



The Azalean

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Journal of the Azalea Society of America

# President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia



I wanted to start this message with more good news for the society. We have just added a new chapter, the Texas Forest Country Chapter in Jasper, Texas. Jasper has been a hotbed of activity this year with 16 new members joining the society and the designation of Jasper as an Azalea City. The city of Jasper has been an enthusiastic supporter of azaleas and the new chapter. They have provided an area for the chapter to meet and have also gained state funding for a city beautification project including azaleas. Congratulations to the new chapter members and their president, Robert Thau. Robert is known as “Mr. Azalea” in the Jasper area and has worked with city officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and Master Gardeners to promote azaleas and the ASA in Jasper.

The events in Jasper capped off a very successful year for the society. In April we had a very successful convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. This was the first time the society had met in the state of Arkansas. It would not have been possible without the assistance of Janet Carson and the Arkansas Master Gardeners as well as the small cadre of ASA members we had living in the state. Allen Owings and the Louisiana Chapter stepped to the plate for the second year in a row to take part in the planning and execution of the convention and to provide financial support. We also tried something new in conducting an Azaleas 101 seminar for the first time. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase azaleas to an audience of Master Gardeners. It also increased the membership rolls of the society, since each attendee received a half year membership in the society. As a result of this increased presence in the state, we were able to establish a new chapter, the Arkansas Chapter, with Ronnie Palmer as the first president.

In June we designated Robbinsville, NC, as an Azalea City and participated in their first annual Native Azalea Festival. A number of society members participated in the festivities and we thank the residents of Robbinsville and Graham County for their hospitality and their support in promoting native azaleas.

I have been pleased with the growth in the Legacy Project. We continue to add hybrid groups and there are ongoing efforts to propagate these azaleas and get them out to the general public. There are also efforts at the chapter level to work with public gardens to introduce or enhance their collections of Legacy azaleas.

I'm excited about the upcoming convention in Charleston. We were there several years ago and saw some outstanding gardens, though we were a little early for peak blooms. I'm hoping to see some spectacular azaleas and hear interesting speakers....plus, Charleston is a wonderful city to visit. I hope to see many of you at the convention.

Hopefully we will continue the momentum we've started this year. We have produced a manual with good ideas for having successful chapters. We hope that members at the local level will incorporate some of these ideas to gain and retain members. We are always looking for other ideas that we can share across the society. Besides the enjoyment of azaleas, one of my main reasons for being in the society is the people. I have enjoyed socializing with our society members this year and look forward to 2019.

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

*Rhododendron occidentale*, the western azalea, seen in a portion of the Bremen Rhododendron Garden highlighting North American rhododendrons that also included *R. calendulaceum*, the flame azalea. See related article, p. 76. [Photo Rick Bauer]

*R. occidentale* is one of our most diverse deciduous Rhododendrons. It ranges in color from white to pink and can be found in both diploid and tetraploid forms. It is part of the unique flora found along the Northern California and Oregon coastline. The western azalea was used to develop some of the Exbury hybrids from Great Britain.

During the twentieth century it has been the subject of ongoing plant exploration as rhododendron enthusiasts seek out unusual forms for use in the garden. Many of these unusual forms are now conserved in the Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden at Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley, WA. [Thanks to Aaron Cook for this additional information]



# ARS 2018 Convention Report—Bremen, Germany

By Richard Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

This year, from May 20-26, the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) held their annual convention in conjunction with the Deutsche Rhododendron Gesellschaft (DRG—the German equivalent of the ARS) in Bremen, Germany. Those who attended the convention also had the opportunity to extend their trip with a series of pre-tours in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, and/or a post tour to Finland. There were 176 attendees from 18 countries. Twenty-eight Azalea Society of America (ASA) members, who also have membership in the ARS, took advantage of this wonderful opportunity. The convention was held at the Swissotel, Bremen, a modern hotel just steps from the old city center of Bremen.

## Sunday, May 20

Most convention attendees arrived on Sunday, May 20. The ARS held their board meeting on Monday so many of us had free time on Sunday and Monday to explore the city of Bremen. It was also a holiday weekend, so the town was full of tourists and local residents. To top it off, we had beautiful sunny weather. This weather was a continuation of an unseasonably warm spring. We were advised that it might be a good idea to visit the Bremen Rhododendron Park in advance of our planned Thursday visit, since blooms of a number of the varieties had already peaked.

Those of you who are familiar with the Grimm brothers' stories, have probably read "The Town Musicians of

▼ Photo 1—Statue of the Grimm Brothers' "Town Musicians of Bremen."



Photo Susan Bauer

Bremen." The town has memorialized the main characters in the story with a statue outside of the city hall (Rathaus). The Rathaus and the Roland statue in front of it are both recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. [Photos 1, 2, 3.]

## Monday, May 21

The official registration occurred Monday evening, followed by a reception and then an official welcome from the president of the DRG, Dr. Andre-Michael Schultz, ARS President Ann Mangels, and ARS Vice President Ken Webb. The evening was capped off by a delicious dinner of German specialties.

## Tuesday, May 22

Tuesday was a day of presentations, all with the theme of the convention: "From the wild...into our life." Tuesday's focus was on "Finding Rhododendrons," with presentations focused on the origins of rhododendrons in the wild. Several renowned individuals in the horticulture field gave us interesting presentations dealing with the different varieties of azaleas across the planet and stories about the discovery of these varieties. A large number of the species came from Asia and it seemed that all of the trips to collect the specimens involved roughing it and leeches. We can be thankful to those who have made these arduous trips and returned with the plant material and some beautiful photos.

That evening we went to the Rathaus where we had a reception and were welcomed by Senator Dr. Joachim Lohse, Senator for the Environment, Construction, and Transport of

▼ Photo 2—The Bremen Rathaus (City Hall) is the seat of the President of the Senate and Mayor of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen and is one of the most important examples of Brick Gothic architecture in Europe. Since 1973, it has been protected by the monument protection act and in 2004 was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with the Bremen Roland statue.



Photo Rick Bauer



▲ Photo 3—The Bremen Roland statue was erected in 1404 and symbolizes trading rights and freedom.

the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. The welcome was in a beautiful hall in the oldest portion of the Rathaus which dated back to the 1400s. After the welcome, we had a wonderful buffet dinner in the Ratskeller Restaurant in the basement of city hall.

### Wednesday, May 23

Wednesday we hit the road heading towards Ammerland, the rhododendron growing area of Germany. We visited the Van der Berk Nursery first. This nursery consists of 124 acres of drained moorland. They raise their plants in the ground rather than in pots and the plants they sell are mainly to landscapers, so they are much larger than those found in garden shops. Their collection of rhododendron and azaleas includes over 160 species. [Photos 4, 5.]

To give us a better view of the nursery, they attempted to load a number of us on a device to lift us up into the air for a better view of the rhododendron fields; however, once we were up in the air, the device malfunctioned. (I guess we exceeded the maximum weight limit.) They eventually brought another piece of equipment over to rescue the 10 of us enjoying the view. [Photos 6, 7.]

After our visit, we traveled to Bad Zwischenau where we enjoyed a typical German lunch at the lakeside Fährkroog Dreibergen Restaurant. As was typical of the area, the restaurant grounds had an ample supply of mature



▲ Photo 4—“Golden Eagle” azalea in Van der Berk Nursery.

▼ Photo 5—“Schnee Gold” (“Snow Gold”) azalea.



rhododendrons.

Our next stop was the Park der Gärten (Park of the Gardens) in Bad Zwischenahn.<sup>1</sup> The park was the site of the Lower Saxonian Horticulture Show in 2002. After the show, the decision was made to retain the 35-acre property as a park with a series of over 40 theme gardens. They have an extensive area dedicated to rhododendrons and azaleas that includes a number of hybrids derived from the *Luteum* azalea, a native of southeastern Europe and southwest Asia, frequently referred to as the yellow or honeysuckle azalea. [Photos 8-11.] They also have Mollis hybrids which were developed in Belgium and Holland. [Photo 12.]

