ASA Seed Exchange

Contributing Seed

Seed contributions are accepted from ASA members and other sources until December 31. Put the seed from each plant into one paper envelope and describe by:

- contributor's name
- seed parent name
- pollen parent name
- plant type (evergreen, deciduous, azaleodendron)
- pollination type (cutting wood, open pollinated, hand pollinated)
- where collected (geographic feature or town)
- notes

Write this information on seed envelopes or download and print the seed data form (4KB) from the ASA website at: **Propagation>Seed Exchange**. Mail seed envelopes to:

Lindy Johnson
843 Wallace Rd
Trade, TN 37691

If you have digital pictures of the parents, please e-mail them to Dave Banks (dfbanks@earthlink.net), with the name, date and location taken, for posting on the web linked to your seed.

When we receive the seed, each lot is cleaned and packaged into #1 coin envelopes, assigned identification numbers, and stored.

Ordering Seed

The 2019 seed list will be posted online on or about January 1st, with an address to request a hard copy list of seed available.

Seed is shown on the web on a **seed list page**, where it is listed alphabetically by seed parent name with the information provided by the seed contributor, including links to any pictures of the parent plants.

Seed distribution schedule is on a first-come, first-served basis:

- January 1-April 1: to contributors and ASA members
- Starting April 1: to anyone
- Each seed packet (#1 coin envelope) contains approximately 50 seeds.
- Costs: $2.00 per packet, plus $3.00 for shipping and handling all the envelopes in one order.

Orders can be placed by e-mail to appalnativeplants@gmail.com or by a letter addressed to the address provided above. All seed not distributed before the annual convention will be offered for sale there. Payment can be by a check made out to "ASA" with "seed exchange" on the memo line, or by a credit card payment through PayPal using the form on the Seed Exchange 2018 page.

What's in a Name?

By Barbara Stump—Nacogdoches, Texas

Way back in 1753 Swedish botanist and scholar Carolus Linnaeus simplified the naming of all types of plants by giving them two names in Latin: a genus and a species epithet. Before that, people would try to describe the plants they knew willy-nilly by as many descriptors as possible. For example, a violet might be called purple-flowered plant with heart-shaped leaves that dies in the winter. The problem, of course, is that not everyone describes plants the same way.

So Linneaus' solution was elegantly simple: Group plants that all have the same characteristics in the same genus, and then divide them into species that indicate important characteristics to help distinguish one member of a genus from another. Thus, all azaleas now belong to the genus *Rhododendron*, but not all are evergreen, or have fragrance, or are a certain color. It is these differences that resulted in species names.

One difficulty arose for our Southern favorite azaleas, the "Formosa" azalea. The 1838 genus name was *Azalea* (feminine gender in Latin), which required a feminine descriptive species, such as Formosa. It was around this time that azaleas began to be imported into America and the *Azalea formosa* 'White' or 'Pink' or 'Rose' became very familiar on nursery lists and to home gardeners.

Meanwhile in 1834 Scottish botanist and scholar George Don had published his *A General System of Dichlamydeous Plants*, which widely influenced azalea nomenclature. This work placed many species of *Azalea* in genus *Rhododendron*. Accordingly, the specific epithets for those species had to agree with the Latin gender of Rhododendron. *Rhododendron* is now the genus name for both *rhododendron*s and azaleas.

Rhododendrons are typically larger plants, have larger trusses ("towers") of flowers, mainly waxy leaves, are always evergreen, and typically grow in colder climates where they can withstand below-zero temperatures. Southern nursery breeders are working with *Rhododendron hyperethrum*, which has heat-tolerance, to develop a series of rhododendrons for the South.

Azaleas have now been classified within the genus *Rhododendron* as having very different species characteristics—such as smaller shrubs, some that lose their leaves in the winter, some that have hairy leaves, some with fragrance, etc. An example would be our native *Rhododendron viscosum*, commonly named the Texas Azalea or the Texas Swamp Azalea, which is white-flowered. There are 19 different deciduous species native to America. All of the evergreen azaleas came from Southeast Asia and Japan, including our Southern favorite *Rhododendron formosum* 'Lavender Formosa'.

So, bottom line, our favorite *Rhododendron* "Formosa" azaleas are now more accurately named *R. formosum* 'Pink Formosum' in the botanical literature references.

Some of this information appeared in the following: Stump, Barbara. *Azaleas of Nacogdoches*. Stephen F. Austin State University Press, Nacogdoches, TX. 2015. p. 39.