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# The Azalean

## Journal of the Azalea Society of America

The Strawberry Rootworm, a Pest of Azaleas in Nursery Production

New Azaleas with a Cumberland History

Azalea Mastery Series: Raised Bed Method

The Fred Sievers Memorial Garden

North Carolina Arboretum Bonsai Collection Features Azaleas

Maps and Records for Azalea Collections

Azalea Society of America
1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

# President's Letter

## Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

This summer has kept me busy taking care of my azalea plants in my garden. Having sheared and fertilized the azaleas after they had bloomed, the rest of my garden time has been devoted to remulching beds, weeding, and an occasional application of insecticide. It's a lot of hard work, but it's part of the enjoyment of taking care of plants and watching them grow.

This past May, the national convention and membership meeting was held in Holland, Michigan. I must say that the topography was a little different from our usual convention settings. John Migas and numerous volunteers put forth a great effort, and the end result was a wonderful and enjoyable event. The weather could not have been better, and the azalea blooms were at their peak. I don't think that the timing could have been any better. Thank you, Lake Michigan Chapter for a fantastic and memorable convention. The 2006 convention will be a joint meeting of the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America, May 12-15 in Rockville, Maryland (Washington, DC, area). You don't want to miss this convention.

I would like to welcome our newly elected board members and officers, Mary Rutley, Aaron Cook, and Joe Coleman, Bob Stelloh, and John Brown. Joe Coleman has served the ASA in numerous positions and this will be his second term as board member. Mary Rutley and Aaron Cook are new to the board; however, they bring a lot of experience with them. Bob Stelloh, our treasurer, and John Brown, our secretary, have always been faithful workers for our Society. Leslie Nanney and Tadeusz Dauksza will be leaving the board, and I would like to thank them for their hard work and service. I'm looking forward to working with the newly elected and present board member and officers. We are already off to a great start for this year.

Congratulations to Bob Stelloh for receiving The Distinguished Achievement Award at the general membership meeting in Holland, Michigan. Bob Stelloh is presently our treasurer and manager for our Web site; however, Bob wears many different ASA hats, and I would probably miss something if I started listing all of them. He received a plaque and a high speed computer. I still can't believe that we surprised him! Thanks to the members that helped in making this award happen, and a great big thank you to Bob Stelloh for all of his service to our Society.

Hope you are having a great summer.

### On the Cover

Mark (Alan M.) Phillips, of Glenaire Gardens in Cary, North Carolina, has developed this 'New Look' azalea from an unknown cross with 'George Lindley Tabor'. The beautiful rose-, pink-, and white-striped flower is heavily spotted with rose red on the upper lobe. The 2" to 2-1/2" long by 2-1/12" by 3" wide flowers are densely packed in peak bloom, accentuated by the plant's dark foliage. The foliage has a leathery feel, with leaf hairs on the tops and edges. The plant is bud- and plant-hardy to 11°F in Cary, North Carolina. The flowers, borne up to 12 in a ball-shaped cluster, are broadly funnel-form with extremely wavy (five + five) lobe margins (most stamens are petaloid and suggest a "triple hose-in-hose" appearance). The plant appears to have potential as a good landscape specimen, presenting prominent, long-lasting flowers from April 13 through May 7, 2005. It is currently being tested for wholesale nursery production. 'New Look' azalea was registered by the RHS July 26, 2004; see complete description in Murray, Jay. 2005. "Register of Plant Names—Winter 2005 Supplement". *Journal American Rhododendron Society. 59(1): 55. (Photo courtesy of Pete Holland, Glenaire Retirement Community Center, Cary, North Carolina.)*

# 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 azaleas Subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family *(Ericaceae)*.


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# The Azalean

*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*



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# The Strawberry Rootworm, a Pest of Azaleas in Nursery Production

David W. Boyd, Jr. and Charles P. Hesselein

## Introduction

The strawberry rootworm *Paria fragariae* (Wilcox) is a small beetle in the leaf beetle family. The adult beetles are approximately 4 mm (1/4 in.) long, oval, and shiny brown with four dark markings on their wings (see Figure 1). These beetles feed on foliage of many types of plants, including strawberries and azaleas. Control of this pest is difficult in production nurseries, and the beetle is spreading rapidly, especially among the azalea producers in the southeastern United States.

Figure 1. An adult strawberry rootworm resting on an azalea leaf. *(Photo by Jennifer Carroll, USDA, ARS, Poplarville, Mississippi)*

Many leaf beetles feed on leaves through all their feeding stages (i.e., larvae and adults), but the strawberry rootworm is an exception because it feeds on roots during its larval stage (thus the name rootworm) and on leaves during the adult stage. These larvae are found in the media of potted azaleas, probably feeding on roots or other organic material, and are protected from foliar sprays. Very little is known about controlling larvae in potting media. Current research is focused on this gap in our knowledge of managing this pest.

## Damage to Azaleas in Production Nurseries

Symptoms of an infestation from the strawberry rootworm are small circular to elongated feeding holes in the leaves about 2-3 mm (1/16-1/8 in.) in diameter or width (Figure 2). This damage causes the plants to become unsightly and reduces photosynthesis, further damaging the plant. We don't know what damage the larvae do to the roots or to what extent the larvae reduce plant health; however, we suspect plant damage caused by larval root feeding is minimal.

## Effect of the Strawberry Rootworm in Landscapes

Our current information indicates that the strawberry rootworm does not pose a threat to azaleas in the landscape. Landscape settings are vastly more diverse in plant and animal species than production nurseries. The nursery setting provides the beetle a mono-cropping of azaleas, and the chemical control practices of many nurseries greatly reduce the number of natural enemies (e.g., spiders) that otherwise could keep the rootworms under control. However, in a landscape setting, the greater plant diversity allows natural enemies of all sorts (e.g., spiders, predatory bugs, parasitoids) to be more abundant and helps reduce the number of rootworms to below an aesthetic threshold. For azalea producers, the market demands that plants be relatively blemish free, that is, with very little or no insect feeding damage or live insects. The aesthetic threshold for azalea producers is very few holes in the leaves, but people with azaleas in their landscape can tolerate more damage of the leaves before control is required. However, azaleas in the landscape can withstand much greater damage from arthropods and diseases without causing noticeable differences in growth habits or flowering.

Soil-less media in nurseries differ greatly from soils. Azaleas in production nurseries are often grown in a medium of 100% pine bark or one with a high percentage

Figure 2. Typical damage to azaleas from feeding of the adult strawberry rootworm. *(Photo by David Boyd, USDA, ARS, Poplarville, Mississippi)*

of pine bark. Soils of landscapes vary greatly from location to location, and those soils can contain naturally occurring pathogens that are detrimental to the larval stages of the rootworm. The rootworms causing damage in production nurseries are probably more adapted to the soil-less media and can't adjust quickly enough to the surrounding soils after the azalea has been planted.

**Control of the Strawberry Rootworm**

Many growers find that control of the rootworm is difficult. This beetle feeds at night (nocturnal); however, we have found them on the foliage during all parts of the day. Some growers claim that spraying pesticides at night (after sundown) provides better control than during the day. Research conducted in the greenhouse has found no difference whether the pesticide was applied in the morning (9:00 am) or in the evening (9:00 pm). The adult rootworm can be controlled with foliar sprays. We have found that chlorpyrifos (e.g., Duraguard) and carbaryl (e.g., Sevin) provide good control two days after treatment. Surprisingly in our greenhouse trials, acephate (e.g., Orthene) did not control the adult beetles.