We ended the day at the zu Jeddelloh home and nursery.<sup>2</sup>



Photo Rick Bauer

The zu Jeddelloh family has been cultivating the land in the town of Jeddelloh for over 15 generations. The zu Jeddelloh Pflanzen Nursery was founded over 80 years ago by Jan-Dieter zu Jeddelloh with conifers the primary focus. Their beautiful home garden, with five themed gardens, also serves as a display garden for their nursery, which mainly serves garden shops.

The visit was split into two parts, the display garden and the nursery. Our group was also split in two for the tours. The zu Jeddellohs had set up a tent where we were served refreshments by Sabine zu Jeddelloh (who also serves as Vice President of the DRG) before we headed out on a tour of the five-acre garden.

After the garden tour we boarded a train (on wheels) to take us for a tour of the nursery operation. [Photo 13.] The nursery specializes in container plants. For those members who have attended the conventions in Louisiana, it is very reminiscent of Bracy Nursery and their orderly line-up of plants.

We returned to the hotel and our day ended with a buffet in the hotel restaurant.

## Thursday, May 24

Thursday started with a guided tour of the city of Bremen. While most of us had been to the city earlier in the week, the knowledgeable guides helped us in understanding the city's history and importance. Its major historical importance was as one of the members of the Hanseatic League.

At the end of the tour, we boarded busses to take us to the Bremen Rhododendron Garden. As its name implies, its major focus is rhododendrons (and azaleas), though other companion plants are also on display. While the season was a little early this year due to unseasonably warm weather, there were plenty of plants at peak bloom. The garden is well laid out and the plants very well marked. The day was broken up into three tour periods where you could take three of the five tours offered. [Photo 14.]

The day ended with another sumptuous meal in the Botanika visitor information center. Botanika includes a greenhouse which contains non-hardy rhododendron from

▲ Photo 6— View of the rhododendron fields at Van der Berk Nursery.



Photo Susan Bauer

▲ Photo 7— Attendees stuck in the air while enjoying the view of the Van der Berk Nursery.

▼ Photo 8— Luteum hybrid, "Alba Grandiflora."



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Rick Bauer

▲ Photo 9— Luteum hybrid, "Ignaea Nova."



Photo Rick Bauer

▲ Photo 10— Luteum hybrid, "Nancy Waterer."

▼ Photo 11— Luteum hybrid, "Richardissimo."

▼ Photo 12— Mollis hybrid, "Suzanne Loef."



Photo Rick Bauer

▼ Photo 13—"Train" to take us through the zu Jeddloh Nursery.



Photo Rick Bauer

▼ Photo 14—Azalea and Rhododendron Garden in the Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens) in Bremen.



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Rick Bauer

different parts of the world including Borneo/New Guinea and the Himalayas. [Photo 15.] All of the convention attendees also received a picture book in English about the Bremen Rhododendron Garden.

## Friday, May 25

Friday was another day of presentations, focused on the second portion of the theme: “Into our life: Using Rhododendrons.” The talks highlighted the use of rhododendrons in gardens and in medicine. That evening was our gala banquet. Again, we were treated to delicious food and drink. The ARS also held their award ceremony. Four ARS Gold Medal awards were given out, including one for Dave Banks. The evening was capped off by a talk on “The Crazy World of Rhododendrons” given by Don Hyatt. It was informative and entertaining, as Don’s presentations normally are. It also introduced “Bubba” the deer (who destroyed his deer fence), to a whole new international audience.

## Saturday, May 26

On Saturday we headed up to the Ammerland region again, stopping at the Schroeder Nursery in Wiefelstede first.<sup>3</sup> Our visit started with a welcome by the Managing Director, Timo Schroeder, who explained that the nursery’s focus was producing plants with a strong root structure. To do this, they take plants with the characteristics desired by the customer and graft them to hardy root stock, using *Rhododendron* “Cunningham’s White.” This enables them to provide hardy plants...even in varieties which normally do not have a robust root system. He also gave us a quick demonstration of their grafting process.

After the demonstration, we all loaded onto tractor-pulled trailers for a hayride through the nursery operation. [Photo 16.] The nursery operation covers more than 17 acres and produces 1.5 million plants each year by grafting the desired varieties onto the hardy root stock. These grafted cuttings are grown in a series of greenhouses before they are potted and moved to container fields. [Photo 17.]

After a delicious lunch break of German sausage, pork steak, and potatoes, served at the nursery, we headed off to the Bruns Nursery in Gristede.<sup>4</sup> This nursery has been run by the Bruns family for 140 years. It has a staff of 300 and cultivates more than 4000 species on over 1200 acres. Fortunately, we started by having a guided tour through their widespread nursery operation while remaining on our busses. The Bruns Nursery focuses on trees, topiaries, and shrubs such as rhododendrons and azaleas.

After our overview, we got onto trailers again for a hayride through the high end of their inventory. [Photo 18.] We saw a large number of very mature, high quality plants. [Photo 19.] These plants, used by landscapers for well-heeled customers, could sell for € 20,000 (\$24,000) or more.

We then proceeded through their 62-acre rhododendron park with over 1000 cultivars and species of rhododendrons and azaleas (the word “hobby” was used to describe the garden), which is open to the public. This was an extremely impressive garden by any standard. Some of their specimens have grown to over 25 feet tall. This ride ended at the park



Photo Rick Bauer

▲ Photo 15— Karel Bernady setting up a shot of a Himalyan rhododendron.

▼ Photo 16— Fred and Sandra Anderson (Vaseyi Chapter) begin their hayride through the Schroeder Nursery.



Photo Rick Bauer

▼ Photo 17—Dr. Hartwig Schepker, convention chair, providing background on the Schroeder Nursery.



Photo Rick Bauer





Photo Rick Bauer

▲ Photo 18— Dave and Leslie Nanney (Northern Virginia Chapter) ready for their hayride through the Bruns Nursery.

▼ Photo 19— High end topiary in the Bruns Nursery



Photo Rick Bauer

▼ Photo 21— Oompah Band at Bruns pavilion.



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Rick Bauer

▲ Photo 20— Dinner at the Bruns Nursery pavilion.

pavilion, built in 2009, where they had set up a sumptuous banquet for us with more German food, beer, and wine. [Photo 20.] To top it off, they had a German Oom-pah band. [Photo 21.] It was a wonderful evening with beautiful weather, good friends, and good food.

The visit to Bruns Nursery was the last event in a memorable convention. The convention organizers, led by Dr. Hartwig Schepker, Director of the Bremen Rhododendron Park, his staff, volunteers from the various branches of the ARS and the nursery and garden owners could not have done a better job of planning and hosting this convention.<sup>5</sup> They certainly set the bar extremely high and excelled in their Gastfreundschaft (hospitality). It truly was a once in a lifetime experience.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> [www.park-der-gaerten.de](http://www.park-der-gaerten.de)
- <sup>2</sup> [www.jeddeloh.de](http://www.jeddeloh.de)
- <sup>3</sup> [www.schroeder-rhododendron.de](http://www.schroeder-rhododendron.de)
- <sup>4</sup> [www.bruns.de](http://www.bruns.de)
- <sup>5</sup> Schepker, Dr. Hartwig. "Gardens and Lectures of the 2018 ARS Convention in Northwestern Germany." *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. Fall 2017. 71(4):199-207.

Rick Bauer is President of the ASA. He and his wife Susan have been members of Northern Virginia Chapter since 2002. Rick served as the chapter vice president of the Northern Virginia Chapter for four years and chapter president for five years. He also served as an ASA director for two years. He was co-chair of the 2016 ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg, VA. He also was a member of the team which digitized *The Azalean*. Rick was part of the team which started the 'Legacy Project' within the Northern Virginia Chapter. This project is designed to help ensure the continuation of knowledge of azalea hybridizers and their plants and maintain true specimens of their cultivars. He retired from the US Army in 1994 after 20 years of active service and retired in 2011 from Science Applications International Corporation, where he helped develop software applications for Army customers.

# The Why and How of Registering Azalea Names

By Michael Martin Mills—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A name is a precious thing. Each of us has one, and though there may be some novelty in running into someone with your identical name, deep down there's more likely a sense of disquiet, concern about confusion. *What do mean you're "Michael M. Mills"? I am the real Michael M. Mills, thank you very much, and if you've been getting my mail or coasting by on my good name, I am really annoyed.*

So, imagine the plight of the lovely 'Aurora'. You know, the yellowish pink Knap Hill azalea with the fetching orange blotch. Oh wait, I think I meant the Australian 'Aurora', light pink and double. Or maybe the orange Mollis 'Aurora'?

