

The Azalean

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Journal of the Azalea Society of America



President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

As we reach the final months of the year things are starting to slow down, we can reflect on all of the great things happening in the society. Like many plant societies, we continue to work to maintain and increase membership. I'm happy to report that not only are we maintaining our membership levels, but they are increasing. This is the result of a lot of hard work at the grass roots level. A key part of the effort is public exposure...educating the public about the society and our purpose. Another major part is maintaining members once they join the society. This is done through providing interesting programs and a purpose for members at the chapter level. At the national level, we published a manual on good ideas for running a successful chapter. It brings together ideas from a number of chapters, in our society and others. I encourage chapters to review the manual and implement some of the good ideas and submit their own ideas for inclusion in future updates to the manual. The manual is available on the website at "About the Society/Chapters/Resources."

Propagation and perpetuation of azalea varieties is also a major goal of the society and a key element of the Legacy Project. We have successful projects under way across the society. Additionally, there are more varieties in the wings which will be officially added when the sponsors feel their efforts have matured. Some of our chapters hold cutting exchanges where members share cuttings of Legacy varieties and others, and educate members on how to propagate new plants from the cuttings. If you need more information on propagation methods, there is a Propagation tab on the society website which contains several approaches to propagation. I encourage you to institute a formal propagation program in your chapter. A side benefit is that in a few years, you will have plants ready to exchange with other members and for plant sales and generation of revenue for your chapter.

Our recently recognized Azalea Cities continue to actively promote azaleas. Several society members joined the folks in Graham County/Robbinsville for their second annual azalea festival. This festival is an outgrowth of a decade long effort to preserve native azaleas on Hooper Bald. Jasper Texas and the Texas Forest Country chapter continue to promote azaleas in east Texas. They recently received a substantial grant from the state of Texas for multiple projects within the city, many involving beautification efforts including azaleas. I hope to attend their azalea festival next year after the Houston convention and see the results of their efforts in person.

Finally, we have been apprised of an effort by the US Forest Service which will be detrimental to native rhododendron, azaleas, and kalmia. They have determined that the above mentioned plants are invasive and there are plans to remove them and prevent their recurrence. The society has officially expressed our concern about this proposed effort. The Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society has a great website set up to explain what the Forest Service is proposing as well as detailing what has been done and what can be done to broadcast our concerns and objections to this proposed effort. I encourage you to visit www.arspvc.org/alert.html for more information on what you can do.

Thanks for all of you for your hard work in promoting azaleas and the society. I think we can all be proud of our efforts.



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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The Azalean

Editor

Barbara Stump

Editorial Advisory Board

Charles Andrews III

Aaron Cook

William C. Miller III

Advertising

theazalean@gmail.com

<http://azaleas.org/adinfo.html>

Graphic Design

Pam Fitch

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Address editorial and business correspondence to:

Editor, *The Azalean*

101 S. Sanders Street

Nacogdoches, TX 75964

E-mail: theazalean@gmail.com

Society Web-site: www.azaleas.org

Mail list: azaleas@yahoogroups.com

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On the Cover

The beauty of May in Finland was on full display after the American Rhododendron Society Convention last year in Bremen, Germany. Richard and Susan Bauer also took a post-convention tour of more gardens in Finland. A sampling of the wealth of beautiful private gardens and parks they visited during both tours are shown in Richard’s article beginning on page 52.

This colorful scene is from the Fuksinpuisto Park, where Finnish hybrids were planted for cold-hardiness evaluation. Photo courtesy of Rick Bauer.



Azalea Gardens in Finland

By Richard Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

A number of Azalea Society of America members had the opportunity to visit public and private azalea gardens in Finland as a post-tour after the May 2018 American Rhododendron Society (ARS) Convention in Bremen, Germany. Our tour was organized by Kristian Theqvist from the Finnish Rhododendron Society. He was ably assisted by Peter Tigerstedt, a professor emeritus of the University of Helsinki who also had a personal connection to several of the gardens we visited.

May 27

The tour started with our departure from our hotel in Bremen, and our flight from Hamburg to Helsinki, Finland. Upon arrival we headed to the Espoo district of Tapiola where we would stay for the next two nights. Our hotel was near the Tigerstedt home where we had a welcome reception shortly after our arrival. The evening's weather was perfect for the event held in the Tigerstedt's garden.

May 28

We started our garden visits in the Helsinki area.

Our first stop was the Haaga Rhododendron Park. The park started in 1975 as a research garden for the University of Helsinki plant breeding program. The purpose was to evaluate rhododendron which were suitable to the Finnish climate. The original plants were from a program begun in 1973 by Peter Tigerstedt. The park was later expanded in 1996 with the addition of 1500 azaleas. We were fortunate to have Peter Tigerstedt lead the tour as he had in-depth knowledge of the garden and its creation. [See Photo 1.]

After our visit to Haaga, it was time for a coffee break. Our break was scheduled in the town of Porvoo, 30 miles east of Helsinki, one of six medieval towns in Finland. We went to a quaint coffee shop and were treated to Runeberg Tarts, a local pastry. There, we met up with our tour guide and she gave us a little of the history of Porvoo before we headed out for a tour of the town. While first mentioned in

▼ Photo 1—Azaleas at the Haaga Rhododendron Park, Helsinki.



Photo Susan Bauer



Photo Richard Bauer

▲ Photo 2—A view of Old Porvoo.

▼ Photo 3—Waterfall in Sapokka Water Garden.

the 14th century, the old section of Porvoo has buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries, and a church dating back to the 15th century. [See Photo 2.]

Our next stop required a bit of travel to the Mustila Arboretum, northeast of Helsinki. This arboretum also had a connection to the Tigerstedt family, since it was founded by Peter's grandfather, A.F. Tigerstedt, in 1902. While originally focused on conifers, the first rhododendrons were well established by 1917, and the Rhododendron Valley was planted there in the 1920's and 30's. Today it consists of a total of 300 acres.

Peter took us to one area which had been setup as a rustic woodland chapel. We were able to pause and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Mother Nature.

In addition to the arboretum, there is a winery at Mustila. The winery catered a picnic lunch for our group and we even had the opportunity to sample some of their wine.

Our final stop for the day was southeast of Mustila in the town of Kotka where we visited Sapokka Water Garden and Fuksinpuisto Park.

The site of the Sapokka Water Garden was Sapokanlahti Bay, a body of water which, by the 1980s, had become contaminated with sludge, was polluted and had a foul smell. To deal with the problem, the city decided to turn it into a



Photo Richard Bauer

garden. Work was started in 1990, and the original garden was completed four years later. While not an azalea garden, per se, azaleas and rhododendrons form an important part of the landscape. One of the most impressive features of the park is the 60-foot-tall waterfall. A staircase leads to the top of the waterfall where you are afforded great views of the park below. [See Photo 3.]

