai', and 'Ki-no-zai' are the cross-cultural derivatives of multiple *romaji* (Japanese words represented in the English alphabet) transliterations of the same Japanese name; that is, they are all the same, so the plants should all be the same. One would expect no variation from specimen to specimen of the cultivar in the absence of mislabeling and somatic cell mutations (sporting). 'Polypetalum', on the other hand, is not a proper cultivar name, despite common usage that way. It is derived from binomial nomenclature and is a varietal name of *R. indicum* (*Rhododendron indicum* var. *polypetalum*, Wilson and Rehder). A degree of variation be-

tween members of a species is not unusual, so I would think we could expect an acceptable degree of variation between specimens of *polypetalum* which would result from multiple populations and be attributable to different individuals independently collected from the wild. □

William C. Miller III,  
Bethesda, Maryland

To the Editor:

A few comments in regards to the 51 selected Glenn Dales in the March issue for those with limited space:

(1) Snowclad and Safrano: the flowers are identical except Safrano has a very slight chartreuse blotch.

(2) The five plants selected by Mr. Morrison from the *poukhanense* x Modele cross (Gawain, Merlin, Templar, Viking and Zulu) differ only in the shade of purple.

(3) Glacier: I have two; one has a southern exposure but the other is more protected. In the majority of years they are both poor bloomers, but the last two years were OK.

(4) Delos: long shoots (from Vitata Fortunei) that will not support flower heads. Morrison states that three clones with rosebud flowers (Andros, Delos and Kenwood) are weak stemmed.

Of course petal blight has diminished my enthusiasm for hose-in-hose and double flowers. Speaking of doubles, I have Beni Botan, Beni Kirishima and Cora Brandt. The colors are identical, so I plan to eliminate two.

Does any one have the correct Tanager? The scarlet tanager is a brilliant light scarlet and I am certain that the plant Mr. Morrison named would match the color of the bird. Mine does not. It has a violet tinge and is not brilliant. The late Mr. Close (who propagated all the Glenn Dales) saw mine in bloom and said it was not correct. I ordered another from Kingsville and that was similar to the one I had.

Question: Did the station distribute the wrong plants? Tanager P.I. 141907, Remembrance 141909. □

Dr. Neil P. Campbell  
Washington, D.C.

# 1991 Convention and Annual Meeting

**Robert Lee**

*Independence, Louisiana*

The membership of the Louisiana Chapter is honored to be hosting the 1991 annual meeting and convention of the Azalea Society of America, March 21, 22, and 23. Azalea blooms should be spectacular throughout the Gulf South region at this time. Also the Louisiana Chapter's annual azalea show and plant sale is planned to coincide with the convention. Please plan to attend and join us in all these activities.

The New Orleans Airport Hilton and Conference Center has been selected as the convention headquarters. This beautiful hotel has accommodating facilities and is easily accessible for air and motor travelers. Convention registration and information desk will open at 4:00PM Thursday, March 21, 1991. Pre-reservation is highly advised to ensure your place on all the scheduled tours.

After the initial welcoming remarks at the Thursday evening session, Dr. Severn Doughty will present slides and speak about plants you may see in the New Orleans landscape. Dr. Doughty is the area agent in horticulture with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

A bonsai (azalea) collection by the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society and a collection of botanical drawings by James Campbell will be on display Thursday evening.

Longue Vue Gardens and a visit to the Vieux Carre (French Quarter) will be scheduled for Friday. Longue Vue Gardens is an eight-acre urban estate, designed for year round appeal, that was first opened to the public in 1968. The basic plan is a large formal garden surrounded by six smaller ones.

Patio gardens will be the main focus of the Vieux Carre tour. Other points of interest may include Jackson Square, French Market, antique and novelty shops or take a break with coffee and beignets at the Cafe deMonde.

Friday evening, azalea breeding will be the topic of discussion. The first speaker will be Robert Lee, a nurseryman, whose talk will be "Austrium x Exbury Hybrids: A Slide Presentation". The next speaker, Dr. William L. Brown, will discuss "Breeding for Everblooming Azaleas". Dr. Brown is an associate professor of horticulture at the Hammond Research Station, which is part of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. After a short break, Dr. Richard James Stadtherr's talk will be "Azalea Breeding/New Azalea Varieties". Dr. Stadtherr is retired from the Louisiana State University Department of Agriculture and is or has been affiliated with many honorary and professional organizations. Azalea enthusiasts most readily recognize Dr. Stadtherr for his work with the Carla Azalea Hybrids.

Nurseries and gardens will be on the tour schedule for Saturday. Seven different locations have been selected ranging from private gardens to wholesale nurseries. The locations are as follows: Shadowcreek Gardens, Hammond Research Station, Zemurray Gardens, Jenkins Nursery, John and Evelyn Rochester's garden, Wally Warren's gardens and Windmill Nursery.

Coffee and donuts will be served at Hammond Research Station while lunch will be served at Zemurray Gardens.

Due to the full schedule of tours, an early departure time is necessary. Louisiana wetlands can be viewed enroute to the first garden. Another point of interest is the Causeway Bridge, a 24-mile bridge crossing Lake Ponchartrain, which will be traveled on the return trip to the hotel.

Saturday evening will feature the banquet, membership meeting, and speaker, Mr. Naud Burnett II. Mr. Burnett is a landscape architect from Dallas,

Texas. He will speak on how 2,000 varieties of azaleas were established at the Dallas Arboretum. This talk and slide presentation will be one you don't want to miss!

After final comments, this will conclude the 1991 annual meeting and convention of the Azalea Society of America.

## Shadowcreek

Shadowcreek, the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Hobson Morrison, derived its name from the sun-dappled creeks wandering through the heavily wooded rolling land, which is situated five miles west of Hammond, Louisiana, the home town of Mr. Morrison.

The six columned Colonial house was built in 1950-51 from scale drawings by Mrs. Morrison, who also designed the fan- and side-lights of the front door, the cornices, and much of the woodwork of the house (executed by Stanley Bauerle of Hammond). The entrance hall is noteworthy for its fan-shaped circular stairway, each step a gradually diminishing arc, designed by the architects August Perez and Associates of New Orleans, and handmade of mahogany by Mr. C. Litovsky, a former Viennese cabinet-maker who came out of retirement on his strawberry farm nearby to create his final work of art.

At the time the property was purchased by the Morrisons, the land was covered by large pine trees with only a cowpath wandering through the dense underbrush of briars and bushes. Once a homesite was settled upon, a road was hacked out and a small space cleared for the buildings. Through the years the clearing was extended to the present thirty acres of lawn and garden. St. Augustine grass was planted, and the ivy started at the base of the tall pines near the house. Fifty azaleas, fifty camellias, and the same number of sasanquas, plus a car trunk full of day lilies were spread through the woodlands—with the concept of an open English park.

Mrs. Morrison gradually developed the grounds, planning first the terraces of the main house and the ridge behind it where she started her

camellia garden, which now has over 250 varieties blooming from September to May. Kurume azaleas were used as hedges to outline the beds with Indica azaleas (over 5,000 of them) serving as a background break between the natural woodlands and the cultivated bares. Thousands of daylilies supply summer color in both the beds and in the borders. Many other plants have found a place in the gardens, for a wide variety of flora finds this area compatible. A nursery area continuously supply more plants to the expanding gardens, for the Morrisons grow the majority of their plants themselves.

The guest house and pool were built in 1960, and here the modern house called for a different landscaping approach. Many tropical and desert type plants are used—with a concentration upon summer color and greenery. Mrs. Morrison, again,

served as landscape architect and designer as well as active gardener.

