



Vol. 44 • No. 1 • Spring 2022

# The Azalean

*Journal of the Azalea Society of America*

# President's Letter

## Charlie Andrews—Cumming, Georgia

### Providing Value to Our Members

In my first letter back last summer, I mentioned three areas I wanted us to work on. One was to give value to our members. I said we succeed by providing value. It is obvious that we can retain and gain members if our “product” is valuable. This is key to our success as a plant society. Why would someone join ASA? What do they want as members? Finding the answers to these questions and providing solutions leads to healthy, active chapters. If we ignore the needs of our members they will over time drop their membership.

**Chapter Leaders**, please review the *Chapter Ideas for Success*, available on our website (About the Society>Chapters>Resources>How to make a chapter successful). Sit down together and come up with additional ideas and let us know so we can share your good ideas with other chapters. Evaluate your current position and determine where you can provide more value to your members.

Providing value is not straightforward. Many chapters have members spread over wide distances. Not all members can attend local events. Event locations may need to be rotated. Tools such as newsletters, Zoom meetings/hybrid meetings, social media, websites are useful for non-local members. Members range from novice to expert. Novices may want to learn about plants, culture, and propagation. Experts may have a desire to delve into more advanced areas or share their knowledge and expertise with others. Interests vary. Some may be interested in gardening, some in field trips; some in educational meeting programs, some in community projects; some in evergreen azaleas, some in deciduous azaleas. You get the idea. You need to know your membership, and it may change.

**Chapter Members** can play an important role in this too. What do you want from being a member of ASA? Don't be bashful. Tell your chapter leaders what ideas you have to add to your chapter's activities. Let them know what you like about the chapter as well as what can be added and improved. I also want to know what you think. Copy me on your ideas and write to me about any ideas you may have.

**At-large Members** can rely on *The Azalean*, our website, and our annual conventions. I strongly recommend at-large members consider choosing a chapter even if it is not near to them. Chapters may have informative newsletters, Facebook pages, and websites, and can be a great source for additional information. In addition to one's regular chapter, a member can join additional chapters as an associate member for only \$5.00 each per year.

I want to hear from you. You can reach me at [president@azaleas.org](mailto:president@azaleas.org).

~ *Charlie*



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*).

#### Officers

**President** — Charles R. Andrews III

**Vice President** — Tom Johnson

**Secretary** — Donna Palmer

**Treasurer** — Paul Beck

**Immediate Past President** — Rick Bauer

#### Directors

##### Terms expire 2022

Fred Anderson

Aaron Cook

Andy Whipple

##### Terms expire 2023

Dale Berrong

Michael Bamford

Dr. John Simmons

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

#### Chapters

##### Ben Morrison

(chartered May 1980)

Budne Reinke, Pres.

##### Louisiana

(chartered June 1981)

Allen Owings, Pres.

##### Texas

(chartered May 1989)

David Creech, Pres.

##### Lake Michigan

(chartered May 2003)

John Migas, Pres.

##### Rev. John Drayton

(chartered May 2010)

John Donato, Pres.

##### Arkansas

(chartered 2018)

Ronnie Palmer, Pres.

##### Northern Virginia

(chartered May 1980)

Barbara Kirkwood, Pres.

##### Tri-State

(chartered October 1981)

Beverly Knight, Pres.

##### Vaseyi

(chartered June 2001)

Aaron Cook, Pres.

##### Alabamense

(chartered May 2005)

John Torbert, Pres.

##### Central Carolinas

(chartered Oct. 2013)

Kevin McCorkle, Pres.

##### Texas Forest Country

(chartered 2018)

Betty Horne, Pres.

#### 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, White Hall, AR 71602-9430 or visit [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org).

# The Azalean

Editor/Layout  
Kathy Jentz

## Editorial Advisory Board

Charles R. Andrews III  
Aaron Cook  
William C. Miller III  
Barbara Stump

## Advertising

Denise R. Lanclos  
advertising@azaleas.org  
<https://azaleas.org/advertising>

*The Azalean* (ISSN-1085-5343) is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall, and winter) by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., Donna Palmer, Secretary, 1106 S. Evans Road, White Hall, AR 71602-9430.

To order copies: Send a check payable to the ASA Treasurer, to 2963 Fort Lee St., Oak Hill, VA 20171 or order online at <https://www.azaleas.org/azalean-online>. Please include \$3 per copy for US delivery, \$5 per copy for Canada or Mexico, and \$8 per copy for overseas delivery.

Opinions and views expressed in *The Azalean* are those of the contributors or editor, not necessarily those of the Society, and are presented to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of azaleas. Advertisements are presented as a service to readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America.

Copyright 2022 by the Azalea Society of America. Permission to reprint any portion of this volume must be granted in writing by the Society.