You see, there are at least six azaleas named 'Aurora', plus five rhododendrons (elepidote or lepidote), and an outlier named 'Aurore'. Talk about confusion.

If only these cultivars had been properly registered with Royal Horticultural Society – there would be only one 'Aurora' and all the others would have their own unique, not-to-be-confused names.

That's what plant name registration is all about – securing a singular name for a cultivar so that it and it alone is (properly) called by that name.

When a new azalea or rhododendron name is approved as being available and then registered with the requisite documentation, the hybridizer knows that only his or her hybrid can bear that name legitimately.

As North American registrar for azalea and rhododendron names, I unabashedly exhort all hybridizers, seed-sowers and the like – from the backyard hobbyist to the big commercial enterprises – to stake your claim, get those cultivar names registered (or at least pre-approved), so that there is no more mass 'Aurora' nonsense.

Some background and clarification are in order.

Most of those 'Aurora' azaleas and rhododendrons predate the formalized registration era, which was developed and adopted by international horticultural bodies in the years following World War II. In 1955, RHS was appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science to be the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus *Rhododendron*. (The RHS is also ICRA for *Dianthus*, *Lilium*, *Narcissus* and several others. Among the numerous other ICRA's are the Polly Hill Arboretum for *Stewartia* and England's International Maple Society for guess what.)

In 1958, RHS published the first International Rhododendron Register, updated in 2004 as the International Rhododendron Register and Checklist (IRRC). The word "checklist" is important, for this compilation includes all the rhododendron and azalea names the RHS could find in publication. Thus, lots of 'Aurora's (and 'Fawn's and 'Juliana's). For future registration purposes, once a name is in IRRC, formally registered or not, it is taken.

Under the international code, nonduplication of names applies across a genus. For instance, since 'Spring Melody' was registered as an Orlando Pride deciduous azalea in 1973, the name cannot be used for a rhododendron. Vice versa,

'Pink Spectacle', an elepidote registered by Weldon Delp, prevents use of that name for an azalea. On the other hand, the existence of 'Yankee Doodle' the evergreen azalea and 'Yankee Doodle' the kalmia is fully legitimate.

In late 2017, a milestone rhododendron-azalea event was the electronic publication of IRRC in pdf format. Now anyone with an internet connection can access the Register, and download it if desired. In recent years, after the two-volume physical IRRC had gone out of print, the only way a hybridizer could determine the availability of a proposed name had been to contact a registrar. Now anyone can check IRRC – and get happily lost reading the thousands of registered and grandfathered names and their histories and descriptions, which are admittedly somewhat arcane.

The whole process is overseen by the international registrar, Sharon McDonald of the Royal Horticultural Society in England. There are four regional registrars, for North America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, who do the bulk of the work for cultivars from those regions, leaving Europe and the rest of the world for Ms. McDonald.

If you are a hybridizer with a new cultivar you wish to introduce with a snazzy name, what does it take to register it? Short answer: lots of details and some patience, plus a good photo. (But no money; although some ICRA's for other genera charge a fee, there is none for registering an azalea or rhododendron.)

Fair warning: the registration form is long and asks for seemingly arcane data that you may never have thought to record before. The instructions that accompany the form are essential for success. Two years ago, I revised the application form, with valuable input from Carolyn Beck and Donald W. Hyatt, in part to make it less cryptic and less elepidote-centric.

First, there's the proposed name, which in addition to being unique must conform to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. The most relevant rules of the code are a maximum of 30 characters, nothing similar enough to an existing name as to cause confusion (since 'Allen Johnson' exists, 'Alan Jonson' is not allowed), and, if named for a living person, permission of him or her. Many registrants check with me in advance to be sure a name is available, and I can give tips on modifying a proposed name that is already taken.

The details include parentage, history (when hybridized and the like), flower form, dimensions and colors, foliage information, and bloom time.

Colors are the most difficult measurement a registrant must take. The preferred standard is an RHS Colour Chart (and absolutely nothing from a computer, since monitors are quite variable). I regret to report that RHS charts are both expensive and hard to find on a lending basis. Potential sources for borrowing a color chart are ASA and ARS members who have been at the registration game for a while, plus arboretums and college horticultural programs

and institutions. A new RHS Colour Chart (Sixth Edition), which is actually four fans that look just like paint chips, can be purchased at <http://www.rhsshop.co.uk> for about \$265. (Perhaps your ASA chapter could be persuaded to buy one for all members to use.) If you use the newest RHS chart, it has both a number and a name for each color; the number is more important than the name, because many chips have the same name, such as “moderate olive green.” Older RHS editions, with numbers only, are perfectly acceptable for registration and once in a while may be found on Amazon or eBay. The Munsell color system is also acceptable, but it is rarely used in azalea and rhododendron registration.

Working with a color chart is an acquired skill, and must be done under optimal daylight conditions. The RHS charts have “how-to” guides. Be aware that you may need to identify several colors – the unopened bud, the outside of the flower, the main inside color, plus the blotch and picotee, as well as the calyx and leaf colors. Here’s a tip that the RHS instructions doesn’t include: when you’ve narrowed a section of the flower down to two or three chips in the chart, take off your glasses or squint to blur your vision; by blurring out the edge between the chart and the petal, matching the color is easier.

So, indeed, patience is required. Obviously the only time to record flower details is when a plant is in bloom. Better make arrangements for a color chart well in advance – and then practice on some early bloomers. And what if you get all backed up in May with other obligations and cannot get around to recording data until the flowers are “going by”? Aargh, wait 11 months. What if the registrar tells you in July that something is wrong with the measurements? Again, wait till the next bloom cycle. (You must work with actual flowers, not photos.)

Plus, you’ll need patience just to fill out the long registration form. This is another case where first-timers are strongly encouraged to practice on an early bloomer before the new cultivar in question comes into bloom.

I worry that all the data points on the application form may discourage someone from seeking registration; rest assured that many an application has been approved with missing information in a couple of spots.

Are you hoping to register ‘Piranha Pirouette’ this spring? (At last check, that name is still available.) Go to [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org) now; under the “Resources” tab, click

on “Plant Registration.” There you will find the registration form and instructions. You should definitely print out the instructions, which you’ll probably want to have on hand in the garden. Registrants have a choice of submitting the application electronically or on paper via U.S. mail. Electronic registration is preferred, but not required, but all novices should print out the paper version of the registration form to use for compiling data. Have it at hand when you fill out the electronic application. Experienced registrants know how frustrating it is to realize, midway through filling the electronic form, that they have to go out and measure a leaf or some such.

When your new cultivar is at its peak, take some good photos, especially close-ups of the truss or terminal cluster. Not only does the RHS include an image as part of the permanent record, the photos are very helpful as I compare them with the data in the application. Digital photos (not prints) should be sent to me via email ([ARSRegistrar@gmail.com](mailto:ARSRegistrar@gmail.com)) at the same time you submit an application. Be sure to change the file name of each photo to the proposed name you are registering. The registration form includes a photo-rights section so that RHS and ARS may publish the image.

Fortunately, there is an excellent primer available on registration, which should clarify many of the steps involved. The Power Point presentation (also a simple document) was created by ASA/ARS stalwarts Don Hyatt and Donald H. Voss. The registration form has changed since they made the primer, but the critical points of how to measure flowers and identify colors are expertly covered. Find it, for free or a small donation, by going to <http://arsstore.org/programs.php> and clicking on “downloads.” Do this well before your baby is in bloom. This primer is highly recommended.

The combination of reading through the registration form and its instructions and viewing the Hyatt-Voss primer in advance – plus practicing on something that blooms early – will put you in the best position to succeed when your new hybrid is in bloom. And don’t forget to make arrangements for a color chart.

Feel free to contact me as regional registrar. My email address is [ARSRegistrar@gmail.com](mailto:ARSRegistrar@gmail.com). I know the process can feel daunting; everyone has questions. Ask them early!

