

tional error, but the correction is not yet known. Correction of all Glenn Dale lists is advised.

References

1. Morrison, B. Y. *The Glenn Dale Azaleas*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Monograph 20, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1953. Reprinted in 1978 by Theophrastus Publishers, P.O. Box 458, Little Compton, RI 02873.
2. The numbering procedure used at Glenn Dale is explained in some detail in: West, R. T., Miller III, W. C., and Bullock, B. L. "The Massed Glenn Dale Azaleas on Mt. Hamilton: A Valuable Collection at the National Arboretum". *THE AZALEAN* 14 No. 1 (1992): 8-13.
3. The printed "Glenn Dale Azaleas Seed Lots and Sisterhood" tables can be purchased from *The Azalea Works*, 7613 Quintana Court, Bethesda, MD 20817.
4. The incomplete parentage data problem was first mentioned in: West, R. T. "'Luna' Found". *THE AZALEAN* 15 No. 1 (1993): 12-16.
5. The 'Luna' article is cited above.
6. I have copies of this letter and the other original Glenn Dale records referred to in the article.
7. Jane Newman's exceptional powers of observation of the Glenn Dales are shown in her recent article: Newman, J. "Trying to Identify Those Glenn Dales". *THE AZALEAN* 14 No. 1 (1992): 14-21.
8. It is possible to get white from a cross of colored flowers; see: Galle, F. C. *Azaleas*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1985, page 406.

Dick West, a native of Washington, DC, is a long-time member of the Azalea Society and is interested in the Glenn Dale hybrids. He is an regular contributor to THE AZALEAN. □

The Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project Begins

Richard T. West and William C. Miller III

Columbia, MD and Bethesda, MD

The Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project began in July 1993 with the first shipment of Glenn Dale hybrid azalea cuttings to ten cooperators throughout the United States. The project was announced in the March 1993 issue of *THE AZALEAN* (1). The purpose of the project is to establish regional reference collections of the Glenn Dale azaleas in addition to that at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Both of us have a long-standing interest in the Glenn Dale azaleas, and we agreed many years ago that a complete collection of the 454 hybrids would be a valuable resource. We knew that many others, including B. Y. Morrison, who was the director of the Glenn Dale hybridizing program, had failed in trying to establish complete collections over the past forty years, and we recognized that it would be harder now with many cultivars being rare or perhaps lost altogether. Finding the unique collections of identified azaleas, including a very large number of the Glenn Dales, at the Ten Oaks Nursery in Clarksville, Maryland, made the goal of putting together complete collections much more feasible (2, 3). In 1990 propagation began from the Ten Oaks stock to reconstitute the Glenn Dales at the U.S. National Arboretum. We believed also that it would be good to have Glenn Dale collections in other parts of the country to provide regional accessibility as well as the duplication of reference collections. Additionally, we hoped it might be possible somehow to assist in promoting commercial propagation to respond to the renewed interest in acquiring Glenn Dales. The question was how to do these things.

We briefly considered expanding the propagation being done for the National Arboretum, but we quickly realized that rooting cuttings and distributing plants on a larger scale was beyond our capacity. Not being nurserymen and not being near Ten Oaks made what would have been a replication, in effect, of the original U.S. Department of Agriculture's Glenn Dale distribution program simply impossible in terms of workload and cost. However, the substitute idea of a distribution of Glenn Dale cuttings did seem reasonable and doable: by sharing the effort of distribution and propagation we thought it could work. The announcement in *THE AZALEAN* stated, "We would like to identify a group of individuals (cooperators) and (with the help of the cooperators) regional public gardens/arboreta around the country that recognize the importance of this opportunity and that would be willing to participate in the development of collections of Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas in their respective regions." Interested parties were asked to submit a letter describing their facilities and qualifications to undertake our proposal and to identify the reputable public garden that had agreed to receive the plants. They were told that one specimen of each cultivar must be given to the garden, but that they could do what they wanted with the rest, including our hope they would be used as stock plants for further propagation for public sale. They were also told that the only cost to them would be for shipping.