Address editorial and business correspondence to:

Editor, *The Azalean*  
826 Philadelphia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4936  
Email: [theazalean@gmail.com](mailto:theazalean@gmail.com)

Society Web-site: [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org)  
Mail list: [azaleas@groups.io](mailto:azaleas@groups.io)

Printed By: **Complete Printing**  
Carthage, Texas

# In This Issue

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2022

## Features

- 04 Azaleas Registered in 2018–2021, Part 2  
by Michael Martin Mills—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 14 In Memoriam: Ernest Koone  
by Tom Johnson—Hamilton, Georgia
- 18 A Hidden Garden in the Heart of Shreveport:  
The R. W. Norton Art Gallery  
by Emily Young Feazel—Shreveport, Louisiana
- 20 America's Foreign Country:  
The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area  
by Caroline S. Byrne—Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 22 The Jungle Gardens of Avery Island  
by Katlyn Decou—Avery Island, Louisiana

## Society News

- 02 President's Letter  
12 New Members  
13 Chapter News  
16 Donor Listings

## Advertising Index

- 12 Lafayette Azalea Trail  
13 Nuccio Nurseries  
15 Carolina Native Nursery  
15 White's Nurseries  
16 Lastrapes Garden Center  
16 Gunter's Nursery  
17 River Oaks Garden Club Azalea Trail  
19 Bartlett Tree Experts  
21 Azalea Hill Gardens & Nursery  
23 Chastant Brothers, Inc.  
23 Poole Brothers Nursery  
24 Avery Island Jungle Gardens (Tabasco)

## Deadlines for *The Azalean*:

- Summer 2022 issue is due April 15, 2022
- Fall 2022 issue is due July 15, 2022
- Winter 2022 issue is due October 15, 2022
- Spring 2023 issue is due January 15, 2023

## On the Cover

The native flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*).  
Photo by Emily Feazel, courtesy of the R.W. Norton Art Foundation, Shreveport, LA.



# Azaleas Registered in 2018–2021, Part 2

By Michael Martin Mills—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The following azalea names were approved and added to the International Rhododendron Register in 2018-2021 by the Royal Horticultural Society, which serves as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus *Rhododendron*.

## Guide to entries

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

X – primary cross

(s) – seed parent of cross, if known

x – cross of an unnamed parent

H – hybridized by

G – grown to first flower by

R – raised by

S – selected by

N – named by

I – introduced commercially by

REG – registered by

acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10 years, open habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Parentage: ‘Ring’s Orchido’ (s) X ‘Satellite’ (Klupenger). H (1998), G (2001), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for Barbara “Bobbi” McCeney, of Laurel, MD. Synonyms: hybridizer’s codes RBS79 and 33-1998-1.



‘**Bobbi McCeney**’, evergreen azalea. Bud: strong purplish pink (67D) shading to moderate purplish pink (68C), lighter midribs. Inside of flower: strong purplish pink (63C), shading lighter toward throat, fading as flower matures, vivid reddish purple (N74B) dorsal spotting, green ovary. Outside: strong purplish pink (63C), shading lighter toward base. Calyx: strong yellow-green (143C). Funnel, single. 2 inches (51mm) long x 3.4 inches (86mm) wide, with 5 rounded to broad acute lobes, wavy margins; calyx: 0.4 inch (9mm) long. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (mid-May in DC area). Leaves: moderate olive green (137B), semiglossy; 3 inches (76mm) x 1 inch (25mm); elliptic, cuneate base,

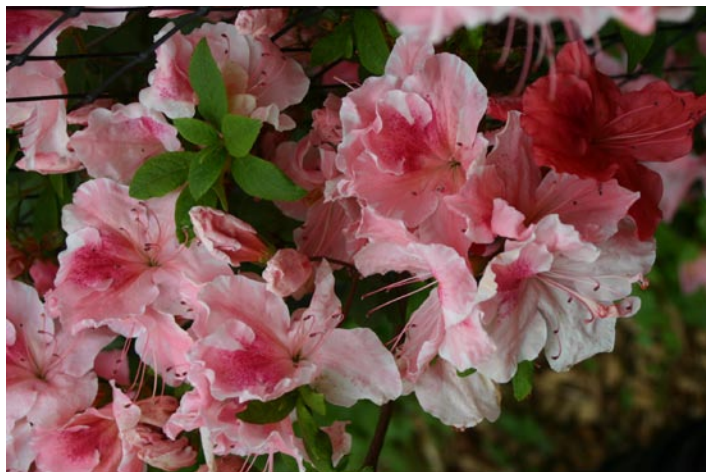
‘**Bob Hobbs**’, evergreen azalea. Bud and outside of flower: variable, corresponding to inside of corolla. Inside of flower: variably, (1) white with strong reddish purple (N78A) lobes, sectors and/or streaks; blotch: strong yellow-green (144B) over white, or strong purplish red (64B) over purple, occasional blotches half and half; or (2) light purple (77D) shading toward white at some margins, with strong reddish-purple (N78A) streaks; strong purplish red (64B) blotch; or (3) strong reddish purple (N78A) self; strong purplish red (64B) blotch. Calyx: strong yellow-green (143C). Funnel, single. 2 inches (51mm) long x c. 3.5 inches (90mm) wide, with 5 broadly acute or rounded lobes, wavy margins. Occasional petaloid stamens. 3-4 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in DC area). Leaves: strong yellow-green (144A), semiglossy; 2 inches (51mm) x 1 inch (25mm); elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2 feet (0.6m) tall x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 10 years, intermediate habit, leaves held 1 growing season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: Shammarello’s ‘Desiree’ (s) X CB-1 \*. H (1990), G (1993), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for Robert W. Hobbs, a

national president of the Azalea Society of America and longtime editor of *The Azalean*. Synonyms: hybridizer's code: RBS 29 and 8-98-13.