And by and by your delightful new hybrid, perhaps named with the love of your life in mind, will be published in the International Register with exclusive rights to its name.

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Michael Martin Mills has been North American Registrar for the Genus *Rhododendron* since 2012. He has long been active in the American Rhododendron Society, including three years as president of the ARS Greater Philadelphia Chapter. He and his late partner, Randy Dalton, got their start in the genus from Mr. Dalton’s cousin, Caroline Gable, daughter of azalea and rhododendron hybridizer Joseph B. Gable. Michael maintains a two-acre garden in Philadelphia. His career was in newspapers, including 27 years in several editing positions at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

# Azaleas Registered in 2017

By Michael Martin Mills—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The following azalea names were approved and added to the International Rhododendron Register in 2017 by the Royal Horticultural Society, which serves as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus *Rhododendron*.

## Guide to terms in entries

Royal Horticultural Society color numbers in parentheses, unless another system is noted

X – primary cross

(s) – seed parent of cross, if known

x – cross of an unnamed parent

H – hybridized by

G – grown to first flower by

R – raised by

S – selected by

N – named by

I – introduced commercially by

REG – registered by

**‘Bill Miller’**, evergreen azalea. Bud: deep pink (48B) to strong pink (48C-D) with cream midveins and occasional cream at margins. Inside and outside of flower: blend of strong pink (48D), moderate pink (49B) and light pink (49C); irregular areas of cream; strong yellow green (144C) blotch on interior dorsal lobe, spreading to adjacent lobes. Calyx: strong to moderate yellow green (145A-146D). Irregularly semidouble, funnel shape, 2-2.25 inches (51-57mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide with 5 rounded lobes, some with broadly acute apex; wavy margins; calyx 0.25 inch (6mm) long. Variable petaloidy of stamens from flower to flower; true stamens of variable pink tones; reddish style. 2-3 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering midseason (mid-May in Washington, DC, area). Leaves: moderate olive green (146A), semiglossy; 1.75 x 1-1.2 inches (44 x 25-30mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins.

▼ Photo 1—‘Bill Miller’



Photo Carolyn Beck

Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10-15 years; intermediate habit, floriferous. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Parentage: CB-11 (s) X ‘Quakeress’. H (1998), G (2002), N (2011), REG (2017): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: After Bill Miller of Bethesda, MD, friend of the hybridizer and prominent figure in the Azalea Society of America. Synonym: RBS83 (minimal propagation). Note: CB-11 – not registered. The cultivar was among seedlings discarded by the University of Maryland’s breeding program in the 1990s, acquired by William “Cliff” Brown and shared with registrant, who assigned the number. [Photo 1]

**‘Donald H. Voss’**, evergreen azalea. Bud: vivid purple (80A) shading to strong purplish red (63A) at base. Inside of flower: vivid purple (80A), with slight tinting of light purple (74A) and deep purplish red (59B) blotch on 3 dorsal lobes. Outside: vivid purple (80A). Calyx: strong yellow green (144C). Semi- to fully double, saucer shape; 1.4 inches (35mm) long x 2.5 inches (65mm) wide with 18 rounded lobes, wavy margins. Calyx: insignificant. Purplish style and filaments, blackish anthers, red stigma. 2 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering midseason (early May in Washington, DC, area). Leaves: moderate olive green (146A), semiglossy; 1.2 x 0.6 inches (30 x 15mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C), heat tolerant to 110°F (43°C). Parentage: (‘Haru-no-sono’ x [‘Pocono Pink’ x ‘Janet Rhea’]) x [‘Pocono Pink’ x Klupenger’s ‘Satellite’]) (s) X (‘Caitlin Marie’ x [‘Coronado Red’ x [‘Leopold-Astrid’ x ‘Girard’s Fuchsia’]])]. H (2010), G (2013), N (2017), REG (2017): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA. Etymology of name: for longtime Northern Virginia azalea, taxonomy and floral color expert Donald H. Voss (1922-2016), who was also editor of *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture* (1984), the standard for azalea and rhododendron name registration. He

▼ Photo 2— ‘Donald H.Voss’



Photo Joe Klimavics



Photo Joe Klimavics

▲ Photo 3—'Elisabeth Frances'



Photo Joe Klimavics

▲ Photo 4—'Everlasting Ella'

particularly admired the color of this cultivar. Synonym: hybridizer's number HM-10-34. Hybridizer's numbers of seed and pollen parents: HP-07-1 and M4-07-2, respectively. [Photo 2]

**'Elisabeth Frances'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: strong greenish yellow (151A). Inside and outside of flower: white (NN155D) with strong reddish purple (NN74D) at most lobe tips. Hose-in-hose, funnel shape, 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 1.5 inches (38mm) wide with 10 (5 + 5) rounded, occasionally notched lobes, flat margins; white filaments and style, green stigma. 3 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering midseason (early May in Philadelphia area). Leaves: moderate olive green (137B), semiglossy, 1 x 0.5 inches (25 x 13mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broad acute to rounded apex, flat margins. Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 20 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Parentage: 'Delicatissima' (s) X unknown (open pollinated). G (1994), S (1999), N (2016): Harold Sweetman, Devon, PA; REG (2017): Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens, Devon, PA. Etymology of name: for Elisabeth Frances Haas, a granddaughter of a Jenkins Arboretum board member. [Photo 3]

**'Everlasting Ella'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: white, often with moderate purplish pink (62B) or strong purplish red (64B) marks or sectors. Inside of flower: most commonly, strong purplish pink (73B) with irregular white margins and deep purplish red (61A) blotch from base and filling most of dorsal lobe, spreading to adjacent lobes; less commonly, white with strong purplish pink (68B or 73B) sectors and light yellow green (145B) blotch; occasionally, strong purplish red (60D) with deep purplish red (61A) blotch. Outside: white with irregular occurrences of moderate purplish pink (62B), strong purplish pink (68B, 73B), or strong purplish red (64B). Calyx: strong yellow green (144B). Single, broad funnel shape; 1.4 inches (35mm) long x 2.5 inches (64mm) wide with 5 rounded lobes, wavy margins. Calyx: 0.25 inch (6mm) long. Stamens and pistil variably red or whitish. 2 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering midseason (early May in Washington, D.C., area). Leaves: moderate yellow green



Photo Joe Klimavics

▼ Photo 5—'Flurry'

(137C), semiglossy, 1.2 x 0.6 inches (30 x 15mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub 4 feet (1.2m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C), heat tolerant to 110°F (43°C). Parentage: ('Betty Christopher' x 'Komo-kulshan') (s) X ('Acrobat' x Klupenger's 'Satellite'). H (2005), G (2008), N (2017), REG (2017): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA. Etymology of name: for a friend of the hybridizer, in whose family all women have had "Ella" in their names for almost 200 years. [Photo 4]

**'Flurry'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: white, with vivid purplish red (57D) sectors and flecks; occasional faint yellow-green interior spotting toward base of some dorsal lobes; occasional vivid purplish red (57D) flowers with deep to moderate purplish pink (66C-D) sectors. Calyx: strong yellow green (144C). Semi- to fully double, saucer shape (outer corolla), 1.2 inches (30mm) long x 2.4 inches (60mm) wide with c. 15 lobes, some rounded, some broadly acute, flat margins; calyx 0.2 inch (5mm) long; stamens absent or few. 2-3 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering midseason (early May in Washington, D.C., area). Leaves: moderate olive green (146A), semiglossy; 1.2



Photo Tracy Cook

▲ Photo 6—'Harvey Cotton'



Photo Carolyn Beck

▲ Photo 7—'Judith Quarrington'

x 0.6 inches (30 x 15mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10 years, intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C), heat tolerant to 110°F (43°C). Parentage: ('Maruschka' x 'Florence Waldman') (s) X 'Festive'. H (2004), G (2006), N (2017), REG (2017): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA. Etymology of name: naming rights acquired by Ginger and Sam Burd in an auction at the May 2016 joint convention of the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society; their grandson came up with the name for them. Synonym: hybridizer's number MV-04-39. [Photo 5]

