

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



▲ David J. Empel

Photo Barbara L. Bullock

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.

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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.

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