Azalea Identification Please

Bill McDavit — Sunset Beach, North Carolina

Shown to the right is a photo image of an azalea we have nicknamed "Calabash Valentine." Mary and I have been trying to identify this variety since 1991 without success and are asking for help from Society members.

Here is what we know about this plant so far: It was an evergreen potted azalea in a full one-gallon pot that I bought at the Calabash Florist Shop for Mary for Valentine's Day in February 1991. I planted the azalea in May 1991 in an area on the north side of the house, not knowing if it was hardy enough to survive in the ground. To date (April 2004), the plant has spread out (3-3.5 ft.), with minimal upright growth tendencies over its' original height, and has shown no signs of stress or tenderness. (Our hardiness zone varies from 8A to 8B, depending on the changing seasons.) This variety has continued to be very floriferous yearly, and blooms usually in the last week in March and the first week in April. The color varies from various shades of coral pink

to very thin white edges, with a spotty bright red blotch, and is very ruffled hose-in-hose flower form.



Anyone who thinks they can help name this azalea should contact Bill or Mary McDavit at 910-579-2446 or by e-mail at osprey1@atmc.net.



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