**'Harvey Cotton'**, deciduous azalea. Bud: strong purplish red (58B). Inside and outside of flower: strong purplish pink (63C) with upper two-thirds of interior dorsal lobe brilliant yellow (15C), whitish hairs on tube. Single, tubular funnel shape; 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 1.2 inches (30mm) wide with 5 rounded, reflexed lobes, wavy margins. Pistil and stamens significantly exerted; pistil 2 inches (50mm), stamens slightly shorter; style and filaments reddish, anthers yellow, stigma green. 10-15 flowers per single-bud dome truss. Truss 2.5-3 inches (64-76mm) high x 3.5-4 inches (90-102mm) wide. Fragrance moderate. Flowering midseason (mid-April in northern AL). Leaves: moderate olive green (147A), matte, 3.5 x 1 inches (90 x 25mm), lanceolate, cuneate base, acute apex, flat margins. Indumentum: sparse hairs above and below, increasing toward margin above, and on petiole and softwood twigs; whitish maturing to cream, on twigs maturing to cinnamon. Shrub 2.8 feet (0.9m) high x 2.9 feet (0.9m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 4°F (-16°C), heat tolerant to 94°F (34°C). Parentage: *R. flammueum* (s) X unknown (open-pollinated, likely X *R. canescens*). Seed harvested (2006), G (2010): Vernon Bush, Huntsville, AL; N (2017), REG (2017): Huntsville Madison County Botanical Garden Society Inc., Huntsville, AL; I (post-2017): Earl Sommerville, Marietta, GA. Etymology of name: for John Harvey Cotton, former vice president of horticulture, Huntsville Madison County Botanical Garden Society Inc. [Photo 6]

**'Judith Quarrington'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: white. Inside of flower: white with light yellow green (145C) throat and blotch on dorsal lobe. Outside: white. Semidouble hose-in-hose, broad funnel shape; 2.25-2.5 inches (57-64mm) long x 3.75-4 inches (95-102mm) wide with 5-15 (5+5+5) rounded lobes, wavy margins. Most stamens petaloid. 3 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering midseason (early May in Washington, DC, area). Leaves: moderate yellow green (146B), semiglossy, 1.5-2.25 x 0.75-1 inches (38-57 x 19-25mm), elliptic, slightly concave, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 10-15 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Parentage: ('Desiree' x CB-1) (s) X 'Florence Waldman'. H (1994), G (1997), REG (2017): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA; N (2013): Joseph E. Gutierrez, McLean, VA. Etymology of name: for Judith Quarrington of York, PA, a friend of the nominant, who acquired naming rights in 2013 via the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Synonym: breeder's code RBS25 (minimal propagation); breeder's cross no. 11-1994-04. Notes: CB-1 – not registered. The cultivar was among seedlings discarded by the University of Maryland's breeding program in the 1990s, acquired by William "Cliff" Brown and shared with registrant, who assigned the number. The seed parent is an unnamed cross by the registrant, No. 08-1990-07. [Photo 7]

**'Linda's Star'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: white, with pink (Pantone 190U). Inside and outside of flower: white, with pink (Pantone 184U) central stripe from base to margin of each lobe, about one-third the width of the lobe; interior dorsal blotch (Pantone 192U) with spots (Pantone 220U). Calyx: green (Pantone 390U). Single, funnel shape, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 2 inches (51mm) wide with 5 rounded lobes, slightly wavy margins. Calyx: 0.2 inch (5mm) long. Filaments pink, anthers brown, style and stigma red. 3 flowers per terminal cluster. Flowering early season (February in northern Florida). Leaves: dark green (Pantone 367C), semiglossy, 1.5 x 0.5 inches (37 x 13mm), oblanceolate, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub 5 feet

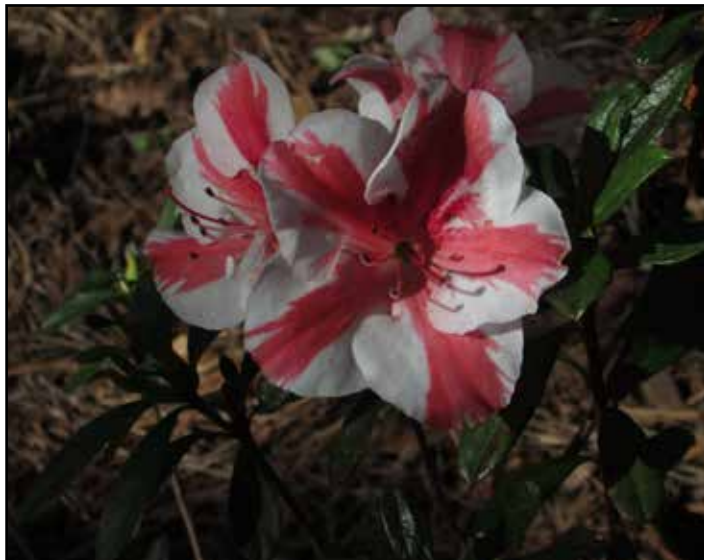


Photo Kenneth Menke

▲ Photo 8— 'Linda's Star'

(1.5m) high x 3.25 feet (1m) wide in 8 years; intermediate habit, leaves held 2 growing seasons. Plant hardy to 10°F (-12°C), buds to 26F/-3C. Parentage: sport of 'Dogwood'. G (c. 2008), S (2013), N (2016), REG (2017): Kenneth Menke, Tallahassee, FL. Etymology of name: for Linda Menke, wife of the registrant. [Photo 8]

## References

*International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. 9th ed. October 2016. International Society for Horticultural Science. Drukkerij Station Drukkerwerk: The Netherlands.

Huse, Robert D. and Kenneth L. Kelly. Donald H. Voss, Ed. 1984. *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture: Application of the Universal Color Language to the Colors of the Royal Horticultural Society's Colour Chart*. American Rhododendron Society, Publications Committee: Great River, NY.

## To Register an Azalea or Rhododendron Name

Electronic registration applications from North Americans should be submitted at [www.rhododendron.org/plantregistry.htm](http://www.rhododendron.org/plantregistry.htm). The site also provides instructions and forms for downloading and completing manually. Those submitting paper applications should use only the current form (revised 2015). The quickest way to obtain paper forms is to ask a friend with internet access to go to the website and print the form and instructions. Questions, completed paper forms, all photographs and requests for paper forms should be directed to Michael Martin Mills, North American Registrar, [arsregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:arsregistrar@gmail.com) ; 632 Burnham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119; 215-844-6253. There is no fee.

Registrants outside of North America should direct inquiries to Sharon McDonald, International Rhododendron Registrar, [sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk](mailto:sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk); mailing address: RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB, United Kingdom.

# Special Recognition for Frances Jones

Frances Jones of Signal Mountain, TN, has been a big supporter of the Azalea Society of American, making significant contributions to the Azalea Research Fund. In April 2018, the ASA Board of Directors recognized her contributions by giving her a Life Time Membership in the ASA. Additionally, one of Bob Stewart's hybrids was named in her honor. ASA President Rick Bauer presented her a copy of the 'Frances F. Jones' azalea in front of a large group of her friends, family, and ASA and American Rhododendron Society members at her home and garden on October 20, 2018. Frances has a beautiful garden, Dolan Gardens, located on an escarpment of Signal Mountain, overlooking the city of Chattanooga and the Tennessee River Gorge. The garden was named for her grandmother. She frequently welcomes visitors from different garden clubs and organizations.



Photo Jackson McCarter

▲ Photo 1— Frances Jones (l) receives Stewart Hybrid azalea 'Frances F. Jones' from President Rick Bauer.

▼ Photo 2— Close-up of very floriferous 'Frances F. Jones'.



Photo Carolyn Beck

# Lafayette's Historic Azalea Trail Revival

By June Faul, Denise Lanclos, and Cheryl Perret—Lafayette, Louisiana

Once a beautiful springtime display that was a major tourist attraction in the 1930s, Lafayette's 20th century azalea trail has been revitalized. For locals, it had been an annual family pilgrimage to celebrate the start of spring. Residents along the trail sat on their porches and watched cars going by; children delighted in spotting out-of-state license plates and buses with tourists. It was a lovely, free, floral festival that was open to everyone. What could have happened?