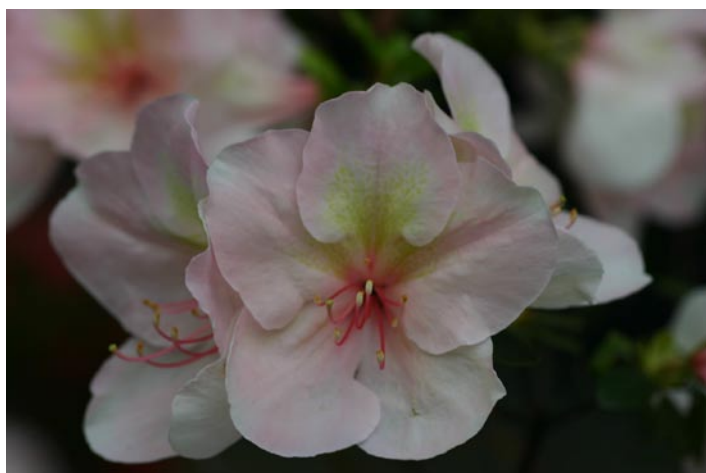


**'Brant's Surprise'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: 3 randomly occurring forms: (1) white with strong reddish purple (N78A-N78B) sectors, stripes, lines and dots; occasional red-maroon blotch or faint yellow-green blotch; (2) palest reddish purple with strong reddish purple (N78A-N78B) sectors, stripes, lines; (3) strong reddish purple (N78B); occasional red-maroon blotch. Calyx: strong yellow-green (144B). Funnel, randomly single or semidouble. 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide; 5 rounded lobes, wavy margins. Green ovary; stamens and style corresponding to corolla color; stamens occasionally petaloid. Midseason (late April in DC area). Leaves: strong yellow-green (144A), matte; elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10 years, intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: (Shammarello's 'Desiree' x CB-1 \*) (s) X 'Florence Waldman'. H (1994), G (1997), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for James Brant, a leader in the restoration of Hooper Bald in North Carolina; recipient in 2018 of the American Azalea Society's Distinguished Service Award. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes: RBS 3 and 11-94-02. Note: The seed parent is Stewart's unnamed cross, hybridizer's code RBS 8-1990-7.

**'John Brown'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: variable, including white, deep pink (52B or 52C), or strong pink (52D), with or without sectors, stripes or other pink marks, some with white tips or margins; inside: very faint yellow-green dorsal spotting over white, or moderate purplish red (59C) dorsal blotch over deep pink.



Calyx: moderate yellow-green (138B). Funnel, single. 1.9 inches (47mm) long x 3.25 inches (83mm) wide, with 5 rounded, often recurved lobes, wavy margins; calyx: 0.4 inch (9mm) long. White to pink style and filaments, typically corresponding to dominant corolla color, brown anthers and stigma. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in DC area). Leaves: moderate olive green (137A), matte; 2 inches (51mm) x 1 inch (25mm); elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 10 years, intermediate habit, leaves held 1 growing season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: Shammarello's 'Desiree' x CB-1 \* (s) X 'Midnight Flare'. H (1994), G (1998), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for a former president of the Azalea Society of America, founder of its Vaseyi Chapter, and recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes RBS 8 and 10-1994-1. Note: The seed parent is Stewart's unnamed cross, hybridizer's code RBS 8-1990-7.



**'Kevin McCorkle'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: light purplish pink (68D), blending randomly to faint yellow-green; inside:

light yellow-green (142D) blotch in dorsal lobe, spreading into adjacent lobes. Calyx: strong yellow-green (144A). Funnel, single. 2.25 inches (57mm) long x 3.1 inches (79mm) wide, with 5 rounded, overlapping lobes, slightly wavy margins; calyx: 0.3 inch (8mm) long. Reddish style and filaments; light green stigma, lighter green anthers. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in DC area). Leaves: moderate olive green (137A), semiglossy; 2.1 inches (54mm) x 1.25 inches (32mm); elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2.25 feet (0.7m) tall x 2 feet (0.6m) wide in 10 years, open habit, leaves held 1 growing season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: 'Haru-no-hibiki' (s) X 'Karee Lynn'. H (2002), G (2005), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for a key figure in the Azalea Society of America. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes RBS 205 and 2-2002-15. Note: 'Haru-no-hibiki' is an unregistered Satsuki, with a semidouble white flower and magenta picotee.



**'Lynwood Cosby'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: strong red (53D). Calyx: moderate yellow-green (138C). Broad funnel, double. 2 inches (51mm) long x 3.75 inches (95mm) wide; as many as 29 rounded lobes, wavy margins with very fine frill; calyx 0.4 inch (9mm) long. Pistil and stamens largely absent. 1-2 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (late April in DC area). Leaves: 2.4 inches (60mm) x 1.1 inches (27mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 10 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: 'Kerrigan's Super Red' (s) X (CB-1\* x 'Mitey White'). H (1998), G (2002), N (2020), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for Lynwood Cosby, who twice received the U.S.

Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Award (1958, 1974) for his significant engineering expertise in defense modernization. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes RBS 154 and 37-1998. Note: The pollen parent is Stewart's unnamed cross, hybridizer's code RBS 23-1994-1.



**'Maarten van der Giessen'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: most are white with strong red (50A) flecks, stripes and/or sectors, with occasional areas of strong pink (52D); some are strong red (50A); faint yellow-green dorsal blotch in white flowers, strong red (53B) dorsal blotch in red flowers. Calyx: strong yellow-green (143C). Funnel, single. 2 inches (51mm) x 3.3 inches (85mm) wide, with 5 rounded lobes, wavy margins; calyx 0.4 inch (9mm) long. Pistil and stamens whitish or reddish, corresponding to corolla color. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in DC area). Leaves: strong yellow-green (143A), semiglossy; 2 inches (51mm) x 1 inch (25mm), elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 3 x 3 feet (0.9 x 0.9m) in 10 years, intermediate habit, leaves held 1 growing season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: (Shammarello's 'Desiree' x CB-1\*) X 'Florence Waldman'. H (1994), G (1997), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for a key figure in the Azalea Society of America and author of articles for *The Azalean*. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes: RBS 87; 11-1994-5. Note: The seed parent is Stewart's unnamed cross, hybridizer's code RBS 8-1990-7.

**'Madeline Cosby'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: white with varying flecks and sectors of vivid purplish red (67B), deep purplish pink (67C) or strong purplish pink (67D); interior dorsal blotch of strong purplish red



(67A) or light yellow green (145C) or a combination of the two colors. No calyx. Broad funnel, hose-in-hose. 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 2.7 inches (68mm) wide, 10 (5 + 5) rounded lobes, wavy margins. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming mid-season (April in DC area). Leaves: moderate yellow green (146B), semiglossy; 1.5 inches (38mm) x 0.5 inch (13mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub: 3 feet (0.9m) tall x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 10 years, intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C); buds to 10°F/-12°C; heat tolerant to 110°F/43°C. Parentage: ('Betty Christopher' x *R. kiusianum* 'Komo-kulshan') (s) X ('Maruschka' x 'Florence Waldman'). H (2003), G (2005), REG (2019): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA. N (2019): Patricia Elizabeth Cosby, Rockville, VA. Etymology of name: for one of the siblings (the namesakes of this cultivar, of 'Elizabeth Cosby', and of 'Monsignor Roy Cosby') who created an expansive azalea and rhododendron garden in Rockville, VA, and donated it to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Synonym: hybridizer's number BW-03-2. Note: 'Betty Christopher' (not registered) is 'Mrs Nancy Dippel' x 'Schroeder's White Glory'; raised by H.C. Weiskittel, Chase, MD.

**'Mary's House'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: strong purplish pink (62A). Inside of flower: moderate purplish pink (62B) in center of petals, shading to pale purplish pink (62D) at margins; bright green throat. Outside: strong purplish pink (62A). No calyx. Saucer, double. 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 2 inches (51mm) wide, 15-18 rounded lobes, frilly margins. Bright orange-red stigma; stamens absent. 3 flowers per terminal. Blooming late season (late May in DC area). Leaves: moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy; elliptic, cuneate base, acute apex, slightly upcurved margins. Shrub:



1.7 feet (0.5m) tall x 1.25 feet (0.4m) in 10 years, dense habit, leaves held 2 growing seasons. Hardy to -6°F (-21°C); heat tolerant to 98°F (37°C). Parentage unknown. H (c. 1998), G (2007), N (2007), REG (2018): William L. Clagett, Derwood, MD; I (2015): White's Nursery, Germantown, MD. Etymology of name: incorporating the name of the hybridizer's daughter.



**'McLellan's Sunrise'**, evergreen azalea. Bud and outside of flower: strong pink (52D). Inside: strong pink (52D) interrupted irregularly with cream areas; light yellow-green (145B) dorsal blotch. Calyx: strong yellow-green (143B). Funnel, single. 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide, 5 rounded, overlapping lobes, wavy margins; calyx 0.1 inch (3mm) long. Filaments and style cream at base, shading to reddish; yellow anthers; green stigma; a few petaloid stamens in some flowers. 2 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in DC area). Leaves: strong yellow-green (143A), 1 inch (25mm) x 0.6 inch (16mm), elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 10 years, intermediate habit, leaves held 1 growing

season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: ('Asahi-sakigaki' x 'Margaret Douglas') (s) X Back Acres 38-50-1. H (1998), G (2002), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for George K. McLellan of Gloucester, VA, a specialist in the deciduous azalea species of North America. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes RBS 170 and 1-98-2. Note: The pollen parent is an unnamed cultivar hybridized by Benjamin Y. Morrison, probably in the 1950s, as part of his "Back Acres" series of hybrids.