### **Zemurray Gardens**

Exquisite in its simplicity, hospitable, and centered on the enjoyment of the natural Louisiana terrain, Zemurray Gardens began its long transformation from a dream to reality in 1928 when Mr. and Mrs. Sam Zemurray purchased the 150-acre property. They first improved the dam and spillway, creating the serene Mirror Lake. This 20-acre lake soon became the focal point of the garden. With the help of the well-known southern horticulturist, Howard Schilling, Mrs. Zemurray began the arduous planting of thousands of azaleas, camellias, and dogwoods. In late water and early spring, their prodigious blooms, along with many native trees and shrubs, shower forth an unparalleled brilliance of color.

A meandering pathway encircles the irregular shoreline of the lake, and is shaded by towering pines that provide a canopy for flowers and a natural sanctuary for native birds. The path reveals European mythological statuary and leads to an island in the center of the lake, affording a panoramic view of the splendors of Zemurray Gardens.

In 1974, the Zemurrays sold their holdings to the Estate of their long-time friend, Fred W. Reimers. Today, the gardens are owned and maintained by his heirs who desire to share its abundant beauty. The family is very active in civic and cultural affairs, in the Hammond, Louisiana and Jackson, Mississippi areas.

Over the years, many thousands of visitors have enjoyed the quiet serenity and harmony of Zemurray Gardens, and have returned again and again to ponder its beauty. □

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## **The Flowering World of "Chinese" Wilson by Daniel J. Foley: A Review**

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**Sue and George Switzer**

*Prince Frederick, Maryland*

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One of the most fascinating books we have read is Daniel J. Foley's account of the exploits of one of the greatest of all plant explorers, Ernest Henry ("Chinese") Wilson. An English plant hunter, he made several expeditions in the early 1900's into the Orient for the Arnold Arboretum and gathered a collection of over 1000 exotic plants. Perhaps the best way to briefly summarize Wilson's background and achievements is to quote Foley's Foreward to his book:

This is a book for plant lovers who garden with a purpose—to grow those ornamentals which are superior for their flowers, their fruits, and their foliage, as well as the unique forms they assume. It is the right plant for the right place that lends distinction to any garden, large or small. When Ernest Henry Wilson, the most intrepid plant hunter of the early twentieth century, had completed his search for new plants, he launched a great crusade for more and better gardens all across America where his treasures might be utilized. He joined the staff of the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, in 1906, serving that institution as plant hunter and succeeded Charles Sprague Sargent, its first director, in 1927. Although his knowledge of plants was almost beyond compare, what was even more significant was his capacity to popularize his finds. Since he could visualize their use with other exotics and native kinds, he could literally make them grow as he talked and wrote about them. He could write, "at times with the pen of angels", as Richardson Wright, long time editor of *House and Garden*, once expressed it. He could talk with vigor and enthusiasm, and he did. He was first, last, and always a plantsman with an uncanny sense of the landscape effects to be achieved with woody plants. Aside from his family and a small circle of intimate friends, the vitalizing force of his life was the plant world to which he was entirely dedicated.

Although nearly forty years have passed since his death, "Chinese" Wilson's writings, volume for volume, chapter for chapter, are as timely, as inspiring, and as informative as they were when written. In the twenty-five chapters selected for inclusion in this anthology, only a few sentences have been deleted. These refer to the culture of rhododendrons, which had not been widely tested and were not grown commonly in gardens and nurseries when Wilson was writing. All of his books have been long out of print so that the present generation of gardeners has lost touch with an inspired writer on gardening.

This book is offered in an effort to recall the achievements of the greatest benefactor of American gardens in our time and, for that matter, the gardens of Europe and those in other parts of the world. It contains a biography of sufficient length and detail to give some concept of the era in which "Chinese" Wilson worked as a plant collector. The twenty-five chapters from his books serve as a sampling of the world of plants he knew so intimately. Finally, the chapter on his plant treasures is an attempt to evaluate those which are widely

cultivated today as well as those which deserve more attention.

When I became editor of *Horticulture Magazine* in 1951, Edward I. Farrington, formerly secretary of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society and editor of *Horticulture*, tossed me a challenge: "Keep E. H. Wilson's name green." Then he went on to enumerate some of the plants which Wilson called his aristocrats. Having worked with a goodly number of them at the Breeze Hill Test Garden of D. J. Horace McFarland, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, having paid many a visit to the Arnold Arboretum, where countless numbers of them flourished, and having seen them embellishing gardens in various parts of the country, I was minded to accept the challenge. In any event, as long as men and women who tend gardens and cherish a love of flowers plant at least one of the hundreds of plant treasures which he brought home, "Chinese" Wilson's name will remain forever green."

Daniel J. Foley

September 1968, Salem, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>

The Introduction gives many other details about Wilson and about plant hunters who preceded him. Chapter 1, entitled "Ernest H. Wilson, a Brief Biography", gives much additional information about Wilson, and about the great hardships he and others endured traveling to remote and unexplored areas of the Far East. One of his harrowing experiences is described in *Plant Hunting*<sup>2</sup> (Foley, Chapter 10).

"How many people know the size of a mule's hoof? Quite a number have felt the strength of a mule's leg and the sharpness of his teeth; his obstinacy is a proverb. But the size of his hoof is another matter. Frankly, I do not know with mathematical exactness but as I lay on the ground and more than forty of these animals stepped over my prostrate form, the hoof seemed enormous, blotting out my view of the heavens. The instinctive surefootedness of the mule is well known and I realized it with my gratitude as these animals one by one passed over me and not one even frayed my clothing.

It happened in the no-man's-land of the Chino-Tibetan borderland and my

predicament had been brought about by a rockslide, a common occurrence in that part of the world. I had left Boston, Massachusetts, at the end of March 1910, and having crossed to Europe reached Peking by way of the Trans-Siberian Railway early in May. From Peking I traveled by devious routes across China to Sungpang Ting, in the extreme west-northwest, which was reached by the end of August. My quest was the regal lily, which I had discovered some years earlier but had failed to successfully introduce into American gardens. Its beauty of blossom and richness of fragrance had won my heart and I was determined that it should grace the gardens of the Western world. That such a rare jewel should have its home in so remote and arid region of the world seemed like a joke on nature's part. However, there it was and my business in life was to effect its transference to lands where its beauty would find proper recognition.

Throughout an indefinite past, generations of the regal lily had lived unsung and unseen save by the rude peasants of a rude land. But few white men had passed that way when I first made discovery and none had noted my royal lady. This had been preserved for me. And what of the regal lily? Journey in thought with me for a moment or two, westward, until "west" becomes "east", although we still chase the setting sun. Across the broad American continent, across the wide ocean misnamed "Pacific" to Shanghai, gate of far Cathay; onward and westward up the mighty Yangtze River for 1800 miles, then northward up its tributary the Min some 250 miles to the confines of mysterious Tibet; to that little known hinterland which separates China proper from the hierarchy of Lhasa; to a wild and mountainous country peopled mainly by strange tribesfolks of unknown origin; to a land where Lamaism, Buddhism, and Phal-lism strive for mastery of men's souls; to a region where empires meet. There, in narrow, semiarid valleys, down which torrents thunder, and encompassed by mountains composed of mud shales and granites whose peaks are clothed in snows eternal, the regal lily has her home. In summer the heat is terrific, in winter the cold intense, and at all seasons these valleys are subject to sudden and violent windstorms against which neither man or beast can make headway. There in June, by the wayside, in rock crevice by the torrent's edge and high up on the mountainside and precipice this lily in full

bloom greets the weary wayfarer. Not in twos and threes but in hundreds, in thousands, aye, in tens of thousands. Its slender stems, each from 2 to 4 feet tall, flexible and tense as steel, overtop the coarse grasses and scrub and are crowned with one to several large funnel shaped flowers, each more or less wine-colored without, pure white and lustrous on the face, clear canary yellow within the tube, and each stamen filament tipped with a golden anther. The air in the cool of the morning and in the evening is laden with delicious perfume exhaled from every blossom. For a brief season this lily transforms a lonely, semidesert region into a veritable fairyland.

