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The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



President's Letter

Aaron Cook — Valdese, North Carolina



As a scientist, I have always been an admirer of Sir Isaac Newton. One of my favorite quotes from him is: "If I have seen further, it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants."

I think of this quote often as I perform my duties as President. I am indeed greatly indebted to those who have laid the groundwork for our Society. In spite of many obstacles, our Society has continued to march steadily forward. While other societies struggle, we continue to add new members and chapters.

There are many reasons why the ASA has become widely recognized and well respected in the plant society world. One factor that seldom receives the credit it deserves is our level of leadership at the chapter level. We are blessed to have a great group of chapter officers devoted to making their chapters successful. Many of these officers perform double duty by serving as national leaders as well.

A large number of men and women from various geographic areas and widely different backgrounds have served as national officers, directors, and committee members. All of these individuals have incurred personal expense and inconvenience for the love of our Society. Always vulnerable to criticism, and seldom applauded, they have served us well.

Good leadership is never accidental, but combines unique skills, a collective will, and a strong commitment to hold the interests of a society over personal interests. Now our Society's interests are once again threatened. I can think of no time in the past when we have been faced with more challenges.

Just a few short years ago, Buddy Lee wrote glowingly in his President's Letter about Auburn University's Azalea Evaluation Project at Camp Hill. He characterized it as a large collection of azalea cultivars planted in elevated rows with irrigation and pine trees providing filtered shade. Now the project has been scrapped and the plants are being offered free to anyone willing to rescue them.

On another front, new directives from the management of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., could in one season undo 20 years of hard work. Employment positions are going unfilled and major changes are being discussed in the azalea areas planted on Mt. Hamilton. If no one intervenes, some of Ben Morrison's original hybrids will be systematically cut down and the stumps treated with herbicide. It will be a great loss, both from an aesthetic and a genetic viewpoint. The appearance of Mt. Hamilton will be forever altered and germplasm from Morrison's breeding work will be lost to future plant breeders.

The growth and standing of the Azalea Society of America is incontrovertible proof of how well our predecessors led. The giants on whose shoulders we all stand would have fought this. They may have lost out to declining revenues and changing priorities, but they would have gone down swinging. And so will I.

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 which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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(chartered Oct. 1981)

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(chartered May 2003)

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(chartered May 2005)

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(chartered March 2007)

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On the Cover

Tadeusz Dauksza, a member of the Lake Michigan Chapter of the ASA, standing beside 'Stewartstonian' at the Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Gardens outside of Hazelton, Indiana. 'Stewartstonian' is an evergreen azalea suitable for growing in zones 5-8. Please see related article on page 76.



Photo: John Migas

Hoosier Hospitality 2011: A Visit Along the Ohio River

ASA Convention April 28 - May 1, 2011

John Migas—Saugatuck, Michigan & Linda Lanning—Walton, Indiana

The Lake Michigan and the Tri-State chapters of the Azalea Society of America welcome all to visit Evansville, Indiana, home of the Tri-State Chapter of the ASA which was chartered in 1981. This is the first time our chapters have hosted a convention in this area. Evansville is Indiana's third largest city and is the metropolitan hub for the Tri-State area of Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky with a combined population of 350,000 people. It is situated along a horseshoe bend of the Ohio River, and one can watch the barges go by with their cargo.

We also will be visiting the gardens of neighboring Vincennes, Indiana, to the north, well known for being the birthplace of the famous comedian Red Skelton and home of our ninth president, William Henry Harrison.

Come join us at the convention for some Hoosier hospitality! The convention dates are set for Thursday, April 28, through Sunday, May 1, 2011. Our hotel is the Clarion Inn and Conference Center, 4101 US Highway 41 North, Evansville, Indiana 47711.

The hotel is conveniently located south of town near the airport. The room rates are \$79 (for up to two), including breakfast. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 812-424-6400. Mention the azalea convention when reserving your room to get the discounted group rate. The hotel offers free parking and a free shuttle from the Evansville Airport. There is also a free shuttle to the Aztar Casino overlooking the Ohio River. Restaurants and other attractions are all located nearby.

Thursday, April 28

The convention officially opens at 7 p.m.; however, registration begins at noon. The ASA board meeting is 2 p.m. and the plant sale opens at 4 p.m. You should plan to arrive early so you can be settled in for the opening meeting.

Friday, April 29—Garden Tours

We will board the buses by 8 a.m. sharp to head up to Vincennes, Indiana, for our first day of garden tours. After a short, 50-minute bus trip, we will be treated to a narrated tour of local landmarks. Vincennes' showcase of historic sites includes: George Rogers Clark National Historical Park; Grouseland, the mansion and museum of our 9th U.S. President, William Henry Harrison; the Indiana Territory Capitol; the Jefferson Academy, Indiana's first college; the Elihu Stout Print Shop, Indiana's first newspaper publishing company; and The Old Cathedral, Indiana's first church. Vincennes is also the home of comedian Red Skelton.



▲ Evansville, Indiana skyline

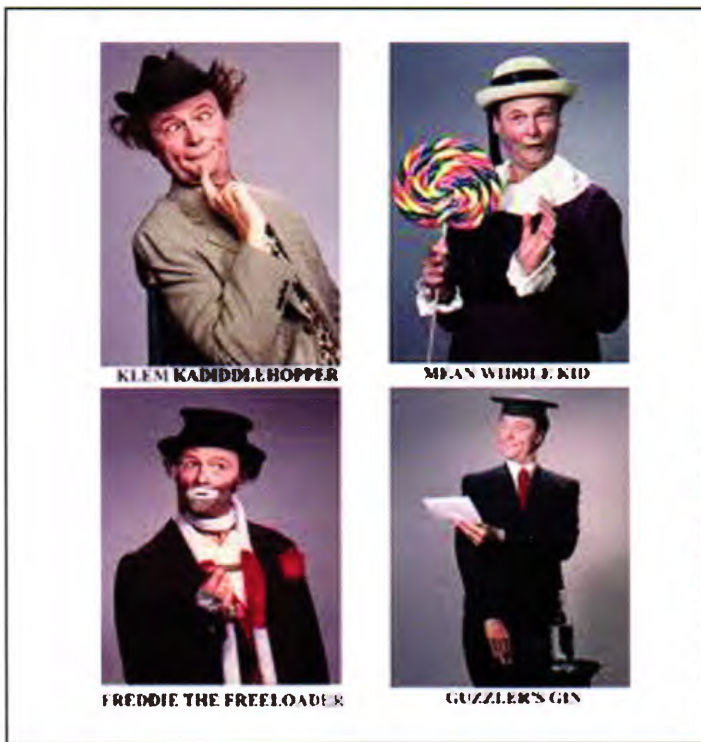
▼ George Rogers Clark Memorial



Dallas Foster Gardens

During the past 15 years, renowned southern Indiana landscape designer Dallas Foster and his wife Susan have been developing their property on the east side of Vincennes from a grassy field into a lush, private oasis.

Landscapes by Foster are well known for their natural style that reflects the personality of the home owner, and the Fosters' home is no exception. The property was developed to make it seem as if it has always existed and that the house grew up out of the landscape.



▲ Vincennes is the boyhood home of Red Skelton.

▼ Entrance to Azalea Path Arboretum & Botanical Gardens.



