half feet tall and four to five feet wide. Blooming in mid to late May, it has numerous lax trusses, each holding eight to 10 flowers. The corolla is five-lobed. Lower lobes are narrow and deeply divided, while the upper three lobes are less deeply divided. Flower color is medium pinkish purple with darker speckles on upper lobes. Flowers are not fragrant. Foliage is medium green.

**Candy Lights™ ('UMinn's Candy Lights')**

This new cultivar restores pink to the color palette of the Lights Series of hardy deciduous azaleas. An earlier cultivar, 'Pink Lights', has been too difficult to propagate in commercial quantities and has therefore become unavailable in the trade. Candy Lights™ results from a controlled 1989 cross of *R. atlanticum* and a red-flowered *R.* x *kosterianum*.

Candy Lights™ is a medium sized shrub, growing five to six feet tall and wide. It blooms in mid to late May with many dome-shaped flower trusses, each holding eight to 10 flowers. Flower color is a clear light pink with pale yellow streaks on the upper corolla lobe. Flowers have heavy substance and are strongly fragrant. Foliage is medium to dark green.

**'Western Lights'**

'Western Lights' is a polyploid form of the tried-and-true standard 'Orchid Lights'. It boasts thicker, more lush foliage with a slightly glaucous tone and larger flowers. The good, deep purplish pink coloring is still present, but the entire plant is a lot showier from bud to foliage.

It was introduced by Briggs Nurseries and it was their 2001 Plant of the Year. Parentage is (*R. canadense* x *R.* x *kosterianum*). The one and a half inch orchid-colored flowers are sterile.

Work on the hardy deciduous azaleas continues. One color that's missing from the Lights Series so far is red, and they are looking at several good red-flowering azaleas for introduction in the near future. Project leader Dr. Stan Hokanson likes one of the advanced selection azaleas that has double flowers in a pink-coral shade, so there may be a 'Double Lights' down the road a bit as well.

Another new project effort is directed toward the development of powdery mildew resistant deciduous azaleas. As an initial step in the process, the screening of 41 deciduous azalea cultivars is being done in replicated field plots in Minnesota and Ohio to identify mildew tolerant or resistant cultivars for use in future breeding efforts.

Liner-sized plants of most of the cultivars being screened in the field are also being screened in growth chamber experiments. They want to determine whether the same resistance/susceptibility reactions occur in the growth chamber as are observed in field experiments. If this is the case, they can accomplish powdery mildew screening on a smaller scale, in the off-season, at a cost savings to the breeding project.

Future work will involve screening seedlings collected from populations of 16 species of deciduous azaleas native to the Appalachian Mountains of Eastern United States.

For those fortunate to visit the Twin Cities, do stop at the tiny town of Buffalo where Erva Hance (daughter of the late Horticulture professor Leon Snyder) has close to 1,000 iridescent Northern Lights azaleas that stop the rural traffic once they are abloom.

To obtain some of these Northern Lights series of azaleas visit these nurseries which have mail-order operations. Or, for further information feel free to write or call the author .

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| Greer Gardens Nursery | www.greergardens.com |
| Rare Find Nursery | www.rarefindnursery.com |
| Song Sparrow Nursery | www.songsparrow.com |

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# UPDATE: Hybridizers—Leave your Legacy

James Thornton—Conyers, Georgia

In the spring issue of ***The Azalean*** (Vol. 30, No. 1), I penned an article ***"Hybridizers: Leave your Legacy."*** If you recall, it was a request for hybridizers to help build a data base of the specifics of their hybrid plants. This data base would create a library of sorts, for all azaleaphiles, present and future—of information concerning the creation of their azaleas.

The article even included a form to use to submit data. It seemed simple enough, even though I was forewarned by Galle that in his quest for data it was "difficult, sometimes hopeless, an enormous task" and often "frustrating." Boy, these were understatements if there ever were ones. I was so optimistic!

Later in the fall issue (Vol. 30, No. 3) I gave a status report. Other than **David Purdys'** input, there was nothing to report! In that article, I went into a tirade as to why there where no responses, accusing our hybridizers of many things, including "plain old apathy." I went on to say that I would still be around as along as my patience held out.

I have to admit my patience was wearing thin when along came plant data from hybridizer **Joe Klimavicz**. I know all of us are aware of his work and those who attended this year's convention eagerly sought after his plants. Some, however, went away empty handed, including myself!

Anyway, thanks to Joe and David, maybe just maybe, this will prompt others to share their plant data, and it will not fade into the world of "never, never land." Like the motel ad says, "I'll leave the light on for you!"