Sungpang Ting is a military town situated on the headwaters of the Min River on the very edge of the grasslands of northeastern Tibet. It is a very important outpost of Chinese civilization and a trade entrepot of considerable magnitude. Medicines in great variety, including the famous rhubarb and musk are bartered to Chinese merchants. I know the town well and on former occasions have rested within its walls and beneath the clear blue skies it enjoys had recuperated after arduous journeys. So, too, on this occasion. Rested and reprovisioned I and my followers sallied forth and for seven consecutive days plunged down the seemingly interminable gorge of the Min River. The mountains on either side are so high that the summits were usually hidden from view. Here and there, where some tributary stream flows in, a glimpse of snow eternal met our gaze. Habitations were few and far between, but wherever possible patches of the mountainside are under agriculture. It was frightfully hot and traveling was most fatiguing. In many places the narrow track is hewn and blasted from the solid rock and here and there tunneling has been necessary. In several places Chinese characters of huge size carved in the rocks warn those who can interpret them of the dangers of the road and urge all not to tarry in particular places. This road, difficult and narrow as it is, is the artery of ingress and egress to Sungpang Ting from and to the cities of wealthy Szechwan. There was in consequence much traffic, largely coolies, but several mule trains taking up brick-tea and cotton cloth in particular, and various merchandise in general and bringing down medicines, hides, and deer horns. The road is narrow, sometimes it skirts the edge of the river's turbu-



lent waters, but more usually ribbon-like it winds along from 50 to 300 feet above. The passing of a mule train is a difficult business, often possible only at particular places when one caravan comes to a standstill and allows the other to pass.

I traveled mostly on foot but had with me a light sedan chair made of rattan and my boy or principal servant was similarly favored. A sedan chair is an outward and visible sign of respectability without which no traveler is properly equipped. In those days it was far more important than a passport, for it inspired confidence and ensured respect of the people. Whether one rode in it or walked was immaterial; the important thing was its presence.

On the seventh day, we were down to 5,500 feet altitude and the following extract from my diary seems worth recording: "A bad road through barren, desolate country and abnormally long miles sums up the day's journey. Barring absolute desert no more barren and repelling country could be imagined than that traversed today. But it is really only the narrow valley and precipitous mountainsides that are so desertlike. On the upper slopes trees and cultivation occur and small villages and farmhouses are frequent. In the valley houses are far between and what few there are are in ruinous condition. A fierce up-river wind blows regularly from about eleven o'clock in the morning and it is difficult to make headway against it. The leaves on the maize plants are torn to shreds by the wind's violence. The houses are of mud and flat roofed, as protection against the winds. The regal lily occurs here and there in abundance on the well-nigh stark slate and mud-stone cliffs."

The eighth day I camped and for several days was busy arranging to secure in October, the proper season of the year, some six or seven thousand bulbs of the regal lily. Plans completed, we set out for Chengtu, the capital city of Szechwan. The hardships of a four months' journey were beginning to tell on me and dysentery in a mild form had troubled me for days. Yet it was with a light heart and a satisfied mind that I rode in my chair. Soon after starting we passed a mule-train breaking camp and bound our way. With the thoughts of the flesh pots of Chengtu only four days' distance, all were in a cheerful mood. We were making good progress, my chair leading, with personal attendants and the

man carrying my large camera immediately behind; my black spaniel dog wagging his tail ahead of us all. The Chinese characters of warning carved in the rocks did not affright us, we had seen so many and passed all well. Song was in our hearts, when I noticed my dog suddenly cease wagging his tail, cringe, and rush forward, and a small piece of rock hit the path and rebounded into the river some 300 feet below us. I shouted an order and the bearers put down the chair. The two front bearers ran forward and I essayed to follow suit. Just as I cleared the chair handles a large boulder crashed into the body of the chair and down to the river it was hurled. I ran, instinctively ducked as something whisked over my head and my sun hat blew off. Again I ran; a few yards more and I would be under the lee of some hard rocks. Then feeling as if a hot wire passed through my leg, I was bowled over, tried to jump up, found my right leg was useless, so crawled forward to the shelter of the cliff, where the two scared chair-bearers were huddled.

It was only a small slide and our lives had had a providential escape. The man carrying my camera could not run back so fast as others and suffered a bad scalp wound. I was the biggest sufferer but, fortunately, was not knocked unconscious. If I had been, the men would probably have deserted from fright; as it was they behaved well. The pigskin puttee on my right leg was cut slantingly as with a knife and forced round my leg; the toe cap of my boot was torn off and with it the nail of my big toe; my right leg was broken in two places below the knee and the side of my calf was badly lacerated. Not a pleasant situation to find oneself in alone with Chinese and four days from the nearest medical assistance!

As soon as it was safe to do so the men came along, terrified and solicitous. My boy with the chair also came along soon afterward but was quite ignorant of the whole affair. With the legs of my camera tripod I improvised splints, and while these were being bandaged to my leg the mule-caravan passed in the morning loomed into view. The road was too narrow for them to turn back and they dare not stand still until I could move forward, since we knew not when the rock slide would re-commence. There was only one thing to do. I lay across the road and the mules stepped over my body. Then it was that I realized the size of the mule's hoof. There were nearer fif-

ty than forty of them and each stepped clearly over me as if accustomed to such obstacles. Nevertheless, I breathed freely when the last was over!

My own chair being smashed I requisitioned the boy's, had a piece of wood laid crosswise, and lashed the leg in splints to the right pole. At considerable risk to themselves the men salvaged my wrecked chair and we started on our journey to Chengtu. We made it in three days, marching early and late, and three agonizing days they were for me. At Chengtu I was carried to the house of Dr. Davidson of the Friends' Presbyterian Mission and all that could be done was done. The leg had become infected. In spite of every care, at the end of six weeks there was no sign of the bones uniting. The question of amputation was pressed but somehow I never felt this would be necessary. Other doctors were called in, including a French army surgeon named Dr. Mouillac. Some cutting and slitting was done and the infection stayed. At the end of three months I was out on crutches. Soon afterward I hired a boat and started down the river toward Ichang, where streamers were available for Shanghai and thence for America. At every place on the river where there were medical missionaries I received attention. On crutches I crossed the Pacific Ocean and the American continent to spend a couple of weeks in a hospital in Boston. Afterward, fitted with a special boot I was able to limp about with a cane, and in just a year from the date of the accident walked freely once again. Owing to the infection it was impossible to fit the leg in a cast and so the bones just grew together. The leg is crooked, fifteen-sixteenths of an inch short, but is strong and sound and has since carried me many, many thousands of miles.

The accident notwithstanding, I got my regal lily and brought the bulbs safely to Boston. The arrangements I made with the local peasantry to dig the bulbs were carried out under the supervision of my trained collectors. The bulbs were encased in clay, packed in charcoal, shipped at silk rates, and reached Boston a few days after myself. Planted in a garden in Roslindale, Massachusetts, they flowered freely in June following and some even ripened seeds. From this stock has sprung the millions happily acclimated in American gardens and other gardens across the seas. Its beau-



ty captures all hearts at sight. Mr. Francis King, the well-known enthusiast, wrote to me saying, "Nothing so fair or so beautiful has ever before blossomed in my garden." A poem on the regal lily was published in the Boston Transcript; Gouverneur Morris wrote of it aptly as the "Incandescent Lily" in the Saturday Evening Post. Its merits have been lauded far and wide by many scribes. It loves this country and the climate, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific is grown wherever gardens are loved. Each year it adds to the pleasure of millions of folk. The price I paid has been stated. The regal lily was worth it and more.

Royal is this lily and regally it has taken its place and added luster to gardens. Proud am I to have discovered, introduced, and christened the regal lily. Did what?

"God forgive me! No, I didn't.  
 'Tis God's present to our gardens.  
 Anybody might have found it but—  
 His whisper came to me!"  
*(with apologies to Kipling.)*

Wilson brought back from his explorations a wide variety of ornamental plants: cotoneasters, primroses, rhododendrons, viburnums, the Chinese dogwood, the tea crabapple, the paperbark maple, the dove tree, and many others. Here in this review we will relate primarily to his contribution to azalea introductions.

