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The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



President's Letter

Charlie Andrews—Cumming, Georgia



I am honored to be associated with an organization that promotes azaleas. It is my fortunate pleasure to follow Rick Bauer as president. Rick has all the characteristics of a good leader. He knows that we are a voluntary organization, not a business corporation or military organization. Here one must lead, not order others around.

Rick was an active society president with personality and charisma. He was full of ideas to help our organization succeed and grow. He brought the Northern Virginia Chapter's excellent Legacy Project to the whole ASA. He helped connect us with other organizations such as the Graham County/Robbinsville, NC Native Azalea Festival. Under his watch, we introduced an Azalea 101 workshop in cooperation with the Master Gardeners organization for the public. This brought in about 70 new members to ASA. As president, Rick introduced a new logo, an updated brochure, and two extremely useful (I would almost say essential) publications to assist our chapters, *Chapter Ideas for Success* and *Planning and Running a Convention*.

Rick took the many challenges to our organization brought on by the COVID pandemic in stride. It was impressive to see him up close as we faced the difficulties this pandemic caused our conventions and chapters' activities.

Rick has been active at the chapter level also. He has served as chapter vice president, newsletter editor, president, ASA director, and convention co-chair. He worked on the team that digitized *The Azalean*. He is the current president of the Northern Virginia Chapter. You see what I have to follow. Fortunately, Rick will still be close by.

During my term as president, you will hear several themes repeatedly.

First, the Azalea Society of America needs to be *the* place for azalea information and knowledge. We need to increase the quality and quantity of information available through our chapters and national organization. This involves chapter activities, our website, *The Azalean*, and our Azalea Research Fund. For example, the Legacy Project is a great start, yet, there are many other cultivars not necessarily in a Legacy Project that should be added to our plant database to make it more complete. More educational opportunities like Azalea 101 workshops should be organized. We need to encourage more quality articles for our journal, *The Azalean*. We will be working on opportunities like these.

Second is membership. We cannot succeed without members, and our numbers are in decline. Our chapter leaders need to actively make recruiting and retention a priority. I will assist where I can through our membership committee.

Third, we as an organization have to give our members value for their money. People join and pay dues. They do not have to. They can stop. We succeed by providing value. It is our job as chapter leaders to aggressively find ways to provide value to these people interested in azaleas. We need to discover what benefits them and make it available. It is not easy. We have different interests. We have different levels of expertise. Chapters have local and distant members. While each chapter plans its own activities and establishes its own capabilities, I want our national organization to help our chapters as much as possible in providing value.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I love azaleas, and azalea lovers are my wonderful friends.

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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Secretary — Donna Palmer

Treasurer — Paul Beck

Immediate Past President — Rick Bauer

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Terms expire 2022	Terms expire 2023
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At-Large Contact

Rick Bauer

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$30; life membership for one or two persons at the same address is \$600. Members receive *The Azalean* and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society. For information and a membership application, write to Donna Palmer, Secretary, 1106 S. Evans Road South White Hall, AR 71602-9430 or visit www.azaleas.org.

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Deadlines for *The Azalean*:

- Fall 2021 issue is due July 15, 2021
- Winter 2021 issue is due October 15, 2021
- Spring 2022 issue is due January 15, 2022
- Summer 2022 issue is due April 15, 2022

Remember, you too can write for *The Azalean*!

Contact: theazalean@gmail.com.

On the Cover

The 'Li'l Tae' from the Bowie Mill Azalea collection of Buck Claggett. Photo by Kathy Jentz.



Chapter News



Pictured from left to right are Dave Nanney, Landon Davis, Don Hyatt, Marianne Feller, Bruce Feller, Dan Neckel, Joanne Neckel, Leslie Nanney, and Rick Bauer. Photo taken by Wes Morgan.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Rick Bauer, Corresponding Secretary

With the start of spring, nine members opened their gardens for visits by other chapter members. A number of chapter members took the opportunity to visit the Davis and Cosby gardens in the Richmond, VA area on 20 April. An article on the Cosby garden was in the Winter 2014 issue of *The Azalean*. The Cosbys planted over 11 acres of azaleas and rhododendron on their 79-acre property in Rockville, VA. These include a number of beds with Legacy varieties. They have donated their property to Lewis Ginter Garden and it is now known as the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve. Chapter members toured the garden and then we had a picnic lunch. Many of the attendees also took the opportunity to visit the garden of Landon and Elizabeth Davis in Richmond, VA. Chapter members Bruce and Marianne Feller made the long trip from Long Island, NY, to visit the Bauer garden before joining us at the Richmond area gardens the next day.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Vice President

The Texas Chapter supported the Azalea Trail in Tyler, Texas, on March 27th. The Trail began at the Goodman Museum and Gardens, where the Chapter showcased 14 different cultivars comprised of both evergreen and deciduous azaleas. It's always a treat to see the public's reaction to so

many different colors/varieties that they've never before seen. The plant sale in Tyler, Texas, was so successful, the Chapter sponsored two \$500 scholarships to agriculture students at the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

Shown directly below, Texas Chapter President David Creech presenting Stephen F. Austin University student Hanna LeFlore with a \$500 horticulture scholarship.



Shown at bottom of page 30, Texas Chapter President David Creech presenting Stephen F. Austin University student Kathryn Kass with a \$500 horticulture scholarship.



The Chapter also donated azaleas to the Goodman gardens as the February ice/snow storm did take a toll on many of their older azaleas. Thanks to Donna Vandermolen and Joyce Adams for their help in making this such a success!

Texas Chapter photos taken by Sherrie Randall.

Texas Forest Country Chapter

Gabrielle Woods,
Reporting Member

The Texas Forest Country Chapter attended the annual Azalea festival in Jasper, Texas, on March 20th, 2021. It was the 32nd Azalea Festival and it was dedicated to Robert Thau and his azalea expertise in Jasper. A plaque was given to his wife, Roselea Thau, in the memory of Robert Thau, and for all he has done for the city of Jasper, Texas.

Robert is really going to be missed for the things he did for others and his city. You can't walk through the garden and not think of Robert and his love for all azaleas, may his legacy live on through the members of the Azalea Society.



Vaseyi Chapter **Aaron Cook, President**

In Memoriam for Doley Scott Bell Jr.
November 9, 1946–December 24, 2020

Doley was proud of his azalea and rhododendron awards—and even prouder of his family. Most memorably, he contributed countless hours to the betterment of others. Whenever a friend, family member, neighbor—or even a stranger—was in need, Doley offered a helping hand.

Born in East Flat Rock, NC, Doley attended East Henderson High School, North Carolina State University, and Western Carolina University. For decades, he volunteered for the Henderson County Special Olympics. He was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville. Until his retirement in 2009, he was employed as the executive director of Carolina Village, a position he held for 33 years.

