



▲ Margie Y. Jenkins Garden was started in 2006 and is a young garden with good bones.

We have tried to incorporate this fun and curiosity in the Margie Y. Jenkins Garden. One can find Japanese maples, *Wisteria*, *Hibiscus*, huckleberry, *Viburnum*, *Osmanthus*, *Lonicera*, *Abelia*, *Styrax*, *Camellia*, *Hosta*, *Itea*, *Illicium*, *Ilex*, *Dianella*, *Leucothoe*, *Aucuba*, *Euonymus*, farkleberry, and *Loropetalum*.

Native trees include *Callicarpa*, *Carpinus*, *Catalpa*, *Cedrus*, *Chionanthus* (fringe tree), *Cornus*, *Crataegus* (hawthorn), *Malus*, *Fagus*, *Gordonia*, *Sinojackia* (jacktree), *Nyssa*, *Halesia* (silverbell), *Acer*, *Quercus*, persimmon, sassafras, *Ulmus*, and *Prunus*. Magnolias include Japanese, Southern, *ashei*, *tripetala*, *macrophylla*, and sweetbay. Other plants include *Beschorneria* (false red agave), *Lespedeza*, *Myrica*, *Aleurites* (tung oil).

Spotlighted around a sugar kettle is Margie's white azalea selection 'Freddie'. Also one can find nestled among the azaleas such interesting plants as *Leucothoe axillaris* 'Jenkins', named after its developer Margie.

The Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden is a young garden with a great future. It will be an integral part of the new Landscape Horticulture Research and Extension Center being developed at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station.

The plaque at the entrance to the garden best sums up the person for whom the garden was named. "Margie Y. Jenkins...A person with a passion for plants and plant people." With the establishment of this garden, we will have a continuing feature that will educate people about azaleas and native plants. This garden will be a source of information, an inspiration, a delight to visit...much as Margie is and has been during her lifetime.

Regina Bracy is Professor of Horticulture and Resident Coordinator of Louisiana State University AgCenter's Hammond Research Station in Hammond, Louisiana.

Letters to the Editor

Mini-blinds not recommended for ID tags

Some time back, I read a short article in *The Azalean* promoting the use of discarded mini-blinds to make identification tags for azaleas. For a few years I relied heavily on this material and told others how well it worked. Well, after much disappointment in finding the writing – from both pencil and indelible Sharpie-type pens – totally or partially gone, I have personally banned the use in my garden and propagation containers.

Apparently a layer of material from the mini-blind strips falls off, taking the writing with it. I have tried attaching the strips to plants in open air, sticking the strip into the medium along the pot edge, and placing it underneath mulch or a stone at the base of the plant. In most cases the writing did not survive. Strips covered with medium or soil did last longer than those fully exposed to air, sun, rain and watering.

I now have too many azaleas, mostly in pots grown from seeds or cuttings, that are unknown as to variety or source due to the use of mini-blind identification tags. If you use this material I advise checking the tags weekly and being prepared to write over the information on the tag with graphite pencil or fine tip permanent marker.

For my permanent plant tags, I use either old aluminum offset printing plates cut into strips; pure copper plant tags from Lee Valley Garden tools; or thick plastic strips which are waste materials from credit card manufacturers. I have fully legible identification tags dating to 1983 that are made from offset printing plates.

I wish someone had a company where you could send a list of plant labels and have good permanent ones made.

Mike Creel

Lexington, South Carolina

Spring issue enjoyed

I received *The Azalean* (Spring 2008 issue) yesterday and I enjoyed reading every article. Thank you.

Yoriko Chin

Rockville, Maryland

In Memory

Tom Anderson, Major, U.S. Army retired, passed away March 8 at the age of 81. Tom was drafted at the age of 17 and continued with a military career. He saw conflict in the European Theater, Korea, and Vietnam. He was highly decorated, including the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart.

Tom was a long time member and Vice President of the Oconee Chapter.