By 2015, there was no printed trail map or brochure to be found, despite the facts that azaleas survive a human lifetime and much of the trail still had plentiful azaleas. A Google search for Lafayette's Azalea Trail did not yield much, as it turned out the last printed map was done on a typewriter! Just one magazine article about spring-time flora across Louisiana stated that Lafayette's Azalea Trail map was now pretty much of a "collector's item," but the author did list some general trail directions in text and offered to send a map if someone contacted him by email.

Enter Scenic Lafayette, a newly formed affiliate of Scenic America (comprised of a small number of civic-minded community activists), who were determined to have a greater impact on the community by stimulating civic pride and working toward a better visual natural and built community. Bringing back the azalea trail was just the right break-out project to show the community what could be done through coordinated efforts between government, nonprofits, and citizens. Without as much as a bank account to put money in, this group in its first year undertook a door to door campaign, conducted an azalea inventory, digitized a new map for internet downloading, and directed the planting of 200 donated azaleas in various public spaces. A "Classic Car Cruise" was organized to pay homage to the decades of self-directed driving tours along the trail and to thank the trail residents for being the inspiration for the rest of the community. Awards of "Best in Beautification" from the city/parish government, and the 2016 designation as an Azalea Society of America "Azalea City" (one of only 16 in the US) were received. In the second year of trail revitalization, Scenic Lafayette focused on encouraging economic impact and thus spearheaded an Azalea Trail Day which added a vintage costume bicycle ride to the previous year's cruise to encourage participation by millennials. There is also a partnership with a local bicycle rental company for visitors who do not bring their own bikes.

In this third year of revitalization, the Azalea Trail Committee of Scenic Lafayette continues to advocate for more azalea plantings to enhance Lafayette's visual beauty and to promote springtime tourism. The measure of its success? Having influenced the planting of over 700 new azaleas along the trail and thousands more across the region, and drawing folks to drive or bike the trail each spring.

Lafayette received the Azalea City Certification in 2016 by the Azalea Society of America. We are very proud of this

## Notable along the trail are the following points of interest:

- Historic homes of Sterling Grove neighborhood
- Arts, entertainment, government, and restaurant district in Downtown Lafayette
- Exceptional Romanesque architecture of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and its 500-year-old live oak
- Decades-old azaleas on St. Mary and Myrtle Place Boulevards
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette's museums and cypress swamp
- Mouton Gardens grand mall
- Oil Center medical, restaurant, and retail center
- Beautiful riverside homes of Bendel Gardens and Greenbriar neighborhoods
- 100-acre Moncus Park

and glad to share our beauty with our fellow countrymen and international visitors. The city is promoting including azaleas in their landscaping to businesses, public properties, and residences across the city. Our efforts to continue the beautiful colorful floral splendor that adorns our lush green landscapes of live oaks, cypress, pines, magnolias, and crepe myrtles is something very important to us.

Today, the Azalea Trail Committee of Scenic Lafayette continues to advocate for more azalea plantings to enhance Lafayette's visual beauty and to promote springtime tourism.

Year-round, the trail's home gardens and grand boulevards showcase stately live oaks, colorful crepe myrtles, giant southern magnolias, and native cypress. Keep your eyes open for the growing number of landscapes that highlight Louisiana native plants. Tourists can drive the trail easily by picking up a brochure of the map at the Lafayette Visitors Center and following the trail street signs as they drive along the trail or following the map online at Scenic Lafayette or Lafayette Travel. Bloom time is anywhere from February 23 to mid-March depending on the weather and climate. Ongoing revitalization efforts by the Scenic Lafayette/Azalea Trail Committee over the last several years are bringing the trail back to its former glory. The annual Classic Car Cruise & Bike Ride is in March each year to enjoy and promote the trail; next year's event is scheduled for March 9, 2019.

Consider visiting Lafayette in the spring next year to enjoy a floral Mardi Gras the week of March 5, 2019. We are the happiest city in America, serving world class food



# Sights Along the Lafayette Azalea Trail



Photo Denise Lanclos

▲ Photo 1—Lafayette’s City Flower is a Southern Indica fondly known as “The General Lafayette” in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette.



Photo Cheryl Perret

▲ Photo 2 — Mall Boulevard in Mouton Gardens.



Photo Denise Lanclos

◀ Photo 3—Mature Southern Indica azaleas ‘George Tabor,’ ‘Judge Solomon,’ and ‘Formosa’ at the Ezell family home known as “Seven Oaks” on St. Mary Boulevard.

▼ Photo 4—Southern Indica ‘Fuchsia,’ ‘Red Formosa,’ and ‘Pride of Mobile’ azaleas planted by Kevin Gossen around live oaks outside his office window at Gossen Architects. He planted these to remind him of the azaleas planted by his grandmother that he enjoyed seeing outside his window as a child.

in our many restaurants, and have beautiful cultural music and art.

For more information about the Lafayette Azalea Trail, visit: [www.azaleatrail.org](http://www.azaleatrail.org) or [www.facebook.com/sceniclafayette](https://www.facebook.com/sceniclafayette).

Travel information can be found at [www.LafayetteTravel.com](http://www.LafayetteTravel.com). Please view pictures at [www.Google.com/maps](https://www.Google.com/maps) and [www.azaleas.org/Azalea\\_Cities](http://www.azaleas.org/Azalea_Cities).

June Faul is a previous Lafayette Azalea Trail Chairperson. Cheryl Perret and Denise Richard Lanclos are current Co-chairpersons of the Lafayette Azalea Trail. All three are members of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA.



Photo Kevin Gossen

# Chapter News and New Members

## Alabamense Chapter

*Amanda Wilkins, President*

No new news from the Alabamense Chapter, but stay tuned for announcements about upcoming meetings and trips in 2019. For inquiries, please email Amanda Wilkins at [awilkinhortorum@gmail.com](mailto:awilkinhortorum@gmail.com).

## Ben Morrison Chapter

*Diane Reinke, Secretary*

Ben Morrison Chapter members gathered on October 10 for a delicious luncheon at the Hellas Greek restaurant in Millersville, Maryland. White's Nursery in Germantown, Maryland, had donated a nice selection of azaleas for the event, which were kindly picked up and delivered by Fred Newlan. Donations to the chapter were made by members for the azaleas. A high point of the luncheon was celebrating the birthdays of Faith Bange and Bob McWhorter. The chapter hopes to gather again in late November for the annual holiday party.

## Central Carolinas Chapter

*Kevin McCorkle, President*

After a roller coaster hot and dry summer punctuated by flooding rains and high winds from two hurricane-produced tropical storms, the Central Carolinas Chapter gathered for our end-of-year meeting and social at UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens on December 2nd. Kevin McCorkle provided an overview and update on the Kelly Strickland and Aaron Varnadoe Legacy Projects and chapter participation was discussed. Larry Mellichamp shared a projected collection of excellent photos of native azaleas from Gregory Bald this summer provided by his colleague at the Highlands Botanical Garden. We also had an informal group discussion on propagation by seed and growing-on, growing media mixes, and members' experiences with different soil amendments, including gypsum and Epsom salts.

Our December meeting was capped off by our traditional silent auction of very special plants. We're very grateful to J Jackson and Lindy Johnson for generously sharing

an incredible variety of seedling deciduous azaleas to our Chapter in July, for use in this auction, future plant sales. The auction was made even more interesting by plant contributions from several chapter members, including some very special non-azalea companion plants. Included on the auction table were at least a half dozen different Perkins hybrids, several Strickland hybrids, and plants from wild collected seed such as *R. calendulaceum* from Hurricane Creek, *R. prunifolium* from Providence Canyon, *R. arborescens* var. Georgiana, *R. canescens* from Lee County AL and near Auburn, *R. colemanii*, *R. alabamense* from Bankhead Forest, yellow and purple Choptank and many more. All guaranteed to NOT be available in garden centers (but should be)! [Photos 1 & 2]

## Louisiana Chapter

*Allen Owings, President*

Louisiana azalea folks held a very nice Christmas Social and Meal at the Independence, LA home of Dox and Peggy Cox on Sunday December 2nd. In addition, we joined the camellia clubs from south Louisiana and the Baton Rouge Rose Society for a tour of Bracy's Nursery, Amite, LA with our president Allen Owings on Friday November 30th. Bracy's Nursery has been a stop on several national convention tours and produces over 2 million ornamental plants annually.