In 1914 Wilson made his first trip to Japan. The following excerpt is from Chapter I:

"It was on this trip that he first saw the Kurume azaleas at Hatagaya, a few miles north of Tokyo. The story of this experience which he recounted in Plant Hunting appears in Chapter 4 of this volume. His wife and daughter accompanied him on this trip which was far less strenuous than his previous expeditions into the wilderness of China. Because of her chronic bronchitis, Nellie Wilson was unable to travel with her husband and spent most of her time in hotels where the social life was limited, for the most part, to the activities of the British Embassy. Often, in the inland cities of Japan where they stayed, the Wilsons were the only guests in the hotel. However, when not attending an English missionary school, a Japanese school, or a French convent, his daughter Muriel traveled with her father. Dressed in knickers she carried the tripod for her father's

camera or some other precious bit of baggage needed for the journey.

Again in 1918, 'Chinese' Wilson went to Japan, this time to the city of Kurume on the island of Kyushu to see the marvelous azaleas which were cultivated there. A year earlier, he had urged John S. Ames of North Easton, Massachusetts, a noted connoisseur of horticulture and later president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, to import small plants from this great collection and grow them in his greenhouses. Several years later, when these novelties were exhibited for the first time at the Society's spring flower show in Boston, they created a sensation and for many years brought great joy to the thousands who beheld them. Boston was the appropriate place for the 'Princess Kurume' (to Wilson these azaleas symbolized Oriental royalty) to make her debut in America since the Museum of Fine Arts and the nearby Peabody Museum in Salem had assembled outstanding collections of Japanese art. Yet, the honor of being the first to show these superb flowers had been usurped by San Francisco.

Although Wilson has been credited with their introduction to America, a group of thirty plants shipped from Japan made their appearance at the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915, but the original collection was soon lost, due probably to lack of knowledge regarding their care. However, to E. H. Wilson is due the honor of successfully establishing these showy flowering shrubs in American horticulture circles in the eastern United States. Wilson selected fifty varieties and shipped them to the Arnold Arboretum. Collections of these varieties are now maintained at Wisley in Surrey, at the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society, and in the garden of Thomas Wheeldon at Richmond, Virginia. Apparently, Wilson was not aware that the Akashi Nursery had sold plants to Domoto Brothers, nurserymen, of Hayward, California, in 1917, and also the exclusive rights to their distribution in the United States. In any event, in the early 1920's, these new azaleas were offered by several East Coast nurserymen and today are widely grown outdoors where winters are not as severe as those in Boston. Florists throughout the country continue to sell them by the thousands in winter and they are enjoyed by thousands of amateur gardeners who grow them in private greenhouses. Wilson would have been exceedingly happy had they proved

hardy in New England, but he lived long enough to see them become established in gardens from New York south."

The bulk of the book is comprised of selections from Wilson's extensive writings. Wilson was not only a great plantsman but a masterful writer. How better to demonstrate this than for you to read what he said about the Kurume azaleas in a chapter from his two volume *Plant Hunting*<sup>2</sup>. (Chapter 4 in Foley.)

"We have the honor to announce that Princess Kurume, reigning beauty of the azalea kingdom, is in town and will hold court throughout Easter. Further, I have to declare the Princess' intention of becoming a permanent resident, also, that in each succeeding year her court will be held continuously from Christmas to Easter. The doors are open to all. Her handsome debonair Chinese cousin, under the pseudonym of Indian azalea, has been long a favorite in the floral courts of America and Europe and so, too, have other relatives, but endowed with radiant beauty this youthful, winsome Princess is bound to capture and hold the stronghold of public affection and esteem. She first came to these shores as a baby in 1916, and in 1920 a few favored folk were permitted to peep at this charming damsel in conservative Boston. The effect was magical, all who saw forthwith became her devotees. Her first lover in this part of the world, her sponsor and guardian, I immediately found myself a mere atom in her universe. A crown of gold was by unanimous consent placed on her head and with loud acclamation she was proclaimed mistress royal of her clan. Pleasing speeches were made and nice things said of me for the part I had played in prevailing upon her to leave her island home of the Rising Sun to grace these Western shores. Her conquest was too spontaneous and complete for jealousy to wing dart. Hardheaded nurserymen fell in love with her at first sight even as I had done, and she was surrounded by chaperons intent on providing for her well-being and proper education into western modes of life. I relinquished my trust and went abroad not disconsolate, however, since I knew she was in safe hands.

Since that epoch-making date Princess Kurume has, except on rare occasions, remained in the seclusion of educational cloisters. Her education

completed, the pleasant task of announcing the coming of age of this royal debutante has fallen to me.

More than royal is this lovely Princess, for is she not descended from Ninigi, grandson of the sun-goddess, Amaterasu? History tells that her ancestors sprang from the soil on which Ninigi alighted when he came down from heaven to found the Empire of Japan. If skeptics there be, they have but to visit Mt. Kirishima, in south Japan, where they themselves can see in wondrous beauty the kinsfolk of this damsel in countless thousands, embellishing the slopes of this sacred and still active volcano. How many generations of the Princess' family displayed their beauty to the sun, the moon, and the stars, to the birds of the air and the four-footed friends that walk the earth, we do not know. But about a century ago a wandering pilgrim of the genus *Homo* became enraptured with them and lovingly carried a few away to his home in the town of Kurume and a new era in the family history dawned.

I was first introduced to the Kurume family in 1914 when, at the invitation of my lamented friend, the late Mr. H. Susuki, the foremost Japanese horticulturalist of his time, I accompanied him on a visit to the nursery district of Hatagaya, a few miles north of Tokyo. There in a garden I saw thousands of tiny plants bearing white and colored flowers of nearly every hue. With the courteous consent of the owner I secured a set of fragments and dried them for the Arnold Arboretum. In 1917, at my suggestion, Mr. John S. Ames secured a number of small plants from this collection and these were the first ever brought into the eastern States. They were midgets, indeed, but grew amazingly and flowered profusely and soon became one of the floral delights of the Ames estate, a joy to the owner and his friends.

What I saw in 1914 whetted my appetite and I was hungry to learn more about these delightful plants. Opportunity came in 1918, and to my great good fortune my friend, Susuki, was able to accompany me to the headquarters of the family, the city of Kurume. This city is on the island of Kyushu, situated some 800 miles south by west of Tokyo and is quite an important place. But the fame of its azaleas will make it universally known. There we arrived on a fine May morning, to find the azaleas in the pink of perfection. I went prepared to see a display of blossoms, but the entrancing beauty of myriad delicately col-

ored flowers clothing a multitude of shapely, grown plants surpassed my most sanguine expectations. The gardens of two leading specialists were veritable fairylands and I gasped with astonishment when I realized that garden-lovers of America and Europe knew virtually nothing of this wealth of beauty. Most of the plants were trained into low standards, each about 20 inches high with flattened or convex crowns some 24 inches through, and were monuments to the patience and cultural skill of the Japanese gardener. Other shapes there were but this was the favorite and most effective. The flowers, each about one-half to three-quarters of an inch across and borne in clusters of from two to several at the end of the twigs, were in such profusion as to almost completely hide the leaves. If a fault could be found, it was that the flowers were too numerous! Some have bizarre-colored flowers but such I do not favor. A great many have the calyx petaloid and the flowers are hose-in-hose. The stamens, always five, and pistil are perfect and there is no malformation as in ordinary double flowers. The anthers are light to dark, varying with the color shades, tip and straight filaments and add not a little to the pleasing appearance of these flowers. They are, in truth, the roguish eyes of laughing, dimpled, and blushing blossoms.