Many tons of natural stone have been brought in to accent the landscaping and to build the main patio and walkway surfaces around the home. You will also notice that a wide variety of antique and architectural accent pieces have been incorporated. Foster has a collection of antique hitching posts as well as antique and reclaimed hand-chiseled architectural stones that have been used as benches, tabletops and steps.

The backyard is all about entertaining and relaxing. A triple waterfall can be seen and heard from just about anywhere on the back patio area. A secluded jacuzzi creates a perfect area to unwind after a long day, and the pool is a great place to cool off on a hot summer day. The outdoor kitchen is designed to act as a serving bar for a larger party

or a small outdoor dining room when it is just Dallas and Susan. Other areas of interest in the back yard include the dog's playhouse, bog garden, and natural-style vegetable garden. The woodland is also home to many wildflower communities and Dallas' native orchid collection.

Wits End Gardens

This garden was established in 1979 by Frank and Nancy Emert. It is six acres of botanical enjoyment with one of the area's finest plant collections.

As plant collectors, Frank and Nancy have utilized Dallas Foster to help showcase the plants they have collected over the years. The gardens are transformed into a series of connected rooms, each with different theme. Vincennes University's Horticulture Department has long utilized Wits End Gardens as a teaching tool.

The predominant feature for many years has been the Japanese garden with its teahouse, overlooking a waterfall and koi pond with a curved bridge crossing the exit streambed. Other unusual features include an English woodland garden, an alpine rock garden, several native shade perennial gardens, hosta gardens, cactus beds, carnivorous plant bogs, vegetable gardens, an orchard, and container gardens. Unusual plants include zone 6 camellias, a magnolia grove, numerous species of bamboo, rose beds, daylily beds, an iris bed, and of course azaleas and rhododendrons. Azaleas and rhododendrons are displayed in virtually every room of the garden.

Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

We will depart Vincennes and drive to a rural area outside of Hazelton, Indiana to visit the Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. This lovely 50-acre garden is beautifully designed, and so relaxing to visit. Containing one of the largest collections of azaleas, it hosts many unusual and ornamental trees. Meandering pathways lead to water features and unique sculptures.

Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Gardens is a non-profit and privately owned facility. Started in 1979, Beverly Knight took an overgrown forest and magically created a gardener's piece of art. We will enjoy a snack here before returning to Evansville.

Saturday, April 30—Garden Tours

Mesker Zoo's Botanic Garden

On Saturday, the tours will be in Evansville. Our first stop is the Mesker Zoo's Botanic Garden. Situated on 50 scenic acres of rolling hills, the zoo is home to more than 700 animals from around the globe. While visiting, you will navigate the zoo's geographically grouped and realistically themed regions including South America, North America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Throughout the zoo, thousands of exotic and regional botanic species adorn hillsides and animal exhibits.

Throughout the seasons many hundreds of plant varieties provide an ever-changing tapestry of beauty for guests and make the animals feel at home. From towering trees and



▲ Beverly Knight of Azalea Path Gardens shows 'Nancy Dippel' a salmon-pink double azalea. One petal has a distinct rose stripe. This is one of the Schroeder azaleas, named for his daughter.

▼ "Gladys" Sculpture at Azalea Path.



exotic tropicals to delicate spring bulbs, the plant collection reflects the dazzling diversity found in the plant kingdom.

Amazonia, Forest of Riches, is the largest and most spectacular exhibit to open in the zoo's 80-year history. As you journey through Amazonia, you will encounter dozens of rainforest residents from high in the canopy to the forest floor below. Tropical trees and palms soar to the 45-foot tall roof and create a breathtaking tropical setting. Monkeys and



▲ Flowers at at Mesker Zoo's Botanic Garden.

beautiful birds welcome you to their treetop homes. A waterfall roars and a suspension bridge beckons. Tapirs and other odd creatures greet you around each bend in the trail. Be on the lookout for the elusive and majestic jaguar! If you think this sounds like something you would experience in South America, you are right! However, you can have the same experience in Evansville, Indiana.

Don Dilger's Garden

This garden has more than 200 varieties of Japanese maples forming a canopy over Don's collection of hostas in large black containers along carefully groomed gravel paths, making this the most eccentric but enchanting stop on our tour. Two cascading ivy "skirts" at the front entrance gate and another at the "Y" in the driveway are part of the fanciful world he has created over the past 25 or so years of grooming the property.

Dan and Janet Fuquay

Not far from the Dilger Garden is another beautiful garden, owned by Janet and Dan Fuquay. It is the former Hahn Azalea Farm. The residence, built in 2006, is on the site of Janet's father's 1960 house, which had been surrounded by azaleas and rhododendrons, many of which could not be saved. Still this property, and especially the drive leading to it, is a showplace at azalea time. Mass plantings along the drive make an incredible first impression followed by the lakefront house and its surrounding plantings which include 'Mildred Mae', 'Sham's Cascade', 'Boudoir', 'Polar Bear', 'Blaauw's Pink' and 'Formosum'. Several Encore® varieties are planted closer to the house. Janet's father, Lloyd Hahn, was a founder of the Tri-State Chapter of the ASA. He also cultivated and sold azaleas in the 1970s and 80s.

We will break for lunch in a privately owned airport hanger owned by John and Debbie Bizal. This hanger is unique, as it showcases John's private collection of several WWII airplanes, military vehicles, old cars, and military memorabilia.



Photo Linda Lanning

▲ Don Dilgers azaleas and hostas.

Fred Sievers Garden

Built in the 1960s, this ranch-style house is situated on more than 2 acres. The home has only occasionally been occupied since Fred's death in 2003, and only minimally maintained. Having been a garden writer for the *Evansville Courier and Press* and a charter member of the Tri-State Chapter of the ASA, Fred was considered an expert on azaleas, hollies, and woody shrubs, and his plantings reflect this. The diverse collection of trees and shrubs in the front and side yard is noteworthy, but the 10-foot-high wall of (mostly) Schroeder hybrids in the back yard is most dramatic.

Larry Miller Garden

Larry bought this 1905 Queen Anne residence in 1998 because it was situated nicely for gardening on a double lot with a southwest sun exposure. Since there was almost no landscaping on the property, he commissioned landscape designer Wayne Osborne to draw a plan, which in addition to plant material, included all new sidewalks, flagstone pathways, concrete masonry walls and even the distinctive garden gates.

In 1969, a previous owner built a redwood-sided modern house where the garage had been, and several purple rhododendrons surrounding its entry date from this period. Azaleas surrounding Larry's residence include Schroeder hybrids developed by local hybridizer Dr. Henry Schroeder in the 1970s and 80s, 'Girard's Crimson', 'Pleasant White', 'Purple Pride' and 'Christin Marie'. Other evergreen azaleas include 'Coral Bells', 'Elsie Lee', 'Gumpo White', 'Wakae-bisu' and Encore® Autumn Sangria™. Deciduous azaleas include 'Golden Lights', 'Orchid Lights', 'Rosy Lights', 'Formosum Lavender', 'Poukhanense' and 'Mount Saint Helens'.

We are invited in to Larry's for refreshments and a bathroom break.

Former Larry Miller Garden

Larry moved into the 1860s vintage Federal style house



Photo Courtesy Mesker Zoo

▲ ▼ Waterfall and bridge at Mesker Zoo's Botanic Garden.



