

June 14th to 15th. Several Vaseyi Chapter members hope to attend.

Vaseyi Chapter members also extended invitations to visit their gardens at peak azalea bloom times: Audrey Stelloh on April 20-22, and Andy and You-Ying Whipple on May 11. The blooms of the Vaseyi collection of J and Lindy Jackson were outstanding this year, and members were invited to visit on May 17.

Vaseyi Chapter welcomes new North Carolina members Leshia and Russell Webb, Candler; Daniel and Kaye Allison and Rick and Sara Davis, Robbinsville; and Francine Ritch, Sanford.

## New At-large Members

The ASA welcomes: Connie Landers, Brinnon, WA; David Ledlie, Buckfield, ME; Don Farris, Eclectic, AL; Kelly Kline, Malibu, CA; and Brent Wilson, McDonough, GA.

# Renewal Time is Approaching

By Paul Beck, Treasurer

That time of year, when your annual dues need to be paid, is fast approaching. Dues are still \$30 per year. Paper mailing of reminders will go out in mid-October, and an email reminder shortly thereafter. If you use email, and were not notified last year about your renewal via email, please send me your email address at [treasurer@azaleas.org](mailto:treasurer@azaleas.org).



In an attempt to improve renewal percentages, this year the follow-up reminders will be handled by the local chapters instead of by me. Hopefully the more local approach will be more fruitful.

Renewal is best accomplished by using the **Join Us**, **Renew** or **Donate** link on the ASA website. If you choose not to renew electronically, you may use the renewal form on the wrapper of this issue and the winter issue of *The Azalean*. This application form is also available on the ASA website.

This year I am again encouraging the use of our **subscription service**, via the **PayPal™** credit card payment service. This will allow you to register your credit card with PayPal, and have your annual membership fees deducted automatically. Click on the "Yearly Automatic Subscription" accordion near the bottom of the **Join Us** page.

# Navigating the Searchable ASA Azalea Database

By Paul Beck—Treasurer and Assistant Webmaster

This is the second in a series of articles describing the interactive features of the new ASA website. This series was introduced in the 2017 winter issue of *The Azalean*, and there will be a short article in subsequent issues describing a single feature as outlined in the introduction. This article focuses on the **Searchable Azalea Database**. This database is accessed from the top-level menu item "Azalea Types."

## Database Design Goals

The ASA azalea database is a key component of the new society website introduced in 2017. There were three primary design goals for this new implementation of public access to azalea records: (1) create a searchable repository of azalea characteristics; (2) integrate descriptions, characteristics, and photographs in one place; and (3) provide the ability for selected society members to enter and update azalea data so that data entry is not the responsibility of the webmaster.

This last goal permeates many of the new interactive features of the website; dispersed data management is a key aspect in the design of each component. In the 2018 spring issue of *The Azalean*, I discussed the membership database. The data update capability for membership records can be assigned to selected members, such as the membership chairperson, chapter officers, and at the lowest level, the individual member can update their own record.

For the azalea database, selected members who have volunteered to assist with improving and filling out information gaps can be assigned a "role" on the website, tied to their login email, that provides them with the ability to update selected cultivar data (in the case of **Legacy Project** leads), specific non-legacy groups, or all azalea data.

## Help Needed

As indicated at the top of the azalea database page, the total number of azaleas in the database is over 11,000, and much help is needed to fill out missing information gaps. Most of this data came from the old ASA website pages which were not easily searched, and which had no descriptions or photographs. Unfortunately, there are also a lot of duplicate entries in the database due to the way the data was entered/merged, or incorrect/different group designations for the same plant. These duplicates need to be sorted through and removed.

Although the pBase photo website contained many photographs, they were not linked to the cultivar listing on the ASA website. After the new website was launched, I attempted to locate the original photos for those published on pBase; however, I discovered that the originals were no longer available in one place. The resolution of the photos residing on pBase is not sufficient for use on the new website, so the original photos need to be located. ASA Member

Jim Trumbly from Roseville, CA has been kind enough to provide a very large number of Satsuki photographs for use on the website. I am working through these photos (at a snail's pace, unfortunately). Please contact me if you have good resolution photos with azalea name identifications that you are willing to share. All photos uploaded from this time forward will have a copyright statement crediting the photographer.