At Kurume the azaleas are grown in a number of gardens but the oldest and best collection is that of Mr. Kijiro Akashi, who for more than forty years has assiduously devoted himself to the development of these charming azaleas. He has raised from seeds and perpetuated by cuttings nearly all of the kinds in cultivation. In his garden is the finest of all collections, and the loving pride with which this grand old gardener pointed out to us the particular merits of this or that pet can be appreciated only by those whose lives have been lived in close companionship with plants. In this garden I made a selection in duplicate of fifty of the best kinds. Making the selection was much easier than persuading Mr. Akashi to part with them, though, with true old-time Japanese politeness, he had offered me any or all that he had. He loved his plants and I fully understand his diffidence when the time to part with them actually came.

I think the Kurume azaleas are the loveliest of all azaleas. Small in stature but sturdy, they are rich in attractive

features. The branches are very rich and twiggy, clothed with small, neat, rich, green leaves and crowned with clusters of small, slightly fragrant flowers, which on different individuals embrace all the delicate shades of color familiar to us in sweet peas. The individual flower suggests the frilled petticoat of a dainty lady. In many, the calyx, green and inconspicuous in ordinary flowers, grows to the same size and has the same color as the corolla, and here we get two frilled petticoats, one over the other, of exquisite grace and finish. Such arrangement is called hose-in-hose, that is, one flower within another. These hose-in-hose flowers have none of the ugliness usually associated with double flowers and, moreover, last in perfection much longer than ordinary sorts.

The colors, so pure and exquisite, are of every hue and shade - pure pink to rose colored, cerise, lavender, vermilion, salmon, bright red to scarlet, crimson, and the richest magenta; others the purest white.

At Kurume the plants are often trained as low standards with compact, umbrella-shaped crown; less commonly they are dense and globose or open and irregular in form. They are extremely floriferous, and in season the blossoms often completely hide the leaves. The leaves are of two forms and they vary considerably in size, in shades of green, in their autumn coloring, and in their degree of persistence. In a great measure these variations are correlated with the color of the flowers, and experts in Japan can with ease distinguish each variety by its foliage and general appearance.

Japanese experts recognize by name more than 250 kinds of Kurume azaleas, but the differences are often infinitesimal. The two leading experts, Messrs. Akashi and Kuwano, at my suggestion named six as the pick of them all: 'Takasago', 'Azuma-kagami', 'Kirin', 'Kumo-no-uye', 'Kurai-no-himo', and 'Kureno-yuki'.

For the sake of completeness I give a full list of the sorts I brought over. The Japanese names have priority and in all fairness should be kept as the proper names for these azaleas. Unfortunately, however, it is well-nigh impossible for the Western tongue to pronounce them accurately; moreover, they are untranslatable, being as a rule picturesque phrases. As a compromise, therefore, I propose to add to the

Japanese name an English name, and I hope this will be acceptable to friends both in the Orient and the Occident (1).

As to the origin and history of these plants, Mr. Akashi kindly furnished me with the details. They were originated by a Japanese gentleman named Motozo Sakamoto, who lived in the city of Kurume about one hundred years ago. The parent stock came from sacred Mt. Kirishima, but whether brought from there by Sakamoto or given to him by some pilgrim is uncertain. At any rate, he cultivated several varieties and raised and selected seedlings, including one he named "Azuma-kagami" from which it is claimed have descended all the pink-colored forms. After his death, Sakamoto's collection passed into the hands of Kijiro Akashi. The original plant of "Azuma-kagami" is still healthy. I photographed it but failed to purchase it, though I tried hard to do so. Mr. Akashi showed us a gold medal awarded to him for an exhibit of thirty plants, in a dozen kinds, of Kurume azaleas at the Panama Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, in 1915.

The plants were afterwards sold, and Akashi's pride in the gold medal seemed a little saddened when he thought of the loss of those thirty plants.

Next it was determined to visit Mt. Kirishima, the place tradition says the parents of the plants came from. I had visited this mountain early in March 1914, and remembered that an azalea grew there and that I had gathered leafless specimens. We spent the night near the base of Kirishima, and starting early the next morning soon reached an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level, where forests abruptly give place to grassland, and saw before us the mountain slopes dotted with blossoming azalea bushes in quantity. They grow in volcanic soil on wide-swept grassy slopes and among rocks. In size the bushes are from nearly prostrate to a yard high, and hardly two plants have flowers of the same shade of color. We gathered specimens

of forms with pink, salmon, mauve to rich magenta-colored flowers and at a little higher altitude red-flowered forms and an occasional white one. We found much variation in the size and shape of the flowers and leaves and also that the anthers varied in color. The evidence was complete in every detail, and no shadow of doubt as to the origin of the wondrous race of azaleas we had seen in Kurume remained in our minds. To a place so sacred as Kirishima pilgrimages have been made by the Japanese from immemorial time. With their profound love for flowers some of the pilgrims would certainly take back as souvenirs living plants of this charming azalea. Naturally, it was named for the mountain, and in the course of time was distributed widely in the gardens of Japan. It is easily understood that a plant bearing flowers of an unusual color would be that selected as a souvenir by the average pilgrim. It is such forms that reached gardens first, and so we find the red *obtusa*, the magenta *amoena*, and the white *alba* to be the earliest known.

The reader may think it strange that a race of azaleas so rich in forms and of such decorative value should have remained so long unknown to us, yet the explanation is simple. Interior Kyushu is little known in the Western world, and even to those Japanese whose homes are on the other islands. The feudal system of government which until comparatively recently obtained in Japan created and preserved this aloofness.

Further, Kurume is remote from the horticultural centers of Osaka and Yokohama, from whence we have drawn the bulk of our garden plants and where business is made of growing for export. Nagasaki is much nearer, but in the day of early explorers, intercommunication was difficult and, for foreigners, impossible. And so it has resulted that the product of Sakamoto's hobby, richly developed by Akashi, has remained hidden from the outside world until now. During the last fifteen years the fame of the Kurume azaleas has reached Osaka, Tokyo, and other places, and growers have obtained stocks and are propagating them apace. Unfortunately, every grower and enthusiast names the plants according to his fancy and the result in a few years will be chaos.

And this is helped by the fact that every slight sport or variant is kept and named and no attempt at selection made. I do not see how it is possible to improve upon the strain grown in Kurume unless yellow could be injected. What is needed is rigorous selection and the reduction of the named forms to fifty or less. In the past, seedling selection and preservation of sports by vegetative propagation have been the sole means employed in the evolution of the race of Kurume azaleas, but now attempts at hybridizing them with the large-flowered "Indian" and "ledifolia" types are in progress. This may result in a new race, but whether it will be as lovely and fascinating as the present one is doubtful.

Just how hardy this race will prove remains to be seen, but I am of the opinion that under the genial influence of the Gulf Stream from Cape Cod southward, many places will be found where they will be at home and flourish in perfection. They root readily from cuttings and in conservatories may be had in blossom from Christmas until Easter. Good-natured, adaptable, at home in any surroundings, brightening and cheering us with a glow of color and beauty—the divine Princess Kurume is assured of a lasting welcome in the land of her adoption. Proud am I of being the fortunate one to introduce this exquisite damsel to the gardens of eastern North America.

The length of this review is perhaps too great, but since not only Wilson's but also Foley's book is out of print, we have included several lengthy passages to give the true flavor of this great plantsman. Can you imagine anyone today leaving Boston in March and arriving at his destination in August!

#### References

- 1 *The Flowering World of "Chinese"* Wilson, by Daniel J. Foley. The Macmillan Company, Collier-Macmillan Ltd., London, 1969 and the Macmillan Company, Collier-Macmillan Canada Ltd., Toronto, Ontario.
- 2 *Plant Hunting*, by E. H. Wilson, 2 volumes, Boston, The Stratford Co., 1927. □

(1) We have chosen not to present his list here. It is readily available in "Azaleas", by Fred C. Galle, under "Wilson's Fifty".

