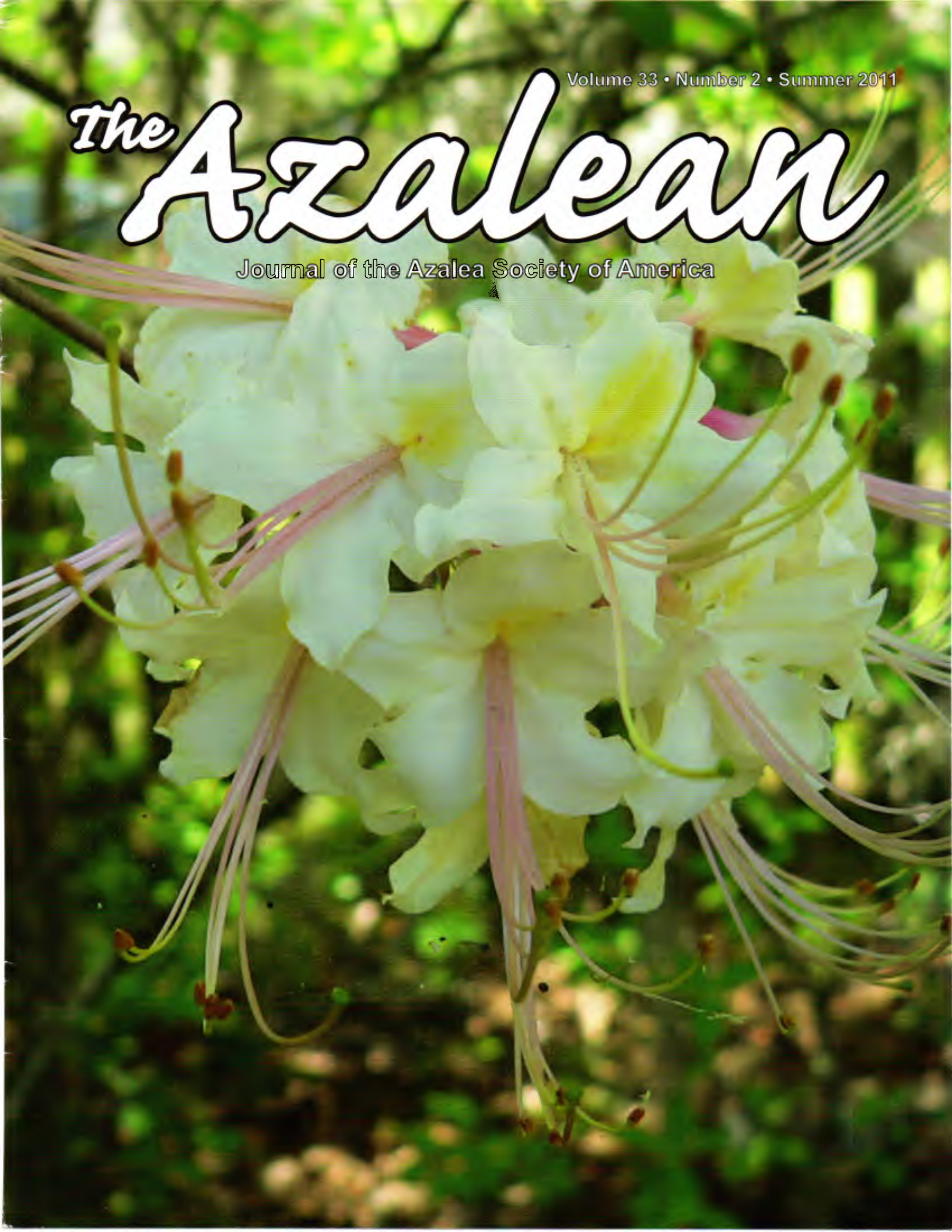


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The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan

Here it is almost midnight and I was going to send an e-mail to our Editor **Pam Fitch** explaining why I haven't completed my first President's Letter. Well after spending some time describing how busy I have been, I suddenly realized that I have the making for a great article for the journal. So I saved my excuses, which will be revealed in an article soon to be released.

Since our recent convention in Evansville, Indiana, it has been nothing but hectic here in the Midwest. Anticipated blooms have been constantly interrupted by constant winds and heavy rains. This spring has been the wettest on record. There is nothing like wanting to spray for petal blight but all you can do is watch the rain fall.

I thank all of you for having faith in me to lead our group of azalea enthusiasts. The next two years will be very exciting and challenging. We are off to a great start, being that I feel we are very lucky to have a great group of volunteers that continue to give to the Azalea Society.

Our outgoing President **Aaron Cook** will not wander far from the work table, being that he has taken on the role to chair our new Save the Azaleas Committee.

Also, past President **Jim Thornton** has switched gears and has handed off the leadership of the Azalea Research Foundation to **Hale Booth**. For now, Jim has agreed to chair our Advertising Committee, which he has been working on since day one. Fellow Lake Michigan chapter members **Tadeusz Dauksza** and **Rocky Voci** will assist on the committee.

Buddy Lee will now be leading the Azalea City Committee, and I thank **Joe Schild** for being the pioneer with this project. **Eve Harrison** will continue to chair the Membership Committee and **John Brown** will continue with our Archives. **Bob Stelloh** has been one of our greatest assets working as our Webmaster.

Our Editor **Pam Fitch** is always on the look-out for articles for the journal. Don't hesitate to sit right down and send her something new to read.

I thank all of our officers, directors, committee chairpersons, chapter presidents, and the membership for being part of our Society's family. It's been said that our conventions are like a family reunion. Well, they are and our highlight at this year's convention was presenting a new charter for the Reverend John Drayton Chapter of South Carolina. We now have 12 chapters in our Society and we also have our next four conventions planned. We have great leadership on all of our committees. I'd say we're headed in the right direction.

Have fun planting!



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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On the Cover

Yort *Rhododendron canescens*
Thomasville from the Kelley Strickland azalea collection. Please see related article on page 28.

The Kelly Strickland Azaleas— An Exceptional Collection

Joe Coleman—Lithonia, Georgia

*Editor's Note: Technically, the name *R. speciosum* is illegitimate. As stated by Kron, when Willdenow included Michaux's *Azalea calendulacea* (an, thus indirectly its type) in the description of *Azalea speciosa*, he made *A. speciosa* a superfluous name. Later, *A. speciosa* became widely associated with the plant correctly named *R. flammeum*.*

The Kelly Strickland azalea collection is the result of a lifetime of searching out the very best forms of native azaleas and expanding their use for future gardeners. With this in mind, Kelly Strickland made sure that his work would survive him by bequeathing his azaleas to his good friend, Randolph Maphis, a noted internationally noted camellia expert in Tallahassee, Florida.

This was an inspired choice, for though the collection is far too large to move in its entirety, Randolph Maphis, after evaluating the collection, resolved to save it and attempted to propagate the azaleas in the collection. In researching the origins of the collection, he discovered that the roots of many of the plants went back almost 40 years, involving the friendship of three “good ole boys”—Kelly Strickland, Al Burke, and Pete Webb—whose work together over a period of time led to a fabulous collection of deciduous azaleas.

The problems associated with reproducing so many native azaleas and crosses made by Kelly Strickland and Al Burke required tissue culture techniques that are evolving, and fortunately Randolph Maphis was able to find help from Earl Sommerville, **Dr. Andy Whipple**, Vivian Abney, **Alan Cantrell**, and Mark Crawford in developing lines that will lead to the eventual release of major numbers of the Strickland azaleas.

To appreciate the collection, one must understand Kelly Strickland.



▲ Yellow seedling growing in the woods.

▼ SW 51—‘Ilam Persian Melon’ x 167S x ‘Seashell’





▲ SW 54—*R. speciosum* HIH

▼ SW 41—'Ilam Persian Melon' x 167S x 'Old Gold'



Born in Telogia, Florida, he grew up in the Marianna, Florida, area where his family owned property along the Chipola River. His love of nature was founded as his outdoor preoccupations were hunting and fishing in his youth. He was a Florida State University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in management in 1953. After a two-year tour of duty in the Army, Kelly returned to work for the Florida Department of Transportation rising to the position of Executive Secretary for the Board of Transportation. When he retired in 1985, he was serving as Director of Purchasing.