Larvae in container media should be controllable with pesticide drenches. Preliminary data show that acephate (e.g. Orthene) and bifenthrin (e.g., Talstar) provide good control for 2nd-3rd instar larvae. These results are still preliminary, and further studies are underway to determine which pesticides and biological control organisms provide the best control.

**Conclusions**

The strawberry rootworm is, in some areas, a major pest of azaleas in production nurseries. Our research is focusing on the biology and control of this insect in production nurseries. We don't believe it will become a threat to azaleas in the landscape. Our goal is to provide growers with methods for monitoring and controlling the strawberry rootworm so that they can to continue to provide high quality, reasonably priced plant material to the nursery trade.

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# New Azaleas with a Cumberland History

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Living near the Cumberland Mountains has a definite benefit. Our home here in Hixson, Tennessee, is just minutes from the first rolling plateau better known as Waldens Ridge or, as some call it, Signal Mountain. If you look at a topographic map of the region, the Cumberland Mountains stretch from Kentucky through eastern Tennessee to their most southern point in Alabama very near Birmingham.

This mountain range is not one vast, continuous plateau. It looks very much like the fingers on my hand with each extended ridge separated by valleys and gorges with rivers and creeks coursing toward the Tennessee River basin. One such valley, the Great Sequatchie Valley, is one of the longest linear rift valleys in the United States.

It was in 1969, in the company of Clifton Gann, that I first discovered the interspecific swarm of native azaleas flowering along State Route 8 in Sequatchie County. The colors can only be described as close to sherbet. Pastels in orange, pink, pinkish red, pinkish orange, and even some near-yellows were eye-popping.

A few years later, Clifton and I made the long hike up to Gregory Bald, and again I saw the color range there, but at a higher elevation. It always fascinated me as to how one might produce the same colors in hybridization rather than digging plants from the wild. The National Park System and other owners do frown on that practice, and it is illegal.

By 1986, I had some years under my belt breeding deciduous azaleas and felt confident enough to give my long-sought prize a try. If *Rhododendron cumberlandense* and *R. arborescens* may cross-breed in the wild, then in my mind, the same could occur with my help to produce the beautiful array of colors. No wild digging would be necessary.

In 1973, I rooted cuttings in my Nearing frame of two excellent species I found on the Cumberland Plateau in Van Buren County, Tennessee. The dark red form of *R. cumberlandense* and a well-shaped *R. arborescens* with large flowers gave me the necessary azaleas to make the crosses. In 1985, I collected pollen from both species and made reciprocal crosses in 1986.

Patience is definitely a virtue in plant breeding, though mine was often sorely tested. To give you some idea of the time effort, the crosses were made in 1986; the seed stored in my refrigerator until 1989 when I sowed the seed; and here it is 2005, and I am still evaluating, selecting, and naming the plants. Unless my math fails me, that is 19 years from the date of the crosses.

Like a proud papa, I stroll slowly through the beautiful azaleas and look at each, trying to single out something special about each one. Last year, I saw a wonderful dark pink flower cluster on a shrub and thought it to be worth keeping, but then rejected it because the foliage was terrible and spotted with brown spots of fungus. That one was a prime candidate for the shredder and compost bin. In 2004, all of the azaleas in the crosses flowered fully, so evaluation was critical, and many plants are now plant food.

If you think me a ruthless papa, do not forget we need great azaleas, not lots of ho hum types with problems. Also, I may feel like a papa, but these plants are not children. With a keen eye, I selected out plants I wanted to keep and tossed many more. In 2005, I culled out more, and now the number of keepers is a lot smaller, though some are superior ones.

What characteristics was I looking for? Too often, we Americans give too much weight to flower color, and I admit it may be the flowers that first attract me, and if I'm not careful I may overlook some more important factors. In this collection of plants, I have had 16 years of evaluation time to cull out rangy or leggy plants. Those with obvious disease problems went to the compost pile first.

My breeding goals I set for this project were:

1. Compact to tall shrub habit, well branched, and dense.
2. Dark green and glossy foliage.
3. Late-blooming period to fill in between *R. cumberlandense* and *R. prunifolium*.
4. Flower colors to run the spectrum from white to all shades of pink, yellow, orange, and red. Pastels would be nice, but so would vibrant, bright colors.
5. Fragrance, even in some of the red or orange flowers.
6. Heat- and cold-hardiness, with some measure of drought-tolerance.
7. If, in the process, some low-growing or dwarf forms popped out, then all the better.

I will not go into the mechanics of making the closed cross-pollinations and growing on of the seedlings. All of the seedlings are container grown with some now in ten-gallon tubs, but most in three- and seven-gallon sizes. All of the plants were grown in full sun, but under irrigation and given slow release fertilizers through the years.

There is one factor you must know about using *R. cumberlandense* in a cross or in your landscape. The flower colors will shift up or down, depending upon light conditions. Four seasons ago, I was starting the process of writing the descriptions of several of the plants, and we ended up having a very overcast month of May that lasted well into June. All the colors shifted down in shade to the pastels, even though they were sitting out there in full exposure. Very nice reds from the previous year changed to oranges, and oranges changed to pale yellow. The rich rose pinks shifted down to pale pink. You get the idea. Planting them in various shade conditions will result in something similar.

In 2003, I saw the colors as they were meant to be, vibrant, intense, and stunning, most rivaling the blooms on Copper and Gregory Balds. I had to admit they were even better than those I first saw on the mountain along the road in 1969. This is the big advantage to growing them in full sun. The shrubs set bud heavily and also seem to burst into full bloom overnight.

The photograph below shows the preferred or ideal growth habit I desired. It is dense and compact, and that particular plant is four feet by four feet, in 16 years. It has a problem, though. The flowers are just not good enough; but instead of composting it, I will use it to breed the growth habit into future crosses I may make.

In the next few pages, I list the names and descriptions of azaleas I am introducing from these crosses; they will be in a branded collection, known as the "Schild Cumberland Collection™". The US registration is pending. All of the named hybrids are in production, and hopefully a few will be available in 2006 as small liners.

*(continued on page 34)*

# Schild Cumberland Collection ™

## 'Cumberland Gold'

Deciduous azalea *(R. cumberlandense* x *R. arborescens)*, 1986. I saw the first flowers in 1994, named it in 2003, and registered the name in 2005. Flowers are borne six to eight in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped with a narrow tube, and unscented. Corolla length is 1-3/4", width is 2-1/4". This azalea is very nice in full bloom with brilliant Yellow (13B) flowers and vivid reddish Orange (N30B) margins. Filaments and style are strong reddish Orange to strong Red (N34B-39A). The buds are brilliant greenish Yellow (4A) with strong Orange (N25A) tips. The flower trusses are above a background of glossy dark yellowish Green (136B) foliage. Shrub habit is dense, compact, and grows to 3' by 3' in ten years. Shrub is winter hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early June.

## 'Cumberland Fire'

Deciduous azalea *(R. cumberlandense* x *R. arborescens)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1994, I named it in 1996 and registered the name in 2005. The flowers are six to eight in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped, with a narrow tube, and unscented. The corolla is 2-1/4" long and 2-1/4" wide, strong Red (47B), filaments and style deep yellowish Pink (43C), stigma brownish gray ( 200A). A blotch of vivid reddish Orange (N30B) is on the dorsal lobe. The shrub is compact with dark yellowish Green (37A) foliage and grows to 2' by 2' in ten years. Shrub is hardy to -20°F and the buds -10°F. Blooms in mid-June.