# Azaleas in the Shenandoah Valley

James Cotter

Luray, Virginia

"Don't even try to raise azaleas—they just won't grow here!" My wife and I often heard this statement when we settled in the Shenandoah Valley in the mid-1970s. In 1979 we built our home just west of Luray, transplanted a few small azaleas (mostly Kurumes) to the site, and added several more to our foundation planting. Remembering the glorious floral display of azaleas from spring seasons spent in the Northern Virginia/District of Columbia area, I was determined to grow some of these beautiful shrubs in the valley.

Our home is situated in a heavily wooded area at an elevation of about 880' above sea level, slightly higher than the surrounding area. This site affords two natural advantages for growing azaleas. First, the natural humus (woods mold) built up by the oak/mixed forest gives our soil a more acidic reaction than is found in the limestone-derivative soils common to the region. (The impressive limestone caverns of the Luray area are known worldwide.) Second, the trees moderate the strong prevailing winds, and a slight hill usually provides cold-air drainage on calm, clear nights. During such nights, cold-air pockets in the valley can register temperatures as much as 15 degrees F. below those on higher ground.

In areas of our lot where forest litter is not prevalent, the soil has a high clay content. Here I have added oak-leaf mold and occasionally peat moss to loosen the soil. Shredded hardwood mulch is used on the foundation plantings. Wood chips and pine needles are used on some of the perimeter plantings, while leaf litter (mostly oak) provides a natural mulch for plantings near the edge of the woods.

Our location falls into the "6b" hardiness zone (winter temperatures 0 to -5 degrees F.), but as many growers know, winter hardiness involves many variables in addition to low temperatures. The sudden freezes of December 1983, January 1985, and December 1989 did more damage to plants in the deep South (where they followed periods of warm weather) than in the Shenandoah Valley, where colder weather had caused the plants to harden off and become dormant weeks before the onset of freezing temperatures.

Our land has a slight slope, inclining toward the north. The lot is surrounded by dense woods, which even in winter tend to break the force of the wind, so that wind does not rank as a major factor in the hardiness of our azaleas. In contrast, the wind clearly is a factor in the more open areas of the Shenandoah Valley—and a critical factor affecting plant growth and hardiness in the higher elevations of the Blue Ridge.

The first winter in our new home (1979-80) was mild, and the azaleas fared well. This tempted me to try azaleas in additional locations around the yard and near the edge of the woods. Winters during the 1980's were a mixed bag. Some brought sub zero temperatures with no snow cover—and most buds froze outright. Other winters (1982-83 and 1988-89) were mild, with no sub zero temperatures, but were followed by spring freezes that did more damage than a cold winter. Following the mildest winter on record, for example, swollen azalea buds were blasted by temperatures of 24 degrees F. and 22 degrees F. on two successive nights in late April 1989, resulting in a 60 percent loss of buds. The

importance of snow cover was dramatically shown in 1987. Following two storms that deposited some 24" of snow in January 1987, the temperature plunged to -10 degrees F. on a cold, clear night. Later, it was evident that the buds and foliage exposed to the air fared much worse than those protected by the snow.

As a rule, late-blooming evergreen azalea cultivars have performed better in our garden than early-blooming ones. In 1989 and 1990, for example, many of the early and mid-season azaleas suffered from bud freeze when premature development induced by warm winters was followed by hard freezes. Many of the Kurume azaleas and some of the Glenn Dale azaleas bloomed spottily—or not at all. In 1990, half of all buds failed to open, mostly in the early-blooming cultivars.

Deciduous azaleas—both natives and hybrids of the Exbury, Windsor, Ilam, and Ghent groups—have performed well. They are later-blooming and hardier for the most part, thus escaping the vagaries of early spring weather. 'Gibraltar', 'Klondyke', 'Satan', 'Brazil', and 'Toucan' are just a few of the hybrids that have bloomed well in our garden over the last several years. Among the native North American species, *R. periclymenoides* (*R. nudiflorum*), *R. atlanticum*, *R. viscosum*, and *R. bakeri* have performed well.

Several rhododendrons have also performed well on our property. The ubiquitous 'Roseum Elegans' blooms reliably along with 'Rocket', 'Scintillation', 'Vulcan', and 'Janet Blair'. A 10' specimen of 'Lee's Dark Purple' was magnificent until its recent removal to make way for an addition to the house. I believe that the cooler summers in the Shenandoah Valley provide better conditions for rhododendrons than do the summers in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

The cold-tolerant *R. catawbiense* along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina and *R. maximum* in the mountains of West Virginia provide spectacular displays.

But these displays are not found in the Shenandoah Valley because of the prevalence of limestone.

Our azaleas have suffered from few diseases over the past 10 years. Petal blight is not common, but leaf gall has been a problem at times (1987, 1988). Insects are numerous, however, and caterpillars and other chewing insects have devoured many an azalea leaf. Dieback is a problem with some rhododendron cultivars; but it appears to be specific to individual plants and not something endemic in the region.

On the whole, the azaleas in our garden have fared considerably better than had been predicted by our fellow valley residents. The greatest problems have been extreme winter cold and late freezes in some years. Gables, Kurumes, Robin Hills, and Linwoods have performed the best, while Glenn Dales, Back Acres, Satsukis, and Pericats have produced mixed results. Surprisingly, 'George Lindley Taber', and 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing' of the Southern Indica group have bloomed in one of three years on average (usually following a winter with good snow cover) and have produced plants 3' high and 5' wide.

Our patch of woodland in the Shenandoah Valley has provided shade, acid soil, and other environmental conditions suitable for many azaleas. With attention to their needs and preferences, azaleas can be grown in the Shenandoah Valley! But I would not recommend them for sunny, open, windswept sites in the valley or for gardeners unable or unwilling to provide the needed extra degree of care.

*Mr. Cotter, a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, ASA, is a Supervisory Park Ranger with Wolf Trap Farm Park in Vienna, Virginia. He has been with the National Park Service for 11 years, and was earlier assigned to Shenandoah National Park.* □

## Performance of Selected Evergreen Azalea Cultivars Near Luray, Virginia

| GROUP          | CULTIVAR                    | PERFORMANCE |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Kurume (Japan) | Appleblossom                | Fair        |
|                | Coral Bells                 | Good        |
|                | Flame                       | Excellent   |
|                | Hino Crimson                | Good        |
|                | Hinode Giri                 | Good        |
|                | Pink Pearl                  | Good        |
|                | Snow                        | Good        |
| Kurume (other) | Allan                       | Poor        |
|                | Blaauw                      | Excellent   |
|                | Sherwood                    | Good        |
|                | Sherwoodi (Sherwood Orchid) | Excellent   |
|                | Sherwood Cerise             | Good        |
| Deerfield      | Mme. Butterfly              | Excellent   |
|                | Gable                       | Good        |
|                | Mildred Mae                 | Good        |
|                | Rosebud                     | Good        |
|                | Rose Greeley                | Excellent   |
| Girard         | Stewartstonian              | Good        |
|                | Girard's Hot Shot           | Good        |
|                | Sandra Ann                  | Good        |
| Satsuki        | Issho no Haru               | Poor        |
|                | Jindai                      | Fair        |
|                | Shinnyo no Tsuki            | Poor        |
| Glenn Dale     | Buccaneer                   | Good        |
|                | Cavalier                    | Fair        |
|                | Copperman                   | Good        |
|                | Delight                     | Fair        |
|                | Dimity                      | Good        |
|                | Festive                     | Fair        |
|                | Illusions                   | Good        |
|                | Martha Hitchcock            | Excellent   |
|                | Trouper                     | Excellent   |
| Back Acres     | Debonaire                   | Poor        |
|                | Saint James                 | Good        |
| Pericat        | Hampton Beauty              | Good        |
|                | Sweetheart Supreme          | Good        |
| Brooks         | Redwing                     | Poor        |

### **Marj Taylor Resigns as Chairperson of the Membership Committee**

Mrs. Glenn W. (Marjorie) Taylor has resigned as chairperson of the Membership Committee. Marj has served in this capacity for six years. She has been extremely dedicated to this sizeable job and we will miss her. This volunteer job involves maintaining the membership roster, sending and logging in the dues notices, sending reminders to At-Large members whose dues were not received by January 1, corresponding with chapters regarding members, and coordinating new member packages. A very important function of the Society!