It was in his later years, before full retirement, that Kelly developed an interest in native plants. As he traveled extensively around the state of Florida, he developed a keen appreciation for wildflowers and was attracted to the native azaleas he had known since his youth. As he also had a family cabin in the vicinity of Franklin, North Carolina, Kelly was also attracted to the native azaleas in the mountain regions of North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia as well as the neighboring states of Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Often he was joined by Al Burke, another recent retiree from the Florida Department of Transportation, who shared his interest in searching the mountains for native azaleas. Al Burke was a Florida native—from LaBelle—just a year older than Kelly. He was the youngest of three children whose mother and grandmother could “make a broom stick break growth.”

His interest in plants came quite naturally. Al attended the University of Florida in civil engineering, starting work with the Florida Department of Transportation in 1958. Al met Kelly in 1960 when he was transferred to Tallahassee. A firm friendship began at lunch time and extended to both fishing and plant collecting.

Often while scouting for one hobby, they would combine their interest, especially when exploring together. Al would do the driving, and Kelly would serve as chief spotter for the flashes of color that they were seeking. According to Al, when making a sighting, Kelly would let a whoop that could be heard from a distance. To quote Al Burke, “Kelly and I burned a lot of rubber and a lot of time.”

Often they would make crosses with other flowers and come back in the fall to harvest the seed. Even before the advent of GPS, Kelly and Al had the knack of returning to the exact site of the plant they were seeking. It was primarily Al who planted seed and rooted cuttings with Kelly providing the discriminating eye for plant selection. His favorite saying was “you had to harden your heart and get rid of most

Photo Joe Coleman

Photo Joe Coleman

of the seedlings to get to the finest!" Kelly always got first choice of the hybrids.

Kelly was a family man, married to Norma Thomas Strickland for 56 years, until his death at age 77 in May 2007. His health had declined unexpectedly, but he provided for his close friends, leaving his fishing boat and equipment to his fishing buddies, the guns to his hunting friends, and his perhaps more valuable azaleas to Randolph Maphis.

Kelly always traveled with a shovel, and Norma did say on occasion she would pop the trunk for him. Together, they raised a son and daughter, incorporating these duties with keeping a sharp eye out for attractive native plants. In preparing his own landscape, Kelly was exceptionally particular. Often he would keep numbers of candidates in containers for several years, evaluating the potential of each before deciding on planting it in his garden. Several friends were fortunate to have numerous potential Strickland plants in their gardens for years. Unfortunately, this came with the risk that someone might admire the azaleas too much and lift a few from time to time.

Kelly was always generous enough with his plants and constantly shared. He had a small greenhouse out back where he did some propagation though Al did the primary work at his place out in the country. As Kelly's neighborhood was on a well that had an erratic chlorine distribution at that time, he preferred to grow his plants at Al's property.

As they collected, Al concentrated on the native species and planted a number out. Kelly selected superior forms and literally farmed them out to friends to take care of until he was ready to plant them in his own garden. They both purchased several Exbury azaleas for their pollen to make crosses and raised them at Al's greenhouse. Kelly purchased 'Old Gold', 'Ilam Persian Melon', and 'Seashell' from Greer Gardens in Oregon to expand his pollen base at least temporarily. Their goals were extra large blooms of all colors and heat and humidity tolerant plants that had exceptional bloom heads.

Al grew hundreds if not thousands



▲ Brooke *R. canescens* Pink

▼ Pink seedling in woods.



of seedlings and was very generous in giving away those that did not meet expectations. Even today, you can see his mature gifts in nearby gardens.

When it came to seedlings, Kelly was scrupulous in his selections, out of 100, only four or five were good enough to save for further evaluation. When Al's primary interest drifted off into orchids, even though he kept his interest in just the native species that he had planted, Kelly stayed with native azalea work and his expanded crossing work by bringing in Exbury type deciduous azaleas in bud, to bloom, and cross with select natives.

He worked primarily out of a small greenhouse at his home as well as the larger greenhouse at Al's home in the country. An entire side of his garden was



Photo Randolph Maples

▲ *R. austrinum* x *R. atlanticum* x *R. austrinum*

▼ *R. austrinum* 'Yellow River Alabama'



Photo Randolph Maples

planted with the result of these first-generation crosses, and Kelly wanted to continue to make more crosses to expand the range, flower size, color, and hardiness of deciduous azaleas for the Deep South.

We know that they can travel north, but having azaleas take the Florida heat is quite an accomplishment. This work has not ended. Randolph has taken seed that Kelly gave him from some of his crosses and grown them on. These are now flowering and being selected for further development.

It must be noted that Kelly, Al, and Pete Webb selected the most superior forms that they could find. Pete Webb, a native of Quincy, Florida, knew native azaleas from his parents' garden; when he met Kelly and Al at the Florida Department of

Transportation, he quickly established a friendship that originated on the quest for yellow evergreen azaleas. All three added to the growing collection, and for periods of time, Pete played host to the growing collection, until about 30 of the plants were stolen and it was thought they might be safer out in the country with Al.

It was Pete who found a second stand of *Rhododendron alabamense* at Capitola, Florida, after Kelly had found the first stand. Pete also found other colors and some *R. canescens* hybrids. Though Pete Webb passed away in mid-September 2010, his contribution to the success in collecting should not be underestimated.

The shovel was always in their hands, and they dug the very best they could find locally. All three of them made trips together, including one all the way to northwest Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee scouting for *R. calendulaceum*, bringing some selections back for hybridizing. Kelly and Al visited nurseries from Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia in that quest. They frequented the Varnadoe Nursery early in the morning every few days in order to be the first to see new blooms and make possible selections.

Over the years, Al came to know Aaron Varnadoe well enough to be sold a number of choice natives. 'Kelly's Red Speciosum' is a seedling from two Varnadoe plants, and 'Candy Striped Speciosum' is a straight Varnadoe plant. Al always believed that the real secret to Varnadoe's success in propagating natives had a great deal to do with the purity of the well water at his home where he did his propagation work. Varnadoe could root his native azaleas in sharp sand alone, but carefully monitored his babies the entire rooting time. Varnadoe was "the Dean of Native Azaleas" according to Al.

Kelly and Al took advantage during the construction of I-10 to join the "Upsie Daisy Plant Rescue." Their work for the highway department allowed for searches that found numerous outstanding plants—a few of which they rescued from encroaching road construction. A double *R. austrinum* in the path of I-10, or the find of 'Mac-

Millie', the reverse of the *R. austrinum* 'Millie Mac' were the results of many such searches. Knowing of his interest, friends would remark on a find and off Kelly would go to check it out. Some discoveries were pure accident; others were carefully plotted acquisitions.

Their collecting searches were carefully researched by Kelly by reading all the relevant material he could find. They often traced the travels outlined in Henry Skinner's work. After reading earlier articles in ARS publications, they journeyed to Fort Gaines to visit the Coleman Nursery. Al can recall extensive travels across north Georgia in their searches for natives. From George and Mary Beasley at Transplant Nursery, they obtained their original plant of 'Mille Mac'. Down the interstate they purchased 'Hazel Hamilton' from Willis Harden at Homeplace Nursery in the mid-80's, a plant they later used for crossing with Varnadoe's 'Lemon Drop'. East of Athens, Georgia, was a particularly good area for collecting *R. speciosum* and its hybrids. Particularly taking the truck routes around populated areas, they could spot azaleas. Kelly's hunting and fishing instincts would come to the fore.

Once while cruising along a logging road, Kelly noticed a stand of color in the distance and set out to examine the azaleas. He got to see the azaleas, but also upset a yellow jacket nest and had to hightail it back to the car, with a few injuries inflicted. It didn't sit well with him.

Trey Mountain offered a forest service road to the top with a brilliant display of natives in mid-June. In the Madison, Georgia, area they found a "best red speciosum" and they also encountered a rather large rattlesnake in the process. The dwarf speciosums were rescued along Firetower Road, outside of Madison. They enjoyed the Hamilton Rhododendron Garden at Hiawassee and the azaleas in the Blue Ridge area. Wayah Bald was another favorite site, often collecting pollen or seed in season.