**'Michael Martin Mills'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: pinkish white. Inside of flower: pinkish white, green near ovary, with vivid purplish red (67B) pencil-line margin and occasional pink blushing toward margin; strong purplish red (63B) spots in dorsal lobe, spreading into adjacent lobes. Outside: pinkish white. Calyx: grayish olive green (NN137B). Funnel, single. 2 inches (51mm) long x 3.1 inches wide, with 5 rounded, overlapping lobes, frilly margins; calyx 0.4 inch (9mm) long. Occasional petaloid stamens. 2-4 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (mid to late May in DC area). Leaves: strong yellow-green (143A), semiglossy; elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2.25 feet (0.7m) tall x 2.5 feet (0.8m) wide in 10 years, dense habit, leaves held 1 growing season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: 'Betty Ellen' (s) X 'James Stewart'. H (2000), G (2003), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for the North American Regional Registrar for the Genus *Rhododendron* (2012-present). Synonyms: hybridizer's codes RBS 125 and 2-2000-3.

**'Miller Light'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: light yellow green (145C). Inside of flower: white shading to light pink (84B, 84C) along midribs and toward lobe ends; light yellow green throat (145D); dorsal



blotch of light yellow green (145C) and/or strong purplish red (60C) speckles. Outside: white shading to light pink (84B, 84C) along midribs and toward lobe ends. Calyx: strong yellow green (144A). Funnel, single. 2 inches (51mm) long x 2.5 inches (64mm) wide, with 5 rounded, slightly emarginate lobes, wavy margins; calyx: 0.3-0.4 inch (8-11mm) long. Notably elongated pistil, style whitish, stigma light green; 5-10 stamens, filaments whitish, anthers brown. 2 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (late April in DC area). Leaves: on emergence, light yellow green (145B), maturing to moderate olive green (137A); 1.75 inches (44mm) x 0.75 inch (19mm); elliptic, cuneate base, acute apex, flat margins. Indumentum: unbranched adpressed hairs, above and below. Shrub: 7 x 7 feet (2.1 x 2.1m) in 10 years, intermediate habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Parentage: 'Parfait' (s) X 'Ho-oden'. H (1985), G (1988), N (2002), REG (2020): William C. Miller III, Bethesda, MD. Note: early spring fertilizer applications will shorten the duration of lighter green new foliage.



**‘Miss Dean’**, deciduous azalea. Bud: strong purplish red (58C). Inside of flower: very pale purple (73D), strong purplish red (58C) in throat. Outside: very pale purple (73D) with light purplish pink (73C) veins; tube darkening toward base. Calyx: light yellow green (150D). Trumpet (elongated tubular funnel), single. 1.3 inches (33mm) long x 1 inch (25mm) wide, with 5 broadly acute lobes, wavy margins. Pistil and stamens significantly exserted, pistil to 2.1 inches (53mm), light green stigma. 12-16 flowers per flat truss, truss 2 inches (51mm) tall x 3 inches (76mm) wide. Lightly fragrant. Blooming early season (late March-early April in northern Alabama). Leaves: strong yellow green (144A) on emergence, maturing to moderate olive green (147A), semiglossy; 1.6-2.75 inches (41-70mm) x 0.6 x 1.25 inches (25-32mm); elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, wavy margins. Indumentum: hairs, moderate, uniformly distributed above and below, light yellow green (150D). Shrub: 3.25 feet (1m) tall x 2.7 feet (0.8m) wide in 5 years, intermediate habit. Hardy to 8°F (-13°C). Parentage: *R. canescens* open-pollinated. S (2013), G (2013): Vernon Bush, Huntsville, AL; I (2017): Earl Sommerville, Marietta, GA. N (2019), REG (2019): Huntsville Madison County Botanical Garden Society Inc., Huntsville, AL. Etymology of name: for Dean Bush, wife of Vernon Bush. Notes: seedling of *R. canescens* wild-collected on Putman Mountain in northern Alabama; flowers are deeper pink than typical of the species.

**‘Monsignor Roy Cosby’**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: white with irregular strong red (51A) or deep pink (51C) streaks of various sizes; inside: light yellow-green (144D) blotch below dorsal lobe extending to throat.



Calyx: moderate yellow-green (138B). Funnel, single. 2.25 inches (57mm) long x 3.75 inches (95mm) wide, with 5-6 rounded lobes, wavy margins; calyx 0.25 inch (6mm) long. Occasional petaloid stamens. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (mid-May in DC area). Leaves: moderate olive green (137A), matte; 2 inches (51mm) x 1.1 inches (29mm); elliptic, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 10 years, leaves held 1 growing season. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: CB-1 \* open pollinated. G (2004), S (2007), N (2018), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for one of the siblings (namesakes of this cultivar, ‘Elizabeth Cosby’, and ‘Madeline Cosby’) who created an expansive azalea and rhododendron garden in Rockville, VA, and donated it to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Synonyms: hybridizer’s codes RBS 223 and 1-2000.

