

Some of Joe's hybrids have exhibited some pretty spectacular fall foliage color. In the future, he would like to find an azalea that combines this feature with exceptional flowers.

His most recent objective is to create a double flowering yellow deciduous azalea.

About Joe

Joe Klimavicz has been gifted with seemingly boundless energy, a high curiosity quotient, and a superb memory. These talents are well-suited to the task of hybridizing, and Joe has bundled them together in a package that allows him to accomplish much more than one might envision possible.

Joe has a very generous nature. He is more than willing to share the vast amount of experiential knowledge he has accumulated over the years. Each season he offers cuttings of his named hybrids, as well as excess seed, to those who are interested. He frequently opens his garden to visitors, an opportunity not to be missed.

In the words of Bob Stewart, "Joe is an exceptional guy; a perfectionist, a great husband, and a wonderful dad."

During his tenure as president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, Joe chaired the 1998 National ASA Convention. He has spoken at other conventions, and to several chapters within of the ASA, about his hybridization project.

Joe has been kind enough to donate the naming rights for one of his azaleas to the 2016 ARS/ASA Convention. The lucky winner of MV-04-39 will acquire several copies of the azalea as well as a certificate of registration.

Learn More

If you would like to learn more about Joe and his hybrids, you can go to the Northern Virginia Chapter website at <http://www.nv-asa.org>, click on 'Legacy Project' on the left menu, and then on the 'Klimavicz' tab.

The Klimavicz hybrids will be among those featured at the 2016 Convention plant sale. This event will be located

in Williamsburg, Virginia and hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA and the Potomac Valley, Mason-Dixon, and Middle Atlantic Chapters of the ARS. Information on the convention can be accessed at <http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org>.

Conclusion

Joe Klimavicz has produced many exceptional azalea hybrids, and continues to search for more treasures that have that magical quality that entices us to add them into our gardens. Bob Stewart's expressed wish for Joe is that "he finds what he's looking for; it's out there."

References

Mensing, Louis, "Breeding Objectives or Hybridizing for a Purpose", *The Azalean*, 1985. 7 (4): 83-84.

Hyatt, Don, "Hybridizing Fever—The Quest for New Azaleas", *The Azalean*, 1997. 19 (4): 69-72.

Hyatt, Don, "The Furman Rhododendron Legacy: A Labor of Love", *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, Fall 2015. 69 (4): 208-215.

Notes

1. Glassine is a thin, smooth and glossy, usually transparent paper that is air-, water-, and grease-resistant, also used by philatelists.

Carolyn Beck is a retired Registered Nurse and an active member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. She and her husband, Paul, are concentrating their efforts on the chapter's Legacy Hybrids (see NV-ASA.org for more information on their Legacy Project). She is also the NV-ASA 2016 Convention plant sale chairman. The chapter is working on growing 2000 azaleas for the sale. Carolyn is one of the contributors and plans to provide about 1000 in a combination of 4"- and 3-quart pots.

New Members

Central Carolinas

K. G. Griffith
1440 Pom Orchid Lane
Kannapolis, NC 28081-7426

Ginger Whaley
95 Cross Ridge
Greenville, SC 29607-4389

Rev John Drayton

John & Karen Donato
405 Waring Street
Summerville, SC 29483-4300

Clarence A. Hollar
1169 Chesterfield Road
North Charleston, SC 29405-4734

Louisiana

June Faul
100 Ryan Street
Lafayette, LA 70501-6746

Scenic Lafayette
121 Corinne Street
Lafayette, LA 70506-4206

Matilde Smith
515 Cypress Cove
Youngsville, LA 70592-5129

May Vidacovich
201 Grossie Drive
Lafayette, LA 70501-4025

Cindy Chaney Wiley
815 Saint Thomas Street
Lafayette, LA 70506-3225

Vaseyi

Mary and Nigel Strickland
42 Country Club Road
Mills River, NC 28759-2600

Judy and Chuck VanRens
109 Woodhaven Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739-9344