In his retirement, Doley liked fishing and gardening. Doley was a Charter member of the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA and served the chapter in many capacities. From the very beginning, he was active leading the Biltmore Estate Garden tour for the 2001 convention. He was a bus captain during the 2008 convention and chaired the Tour Committee for the 2012 convention. Along with his wife, Melody, he loved sharing his garden. Their garden was featured during several national conventions.

He served as Vaseyi vice president from 2005 to 2006, president from 2007 to 2008, and served as treasurer from 2014 until his death.

Doley was awarded the Chapter's highest honor, The Augie Kehr Memorial Award in 2013.

Please Help Us by Donating via Amazon Smile

By Paul A. Beck, Treasurer

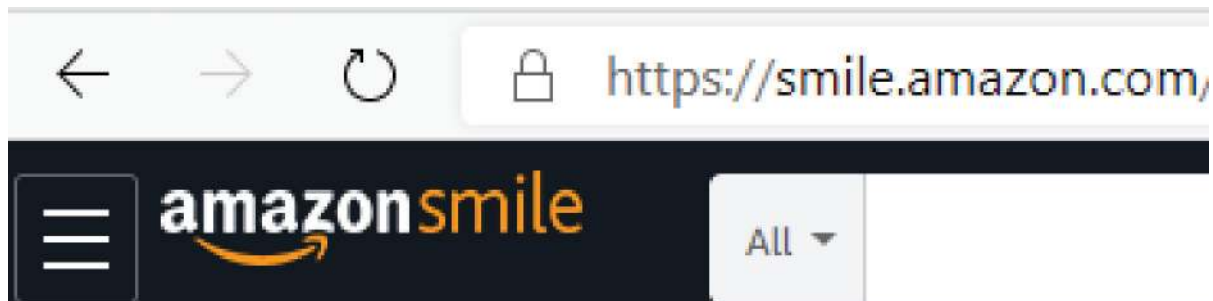
I'm guessing that many of you who purchase online are using Amazon. I know that it's my first place to check for something I want to buy. Amazon has a feature that supports non-profit organizations such as us. They will donate 0.5% of every purchase to the non-profit of your choice. This does not impact in any way what you pay for the merchandise. It comes out of Amazon's profit. The ARS has been doing this for some time, so if you are not already donating to the ARS, I would appreciate it if you would consider selecting the Azalea Society of America as your preferred charity on Amazon.

Setting up Amazon Smile is easy. Open your browser to smile.amazon.com. At the top of the page will be a "Get Started" button. Click that button. You will then be presented with a field to enter the charity name. Enter "Azalea Society of America" and click Search. At the top of the list should be our name, as shown below.



Click the Select button. You will be presented with a checkbox followed by the statement "Yes, I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support Azalea Society of America Inc." Next click >Start Shopping<. That's all there is to it. That statement after the checkbox is important. If you have a bookmark in your browser for Amazon, it needs to be changed from www.amazon.com to smile.amazon.com.

One final point. If you are searching for something to buy using Google or some other online search engine, and you click on the link of the object found, it will take you to the Amazon web page with the item. BEFORE you click to add it to your cart, go up to the address line on your browser and change the "www" to "smile". Be sure to not change anything else in the address. The top left of the page should show Amazon Smile, as shown below. If it does not, nothing will be credited to our account.



ASA Financial Statement - December 31, 2020

By Paul A. Beck, Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT

Year 2020

RECEIPTS

Contributions, Donations & Gifts	\$ 6,590
Dues (Life & Regular) ¹	\$12,275
Seed Exchange ²	\$ 1,324
<i>The Azalean</i>	\$ 3,278
Interest & Dividends	\$ 4,252

Total Receipts \$27,719

EXPENSES

Grants	\$ 3,300
Professional Fees	\$ 9,000
Printing, publications, postage	\$ 9,556
Membership	\$ 2,882
Other expenses	\$ 376

Total Expenses \$25,114

INCOME - EXPENSES \$2,605

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Checking	\$ 9,354
Savings	\$ 17,397
PayPal	\$ 228
CDs	\$ 81,780
Investments	\$147,652

Total Assets \$256,411

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

Uncashed checks	\$ 0
Credit Card Account	\$ 0
Operating Fund	\$ 89,216
General Endowment ³	\$ 57,360
Research Fund	\$109,835

Total Liabilities \$256,411

¹ The 10-year average dues collection is \$14,306. Ninety-seven members were removed from the active rolls for lack of dues payment.

² The Seed Exchange revenue in 2020 was the highest recorded, with the 10 year average being \$591

³ The Endowment Fund is a cash reserve set aside to cover Life memberships



Today, My Favorite Azalea Companion Plant of an Herbaceous Perennial Type Is....

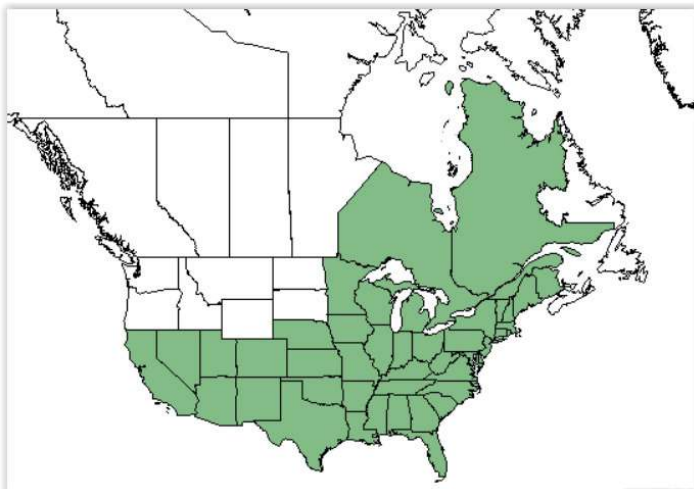
By William C. Miller III—Bethesda, Maryland

This is the third in a series of “favorite” articles. The azaleas ‘Ambrosia’ and ‘Opal’ were previously identified as my favorite Glenn Dale and Linwood Hardy Hybrids respectively.¹ It occurred to me that it would be useful to expand my focus to the rest of the plant kingdom, since very few people have gardens that are limited to azaleas.

Companion plants, often overlooked in the homeowner garden planning process, comprise a surprisingly significant feature in every garden. There is the canopy and the understory trees, above the azaleas, represented by the taller trees (e.g., oak, beech, pine, maple) and the smaller trees (e.g., dogwood, maple, redbud, and stewartia). There are plants that share the profile level with the azaleas (e.g., holly, viburnum, hydrangea, and other rhododendrons). Finally, there are the plants that reside below the azaleas (e.g., ground covers, annuals, perennials, and weeds).

After considerable thought, I am pleased to report that today my favorite herbaceous perennial is *Lobelia cardinalis*, commonly called cardinal flower. A hardy native American plant of the bellflower family, it has become increasingly popular as an ornamental feature in gardens around the world. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service distribution map probably represents where it can be found growing naturally in the US.