Photo Courtesy Mesker Zoo



▲ Former Larry Miller Garden



▲ John Migas visiting Fred Sievers' garden.

and other woody shrubs. After her husband's death, she invited all garden enthusiasts into the back yard through a welcome sign at the Roosevelt Avenue garden gate entry. When she had to sell the house in 1977, she asked the new owners to please continue this tradition.

Joe and Linda have done a wonderful job with this garden. Don't miss the narrow path that takes you under a canopy of azaleas.

in 1971 and began planting azaleas, many of which are now more than 8 feet tall. A distinctive feature of this residence is the two-story brick carriage house/summer kitchen.

We will continue to walk, viewing other beautifully landscaped homes in the neighborhood. We will then go by bus to an older neighborhood, homes once built by the elite business people of the community. There are many lovely homes and gardens to see there, including these listed below.

Tim and Jaya Dodd Garden

This Prairie Style home, built in 1925 by former Evansville Mayor Benjamin Bosse, has been the home of local attorney Tim Dodd and his wife Jaya since 1972. Most of the 120 or so azaleas are in the back yard under a canopy of mature oaks, which provide mulch and shade and share space with wild ginger and ferns in an "urban rustic" setting.

Pam and John Guthrie Garden

This Victorian house has, despite its small lot size, been beautifully and prominently landscaped with azaleas. The interior is filled with antiques and may also be toured.

Joe and Linda Scott Garden

This house was built in 1929-30 by local attorney Phillip Gould. His wife devoted 47 years to gardening with azaleas

Thursday Speakers

Gene Bush, along with his wife JoAn Riley, are owners and operators of Munchkin Nursery & Gardens located in southern Indiana. The nursery and display gardens specialize in perennial shade and woodland plants. This combination of plants forms the casual style of "wild" gardening. Gene photographs, writes articles, and lectures from personal experience based upon growing the native/non-native mix of plants in his southern Indiana garden.

Gene's garden writing and photographs can be found in recent issues of *Fine Gardening*, *The American Gardener* magazine of American Horticulture Society, *Gardening How-To*, and *The Quarterly of North American Rock Garden Society*. Monthly he writes an article on his Web site, "Garden Clippin's" at www.munchkinnursery.com. A more detailed list of credits can be found at "Garden Writer" on his Web Site.

First and foremost, Gene is a gardener having a good time in his garden!

Tom Johnson is a life-long horticulturist. He was raised on a truck farm in middle Georgia. At 16 he went to work for a local garden center and landscape company. After high school and college, Tom moved to Atlanta and went to work for Al Simpson and Company as area supervisor overseeing over a million dollars of accounts in downtown Atlanta. When President Carter built his Presidential Library in Atlanta, he asked Tom to oversee the gardens. He was able to apprentice under Kinsako Nakane, the world renowned



▲ ▼ Bizal's airport hangar and antique cars.



Japanese architect, and later under his son Shiro.

After 15 years with the Carter Presidential Center, Tom moved back home to middle Georgia to take the position as horticulturist with the American Camellia Society for the next 8 years. During this time Tom traveled the "camellia belt" lecturing and helping people grow camellias.

For several years while at the American Camellia Society, Drayton Hastie, one of the owners of Magnolia Plantation, America's oldest garden, began trying to lure Tom to Charleston. Drayton had heard of Tom's lectures and interest in not just camellias, but also the Romantic Garden style. After several years of coaxing, Tom took the position of Director of Gardens and Horticulture at Magnolia Gardens. His duties today are overseeing the restoration of America's last Romantic-style garden. Tom is charged with restoring the gardens to the vision the Reverend John Drayton had when he began designing them for his homesick bride in the mid 1800s. This includes searching around the world to locate azalea and camellia varieties that predate the 1900s.

"This is my last job" Tom boldly states. "The restoration of Magnolia will consume the rest of my life. Magnolia is a grand old lady. My job is to shine her shoes, dress her

2011 ASA Convention Schedule of Events

Hosted by the Lake Michigan and Tri-State Chapters

Thursday April 28

Registration Open	Noon - 7 p.m.
ASA Board Meeting	2 - 4 p.m.
Dinner on Your Own	
Plant Sale	4 - 7 p.m.
Reception/Cash Bar	6 - 7 p.m.
Welcome and Speakers	7 - 9 p.m.
Gene Bush— <i>Using Perennials and Shade Loving Plants</i>	
Tom Johnson— <i>The Azaleas of Magnolia Plantation: America's Romantic Garden</i>	

Friday April 29

Registration Open	7 - 8 a.m.
Breakfast at Hotel (complimentary in hotel)	
Tour Departs	8 a.m.
Vincennes Landmarks	
Dallas Foster Gardens	
Wits End Gardens	
Azalea Path Arboretum and Gardens	
Tour Returns to Hotel	4 p.m.
Dinner on Your Own	
Plant Sale	4 - 7 p.m.
Speakers	7 - 9 p.m.
Jack Brown— <i>Deciduous Trees and Conifers in Our Landscape</i>	
Paul Bouseman— <i>Botanical Curator Mesker Zoo</i>	

Saturday April 30

Breakfast at hotel (complimentary in hotel)	
Tour Departs	8 a.m.
Mesker Zoo's Botanical Gardens	
Dilger Gardens	
Hahn Gardens (Fuquay)	
Lunch at Airport Hangar	
Sievers Gardens	
Larry Miller Garden	
Tour of Roosevelt Street	
Tour Returns to Hotel	4 p.m.
Plant Sale	4 - 7 p.m.
Reception/cash bar	6 - 7 p.m.
Banquet	7 - 10 p.m.
Business Meeting	
Awards	
Andrew Whipple— <i>Tissue Culturing</i>	

Sunday, May 1

Board Meeting	8 a.m.
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in some new robes, and get her ready for the thousands of suitors that come calling each year. I can think of no better place to finish my career.”

Friday Speakers

Jack Brown has been involved in the forestry industry since 1977. He graduated from Purdue University with his major in Forest Production. He has worked for the city of Evansville as an arborist, managed Christmas tree farms, and was owner of Ace Nursery. As an arborist, he currently is involved with treating and caring for trees in southwest Indiana. He has completed projects with the Mesker Park Zoo Amazonia exhibit and the New Harmony Labyrinth Restoration Project.

Jack will be speaking on using different forms of deciduous trees and conifers in our landscape. Living in the Evansville area for years, he will take us down “memory lane” on the history of the early azalea gardens and growers. He currently has been part of preserving the Sievers garden which we will be visiting on Saturday’s tour.

Paul Bouseman has worked at Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden for 15 years and is currently the Botanic Curator. He graduated from the University of Southern Indiana where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. While still a student, he began working at Mesker Zoo & Botanic Garden as a part-time groundskeeper. At that time he became interested in the practice of zoological horticulture as a way to bring together his interests in landscape design and natural history.

Paul is a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Association of Zoological Horticulture, where he currently serves on the Board of Directors. He enjoys traveling with his family, visiting zoos, museums, and botanical gardens, and, of course, working in his own garden.

Saturday’s Keynote Speaker

Andrew P. Whipple, Ph.D., is a professor of Biology at Taylor University, Upland, Indiana. The deciduous azalea bug bit him hard at the 2002 ASA/ARS meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, especially upon touring **Earl Sommerville’s** garden—the colors, forms, and fragrances.