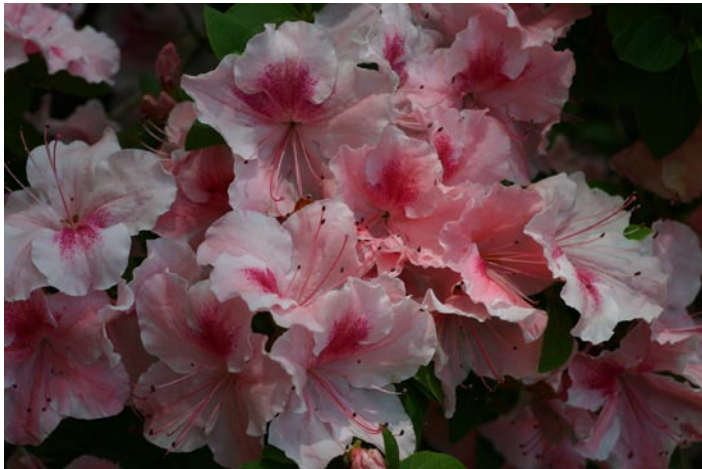


**‘Purple Whimsey’**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: deep purplish pink (N74C); inside: vivid reddish purple (N74A) spots on 2-3 dorsal petals. Calyx: moderate yellow green (139C). Single, strap petal. 1.25 inches (32mm) long x 1.5 inches (38mm) wide with 5 narrowly elliptic-oblongate, fully dissected petals, flat margins; calyx 0.1 inch (3mm) long. Purplish

style, notably exerted; anthers often vestigial or absent. 3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in Baltimore). Leaves: moderate olive green (137A), matte; 1.4 inches (29mm) x 0.6 inch (16mm); ovate, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Indumentum: sparse whitish hairs, top of leaves, pedicel and calyx. Shrub: at least 2 x 2 feet (0.6m x 0.6m) in 10 years. Intermediate habit, hardy to -5°F (-21°C); heat tolerant to 100°F (38°C). Parentage: *R. kiusianum* 'Komukulshan' (s) X 'Primitive Beauty'. H (2003), G (2014), N (2019), REG (2019): John S. Kaylor, Sykesville, MD.



**'Scotian Fire'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: vivid red to vivid reddish orange (44A-44B); inside, spots and an area 0.7 x 0.8 inch (18 x 20mm) of vivid red (45A) on dorsal lobe, barely discernible; outside, very glossy at base. Calyx: brilliant yellow-green (149A). Open funnel, single. 1.4 inches (35mm) long x 1.9 inches (47mm) wide with 5 broadly acute lobes, flat margins; calyx 0.3 inch (8mm) long. Red pistil and stamens. 2 flowers per terminal. Blooming late season (mid to late June in coastal Nova Scotia). Leaves: moderate olive green (146A) in winter; 1.4 x 0.7 inches (35 x 17mm) in summer, 0.7 x 0.4 inch (17 x 10mm) in winter; elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Indumentum: undersides moderately covered with adpressed silver white hairs; mid-rib, petiole and new shoots heavily covered. Shrub: 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 10 years; open habit. Hardy to -13°F (-25°C). Parentage: 'Pink Clusters' (s) X *R. naka-harae* 'Mount Seven Star'. H (1983), G (1985), N (1990), REG (2018): John K. Weagle, Halifax, Nova Scotia; I (c. 2003): Rhodoland Nursery, Canada.



**'Robert Thau'**, evergreen azalea. Bud, inside and outside of flower: deep pink (52C) or lighter, varying from flower to flower; inside: occasional white margins or stripes, prominent moderate purplish red (59C) dorsal blotch spreading into adjacent lobes. Calyx: moderate yellow-green (138B). Funnel, single. 1.9 inches (47mm) long x 3.25 (83mm) wide, with 5 rounded, overlapping lobes, wavy margins; calyx 0.1 inch (9mm) long. Style typically the same color as blotch; filaments variable whites or pinks. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (May in DC area). Leaves: moderate olive green (137A); 2 inches (51mm) x 1 inch (25mm); elliptic, axially concave, cuneate base, acuminate apex, flat margins. Shrub: 2 x 2 feet (0.6 x 0.6m) in 10 years. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C) or colder. Parentage: (Shammarello's 'Desiree' x CB-1 \*) X 'Midnight Flare'. H (1994), G (1998), N (2019), REG (2021): Robert Stewart, Springfield, VA. Etymology of name: for the late Robert Thau of Jasper, TX, a prominent figure in the Azalea Society of America and recipient of the society's Distinguished Service Award in 2019. Synonyms: hybridizer's codes RBS 8A and 10-1994-1.

**'Simone Girls'**, evergreen azalea. Bud: strong purplish pink (62A) shading to very pale purple (69A) at base. Inside and outside: very pale purple (69A) shading to strong purplish pink (62A) at margins, more pronounced on outer lobes; with strong purplish pink (63C) speckling on 3-4 dorsal lobes. Calyx: strong yellow green (144B). Saucer, semidouble. 1.5 inches (35mm) long x 2.8 inches (70mm) wide with 15 rounded lobes, wavy margins; calyx 0.1 inch (1mm) long. Pistil rarely present, does not set seed; stamens often distorted. 2-3 flowers per terminal. Blooming midseason (early May in DC area). Leaves: moderate yellow green (146B), semiglossy; 2 x 0.8 inches (50 x



20mm); elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins. Shrub: 1.5 x 1.5 feet (0.5 x 0.5m) in 5 years; open habit. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Parentage: ‘Rebecca Taffet’ (s) X ‘James Stewart’. H (2006), G (2019), REG (2020): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA; N (2019) Barbara Simone Kirkwood, Great Falls, VA. Etymology of name: for three generations of women with Simone as a maiden or middle name: Barbara Simone Kirkwood, Nicole Simone Kirkwood, Elliana Simone Cisz.



