

When to Prune

- ▶ Late winter and early spring perhaps best
- ▶ Prune at flowering time for bouquets
- ▶ Effective to prune evergreen azaleas immediately after flowering
- ▶ Pinch new growth on deciduous azaleas and use for cuttings
- ▶ Prune when new growth is 4 to 6 inches for topiary effect
- ▶ Late summer pruning may prevent next year's flower bud formation
- ▶ Late fall pruning may encourage late growth and cold damage

growth in May for deciduous and June for evergreen (adjust for your season). Combine pruning with propagation of cuttings and bringing bouquets into the house. Frequently wipe tools with 10% bleach solution. Shear evergreens when new growth is 4 to 6 inches. For corrective pruning, cut down and inside the shrub, where you want new growth to start. Don't hesitate to severely prune healthy but overgrown plants down to 4 to 6 inches. Before digging for rescue, prune mature deciduous transplants 4 to 6 inches from ground.

Summary

In summary, do as I say, not as I often do. Be smart. Minimize the need to prune. Apply a little regular pruning but know that for azaleas major pruning is OK.

Charles Andrews of Cumming, Georgia, is vice president of the ASA, a member of the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA, and a former member of the Oconee Chapter. He is a plant lover in general, but his heart is with azaleas. He enjoys writing and speaking on azalea topics, contributes articles to *The Azalean*, and serves on the journal's Editorial Advisory Board. He also serves as president of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS. For over 35 years, Charles has been studying American deciduous azaleas.



In Memory—William F. Bode 1923-2019

Allen Owings from the Louisiana Chapter provided the following information.¹

William Francis Bode passed away Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Covington, LA. Bill was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, July 22, 1923 to Jennie and Edward Bode. Educated in the Catholic school system, he graduated from Christian Brothers High School, St. Joseph, MO., in 1940. After graduation, he worked as a medical technician until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1942. His service brought him to both the European and the Pacific Theaters, where he worked as a medic. He would serve the next 40 years in the Army Reserve for units in Baton Rouge, LA., Little Rock, AR. and Bogalusa, LA, attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.

In 1946, on his discharge from the Army, he was astute enough to marry Margaret Elizabeth Clark. Bill worked in pharmaceutical sales for 40 years, first with Merck and the last 30 years with Richardson-Merrell, later Merrell-Dow. Bill and Marge raised five children, Clark, Jane, Nora, Daniel, and David while later enjoying 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Marge, in 2003; his son Clark, in 2013; and his daughter Jane, in 1987.

He was an intrepid sentimentalist with a case of wanderlust who loved to garden anything green having been a loyal member of the Baton Rouge Garden Club and later as the president of the American Azalea Society [Azalea Society of America]. He had a unique ability to engage and edify in a single conversation while feigning a curmudgeonly exterior. He was a blessing to his family and friends and will be so, so missed.

Family and friends were invited to attend a Memorial Service on Friday, April 5, 2019 in the Chapel of Bagnell & Son Funeral Home, 75212 Hwy 437 Covington, Louisiana 70435 at 1:00 p.m. with visitation from 11:00 a.m. until service time. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the National World War II Museum, 945 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA. 70130. [Photo from Bill Bode's Facebook page.]

Thoughts on the Power of One Dedicated Person

Barbara Stump—Nacogdoches, Texas

Bill Bode was a great connecting force in the Azalea Society of America. I only came to know him in 1997 when my late husband Mike and I traveled across the South visiting big landscape and azalea gardens in preparation for my work with "an azalea garden" at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). It is safe to say that the azalea collections in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden are indebted to Bill Bode's advice about making connections with ASA members and nurseries.

While it was Dr. David Creech who told me I needed



Photo from his Facebook page.

▲ Bill Bode

Other cities and other chapters owe much to this azalea friend. He certainly cultivated people to become ASA members and supporters. We were inspired to reach out and learn about azaleas and gather them from many sources and plant them and celebrate them. Thank you, Bill.

References

- ¹ *New Orleans Advocate*, April 4, 2019.
- ² Stump, Barbara. "Building a New Public Garden—The Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden from the Ground Up." Winter 2000. *The Azalean*. 22(4): 82-84.
- ³ Lee, Buddy. Dallas Chapter News. Winter 2006. *The Azalean*. 28(4): 88.
- ⁴ Members of the Louisiana Chapter (Bode, Bill and Buddy Lee). "The Winds of August and September." Spring 2006. *The Azalean*. 28(1): 18-20.

For the Record: Spring 2019 Issue

The caption for Photo 3 (by Fred Newlin) in the Northern Virginia Chapter News, page 22, was incorrect. The names of the people should have been labeled (from left to right) as follows: Carolyn Beck, Dan Krabill, Rick Bauer, Barbara Krabill, Joe Klimavicz. We regret this error.

to get to know ASA members, based on his many visits at horticultural meetings, it was Bill Bode who taught me why this was wise advice. He showed us around some trial azaleas at the Hammond Experiment Station in Covington, LA. When we saw the beautiful lavender and purple split-petal 'Koromo Shikibu' azalea, with lush foliage, and of a substantial size, I knew we needed to make that a feature of the new garden. He said it would grow in our Zone 8b climate; but I needed to get to know Miss Margie Jenkins who was the only person he knew who could propagate it in large numbers. What an invaluable connection to that and so many other wonderful azaleas.²

Not only did he help with connections this way, but he also came to Nacogdoches to give a slide show of many colorful azaleas to our monthly SFA Gardens lecture series. As part of the same trip, he helped us with our official garden groundbreaking May 23, 1998. And, along the way, he happened to mention that he wished he knew of someone who knew horticulture and writing. My answer to his question began my first term as editor of *The Azalean* (June 1999-Fall 2006).

But he wasn't done yet: In his capacity as a past ASA president (from 1999-2000), he and Buddy Lee came to Houston for the official reorganization (and revitalization) of the Dallas Chapter on October 27, 2006.³ During the meeting the name was changed to the Texas Chapter, which then hosted the 2007 national convention. And the Texas initiatives continue, with the formation of the new Texas Forest Country Chapter in 2018.

He continued to participate in Louisiana Chapter activities and surveyed damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2006.⁴



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