

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.