The Society is indebted to Marj for her service; thank you Marj! □

### **Membership Committee**

Effective October 1990, the membership committee is co-chaired by William C. (Bill) Miller III and Donald H. Voss. The Society appreciates them for agreeing to assume this responsibility. □

### **Brookside Gardens Chapter**

Denise Stelloh, *President*

The Brookside Gardens Chapter had a very well attended meeting on October 1 at the Potomac Library. Pete Vines shared some of his years of azalea wisdom with us, including a discussion of his personal rating system for azaleas. He then gave an outstanding slide show and presentation on some of the best of the old favorite azaleas and some of the best of the new azaleas. The latter included some of his Holly Springs hybrids, many of which are breathtaking!

On October 28, the Chapter took a fall foliage trip to Longwood Gardens, near Philadelphia. Brian Barr, our chapter president until last June, was our host and tour guide. Brian is currently working toward his Master's degree in public garden administration under a University of Delaware-Longwood Gardens fellowship.

Simply put, the 12 of us that attended got more than we bargained for. The weather was clear and crisp, and Brian shared his amazing knowledge of the history, present and future plans for these absolutely magnificent gardens as he guided us through them.

The core of Longwood is an arboretum started in 1750, which was purchased and expanded into the current garden by Pierre S. du Pont beginning in 1906. Overall, Longwood includes 1025 acres of land. Of these, 87 acres are maintained as a public display garden (by 90 gardeners!). This includes original gardens being maintained as they were designed and planted by du Pont with spectacular vistas and water features, an eight-acre meadow, a large area of mature conifers, "idea" gardens with collections of ornamental grasses, ground covers, vines, herbs, roses, etc., and a four-acre conservatory with climates ranging from the desert to the tropics, and plant collections ranging from bonsai to cactus to orchids to ferns. Each of these gardens are maintained more perfectly than you can imagine.

Longwood had just begun a chrysanthemum festival in the conservatory with "Birds of Paradise" as the theme, and they really know how to do things right: flawless groupings of fancy chrysanthemum cultivars, hanging basket mums which are really large circular topiary frames with the mums growing down and around in patterns, and "you had to see them to believe it" peacocks that were about 30 feet long with "feathers" of various colors of plants, mostly chrysanthemums. Even for azalea purists, it was impressive.

And some interesting azalea news: Longwood currently has a several acre woodland azalea garden planted around 1940, mostly Kurumes. Since this is not one of the original gardens planted by du Pont, it is open to change, and they have just begun to transform the area into a native

American deciduous azalea garden. The plans call for significant groupings of the 12 species that should do well at Longwood. This promises to become a major azalea attraction over the next few years.

The unanimous advice of the lucky few who attended was to go see Longwood Gardens any chance you get, any time of year. □

### **Richmond, Virginia Chapter**

Ray Doggett, *President*

At their annual dinner meeting on October 28, the following officers were elected:

President: Ray Doggett

Vice President: Jim Starkey

Treasurer: William Reager

Secretary: Barbara McKeever □

### **Tri-State Chapter**

Dr. James Dippel, *President*

At the January meeting of the Tri-State Chapter it was decided to have a booth at the Evansville Patio Show on March 23, 24, and 25. This is the second year we have participated in this event and have found that there is a lot of interest in azaleas in this area. President James Dippel and Robin Hahn set up a running slide show of azaleas in the landscape which created a lot of interest. We also picked up five new members.

In April the members took a bus trip to Bon and Ferry Hartline's home in Anna, Illinois. They have a beautiful garden with many varieties of azaleas and hollies. Everyone enjoyed the trip.

Due to the bad winter we experienced, President James Dippel sent out questionnaires to all the members to evaluate how their azaleas came through and if they bloomed in the spring. All-in-all, there were not too many varieties that did bloom, but most of the plants came through without too much damage. These questionnaires will be discussed at our next meeting in November and



hopefully will help us to prepare our azaleas for the coming winter. Our winters here in the Midwest are so unpredictable, temperatures up one day and down the next, and it creates quite a challenge to azalea growers. □

### **Renew Your Membership**

Dues notices should have been received by all of you by the first of December. The procedure is somewhat different this year: the remittance envelope has pre-printed on it the address of the Society in West Bethesda, Maryland. So instead of each member addressing the envelope to the chapter treasure, just put a stamp on the pre-addressed envelope, insert your check, mail and the Membership Committee will do the rest. We believe that this new procedure will be simpler for each member as well as for the Chapter Treasurers. Chapter treasures, instead of receiving the individual dues envelopes will periodically receive from the Membership Committee a list of members who have renewed, and a single check for the chapter's portion of the dues from that list of members.

This simplification is made possible of course by the use of computing equipment by the Membership Committee. □

### **Board Of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors (formerly the Board of Governors) met on October 21, 1990 at the home of Bob and Denise Stelloh in Darnestown, Maryland. Finance issues remain the single most important area of concern for the Society. Costs for producing **THE AZALEAN** account for most of the expenses of the Society. This year **THE AZALEAN** was redesigned and a color photograph on the cover was added; other economies have been achieved however, and expenses for four issues in 1990 will be about the same as for 1989.

The printing of a new membership brochure was approved, and a mass mailing of brochures to prospective members was also approved.

The appointment of Donald H. Voss and William C. Miller III as co-chairpersons of the Membership Committee was approved.

The new dues collection process, as described elsewhere in this issue was approved.

The slate of officers and directors described elsewhere in this issue was presented by the Nomination Committee.

Several potential society projects were discussed. □

### **Nominees for Officers and Directors**

According to the new by-laws of the Azalea Society of America the officers and directors will be elected by the membership in 1991. In this transition period, the terms for the officers are as follows:

**President:** two years

**Vice President:** two year

**Treasurer:** one year

**Secretary:** one year

Three directors will be elected for two-year terms. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate:

**President:** Malcolm Clark,  
*Southern Pines, North Carolina*

Past president, past chairman, current Executive Committee member and periodic convention organizer, Mal's commitment to ASA is well established. He is currently "back home" in North Carolina breeding, collecting, growing and sometimes selling at the third generation family nursery.

**Vice President:** William C. Miller III,  
*Bethesda, MD*

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 Direction. He is currently chairman of the Public Information Committee. His dedication and boundless energy extend his contributions into every facet of the work of the Society.

**Treasurer:** Glenn W. Taylor,  
*Springfield, VA*

Treasurer of the Society since 1984, Glenn is also a charter member and currently President of the Northern Virginia Chapter. As many know first hand, he has long and unselfishly served the wide ranging individual needs of members throughout the country.

**Secretary:** Carol Flowers,  
*Welcome, MD*

Currently Secretary of the Society, Carol is a member of the Ben Morrison Chapter. She has served as both Secretary and as Treasurer of the Chapter. Carol is a computer programmer with the U. S. Census Bureau.

### **AT-LARGE DIRECTORS:**

**Rosalie Nachman,**  
*Richmond, VA*

Best known for her superb garden, always a first tour choice, Rosalie is a charter member of the Richmond Chapter where she has served in several capacities. Currently she is District 9 representative on the Azalea Committee of ARS, but her degrees and Ikebana teaching confirm her broad commitment to art itself.

**Edward Rothe,**  
*Gambrills, MD*

Immediate past president of the Ben Morrison Chapter, Ed and his wife Nancy continue to be active members as well as to develop their one-acre into a "naturalized" woodland garden featuring evergreen and deciduous azaleas and rhododendrons, both species and cultivars.