Once they started out in shirt-sleeves, but by the time they reached the top of Wayah it had started snowing and they barely got back down. In

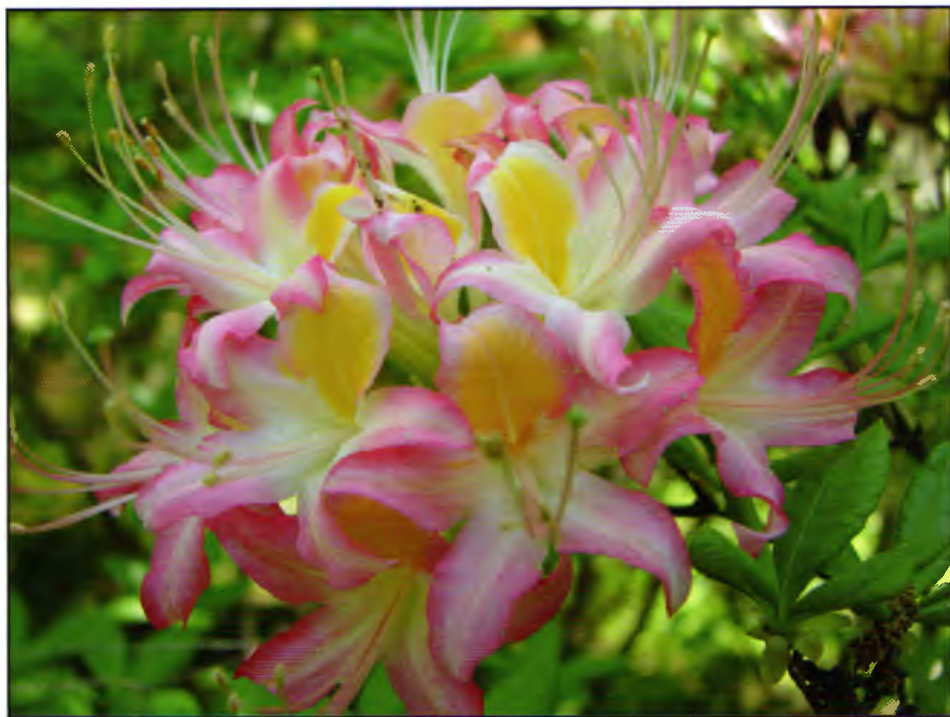


Photo Randolph Maples

▲ Candy Stripe Speciosum

▼ Speciosum Pinkish Red



Photo Randolph Maples

their travels near Brevard, North Carolina, they visited the Wells Nursery, which specialized in deciduous hybrids at that time, to obtain several plants for pollen usage, particularly 'Coccineum Speciosum'. South Georgia was not neglected in their travels either. Just east of Providence Canyon they discovered a nice area on Continental Paper property, with spectacular *R. prunifolium* at the bottom of a steep ravine. In Lee County, above Albany, Georgia, they discovered a yellow form of *R. canescens*. 'Varnadoes' Moonbeam', a selected form of *R. austrinum* that they used in several crosses, came from the lower Flint River. Varnadoe was also the source of 'Yellow Alabamense'.

Though *R. austrinum* has its eastern border only a few miles from Al's house,

they traveled west along I-10, finding superior forms along the way. A double form of *R. austrinum* was found near the Yellow River in Alabama. Several more superior forms came from around Faceville at Lake Seminole. At Falling Waters State Park at Chipley, Florida, the striking *R. austrinum*, 'Harrison's Red' was selected. Further along I-10 near Mobile, Alabama, they discovered a small valley with a mixture of natives which they worked over. Together, they hit nurseries all the way to Louisiana, where they found some very unique *R. speciosums* at the C&T Nursery that they brought home.

Kelly's love of wildflowers and companion plants insured that they always brought back items for his garden's natural area. Local areas were never neglected, whether it was visiting Salter's Native Plants in Madison, Florida, or the old Yort Nursery at Thomasville, Georgia. They admired a stand of *R. alabamense* and *R. austrinum* at the Chemonie Plantation, but as Al pointed out, they were asked to leave properties on several occasions and were always very discreet about collecting seed, pollen, plants or photos.

Looking back on their hybridizing efforts, Al stated that they both felt that crossing Ilam hybrids with superior native selections should yield large flowered, heat tolerant plants with rich colors with a continuing breeding program. In selecting parents, 167 N & S were thought to be outstanding and grew well in Florida's heat and humidity. Hopefully, they could work toward plants that required little or no fungicide sprays so necessary with Exbury hybrids.

In all, they found that only *R. canadense* and *R. occidentale* could not be kept alive for a while, and the parentage indicates that they were successful in spreading pollen from very diverse sources. Pete Webb had also done some hybridizing from a small greenhouse that Al had built for him. Though his interest had waned somewhat over time, Pete still has an extensive collection of species and hybrids at his home in Tallahassee.

Although Al's interest is centered on orchids today, and he has won awards for his specimens, his garden still has plants of his original section of prized natives. Indeed, it was Al's work and experimentation in propagation with seed and selection in the tough Tallahassee environment that allowed Kelly Strickland to progress into the first phase of his hybridization efforts. For 40 years these three friends collected, shared plants and ideas, developed and refined their propagation techniques. Their united search for the best in native species remained the cement that held Kelly, a hunter, fisherman, and naturalist, with Pete Webb, practically a gardener from birth, and Al Burke, a natural plantsman and superb grower, together.

When Randolph Maphis inherited the azalea collection, he was confronted with a problem in that Kelly knew his plants very well, and although he had kept good records, often naming plants after their source, there was no systematic naming of the plants. To bring a sense of order to this situation, the plants were divided by their location in relation to the house resulting in four quadrants of plants. Each section was numbered consecutively making it easier to find the

plants. Thus the 'N' plants were on the north side, 'E' plants on the east side, 'S' on the south side and the 'NE' on the northeast side of the property.

Although Kelly listed only 127 plants, a number of plants that he did not feel up to his standards are present in the garden. He thought these might be useful in hybridizing in the future. In time, even these may be included in the full listing. To prevent future confusion, Maphis also attached single numbers to the plants as they were parceled out for propagation, so that there will be only one of each number.

For future commercial reasons, names will be applied as they come on the market. The intent is to follow Kelly's original names where possible as often they record the location or source of the plant. The following represents the full listing of the Kelly Strickland collection at this time:

R. canescens dark pink
R. canescens with yellow blotches from Georgia #1
R. canescens with yellow blotches from Georgia #2
 I-10 *R. austrinum* salmon
R. speciosum good red (Varnadoe)
R. nudiflorum double white
R. canescens Gadsden County (big and ordinary)
 Yort cream *R. canescens* from Thomasville, Georgia
 Brooke (named) Northern *R. canescens*
 from North Carolina
 Dark *R. canescens* Freshwater Farm
R. speciosum from Lee County, Georgia (great)
R. austrinum (very good)
R. alabamense x *R. canescens* Leon County
 hybrid (very early)
R. speciosum from NeSmith Nursery (red)
R. austrinum light yellow with gold blotches
 from Sneads, Florida
R. austrinum from the Yellow River (yellow
 with lavender tubes)
R. austrinum (extra large yellow; said used to
 hybridize)
R. austrinum Ribbon Stripe from I-10
R. austrinum Varnadoe's Buttercup
R. austrinum Varnadoe's early orange
R. austrinum Chipola River #1
R. austrinum Chipola River #2
R. nudiflorum x *R. calendulaceum*
R. speciosum dwarf orange #1
R. speciosum dwarf orange #2
R. speciosum dwarf orange #3
R. speciosum multicolored with yellow petioles
R. speciosum orange red
 Hybrid *R. arborescens* x *R. calendulaceum*
 Kelly's Double
 Seed of Hunge seedpod from Al Burke,
 R. atlanticum x *R. japonicum* x *R. speciosum*
 (red orange)
R. canescens x Exbury (pink and white)

Exbury x *R. austrinum*
R. speciosum x *R. austrinum* (VD)
R. speciosum hybrid x native (Kelly's Hybrid)
 Hybrid on Hybrid Early Red Orange
R. austrinum x Exbury (outstanding)
 Kelly's Hybrid *R. austrinum* x *R. speciosum*
 Kelly's Hybrid *R. speciosum* hybrid x native #2
 'Coccinea Speciosum' x *R. austrinum* 167- North
 'Coccinea Speciosum' x *R. austrinum* 167- North
 'Coccinea Speciosum' x *R. austrinum* 167- North
 'Coccinea Speciosum' x *R. austrinum* 167- North
 'Coccinea Speciosum' x *R. austrinum* 167- North
 Seashell (Kelly named)
R. austrinum x *R. atlanticum* x *R. austrinum*
 'Old Gold' x *R. austrinum* (pure yellow)
 'Coccinea Speciosum' hybrid x *R. austrinum* 'Persian
 Melon' (hybrid on hybrid)
R. austrinum x 'Seashell' hybrid
 'Coccinea Speciosum' x 167-North
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Persian Melon' x *R. austrinum* 167-South
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #1
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #2
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #3
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #4
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #5
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #6
 'Old Gold' x Escapata River #7 (small plant)
R. speciosum hybrid (pinkish)
R. austrinum 'Old Gold' x Escapata
R. austrinum two tone yellow petioles from
 Martin Road in Gadsden County
R. austrinum I-10 redish
R. austrinum I-10 bronze
R. austrinum I-10 extra large with yellow petioles
R. austrinum I-10 small to medium (may be double)
 YP yellow petioles
R. austrinum Yellow River Alabama
 Yellow *R. alabamense* (VD)
R. speciosum Firetower from Madison, Georgia
 (WaterMelon)
 Yellow with pink petioles and stamens
R. speciosum red # 66
R. speciosum red multipetal
 Hybrid *R. austrinum* x hotspur yellow
R. canescens yellow
R. speciosum pure red #77
 Kelly's Red (He named) (The best red)
R. speciosum firetower from Madison, Georgia