## 'Senior Prom'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1994, was named in 2003 and registered in 2005. Flowers are six to eight in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped, moderately scented. Buds are pale greenish Yellow (2D) along ribs, strong purplish Red (63B) between. Corolla is 2-1/2" long by 2-1/2" wide, dorsal lobe white with strong purplish Red(63B) margins, blotch vivid Yellow (15A), other lobes strong purplish Red (63B), filaments light purplish Pink (62C), style light purplish Pink (62B), and stigma grayish reddish Purple (N77C). The outside is strong purplish Pink (62A) with vivid purplish Red (N66B) blushes. The shrub grows to 4' by 4' in ten years, has moderate Yellow Green leaves (138C, leaf tops) and moderate Yellow Green (138B, leaf bottoms), is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early June.

## 'Cumberland Cheer'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1993; I named it in 2005 and registered the name in 2005. The flowers are five to ten in a flat truss, tubular funnel-shaped, with a narrow tube, and strongly fragrant. The corolla is 2-1/2" long by 2-1/2" wide, moderate Red (47A), filaments deep Pink (48B), style Red (47A), stigma Red (47A) and anthers moderate Orange-Yellow-dark Orange-Yellow (164B). A large blotch of vivid reddish Orange (N30A) is on the broad dorsal lobe. The shrub is open with moderate Yellow-Green-strong Yellow Green (144B) foliage and grows to 6' by 4' in ten years. The shrub is hardy to -20°F and the buds -10°F. Blooms early to mid-June.

## 'Cumberland Coral'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first flowered in1993, I named it in 2003 and registered the name in 2005. The flowers are seven to ten in a flat truss and tubular funnel-shaped with a strong scent. The buds are strong reddish Orange-vivid reddish Orange (40C) with pale Yellow (11D) along their midveins. The corolla is 2-1/4" long by 2-1/4" wide, moderate yellowish Pink (39C), with Yellow (11D) center-lobes, filaments pale greenish Yellow (2D), style strong Red (47B), stigma moderate Red-deep Red (46A), and a blotch centered on standard lobe is brilliant Orange Yellow (6A). Outside of flowers is strong yellowish Pink (43D) along margins, Yellow (11D) along midvein to calyx, and has many glandular setae along tube and reverse of lobes. The shrub is dense, has leaves moderate Olive Green (137B, tops) and moderate yellowish Green-pale Green (N138C, bottoms), and grows to 4' by 3' in ten years. Plant is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms mid-June.

## 'Sunday Morning'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. It first bloomed in 1994; I named it in 2003 and registered the name in 2005. I was not impressed with this plant in 1994, so it was relegated to the back of rows of many other azaleas. In 2003, I rediscovered it in full bloom and the flowers are six to eight in a rather flat truss. The flowers are tubular funnel-shaped, 2-3/4" long by 2-1/4" wide, strongly scented. The buds are pale Yellow on tubes (11C), to white upper end of bud, deep Pink (47D) at tips. The corolla is bright white with a two-segment brilliant Yellow (7A) blotch on the standard lobe, style deep yellowish Pink (41B), filaments strong yellowish Pink (38A), stigma moderate Red (N34A), and anthers light Orange (26C). Outside of flowers white with midvein deep Pink (47D), and many yellow-white hairs and glandular setae along tube. The shrub is dense, growing to 3' by 2-1/2' in ten years, foliage semi-glossy moderate Olive Green (137B, leaf tops) and moderate yellowish Green-pale Green (138B, leaf bottoms). The plant is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early June. This is the only white-flowering azalea from the cross, and the photograph shows only a small truss of blooms, since I almost let it get by me.

## 'Rocky River Red'

Deciduous azalea *(R. cumberlandense* x *R. arborescens)*, 1986. It first flowered in 1993; I named it in 1996 and registered the name in 2005. It is named for the Rocky River that cuts through a section of the Cumberland Plateau in Van Buren County, Tennessee, very near my property. The flowers are 20 to 24 in a small ball truss, tubular funnel-shaped, and slightly fragrant. The buds are strong reddish Orange-vivid reddish Orange (40C) corolla is 1-3/4" long by 2" wide, vivid reddish Orange (N30A) filaments vivid Red (41A), style vivid Red (44A), stigma moderate purplish Red-deep purplish Red (71A) with a blotch of vivid reddish Orange (N30B) on standard lobe. Outside is vivid reddish Orange (40B) with many glandular setae along the midrib of the tube. The shrub is dense growing to 3' by 3' in ten years, leaves dark yellowish Green (137A, tops) and moderate Yellow Green (138A, bottoms). The shrub is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms early to mid-June.

## 'Fredonia Surprise'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. This azalea was a surprise when it first flowered in 1994; I named it in 2003 and registered the name in 2005. The surprise was the large ball truss of 25 to40 flowers that were tubular funnel-shaped and strongly scented. The buds are uniform pink strong purplish Pink (62A) with sparse glandular setae along the midvein. Corolla is 2" long by 2" wide, moderate purplish Pink (62B) with pink white at margins, filaments strong yellowish Pink (33C), style vivid reddish Orange (N30A), stigma moderate Red (60A), blotch strong Orange (24A) blotch. Outside light purplish Pink (62C), tube moderate purplish Pink (62B) with sparse glandular setae and hairs. The shrub grows an intermediate size, 4' by 4' in ten years, has foliage moderate Green (132B, leaf tops) and light bluish Green (133C, leaf bottoms), and is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. It blooms mid-June.

## 'Cagle Nocturne'

Deciduous azalea *(R. arborescens* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1986. Flowers are borne 15 to 28 in a ball truss, tubular funnel-shaped, with a strong scent. Cagle is a small community on the Cumberland Plateau near the turn-off to Savage Gulf, in Sequatchie County, Tennessee. It was almost dark when I spotted this azalea in bloom near the back of a large group of azaleas in my nursery, thus the name. Flowers are borne 20 to 25 in a ball truss. Buds are strong purplish Pink (68B), with many glandular setae along midveins of tubes. Corolla is 1-3/4" long by 2" wide, filaments light purplish Pink (68D), style deep purplish Pink (68A), stigma strong purplish Red (71C), nice blotch of strong Orange (25B) on dorsal lobe. The visual effect is a rich pink color. Shrub habit is open, 5' to 4' in ten years, has 3" by 1-1/2" dark moderate Yellow Green (137C, leaf tops) and light Yellow Green –moderate Yellow Green (138D, leaf bottoms), is hardy to -20°F and bud-hardy to -10°F. Blooms mid-June.

## 'Summer Heat'

Deciduous azalea *((R. cumberlandense* x *R. prunifolium)* x *R. cumberlandense)*, 1984. It first flowered in 1989, was named in 2003 and registered in 2005. The story of this azalea may be found in the Summer 1997 *Journal ARS* in my article "My September Song, Lost but Not Forgotten." The seed parent was numbered SH296 and later called "My September Song", an unregistered name. 'Summer Heat' is one of a number of seedlings that I am still evaluating and from which I will select more later. The flowers are borne six to ten in a dome truss, tubular funnel-shaped, without scent. Buds are strong Red (45A), corolla is 2-1/4" long by 2-1/2" wide, vivid Red (45B) with a strong reddish Orange (N34B) blush, a moderate Red-deep Red (46A) blotch on standard lobe, filaments and style strong Red (46B), stigma moderate Yellow Green (138B), anthers light Yellow (11B). Outsides of petals are vivid reddish Orange (N30A), with sparse white hairs along tubes. Shrub habit is open, growing to 4' by 3' in ten years, has leaves of moderate Yellow Green (143A, tops) and moderate Yellow Green (147B, bottoms), and is hardy to -13°F, the buds to -13°F, the lowest temperatures in my nursery. Blooms mid- to late June. The photograph speaks for this azalea. *(All photos by Joseph E. Schild, Jr.)*

All of my future introductions will be under the umbrella of the brand and will include some very nice selected cultivars of species and hybrids between some Exbury, Ilam, Knap Hill, and the species. This collection should contain azaleas that will be welcome in the landscape.