Photo 1. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Distribution Map (<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=LOCA2>). The interpretation of the map is that *Lobelia cardinalis* is found within the state and not necessarily found everywhere in the state. Photo Credit: USDA.



The natural distribution, however, extends into Canada and Mexico and private gardens across the US where it is a very popular element in water and rain gardens and might not be represented on the government map. It was introduced into Europe in the mid-1620s and has become naturalized. Since it isn't overly competitive, it is technically considered non-native rather than “invasive.”

Lobelia, the Genus

The genus was named after Matthias de l'Obel, a Flemish physician and botanist (1538-1616) by Charles Plumier, a French priest, botanist, and New World plant explorer (1646-1704).^{2,3} They both were significant influences on Linnaeus who is often called the father of taxonomy. Taxonomy or systematic botany is the system of classification that we use today.

In the genus *Lobelia*, there are large, small, annual, and perennial plants, which are sometimes referred to as wildflowers or herbs. Some are tender, while others are hardy, and one is even characterized as alpine. They exist in a variety of habitats, but are generally found in tropical to temperate regions in fresh tidal and non-tidal marshes, bogs, wooded swamps, wet thickets, seeps, stream edges, and river banks in everything from full sun to light shade.

According to Dr. Thomas G. Lammers, a retired plant taxonomist from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, *L. cardinalis* is one of 415 species in the genus *Lobelia*. For many years, the focus of his interest was *Campanulaceae*, the family of flowering plants that includes *Lobelia*. In 2011, he published a revision of the intrageneric classification of the genus based on phenotypic data.⁴ Basically, there is something in *Lobelia* for everyone. See Table 1, for a modest selection of representative species.

Lobelia cardinalis

There are a lot of common names for *L. cardinalis*: bog sage, hog's physic, Indian pink, red bay, scarlet lobelia, slinkweed, *kardinalslobelie*, and water gladiole to name a few. To add to the confu-



Photo 2. Juvenile ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) on cardinal flower. Photo Credit: William C. Miller III.



Photo 3. The dark green rosette form of *Lobelia cardinalis* from which the flowering spikes arise. Shown with a Washington quarter for comparative size. Photo Credit: William C. Miller III.

sion, the general literature lists *Lobelia splendens* and *Lobelia fulgens* as synonyms.

I have lots of experience with *L. cardinalis* and *L. siphilitica*, but I have a strong preference for the former. Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American short story writer and novelist, was sufficiently enamored with *L. cardinalis* that he wrote: “The world is made brighter and sunnier by flowers of such a hue... it arrays itself in this scarlet glory. It is a flower of thought and feeling too; it seems to have its roots deep down in the hearts of those who gaze at it.”⁵

Jordan Cunningham, a greenhouse technician at the Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches,

Texas, expressed similar thoughts in an article she wrote on their experience with *L. cardinalis* and *L. puberula*. Like Hawthorne, she admits the “wonderful shade of red” speaks to her heart.⁶

The additional draw for me is that the showy, eye-pleasing, vibrant-red hue is an absolute magnet for humming birds. Humming birds are quite territorial and it is prudent to have multiple stands of *L. cardinalis*, so that one individual bird cannot successfully monopolize the lot. It has been suggested that the intense color is similar to the vesture (red robes) worn by Roman Catholic cardinals, and I also find a favorable comparison with the plumage of the northern cardinal (*Cardinalis*

Table 1 - Table of Select *Lobelia* Species.

Species	Common Name	Native to	Use	Flower Color
<i>L. cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	US	garden ornamental	red, white is known
<i>L. chinensis</i>	Asian lobelia	China	traditional Chinese medicine	white
<i>L. deckenii</i>	giant lobelia	Tanzania	alpine habitat, not typical ornamental	pale yellow green
<i>L. erinus</i>	edging lobelia	South Africa	hanging basket and window box ornamental	blue to violet
<i>L. inflata</i>	Indian tobacco	US	medicinal herb	violet with yellow tint inside
<i>L. puberula</i>	downy lobelia	US	garden ornamental	blue to violet
<i>L. siphilitica</i>	great blue lobelia	US	garden ornamental	blue, white is known
<i>L. spicata</i>	pale spiked lobelia	US	?	white to pale blue
<i>L. tenuior</i>	slender lobelia	Australia	not easily grown in garden, better greenhouse/pot plant	blue with yellowish tube

cardinalis). Of course, if the bright-red flower of *L. cardinalis* is not your thing, there are more understated members of the genus like the similar, but blue- or white-flowering *L. siphilitica*.

While all parts of *L. cardinalis* are poisonous, due to the presence of a number of toxic alkaloids (e.g., lobelamine and lobeline), a number of Amerindian tribes used leaf and root preparations (e.g., teas and poultices) internally and externally to treat typhoid, stomach ailments, colds, fevers, headaches, rheumatism, syphilis, and worms. Some of the tribes dried and smoked or chewed the leaves. Toxicity was reported to be a function of the quantity consumed and adverse reactions included salivation, nausea, diarrhea, convulsions, coma, and possibly death.

Plant Description

While *L. cardinalis* is routinely referred to as a perennial, I don't see why it isn't a biennial. The life cycle is very similar to great mullein.⁷ In my Mid-Atlantic garden, self-seeding is common, which is fortunate since *L. cardinalis* does not

Photo 4. Multiple racemes emanating from the central stem showing mature seed capsules at the end of the season. Photo Credit: William C. Miller III.



Photo 5. *Lobelia cardinalis* leaves, (bottom) obverse surface, (top) reverse surface. Lower leaves have short petioles (the stalk that joins the leaf to the stem) and upper leaves are sessile (stalk-less). Photo Credit: William C. Miller III.

have a reputation for being long-lived.

In the first year from seed, it takes the form of a dark-green, weedy-looking rosette, which you could mistake for an undesirable. In the second year, however, it manifests itself by adding a three- to five-foot stalk with a single terminal spike (raceme) at the top of the main stem (a timely early spring pinch or a nibble by individuals unknown, might explain the comparatively short, additional secondary flower-bearing branches that I often see).

In my experience, the taller plants are subject to being blown over by the wind, so from a practical standpoint, some thought might be given to staking the larger plants. The 4- to 6-inch, lance-shaped, rough-textured leaves with coarsely serrated margins are alternate and found on the lower reaches of the stalk. Leaf color varies from green to bronze and some of the recent introductions like 'Black Truffle' are described as having deep, dark-purplish, nearly black foliage.

Like mullein, the flowers bloom from the bottom up and the bloom period is essentially from July to October. The eye-catching, 1 to 1.5 inch, red flower (described as having a "velvety texture") has five petals or lobes and is said to be two lipped. The upper lip has two small lobes and the lower lip has three prominent lobes. Five stamens are present and are joined forming a red tube around the style, which reaches upward between the upper lobes. A deeply divided foliaceous calyx is present, there is no fragrance, and pests don't appear to be a significant problem (in my experience), although snails and slugs are mentioned in

the literature. While the flowers are usually the remarkably rich red, white forms and pink forms have been observed in nature. Jordan Cunningham says the “flowers look like little birds in flight.”⁶ I can see it.