Salmon *R. speciosum*
R. nudiflorum x *R. austrinum* (light)
 'Candy Stripe Speciosum'
R. austrinum x *R. calendulaceum* hybrid
R. prunifolium average
R. speciosum red #55
R. austrinum 167 - south from Hosford, Florida
 on State Road 167 South of I-10
 Escapata
R. austrinum 167 - north from Hosford, Florida
 on State Road 167 North of I-10
 Paxton Blue (*R. nudiflorum*)
R. alabamense #77
R. alabamense #2 pink
R. alabamense good white with blotch
R. alabamense small plant under #21 (has a big bloom)
R. alabamense x *R. canescens* Apple Blossom
R. alabamense pure from Capitola
R. speciosum pinkish red
R. speciosum orange red Varnadoe
R. speciosum multicolor
R. alabamense from north Georgia
R. arborescens x *R. serrulatum* (July bloom)
R. austrinum x *R. nudiflorum*
R. speciosum salmon Varnadoe
R. speciosum red good dwarf (same as the ones in
 the East Section on the fence)
R. viscosum Lemon Drop
R. prunifolium Red Petiole
R. prunifolium S. D. Coleman
R. arborescens (July Bloom)
R. prunifolium Best Red
R. prunifolium faded orange
 Plant not named could be *prunifolium*
R. prunifolium #1
 Summer Lyric
R. prunifolium #3
R. prunifolium #2
R. prunifolium bright red (pretty)
R. speciosum extra good red (almost dead)
 Mac Millie (not Millie Mac)
R. prunifolium Coral Red Kelly's Best
 Hybrid *R. speciosum* x *R. austrinum* orange yellow
R. austrinum good
R. austrinum white with pink filaments
 White from Native Nurseries - Canes x Alba?
 Unknown parentage
R. austrinum different
R. austrinum great big (use for crosses #9)

Joe Coleman served as a national Director for the ASA
 from 2005-2007.

Simple Approach to Transitioning to Digital Imaging

John and Sally Perkins—Salem, New Hampshire

Anyone who has a computer, having the knowledge to create a file folder and to edit a file using a simple text editor, can quickly learn to take advantage of the current state of digital photography.

If you have a digital camera and a computer, you are most likely discovering that digital photography offers you the opportunity to take many more images than you did with your film camera, the capability to edit those images in ways not possible with film, and the freedom to share them in multiple ways with family and friends. Digital photography greatly decreases the added cost of taking the next image and greatly increases the number of ways and times that next image can be used.

Our personal goal is taking “good enough no fuss” digital images, allowing us to have a visual inventory of what has flowered in our garden. Secondarily, we want the images organized well enough on our computer that we can view them on our computer monitor, email individual images, organize them into digital presentations, organize them into web albums, and use individual images on web sites.

Below we describe a step by step approach to creating your own desktop computer based collection of “good enough no fuss” digital images. As you move from one step to another your personal goals for your collection of digital images will cause you to deviate from our approach. There is no best answer, especially given that personal taste, knowledge, and resources vary, but the general issues discussed need to be addressed.

Step 1: Purchasing a Digital Camera

Digital cameras have improved in recent years to the point that an inexpensive digital camera is sufficient for taking images of plants in your garden. In general, any digital point and shoot supporting image stabilization, macro, and super macro mode is sufficient for taking “good enough no fuss” close up images in the garden.

Our personal recommendation—stick with Nikon or Canon for your first digital camera. Go online and read some reviews making certain the camera is recommended to support close-up photography. Go to a box store and try the camera. If the camera does not easily focus on small print, you do not want it. Sally and I use an inexpensive Canon Power Shot A470 for most of our super macro close up images.

Warning: If you are a film camera buff, then a point and shoot camera may simply not be your cup of tea. We take most of our images using a digital Nikon D70 SLR and as they say what matters is the glass. Digital point and

shoots are good enough but digital SLRs are better. However, the difference is not great if one is merely interested in taking quick images handheld in the garden.

Step 2: Storing Images

Learn to upload digital images from the camera to your computer. Digital cameras store images on removal media. The digital images on the removable media can be moved to your computer using a card reader or using a USB connection. There is nothing hard about learning to upload digital images to your computer; however it is something you need to learn well, since digital photography relies on being able to transfer digital images from your digital camera to your computer.

Step 3: Taking Images— Learn By Doing

Two major advantages to digital images are: (1) it costs nothing to take images and (2) images are able to be viewed immediately. With any digital camera, learning to see what the camera sees is the key to taking good enough images. You learn to see what the camera sees by taking images and then quickly reviewing them on your computer and going back out and trying again.

Recommendation: Until you have learned your camera, take images in default mode. We store all of our images as jpg files using the highest resolution the camera supports (this is the default mode on most point and shoot digital cameras). When we first got the camera, we used autofocus mode for landscapes and macro or super macro mode for close-ups. In general, we take more than 90 percent of our images in autofocus default mode or in macro or super macro mode. On most digital cameras macro mode is represented by a flower on the dial.

Warning: The willingness to take images handheld and quickly reviewing them on your computer is the key to taking good enough images. This means you have to learn how to take advantage of what the camera does without having to fuss with it, without putting the camera on a tripod, and without waiting for the perfect conditions. This also means you have to be good at uploading images from your camera to the computer.

My approach—once bloom season starts, I take an image of every plant that comes into bloom. I do this by putting the camera in macro mode and walking up to a plant in flower, snapping a picture of the plant label, and taking two or three pictures of the flower—all in less than 30 seconds. I do this when I have the time no matter what the conditions are. After taking the images, I upload the pictures to my computer, review the images, and delete

the images that are not good enough. Then I go back outside and retake images of the plants that did not turn out to be good enough.

Step 4: Organizing Images in File Folders

Every time you upload images from your digital camera to your computer create a new file folder and give that file folder a name reflecting the general contents of the images being uploaded.

My approach—for images taken in the garden the folder names reflect the date and an indication of whether we are taking images of rhododendrons or perennials. These are the two major divisions in our garden and we attempt to base our highest level of image storage to reflect these two categories. For images taken outside our garden, we name the folder to reflect the location where the images were taken.

Step 5: Rename the Image Files in the File Folder

For most people, the next step is to rename the individual image file to reflect the most important thing in the image.

Many of you will never need to go beyond step 5 but each of these above steps must be learned if one is going to enjoy using your digital camera and your digital images.

Step 6: Stop Renaming Your Individual Image Files

Most people love to rename their image files where they are continually adding more and more information to the file name. Our recommendation—never rename the original uploaded image file name. Warning: Most people cannot help themselves and will continue to overuse renaming of files as a basic method for organizing their collection of images. Most of the remaining steps rely on other simple methods we have found to be much more effective as a method for appending information to digital images.

Step 7: Learn to Backup your Images

If you do not backup your images, at some point they will be lost. Computer hardware will fail, so learn to backup your images to DVD, a second hard drive, or to a on-line storage location. The more important the images, the more important it is to back them up immediately after uploading them from your camera.

Printing Your Images

Our recommendation—learn how to enjoy your digital images without printing them. Printing is expensive and is the least cost effective way of storing, organizing, and using your set of good enough images.

Warning: If you are a person who must have prints of most of your images, then you are most likely someone who simply will not benefit from reading further. I print

less than one out of every 1,000 images I take and usually do so only to check to see how good a given printer I purchase is at printing colored images.

Where to Go from Here

Most people think of an image as the visual image that was taken by the camera. In other words, one thinks of the image as the “print” or the “picture.” As you organize your collection of images, you find you need to add information to this “picture.”