As a matter of reference, all color names and numbers are from the RHS color fans (1), and hopefully adhere to the standards of color name nomenclature (2). Also, some terms used were found in Fred C. Galle's book on azaleas (3). Keep in mind that the low winter temperatures listed are the lows tested on my Cumberland Mountain property, which is in Zones 6b to 6a where winter temperatures have gone down to –30°F. These hybrids may be even more cold-hardy, depending upon location.

***Joe Schild** has been an avid grower, propagator and breeder of azaleas for nearly 36 years. He has owned and operated a niche nursery specializing in the species for over 14 years. Joe is the founding president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter-ARS and past president of the ASA. He says he is better known as an azalea nut and chases the natives' bloom each year with many fellow enthusiasts. He is a frequent contributor to* **The Azalean.**

**References**

1. The Royal Horticultural Society. 2001. The R.H.S. *Colour Chart.* London.
2. Huse, Robert D. and Kenneth L. Kelly. 1984. *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture.* Edited by Donald H. Voss. The American Rhododendron Society. p. 20, 34, 37-43.
3. Galle, Fred C. 1987. *Azaleas.* Revised and Enlarged Edition. Timber Press.

*[Editor's Note on Color Names in the Azalea Descriptions*
*Joe Schild provided the RHS color chart numbers for each element in the flower and foliage descriptions that follow. These RHS chart numbers are shown in parentheses. Editorial board reviewer Don Voss provided the Inter-Society Color Council-National Bureau of Standards color names for these RHS color references. These ISCC names precede the parenthetical RHS numbers.]*

# Azalea Mastery Series
# Part 5. Raised Bed Method

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

If you recall a previous article on planting azaleas where the soil is heavy clay and the problems I encountered, this article will discuss an alternative method, growing azaleas in raised beds. Several important things to remember about this method are: use what ever organic material you have readily available in your area, make sure it drains well, has a low pH (4.5-6.0), and add some nutrients.

Now, we will look at the methods of building raised beds in a fashion that will give your shrubs a good environment and will have some aesthetic qualities. In my case, I had to first determine what materials I would use and came to the conclusion that I had an abundance of wood chips available from the local tree service companies. They were always looking for some place to dump or dispose of this valuable material free, and I had the room to store large loads over a long time while it composted.

Another source for organic materials is the local or city composting yards where they dump all the collected leaves in the city, chipped up tree limbs, and other stuff. For those of us living in the county, there is small fee per truckload, but for city residents it is free.

To wall or contain the beds, I also had access to mountains of stone, timbers and in a few cases, logs, though the latter will decay over time and must be replaced. In a pinch, I once used about two ricks of firewood, but do not recommend it, for I ran out of firewood to heat our house and had to buy more.

The other key ingredients for the soil mix in the beds are: pine bark, both small nuggets and fines; compost; and good soil. All of this combined with the bulky **composted** wood chips will provide the basic soil for the beds. Through years of experimenting, the use of some soil in the mix will encourage the azaleas to send out adventurous roots for faster establishment. The more compost you have the less soil is needed.

What I did was to determine where I wanted a new bed and marked off the boundaries. Since nature seems to avoid straight lines, most of my beds were marked off using a garden hose or with lime. Keep in mind that my native soil is about 4" to 12" of sticky yellow clay over limestone rock, so drainage is very important.

I killed out the existing vegetation within the bed area with a non-selective herbicide. To get rid of vegetation,

several methods will work, such as using herbicide, smothering, or sun-scalding. Placing a sheet of black plastic over the designated area will kill off the existing vegetation as long as the sun and heat are intense enough. The same goes for the sun-scalding method.

After two treatments of the herbicide, enough of the vegetation was killed to do a shallow tilling to about 2". Into this layer, I tilled about 4" of pine bark fines and compost, both the elixirs of azalea gardening. Next came layers of mixed composted wood chips, compost, pine bark and good top soil until the bed was about twice the ultimate height I desired.

I sprinkled on bone meal, cottonseed meal and ammonium sulfate to the bed, and watered the material in. On top of all this, I spread about 4" of shredded pine bark as the ultimate mulch for my shrubs.

The next most important item is patience, for this bed was left to settle about a year. During that time, I saw a number of mushrooms flourish, indicating the material was breaking down properly with plenty of air within the material. A friend with knowledge of the mushrooms, counted eight different species. Mushrooms will not grow in poorly drained or non-aerated soils.

Around the beds, I have used stone, landscape timbers and other material as mentioned before. Since most of my beds are under very large trees where most grasses will not grow, I chose to use wood chips in the paths. Again it was free and a lot cheaper than brick, pave stones or concrete, though it needed replacement almost yearly. Through the years, the paths of wood chips have rotted and slowly built up until they are now almost the same height as the beds.

When it was time to plant my azaleas, rhodos and other shrubs in the bed, I felt a little excitement, for I knew nature had been working very hard to make it perfect. I sank a spade into the loose mixture and rolled the load out to look at it. The first thing I noticed was the dark color and earthworms the size of number two pencils wiggling out. I brought to my face a handful of the mix and smelled it. The fragrance was that of the deep woods, with humus very rich and slightly acidic.

A pH test told me it was 4.8, a number that would insure good azalea growth and thrift. Into each hole I dug I added pine bark fines and watered each azalea in, to eliminate the air pockets. I also made sure the bottom of the hole was firmed down to prevent sinking of the shrub. The mulch around each plant was replaced, but not to the shrub trunk or trunks.

The first season of growing in a new bed is very important, for with the loose mixture, water loss is higher. At the same time as I planted the shrubs, I also installed irrigation, an extension of my main system that is automatic. I also realized the large trees would eventually send feeder roots into this mixture and compete for both moisture and nutrients.

In over 15 years of raised bed growing of azaleas, I came to realize that just setting out the shrubs in the beds was not enough. Mulch had to be added on an annual basis, even with the tons of leaves that fall into them every fall. I also managed to kill several 6' Flame Azaleas by not being careful with herbicide in the walkways, for as the trees extend roots, so do the large azaleas.

I look back now and wish I had not planted the shrubs so close together, for they will grow large quickly. Through the years, I have had to move some of them, and that chore is not easy or desired, if possible. Most of my plants have name markers or are located on a plan map for reference, though like most folks I have managed a few unknowns.

With 30+ beds, I do not cut much grass in my landscape, and turf is a companion plant in my garden. Even with a rich soil in the beds, I do add cottonseed meal yearly; and from time-to-time, I may give the shrubs a dose of minors to keep them in good shape. I will usually give the entire garden area a dose of Epsom salts, for the magnesium unlocks nutrients bound to soil particles and gives the leaves a good green color.

If you have heavy seeding trees such as oak, hackberry, black cherry or maple, a lot of time will be spent pulling small saplings from the beds, for they sprout faster than crabgrass in the rich soil mix. I keep a pair of channel-lock pliers handy to pull them when small. Any dogwood seedlings are taken out and replanted into pots for use in the garden or to give to friends.

Another lesson learned came indirectly from my eldest son when he came by our house one day as I was building another bed. He asked me, "Why didn't you do this when I had to cut the grass?"

I looked at him, burst out laughing, and then replied, "You answered your own question, son." If I had known cutting grass was one way to get an adult child out of the house, I would have delayed putting in raised beds when my youngest adult son was still living with us.