Availability

Letting one’s finger walk through the internet, there are specialty nurseries that will ship plants, both species and cultivars. Additionally, plants are probably available from most garden centers or box stores of any size. Finally, plants can be obtained from your local native plant society chapter in conjunction with their annual fundraiser sales.

There are many products of the breeder’s art (cultivars) to choose from. Some of them are patented and some differ from the species in that they were selected for plant size, the color of the flower, or the foliage: ‘Queen Victoria’, ‘Black Truffle’, ‘Bee’s Flame’, ‘Mrs. Furnell’, ‘Russian Princess’, ‘Gladys Lindley’, ‘Golden Torch’, ‘Frielings Ghost’, ‘Elmfleur’, ‘Illumination’, ‘The Bishop’, ‘Shrimp Salad’, ‘Rose Beacon’, and ‘Chocolate Truffle’.

Photo 6. Red, two-lipped, and pentamerous *Lobelia cardinalis* flower. Photo Credit: William C. Miller III.



Photo 7. *Lobelia cardinalis* seeds juxtaposed with a Lincoln penny. Quite small and golden in color, the seeds are wind-borne. Under magnification, they resemble tiny golden raisins. Photo Credit: William C. Miller III.

If you enjoy growing from seed, Amazon has got some deals for you. I saw one offer for 700 *Lobelia cardinalis* seeds for \$11.94. Bear in mind, the seeds are very small.⁸ I can’t help but wonder who had to collect and count out 700 seeds... and who might, on the receiving end, go to the trouble to verify the count?

Additional Recognition

Lobelia cardinalis has received recognition in recent years:

In 1991, the Virginia Native Plant Society honored *L. cardinalis* as Wildflower of the Year. Recipients have to be native to Virginia; not invasive; neither a pest nor an obnoxious weed; be attractive, showy, colorful, or unique in some fashion; and be interesting in some aspect regarding the organization’s focus on habitat.

In 1993, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) awarded *L. cardinalis* and ‘Queen Victoria’, a cultivar, its Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in recognition of its availability; its utility as a garden decoration; that it not require specialized growing conditions or care; that it is not particularly susceptible to pests or disease; and that it “not be subject to an unreasonable degree of reversion.”

In 2003, the Missouri Botanical Garden selected *L. cardinalis* for its Plant of Merit Award in recognition of its outstanding quality and dependable performance in the lower Midwest. The criteria included that it was easy to grow and maintain; that it was not invasive; that it was resistant or tolerant of insects and diseases; that it had outstanding ornamental value; and that it was reasonably available in the market place.

Article notes, references, and author credits on page 38.

Notes and References

1. The articles in *The Azalean* about ‘Ambrosia’ and ‘Opal’ were Winter 2014-15 36(4) and Fall 2020 42(3) respectively.

2. L’Obel practiced medicine in England and Belgium and participated in botanical expeditions which resulted in a number of major publications. During the course of his career, he was the personal physician to several monarchs including James I of England. Of botanical significance, L’Obel made an effort to develop a classification system based of leaf morphology and was said to have been a major influence on Linnaeus. In addition, he is remembered for being the first to recognize the difference between monocots and dicots. His name takes several additional forms: Matthew Lobel (anglicized) and Matthaëus Lobelius (latinized).

3. Plumier, a monk of the order of St. Francesco di Paula after whom the genus *Plumeria* is named (think frangipani), is regarded as one of the most important botanical explorers of his time. Serving as botanist to Louis XIV of France, he discovered, drew, and described many plants and animals during his many trips to the New World. A number of his generic names were kept by Linnaeus: *Fuchsia* named for Leonhart Fuchs, *Begonia* named for Michel Begon, and *Magnolia* named for Pierre Magnol.

4. Lammers, T.G. “Revision of the Infrageneric Classification of *Lobelia* L. (Campanulaceae: Lobelioideae),” *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 98(1), 37-62, (1 April 2011). <https://doi.org/10.3417/2007150>

5. *Passages from the American Note-books of Nathaniel Hawthorne*, [edited by Sophia Hawthorne, Copyright 1858 by Sophia Hawthorne, Copyright 1883 by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Vol. IX of the Riverside Edition, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1883], <https://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/nh/pfanb01.html>, Saturday, August 13, 1842.

6. Cunningham, J.: 2018 “The Lobelia Sisters.” *SFA Gardens News*, 13(3), pp 4-5.

7. Miller III, W.C.: 2012 “Great Mullein.” *The Azalean*, 34(3), pp 46, 51-52.

8. The round seed capsule is initially green with red markings, but turns brown as it ages. As the seeds mature, the capsule opens at the top. The tiny seeds are gold in color and covered in a rough network of ridges. The seeds are small enough to be wind-borne and volunteers are the rule rather than the exception.

About the Author:

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 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*.

Welcome New Members!

The Alabama Chapter welcomes:

- Charles Faulkner, Hueytown, AL
- Mike Floyd, Watkinsville, GA
- Zeno Haselden, Decatur, AL
- Toby Hutcheson, Spruce Pine, AL
- Soozie Pline, Elkmont, AL

The Arkansas Chapter welcomes:

- Sarah Burr, Jacksonville, AR
- Lisa Johnson, Little Rock, AR
- Tim Kelly, Sherwood, AR

The Central Carolinas Chapter welcomes:

- Ken Field, Newport, NC
- Bill and Phyllis Warriner, Easley, SC

The Lake Michigan Chapter welcomes:

- Bob and Maggie Markese, Saugatuck, MI

The Northern Virginia Chapter welcomes:

- Amy Augenblick, Great Falls, VA
- Mark and Cynthia Vogel, Lancaster, PA
- Amy Yost, Baltimore, MD

The Louisiana Chapter welcomes:

- Louis Fontenot, Jr, Lake Charles, LA
- Richard and Harriet Gaudet, Covington, LA
- Sharon T. Sledge, Amile, LA
- Regan Tatford, Lafayette, LA
Krewe Construction
- Gladden W. and Lydia H. Willis, Doyline, LA
Willis Farm Nursery

The Rev. John Drayton welcomes:

- Fred and Barbara Riley, Summerville, SC

The Texas Chapter welcomes:

- Todd Magatagan, Longview, TX
- Cela Thomas, Tyler, TX
- Nery Voss, Chandler, TX

New At Large members include:

- James Allen, Jr, Little Rock, AR
- Nathan Meador, Euclid, OH
- Cynthia Nelson, Vancleave, MS
- John and Melinda Walker, Magee, MS

2021 Virtual Convention Summary

By Kathy Jentz—The Azalean, Editor

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, we recently held the Azalea Society of America 2021 Annual Convention virtually. Last issue, our outgoing president Rick Bauer, provided information about the virtual convention. I'm happy to report that event was a success and we shared some great content and had terrific participation by the ASA membership.

