

Botanical Garden in Decatur, Georgia. The fern collection is rated the 13th largest collection in the US and one of the top 40 in the world. They have one of the top 10 collections of temperate zone ferns in the South. The 4-acre garden was begun in 1990 and has a three-quarter-mile "easy walking" trail. They are open seven days a week, offer a range of "walk and talk" lectures, and hold plant sales of azaleas and wildflowers in the spring. For information on this garden, visit their Web site at [www.gpc.edu/~ddonald/botgard/geor3.htm](http://www.gpc.edu/~ddonald/botgard/geor3.htm), or call 404-244-5001.

Sanko currently has 314 ferns, most of them hardy, but his target is 400. The garden contains all the native azaleas that grow in the Southeast, except *Rhododendron eastmanii*,

which is coming; *R. chapmanii*, which was lost to flooding and fire; and *R. minus*, which can't survive flooding. Highlights of Mr. Sanko's talk included discussions of sun garden plants, bog garden plants, unique shrubs, and shade garden plants.

For sun gardens, consider sweet, or pink, muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), which is pink until frost, stays in tidy clumps, and is drought-tolerant. Other sun-loving plants are red yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*), Arkansas blue star (*Amsonia hubrechtii*), Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), the wild indigos (*Baptisia* spp.), and native lilies, including Canadian lily (*Lilium canadense*), Turk's Cap lily (*Lilium superbum*), and *L. michiganense*. Bogs should be in sun and made of 80% peat and 20% sand.

Include carnivorous plants such as pitcher plants and fruiting plants such as cranberries.

Unique shrubs Sanko mentioned are the titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), a 6- to 7-foot native now known only in cultivation that has evergreen leaves and many white fragrant blooms in June-July, Georgia fever bark (*Pinckneya bracteata*), sweet bell (*Leucothoe racemosa*), and a native *Pieris*.

For shade gardens, choose plants for diverse foliage effects, such as: yellow poppy as a companion with azaleas; Fothergilla; spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*); the trilliums; and, of course, ferns. He grows the ferns in a chicken grit-soil mix to ensure good drainage, but pointed out that the ferns that grow in limestone can be grown in oyster shells.

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## In Memory

### Theodore Van Veen, Jr. (1916–2003)

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Ted Van Veen, Jr., of Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon, died suddenly December 6, 2003. His father, Theodore Van Veen, Sr., had established the specialty nursery in 1926 and together they built a nursery, display gardens, and reputation that is known worldwide for the outstanding quality of its rhododendron hybrids, species, and azaleas. Ted took over the nursery in 1961 and in 1969 wrote the first book on rhodo-

dendrons illustrated with color photographs, *Rhododendrons of America*. This and *Rhododendrons You Should Meet*, which covers the over 500 varieties of rhododendron grown at the nursery, are both available at the nursery. In 1987 Ted took over as volunteer garden chairman of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland, and, according to friend Mike Stewart, "Ted had a vision for the garden that far exceeded that

of anyone who had come before him. With the help of a very dedicated group of friends and fellow ARS members, their dream for a place of beauty and tranquility has come true." The garden is maintained by both the ARS and the Portland Bureau of Parks.

Ted's daughter, Kathy, is an expert in propagation, and is still running the nursery. You may contact the nursery at [vanveennursery@cs.com](mailto:vanveennursery@cs.com).

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## The Azalea Research Foundation

### Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

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The Research Foundation concept, like the Energizer Bunny, just keeps going and going...and now has accumulated funds of \$2,100 even before the foundation has been established. Perhaps that is because funding azalea research is such an obviously good idea. As envisioned by the late Dr. August Kehr, the Azalea Research Foundation would be organized as two separate entities, one to sol-

ic- it and invest money and another to spend the income to fund solicited and selected azalea research proposals.

What the foundation needs to get started are some members willing to serve on either of these groups. So far we have one volunteer. The duties are important but not very time-consuming, which is a nice combination. The skills required on the

money side are motivating people and money management. On the research side, the skills needed are azalea knowledge and good judgment. There must be a dozen Society members among us with those skills and a little time available to serve in one of these roles.

To learn more, or to step up and serve, please contact Bob Stelloh or Buddy Lee.