After leaving the Sapokka Water Garden, we went across town to Fuksinpuisto Park. The park was originally established in 1995 as a test planting area for the Finnish azalea hybridizing program of the University of Helsinki (along with the plantings in Haaga and Mustila). The purpose of the program was to establish more-cold-hardy azaleas. [See Photo 4.] The park has since been diversified with other varieties of plants such as peonies, hostas, daylilies, and irises.

Our day ended with dinner at our hotel in Tapiola.

May 29

We checked out of the hotel and boarded the buses for our trip to Ilola Arboretum, in Salo. The arboretum is privately owned and totally maintained by the owner, Ari Laakso. Upon arrival, we were treated to a selection of Finnish baked goods. Afterwards, we were free to wander the garden on our own, or to accompany Ari on a tour. Ari is more of a landscape architect than a horticulturist, so his focus is less on what he has in his garden (i.e., inventory) and more on how it looks. He started with a beautiful 25-acre plot of land with rock formations, which he improved by selected clearing of the underbrush, adding ponds, and planting conifers, azaleas, and other plants. Many of the azaleas were from open pollinated seed from Mustila Arboretum which Ari planted and raised in his private nursery. It is estimated that he has over 2000 cultivars of rhododendrons and azaleas in his arboretum, though only 20 are named varieties. [See Photo 5.]

After visiting the Ilola Arboretum we went to lunch at Wiurila Manor. The manor dates back to the 15th century and has been in the Armfelt family since 1787. The unique architecture is the work of the famous German architect Carl Ludvig Engel who designed other famous structures in Finland such as the Helsinki Cathedral. The massive white columns are thanks to the one of the previous owners, Magnus Reinhold Armfelt, who thought the design of the original columns was too insubstantial, so he directed that they be enlarged.

We were greeted by a member of the Armfelt family who gave us a history of the manor. We had a delicious lunch in a dining room ringed by oil portraits of Armfelt family members over the generations. [See Photo 6.]

The final destination for the day was a visit to Arboretum Apaskeri, a private arboretum owned by Osmo Jussila, a founding member of the Finnish Rhododendron Society. To get to the arboretum required the use of one of the ferries which comprise the Finnish highway system and are used where it is uneconomical to build bridges. The ferries are free and on a first-come first-served basis, though emergency vehicles and busses have priority.

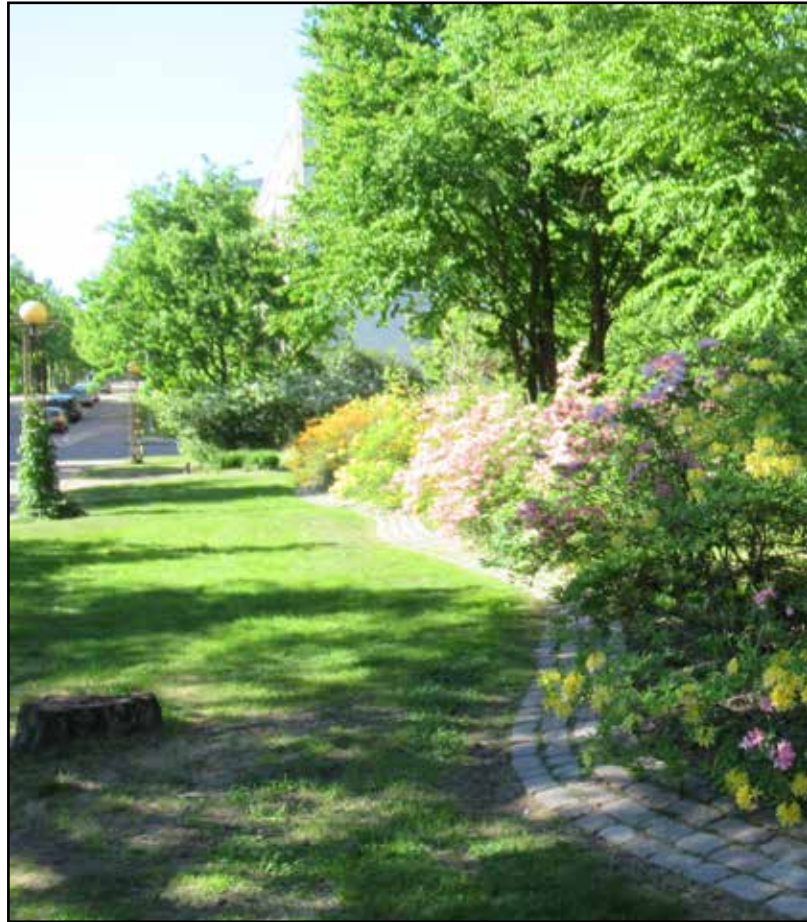




Photo Richard Bauer

◀ Photo 4—Azaleas in Fuksinpuisto Park. Note the rock mowing strip.

The arboretum in Kustavi started out as a weekend home after Osmo gained a part interest in the property in 2003. He began transferring plants from his home garden to the new arboretum. It currently encompasses 25 acres including rhododendrons that he hybridized. The arboretum is on one of more than 2000 islands in the municipality of Kustavi.

We traveled on to the city of Turku where we stayed in the Radisson Blu Marina Palace hotel situated alongside the Aurajoki River. Fortunately, the late May days are long at the northern latitudes, so we had a little time to explore the area surrounding the hotel after dinner. Between the hotel and the river, they have a long promenade which allow you to easily explore the area without losing your bearings. Many of the buildings in the area were in the typical old Finnish architectural style, much like we had seen in Porvoo.

May 30

The following morning, we packed up and left our hotel in Turku for our final day of visiting Finnish gardens. This day was a special treat in that we were visiting the private garden of our tour organizer, Kristian Theqvist. While Kristian lives in Turku, he had built a comfortable weekend home on the island of Korpo where he had his azalea and rhododendron garden, Rhodogarden. This was the first time he had opened his garden to the public. Even long-time members of the Finnish Rhododendron Society had never been there and some of them joined us for this special event.

To get to the island of Korpo, where Kristian's garden is located, required taking two ferries. Our bus driver's timing was perfect, and we were at each ferry about the time they were loading. As a result, we arrived in Korpo ahead of schedule. That allowed us the time to visit the historic St. Michael's Church in Korpo. The church, whose construction was started at the end of the 13th century, was completed in the 15th century. From the tower of the church, the parish priest could keep an eye on his parish as well as sight any enemies or pirates arriving by sea. Repairs and improvements

◀ Photo 5—Azaleas along the lake at Ilola Arboretum.

▼ Photo 6—Wiurila Manor's massive architecture.



Photo Richard Bauer



Photo Richard Bauer

continued to occur over the years. The latest restoration occurred in 1952-53.

Our next stop was Kristian's Rhodogarden. Our bus driver attempted to get us as close to the garden as possible, but finally hit a stretch with rocks on one side and a ditch on the other which precluded going any further. The final one-kilometer stretch was a beautiful walk through the Finnish countryside.

As had become customary, our first order of business was to enjoy the cakes, coffee and other refreshments provided. Once we had restored our energy, Kristian took us on a tour of his garden.