On the first night of the virtual meeting, Society members participated in the Zoom webinar "All About Azaleas—Propagating Evergreen Azaleas and Propagating Native Azaleas." This was the third in a series of four webinars sponsored by the Alabamense Chapter in conjunction with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Davis Arboretum. The propagating tips shared were priceless!

On the second night, we were treated to a presentation by Charlie Andrews, newly-elected President of the ASA, speaking on "The Azaleas of Hurricane Creek." This presentation was highly informative, with beautiful pictures of native azaleas and their naturally occurring hybrids.

On the final evening, we held our annual meeting, which included announcements of election results, award presentations, and a 2022 convention preview by Denise Lanclos.

The new Society President is Charlie Andrews, who most recently served four years as Society Vice President and the new Vice President is Tom Johnson, who was most recently the President of the Rev. John Drayton Chapter. The new Directors, with terms through 2023, are John Simmons, Fred Anderson, and Mike Bamford.

The best article award was presented to Barbara Stump for her article: "In Memory: Margie Louise Yates Jenkins 1921-2020." Distinguished Service Awards were presented to former editors of *The Azalean*, Barb Stump and Pam Fitch; Hale Booth, Director of the Azalea Research Fund; and Aaron Cook, former Society President and current president of the Vaseyi Chapter. Finally, our new president, Charlie Andrews, presented the Exceptional Service Award to Rick Bauer for his many years of service throughout the society, including the last four years as Society President.

Denise Lanclos gave a presentation on the beautiful sites we will be visiting next year when the Louisiana Chapter will be sponsoring the convention in Lafayette, LA. Azaleas are a major component of the landscape in Lafayette and it looks like it will be a great convention.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. David Creech from Stephen F. Austin University speaking on "SFA's Azalea Gardens: Past, Present, and Future." His knowledge and sense of humor were on display and are a great testament to how the SFA gardens have flourished under his leadership.

In lieu of actual garden tours, several members provided videos of private gardens and other related topics. They were of extremely high quality. Many of them were professionally done and even the homemade videos/video slideshows were excellent. The videos were placed on a private site on YouTube allowing members to view what they wanted, when they wanted to. If you didn't get a chance to view them during the convention, most of them are still available on YouTube. Search for Azalea Society of America and the available videos will be displayed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on many aspects of our lives, including forcing the cancellation of the last two on-site society conventions. Next year, we will once again have the opportunity to meet in person at the Society's convention in Lafayette.

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The Nanneys—Building an Azalea Society

By Barry Sperling—Alexandria, Virginia

If roses naturally grew thornless, then two of the great private azalea collections might never have been created. Leslie Nanney's mom, Frances, realized the children would have more fun in the yard if the thorny problem of roses was replaced by friendly azaleas. This realization, in the late 1950s, at their North Arlington, Virginia, home ushered in a lifetime of our favorite plants.

Leslie married Dave Nanney in 1968, and they bought a house with a large back yard in Annandale in 1971. Frances provided many azaleas to make their house a home.

Dave was poking around Betty's Azalea Ranch in Fairfax, VA, when he was introduced to ARS Potomac Valley Chapter president George Ring. Dave and Leslie were now firmly embedded in rhododendron/azalea culture.

Moving to a half-acre in Saratoga in 1976, they became friends with hybridizer Frank White at Art Vance's house. Their 5-year-old son made a point of lecturing hybridizer Pete Vines (of Holly Springs Azaleas) on how to take cuttings and the need to join the newly formed Azalea Society of America.

The Nanneys were founding members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA. Dave has been the club's president, vice-president, and treasurer multiple times, as well as being an ASA director. Leslie has been a director of the ASA four times, and its national secretary for eight years, also handling the post of treasurer of the local chapter.

The family moved to a 2.5-acre wooded plot in West Springfield, VA, in 1986, to which they brought an accumulation of 500 azaleas in pots from their former residence.

Building their gardens was a joint interest. The present location was built south to north (south is by a sharp curve entering the property off Tuttle Road), cutting out many small trees to increase the light within the forested property. The last area to be planted was the north end in the back yard behind the house—done hurriedly in 2009.

Collecting and Touring

Leslie organized the plantings by hybridizer. Selections from Back Acres and Robin Hills were some of the earliest planted. She plotted curving paths around the beds, near trees, and calculated space for the groups.

They currently have 110 beds. There are 1,975 plants representing 155 hybridizers. The organization naturally reflects the ASA's Legacy Project.

In particular, their collections of Robin Hills, Encores, and Pete Vines' Holly Spring hybrids are almost complete.

A major improvement has been the installation of deer fencing (now through its second winter), which allowed a great display in the spring! Of course, the work never stops. Beds, such as the Gables, are being renovated and the Klimavicz collection spread out.

While the above numbers are amazing, Frances and her husband Phil Louer collected 7,400 plants, representing 182 hybridizers, at their Haymarket, VA, home.

A Rhododendron Society convention in Cape Cod was the Nanneys' introduction to those enjoyable gatherings. Such conventions have always been a high priority, and they try to go to several a year, which makes the past year's COVID-19 cancellations particularly frustrating.

A book could be created from the positive comments by people who know the Nanneys, but we'll stop here, for now, noting that, as their hybridizer collections reach completion and the plants grow larger, their already impressive garden will become a "must see" for azalea lovers around the world!

Friends' Thoughts

From Carolyn Beck:

It seems like Leslie and Dave Nanney have always "been there" for us. From the inception of our NV-ASA Chapter in 1980, they have been staunch supporters, serving as officers, helping with chapter events, and supporting our group in many, many ways. Together they have served as the NV-ASA librarian, and have hosted some of our speakers from out of town. [Their ASA leadership roles were mentioned earlier in this article.] We have had an opportunity to enjoy some of the many open gardens the Nanneys have graciously hosted. These are not to be missed, as their garden

The NV Chapter is working with Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA, to develop a Holly Springs Legacy Garden, with intern Jake Summers coordinating the project. Leslie and Dave Nanney are shown here delivering the first group of Holly Springs Azaleas to Jenkins on September 13. Rick and Susan Bauer delivered additional azaleas were delivered to Jenkins October 8. Photo by Steve Wright.



boasts many azaleas representing dozens of hybrid groups, each collection sited together, which helps to facilitate study, evaluation, and data collection, allowing them to confirm identification and provide information for others to use. Finding an azalea garden so well organized and labeled is a rare treat.

After Leslie's mother, Frances Louer, died in 2013, Phil Louer donated all their potted azaleas (over 2000) to our chapter. The Nanneys were chief among people who moved these, provided a home, and cared for them until they were placed in one of our plant sales.

Both Leslie and Dave can be counted on to help with the preparations for and operation of our plant sales and auctions.

One major contribution that I recall in detail is Dave's heroic effort in transporting plants to our 2016 ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg, VA. He made three trips, each time carrying 400-500 plants in their large vehicle. For an added touch, he endured the fragrance of Holly-tone® fertilizer

the whole way.