Okay, so let us re-cap:

- Mark off bed area and kill out competing vegetation
- Use organic materials available locally
- Use pine bark (as fines and small nuggets)
- Use compost in copious amounts
- Use some good top soil
- Mulch with shredded pine bark or pine needles
- Provide adequate moisture
- Provide a strong retaining system of stone or other materials available locally
- Provide added nutrients when needed

That finishes this section so a new direction will follow in the nest issue: *Pests, Two-legged and the Other Kind.* Have fun and enjoy your garden.

***Joe Schild** has written six articles on azalea care and culture in this Mastering Azaleas Series for* **The Azalean,** *beginning in 2003. He is also an azalea breeder; see his article on his newly registered Cumberland Azaleas on p. 29 in this issue.*

# Azalea Gardens

# The Fred Sievers Memorial Garden

Larry Miller — Evansville, Indiana

In early February 2005 a group led by Tim Dodd and I formed the Friends of Fred Sievers and began planning an azalea garden in memory of the late garden columnist for the *Evansville Courier and Press,* Fred Sievers. The garden is located along one of the approaches to the city. Within a couple of weeks we had a formal design and budget prepared by local landscape designer Steve Meyerholz, who had been a friend of Fred's. The design, a 180-foot-long series of beds, incorporated Serbian spruce *(Picea omorika),* hollies, and other woody shrubs, plus over 40 of Fred's favorite azaleas, some of which came from Fred's own garden. All of the plant material was donated, and contributions of cash were obtained from such sources as the Evansville Parks Foundation, The Scripps Foundation, The Great Rivers Holly Society, the Tri-State Chapter of the ASA, and numerous individuals, through a solicitation and a series of newspaper stories about the project.

The garden as planned for the dedication June 6, 2005. The yellow-blooming shrub (left) is a *Kerria japonica,* center is *R.* 'Scintillation', and right is a Siberian spruce. *(Photo by Larry Miller)*

The garden is composed of three island beds right on the intersection of Water Works Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway, in Sunrise Park. Evergreen azaleas include Schroeder hybrids developed by the late Dr. Henry Schroeder, also of Evansville and a friend of Fred Sievers, as well as Kurumes and several Gable, Girard, and Shammarello hybrids. Examples are 'Karen', 'Rosebud', 'Cascade', 'Doctor Henry Schroeder', 'Mrs. Henry Schroeder', 'Herbert', 'Mildred Mae', 'Poukhanense Pink', 'Purple Pride', and 'Purple Splendor'. Deciduous azaleas are represented in the center of each bed by Exbury hybrids 'Gibraltar' and 'Olympic Fire' and by the species *Rhododendron alabamense* and *R. austrinum.* Also planted as features are the bottlebrush buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora* 'Rogers'; the double file viburnum, *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* 'Shasta'; Golden St. Johnswort, *Hypericum frondosum;* and hollies *Ilex opaca* 'Green Leaf' and *I. verticillata* 'Winter Red'. A yellow-berried *I. opaca* 'Saga Servene' is coming from Jules Klein in Kentucky for planting this fall. Additional accents include rhododendrons 'English Roseum' and 'Scintillation'; a Japanese Stewartia, *Stewartia pseudocamellia;* and a central feature, the Katsura tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum.* Large sandstone ledge rocks add texture and height to the beds. Becky Nellis, who owns a local landscaping firm, has agreed to maintain the garden for its first few years. Additional help is coming from Purdue University Extension horticultural educator for Vanderburgh County Larry Caplan, who is donating detailed metal plant labels to help educate the public as to the varieties incorporated. This task will be completed when the plants are all identified and was sponsored by Keep Evansville Beautiful.

Sievers, an authority on azaleas, had distinguished himself as a reporter on local and state government and courts for 29 years in Evansville. Although he retired in 1980, he began writing a series of gardening columns in 1969 that continued for another 35 years. His last column appeared just two weeks before his death in 2004 at age 82. His first column under the heading "Fred's Gardening Tips" declared that southern Indiana was "An Ideal Place for Green Thumbs." Other titles included "Flowering Trees Enhance Grounds," "Azaleas Require Protected Site," and "Rhododendrons Require Protection." He promoted diversity in "Lawn Problems? Cover 'em Up" in which he recommended six well-adapted groundcovers. His own garden on Caranza Avenue was a veritable arboretum of diverse plants.

He was a member of the Holly Society of America (Great Rivers Chapter), the Azalea Society of America (Tri-State Chapter), the Southwestern Indiana Master Gardeners Association, Willard Library Park Committee, and Friends of Willard Library. Among many professional journalism awards, Sievers also received the Joseph C. McDaniel Award from the Holly Society of America for

June 6, 2005, dedication of the Fred Sievers Memorial Garden. Larry Miller presided over the ceremony. *(Photos by Jim Michels,* Evansville Courier & Press *Internet Director and member of the Sievers Garden Committee.)*

"Outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the Great Rivers Chapter."

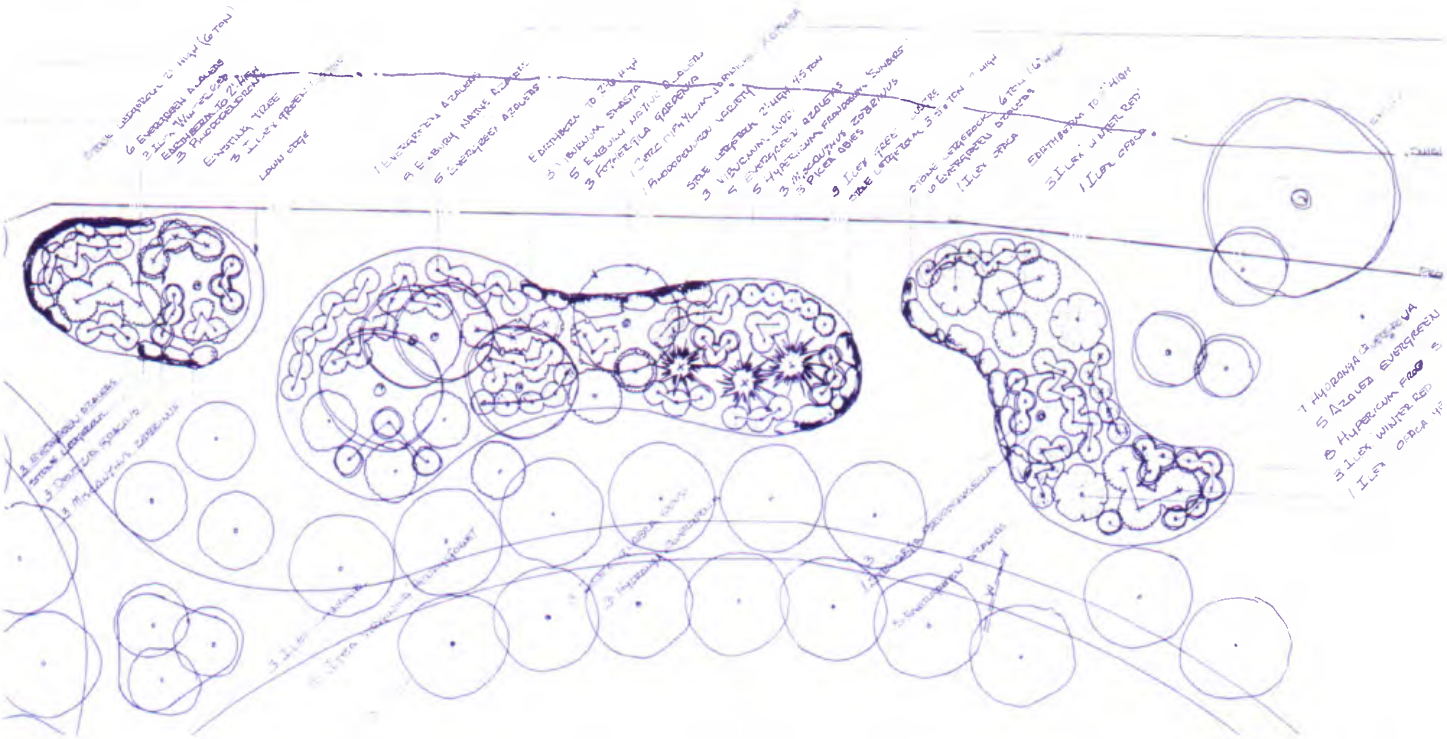
By the beginning of May the Friends group had raised almost $20,000 in donations of cash, plants, irrigation materials, and labor, and the garden was installed. The garden was dedicated on June 6, just one year from the date of Sievers' death.

