



▲ Jeff Jones

Letters to the Editor

Where to find azalea cultivars?

I am writing to ask for help in finding specific cultivars of azaleas. In the 1940's and 50's Miss Hogg purchased popular azaleas such as 'Sweetheart Supreme', 'Lavender Beauty', 'Hinodegiri', 'Christmas Cheer', 'Coral Bells', and 'Hexe'. These azaleas are becoming impossible to find in the Texas/Louisiana nursery industry.

I need these azaleas to maintain the historic gardens of Bayou Bend. Do you know where I can find them? Please e-mail any information to me at bbrechter@mfah.org.

Bart Brechter
Houston, Texas

Complimenting article on soils

Have just received your summer edition and read the comprehensive article on various soils. I commend your publishing it; I compliment the author, and express my appreciation to George Klump for his work in seeing to its publication.

Never have I read a more succinct, fact-filled, and authoritative treatment on the growing mixes appropriate for azaleas and for bonsai in general.

Bob Callaham
Orinda, California

Correction to article appearing in last issue

Thanks for the extra copies of *The Azalean* with the article in it. Unfortunately, I have to add a correction which, according to my original copy, seems to have been a slip in transcribing it to the magazine.

On page 34, the right hand or inner column the first real paragraph begins "There were some peat-perlite blends. . . ." About the fourth sentence into that paragraph, the sentence as printed begins "Moreover, ester-based agents..." This sentence is nonsense, if one reads it as it is in the magazine.

An ester is essentially an organic salt. The sentence should read "Moreover, ether-based agents provide early [but low residual] wetting, but the ester-based agents provide less initial wetting [but better residual effects]."

Ether is an organic solvent, albeit a dangerous one in terms of its inflammability in its pure form. But used in other chemical combinations it has other properties.

The sentence perhaps ought to be corrected in the next issue, since the sentence makes no sense as it stands! Would you be so kind as to make that correction in the next issue?

George Klump
La Crescenta, California

garden at my church. Hopefully, the beautiful plants will not die, and future generations can continue to discover their beauty.

Dr. Joe Coleman, our keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet, didn't do a lot of talking. His photos pretty much said it all. Like Joe, my husband has always been in favor of growing azaleas. Every new azalea planted in the yard has resulted in less and less grass to be mowed.

Joe and his wife, Donna, have gone to lots and lots of conventions. They have collected, grown and shared thousands of azaleas and rhododendrons. The photos were beautiful. Words did not have to be used.

Because of all the convention speeches, participants learned more about azaleas. I am sure each of the speakers discovered a lot by preparing for their talks and listening to other presenters. By researching the lives of plantsmen Chauncey Beadle, Henry Skinner, and Augie Kehr, our speakers learned the stories of these "greats" and passed them on to those attending the convention.

Dan Krabill made us aware of the many beautiful Glenn Dale azaleas developed in the past. Jeff Jones explained the genetic research underway in the plant world. People like Joe Klimavicz and J Jackson are able to use this knowledge in their hybridizing and plant production programs. Joe Coleman's pictures summed it all up—azaleas are truly beautiful plants with flowers that have a very regal quality.

The 2008 ASA convention speakers contributed much to the success of the meeting. New discoveries about this genus of plants continue to be made by all of us attending the banquet. Academic researchers, historians, plant collectors, hybridizers, and nurserymen forge ahead. We continue to want to have these plants in our gardens. We continue to discover more and more about them.

Before retiring, Carol Flowers managed a computer help desk for the U.S. Census Bureau. Her interest in azaleas came from her many childhood visits to the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, New York. She has been a member of the Azalea Society of America for 25 years.