They have provided space and care for chapter azaleas, including several hundred Holly Springs Azaleas, for which they are the Legacy Leads. Both Leslie and Dave have volunteered many hours in "potting parties," where chapter plants are moved up to larger pots.

Most recently, Dave joined in on the fun during our Klimavicz Legacy Garden workdays in 2019 at Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna, VA.

From Paul Beck:

Dave Nanney has been champion for the new website, touting its features, ease of use, and general usefulness while in the garden trying to identify azaleas. He is constantly extolling its features to anyone who is interested.

Dave and Leslie have been a valuable resource to assist with testing new ASA website features, providing valuable feedback about usability, and finding bugs. Most recently, they were an integral part of the testing for the new convention registration web page. As a result, the initial software

release has been very successful, and did not need to be updated during its first use for the, unfortunately cancelled, Houston convention”

They have been a tremendous help with data entry for the azalea database. In addition to becoming Legacy Leads for the Holly Springs Azaleas, Dave and Leslie have volunteered many hours with updating the online azalea database by entering descriptions from Galle’s *Azaleas* into the website.

From Rick Bauer:

Dave and Leslie have been members of the ASA and the NV Chapter from the earliest days of both organizations. They are extremely knowledgeable about azaleas and have built an extensive garden of different varieties, including a large collection of Holly Springs Azaleas. They are very generous in opening their garden to visitors. It was as a result of one of these visits that Susan and I became members of the society and chapter.

Dave and Leslie give freely of their time to support the chapter and the society. Both have served in elected positions. Most recently, Leslie has served as the secretary of the ASA. Dave is especially good at warmly welcoming visitors and other guests at our chapter events. This has, on more than one occasion, resulted in the visitor becoming a member. We’ve enjoyed sharing garden adventures with them in various parts of the US, as well as in Germany and Finland. We are very pleased to know them and call them friends.

About the Author:

Barry Sperling was the editor of *The Azalea Clipper*, the online newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter for 10 years, as well as the NV Chapter’s corresponding secretary. Rick Bauer took over both roles in October 2020.



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Crowd-Sourcing Answers to Azalea Queries

By Various Members of the Azalea Society

The following azalea questions were submitted to the ASA “Ask Us” online form and were answered by various members of the Society. We are sharing those queries we think will be of most interest to the membership at large. (Submissions were edited for length and clarity.)

Question: The leaves on my azalea turned an orange-red color then brown. Most of the leaves have dropped off the plant now. The plant continued to bloom, but the flowers were noticeably paler than the other azaleas next to them. Is it too late to treat whatever ails it or should I just remove it? FYI, these were planted by the builder 14 months ago.

~ Mary W., Brunswick, MD

Answer: It is possible that it isn't a disease. The loss of leaves at this time of year and the poor color quality of the flowers suggests an environmental issue. When it was planted by the builder, did he break up the root ball or did he plant it just as it came out of the pot? If it wasn't planted properly, it would be expected to struggle.

Can you describe the area that it is planted in? Is it near the foundation of your house? Is there a nearby downspout coming off your house? Does the area drain well? You don't want a situation where there is a lot of standing water. Too much water and the roots will rot. Do you have a lawn service which could have sprayed something?

If the builder didn't plant your azalea correctly, what you are experiencing could be the expected result. Azaleas are relatively inexpensive. You can always get a replacement.

~ ASA

Answer: Late frosts/freezes can sometimes damage leaves and cause similar leaf changes that end in the leaves falling down.

~ ~ ASA

Question: Can someone help us diagnose what is wrong with our azalea? Leaves curling up, brown areas, etc.?

~ Deborah H., Anacortes, WA

Answer: Looks like it got hit by a late frost. I see that Anacortes had cold enough overnight temperatures on April 10-11. Wait for the foliage to

brown out or pick up only the worst leaves. But remember that there are flower buds probably on the plant now, so exercise caution when cutting. I like to cut the petiole string that connects the leaf to the branch. New foliage will develop but wait several weeks. Maintain 2-4" of organic mulch at all times and water when the soil feels dry if you insert a finger into the soil to a depth of 4" (that is where most azalea roots usually are).

I could not check sunlight from the submitted pictures, but they prefer morning sun or dappled sun. I assume the soil is well-draining, although it appears to be somewhat rocky. Have you done a soil test ever? Just something to consider if you ever have the time and money.

I had a worse winter event than yours and my azaleas took about 1 to 1.5 months to either leaf out or to develop new growth from the base. The late frost damage should be assessed well into summer. Sometimes bark split occurs and the ends of branches receive enough water for spring, but then they die in the summer months due to inadequate moisture levels due to the winter damage.

~ ASA

Question: I just bought five bushes and I want them to get bigger, so I don't know if I should prune them when they are small?

~ Anthony P., Woodbridge, VA

Answer: If you want them to get bigger, I wouldn't prune them. Now, if there is something about their current shape that you don't like, a little pruning might be justified. You don't have to prune them annually. Some folks never prune them since they prefer the natural plant size and shape.

If you are going to prune, do it as soon as conveniently after they bloom. Next year's flowers will begin to develop this summer. If you wait to prune in the fall, you will cut away next year's flowers.

~ ASA

In Memoriam

Dr. George Frederick Drake 1930-2020

By William C. Miller III—Bethesda, Maryland

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Dr. George F. Drake on August 31, 2020, at the age of 90. Born on July 3, 1930, in Irvington, New Jersey, he was the oldest of three boys (George Franklin Drake, Roy Allen Drake, and Stanley Drake) and the older of identical twins (George and Roy) by 15 minutes. His mother, Ann Palwick Drake, was the principal wage earner and was employed as a legal secretary for a law firm in Newark. His father, Stanley Wilson Drake, was often out of work due to the Depression, but was hired as an electrician with the New Jersey Power and Light Company with the onset of World War II. By far, however, the greatest influence on George on a daily basis was Stella Palwick, his maternal grandmother or “Nana” who stayed with the family.

George’s early home life wasn’t entirely positive. He didn’t get along with his father. Distressed by the domestic violence and drunkenness that he witnessed at home, George developed a love for the great outdoors. He spent a lot of time exploring the local woods, hunting for arrowheads and prehistoric shark’s teeth, and just generally enjoying the wonders of nature and the solitude that it afforded. He especially liked camping and hiking and did a lot of both on weekends. He found the Boy Scouts to be a satisfying experience.

George credits his mother with his world view and his independent nature. Her perspective influenced many of the decisions that he was to make throughout his life. There was more to the world than the Jersey Shore. Understanding other peoples, nations, and cultures became a lifelong personal goal, and he instinctively sought opportunities for public service.