Upon returning to the clay cornfields of central Indiana, Whipple took on the task of growing these plants and quickly learned the need for well-drained acidic soil for their survival and growth. Succeeding with named, in-the-trade varieties, he returned to the memory of the Sommerville plants and acquired a few from nurseries, but came to realize that many of these, as well as unique forms in others’ gardens and in the wild, were often the only ones in existence.

“What if this one plant dies?” he found himself thinking. “These need to be propagated and shared around.” Then came the discovery that some deciduous azaleas are difficult to propagate by the usual means and that the same Earl Sommerville whose collection got him hooked was micropropagating (tissue culturing) his plants. He learned from Earl the

specifics of in vitro propagation of deciduous azaleas as a means to make more of these azaleas that might otherwise be lost to us.

Today, he is the proud papa of an azalea garden on the campus of Taylor University with about 350 azaleas. His vision is to utilize his familiarity with the laboratory world, by way of tissue culturing, to help preserve and spread around these delightful, but difficult to propagate plants.

Each day after the tours, come join us for our plant sale. We are featuring Schroeder azaleas, Buddy Lee’s Encore® azaleas, and other native azaleas. There will be some varied companion plants to choose from also.

Linda Lanning is retired from being a Logistics and Inventory Control Manager. She, along with her husband Phil, began their interest in azaleas and rhododendrons when they moved to the west coast town of Florence, Oregon. They both were involved with the Siuslaw Chapter of the ARS there, where Linda published their newsletter. While still interested in rhododendrons, since returning to Indiana their interest now includes azaleas. They are members of the Lake Michigan Chapter ASA, where Phil is currently the President and Linda the Secretary. They enjoy traveling to conventions to meet other members and trying new azaleas for their garden.

John Migas lives in southwestern Michigan off the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. A carpenter by trade since 1978, he operates a small nursery and landscape service in the Saugatuck-Douglas-Holland area. He is currently vice president of the ASA and treasurer of the Lake Michigan Chapter. He has also served as chapter president and ASA Director. He has recently served three terms as president of the Midwest Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Convention Hotel

Clarion Inn and Conference Center

4101 US Highway 41 North
Evansville, Indiana 47711

Phone: 812-424-6400 or 1-888-465-4329

Room Rate \$79 plus tax for double occupancy
Mention the Azalea Society of America
convention

Rate includes free breakfast, parking, and
shuttle from Evansville Airport.
There is also a free shuttle to the Aztar Casino.

Society News

Applications Accepted for Research Grants

J.O. Thornton, ARF Committee Chairman

The Azalea Research Foundation committee is now accepting applications for research grants. Researchers should submit proposals before March 1, 2011. Application information and forms can be found on the ASA Web site: www.azaleas.org.

All Society members should take note of this “first of a kind undertaking” in our history, but be mindful that in order to continue to make funds available, we must have support. In light of this, we would like to recognize the following donors for their contributions during 2010:

Northern Virginia Chapter

Dr. Joe Coleman

Anonymous

Richard Clifton

Tijs Huisman

Bob Stelloh

Jim Trumbly

Mr. and Mrs. James Dennis

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

Tennessee Valley Chapter of the ARS

We feel their generosity has given us the confidence to solicit applications for grants and to move forward with the Azalea Society research program. Let's make 2011 even more profitable—send us a donation today. Contributions should be sent to:

Azalea Research Foundation

c/o J.O. Thornton, Chairman

884 June Dr.

Conyers, GA 30094

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for the 2011-13 ASA Board. Please vote using the official ballot found on the wrapper of this issue. Ballots must be received by April 15, 2011.

Candidate for President

John Migas lives in southwestern Michigan off the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. A carpenter by trade since 1978, he operates a small nursery and landscape service in the Saugatuck-Douglas-Holland area. He is currently Treasurer of the Lake Michigan Chapter of the ASA, has also served as chapter president and ASA Director. He has recently served three terms as President of the Midwest Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Candidate for Vice President

J. Jackson and his wife, Lindy, operate a small container nursery, The Tennessee Rose Native Azalea Nursery, in the

Blue Ridge of East Tennessee. In the beginning everything was grown in the ground, but pressure from deer browsing forced a change to container production.

The nursery specializes in growing native and hybrid deciduous azaleas. For several years, plants were grown from micropropagated (tissue culture) liners. During the last few years, however, the Jacksons made a deliberate move to growing deciduous and evergreen forms of the rhododendron species from seed.

The decision to cultivate from seed was motivated by preservation. Many rhododendron species have become endangered from the practice of collecting wild plants. The Jacksons seek out specimens in the wild (and in collections) that have superior characteristics of growth, foliage and bloom, and propagate open-pollinated seeds from the plants.

The Jacksons believe one of the most enjoyable aspects of the process is exploring for and finding beautiful specimens “in bloom” or “in seed” in the wild. Digital photography is used to document the bloom and growth habit of the plants. GPS coordinates are used to map the plant location, which allows the plant to be easily relocated without having to mark or tag the specimen in any way.

Candidate for Treasurer

Dan Krabill has been a member of the ASA since 1987. He was Vice President of the Northern Virginia Chapter in 1997-98 and 2003-04, and president in 1999-2000 and 2005-06. He has served as ASA Treasurer since 2007.

He grows approximately 1,100 varieties of azaleas at his home in McLean, Virginia, including the great majority of the Glenn Dales. He has published an article “Photographing the Glenn Dale Azaleas” in *The Azalean*, and has distributed a CD consisting of digital photos of most of the Glenn Dale azaleas.

Dan is a management consultant to the banking industry. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Miami University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard with a concentration in finance.

Candidates for Director

Eve Harrison served as President of the Northern Virginia Chapter ASA from 2006-2010. She is an avid gardener and enjoys propagating evergreen and deciduous azaleas from seed.

She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Queens College, Charlotte, North Carolina. She was an Orff Schulwerk music teacher 20 years before becoming a principal broker in a real estate company. She is also a member of Main Street Singers and is involved in musical theater.

Barbara Stump was awarded a Master of Science degree in Agriculture from Stephen F. Austin State University,

Nacogdoches, Texas, in 2001 for "Site Analysis and Design of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden." The project involved coordinating the effort to actually build the 8-acre garden and plant it with more than 8,000 specimens, of which 6,500 are azaleas. The current count is more than 520 named cultivars from 52 hybrid groups. She works half time to develop new projects and funding for the SFA Gardens. The motto for all her garden work: "This world is so beautiful, it is amazing we are allowed to live here and enjoy it as long as we are."

Barbara has been a member of the ASA since 1997 and was the editor of *The Azalean* from 1997-2007. The ASA has been invaluable in expanding the network of nurserymen and breeders who have been generous in donations of special collections of azaleas for the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. Barbara lives in Nacogdoches, Texas, and has been active in renewing interest in the Texas Chapter along with **Bart Brechter, Pam Fitch**, and her late husband **Mike**. She co-chaired the 2007 ASA convention held in Nacogdoches.

Rocky Voci has been an ASA member for 10 years, and served as Vice President of the Lake Michigan Chapter for five years.

He holds a Master's Degree in Finance and Marketing and a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry. He retired from Dow Corning Corporation after a 35-year career.

Voci is active in his community, serving as president and director of the 5000-member Canadian Lake Property Owners Corporation as well as president and secretary of Midland Michigan Morning Rotary Club. He is currently a member of the Big Rapids Michigan Rotary Club.