## Northern Virginia Chapter

*Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary*

The fall season of Northern VA chapter activities rolls on as a large fraction of the membership showed up to haul thousands of plants and set them up on tables for the September Auction and Sale. Many also helped during the sale, carrying plants to successful bidders and then helping them get their choices into their cars. After the sale many again loaded the unsold plants and put away the tables, sweeping up as a final touch.

October found two top speakers joining in one program, making most of us feel we missed a great opportunity to see plants in Europe as Don Hyatt spoke about the tours

▼ Photos 1 & 2—The Central Carolinas Chapter may have set a record for the number of deciduous azaleas transported in a car in a single trip!



Photo Kevin McCorkle



Photo Kevin McCorkle



Photo Barry Sperling

▲ Photo 3—The NVA Chapter members always bring plenty of azaleas to their meetings

▼ Photo 4—NVA Chapter members enjoy refreshments (l to r around table): Carolyn Beck, Marvin Friedman, Margaret Vogel, Patsy Meadows, Joanne Neckel, David Meadows, and Susan Hedrick.



Photo Barry Sperling

associated with the ARS convention in Bremen, Germany and ASA President Rick Bauer covered the post convention tour of Finland. Both had slides of beautiful flowers and scenery.

Carolyn and Paul Beck have been involved with donating azaleas to the Jenkins Arboretum in Pennsylvania, as well as helping to coordinate the new garden of Joe Klimavicz's hybrids in Meadowlark Gardens of Vienna, VA.

Coming up, as of this writing, is the Holiday Social at the home of the Beck's, which will include the annual business meeting and the selection of recipients for our donations.

The chapter welcomes new members Chip Benjamin and Doug Pulak, Arlington, VA; Jean and Norm Beaudry,

Bethesda, MD; Karen H. Kinsey and Diane Hill, Falls Church, VA.

## Reverend John Drayton Chapter

The chapter is working hard on preparations for the 2019 ASA convention in Summerville, South Carolina and welcomes new members Terre and Wyatt Stevens, Johns Island, SC.

## Texas Chapter

*Sherrie Randall, Secretary*

Texas Chapter members held their fall meeting on a beautiful sunny day at Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Native Center in Orange, Texas. Director, and fellow chapter member, Rick Lewandowski, guided us on a tour through this ecofriendly, modern day Shangri La. Considering the heavy flood damage suffered last year, the gardens were beautiful. An added bonus, we enjoyed their scarecrow festival with over 50 entries scattered throughout the gardens.

Our business meeting followed lunch where members voted to increase the SFA horticulture scholarship award to two next year and moving our Nacogdoches Farmers Market plant sale from the fall to spring in 2019. President Robert Thau shared the reasoning that went into the decision to create a new chapter to be called the Texas Forest Country Chapter. Noting his sole effort in recruiting 23 members, acquiring the Jasper city officials' support of this endeavor, along with his overall enthusiasm for ASA, Robert was applauded by all members in attendance.

Final business, officers elected to serve in 2019: President, David Creech; Vice President, Sherrie Randall; Secretary, Caryl Hall; and Treasurer, Don Parsons.

## Texas Forest Country Chapter

*Robert Thau, President*

Our kick-off meeting was held on October 22, 2018 at the Jasper Master Gardeners Arboretum with 17 members present. We went over our goals and future activities of our chapter along with a competitive membership drive. One of our items is to plant an azalea garden at the Jasper Master Gardeners Arboretum this fall through a plant donation from a chapter member.

The chapter welcomes new members Ann Pierce and Susan Strackbein, of Jasper, TX.



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# Officer Candidates for 2019

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## Candidate for President—Rick Bauer

Azalea Society President Rick Bauer is running for another term as society president. Rick and his wife Susan have been members of Northern Virginia Chapter since 2002. Rick served as the chapter vice president of the Northern Virginia Chapter for four years and chapter president for five years. He also served as an ASA director for two years. He was co-chair of the 2016 ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia. He also was a member of the team which digitized *The Azalean*. Rick was part of the team which started the 'Legacy Project' within the Northern Virginia Chapter. This project is designed to help ensure the continuation of knowledge about azalea hybridizers and their plants and to maintain true specimens of their cultivars. He retired from the US Army in 1994 after 20 years of active service and retired in 2011 from Science Applications International Corporation, where he helped develop software applications for Army customers.

## Candidate for Vice-President—Charles Andrews

Charles Andrews of Cumming, Georgia, is a member of the Vaseyi Chapter ASA and a former member of the Oconee Chapter and is currently serving as ASA vice president. He is a plant lover in general, but his heart is with azaleas. He enjoys writing and speaking on azalea topics, has contributed to *The Azalean*, and serves on the journal's Editorial Advisory Board. He is past president of the Azalea Chapter ARS. Charles believes ASA and ASA chapters can be more proactive in membership and knows we have to give value for annual dues in order to retain members. For over 35 years, Charles has been studying American deciduous azaleas, a group of plants that are poorly understood, even today. He and like-minded azaleaphiles spend many hours in the field each year trying to better understand the distribution, habitat, characteristics, and dynamics of this amazing plant complex, primarily found in eastern North America. He believes these plants deserve more scientific study and horticultural emphasis. Charles is working to make accurate information on the history, identification, distribution, and culture of native azaleas more available.

## BOD Candidate—Dale Berrong

Dale Berrong has been interested in plants, propagation, and gardening for over 20 years and joined the ASA following attendance at the joint ASA/ARS convention in Virginia in 2016. Dale is a past president of The Maple Society, North American Branch and currently vice-president of the Azalea Chapter/ARS. He enjoys propagation and is in the process of building a large garden at his home in Danielsville, Georgia. After his retirement and the sale of his company in 2016, it has become his full-time job.

During his career, Dale has served on the boards of for profit corporations, not for profit corporations, and corporate pension plans. He would be honored to serve the ASA.

## BOD Candidate—James Greene Campbell

Jim Campbell is a native of Louisiana, born in New Orleans. He attended the Tulane University School of Architecture and spent his career as an architect, working for a number of firms in Louisiana. He retired in 2008.

Jim has been growing camellias and azaleas since 1966. He opened Riverside Camellias Nursery in 2000. His personal collection has over 1300 varieties of camellias and over 400 varieties of azaleas. He worked with Tom Johnson, former Horticulturist with the American Camellia Society assessing damage to large camellia gardens and camellia collections in Louisiana and listing the value of the plants lost due to Hurricane Katrina damage.

He been a member of the American Camellia Society for over 50 years and has served on the Board of Directors of the Society for many years. He also served as the President of the American Camellia Society.

Jim has been a member of the Azalea Society of America for numerous years and has served on the Board of Directors.

## BOD Director Candidate—John Simmons

John is a relatively new member of the Vaseyi Chapter. He has had an interest in azaleas since a next door neighbor taught him to root azalea cuttings during his medical school years from 1964-1968. John has explored many areas looking for wildflowers and has long been fascinated with the native azaleas. He is now the lead on a legacy garden featuring the work of George Beasley. In an effort to grow membership in the society, he is teaching a class on azaleas at a Life Long Learning program at Wofford College. John also teaches classes on meditation and mindfulness and enjoys gardens and gardening as venues and activities for meditation.

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## Don't Miss the 2019 ASA National Convention!