In his proposals to the Evansville Parks Board, the Tree Board, and the Keep Evansville Beautiful Board, project coordinator Tim Dodd indicated that an ultimate goal of the group was to achieve Azalea City of America designation from the Azalea Society of America. This project came together so smoothly, I still can't believe it. It is one of the most satisfying community projects I've ever worked on.

***Larry Miller** is the newly elected president of the Tri-State Chapter of the ASA. When not gardening he is president of Miller Block and Brick Company in Evansville as well as an accordion player, singer/guitarist, and baritonist with the Rhein Valley Brass German Band.*

**Acknowledgments**

Material from Jim Allen and Steve Meyerholz was incorporated into this article. Special thanks to Kenneth Brown, who not only was the procurement coordinator for the project, but who also helped with plant names for this article.



Fred Sievers Memorial Garden Plan developed by Steve Meyerholz of Landscape Design Associates of Evansville. This plan was used in convincing Keep Evansville Beautiful to allow the Friends of Fred Sievers to obtain an "Adopt-a-Spot" designation so the garden could actually be planted. The project also had to be approved by the Evansville Parks Board and the Evansville City Commission. These approvals required a landscape plan, budget, and plan for garden maintenance.
*(Plan used here by permission of Steve Meyerholz)*

# Society News

# Chapter News

## Ben Morrison Chapter

Co-Editors: **Bob Hobbs** — rwhobbs@mindspring.com

**Carol Flowers** —dflowers@bellatlantic.net

Chapter members graciously opened their gardens to tours through May and June, showing the wide geographic area this chapter covers: Boxlee Azalea Farm (**Courtland Lee** in Glenn Dale), Rosa Gardens (**Bob** and **Rosa McWhorter** in Gambrills), Baldwin Gardens (**Pam Baldwin** in Calvert County), Wake Robin (**Joe Miller** in St. Mary's County), the Hobbs garden (**Bob** and **Bee Hobbs** in North Beach), and the Holmes garden (**Dave** and **Eileen Holmes** in Prince Frederick).

**Don Hyatt** helped organize a field trip to Roan Mountain and Gregory Bald June 12-17, a joint activity with the Northern Virginia Chapter. Roan Mountain is on the border of North Carolina and Tennessee. The trip included hiking the Appalachian Trail in the Roan Highlands and exploration of the upper Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, then proceeded south to the Smokies to go to Wayah Bald to see *Rhododendron arborescens* in bloom and hike up Gregory Bald. Finally, a visit to Vivian Abney's East Fork Nursery allowed members a chance to purchase native azaleas.

## Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Newsletter Editor plouer@msn.com

At the April 3 meeting the members agreed to honor the request of the Alabamense Chapter to take the Northern Virginia Chapter's place in hosting the 2008 convention. **Barry Sperling** gave each attendee a copy of his new DVD titled "Gardens of Northern Virginia." The speaker was Jacqueline McGrail of the Potomac Valley Camellia Society. She distributed pamphlets showing the flower forms and shrub habits of this tea relative and showed slides of hardy varieties that would be attractive in local azalea collections. Many of the slides were Ackerman hybrids that bloom in the fall when azalea bloom is scarce. Among the spring-blooming varieties was one named for Jerry Hill, whose local nurseries also featured azaleas.

Sunday, July 10, the chapter held its annual cutting exchange at the home of **Dave** and **Sharon Raden.** This is the 19th cuttings exchange held by the chapter. Chapter president **Dan Krabill** reminded members that the best success in rooting these cuttings appears to come from cuttings taken in the morning from plants that had been rained on or watered recently. Small plants such as members' extra rooted cuttings were also welcome.

## Oconee Chapter

**Frank Bryan,** Newsletter Editor Rudie2rudie@aol.com

The June 12 meeting featured ASA member **Dan Krabill** speaking on "Meeting the Glenn Dales" and his large collection of digital images of them. He has saved these to CD disk format. June 18 chapter members and their friends were invited to take cuttings of Glenn Dales at the home of **Ben Reid.** Also June 18 the Oconee Chapter of ASA jointly sponsored a cutting party with the Azalea Chapter of the ARS at the home of **Joe** and **Donna Coleman.**

## Tri-State Chapter

**Larry Miller,** reporting Elar1946@sbcglobal.net

The chapter has reorganized and elected new officers, who are:
**Larry Miller,** president
**Beverly Knight,** secretary/treasurer
**Debbie Bizal,** vice-president

Through the development of the Fred Sievers Memorial Garden (see p. 36), the Friends of Fred Sievers group learned about the Azalea Society of America and some became members of the Tri-State Chapter, helping to rejuvenate the chapter.

In addition, the chapter held their annual garden tour on April 24th, with visits to the extraordinary gardens of **Art Schroeder, Lloyd Hahn, Fred Sievers,** and **Jean** and **Ken Brown** among others.

### Upcoming Events — Independent Plant Breeder's Conference

Program Organizer Dr. Rick Schoellhorn, faculty member of the Environmental Horticulture Department at the University of Florida (UF), Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has announced an Independent Plant Breeder's Conference to be held November 18-20, 2005 at the Ft. Lauderdale Marriott North in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The goal of this program is to inform independent plant breeders about how to bring their hybrids to market ***successfully.*** Independent plant breeders who attend this program will:

- Learn how to improve their hybrids.
- Learn where to find the best deals for the release of their hybrids.
- Learn about the realities of plant patenting.
- Have opportunities to network directly with national and international plant breeder industries sponsoring this event.
- Learn the advantages of working with horticultural distributors.
- Have an opportunity to show photos of their hybrids at the Breeder Showcase and Reception.

The IFAS mission is to extend education about agriculture and natural resources. For more information on the conference, contact Mandy Stage or visit the Web site for details about the conference. http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ipbc/

Ms. Mandy P. Stage, Conference Coordinator
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Gainesville, Florida 32611-0750
352-392-5930, Fax: 352-392-9734
Email: mstage@ufl.edu • website: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/

## Lake Michigan Chapter Photo Contest

The chapter has extended the deadline for submitting pictures for the Photo Contest. The new deadline is: Saturday, Oct 1, 2005

For more information, or to volunteer to be on the panel of judges, contact John Migas 269-857-1505 or Sandra Wearne 630-955-9500 or contact Sandra at swearne@unety.com.