Ten cooperators have been selected for the project; they are, along with the designated gardens:

Jan Bowman
Orinda, California
Oakland California Horticultural Gardens
Hugh A. Caldwell
Middleburg, Florida
Bellingrath Gardens

Perry L. Corkern
A & P Nursery
Franklinton, Louisiana
New Orleans Botanical Garden

Rick D. Ewing
Muskogee Parks & Recreation
Department
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Honor Heights Park

Freida Hill
Hill's Nursery and Greenhouse
Pavo, Georgia
Thomasville Garden Center

Ronnie D. Palmer
Azalea Hill Gardens and
Nursery
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Missouri Botanical Gardens

Frank Pelurie
The Nursery at Dutch Ridge
Clendenin, West Virginia
West Virginia Botanical Garden
at Coonskin Park

Ben C. Reid
Stockbridge, GA
Vines Botanical Garden

Pete Sheuchenko
Barboursville, Virginia
Montpellier Estate Gardens

J. Keith Suddreth
Lenoir, North Carolina
Broyhill Walking Park

After making arrangements with the Adams family who own Ten Oaks, we began cutting early on the morning of July 20 and finished in the early afternoon. We took between one and eight cuttings from 57 Glenn Dale cultivars, put them in water for a while, placed them in plastic bags with labels, and put the bags in a Federal Express box for each cooperator. Each got some 300 total cuttings (average of five or so per cultivar), and overall we took some 3,000 cuttings. For this first shipment, we chose to cut primarily solid colors which had few sports, such as 'Snowclad' and 'Blushing Maid'. Next year and later, we will remove sports from other cultivars before cutting or tag branches to avoid cutting sports.

The azalea plantings at Ten Oaks have been essentially untouched for forty years. In a few cases, plants are in poor shape, being overly shaded or crowded. Some areas are a thicket of ten-foot tall intertwined branches. We took what cuttings were available, which included using a step ladder at times or crawling to follow a branch for ten feet through other plants before cuttings could be found. The good part of Ten Oaks is that natural growth can be studied and documented, but the bad part is that high quality cuttings can be hard to get. The boxes were sent to the cooperators by Federal Express overnight delivery.

We have stressed the need for the cooperators to verify the correct identity of each cutting provided. The last thing we want to happen is the propagation of incorrectly named plants. We have promised to replace any incorrect cuttings as well as any that do not root. We believe the best philosophy nowadays is not to trust anything in the marketplace, even those readily identifiable hybrids such as 'Pixie' and 'Dayspring'. Accordingly, we will be shipping cuttings of all identified Glenn Dales at Ten Oaks, in effect to rebuild collections from scratch. For their information and to assist in verification, we have sent the cooperators copies of B. Y. Morrison's, *The Glenn Dale Azaleas*, U.S.D.A. Monograph 20, published in 1953, which is the official record of the Glenn Dale hybridizing program and the hybrids produced. We have also sent them a color translation chart that came from a Ruth Harrington article in *THE AZALEAN* in December 1988 to help with the old, and now mostly unknown, Ridgway color nomenclature used in Monograph 20 (4). We appreciate that the issue of absolute color may well be a problem.

We are pleased to say initial reports indicate that, on the whole, the first shipment of cuttings worked out satisfactorily. Next year, if it is acceptable to the cooperators, we plan to make two shipments, each of cuttings

of 50 cultivars for a total of about 600 to 700 cuttings of 100 Glenn Dale hybrids. We are keeping records of what is cut and mailed with the idea of tracking the placement of plants in the arboreta and gardens and of being able to direct interested parties to sources of correct Glenn Dale material.

We wish to acknowledge that this project is possible only because of the azalea collections at the Ten Oaks Nursery and the foresight of the Adams family, and, notably, the encouragement and support of Andy Adams. It is the willingness of the cooperators and gardens to be involved in developing Glenn Dale reference collections, however, that will make it succeed. Progress reports will be published periodically.

References

1. West, R. T. and Miller III, W. C. "Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project". *THE AZALEAN* 15 No. 1 (1993): 16.
2. West, R. T. "Distribution of the Glenn Dale Azaleas and the Ten Oaks Nursery". *THE AZALEAN* 11 No. 4 (1989): 69-73.
3. West, R. T. "The Azaleas at Ten Oaks Nursery: A Preliminary Report". *THE AZALEAN* 14 No. 3 (1992): 65-69.
4. Harrington, R. "The Many Colors of Azaleas". *THE AZALEAN* 10 No. 4 (1988): 73-75.

Dick West, a native of Washington, DC, is a long-time member of the Azalea Society and is interested in the Glenn Dale hybrids. He is an regular contributor to THE AZALEAN.

Bill Miller is a former Vice President of the Azalea Society, co-chairman of the Membership Committee and chairman of the Public Information Committee. He is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter and has served as chairman of Horticulture for the chapter's annual flower show for many years. He is a frequent contributor to THE AZALEAN. □