Recognizing Generous ASA Donors

Dan Krabill, Treasurer

I would like to recognize and thank those individuals who have donated to the Azalea Society of America, by paying dues in excess of the \$25 per year standard amount or by making direct payments to the ASA. We have three categories for donations in excess of regular dues—Endowment

(\$200 or more per year), Sustaining (\$100 to \$199 per year), and Contributing (\$50 - \$99 per year). These donations will provide approximately 10 percent of our income in 2010 and thus are important in carrying out the work of the ASA.

Below is a list of members in these three categories for 2010.

Contributing Members 2010

Annual Dues Payments of \$50 to \$99

Parker Andes
Stephen Ash
John Bartlett
Barry & Nancy Bosworth
John & Carolyn Brown
Virginia & Samuel Burd
Chen Nien-Chou
Donald & Jean Clark
Dr. Joe H. Coleman, Jr
Janelle Corey
Jozef M. Delvaux
Marianne & Bruce Feller
Maggie & Brent Fernald
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Eddie Sams
Cid & Liza Scallet
H. R. Schmittou
Bruce Seal & Liz Rachun
David & Carolyn Smith
Nancy Snoberger
Roger A. Thompson

Sustaining Members 2010

Annual Dues Payments of \$100 to \$199

Louis J. Appell, Jr
Dan & Barbara Krabill
Larry Miller
Dr. & Mrs. Donald E. Moreland
Mrs. Lawrence Nachman
Nan & John Papalia
Cecil and Gloria Settle
Barbara & Michael Stump
Frederick L. Thane

Endowment Members 2010

Annual Dues Payments of \$200 or more

Robert & Dixie Lee
Magnolia Plantation
Donald H. Voss



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Carol Flowers, ASA Secretary
700 New Hampshire NW, Apt. 1011
Washington, D C 20037

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Alabamense

Ron & Alice Clements
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Huntsville, AL 38502

At Large

Bruce Behan
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Morgantown, IN 46160

Kennon Hampton
8242 Mudville Rd
Atoka, TN 38004

Michael J. Medeiros
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Portsmouth, RI 02871

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Piotr Muras
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31-425 Krakow
POLAND

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Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

Jerry & June Ladner
11300 Hughes Rd
Gulfport, MS 39503

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Kay Jackson
165 Canterbury Lane
Stafford, VA 22554

Rev. John Drayton

Theresa & Bruce Austin
4849 Law Blvd
Summerville, SC 29485

Fernanda M. Bashaw
510 Riverview Rd.
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Miles & Brenda Beach
262 Alexandra Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Ron Boyce
5737 Boone Haven Rd.
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Steve & Judi Brantley
1168 Pilot Boy Rd.
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Jean S. Braxton
4416 Stoney Poynt Ct.
North Charleston, SC 29405

Larry & Barbara Carlson
6682 Bears Bluff Road
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Mr. & Mrs. C. Preston Cooley
PO Box 627
Ladson, SC 29456

Lynda C. Creek
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John's Island, SC 29455

Suzi and Nelson Durant
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Johns Island, SC 29455-8703

Betsy Eubanks
4953 Ashby Ave.
North Charleston, SC 29406

Maggie & Brent Fernald
794 Hunt Club Run
Charleston, SC 29414

Bernard & Eileen Ferri
33 Lampton Rd
Charleston, SC 29407

Marlene Gray
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Johns Island, SC 29455

Judy Hammill
32 Ravenna Avenue
Charleston, SC 29410

Fernanda Hastie
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Charleston, SC 29414

J. Drayton Hastie III
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Columbia, SC 29209

J. Drayton Hastie Jr.
20 South Battery
Charleston, SC 29414

Winslow Hastie
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Charleston, SC 29403

Elizabeth Hoos
316 Heron Watch Ct.
Charleston, SC 29414

Tom & Mary Ann Johnson
3550 Ashley River Rd
Charleston, SC 29414

Doyle A. Jones
100 Shelton Lane
Goose Creek, SC 29445

David & Sally Jurkowski
605 Leaning Pin Court
Summerville, SC 29485

Michael Kirby
Beautiful Lawns by Kirby
204 3rd St
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Donna B. McClellan
302 Savannah Round
Summerville, SC 29485

Dr. Richard & Jackie Morrison
PO Box 190
8913 N Hwy 17
McClellanville, SC 29458

Archie & Frances Muckenfuss
111 E. Carolina Ave.
Summerville, SC 29483

Dylan S. Nelson
5705 Monte Vista St.
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Taylor Drayton Nelson
3550 Ashley River Rd
Charleston, SC 29414

Nan & John Papalia
802 Rue Drive
Charleston, SC 29414

Dawn M. Pringle
1152 Hammrick Lane
Johns Island, SC 29455

Ted Simonetta
424 Navaho Circle
Summerville, SC 29483

Diana Sinclair
431 King Charles Circle
Summerville, SC 29485

Tony and Christine Smith
823 Castle Avenue
Charleston, SC 29407

Ellen Straub
4684 Lazy Creek Ln
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Nona H. Valiunas
4203 Spring Island
Okatie, SC 29909

Steve and Mary Walker
4588 Retreat Dr
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Alison Weick
24 Sandpiper Ct.
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Heather L. Welch
1522 Joan Street
Charleston, SC 29407

Bob & Jean Williams
1065 Starboard Rd.
Charleston, SC 29412

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Teena Clark Perkins
480 County Road 874
Cushing, TX 75760

Nancy Snoberger
213 White Oak Dr.
Zavalla, TX 75980

Chapter News

Lake Michigan

Linda Lanning, Secretary

The Lake Michigan Chapter held a meeting at the home of **Phil and Linda Lanning** near Walton, Indiana on October 16. The purpose of the meeting was to update the members and discuss the April 28 convention to be held in Evansville, Indiana. The plans for the convention are coming together. There were some duties "volunteered for" that has brought us closer to having all the categories covered.

After the meeting, lunch was served by Linda Lanning and everyone enjoyed our warm October day in the sun.

Phil and Linda had just returned from visiting Portland, Oregon, and the coastal town of Florence. They brought back with them some seedling azaleas and rhododendrons. These were offered for sale to the members present, so many went home with something unique that can grow in our climate, too.

The chapter will be planning their Christmas get together soon. We will be going to the Blue Chip Casino, Michigan City, Indiana, for our meeting and buffet. We will have a business meeting first, followed by eating at the great buffet. We will try to have it the first weekend in December.

Northern Virginia

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

The Northern Virginia Chapter kicked-off a summer and fall of great plants and great food with a cutting exchange at the riverside home of **Rod and Mary Hoioos**. With unparalleled views of the tidal Potomac, we enjoyed beautiful sunny weather, a fine brunch and then selected from an almost endless supply of cuttings from our members' gardens.

August saw our annual plant auction, hosted in the Merrifield Garden Center in Gainesville. Again, extensive food selections and a huge selection of large and attractive plants that went up for bid, along with a set of fixed price items. Once again **Bob Harrison** proved himself a professional caliber auctioneer, keeping everybody laughing and spending more than they had planned to. A large part of the work leading up to the sale was done by **Carolyn Beck** as she kept many of the plants in top shape.