**Photo Calendar Contest Rules:**

1. You may submit up to 24 of your own original photographs of the beautiful vistas, view points, and/or varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons on the 2005 Convention Garden Tours.
2. You must designate one of the following categories for each photo that you submit:
   - **Close Up & Beautiful: Buds & Blooms**
   - **Breathtaking Vistas & View Points**
   - **Touching or Memorable Moments**
3. You must submit your photos in digital format on a CD at high resolution (i.e., 1000 pixels by 1000 pixels or better) along with the following:
   - **For each participant**, you must include your complete contact information such as your name, mailing address, day phone, evening phone, cell phone, email address, age. **IMPORTANT: you must print and sign the photo release form posted on the website.** This form gives the Lake Michigan Chapter permission to use the photos you submit on their ASA Garden Tour Calendar, in the Photo Gallery on their Web site, and in their marketing and promotional materials. Each photo used will have a photo caption indicating the name of the photographer.
   - **For each photo**, you must indicate your name, the category, the date/time the photo was taken, and the names of the garden and plants, if known.
4. You must submit your photos with proper documentation on a labeled CD (see above) by October 1st to:

   Sandra Wearne
   Photo Calendar Committee Chair
   25W231 Oldham Road
   Naperville, IL 60563

5. You must be a member in good standing of the ASA at the time you submit your entries.

**Photo Contest Winners:**

- Winners and winning photos will be featured in the 2006 Great Lakes Chapter ASA Photo Calendar.
- Winners and winning photos will be announced and displayed on the Lake Michigan Chapter Web site by Nov 1, 2005 at: http://azaleas-lake-michigan.org
- An independent panel of judges will be selected from non-participants. If you would like to volunteer to become a judge, contact the Photo Calendar Committee Chair.
- **IMPORTANT: Be sure you do NOT send your only copy of your entries, as photo CDs cannot be returned and will become the property of the Lake Michigan Chapter of the ASA.**
- If you have questions or comments or wish to serve on the Photo Calendar Committee, contact the Committee Chair.

## Membership Note: Alabamense Chapter Wins Again!

What did they win? They had the most growth of any chapter, again in 2005. It was an easy win in 2004 because they were new, so their growth from 0 to 34 members was infinite. This year they kept on growing, by having all their members renew and adding 10 new members, for a new total of 44 members, or 30% more than last year.

Next was Lake Michigan chapter, growing from 31 to 36 members, or 16% more than last year. The Northern Virginia chapter stayed even at 59 members, as did the Dallas chapter at 24 members.

Unfortunately, none of our other chapters have stayed even with their 2004 membership, so our overall 2004 membership is just 95% of our 2005 membership. Let's fix that. Besides making sure all your current members renew, take advantage of our $20 gift membership and get your friends and neighbors started as members of the Azalea Society—it makes a good Christmas present!

## Society Documents Have New Look

### Barbara Stump, Editor—Nacogdoches, Texas

**Cover Photo**

By now you will have noticed that the front cover of ***The Azalean*** is now being printed with what is called a "full-bleed" color cover. We made this change with the Winter 2004 issue, thanks to help from Joe Schild, Bob Stelloh, and Dr. John Root from Mt. Baker Research in Bellingham, Washington. This means you have yet another opportunity to impact the look and content of the Society's official journal. More and more of you members are not only interested in digital photography, but you are also becoming proficient with it, as shown by the photography contests being held by both the Ben Morrison and Lake Michigan chapters. Therefore, I encourage you to look critically at your close ups of favorite, colorful, or unusually formed azalea blooms, then contribute the best of your images to be used as a cover for ***The Azalean.*** I need maximum resolution of no less than 1600 pixels by 1600 pixels at no less than 300 dots per inch (dpi). I can also scan from regular photographs or slides, but they must be very sharp images. It would be even better if you could write an article to go with your cover photo.

**Society News**

In addition, you'll notice that in this issue the Society News section is in the middle of the journal. This is dictated by the way the color pages are printed and the fact that eight pages of every 24-page issue must be black-and-white to stay at our current economical cost.

**ASA Roster**

Finally, the format of the 2004-2005 Azalea Society of America Roster has been revised for easier reading and to highlight the alphabetical arrangement. We are printing the paper copy of the Roster every two years, so the next one will cover 2006-2007.

To submit photos or articles, contact me at: 936-462-7195 or bsstump@sbcglobal.net .

# 2005 Exceptional Service Award to Bob Stelloh

May 21, 2005, during the business meeting at the Holland, Michigan convention, Society president Buddy Lee surprised Bob Stelloh with a special Exceptional Service Award "In recognition of the unlimited time and professional talents dedicated to the successful operation and promotion of the Azalea Society of America." As shown in the photo below, Bob was taken by surprise, which was what the board of directors intended.

The board and other friends in the ASA contributed toward a state-of-the-art personal computer also given to Bob. Secretary John Brown is shown here announcing this part of the award. Bob said he was actually speechless in gratitude and surprise. *(Photos by William C. Miller III)*

# Alabamense — the Newest ASA Chapter

One of the highlights of the annual meeting at the 2005 Society Convention in Holland, Michigan, was the official signing and presentation of the charter to the Alabamense Chapter.

In his remarks about the rapid growth of this new chapter Carlton emphasized the beauty of the azalea gardens throughout Alabama and especially in the Birmingham area, where Carlton and his wife make their home. He welcomed us to come visit and enjoy true Southern hospitality. He then made it official in the board of directors meeting on Sunday, May 22: the Alabamense Chapter offered to host the 2008 ASA convention in Birmingham. The board agreed.

Shown below are secretary John Brown and president Buddy Lee presenting the signed charter to Alabamense Chapter president Carlton LeMond.

# North Carolina Arboretum's Bonsai Collection in Asheville Features Azaleas Among Other Appalachian Species

Nan Chase — Boone, North Carolina

Under the leadership of North Carolina Arboretum bonsai curator Arthur Joura, a 1,000 year-old horticultural tradition has been brought to the mountains of western North Carolina. An outdoor bonsai display garden opening October 9, 2005, will be the new home for the Arboretum's distinctive bonsai collection, which has recently become the focus of national attention.

This diverse collection of more than 100 display-quality trees and over 100 plants in training is distinctive because it features many species of native Appalachian plants, including azaleas like the exquisite flame azalea *(Rhododendron calendulaceum)*. Joura used Asian azaleas *(R. kiusianum)* to mimic the richly textured rhododendrons that didn't quite work as bonsai.

The $1.8 million bonsai garden, funded through private donations, is currently under construction and will feature plant displays distributed throughout upper and lower courtyards connected by a winding path. The landscape in the garden features more than 100 tons of native stone. A pavilion will house demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, plant storage, and restrooms. The North Carolina Arboretum is a public institution, open year-round.

On October 8-9, the 10th annual Carolina Bonsai Expo takes place at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. For information see www.ncarboretum.org.

An example of bonsai is this seasonal interest planting featuring 'Coral Bells' as the focal point, underplanted with Kingsville Boxwood, *Buxus macrophylla* 'Kingsville Dwarf' and a *Cotoneaster*. The planting was done in 2000 and is 22" wide by 22" tall. *(Photograph courtesy of The North Carolina Arboretum, Arthur Joura photographer.)*

***Nan Chase** is a freelance writer who also serves as the Governor of the Daniel Boone Native Gardens and as chair of the Tree Board in Boone, North Carolina. Her work has appeared in* The American Gardener, Our State, *and* Old House Journal.

*[This past spring, L. Malcolm Clark, past president of the ASA and owner/operator of Chandler Gardens in Southern Pines, North Carolina, donated a dozen very old satsuki to this project for training as bonsai, Ed. Thanks to Bob Stelloh for this information.]*

# Maps and Records for Azalea Collections

Frank Bryan — Lithonia, Georgia

*[Frank Bryan says he compiled this article from information shared at an Oconee Chapter meeting and in discussion with Joe Coleman. Since this topic is of perennial interest, I invite other people who have used computer applications for mapping and record keeping to contribute articles for publication in* ***The Azalean,*** *Ed.]*

Make sketches of landscaping ideas during planning, and map beds with locations of species and cultivars within the garden. Develop a listing of names with descriptions of plants in the collection and indexes. Keep the listings on cards, in a notebook or store them on a computer hard drive or on disks. Add entries as they are planted, and review the listings periodically; at least annually. If computerized, print out a hard copy for rapid viewing and editing. Maps and listings are necessary to keep up with increasing numbers of plants and their locations. (There are computer programs for mapping and placement of plants.)