Drake’s Autobiography Online

I would refer you to George’s extensive internet autobiography, (<https://georgefdrake.org>) for a very complete and detailed account of his life, his activities, and his basic perspective. During his long and active life, he was at times a soldier, an educator, a social activist, and a politician, but it all stemmed from his strong philosophical belief in the importance of service to his fellow man (especially children and the poor) which became the foundation for much that he did.

In 1948, he left home at the age of 18, with \$148 and a bicycle, for Latin America where he worked for the

Inter-American Geodetic Survey in Panama and Guatemala. He returned to the US a year and a half later and enlisted in the US Army, where he was assigned to Army Intelligence and studied Mandarin Chinese. While serving in Korea, he became very interested in the orphanages and the plight of the Korean War orphans.

He continued his education, earning his BA and MA at the University of California at Berkeley where he met and married Mary Ann, an RN by training, who was to be his wife of 57 years. She passed away in 2017. Beginning in 1959, he taught high school for three years (9th grade social studies) after which he entered the US Foreign Service and went with Mary Ann and then five-month-old David (their Down Syndrome son) to Colombia, where George served as director of the United States Information Agency culture center in the city of Manizales. Upon returning to the US, he earned his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, which led to him taking a teaching position in 1967 at Western Washington University (WWU) in Bellingham, Washington, for the balance of his career. His family now included their adopted son Todd.

At WWU, besides being a teacher, he established or directed a number of programs and served on many boards, committees, commissions, and councils at the state, regional, and local levels. He was the director of the Center for East Asian Studies, Special Assistant to the President for International Programs, and the Director of the Office of International Programs. His involvement and activism was not limited to academia. He helped create the Washington State Commission of Hispanic Affairs and the state Office of Community Development. He created the Planning and Community Development Committee and was a positive force behind the City of Bellingham Park and Recreation Department during his four years on the Bellingham City Council. In fact, he was the first WWU professor to be elected to the City Council, and in 2001, Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson named him “Outstanding Citizen of the Year” for a lifetime of service to his community.

George wrestled with his personal decision to write an autobiography, which he described as a fundamentally egotistical act. Still, he reasoned that writing his

story was a worthwhile enterprise. Over and above what he called the “entertainment value,” George felt that he had practical thoughts on the sociology of communities, the requirements of and for social change, and the importance of public service that would be beneficial to those who share his interests.

George’s Sense of Humor

George had a sense of humor which shone through in his autobiography. He credited his long life with his and Mary Ann’s enjoyment of regular physical activity and the great outdoors. They both enjoyed hiking and walking and George developed a serious interest in bicycle racing when the family moved to Bellingham. He had a bicycle as a youngster and utilized a bicycle during his time in Central America. In his autobiography, he remarked that the only way he was ever going to win a bicycle race was to outlive the competition. It came to pass, as in one race, he was the only entrant in the 70-74 age group. He was one of the few faculty members who commuted to the University by bicycle, and he actually made better time than those who commuted by car. Joining the local bicycle club, he participated in their program and worked his way up to their 100 miles per day ride.

When asked for his secret that explained how he appeared younger than his years, he replied “There are two parts to my secret. The first is to choose your grandparents carefully and the second is to take care of what they give you.”

Big Rock Garden Nursery

Beginning in 1968, the Drakes began searching for property on which they would build a home. They settled on an 11-acre property on Sylvan Street in the Silver Beach neighborhood which is located at the eastern edge of the city and the northern end of Lake Whatcom. When Mary Ann retired from nursing at St. Joseph’s Hospital in 1980, she went back to school to study horticulture. She studied plant propagation, took the Washington Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener program, and earned a pesticide applicator’s license.

On April 11, 1981, after two years of planning, the

Drakes opened up “Big Rock Garden Nursery.” According to George, David was about the finish school and Mary Ann’s goal was to create an employment opportunity for “brain-damaged, developmentally disabled, and mentally ill young persons in a supportive environment.” A 2.5-acre wooded parcel, which was to include a solar greenhouse, was set aside for the annual production of many thousands of azaleas, rhododendrons, and maples. Later, consistent with the context of the nursery, the concept was expanded to include an outdoor sculpture gallery selling fine art for the garden. In 1993, the city purchased the land as a city park and Big Rock Garden Nursery became Big Rock Garden Park.



Dr. George Frederick Drake at Mt. Shuksan near his home in Bellingham, Washington. Photo Credit: <https://georgefdrake.org/>.

Huang Hybrid Azaleas

Records indicate that Mr. and Mrs. George F. Drake, Big Rock Garden, were ASA members from 1981 to 1988. I first heard about the Huang Hybrids in an item that Jack Shaffer, *The Azalean* editor, published in what was then the *Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America*, Vol. III, No. 4, October 1981, pp 11-12. It talked about a group of several hundred cultivars, derived from a 20-year project at the Shanghai Botanical Garden, that Drake had acquired and of his plan for the distribution of the Chinese plants to interested parties in the US. Dr. Drake’s facility with Mandarin and his chairmanship of the Center for East Asian Studies at the University made the connection and his unique, horticulturally important project possible.

I didn’t hear any more about Huang Hybrids until they appeared in Pete Vines’ *Vines Horticulture Gardens* catalog in 1987. Subsequent investigations revealed that Gordon Severe, John Rochester, Eleanor Stubbs, and George Harding also obtained Huang Hybrids for evaluation and sale.

The good news is that the Huang Hybrids are being studied by the ASA’s Legacy program under the leadership of Ronnie Palmer, in an effort to keep them from being lost. Ronnie published an article in the Fall 2016 issue of *The Azalean*, which asked the question: Do they need English cultivar names? I don’t believe there is anything that prevents English cultivar names being applied to the breeder’s working names (e.g., Hu-2-5-41) and that is under consideration.

The Bowie Mill Azalea Collection

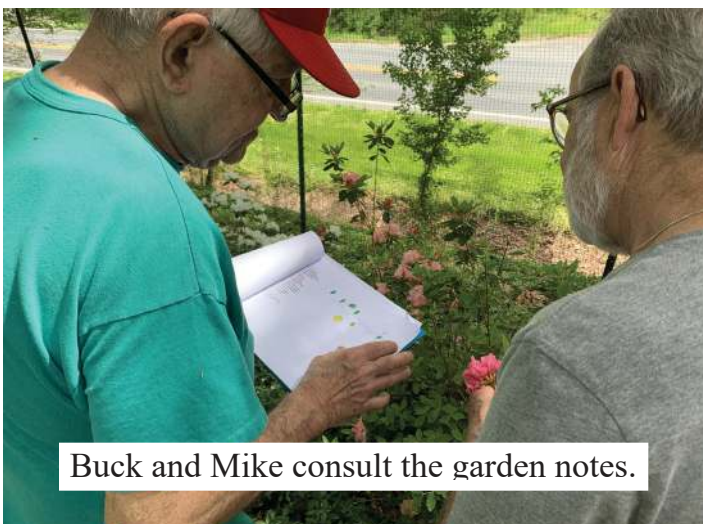
By Kathy Jentz—Silver Spring, Maryland

On a late April day, I had the pleasure of visiting a few local azalea gardens with fellow ASA member, Mike Welsh. Mike recently retired from his longtime position as city gardener for Takoma Park, MD, and was eager to get out and see the many gardens he was previously too busy each spring to be able to visit in person.