October's get-together featured Vice President **Rick Bauer** showing slides of many of Pete Vine's hybrid creations, which made us all want to expand our collections. Pete's work was done in Springfield, not far from our meeting location. A plant exchange only whetted our appetite for more.

Coming up: the annual December Holiday party (and more food!)

Oconee

Jim Thorton, President

The Oconee Chapter met October 31 with fellow member **Ken Gohring** as our feature speaker. Ken, a long-time

member of the Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS), presented an outstanding program on *Appreciating Native Plants*. It was enlightening and well received with excellent slides of the rare and exotic plants found in Georgia.

The GNPS program, which teaches the restoration, education, and rescue of native plants, has nearly 1,000 members and is active across Georgia. For more information about the society, visit www.gnps.org. You will also find many of the slides Ken presented.

Other chapter activities include members participating in the annual Rockdale County Master Gardeners Fall Plant sale. This was our fifth year, and we were awarded a Certificate of Recognition for our attendance and support. There was a good turn out, and we sold a lot of azaleas—some to repeat customers!

Thanks to **John Callaway** and his crew for bringing and putting up the cabana; to **Don and Barbara Bloodworth**, for manning the booth; to **Sherri Pike** of Riverside Nursery and **Al Penland** for donating plants.

ASA Financial Position at December 31, 2009

INCOME STATEMENT Year 2009

INCOME	
Azalean Income	1,221.00
Dues Income	14,176.00
Gift Income	2,617.00
Interest Income	4,477.99
Seed Exchange Income	666.00
Other Income	-
Total Income	23,157.99

EXPENSES	
Awards and Memorials	-
Azalean Expense	18,008.29
Chapter Dues Expense	2,295.00
Dues Expense	443.95
Website Expense	121.45
Other Postage Expense	220.50
Other Expense	914.98
Total Expenses	22,004.17

Income-Expenses	1,153.82
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BALANCE SHEET December 31, 2009

ASSETS	
Checking	1,865.52
Investments	93,895.80
Total Assets	95,761.32

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	
Operating Fund	10,211.32
General Endowment	58,598.08
Research Fund	20,888.76
Harding Garden	6,063.17
Total Liabilities and Reserves	95,761.32

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"Chain Saws and Pruning," Jim Thornton, 4.
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"Learning—A Look Back at Louisiana Lagniappe," Carol Flowers, 56.
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"S.D. Coleman—An Azalea Pioneer," Tadeusz Dauksza, 6.

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Call for Articles

The Azalean needs articles about azaleas, their care, and their use in the landscape. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged.

Submit articles to:

Pam Fitch, Editor

The Azalean

P.O. Box 632537

Nacogdoches, TX 75963

E-mail: theazalean@gmail.com

In Memory

Mary Beasley

By J.O. Thornton

Mary Beasley of Lavonia, Georgia, passed away August 26, 2010. Mary, a long-time member of the ASA and ARS, started Transplant Nursery with her husband, George. The nursery is currently operated by their son, Jeff, and his wife, Lisa.

Sam Gibson

By J.O. Thornton

Sam Gibson, owner and operator of Riverside Nursery in Bethlehem, Georgia, passed away August 4, 2010. Sam was a founding member of the Oconee Chapter of the ASA and was always ready to provide plant material to the chapter. His nursery was well known for high quality plants.

Riverside Nursery is carrying on Sam's high standards under the leadership of his daughter, Sherri. Like Sam, she generously supports the Oconee Chapter.

James O. Harris

By Ken Gohring

James Ottis Harris, developer of a significant number of select hybrid evergreen azaleas, passed away on June 13, 2010. His wife of 52 years, Ella Ruth, and two sons, Jim and Bryan, survive him. These three survivors played significant roles in supporting James' work. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, working on motorcycles used by the military. After service in the Army, he worked as a mechanic in his father's car business.

He first became interested in azaleas in the 1970s. He developed a working relationship with Georgians Ralph Pennington and Bruce Hancock, both accomplished hybridizers. His early efforts concentrated on developing evergreen azaleas with hanging growth habit and large blooms. The work also included goals of heat tolerant plants that would survive in the warm climate of the southeastern states.

Perhaps the most outstanding plant of this early work is a "hanging basket" azalea named 'Pink Cascade'. It features 2-inch blooms and a cascading growth habit not unlike English ivy. This plant was patented in Europe and it received significant success with one nursery group, selling more than a quarter of a million plants.

Other early Harris work included an azaleodendron, the cross of the azalea 'White Gumpo' x *R. keiskei*, named 'Bruce Hancock' after Harris' associate. 'Harris Fascination', 'Gloria Still', and 'Joan Garrett' are other early successes. 'Joan Garrett' has large salmon pink blooms that reach 6 inches in diameter at times.

A second period, commencing in the mid-80s, included significant work in developing red cultivars. These plants include 'Midnight Flare', 'Coronado Red', 'Rainfire' and 'Jay Valentine'. 'Jay Valentine', named for Harris' grandchild was his favorite. It features large blooms and good plant habit and



▲ 'Vivation'

foliage. 'Midnight Flare' was named a rhododendron of the year for 2010 for the Southeast. It is widely planted and admired in many southern gardens. 'Rainfire' is a late bloomer and is quite heat tolerant. 'Coronado Red' is a fine red, not as dark as 'Midnight Flare', that has superior plant form.

In his most recent work, James developed several bi-colors, primarily with purple and white coloration. Like many hybridizers, he worked on developing extended bloom season and the elusive yellow evergreen. His work resulted in plants with dual bloom seasons. Four of these plants will be introduced to the public in the spring of 2011 as part of McCorkle Nursery's Bloom 'N Again series. An additional 16 more of his plants, including a wide range of colors and flower forms, will be introduced in coming years as part of this series. The colors include reds, dark reds, red bi-colors, lavenders, pinks, peach-salmons and oranges. McCorkle plans to introduce additional Harris azaleas. These selections will include selections developed in recent years as well as some of his earlier cultivars. One new plant named 'Electra' is an attractive white with a deep pink halo.

Harris was a long-time member of the Azalea Chapter of ARS and the Oconee Chapter of ASA. He did not make significant efforts to register his plants until recently. In 2008, 22 of his cultivars, which span a large period of his work, were registered.

Harris was a diligent student of plant hybridization. Most of his knowledge came from extensive hands-on working experience. Through his study of various plant features, he was able to select the proper parents for his crosses. Although having only limited formal educational opportunities, he achieved a significant notch in azalea hybridization, which has been recognized by the popularity of his plants. One prominent rhododendron authority has stated "... his azaleas will live long and say much about a great man. He left a heritage that will live on."

A Winter to Forget: “Snowmageddon 2.0”—Part I

Don Hyatt—McLean, Virginia

Editor's Note: The following article is the first installment of a two-part story.

The following diary is really a collection of excerpts from email messages sent to friends and family over several months during the winter of 2009-10. Some editing has been done to improve clarity, and to correct spelling and grammar errors. Metric equivalents have been added also.

Friday: December 18, 2009

I have been running around the past two days trying to get ready for the big snowstorm. They are calling for 14 to 20 inches (35 to 51 cm) of snow here, possibly two feet (61 cm) west of Washington, D.C. That's me! I have been trying to patch some cracked and broken glass in the greenhouse, but I ran out of duct tape. I went by Home Depot, but it was too crowded. There was a line just to get into the parking lot, so I gave up and came home. The local weather stations are calling for a “snowstorm of epic proportions.” I had a feeling we were in for rough winter, but this may be just an appetizer.