Kristian and his wife had discovered the property 30 years before. They had been walking through property previously owned by Ragnar Granit, a Nobel Prize winner. Ragnar's mother had planted a garden which included rhododendrons. While the garden had long since disappeared, one rhododendron managed to flourish. This was Kristian's inspiration for starting his rhododendron garden.

Kristian's garden has a wide variety of rhododendrons, including all of the Northern Lights azaleas which were developed by the University of Minnesota. Work on the Northern Lights azaleas commenced in 1957 with the goal of developing an azalea which would thrive in USDA Zone 4. The first introduction in the series was made with the release of 'Northern Lights' in 1978. There are currently 14 varieties. [See Photo 7.]

While the latitude of Kristian's garden is about 15 degrees north of the area where the Northern Lights were developed, they are thriving in Kristian's garden. This is partly the result of the high rocks surrounding the garden, which not only shield the garden from wind but also retain heat from the sun. [See Photo 8.]

The garden is comprised of over 1000 varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons planted on 8.9 acres. This includes hybrids created by Kristian, who has made over 500 crosses since he started in 2002.

Rhodogarden was the last garden on our post tour of Finnish gardens. We hiked back to our bus for the trip



▲ Photo 7—'Golden Lights' azalea in Kristian Theqvist's Rhodogarden.

▼ Photo 8—Garden Path through Rhodogarden.



to Helsinki. Before heading out, we stopped for lunch at the waterside Buffalo restaurant in Korpo.

In the evening we arrived back in Helsinki where we checked into our hotel, the Radisson Blu. The hotel is located in the center of the city near the main train station designed by famed Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen. Eliel's son, Eero, is a famous architect known in the United States for his design of Dulles Airport in Washington, DC, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, and the TWA terminal at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. In our final dinner we recognized the efforts of Kristian and Peter in arranging and conducting the tour. They were each presented with a small flag commemorating the Bremen convention and the pre- and post-



Photo Richard Bauer

▲ Photo 9—*R. luteum* azaleas in Kaisaniemi Park.



Photo Richard Bauer

▲ Photo 10—'Northern Hi-Lights' azaleas in Kaisaniemi Park.

tours. The evening ended with the participants bidding farewell to old and new friends they had made from around the world.

While the post-tour was officially over, the hotel was conveniently located near the Kaisaniemi Park. Some attendees extended their stays and took the opportunity to visit the garden before flying home. The garden contained a number of rhododendron varieties, including a collection of the Northern Lights azaleas as well as other northern varieties such as *R. luteum*. Those who remained also enjoyed the warm, sunny weather, and the opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Helsinki. [See Photos 9 & 10.]

The post-tour of Gardens in Finland was a rare opportunity to visit public gardens as well as private gardens not normally open to the public. The attendees certainly appreciated the thought, planning, and meticulous execution of the tour by Kristian and benefited from the in-depth knowledge of Peter Tigerstedt who accompanied us as a guide.

References

Website of the Finnish Rhododendron Society: <https://www.dendrologiansseura.fi/rhodokerho/azabreed.html>

Theqvist, Kristian and Jaakko Saarinen. Spring 2017. "The ARS 2018 Convention Post-tour of Gardens in Finland." *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*.

Wiurila, Finland
<http://www.wiurila.fi/heritage/>

University of Minnesota Northern Lights Azalea
<https://mnhardy.umn.edu/varieties/woody-ornamentals/azaleas>

Richard Bauer is serving his second term as national ASA President. He is a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter and actively promotes the ASA at conventions and chapter meetings throughout the US.



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“Born on the Bayou”

2020 National Convention Preview: Houston, Texas March 12-14, 2020

At the Charleston Convention, Bart Brechter, Curator of Bayou Bend Gardens, head of Gardens and Landscape Operations at Bayou Bend, and Texas Chapter member, gave two lists of reasons to come to Houston for the 2020 convention. (See Sidebars). In addition, consider that Houston’s climate (Zone 8) means that most evergreen azaleas will be in full bloom that “early” and that you can then return home to a second season of bloom.

More information about venues and details about schedules will be forthcoming, both on the ASA Web (at www.azaleas.org/convention-2020) and in the Winter 2019 issue of *The Azalean*.

The hotel reservation block has already been reserved, and it is really important to make those hotel reservations as soon as possible, due to other major events in Houston. Yes, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo is that big an event, attracting crowds to Houston at the same time.

The 2020 convention is co-hosted by the River Oaks

Garden Club and Texas Chapter members and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. 2020 will be the 84th year of River Oaks Garden Club Houston Azalea Trail. Our convention will visit these home gardens plus Bayou Bend.

All events will be held in the Museum District, including:

- Tour the home gardens that are on the River Oaks Garden Club’s Azalea Trail.
- Bayou Bend—the Museum of Fine Arts Houston house museum for American Decorative Arts and Paintings. Displayed in the former home of Houston civic leader and philanthropist Ima Hogg (1882-1975) Bayou Bend showcases one of the finest collections of American furnishings, silver, ceramics, and paintings in the world, surrounded by 14 acres of organically maintained gardens in Houston’s historic River Oaks neighborhood. The garden of azaleas and camellias have been



Photo courtesy Susan Canup

◀ Photo 1—Southern Indica Azaleas along the trail leading to Bayou Bend home are glorious in the spring, but do not fully prepare the visitor for the manicured gardens around the historic Bayou Bend home.

▲ Photo 2—This view looks up toward the Bayou Bend home, showing the wealth of Southern Indica Azaleas in the spring.

propagated to maintain Miss Hogg’s original species and cultivars as she dictated in her design.

- Rienzi—the Museum of Fine Arts Houston museum for European Decorative Arts, especially of the 18th and 19th century.

Special events include:

- Lunch at the Forum of Civics, the home of the River Oaks Garden Club.
- Lectures on the azalea influence on Asian Art, the history of the Azalea Trail, and Miss Ima Hogg and her legacy of the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens.
- Plant sale at the hotel.

Convention Registration

Open to all members of the Azalea Society of America, non-members who join the Azalea Society of America and guests to promote the goals of the ASA. Early registration fee is \$275.00, if this registration is received by Feb. 1, 2020.

Why Come to Houston?

- To visit the 4th largest city in the US
- 11,000 restaurants in the city; more than any other US city
- You can sleep well knowing it has the largest Medical Center in the US
- You could also visit the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
- There are 145 different languages spoken in the city
- The Museum District has 19 museums— one of the largest in the US
- Has more park acreage than any city over 1,000,000



Photo courtesy Susan Canup

▲ Photo 3—Kurume and Southern Indica azaleas frame Bayou Bend's Diana Terrace, so called because the view from this terrace is centered on the Diana Statue and reflecting pool down the manicured, sloping lawn.

After Feb. 1 the registration is \$290.00. This registration fee includes breakfast Friday and Saturday mornings, Friday and Saturday lunches, and the Saturday evening banquet. Refunds for cancellations are: 100% before Feb. 1, 2020; 50% between Feb. 2-12; and no refunds after Feb. 12.