‘Vernon Bush’, deciduous azalea. Bud: vivid reddish orange (34A). Inside: vivid reddish orange (N30A), with vivid reddish orange throat (N30B); faint blotch that fades away as flower ages. Outside: strong yellowish pink (31C). Calyx: brilliant yellow green (149C). Tubular funnel, single. 2.5 inches (64mm) long x 2.25 inches (57mm) wide with 5 broadly acute lobes, slightly wavy margins; calyx: 0.1 inch (2mm) long. Vivid reddish orange (34A) style and filaments, 3.5 inches (90mm),

notably exerted. 5-7 flowers per dome truss; truss 3.75 inches (95mm) high x 5 inches (127mm) wide. Blooming late season (mid-July in northern Alabama). Leaves: moderate olive green (137A), matte; 2-4.2 x 0.5-1.4 inches (51-107 x 13-36mm); elliptic, cuneate base, acute apex, wavy margins. Indumentum: sparse fine hairs along margin and midvein, light yellow green (145B). Shrub: 9 feet (2.7m) high x 5 feet (1.5m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit. Hardy to 4°F (-16°C), heat tolerant to 95°F (35°C). Parentage: *R. prunifolium* open-pollinated. S (2012), G (2012): Vernon Bush, Huntsville, AL; I (2017): Earl Sommerville, Marietta, GA; N (2019), REG (2019): Huntsville Madison County Botanical Garden Society Inc., Huntsville, AL. Etymology of name: for Vernon Bush, specialist in deciduous azaleas of southeastern North America. Notes: Flower is notably larger than typical *R. prunifolium* flowers. Parent plant wild-collected in Lee County, AL, by R. Oneal Smitherman; given to Vernon Bush, who collected open-pollinated seed from it.

**\* CB-1 was among seedlings discarded by the University of Maryland’s breeding program. It was “rescued” by Clifford Brown, and assigned its identification code by Robert Stewart. No information on its parentage.**

### References

Names conform to the rules and recommendations of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, Ninth Edition* (2016). Color names are from *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture*, Robert D. Huse and Kenneth L. Kelly; Donald H. Voss, editor.

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

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

### International Rhododendron Register & Checklist (2004)

Digital versions (PDF format) of IRRC and its Supplements are accessible, without charge, at [www.rhs.org.uk/plants/plantsmanship/plant-registration/Rhododendron-cultivar-registration/Rhododendron](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/plantsmanship/plant-registration/Rhododendron-cultivar-registration/Rhododendron)

### Photo credits

All photos by Carolyn F. Beck, except for 'Madeline Cosby' by Joseph Klimavicz 'Mary's House' by William L. Clagett 'Miller Light' by William C. Miller III 'Miss Dean' by Glenn Keith Bush 'Purple Whimsey' by John S. Kaylor 'Scotian Fire' by John K. Weagle 'Simone Girls' by Joseph Klimavicz 'Vernon Bush' by Tracy Cook

Part 1 of this listing was published in the Winter 2021 edition of *The Azalean*.

# Welcome New Members!

### New At Large members include:

- Joe Anzalone, Broussard, LA
- Richard Hershman, Manchester, TN
- Heather Marks, Geneva, NY
- Margie McCeney, Geneva, NY
- Juliana Medeiros, Painesville, OH
- Eileen Miller, New Orleans, LA
- Carmen Mondelli, Haddonfield, NJ
- Kevin Thompson, Eules, TX

### The Arkansas Chapter welcomes:

- Donna Peebles, Hot Springs, AR

### The Texas Forest Country Chapter welcomes:

- Harlene Michaels, Brookeland, TX
- Heather J. Woods, Call, TX
- David Woods, Call, TX
- Deanna Young, Brookeland, TX
- Dusty Young, Brookeland, TX

### The Vaseyi Chapter welcomes:

- Cheryl Murphy, Walhalla, SC



## Lafayette's Historic Azalea Trail & Gardens



# azalea trail

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

For more information please Visit

[AZALEATRIL.ORG](http://AZALEATRIL.ORG)



# Chapter News



The Northern Virginia Chapter members enjoy socializing with each other for the first time in two years. Photo by Rick Bauer.

## Northern Virginia Chapter *Rick Bauer, President*

The Northern Virginia Chapter ended our year with our annual holiday social and meeting. It was originally planned to be held at the home of Paul and Carolyn Beck, however due to social distancing concerns, we moved it to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. We had a great turnout of 34 members and guests and a delicious selection of food brought by our members.

During the annual meeting portion of the event, we approved the budget and elected officers for 2022. Finally, we decided on our contributions for 2021, which included \$2,000 for the ASA as well as contributions to Jenkins Arboretum and the Title I program at Green Spring Gardens.

The end of January we joined with several chapters of the American Rhododendron Society to view an excellent Zoom presentation on *R. austrinum* given by Dr. Ralf Bauer from Offenbach, Germany. Ralf has been to the states multiple times to explore and view native azaleas and is well versed on the subject. He gave an excellent presentation.

Our next meeting will be on 27 March. Jake Summers, the project manager for the Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum, will give us a Zoom presentation on the efforts to plan and develop the garden. The chapter has been a major supporter for the garden, donating 216 plants as well as making monetary donations. The garden is expected to be dedicated this spring.