The first thing most people do when moving to digital images is add this extra information to the file name. Renaming files is supported by computers so people use this method to add information to the image by adding the information to the file name.

The second thing most people do is then move up to adding this extra information to the “visual” image. For instance, the visual image has text added to it to reflect a caption and a date. This caption and date is now right on the “print.” Adding text to images is supported by most photo editors, so people use this method to add extra information to the visual information.

Our recommendation—Do not rename your image files and do not add text to your visual image. Instead take advantage of the fact that a digital image, when stored in a file on your computer, is composed of two major components:

- (1) One part of a digital image is the “pixels” that form the visual image.
- (2) The other part is information about those pixels.

Digital cameras record all kinds of information about the visual image. The camera records to the image file all the camera settings, the time of day, problems it detected when taking the image, etc. More importantly, when an image is stored as a jpeg file, you can add to this set of information stored in the image. You can do this with a simple image text editor using the same knowledge you use to add text to a text file.

Our approach: We store our images as jpegs. We add to the information stored inside the image file using a free program called Irfanview. We first add a caption to the caption field that every jpeg has but is empty by default. We add additional information inside the image when we find it to be useful for some use we have for a given image.

Key to the City

Storing information inside an image is the key to being able to use your images for multiple purposes in a cost effective matter. Now every copy of your image contains the information just as every copy contains the visual in-

formation. The image file is the visual image plus the image information.

Having the image information, such as a caption, inside the image file allows one to view the image with or without the caption. This virtual caption can be placed on the bottom of the image when viewing an image on your home computer monitor, on the top of the image when presenting a digital presentation, and showing no caption at all when printing the image for framing.

Step 8: Image Software

Learn to base all of your uses of an image on the original image. As your collection of digital images grows the harder it becomes to keep track of them. Creating multiple copies of your images, except for the purpose of backup, only complicates the entire process of locating and using your images.

If you are a person who wants to perform major editing to your collection of digital images, then an investment in tools such as Adobe Photoshop® or Corel Paint-Shop Pro® is in order. However, if you merely want to organize, touch up, and share your images, then there are many free tools available for your use. I use the following three free tools for these above functions:

- Irfanview: General image viewer and editor
- Picasa™: General image organizer and editor
- JPEG Crops: Crops images in batch

Although organizing images can be done using file folders (since digital images are merely image files), a tool such as Picasa™ is specific to organizing digital images. Picasa™ supports virtual organizing of the images as well as physical organization. This allows a single copy of an image to be a member of several collections of images. For instance, a single image of *Rhododendron mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' can be in several collections such as species, pink flowers, early bloomers, and good doers.

Although major editing of multiple images is best done with tools specifically built for such editing, most image editing does not require the type of power and capabilities used by professionals. Picasa™ and Irfanview support functions such as red eye removal, cropping, resizing, color and quality modification, captioning, batch conversion and renaming, and limited special effects.

Digital images can be shared in emails, web albums, digital slide shows, screensavers, digital calendars, word documents, web sites, digital movies, collages, and prints. Picasa™ produces movies, slideshows, collages, and web albums with support for emailing and printing. Irfanview produces slideshows and screensavers.

Digital image formats such as JPEGs have the ability to store information about the image in the actual image file. Picasa™ and Irfanview support to various degrees

reading and writing EXIF and IPTC image information concerning caption, location, and photographer. Most digital cameras add EXIF information containing the camera settings, date, image orientation, and image resolution to the image. This information can be used to organize and sort your images. Irfanview has excellent support for IPTC and EXIF.

In general, Picasa™ does all the things that Irfanview does; however, Picasa™, although superior at organizing large collections of images, is not always better for viewing, editing, and sharing images.

Unfortunately, no single tool ever does everything you need done to your collection of digital images so the more you do with your images the more tools you find yourself using. When evaluating such tools, I ask myself two questions:

- (1) How well does the tool do something I need done better without limiting my ability to do things I can already do well?
- (2) How willing is the tool to import and export information to and from other tools I already use?

Warning: Do not use multiple image software tools unless they complement one another. Irfanview, Picasa™, JPEG Crops work well together. However many image tools and editors do not preserve changes made by other image editors.

Step 9: Learn Not to Overedit Your Digital Images

Most people spend too much time and effort editing their images and their image information. Learn to take good enough images and to place the minimal information inside each image to support your desired uses.

Step 10: Learn to Organize Your Images to Support Searching

Placing information about an image in the image file greatly improves the ability to search for your image collection. Ideally one would create a database for your image collection, but the work to do so is simply too great in our experience. In fact, one is lucky if one finds the time to place the images in file folders with meaningful names, and add a caption to each image.

A tool such as Picasa™ is ideal for organizing your collection. Picasa™ supports searching the information in a file name, by date, or information stored inside an image. Adding a caption to an image in Picasa™ causes the caption to be stored in the caption field of the image file if the image file is a JPEG. Picasa™ reads the captions placed in the caption field inside an image even if the caption was placed inside by another image editor such as Irfanview.

Step 11: Our Approach to Reusing Images— Learn to Use the Same Image or Set of Images for Multiple Uses

We upload our images to file folders having a name indicating an important common attribute of the images placed in that folder. We use Picasa™ as our image organizer including adding captions, quick fix to improve image quality, and images searches. The main reason we use Picasa™ is it supports virtual folders.

Virtual folders allow you to organize images without moving or renaming the physical file. A virtual folder can contain images from many different physical folders. The order of the images inside a virtual folder can be changed using drag and drop. The caption of an image can be changed inside the virtual folder and results in this change being applied to the image.

When we build a digital presentation, we search for images placing them in a virtual folder then add captions when necessary, and use drag and drop to produce the desired order. After we have organized a digital presentation we upload the images inside a virtual folder to create a Picasa™ web album.

After we organize a digital presentation, we export a set of folders of information that can be used by Irfanview to create an executable file that can be run stand alone on any Windows based PC. To create an executable file using Irfanview, one needs a text file that includes the file names of the images to be included in the slide show. The order of the file names in the text file determines the order in which the images will appear in the slide show. This text file can also be easily transformed into a handout using Microsoft Word®.

Before we create the final version of a digital presentation, we resize the images using Irfanview and crop images using JPEG Crop. Resizing the images reduces the size of the executable file making it play without delays that can occur with larger file sizes.

Cropping the images to the same screen ratio as the digital projector allows us to use the full image resolution supported by our digital projector. Irfanview supports showing the caption inside the image as a caption on the image. For digital images we place the caption with a green background in the upper left hand corner of the image so it is easy for the audience to read. Irfanview also supports setting a common time limit for each slide. We merely add the same image multiple times if we want to spend more time on a selected slide. We have found 20 seconds to be a suitable time per slide for most digital presentations.

Each image in a Picasa™ Web folder has an individual URL so an image in a Picasa™ Web album can be referenced in our ARS Massachusettes Chapter blog or Web site. Moreover, one can export a file containing information about all the images in a Picasa™ Web album and this file can be used as a basis for creating what we call

garden tours on the ARS Massachusettes Chapter Web site. Furthermore, an image in a Picasa™ Web album can be dynamically resized depending on the desired use.

We also place images inside e-mail directly from Picasa™. Images can also be printed directly from Picasa™.

Summary

The 11 steps for creating a collection of digital images can be addressed in many ways. How one addresses these steps depends on your knowledge and your goals for your digital image collection.

We recommend you buy a digital camera and slowly evolve a method for handling your collection of digital images. We have adopted an approach that relies on taking good enough no fuss images containing just enough information inside the image file to support our multiple uses of our image collection.

We have found that three free image software programs—Picasa™, Irfanview, and JPEGCrop—are very useful for managing and using our digital image collection.

John and Sally Perkins garden on Canobie Lake in Salem, New Hampshire, and are active members of the Azalea Society of America and American Rhododendron Society. John, a software programmer, and Sally, a healthcare researcher, work for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Boston. They enjoy seeing natives in the wild, hybridizing, and learning more about these wonderful deciduous azaleas. Their e-mail address is sjperk@comcast.net.

Call for Articles

The Azalean needs more good articles about azaleas, their care, and their use in the landscape. Ideas for topics include:

- Articles describing new public gardens or special azalea collections being created in your area.
- Descriptions and photographs of Society members' gardens.
- Current research on azaleas.
- Information about azalea festivals and sales.
- Historic garden restoration stories.
- Articles about noteworthy azalea hybrid groups or new species or cultivar introductions.

Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi resolution. Submit materials to:

Pam Fitch, Editor
PO Box 632537
Nacogdoches, TX 76953
E-mail: theazalean@gmail.com.

ARS, ASA Donation Allows USNA Azalea Collection to Hire Intern

Barbara L. Bullock—Washington, D.C.

The Azalea Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum recently hired an intern from New Jersey thanks to a \$7,000 donation from the several local chapters of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) and the Azalea Society of America (ASA). This initiative was mainly spearheaded by the members of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, ARS, who contributed approximately \$4,200 of the funds.

In the summer of 2010, an intern was selected but due to personal reasons had to resign, so the funds for the position were reserved with the intention of filling the position for 2011. I am happy to announce the position was filled, and David J. Empel from Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, was selected. Dave, as he would prefer to be called, has just finished his sophomore year at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, and is studying to be a Landscape Architect. His current focus is in environmental engineering and community planning.

Dave developed his love of the outdoors and the environment after growing up in the small town of Ringwood, New Jersey, before moving to Franklin Lakes where he participated in activities such as wrestling, playing football, and helping his dad out in the garden. He is skilled in all physical aspects of construction and land-use machinery. He has worked as a maintenance laborer for a stone/deck and concrete company and has already demonstrated his willingness to work hard in his first weeks in the Azalea Collection.

His goals for the internship are to learn how the U.S. National Arboretum is run; to learn new skills and techniques; to learn about new plants including azaleas; and as an added



Photo Barbara L. Bullock

▲ David J. Empel

bonus, learn a little about Washington D. C.

While supporting the azalea collections, Dave will be participating in a group project with the rest of the USNA summer interns. This year's project will be to design, develop, and install a garden in the space located outside of the headhouse/greenhouse facility. The interns have divided up responsibilities and Dave is in charge of layout and design. During this project he will be able to put into practice landscape architect skills he's learned in college.

Dave and I would like to personally thank the ASA for joining together to make an internship possible in the Azalea Collection.

Barbara L. Bullock is the curator for azaleas and rhododendrons at the U.S. National Arboretum. Her e-mail is Barbara.Bullock@ars.usda.gov.

Advertise Your Business!

The Azalean is the official journal of the Azalea Society of America, devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of azaleas. It is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter). Each issue is 24 pages, 16 of them in full color. It is mailed to approximately 1,000 dedicated azalea buyers.

For more information, visit

www.azaleas.org

Society News

Azalea Research Foundation News

J.O. Thornton

Prior to the annual convention, I advised the Board of Directors that I would be stepping down as Chairman of the Foundation. As some of you know, I was involved in the initial planning stage and at its approval. I was also appointed its first chairman. I readily accepted and appreciated the trust and confidence the Board gave me with this responsibility. I hope I fulfilled their expectations.

At the recent Board of Directors meeting, I recommended Hale Booth, presently a member of the ARF committee, be named the new chairman. He was approved.

Hale is a long-time member of the ASA and is a past director. He is president of his local ARS chapter. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Science of Planning. He served as Executive Director of a regional planning agency in Tennessee for 30 years before recently retiring. During his career, he helped build and manage a large economic development agency with diverse funding sources. Hale is past president of the Tennessee Gorge Trust and has considerable experience in helping groups prioritize needs and implement goals as well as develop financial strategies to meet those goals. Presently, he is Deputy Director of a non-profit organization in Chattanooga. With this background, you see why Hale is well qualified to lead the ARF.

As for me, I will remain on the ARF committee and will continue to support the goals and objectives of the ASA. I feel, as a member of this organization, it is an honor and privilege to serve in whatever capacity I can.

Appalachian Spring—ASA/ARS Convention Shaping Up May 4 to 7, 2012

Marilyn Haynes, Vaseyi ASA and
Southeastern ARS Chapters

Our special room rates at the beautiful Asheville Crowne Plaza Resort start at \$99 for two double beds or \$109 for one king bed, and go up from there. These rates are good for 5 days before and after the convention, so start planning your "Appalachian Spring" vacation now!

Make your reservation at their customized Web site at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ARS2012> or call in for reservations to 888-233-9527, and mention ARS-ASA Convention.

The ARS and ASA Boards will meet on Friday, May 4, with a Welcome Reception and Mini-Trade Show in the afternoon/evening. Fabulous garden tours will be on Saturday and Sunday with a post convention tour on Monday. There is even a pre-convention tour. We're hoping to show our guests the spectacular native azaleas in bloom if the weather will only cooperate. The ARS Banquet will be on Saturday night and the ASA Banquet on Sunday night. Everyone will want

to go to both, of course, regardless of your membership status, because we all like to eat, right?

The 2012 Convention Web site will soon be available with all the convention details, including garden pictures and descriptions, speaker bios, etc., plus links to area attractions to entice our out of town guests to extend their vacation in this beautiful part of the world.

The gardens we are touring were magnificent this spring! A couple of gardens are open to the public, but most are private gardens owned by our members. Lunches on the tours will be delicious buffets, no box lunches that have to be eaten on a bus! There are no simultaneous tours, so everyone will be able to go on all the tours. A tasty hot buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel before boarding the busses.

We will have five or six first rate speakers, some local, some from far away, on a variety of interesting topics, and maybe even a workshop or two.

The plant sale will be gigantic with probably more than 3,000 azaleas, rhododendrons and companion plants! Pictures of the plant blooms will soon be on the Web site.

Yes, there will be a judged flower show, so start thinking about how you'll transport those perfect trusses or sprays. There will also be a photo contest.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for companies who wish to meet and greet current and potential customers and get their name and logo on some of our printed materials. Contact Aaron Cook, acook@cccti.edu, or Marilyn Haynes, mphaynes@juno.com, if interested.



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mail address changes to:

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

Remembering Dr. Donald E. Moreland

John Brown—Cleveland, South Carolina

On this anniversary of his passing, it is time to reveal some of the secrets created by a truly good man. His ability to do good things while avoiding publicity kept most of us in the dark as we worked with a person we thought of as a semi-retired professor of horticulture. It has been said “True Charity is anonymous” and that, apparently was a hallmark for Dr. Donald E. Moreland.

A Short History of the ASA Archives: A request came from Don Moreland to the *The Azalea* back issues mailbox for a number of issues to fill the gaps in the set of our journals kept at the D. H. Hill Library located on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh. When the issues were sent, the question was posed about the library’s interest in archiving the records of the Society. Dr. Moreland responded positively and began the work of setting up our archives (more on this later). After passing the criteria for acceptance by the library, I was told that Dr. Moreland’s name and his work was not to be discussed; that, in effect, I was to take all the credit.

That promise is no longer valid or appropriate and here are the facts. Dr. Donald Moreland, in his capacity as a retired professor and long-time supporter of the library, set up the Trust Fund which would sustain the preservation of the ASA papers from his own resources. He assigned the necessary personnel and space to accomplish his goal and worked with us along with the dedicated staff at the library, and his willing accomplice, Ms. Susan Nutter, vice provost and director of libraries. Dr. Moreland faithfully attended our conventions with his wife, Verdie, as long as she was able to travel. I was gently reminded at each happy reunion of my promise to keep his secret.

Setting up the ASA archives is only the tip of the iceberg. On top of a distinguished career in educating young people at the university and post graduate level, Don Moreland excelled in many areas. Like many, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II attaining the rank of Colonel. From 1952 to 1953, he was employed as a Plant Physiologist by the Research Foundation, New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. From late 1953 until retirement in 1995, he was employed by the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Plant Physiologist and was a member of the faculty at North Carolina State University. He served in various capacities with the USDA including Research Leader and Location Coordinator. In recognition of his research accomplishments, he was honored with a Superior Service Award by the USDA in 1976. In 1987, he became a charter member of the U.S. Government’s Senior Executive Service and received a Meritorious Presidential Rank Award for being a Meritorious Executive based on his research leadership and administrative accomplishments. At the time of his retirement, he held an academic appointment as Professor of Crop Science, Botany, Forestry, and Toxi-



▲ Dr. Donald E. Moreland and his wife, Verdie.

cology. During his career, he guided the research activities of both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Together with co-workers and graduate students, Dr. Moreland published more than 200 scientific papers and abstracts.

He was a member of the Azalea Society of America and the American Camellia Society. He was an active and long time supporter of the North Carolina Museum of Art, North Carolina State Alumni Association, the Wolfpack Club and the Friends of the NCSU Libraries. He was instrumental in establishing facility, staff, and book endowments with the NCSU Libraries and graduate fellowships and scholarships in several NCSU colleges.