Event Locations

All events, except tours, will be held at the Houston Marriott West Loop Hotel.

Hotel

Convention lodging will be at the Houston Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South, Houston TX 77027. Their phone number is 713-960-0111. The special rate is \$119 (plus 17% tax and lodging fee). Reservations should be made under the name of the Azalea Society of America Convention. Parking is \$20 a day.

Logistics Note

No hotel shuttle is available to the hotel from the airport. Uber fares run \$35-\$40 depending on which airport you travel to, Hobby or Houston Intercontinental.

Registration

Convention registration forms are posted on the ASA website. (Visit: <https://www.azaleas.org/wp-content/uploads/convention/2020/attach/RegistrationForm2020.pdf>) There is the option to sign up online. Or, fill in and mail the form on the wrapper of this issue.

Be sure to book your hotel rooms early at:

Houston Marriott West Loop
 1750 West Loop South
 \$119.00/night—rate subject to sales
 and local taxes (currently 17%)
 Toll Free: 800-228-9290
 Phone: 713-960-0111

These hotel numbers will transfer you to Reservations; mention you are with the Azalea Society of American Convention 2020 and ask for their special rate.



Photo courtesy Susan Canup

▲ Photo 4—Early morning sunlight over the Bayou Bend “Butterfly Garden” created from varying colors of Kurume Azaleas. The garden, developed in 1942, includes 350 Kurume azalea plants that are meticulously pruned annually by expert Bayou Bend groundskeepers to maintain the butterfly’s wings. Brick paths allow access and form the body of the butterfly.

► Photo 5— The Diana Statue in the formal azalea garden by the Visitor Center at Bayou Bend. Laid out between 1937 and 1939, this garden exemplifies the combined effects of architectural and landscape design. The focal point is the Diana statue, Roman goddess of wild animals and the hunt. Bayou Bend owner Ima Hogg commissioned the work from the Frilli studio in 1937. Not shown here, water jets form arches over a long reflecting pool. This garden is on an axis with the main door of the house.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Houston has more rainfall than Seattle
- Houston is the third most humid city in the US
- Houston’s metro area is larger than the state of New Jersey
- The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo is going on at the same time, so register early!
- You will be in Texas, so the 2020 conference will be bigger than ever

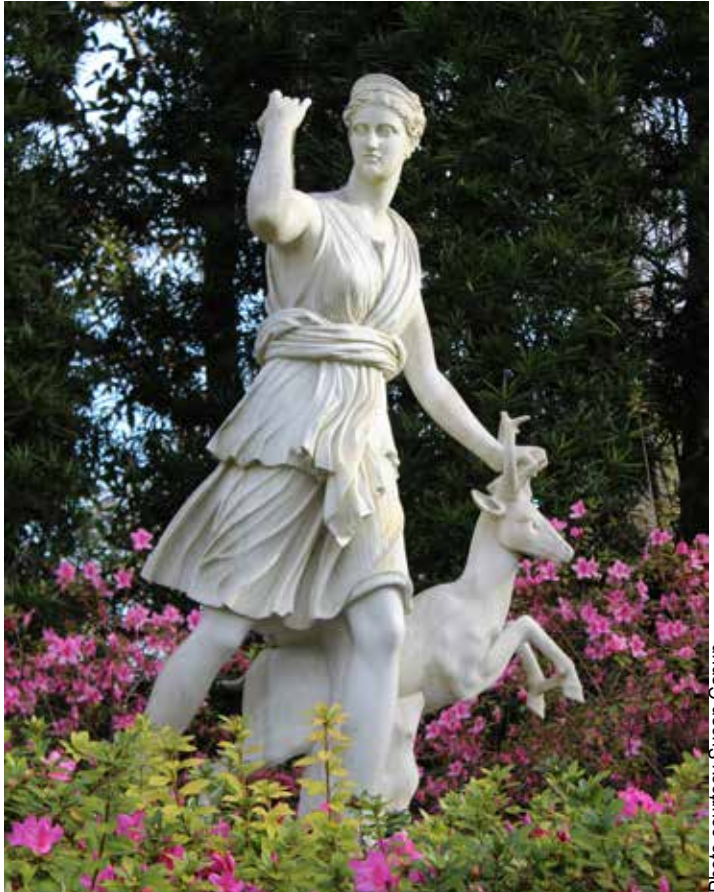


Photo courtesy Susan Canup

Where Do Our Azaleas Come From?—Part II

Becks' Materials and Methods for Azalea Propagation

By Carolyn Beck—Oak Hill, Virginia

Step 1:

Potting Mix for Rooted Cuttings and Larger Plants

Ingredients:

- ◆ 16 cu-ft Virginia Fines, a medium-fine pine bark available at Merrifield Garden Center in bulk or by the bag
- ◆ 6 cu-ft Superfines (also known as pine fines), a fine pine bark available at Betty's Azalea Ranch in bulk or by the bag
- ◆ 3.8 cu-ft compressed peat moss
- ◆ Note: Preferred peat moss: horticulture grade (e.g. Sunagro horticulture Canadian Peat moss 3.8 cu' compressed, or New Brunswick grower grade peat moss coarse blend sphagnum 225 liters) available from Maryland Plants and Supplies
- ◆ 4 cu-ft coarse Perlite available from Maryland Plants and Supplies
- ◆ 3 of the 60-pound bags coarse sand appropriate for landscaping use.

Mixing and Storing:

- ◆ Spread a large tarp on a flat surface, like a driveway.
- ◆ On one end of the tarp, spread the various potting mix ingredients in layers.
- ◆ Note: You may want to save the bags to use for storing the completed mix.
- ◆ Add some water (less than you ultimately will want).
- ◆ Shovel the mix from one end of the tarp to the other.
- ◆ Add enough water to make the medium moist, but not wet.
- ◆ Shovel the mix back to the original end of the tarp.
- ◆ Note: The mixture should hold its shape when compressed in your hand. No water should drip from the mass.
- ◆ If needed, add more water. The mix should be shoveled again to the other end of the tarp each time water is added.

Place the mix in plastic bags or containers (5-gallon buckets work well). Close the containers to retain moisture.

Step 2:

Growing Cuttings and Rooted Cuttings on Rolling Racks

Cuttings are placed on rolling racks (available from Costco). One rack (18" x 48") with five shelves. Only four shelves are used for the cuttings, as the top is covered with plastic in the initial phase. This configuration will hold a total of 800 cuttings, five per 4" pot. [See Photos 1 & 2]

Rooted cuttings are planted one per 4" pot. Pots are placed in trays of 15. All five shelves of the rolling racks are used, each shelf holding three trays. The rack holds a total of 675 of the one-year old azaleas.



Photo Carolyn Beck



▲ Photo 1—Rolling rooting carts.

◀ Photo 2—Propagation carts out for sun, watering, and air circulation.