We don't normally get much snow here in the D.C. suburbs. We average about 17 inches (43 cm) of snow all year long. In some years, we have only gotten a trace of snow. I have lived in this house since I was three years old so I do remember some big snows here when I was a child. They are rare, though. We haven't had a White Christmas for more than 20 years.

Sunday: December 20, 2009

The storm is finally winding down and it looks like I had around 22 inches (56 cm) of snow. It will be a White Christmas this year, guaranteed! When the storm started, the temperature was 27 degrees (-2.7° C) but dropped to 23 degrees (-5° C) overnight. The snow was very dry, so it didn't stick to the



Photo Don Hyatt

▲ Don Hyatt's home during the 2009 ASA convention.

▼ Hyatt's home on February 11, 2010.



Photo Don Hyatt

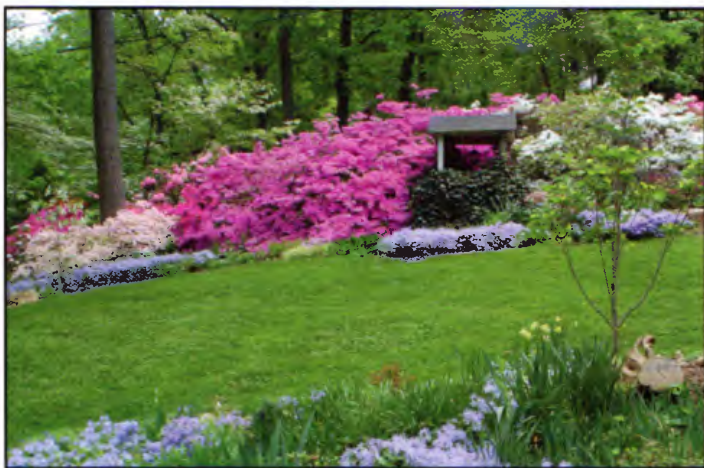
branches. We had a 6-inch (15 cm) heavy wet snow the first week in December and that broke some branches, but this one seems easier on the plants.

I am thankful that the greenhouse roof held. I did raise the thermostat to 80 degrees (27° C), so most of the snow melted on the glass as it fell. There is a big drift on the glass at the far end of the greenhouse. That end was cooler. I may try to get over there tomorrow and knock it off, but I have to be careful. Big chunks of snow and ice can easily break the glass when they shift. I learned that the hard way one winter. My fuel bill is going to be high, but I guess it is better than losing the greenhouse.

Monday: December 28, 2009

I drove about 150 miles (240 km) to the Shenandoah Valley to be with family for Christmas. On the way there, we were getting freezing rain. The major roads were okay and it had warmed up to 40 degrees (4° C) by the time I came back.

With all this snow and cold, I already have a bad case of spring fever. I am



▲ Purple azaleas tower over the well house in May 2009.

▼ February 10, 2010: Don's front yard during the height of the blizzard.



glad I took all those flower pictures last spring. I have some from the ASA convention we hosted here in Northern Virginia but I took many more. A few days after our convention, I took off to North Carolina to see the *Rhododendron vaseyi*. I went back in June to photograph the native azaleas on Roan and Gregory balds. I even took some high definition video this year. I need to get supplies ready, because I always plant native azalea seed to usher in the New Year. It's a tradition!

Tuesday: January 4, 2010

I got *The Azalean* in the mail today with details about the 2010 ASA Convention in New Orleans. Looks like a great meeting! I'll send in my registration this week.

It has still been cold, 12 degrees (-11° C) over the weekend with 40 mph (64 km) winds. What I didn't realize is that some deer have been living under my deck for the past couple of weeks. Apparently they used that area as a refuge and only had to walk a few feet to dine on my azaleas. My brother gave me a wildlife camera with a motion detector and flash for night pictures. I set it up down there and the flash seems to be scaring the deer away. Another tool in the arsenal!



▲ February 13, 2010: Snow is settling but azaleas are getting more damaged.

Thursday: January 14, 2010

The "January Thaw" has arrived and I am seeing grass for this first time in weeks. I noticed broken branches on several azaleas including the main trunk of a big 'Koromo Shikibu.' Not sure which storm caused that. I need to spray deer repellent again.

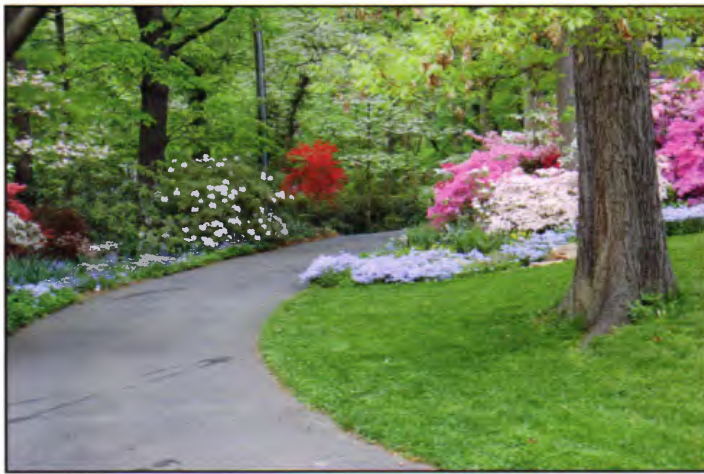
Sunday: January 31, 2010

I guess the thaw is officially over. I got six-and-a-half-inches (16 cm) of fresh snow last night. It was the light and fluffy snow since yesterday's high temperature was only 17 degrees (-8° C). It dropped to 11 degrees (-11.6° C) last night, but then went up to about 30 degrees (-1° C) today. Most of the snow from the December dump had melted except for one small patch in the shade beside the deck. Now everything is white again.

I have gotten a lot of practice shoveling snow this winter, but it is going to be much harder now. I think I cracked a couple of ribs last night. I was sitting in my easy chair at the computer and lurched to one side to grab something that I dropped. I fell over the arm of my chair and heard my ribs crack and felt shooting pains. It takes real talent to break a rib while sitting in a chair! Now it hurts to cough, it hurts to laugh, and I just discovered it definitely hurts to shovel snow. I can push some of it aside without causing too much pain, but lifting is out of the question. They are still talking about a potential snowstorm on Friday. I hope they are wrong.

Wednesday: February 3, 2010

I had another six inches (15 cm) of snow last night. It was only supposed to be a snow flurry! The problem now is that I have a second "war wound." This morning, I slipped on the ice in my driveway while getting the newspaper. I was coming down the steep side and one foot held but the other didn't. I did the splits and really twisted my knee. I saw stars and slid the rest of the way down the drive to the house. I must have torn some ligaments or something. I will try to get an appointment with my doctor. I did manage to



▲ Don's driveway during the 2009 ASA convention.



▲ February 10, 2010: Strong winds create deep snow drifts in the yard.

▼ February 11, 2010: Don has finished shoveling the lower half of the driveway again.

push most of the snow off my driveway from this storm today, but the weather reports keep saying "the big one" is on its way.