Allison Fuqua uses 3" x 5" cards to record information about each cultivar. These contain name of the cultivar, date obtained and where it came from. He has drawings of where they are planted.

Ruth and Frank Bryan divided their lot into areas and these into sections. Cultivars are given code numbers (first for the area (e.g., A), then the section (e.g., 1) and following a decimal point, a number (e.g., 1) for each species or cultivar. There are 38 sections. For example, a specific cultivar might have a number C2.37). For each section, a 5" x 7" card initially was used to list all planted cultivars. Rough maps were drawn that showed the general location and quantities of the cultivars or groupings. A map was prepared for each section in the front yard, but several sections were combined for locations toward the lake.

Subsequently, this information was computerized. The information is classified by deciduous and evergreen azaleas. (See accompanying tables and listings for abstracts of data in the listing and indexes.) Categories of columns include (a) species or cultivar name, common name if one, parentage; (b) bloom color; (c) bloom type; (d) size of flower and plant; (e) bloom time and hardiness; and (f) location code, other characteristics and habits of plants, and quantity. The source of most deciduous azaleas is also listed, but unfortunately this has not been done for the evergreens. The azaleas are classified as species and hybrid groups. General information about the hybrid group is stated above the listing of cultivars. Each row gives information about a specific species or cultivar. Totals for the cultivars and their quantities are given at the end of the section on the hybrid group. This document gives information about each cultivar in each hybrid group.

If the user, however, does not know the hybrid group in which a cultivar is classified, it becomes difficult to find it in the listing. Therefore, indexes are necessary. Three have been developed. The first, which is an essential one, is an alphabetized listing of all species and cultivars of deciduous and evergreen azaleas. Following the name of the entry, the hybrid group or species is listed

*continued on page 44*

# EVERGREEN AZALEAS, Classified By Hybridizer Group

Evergreen species or cultivars that emerged from species. (The majority of these azalea species are native to Japan; others are native mostly to Asia.)

Back Acres azaleas [53] were developed and released by B.Y. Morrison (who developed the Glenn Dale azaleas) after his retirement in Pass Christian, Mississippi. (Others are known only by number.) They tend to have a more compact growth habit and are less cold tolerant than the Glenn Dales; many have bicolor blooms and colored margins with outstanding color combinations. Many are doubles, and most bloom late.

| Species/cultivar (Common name; syn.) [Group] | Bloom color | Bloom type | Size: bloom/ plant | Bloom time/ hardy | Location code/ number of plants/ habit/comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 'Apricot Honey' ('Kagetsu' x *R. indicum)* | Light center between strong pink/white margins, vivid red dots | Single 2-3 in head | 2-2 3/4" MEDIUM | Mid 5/25 | C2.5.1 UPRIGHT |

## Index of Azaleas
## [Alphabetical with hybrid group stated and location listed]

'Adelaine Pope' [Carla] - El .12
*'Admiral Semmes' [Dodd] - L5, F1.27
'Ai-no-tsuki'[Satsuki] -Cl.l1
'Aka-yodogawa' [Species] - El .41
* deciduous

## Index of Evergreen Azaleas
## [by hybrid group with quantity]

Aichele (6/44)
  'Clemson' - 4
  'Easter Morn' - 19
Allan (1/11)
  'Massasoit' (Kurume) - 11
Aromi (16/73)
  'Ballerina Pink' - 4
  'Crinoline Pink - 4

## Index of azaleas
## [by locations, quantity and color (coordinated with maps of areas)]

Al-Right of apple tree, in front of ditch...
A1.1. 'Girard's Scarlet' - 3 - red
A1.2. 'Hershey's Salmon' - 18 - y - pink
A1.3. 'President Clay'- 14 - red ...A2..A3...Bl...B2...B3...C1...C2...C2.5...C3...D...El...E2...E3...F1..F2...G...H...L1-19 (typically *25* to >*50* cultivars in a location)

## Summaries

Total deciduous, Total evergreen, Number of types of deciduous and evergreens,
Total types and number, Listing of numbers of specific cultivar in masses of 10 or more

# New Members

*The following new members have joined the Society as of July 8, 2005*

**At-large Members**

Helen Becich
1041 N. Cindy Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Hugh Denny
2528 Lavista Road
Decatur, GA 30033

Tammy Feuer
73 North Woodland Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Judy & Thomas Gage
1424 Francis Station Drive
Knoxville, TN 37909

Harlan A. Hanna
Hollywood & Hawaiian Unlimited
Landscape Architects
PO Box 50995
Knoxville, TN 37950-0995

Art & Delores Martella
831-B Jackson Street
Lansdale, PA 19446

Kenneth G. McRae IV
5505 Hawthorne
Little Rock, AR 72207

Ernest Shealey
PO Box 2606
Leesville, SC 29070-0606

David Wuosmaa
3230 LaCosta Circle, Apt 303
Naples, FL 34105

**Alabamense Chapter**

Bob & Wilma Siemens
1725 Buck Island Drive
Guntersville, AL 35976

**Ben Morrison Chapter**

Edward F. McCarthy
654 Branch Place
North Beach, MD 20714

Virginia D. Weaver
1216 Iron Forge Road
Forestville, MD 20747

**Brookside Gardens Chapter**

Gilbert S. Jackson
8208 Raymond Lane
Potomac, MD 20854

Stacy A. Parsons
9224 Glenfille Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Nancy & Bill Sheriff
1222 Pinecrest Circle
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Lake Michigan Chapter**

Harold Berg
1900 East Gunn Road
Rochester, MI 48306

Mr. & Mrs. Roberts
927 Tyne Circle
Danville, IN 46122

**Northern Virginia Chapter**

Jim Brant
7034 Hunters Pointe Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

**Vaseyi Chapter**

Lynn Clark Medlin
PO Box 15990
Surfside Beach, SC 29587

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*Maps and Records — continued*

with location and number code. A second index gives each evergreen cultivar under the hybrid group categories. It also cites the quantity of each and totals. A third index is by location. It classifies the azaleas by location code, name, quantity, and color. This information is stored on disks and hard drive; copies are printed and edited periodically. The information is upgraded after new or additional cultivars are planted. Most of the data for entries is gathered and entered during the winter months when azalea propagation and cultivation is over.

Joe Coleman stated that he uses a similar approach. He is using Access from Windows software for inventory, organizing, and doing searches. This is a knowledge management program. Presently this is in a developmental stage, but when completed, he will be able to determine whether he has a specific cultivar, and, if so, search information on sources, hybrid group, flower color and form, etc. with all sort of cross-indexing and will be able to bring up a picture if it is on file.

***Frank Bryan** joined the ASA Oconee Chapter in 1993. He has been the editor of the chapter newsletter since September 1995. He says he had little background with azaleas or horticulture before becoming a member, but he is a scientist (Bacteriologist, Ph.D.) with an extensive career in disease control. He served as a scientist director, (Foodborne Disease Activity, Training Program), Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta (1956-1985); principal activities: foodborne diseases epidemiology and control, enteric diseases, environmental health, training; and subsequently as a consultant in food safety. He is the author of over 270 publications. [This article appeared in the Oconee Chapter Newsletter. July 2004. XIV (3): 2-3, used here by permission, Ed.]*