Photo Carolyn Beck

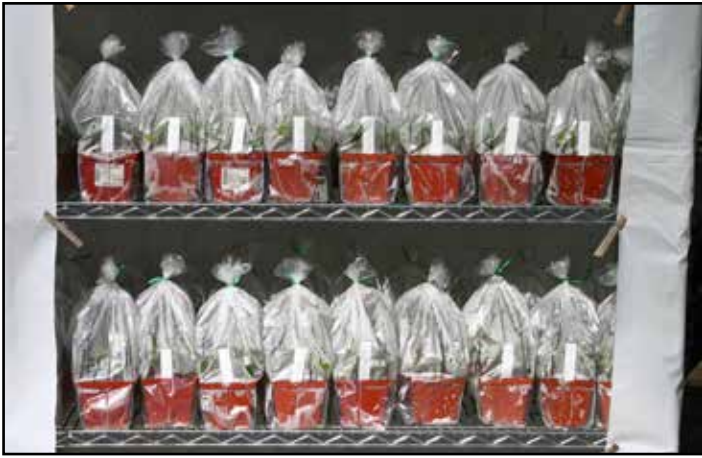


Photo Carolyn Beck

▲ Photo 3— Rooting cart closeup.



Photo Carolyn Beck

▲ Photo 4—Providing natural light for rooting cuttings.

The rolling racks are space savers as because of the vertical positioning of the plants. Our driveway is sunny in the morning and has afternoon shade on the south side. Racks are rolled from one side of the drive depending on the amount of sun and the temperature that day. [See Photo 3]

During the winter, the racks are moved into the garage when temperatures are expected to dip below freezing. If the days are cold for more than one day, fluorescent lights on vertical stands are turned on. These, plus the ceiling lights, are left on 24 hours a day.

Since the sun in summer is more overhead than the slanting of light we have during the winter, during the summer— if there is space in the yard—the trays of rooted cuttings are put on the ground so that they can have more sunlight, particularly in the morning. This location also has the advantage of easier watering, both from sprinkler irrigation and rain.

The trays are moved back to the rolling racks when the weather cools and the sun is again shining from a lower angle.

Step 3: Providing Window Light for Azalea Cuttings

Window light is often a good alternative to growing cuttings on a rack or within a coldframe, especially for those cuttings that are harvested late in the season (late September-October). This location provides more heat than they would get outside.

In fall through early spring, it is safe in our area to place the cuttings near a south-facing window since the sun is not strong enough to cause the amount of heat gain that would damage them. Care should be taken as the weather warms in spring to make certain that the temperature within the bags is not elevated. This can be done by feeling the bags each day, especially when it is sunny. [See Photo 4]

If the temps are still too cold during the night to place them outside, the containers can be moved farther away from the windows until outside conditions improve. The cuttings are placed in a plastic container just in case a leak should develop in one of the bags.

The rooted cuttings are transitioned to the rolling racks when the weather warms in the spring.

Editor’s Acknowledgments

This material was provided by Carolyn Beck in support of Barry Sperling’s article in the March 2019 issue of Northern Virginia Chapter’s *The Azalea Clipper* and in the previous issue of *The Azalean*.¹ It is presented here to show all three important steps in the cutting propagation method. Products mentioned are those locally available to the Becks, but similar products are available in most garden centers.

The method for bar-coding to record the resulting plants for sale by the chapter deserves a separate article by Paul Beck.

References

Sperling, Barry. “Where do our Azaleas Come From?—Part I.” Summer 2019. *The Azalean*. 41(2): 35-36.

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 for more information on their Legacy Project).

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In Memory—Jane Parrish Kinzie 1944–2018

By William C. Miller III—Bethesda, Maryland

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Jane Kinzie on December 5, 2018, from a voracious form of metastatic cancer [See Fig.1]. Born on February 5, 1944 to Lowell E. and Emily L. Parrish in Salt Lake City, Utah, Emily Jane Parrish attended East High School and graduated in the class of 1962. She earned an undergraduate degree in English from Utah University and a graduate degree in English from the University of Oregon. On December 1, 1967, Jane wed Norman Kent Boyd and became Jane P. Boyd, but the marriage later ended in divorce. In 1968, Jane came East, where she began a career in satellite communications at COMSAT (Communications Satellite Corporation). COMSAT was created by the Communications Satellite Act of 1962, during the Kennedy administration, to develop a commercial and international satellite communications system. When the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT) was created, Jane became one of their first employees. On November 27, 1985, she married Robert W. (Bob) Kinzie, the president of the Communication Services Division at COMSAT. In 1995 after a remarkable career, she retired from INTELSAT having risen to the position of Director of Human Resources, to pursue her love of flowers. Even in retirement, however, Jane remained connected to her friends and colleagues at INTELSAT. She was a founding member of the INTELSAT Retirees and Alumni Association (IRAA) and served as its first secretary. She remained in that capacity for several decades. This effort included the publication of the IRAA newsletter that she faithfully managed for many years.



▲ Fig. 1— Jane Kinzie'



▲ Fig. 2— Jane and Bob Kinzie's Garden in Bethesda, Maryland, was on the garden tour at the 2006 ARS/ASA National Meeting.

▼ Fig. 3— On May 24, 2002, Jane Kinzie of Kinzie Farms presented a landscape-size specimen of 'Brookside Delight' to Phil Normandy, Plant Collections Manager of Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland.



Onan generators on the East Coast.

In 1997, Jane joined the Azalea Society of America, and that would have been when our paths first crossed. I quickly became aware that Kinzie Farms produced a quality plant and had a good selection, which made it easy to recommend them as a good and reliable source. While she was never

a regular participant in local chapter activities, she was nevertheless a major behind-the-scenes supporter. Jane was always approachable and happy to donate plants for the various chapter-sponsored activities. One could sense that she had a management background. She was very organized, communicated well, and had “people skills.” Occasionally, she would call me or send me an email. Often it was to see what I knew about a particular azalea cultivar. It was a two-way street, and I always learned something from our conversations.

When the Brookside Gardens Chapter co-sponsored the ARS/ASA National Meeting in May 2006, Jane and Bob’s 1.5-acre Bethesda home was on the tour [See Fig. 2]. That year was special because it was a nearly “perfect” spring, and we were looking at peak bloom. In any year, Jane’s magnificent garden would have been worth a visit, but that year the Kinzie garden was spectacular.

Another major contribution for which I will always be grateful, was that she did all the propagations for the formal introductions of the evergreen azaleas ‘Brookside Delight’ in 2002 [See Fig. 3] and ‘Bobbi Gail’ in 2008. By far, the greatest mistake one can make when introducing a new plant, is to create a demand for that new plant without creating a supply to meet the demand.