The author contacted Dr. Gregory Raschke, associate director for Collections and Scholarly Communication, for a picture of Dr. Moreland to include with this article. The answer back was both clear and to the point “Well, you will not find many pictures of Don without his wife, Verdie.”

My memories of Don Moreland include his attentions and loving care for her as her needs increased. It is fitting that when he set up a scholarship fund, the name given to it was the Donald E. and Verdie S. Moreland—John T. Caldwell Alumni Scholarship Endowment. This fund benefits undergraduates in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ plant sciences curricula at the University.

Dr. Moreland’s gifts did not stop with his passing. The Azalea Research Foundation recently received a gift from his estate which more than doubled the resources of the foundation. This generous gift will make it possible for the foundation to begin its primary function of supporting research into all aspects of azaleas, including disease, propagation, hybridization, education, and many other areas of interest. This first major contribution to the ARF should give the rest of us an incentive to follow Dr. Don Moreland’s example.

John Brown is a past president of the ASA and coordinates requests for back issues of The Azalean.

U.S. National Arboretum Decision on De-accessioning of Selected Collections

Harold Belcher—Cheverly, Maryland

Editor's Note: This article is a follow-up to the article entitled "US National Arboretum Decision to De-accession Selected Collections" that was published in the Spring issue.

When the U.S. National Arboretum announced its intention to de-accession the Glenn Dale Hillside of its Azalea Collection on Mt. Hamilton and its National Boxwood Collection and its Perennial Collection both of which are on the Bladensburg Road side of the Arboretum, there was a tremendous outpouring of support to retain those collections. The plant societies that had been involved in the support and maintenance of those collections over the years and other plant societies and local garden clubs that have an interest in and an established relationship with the USNA and the Friends of the National Arboretum reached out to their members, elected representatives, senior management at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Service, and members of the business and local community to enlist their support for maintaining the affected collections and to secure funding for those collections into the future.

As a direct result of the efforts of those dedicated groups and individuals, FONA has been able to secure a private donation which will be used exclusively to fund the maintenance of those collections and the USNA has suspended its plans to de-accession the three collections.

On February 14, 2011, FONA announced that it had received a \$1 million donation that it will use to establish an endowment to help preserve the azalea and boxwood collections at the USNA. The \$1 million donation, the largest single donation in FONA's history, was made anonymously by friends in honor of prominent attorney Brendan Sullivan Jr., and Lila Sullivan, longtime residents of the Washington area.

"This generous donation, offered in the hour of the Arboretum's greatest need, reflects not only the donor's passion for this national treasure, but also confidence that the Arboretum leadership will make sound decisions relating to the collections in the future" said Kathy Horan, Executive Director of FONA.

In that announcement, FONA's Board of Directors Chairman, Jeanne Connelly, added "FONA recognizes that these are difficult economic times and all government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, will face significant budget cuts in the coming years. That is why it is important for private partners to step in to protect one of the nation's most valuable treasures and one of Washington, D.C.'s most important green spaces."

Later the same day, in a prepared statement, the USNA

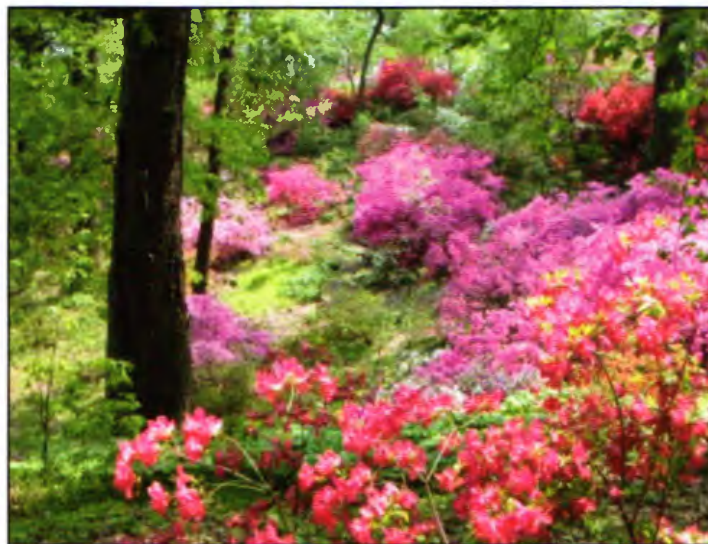


Photo U.S. National Arboretum

▲ Glenn Dale Hillside on Mt. Hamilton.

Director, Dr. Colien Hefferan, wrote "The U.S. National Arboretum is suspending actions to remove the Glenn Dale azaleas from our extensive collection of azaleas, as well as the National Boxwood and Perennial Collections subject to further discussions with stakeholders about the process and criteria for decisions about our collections. Although the resource challenges facing the Arboretum which initially led to these decisions are still very real and in need of a solution, we want to reassess our current resource use and opportunities to expand private support before we reduce or eliminate collections the public so values."

Dr. Hefferan also wrote "We have heard and appreciate the public outpouring of comments about deaccessioning the Glenn Dale azaleas and the boxwood and perennial collections. Managing resources through difficult times is challenging, but with the advice and guidance of our many stakeholders and colleagues we hope to develop an effective and well-understood policy for implementing decisions about our collections, as well as innovative approaches to developing new resources to sustain and support the Arboretum."

The Arboretum has established a new comments box on their Web site at <http://usna.usda.gov/> to solicit guidance from the public and stakeholders about the process and criteria that the USNA uses regarding decisions about their collections, and for their ideas for resource development to maintain the collections and programs at the Arboretum. The comments box is under the "Arboretum Information" tab.

Dr. Hefferan wrote "Please share your ideas and rec-

ommendations regarding these issues by responding to the questions we have posted in our new comment box on this Web site. We are eager to add your ideas to our decision-making processes. Over the next month, we also will be seeking more structured guidance from both horticultural and arboretum professionals, and from stakeholder groups. I hope that both the process of gathering this guidance and the ideas gleaned, help us to formulate and implement a collections policy at the USNA which is both enduring and well understood by the public."

Jeanne Connelly applauded the Arboretum's announcement saying "We are delighted that Dr. Hefferan has listened to the Arboretum's constituents and are heartened by the willingness of the Arboretum's new leadership to engage the public in an open discussion about decisions relating to its collections."

This spring, FONA launched a major fundraising campaign to raise an additional \$1 million needed to maintain these treasured collections into the future. Hopefully, other private partners, such as plant societies and their members, stakeholders, local garden clubs and individuals, will step forward to help FONA to reach its goal. Over the years, FONA has provided substantial funding and support to the Arboretum for the maintenance of its collections. Plant societies, their members, other stakeholders as well as individuals have volunteered to work in the Arboretum's collections thereby reducing some of the need for Federal funding.

Due to deteriorating economic conditions, the likelihood of additional Federal funding for the Arboretum and its collections is decreasing. Please consider making a donation to FONA, or volunteering to work in one of its collections or in an administrative capacity. If you choose to make a monetary donation to FONA, consider earmarking it for the endowment for the preservation of the Arboretum's Glenn Dale Azalea Collection on Mt. Hamilton and its National Boxwood Collection and its Perennial Collection. Further information is available from FONA at www.fona.org or (202) 544-8733, and www.savetheazaleas.org. If you would like to view the USNA Collections, please visit <http://usna.usda.gov/>.

Harold Belcher began his appreciation of azaleas while working at Dr. Wilbur Engleman's azalea nursery in Lanham, Maryland, during his high school years (1961 -1964). He graduated from the University of Maryland with a business degree in 1970. Harold worked for the Navy Department and the Department of Justice and retired from Federal government service in January 2009. He is a past four-term president of the Ben Morrison Chapter of the ASA and former ASA board member. Harold has been a resident of Cheverly, Maryland, all his life and has enjoyed visiting the U.S. National Arboretum since 1960.