Approximately 2,000 cultivars were also merged from the Northern Virginia (NVA) chapter website, and the design of the new ASA website data was patterned after the NVA website. These cultivars, for the most part, included a description and several high-resolution photographs, as well as searchable criteria in some instances. The eventual goal is to provide a similar presentation for a large portion of the remaining cultivars. This is where you can help! Please contact me if you are willing to help with this huge task.

## Searching

When the azalea database is first accessed, a fairly lengthy list of search instructions is presented. Those instructions will not be repeated here. Briefly, you can search for cultivars on the following attributes:

- Name and/or Group;
- Type (Azaleodendron, Deciduous, Evergreen, and Unknown);
- Predominant Color(s); and
- Bloom period (e.g., early, midseason, late)

These attributes can be combined to further limit the search results.

## Browsing

The default method for viewing the azalea database is browsing by cultivar name. When the database is first accessed from the **Azalea Types**→**Azalea Database** menu, an A to Z list of links is presented above the search criteria:

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

If you click on one of these letters, you will be presented with all the cultivars starting with that letter, and a further refined three-letter set of links (first three letters of the cultivar) for that segment of the alphabet. This handy browsing feature was adopted from the old website.

[Gar](#)⇒[Gek](#) [Gek](#)⇒[Gen](#) [Gen](#)⇒[Get](#) [Get](#)⇒[Gir](#) [Gir](#)⇒[Gla](#)

Below the search criteria will be displayed the browse results for that segment of the alphabet:

 <a href="#">'Girard's Fuchsia'</a>	Girard	evg	Purple,Red	Midseason
<a href="#">'Girard's Hot Shot'</a> <a href="#">'Hot Shot'</a>	Girard	Galle85	evg	

If there is a small thumbnail photo at the start of the row, there are one or more photos associated with the cultivar. The photos can be viewed by clicking on the thumbnail or the cultivar name link. The full details on the cultivar will also be displayed, as shown below.



3-4' x 3-4', upright. Flowers deep, brilliant reddish-purple (RHS 71A) with a prominent, very dark blotch. Single with rounded, overlapping lobes and ruffled edges, 2 1/2-3" wide. Blooms early; early May in NV. Glossy dark green foliage turns a reddish tint in winter. Hardy to -15 F/Zone 5.

Cultivar:	Group:	Ref:	Type:	Color:	Blooms:
'Girard's Fuchsia'	Girard		Evergreen	Purple,Red	Midseason
Other Name(s):	Seed Parent:	Pollen Parent:	Height:	Hardy:	
			3-1/2 ft	Hardy to -15 F.	

Above the description are thumbnails for all the photos currently available for this cultivar. If you click on one of these thumbnails, a pop-up carousel is shown, with the ability to scroll forward or backward through the images. If we have a sufficiently high-resolution image, a nearly full-screen image is displayed. These images are not the highest quality (they have been reduced to provide better download speed) but are very satisfactory for full-screen presentation and can be extracted to your computer from the website. Note that many photos are copyrighted by the photographer and may not be used without permission from the photographer.

## Data Export (Possible New Capability)

I am considering adding a data export feature, as is available on the member database. If there is sufficient interest, this feature can be implemented reasonably easily. In the present state of the database, an export will not be of great use where there is no description or where attributes for the cultivar have not been added to the data. Let me know if you think this feature would be worthwhile. Email me at [treasurer@azaleas.org](mailto:treasurer@azaleas.org)

## The Azalean Needs Short Articles!

Consider writing for the journal about topics that interest you or concern you about azalea care, culture, and enjoyment. In 2019 your editorial team would like to publish articles that would help



members care for pests, diseases, create new garden beds, or places to visit to see fabulous azalea gardens. It is especially helpful if these can be 300-400 words. Please send to [TheAzalean@gmail.com](mailto:TheAzalean@gmail.com).