In July of 2009, I invited Jane to be a speaker at the Brookside Gardens Chapter’s annual meeting on December 6, 2009. She was initially reluctant and expressed concern that she wasn’t sure that what she had to say would be of interest. I still have my email response where I rattled off 17 wide ranging topics that I knew would be of a general interest to an azalea audience... from her “favorite” azaleas to her experiences in operating an azalea nursery. Her presentation, “Azaleas—A Local Grower’s Perspective,” described a little about her background but focused primarily on her extensive horticultural interests and activities. Her presentation was very revealing because few people are aware of the extent to which Maryland nursery operations are regulated by government. For her many contributions to the chapter and to the overall azalea community, Jane was awarded the 2009 Frederic P. Lee Commendation during the business

portion of the meeting [See Fig. 4]. The Frederic P. Lee Commendation, established in 1982, was awarded annually for distinguished contributions to furthering the knowledge of propagation, care, and general appreciation of azaleas.

I had the opportunity to review some of the remembrances from Jane’s friends and former colleagues who were moved to share their feelings when they learned of her passing. They commented on “...her politeness and gentle voice,” that “her dedication and communication abilities were without equal,” that she “was gracious, generous, and incredibly diplomatic,” that she was “a friend and someone to whom you could turn for calm reassurance or helpful suggestions.” Jane touched a lot of lives over the years, and in doing so earned the respect and admiration of all who knew her. As for me, there is little that I can add, since their characterizations accurately reflected the person whose friendship I came to appreciate. I saw in Jane a quiet and gentle grace. She was a very nice person.

William C. Miller III is a recipient of the Brookside Gardens Chapter’s Frederic P. Lee Commendation (1988) and is twice the recipient of the ASA’s Distinguished Service Award (1995 and 2002). He was chairman of the ASA’s Glenn Dale Preservation Project, and a co-chairman of Dick West’s Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project. He is past president of the Brookside Gardens Chapter, a former vice president of the ASA, a past member of the ASA board of directors, past co-chairman of the ASA’s membership committee, past chairman of the ASA’s public information committee, the longest serving member of the ASA’s Editorial Advisory Board, and a frequent contributor to *The Azalean*.



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▼ Fig. 4— Jane Kinzie of Bethesda, Maryland, was presented the 2009 Frederic P. Lee Commendation at the Brookside Gardens Chapter annual meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009.



Photo William C. Miller III

Brookside Gardens Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

By William C. Miller III—Bethesda, Maryland

There was an excellent turnout on Friday, July 12th to celebrate Brookside Gardens' 50 years of service to the community. Built on the site of the former Stadler Nursery, Brookside Gardens, part of the Wheaton Regional Park in Wheaton, Maryland, officially opened on July 13, 1969, after four years of planning and construction. Today, many hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoy the 54 acres, which are supported by career staff, part-time staff, and a host of volunteers who maintain the formal gardens and garden features, the conservatory complex, the educational center, the walkways, and greenhouse facilities for the enjoyment of visitors in search of a connection to nature. Brookside Gardens provides opportunities to gather, relax, reflect, learn, and be inspired by the programs and by world-class display gardens featuring plants that are suitable for the region.

The formal program was hosted by Mike Riley, the Director of Montgomery Parks. Speakers included Amanda Allen, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Governor Larry Hogan; Casey Anderson, Chairman, Montgomery Planning Board; Jeff Waldstreicher, Maryland State Senator,

District 18; Emily Shetty, Maryland State Delegate, District 18; Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive; Gabe Albornoz, Andrew Friedson, Tom Hucker, and Will Jawando, Montgomery County Council members; John Robinson, Acting Executive Director, Montgomery Parks Foundation; and Stephanie Oberle, Director, Brookside Gardens. Several speakers presented proclamations to Director Oberle. Noteworthies in the audience were acknowledged. They included former Brookside Gardens Directors David Vismara and Carl Hahn. Carl Hahn became the first Director of Brookside Gardens in 1969 and later was involved in sponsoring Barry Yinger's selection and importation of 387 Satsuki hybrids from the Kairyō Nursery in Japan in 1978.¹

At the conclusion of the program, refreshments were served, and attendees were invited to explore the gardens and to visit the very popular Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly Exhibit in its 22nd season (complimentary admission).

Brookside Gardens' 15-phase Master Plan is well underway and will be implemented over the next 20 to 25 years. Brookside Gardens will continue to be the gem of the park system, a popular year-round destination, and a shining example of what local government can do right.

▼ Fig. 1— Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens at the Brookside Gardens' 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 12, 2019.



References

¹ Hahn, Carl. July 1981. "Some Thoughts on Satsuki Azaleas." *The Azalean*. 3(3): 1, 7-8.

For the Record: Summer 2019 Issue

In the Summer 2019 issue, page 40, the wrong photo was used to illustrate the concept of "...a rounded, unpruned native azalea natural hybrid with a rounded crown that had developed without pruning." This photograph, by Charlie Andrews, of a natural triploid from Cherokee County, Georgia, shows this growth pattern. He says it is probably *Rhododendron flammeum* x *R. calendulaceum*.



Barbara Bullock Retires

By William C. Miller III—Bethesda, Maryland

After 29 years as curator of the azalea and rhododendron collection at the National Arboretum (USNA), Barbara Bullock has retired. On April 3, 2019, she sent an email alerting USNA staff and her friends and supporters in the azalea and rhododendron communities of her plans to schedule a “final presentation” on Wednesday, June 26th at noon in the arboretum classroom.

At the beginning of the presentation, Barbara was introduced by Carole Bordelon, her immediate supervisor in the Gardens Unit. Entitled “Best. Job. Ever.,” Barbara’s PowerPoint presentation was a retrospective of her 29 years of commitment and dedication to one of the largest plant collections at the National Arboretum [Fig. 1]. She highlighted the challenges she found in 1990, which included many acres overrun by vines, weeds, and ill-placed volunteer trees; logistical issues like the limited availability of watering resources for Mount Hamilton; topographical realities that exacerbated drainage and erosion; and the toll of periodic weather extremes (e.g., hurricane damage resulting in the loss of canopy). On the positive side, she acknowledged and thanked the many friends, volunteers, and part-time staff

who over the years helped her rescue, manage, and improve the azalea and rhododendron collection.

Following Barbara’s presentation, Jim Kuznicki, a friend, read a poem that he had written for her. On behalf of the USNA, Carole Bordelon presented Barbara with a USNA coffee mug. A representative of the ASA presented Barbara with a sweatshirt from the 1995 ASA national meeting. The significance of the sweatshirt is that it features a drawing of *Rhododendron vaseyi* that the meeting organizers had commissioned Barbara to create especially for that 1995 event [Fig 2]. The celebration of Barbara’s retirement concluded with a cake and refreshments, and she invited all in the audience who had worked with her over the years to come forward for a brief photo session.

Unlike many who retire from Federal service, Barbara is not leaving the area. However, her plans include “visiting many of our state and national parks...; biking, canoeing, or hiking; going to music festivals...; visiting friends in other states; (and) doing art, whether it be drawing, painting, or watercolors, or doing crafts.” She is charting a very active retirement to be sure.