New Members

At Large

Dr. Alan R. Kilvert
1826 Harbour Drive
Coquitlam, BC V3J 5W7

Morgan Chemij
4840 Eastgate Mall
San Diego, CA 92121

Matt & Cheryl Hunter
4501 W. Cascade Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28412-6824

Ron Miller
1157 Ellison Drive
Pensacola, FL 32503

James Baggette
333 Beylors Ferry Rd
Rileyville, VA 22650

Alabamense

Bobby Green
415 N Greeno Rd
Fairhope, AL 36532

Brookside Gardens

Rusty Gillick
883 Somerset Drive
Toms River, NJ 08753

William L. Ackerman
18621 Mink Hollow Road, P.O.
Box 120
Ashton, MD 20861

Pierre Ruffieux
6 Carnegie Ct
Rockville, MD 20850

Lake Michigan

Dave and Ellen Hinde
8730 Lovesee Rd
Roscoe, IL 61073

Todd Nugent
600 Thorn Valley Lane
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Northern Virginia

Susan and Donald Kulhavi
5837 Chittenden Dr.
Warrenton, VA 20187

Oconee

Randall Channell
298 Alben Barkley Dr
Paducah, KY 42001

Rev. John Drayton

Georgia G. Burson
2 Seagrass Lane
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Carole & Dennis Darling
733 Beauregard St.
Charleston, SC 29412

Bradley Davis
410 Citadel St.
Ladson, SC 29456-3244

Carol Dryden
111 Preston Ct.
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Mike Hinson
200 S Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483

Dianne Higon
110 Seven Oaks Ln
Summerville, SC 29485

Gladys D. Laforce
1200 Central Ave
Summerville, SC 29483

Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Robinson
5182 Blair Rd
Summerville, SC 29483

Texas

Vickie Snyder
18811 Valley Cove Drive
Cypress, TX 77433

Mr. & Mrs. Joe L. Koch
11992 County Road 4233
Cushing, TX 75760

Tri-State

Alycia Church
501 E Walnut
Petersburg, IN 47567

Walter Behrendt
4925 Lansdowne Ave
St. Louis, MO 63109-2409

Chapter News

Brookside Gardens

William C. Miller III

The speaker for the Sunday, April 3 chapter meeting was Brookside's own **Phil Normandy**. The title of his presentation was *The History of the Azaleas at Brookside Gardens*. Phil's presentation was enhanced with legacy slides which dated back to the early days of Brookside Gardens. He discussed the general phenomenon of "plant succession" and showed how many of the gardens at Brookside had changed over time. He credited **Emile Deckert**, a founding member of the ASA, with the development of much of the azalea collection at Brookside.

The chapter's 32nd annual flower show was held April 29 to May 1. There was initial concern that we were going to experience a late spring since there was very little in bloom as the show approached. As if on cue, the weather improved just in time, and it was a beautiful show. We had one minor logistical problem which complicated our well established placement process. On Friday morning, Brookside Gardens

▼ Bill Miller standing behind his Best-in-Show entry of 'Annamaria' at the 2011 Brookside Gardens Chapter's 32nd annual flower show at Brookside Gardens on Saturday, April 30.



pre-empted us for a special speaker in the auditorium where our show is staged. This change in procedure created a bit of a log jam because it meant that we had to hold our entries in the adult classroom until the program was over and the auditorium could be setup for our show. To help with our loss of time, Brookside permitted us several hours past the 5 p.m. closing time to complete the placement process. The bottom line — it all worked out. The two panels of judges were ably headed by **Don Voss** and **Emile Deckert** and judging proceeded without incident on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. When the dust cleared, **Bill Miller's** entry of 'Annamaria' was awarded Best-in-Show. Making it a clean sweep, he also was awarded the Sweepstakes Award for the most points (see photo).

At the special request of Brookside Gardens our Brookside Sale was moved up to coincide with the flower show and was expanded to a second day (Saturday and Sunday). It is likely that this arrangement will be the routine for the future. The crowds seemed heavier, but then one has to consider that at one point there was a flower show inside and three independent sales going on inside and outside. Thanks to **Judy Karpen**, **Ming** and **Yoriko Chin**, **Betty Bieberly**, and **Mary Rutley**, the sales at the chapter table did well. White's Nursery was represented by Nancy White and her crew. It was a little awkward in that the grassy area that routinely served as the plant sales area was cordoned off and unavailable due to it having been recently seeded. As a consequence, selling space was quite limited. Still, the sales were quite successful, and a lot of good looking plants found new homes.

The Tilden Sale was Saturday, May 7. This sale, the Saturday before Mother's Day, has been a long standing tradition which began at the Suburban Trust parking lot in Wheaton, Maryland many years ago under the management of the late Ryon Page and eventually found a home at the Tilden Middle School (the former Woodward High School) parking lot located on Old Georgetown Road, just north of the Tuckerman Lane intersection. **Judy Karpen** and **Yoriko** and **Ming Chin** manned the chapter table which always has its share of interesting and exotic (in the good sense of the word) companion plants. Much of the material for the chapter table is donated by members. A small redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) was donated by one of the members this year. Amazingly—no sooner had it been put down but a lady immediately picked it up and bought it. It was in contact with the ground about three seconds.

A chapter picnic was held on Sunday, May 29 at the home of **Janet** and **Bill Miller** in Bethesda, Maryland.

Sunday, September 18 will be the chapter auction at Brookside Gardens. Viewing begins at 10:30 a.m. and the auction begins at 11 a.m.—rain or shine. We have been fortunate in the past and only had a couple of rainy auctions.

Most gardeners are not deterred by a little rain. The plants are first class and extend to the far reaches of the plant kingdom. There is always a new plant that most people are not familiar with, the competition is good natured, and the ultimate prices are a bargain.

Sunday, October 9, will be the next chapter meeting. The speaker will be Molly Ridout and the title of her presentation will be *The History of the William Paca Garden*.

Sunday, December 4 will be the chapter annual meeting and the last activity of the year. We will have the election of officers and the presentation of the F. P. Lee Commendation for 2011. The speaker will be **Bill Miller** and his presentation will be entitled *Nice Books and Pretty Pictures*.

The meetings are open, and anyone may attend. Our schedule of activities is posted on the ASA Web site at <http://www.azaleas.org/bg.html>.

Lake Michigan

Linda Lanning

On May 21 the Lake Michigan Chapter held a business meeting and luncheon at the residence of **John Migas** in Saugatuck, Michigan. The Tri-State Chapter was invited to attend. The meeting included a review of the convention, election of officers, and planning for upcoming events. The azaleas were blooming and we also enjoyed a tour of John's garden.

Northern Virginia

Rick Bauer

We're beginning to commence a new year for the Northern Virginia Chapter. The Chapter elected a new slate of officers at our December Holiday Social. I'd like to thank those officers who served last year. It takes a lot of work to plan and implement chapter activities and we appreciate those who volunteer to serve as chapter officers or heads of committees. I'd like to give a special thanks to **Eve Harrison** who served as President for four years and instituted, or reinstituted, many interesting activities for our members.

I'm excited about the program we have for the Chapter this year. We're continuing to implement new and interesting activities for our members. Two of the new additions this year were the Charlottesville garden visit April 13-14 and a visit to the U.S. National Arboretum on April 26. We held our plant sale at Green Springs Garden on May 14 this year as it is closer than Blandy (where we held our sales in 2008/10).

Additionally, we're looking to collaborate with other plant societies and ASA chapters to widen the variety of activities for our members. We have two activities this year in conjunction with the ARS. The first, a plant trip to North Carolina nurseries, was held in March. In October, we are invited to join ARS at Hooper Bald.

Good communications are key to the success of any organization. We continue to produce the Clipper newsletter, however we are supplementing that with monthly email messages to members, supplemental mailings where necessary and monthly updates to our Web page <http://www.azaleas.org/nv.html>.

www.azaleas.org/nv.html. The latter is especially useful for conveying last minute changes. I encourage you to visit the site.

Oconee

Jim Thornton

Members met March 20 with special guest speaker and chapter member **Charlie Andrews**. Charlie presented slides and discussion on the Breedlove azaleas. These azaleas were named after the Breedlove 100-acre farm in Cherokee county, Georgia. In the 1960's, Charlie's father had purchased the place and held until he died in the 1970's. At his father's death, Charlie inherited the farm. As Charlie put it, "I was enamored with the azaleas on the place." Between 1982 and 1997, he took hundreds of photographs of the many spectacular specimens.

Before selling the farm, he transplanted about 120 plants to where they are now thriving at Wild Wood, his and wife, Mardi's current home. Charlie left us with a CD to share.

After refreshments provided by **Barbara Bloodworth** and **John Callaway**, we had a drawing for plants that included native azalea seedlings from **Ken Gohring**.

We concluded the meeting after a short discussion about the 2013 ASA convention.

▼ A Breedlove azalea, named for the 100-acre Breedlove farm in Cherokee county, Georgia.



Photo Charlie Andrews