**Eleanor Stubbs,**  
*West Linn, OR*

A two-term director, former Vice-president and co-chairperson of the Membership Expansion Committee, Eleanor operates Stubbs Shrubs with her husband while otherwise bearing the banner of azaleas and ASA up and down the west coast.

Please use the enclosed ballot to vote. □

### Member's Garden Featured in Local News

In her column *Through the Garden Gate*, writer Ruth Palombo described the garden of Denise and Bob Stelloh as an "Azalea Museum". In an article in the *Potomac Gazette*, May 23, 1990, the garden is described as containing 1,100 varieties and 2,500 azaleas. The garden, which is familiar to many Washington, D.C. area gardeners, consists of four acres in suburban Maryland, where the canopy of oak trees provides an excellent environment for azaleas. The major features of the garden were outlined by landscape architect Ralph D'Amato. However, the Stellohs have done the majority of the work in planting and maintaining the garden themselves. Bob Stelloh has been an officer of the ASA for the past few years, and Denise is very active in the Brookside Gardens Chapter; she is currently President of the chapter. □

### Garden Books Announced

The ASA has received a communication from Stewart, Tabori & Chang, Inc. - Publishers indicating their intention to publish (in 1992) a series of books, *Gardens In America Open To The Public*. Each volume will feature gardens to visit in a region and will contain a descriptive text and 200 color photographs. They plan to highlight special collections in the gardens as well as test and demonstration gardens and award winning gardens. They have asked for recommendations of gardens to be included in their series. If you would like to suggest a garden for them to consider, please send your recommendation with some background to: Ms. Mary Jenkins, 32 Moses Lane, Southampton, NY 11968 □

### Azaleas in Riga, Latvia

Dianne Gregg, *Potomac, Maryland*

#### BACKGROUND

May 29 1990, I was touring "The Cities of the Golden Ring", sponsored

by the Corning Museum of Glass, when I arrived in Riga, the Capital of Latvia (claiming to be free and independent but still part of the Soviet Union at this writing). Riga is a Baltic port city, part of the old Hanseatic League. There is very little snow and the temperatures are similar to those of northern New England.

#### DILEMMA

On the morning we were leaving by bus for Tallinn, Estonia, I discovered a postcard packet (at the hotel shop), partially in English, complete with information on the Riga Botanical Gardens which specializes in rhododendrons and azaleas. I tried to have the bus go by it but I was told that it was in the opposite direction from Tallinn and since the Soviet Intourist guides are very inflexible about changes of plans, I did not see it. This was the peak bloom period too! I did see some rhodos and azaleas in private gardens we passed but we were going too fast to determine their varieties.

The following account is from the postcard packet:

"Peter Stuchka Latvian State University Botanic Garden was founded in 1922, on the outskirts of Riga. Since 1926 the Botanic Garden has been situated at 2, Kandava Street, its present area covers about 16 hectares.

The founder of the Botanic Garden Professor N. Malta headed it from 1922 to 1944. Afterwards the Botanic Garden was headed by Professor P. Galenieks, Assistant Professor E. Ozolina, biologist A. Verins, Assistant Professor R. Kondratovics; since 1965 it is headed by Merited agronomist of the Latvian S.S.R. A. Zorgevics.

During the first decades after the foundation research work was focussed on the study of mosses, fungi, algae, lichens, fossil flora and water-nut. Since 1945 special attention has been given to the introduction, selection and cultivation of new, economically profitable plants, popularizing the achievements of biological sciences

and nature preservation, public education and teaching. The research workers of the Botanic Garden have developed new varieties and forms of different plants resistant to local conditions for medical, decorative and other purposes. They have introduced many ornamental forms of apples and cherries, the citrus liana of China has been introduced in Latvia for the first time.

Since 1950-ies the Botanic Garden has been participating in the All-Union scientific research project "Plant Introduction and Acclimatization" coordinated by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. The main task of this research is to increase the number of economically useful plants and develop agrotechnical methods of their cultivation, to study the biology, physiology and ecology of these plants and elaborate efficient methods of popularization, to develop new varieties of fruit-trees and ornamental plants resistant to the climatic conditions of Latvia. As a result of more than 40 years long work plant breeder V. Varna (1898-1981) has raised hybrids of peaches and apricots resistant to the climatic conditions of this republic, e.g., 'Latvijas Persiks', hybrid Nr. 35 and others.

Since 1957 the Botanic Garden has been working on rhododendron introduction, the selection of rhododendrons was started in 1971. In the Botanic Garden there is a comprehensive collection of the genus *Rhododendron* which is the most important plant genus in the Botanic Garden.

Theoretical foundations for laying out beautiful evergreen and practical green belts have been worked out under the supervision of research worker A. Orehov.

The Botanic Garden has succeeded in developing many new varieties of ornamental plants: 32 new dahlia varieties raised by plant breeder K. Ruks, 5 *simii* rhododendron (greenhouse azalea) varieties raised by plant breeder R. Kondratovics, several potentially new varieties of gladioli and lilies raised by plant breeder A. Zorgevics

and promising outdoor rhododendron hybrids.

Since 1964 the Botanic Garden has been contributing to the Exhibition of Economic Achievements of the U.S.S.R., international and republican horticultural displays.

In 1972 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary, the Botanic Garden was awarded with Honorary Diploma of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian S.S.R. for its contribution to research work on floriculture, horticulture and popularizing the achievements of biological science.

The research works of the Botanic Garden maintain contacts with 130 Soviet and 300 foreign botanic gardens and research institutions."

If traveling in Latvia, please take the opportunity to visit the Botanical Garden. □

#### Azalea Wanted

Edric C. Owen III of Owen Farm is looking for either rooted cuttings or liners of the Glenn Dale cultivar 'Allure'. If you have information concerning 'Allure' please write the following:

Mr. Edric C. Owen III  
Owen Farms  
Route 3 Box 158-A  
Ripley, TN 38063-9420 □

#### Thanks to Jane Newman

The editor and staff of **THE AZALEAN** wish to express their thanks to Ms. Jane Newman for her offer to proofread for **THE AZALEAN**. We appreciate her efforts in this area. □

#### In Memorium

Mr. Sidney H. Diebert of Falls Church, VA

Mr. James Gerald Egan of Greenville, SC. □

## 1990 Azalea Calendar

### 1991

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>February</b>    | Richmond Chapter - 1991 Maymont Flower and Garden Show.  |
| <b>February 1</b>  | Deadline for Society Chapter News for March 1991 issue of <b>THE AZALEAN</b> .   |
| <b>February 4</b>  | Brookside Gardens Chapter meeting at Potomac Library. Speaker Jan Midgely on wildflowers and perennial as azalea companion plants. |
| <b>March 21-23</b> | Convention and Annual Meeting hosted by Louisiana Chapter in New Orleans and Vicinity.   |
| <b>March 21</b>    | Board of Directors Meeting, New Orleans.   |
| <b>May 5</b>       | Ben Morrison Chapter meeting at Thais Spencer's home.  |

### September Mailing Statistics

There were 753 copies of the September issue of **THE AZALEAN** in the bulk mailing. Below is a state-by-state summary of the mailing in Zip Code order:

|                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Foreign = 20        | Delaware = 12       | California = 31     |
| Rhode Island = 1    | Virginia = 173      | Oregon = 16         |
| New Jersey = 27     | North Carolina = 35 | Washington, DC = 11 |
| Pennsylvania = 21   | Georgia = 24        | Mississippi = 6     |
| Maryland = 159      | Alabama = 21        | Ohio = 8            |
| West Virginia = 2   | Kentucky = 2        | Wisconsin = 1       |
| South Carolina = 17 | Indiana = 21        | Illinois = 2        |
| Florida = 9         | Minnesota = 3       | Kansas = 2          |
| Massachusetts = 8   | Missouri = 6        | Arkansas = 4        |
| Connecticut = 7     | Louisiana = 24      | Texas = 53          |
| New York = 20       | Oklahoma = 2        | Hawaii = 1          |
| Washington = 9      |                     |                     |