▼ Fig. 1—Barbara Lorraine Bullock, Curator of Azaleas and Rhododendrons for 29 years at the USNA



▼ Fig. 2— The ASA sweatshirt presented to Barbara Bullock at her retirement.





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Chapter News and New Members

Alabamense Chapter

The chapter welcomes new member Jeanette Wimpee, Jackson Gap, Alabama.

Arkansas Chapter

Ronnie Palmer—President

The Arkansas Chapter had its second annual cutting party on Saturday June 23 at Azalea Hill in Pine Bluff. Attendance was very good. A total of 32 people attended.

The cuttings were taken from the specimen plants at Azalea Hill, and Randall and Kay Lewis provided many cuttings from their fabulous azalea garden. Randall had the cuttings neatly packed in bags of ten cuttings. He had about 100 cuttings of his favorite azalea ‘Louisa J. Bobbink’ (LBJ). They are very welcome new members of the Arkansas Chapter.

A hamburger and hot dog cookout followed. The fellowship was great, and food was delicious. Bob Benbow gave a treasurer’s report. Our bank balance is \$822.75.

Members were advised of the upcoming National Convention in Houston, Texas, in March 2020. We hope to have a good delegation from Arkansas at that meeting.

Terri Waterman and Karl Trautman sent pictures of their cutting project [Photo 1]. The chapter welcomes new members Randall and Kay Lewis of Pine Bluff.

Ben Morrison Chapter

Diane Reinke—Secretary

Several chapter members enjoyed attending the open garden of associate members Faith and Jerry Bange at the end of June. Their garden features a beautiful collection of daylilies and other summer flowers, which were in peak bloom.

A few weeks later, chapter members held a picnic, cutting exchange, and plant auction at the lovely home of Joe Miller, known as Wake Robin, in California, Maryland. Azaleas

▼ Photo 1—Terri and Karl’s cutting project cold frame.



Photo Waterman and Trautman

for the auction were graciously donated by Mike and Deb White’s Nursery of Germantown, Maryland. Their nursery has also supported a 3-year effort to encourage membership in the chapter. Though the weather was sizzling hot, everyone chilled out on Joe’s cool sunporch while enjoying a delicious selection of luncheon dishes.

The chapter partnered with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society to purchase a memorial bench for Gray Carter, which has been installed at London Town Gardens on the South River in Edgewater, Maryland. [Photo 2]

Future events include late summer and fall luncheons and auctions at Ashling’s Kitchen and Bar in Crofton, Maryland.

The chapter has welcomed 13 new members, recruited through their free half-year membership for people buying plants at their plant sale: Richard Bradshaw, Crownsville, MD; Lois Duffy, Severna Park, MD; Grace Gohs, Olney, MD; Sherri and Trevor Joyce, University Park, MD; Kevin Judd, Ashburn, Virginia; Steven Morrison, Paul Nowacek, and Bill and Ellen-Jane Pairo, Silver Spring, MD; Guhver and Laura Mullen, Rockville, MD; and Maria Price Nowakowski, Severn, MD. These members are also associate members of the NVA Chapter.

▼ Photo 2—Bench dedicated by Ben Morrison Chapter and placed this spring. The dedication plaque reads: In Memory of Henry Gray Carter, 1921-2018, a kind and generous man, who propagated rhododendrons to share with plant enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region.



Photo Carol Segree

Louisiana Chapter

Allen Owings—President

John A. “Doc” Cox II, of Independence, Louisiana, passed away at his home on Monday, June 10, 2019, at the age of 72. He was born on August 16, 1946, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the son of the late John Andrew Cox and Frances Letitia Cazedessus Cox. Doc was a US Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an avid duck hunter and loved to fish. Doc is the husband of Peggy Cox, past president of the Louisiana Chapter, Azalea Society of America, and past board member, ASA. Peggy and Doc regularly attended horticulture events across the country—including many ASA events and conventions over the past 25 years. Memorial donations may be made to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Development Fund, LSU Foundation, 3796 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Northern VA Chapter

Barry Sperling—Secretary

Our popular cutting exchange, July 14th, again drew a crowd eager for plant material. In addition to the cuttings from many varieties, a plant exchange covered an equally large chain of tables, guaranteeing that everyone went home with an armful of plantings, despite the heat and humidity. This event has always attracted people from outside the DC area, with Robert Thau of Texas claiming the longest drive. As always, the culinary contributions and pleasant companionship added to the day.

Work has been continuing the Klimavicz Garden in Meadowlark Gardens with a weeding session in early July. Carolyn and Paul Beck, Rick Bauer, Dave Nanney, and Joanne and Dan Neckel put in the time to make the area more attractive. [Photos 3-5]

Our next meeting will be on September 28 for the popular annual Plant Sale and Auction at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in West Springfield, VA. This always gets a fine turnout. We’ll have a speaker for our fall meeting on October 27 at the same venue. Join us!

The chapter welcomes new members Carol Allen, Germantown, MD, and Linus Chen, Oakton, VA.

▼ Photo 3—People grouped around the Northern Virginia Chapter plant exchange.



Photo Barry Sperling

Texas Chapter

Caryl Hall—Secretary

At the spring meeting on May 11th President Dr. David Creech presented information on upcoming horticulture projects and issues of interest to membership. Ideas for increasing the visibility of our chapter were also discussed. The two winners of the Texas Chapter ASA scholarships were announced. These scholarships are awarded to students pursuing degrees in Horticulture. [Photo 6]

Eight Chapter members stuck many cuttings on May 25th to be sold at future plants sales. Annual plant sales for fund raising and dissemination of azalea information are scheduled each Spring.

Sadly, the chapter reports the passing of Jo Ann Smith, who previously served as Chapter President and past ASA Board of Directors member.

We welcome Gary Brock of Houston, TX as our new member.



Photo Carolyn Beck

▲ Photo 4—Dave Nanney (left) and Paul Beck pretend to lift large log.

▼ Photo 5—Tired and dirty group of NVA members; left to right: Dan and Joanne Neckel, Dave Nanney, and Carolyn and Paul Beck at the Klimavicz Garden workday in Meadowlark Gardens.



Photo Rick Bauer



Photo Sherrie Randall

▲ Photo 6—Texas Chapter scholarship recipients Hailey Dunbar, sophomore, and Jevon Richeson, junior, students of Dr. Jared Barnes, assistant professor of Horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Texas Forest Country Chapter

Robert Thau—President

Our chapter held a short meeting June 8th, followed by a propagation workshop at Natures Way Gardens, with a good turnout of members. On June 15th another propagation workshop was held for members of the Jasper Master Gardeners, with another great turnout. I plan to hold this event yearly.

Natures Way garden tours were very successful, with many garden clubs and master gardeners from around the area and couples, to see the many azalea cultivars not known to them. I would like to thank Beverly Holly, the

Executive Director of the Jasper/Sam Rayburn Chamber of Commerce for all her help and support in promoting our chapter and Natures Way Gardens. Beverly's post on the chamber's website about our chapter and the garden tours had over 3000 hits.