Thursday: February 4, 2010

The weather forecast is for a foot (30 cm) or more of snow tomorrow ... not the dry kind like we had before but heavy, wet snow. One of the weather forecasters said this storm could be comparable to the Blizzard of '93. In that storm, my neighbor's tree fell on my house and took out my entire roof. That was an ordeal! Most of the forecasters say this storm has the potential to be worse than our December snow. I still haven't fixed that glass in the greenhouse, but I did get more duct tape.

I saw my doctor today. He said I likely tore some ligaments in my knee but they still seem attached. It shouldn't require surgery, so his advice was to take something for pain and check back in a week. He told me they don't do anything for broken ribs, either. He did say to not shovel any snow. I smirked and reminded him I had to shovel my driveway just to get here. He repeated his orders: "Don't shovel any snow!" I guess I'll have to hunker down and wait for the thaw. He told me ligaments heal slowly, and that it would take at least 6 months or more. I need to be careful not to make things worse.

Friday: February 5, 2010

It is 11 a.m. and the snow hasn't started here yet, but it is snowing west of town. Traffic is horrendous everywhere; the parking lots are full with people trying to pick up last minute necessities. I did that on Monday. The newscasters are now referring to this storm as "Snowmageddon." If the weather models are right, we could really get dumped on... two feet (61 cm) of wet snow with winds from 30 to 40 mph (48 to 64 km)!

It is almost midnight, and I have about eight inches (20 cm) of snow already. It seems to be coming in waves with gusty winds, thunder, and lightning. Yes, Snowmageddon has arrived!



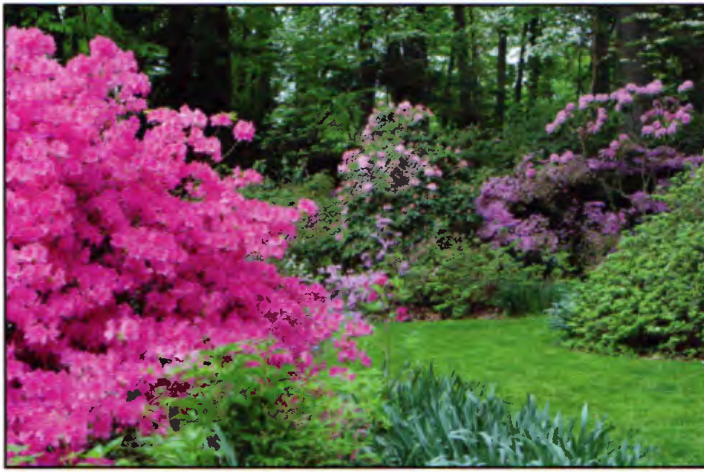
Saturday: February 6, 2010

So far, I have about 20 inches (51 cm) of new snow on top of about eight inches (20 cm) that was left from the last two storms. They are talking about another foot (30 cm) possible by nightfall. What is worse, there is talk of another storm due next Tuesday. Whatever happened to global warming?

The first 10 to 15 inches (25 to 38 cm) of snow was that heavy wet kind and weighed down trees and branches. The strong winds are gusting to 40 mph (64 km) and final snow totals could be 30 to 40 inches (76 to 101 cm) in some local areas. I hope that is not me!

The newscasters are using other terms for this blizzard, like "Snowpocalypse" or "Snowbliteration." "Snowmageddon" still seems to be the preference. Temperatures are not supposed to get above freezing all next week.

It is 6 p.m. The snow has finally stopped here and the setting sun is beginning to add some golden tones to the clouds above. My total was somewhere between 26 to 28 inches (66 to 71 cm) of new snow in this storm, so that makes well over 3 feet (91 cm) this week alone. I am so thankful to have power since they say some people may not get power back for several days. I lost electricity during Hurricane Isabel



▲ Backyard vista with 'Dream' in the foreground.



▲ February 7, 2010: 'Dream' gets pummeled by 26 inches of wet snow.

and it was out for eight days. That was rough because I have a well and that meant no water, too.

The news is filled with reports of roof collapses all around the region. I dug a path from the front door to my car in case I need "temporary housing" when my roof gives way. The snow is incredibly heavy and dense. It is like digging into a bale of compressed peat moss. I can only shovel for about 15 minutes and then I have to quit.

Sunday: February 7, 2010

I just finished digging a trench all the way to the street so I can get out of here in an emergency. The snow is up to my waist. It is impossible to go anywhere unless there is a path. The temperature was 14 degrees (-10° C) last night but rose to a high of 26 degrees (-3° C).

This afternoon, two rather seedy looking characters came down my path to the door. They spoke very broken English and I had second thoughts about even opening the door. They offered to finish shoveling my driveway for \$500. I tried to explain that I am a retired teacher and I have no money. I didn't even try to haggle. I was just happy that I wasn't robbed.

Monday: February 8, 2010

Defying my doctor, I continue to shovel snow, carefully. My knee and ribs are sore but they don't seem to be any worse off than before. The weathermen say that we have another winter storm due tomorrow... at least six to 12 inches (15 to 30 cm), and as much as two feet (61 cm) north of D.C. Oh, please be wrong!

I was looking at pictures of my garden taken during the 2009 ASA Convention, and tried to get some of the same shots in the snow today. What was most apparent was that my older azaleas, some of which were more than six feet (1.8 m) tall, have all been flattened by the heavy snow. They must be crushed under that mess since those areas are only about four feet (1.2 m) high now, and that is with three feet (0.9 m) of snow on top of the plants. At least the deer can't browse on my azaleas right now. They can't even get near my yard, except along that path I dug to the front door.

It still hurts to laugh, but I couldn't help myself when I read John Perkins' link on the Yahoo Azalea group today. Political pundits had been discussing the special election to replace the late Senator Ted Kennedy. The general consensus was, "It would be a cold day in Hell before Massachusetts ever sends a Republican Senator to Washington, D.C." Of course, a Republican won. Their new Senator Scott Brown arrived last Thursday, and by the weekend, Hell hath indeed frozen over! The city is closed until further notice because of this monumental storm.

Tuesday: February 9, 2010

The weather report is so depressing. They are now talking about another heavy snowstorm here starting about noon and continuing all day tomorrow with 40 mph (64 km) winds again. I decided to start shoveling the deck today. I need alternative escape routes if my roof collapses. The news is full of stories about collapsed buildings and the next storm hasn't even arrived yet. Add more two more feet (60 cm) of heavy snow on top of this and we have a potential disaster!

The big problem with so much snow is there is absolutely no place to put it, at least for people with azalea gardens. I have planted many favorite azaleas along my driveway where I can see them daily. I have planted double whites like 'Sandra's Green Ice' and 'Secret Wish' as well as the petaloid 'Wagner's White Spider' along one side. I have an old favorite 'Pink Pearl' over there, two pale yellow azaleas, Sandra McDonald's form of *R. kaempferi album* and 'Mizuno-yamabuki.' To complete the color scheme, I also have the deep red 'Karafune' and a red *Acer japonicum dissectum*, 'Garnet.' On the other side are two more McDonald hybrids, 'Springtime Blush' and 'David's Choice,' and Joe Klimavicz's buff colored azalea 'Sandy Dandy.' I can't see any of them right now, but I know where they are. I surely can't pile more snow on top of those.

Don Hyatt has been an avid hybridizer of azaleas and rhododendrons for more than 30 years, with a particular interest in deciduous azaleas, and has been teaching mathematics and computer science for more than 35 years.