"History, Azaleas, and Sweet Tea" March 14-16, 2019. Head-quartered in Summerville, SC

Organized and sponsored by the Rev. John Drayton Chapter and Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. Details and registration form available in the Fall 2018 issue of *The Azalean* and available from the ASA website at: <https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2019/>

## Free One-Year Memberships

In order to promote early membership renewals, we tried something new this year. All members whose membership expiration date was 2019 or later as of 8 December had their names put into a lottery. This information was provided in November to all members whose membership was expiring at the end of 2018. We drew three names and awarded the winners with a free one-year membership in the society. Congratulations to:

- Chip Benjamin & Doug Pulak, Northern Virginia
- Elizabeth F. M. Wells, Vaseyi
- Jackson & Pamela McCarter, Vaseyi

# The Linwood Hardy Azalea ‘Theodore S. Stecki’ Finds Its Way Home

By Carolyn Beck—Oak Hill, Virginia

‘Theodore S. Stecki’ is a gorgeous evergreen azalea with many fine characteristics. The medium to large double hose-in-hose flowers, with wavy edges and a wide funnel shape, are a vivid purplish-pink. There are three-six per bud, making it very full flowered. [Photo 1] It blooms abundantly during early midseason and continues over an extended period. In bud it looks like a large bouquet of tea roses. The foliage is a rich, dark, glossy green, retained well in winter. It has a compact, densely-branched plant habit and is hardy to Zone 6 (0° F).<sup>1</sup>

As I understand from many sources, the man this azalea was named for was even more amazing than the plant. [Photo 2.] Ted Stecki was a longtime member of both the Azalea Society of America (ASA) and the American Rhododendron Society (ARS). In the latter, he filled a wide variety of roles, at several levels, over a span of many years. Ted was a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, and later, of the Pine Barrens Chapter. In the former he served as Director, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. In the latter he served as President. During his affiliation with both chapters, he presented workshops at meetings, and propagated azaleas and rhododendrons for members and for chapter plant sales, helping to introduce many new cultivars. Ted also wrote articles for both *The Azalean* and *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. In recognition of his many contributions, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter awarded Ted the ARS Bronze Medal.

At the national level, Ted served as Chairman of the ARS Budget and Finance Committee for almost two decades. He became Eastern Vice President, and, subsequently, President. Ted is perhaps best known for his involvement with the Philadelphia Flower Show (PFS). Norman and Jean Beaudry, of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS, recall Ted as being the driving force behind the ARS exhibit at this event. Over a 25-year period, as Co-chair, and then Chair, of

▼ Photo 1—‘Theodore S. Stecki.’



Photo Carolyn Beck

the District 8 Flower Show Committee, Ted acted as liaison with PFS show staff, assisted with the exhibit design and implementation, helped in the acquisition of plants, and managed the forcing process that brought them into bloom much earlier than was their norm. Ted viewed this exhibit as a way of promoting azaleas and rhododendrons, and educating the public about their horticultural needs.

Karel Bernady, a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, also saw the PFS as Ted’s crowning glory. He remembers how dedicated Ted was to this project: the time involved in creating the azalea and rhododendron displays, the interactions with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, sponsor of the PFS, and the after-action care that the plants required. Karel also notes that Ted was a strong advocate for plant society exhibitors.

Ted obtained engineering degrees from both Clemson and Rutgers Universities. He spent his career working in various managerial positions for Lockheed Martin, but his outside-of-work passion was for plants. He expressed this interest in his wonderful garden, located in Voorhees, New Jersey. There the soil was just the right acidity to allow ericaceous plants to thrive. This hobby eventually blossomed into a part-time family business called Hill House Nursery, where azaleas and rhododendrons were featured. Somewhere along the way, Ted met Albert (Al) Reid, also of New Jersey, the primary developer of the Linwood Hardy Azaleas. Their mutual interest drew them together and grew into a lasting friendship. Ted often worked with Al, helping to evaluate new crosses and compile his data. All of Al’s selected cultivars were brought to Hill House Nursery for propagation and distribution. It was Ted’s stated goal to see that these impressive forms be given the acclaim that they deserved. It was only natural that Al would name one of his best hybrids for Ted.

During a long illness in his later years, Ted’s garden and nursery went into decline and many of the plants did not survive. Among those was ‘Theodore S. Stecki’. So, how did the lost ‘Theodore S. Stecki’ make its way back to its place of origin? Here is the story:

It is not often that the planets align in such a way that an optimum outcome is attained. But life is full of surprises,



Photo Stecki Family

▲ Photo 2—Ted Stecki with his daughter Sue Stecki-LaPaoma.

and a marvelous sequence of events led ‘Theodore S. Stecki’ full circle, back to its roots.

First we have the paths of two kindred spirits intersecting in New Jersey; one was an avid hybridizer of azaleas (Al) and the other a horticulture enthusiast with a nursery (Ted).

Then the late Donald (Don) Hager of Hager Nursery in Fredericksburg, VA (and this is an educated guess) acquired the Linwoods from Hill House Nursery. From there, the Linwoods made their way into local gardens.

The Cosbys purchased a great many azaleas from the Hager Nursery. Roy and Elizabeth Cosby live in Rockville, Virginia, and have been avid collectors of azaleas for decades. The Cosby Garden, now called the Lewis-Ginter Nature Reserve, covers over 15 acres, and is predominantly planted with azaleas. The number of different cultivars in their collection registers in the thousands and represents many dozens of hybrid groups, as well as species. Through the years, the Cosbys have welcomed hundreds of visitors and have graciously offered propagation material to those who inquired.

In the fall of 2013, I had an opportunity to obtain a large number of cuttings from the Cosby Garden. My main focus was to expand our Northern Virginia Chapter inventory. I started with a wish list, but as I wandered through the beds, other azaleas would catch my eye because of their attractive foliage. ‘Theodore S. Stecki’ was one of these.

After her father’s death in November of 2016, Suzanne (Sue) felt a need to find the azalea that was named for him. She reached out to Ann Mangels, President of the ARS, to see if a source could be found. I happened to be one of the recipients of Ann’s request for information.

As luck would have it, our chapter inventory showed we had five copies of this azalea. I corresponded with both Ann and Sue to let them know that I was cautiously optimistic that we had several plants of ‘Theodore S. Stecki’, but, since I had not seen the plants in bloom, I wanted to wait until spring to confirm that they were true to type.

When our plants bloomed, I compared them to the description in Galle’s book, *Azaleas*.<sup>2</sup> Most everything corresponded, but to my disappointment, the color seemed to be in question. Galle stated it was a vivid purplish-red and these azaleas were definitely pink. But then I thought to look up the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart number that Galle had noted (61D), and “voila” – a perfect match. Hooray!

I sent photos of these azaleas to Sue in April for final verification and was excited and touched to receive her reply: “Yes that is it! Oh, my goodness; happy tears on Easter morning.”

In May, Sue and her husband made the trip from New Jersey to our place in Virginia to pick up copies of her dad’s namesake. [Photo 3.] During their very pleasant visit, Sue shared some stories about her dad. One of particular interest related to the preparation needed in the forcing of azaleas and rhododendrons for the Philadelphia Flower Show. Since the show usually took place in March, those azaleas and rhodos had to spend the winter in their Hill House Nursery greenhouses. Snowfall was often an issue as it blocked the essential light from the plants. So Ted and all the children

would get up on the roof and sweep the snow off with brooms. Who would have guessed at the level of detail required to make these plants ready for early public viewing?

Sue also told us where they planned to locate

their new azaleas—one would go in her Mom’s garden, and the other would be placed under their redbud tree, which Ted and his granddaughter had planted many years ago. Now the Linwood ‘Theodore S. Stecki’ is home to stay.

I am delighted to have acquired the azalea ‘Theodore S. Stecki’, and very much wish that, somewhere along his remarkable journey through life, I had known the man it was named for.

Author’s note: cuttings have been shared with ASA member nurserymen so that this azalea will, in the future, again be available to those who knew, loved, and respected Theodore (Ted) S. Stecki, as well as all those who enjoy beautiful azaleas. Plants should be available in 2019 from:

Ronnie Palmer of Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery in White Hall, Arkansas, <http://www.azaleahillgardens-arkansas.com/>

Mike White of White’s Nursery in Germantown, Maryland, <http://www.whites-nursery.com/>



▲ Photo 3—Sue Stecki-LaPamoa (l) receives her own ‘Theodore S. Stecki’ plant from well-known successful azalea propagator Carolyn Beck.

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Carolyn Beck is a retired Registered Nurse. She is an active member of the Northern Virginia Chapter and is currently in charge of fund-raising. Carolyn and her husband, Paul, are concentrating their efforts on the chapter’s Legacy Hybrids (see [NV-ASA.org](http://NV-ASA.org) for more information on their Legacy Project).

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*The Azalean 2018*

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