The Sandy Creek Park expansion project is underway, and we plan to start planting azaleas this fall. The project is part of the Jasper beautification project, which includes the azalea gardens and 60-plus acres of wooded nature trail. I will keep you updated on this project.

The chapter welcomes new members Earline Barrow, Jasper; Nancy R. Nicholson, Brookeland; Julia and Arden Claire Pruett, Burkeville; and Christine and Gerald Schmelebeck, Buna, Texas.

Speaking as the ASA Membership Chair, I have noticed we are recruiting new members for our chapters. Hats off to the members who are working hard to achieve this. Keep up the good work.

Vaseyi Chapter

The chapter welcomes new member Lisa-Marie Quinlan, Asheville, NC.

**E-mail us your
chapter news and
photographs to
theazalean@gmail.com**

Changes in Membership Dues Structure

By Paul Beck, Treasurer

As a result of a decision from the 2019 Board of Director's meeting in Summerville, SC, two changes have been authorized to the ASA dues structure. The fee for those signing up for the **Online only** version of *The Azalean* has been reduced to **\$25 per year**. This reduction reflects the incremental printing and mailing costs for the four issues. Online only members are emailed a PDF of the journal, and they can read the online version on the website. In addition, a new **\$15 per year Student** membership was approved. This rate applies to full-time students under the age of 25.

In addition, a regular member can also become an



Associate member of any number of other chapters. This entitles the member to receive electronic communications from the associate chapter, such as newsletters and periodic informational emails. Also, the associate member is welcome to participate in any of the activities of their associate chapter. Associate chapter dues are typically \$5 per year per associate chapter (but that rate may be whatever the associate chapter deems appropriate).

The above changes have been implemented on our website and are shown on the membership form on the outside wrapper of this issue.

ASA Seed Exchange

Contributing Seed

2019 has been a good year for azalea seed production. Seed contributions for 2020 are accepted from ASA members and other sources until December 31, 2019. 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)
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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:

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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 2020 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-March 1: to contributors and ASA members
- After March 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 lindyjohnsonse@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 page.

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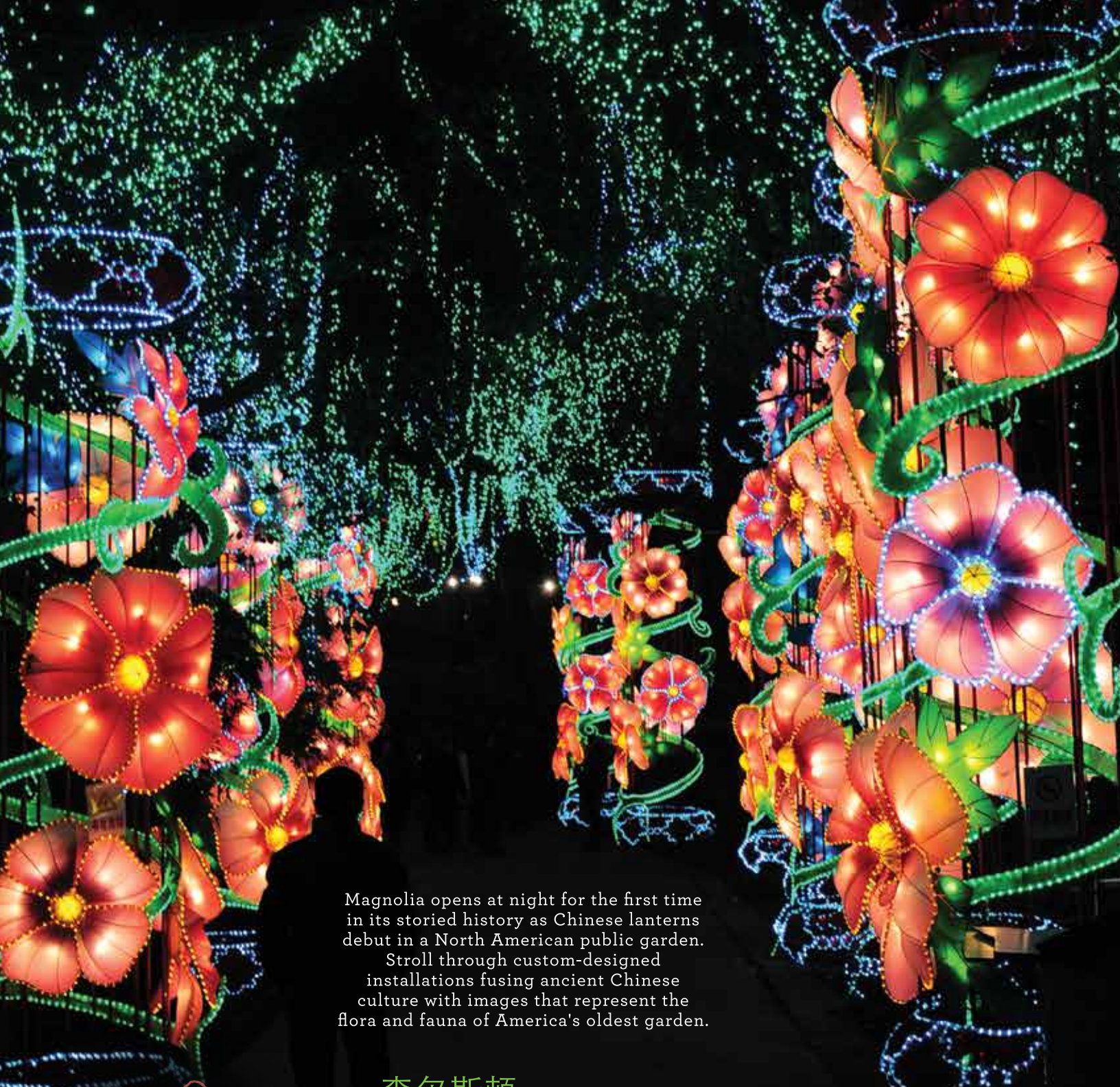
By Paul Beck, Treasurer

The ASA membership dues do not cover the costs for editing, layout, preparation, printing and mailing of *The Azalean*. The costs have been made up by generous donations by a few members and a few advertisements by our members with nurseries or gardens. We need to seek out advertisements from other sources to remove our dependence on donations. There has historically been an Ad Manager to pursue advertisements for *The Azalean*; however, this position has been unfilled for several years. The previous reimbursement for the ad manager has been a low 10% of revenue for new ads, and 5% of the cost for repeat ads. This low reimbursement has not been



much of an incentive to get new advertising.

At the 2019 Board of Director's meeting in Summerville, SC, the board approved a considerably higher reimbursement rate in order to make the position more attractive. The new reimbursement rate is 50% of the first year's revenue for new advertisements, and 10% of subsequent year renewals. For example, a full page (not back cover) ad costs \$1,080, so the ad manager would receive \$540 for obtaining a full page advertisement. Please contact me at treasurer@azaleas.org if you are interested in the position of **Advertising Manager** for *The Azalean*.



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