One of the highlights of our day was a stop at the Bowie Mill Azalea Collection. William (Buck) Clagett has introduced a number of outstanding azaleas from his hybridizing program. He calls them the Bowie Mill Hybrids. He is the last living founding member of the ASA. He and his wife, Tina, reside in Rockville, MD, in the Derwood area, on a property that is uphill from a major state road, but is a calm and peaceful oasis.

Buck greeted us warmly and took us on a personal tour of his Bowie Mill Hybrids and the many other interesting plants on his property.

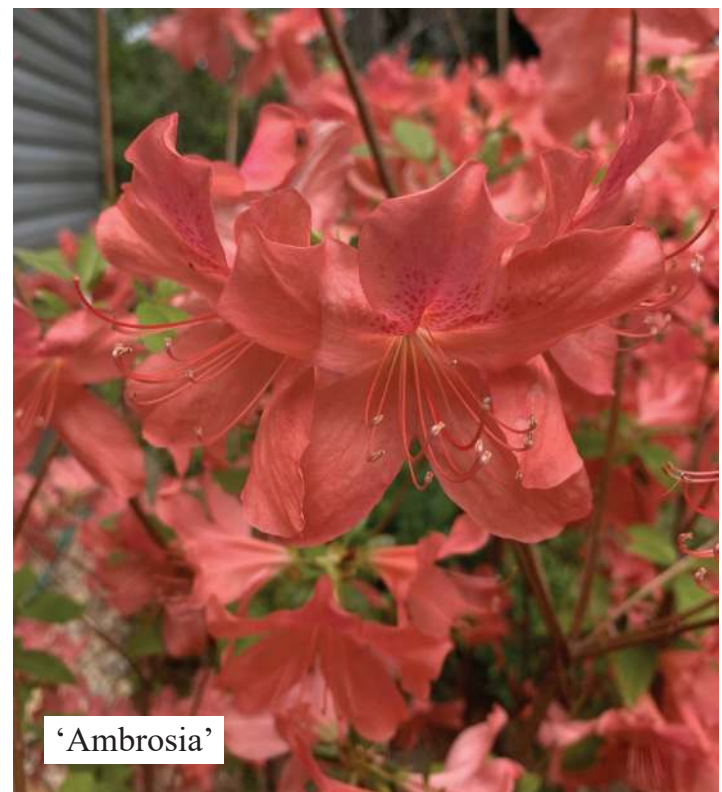
In addition to azaleas and rhododendrons, he has a beautiful collection of trees and woodland perennial plants. Here is a selection of photo highlights from my visit.



Buck and Mike consult the garden notes.



‘Carmen’



‘Ambrosia’



Lafayette's Historic Properties & Grounds

By Mrs. Denise R. Lanclos—Azalea Trail Chairperson

[Editor's Note: This article is the second one in a series of preview pieces for the Azalea Society of America's Annual Meeting in March 2022.]

Azaleas have been a prominent part of Lafayette, Louisiana's landscaping for historic homes, churches, schools, and businesses since the early 1900s. Several influential families that owned plantations or farms used the south's favorite ever-green azalea, 'Formosum', to beautify their grounds. The most prevalent variety planted was the Southern Indica 'Lavender Formosa'. It was propagated by locals and spread throughout the azalea trail and was christened by the city's mayor in February 1938 as "The General Lafayette" in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette. (See <https://www.facebook.com/MarquisLafayette>.)

Several of Lafayette, Louisiana's early prominent families were the Mouton, Girard, Heymann, and Whittington families. The Girard family donated the land for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette & Girard Park. The Girard and Heymann families both had landscape nurseries, where they sold and propagated azaleas and camellias. The Moutons had a beautiful plantation on the Vermilion River called "Les Jardin de

Mouton," Mouton Gardens that has a "Grand Mall Boulevard," a showcase of Lafayette's city flower.

The Azalea Trail Committee has revitalized several of the historic grounds along the trail to preserve the beauty of old Lafayette. In the Elmhurst Historic Garden District, you will see the Saucier-Bares House, American Foursquare, circa 1917, that has historic camellia and azaleas gardens among live oaks (*pictured on page 47 at top*); the Soulier House, Queen Anne Style, circa 1916, beautified with 'Pride of Mobile' azaleas (*pictured on page 47 at bottom-left*); and, the Crow-Girard House, Queen Anne Style, circa 1900, surrounded by beautiful mature coral azaleas (*pictured below*). The azaleas at this property were neglected for awhile and after meeting with the owner to restore these bushes, they are now looking beautiful again. This property was one of the winners of this spring's trail prizes for preserving these beautiful azaleas. If you can identify them for us, we would like to know what variety they are.

In the University District, the La Maison Francaise, The French House, Classic Revival, circa 1920, was beautified with 'Red Formosum' azaleas (*pictured on page 47 at bottom-right*). The Whittington-Guerinere House, Greek Revival





Style, circa 1915, was beautified with ‘Pride of Mobile’, ‘George Lindley Taber’, ‘Mrs. G. G. Gerbing’, and ‘Lavender Formosu,’ azaleas.

Throughout the University District, there are more than 250 live oaks. At the turn of the 20th century, Dr. Edwin Stephens, the university’s first president, planted 18 live oaks that became known as the “Century Oaks.” Historic live oaks encircle the university campus. The historic campus buildings have all been restored over the last several years and over 320 new azaleas have been planted on the campus.

Part of the Azalea Trail Committee’s work is to advocate for preservation and restoration of older established azaleas. Lafayette Historic Azalea Trail is now partnering with Preservation Alliance of Lafayette (PAL) <https://preservinglafayette.org/> PAL promotes strong historic preservation values, serves as an advocate for the preservation of local historic properties, promotes the culture and history of Acadiana (the French Louisiana region), and

serves as a resource center for historic preservation.

Lafayette, Louisiana, is a floral Mardi Gras from fall throughout the winter into spring, with camellias, magnolias, azaleas, roses, and crape myrtles providing seasonal beauty to homes and businesses. Preservation Alliance and Lafayette Azalea Trail members hope to bring back the spring tours during azalea bloom season in 2022. The Historical Trolley Tours held the last two years were a great success. Lafayette Azalea Trail recently launched their Facebook page to feature this beauty year-round to folks near and far. Recent videos and pictures of all these featured properties can be viewed on the page at <https://www.facebook.com/AzaleaTrailLafayetteLAUSA>.

About the Author:

Mrs. Denise R. Lanclos, Azalea Trail Chairperson is volunteer coordinator for the Azalea Society of America – LA Chapter hosting for the Annual Convention in March 2022.



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let nature be your teacher.”

- William Wordsworth

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