## Texas Chapter *Sherrie Randall, Secretary*

Several Chapter members traveled to Bud Willis' nursery in Louisiana this past November. Those making the drive were rewarded with purchasing some of his unique rhododendrons that are otherwise unattainable in nearby Texas.

Next up, following the ASA convention in Louisiana, the Chapter will be focusing on hosting a spring plant sale during the Azalea Trail in Nacogdoches, TX. The main goal will be recruiting new members as Chapter membership has declined the past couple years. Past plant sales have proven to be an excellent way to reach fellow gardeners. An added bonus is the revenue generated enables the Chapter to award horticulture scholarships.

**Nuccio's  
Nurseries  
INCORPORATED**

**Growers of Rare Camellias and  
Azaleas Since 1935  
Hundreds of Varieties**

**Send for Free Catalog  
or Visit Us Online at  
NucciosNurseries.com**

**3555 CHANEY TRAIL  
ALTADENA, CA 91001  
(626) 794-3383**



# In Memoriam: Ernest Koone

*By Tom Johnson—Hamilton, Georgia*

Ernest Franklin Koone was born in LaGrange, Georgia, and lived on the family farm outside of Pine Mountain, adjacent to Callaway Gardens. The family moved near Atlanta, Georgia, in 1957 where he completed his education, including his study at many local gardens. His summers and weekends were spent at the farm, first begun by his ancestors in 1827, learning and developing a love for horticulture and native shrubs.

After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1972-1984, he returned to Pine Mountain and joined Lazy K, his father's nursery business, eventually turning it into the largest grower of native azaleas—distributing over 100,000 native azaleas each year.

In recent years, he could barely keep up with the demand. Ernest was a “hands-on” nurseryman, maintaining his large business with only a small number of long-time loyal employees. He even made most of his own truck deliveries. He considered people like Virginia Hand Callaway, Fred Galle, and President and Mrs. Carter his friends. He was a recognized authority on native azaleas by many prestigious gardens and donated his knowledge, time, experience, and plants to many public gardens and gardening organizations. Ernest was active in several horticultural groups and was a board member of the Rosalyn Carter's Butterfly Trail.

I met Ernest over 30 years ago. Like most who have ever met Ernest, we became instant friends. Ernest was the type of person that made you feel important and was always willing to give of himself to help others. He donated native azalea collections to many gardens around the country. Throughout my tenure at Magnolia Gardens, Ernest supplied us with plants to sell, along with driving to Charleston anytime we needed a program on native plants. We put on two national conventions there and Ernest was always the first person I would call.

He always agreed to teaching a class. He would show up with a load of native plants and donate them for our club to sell. During the conventions, he was always working behind the scenes to help anyway he could.

Magnolia Gardens was the first garden in the United States approved to receive interns from Versailles. Later, Barbados sent interns too. I wanted the students to tour southern public gardens and meet some American nurserymen. Once again, Ernest was the first I called. In the early days, before his mother passed away, she would meet Ernest and the students at Callaway Gardens with a picnic lunch. Mrs. Koone would have a large meal prepared in the trunk of her car. We

**Ernest Koone collecting native azalea seeds. Photo by Tom Johnson.**



would eat at the overlook pavilion near the Old Azalea Bowl. It became an annual ritual to take the students to Lazy K Nursery. Ernest would talk with them about operating a nursery and then he would give them a personal tour of Callaway Gardens, sharing with them personal stories about Fred Galle and many other important figures in American horticulture that he personally knew. I remember thinking back then how casual the stories he told about the great horticultural names I had only heard about in my career. Funny, now I think back. Once the students returned home, I received a copy of their reports about the program. They would always mention getting to meet the “Great American Nurseryman” Ernest Koone.

Ernest donated native azalea collections to two public gardens a year. He donated plants to many clubs. He primarily sold one-gallon plants because that was easier for small clubs to sell and he wanted to help them. I think that was one of his biggest legacies!

Ernest Koone’s remarkable legacy includes the distribution of millions of native azaleas, many now preserved at gardens in the United States including Longwood, the U.S. National Arboretum, Callaway Gardens, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, the Atlanta Beltline Arboretum, Lockerly Arboretum, Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge, Olmsted Linear Park, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, and Auburn University.

Among his many accomplishments, Ernest was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Azalea Society of America. Ernest told me, of all the honors he had received, this was the one he was most proud of!

He named native azalea cultivars, including *Rhododendron canescens* ‘Chocolate Drop’, *R. flammeum* ‘Red Inferno’, *R. alabamense* ‘Nancy Callaway’, *R. austrinum* ‘Olde Gold’, *R. arborecens* (var. *georgiana*) ‘Pink Satin’, *R. viscosum*



Ernest meeting with visiting interns. Photos by Tom Johnson.



‘White Foam’, *R. viscosum* var. *serrulatum* ‘White Pearl’.

He also named a native azalea for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and President Carter, but he would only grow them to be donated and sold to benefit the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. Money and fame never seemed to be important to my friend, Ernest. He was too busy just being a simple plantsman!



## We Need Your Seed!

Can you collect some native azalea seed for us?

We grow 10,000’s of them and need your help!  
Please contact us at:  
bill@carolinanativenursery.com or call (828) 682-1471



**Mike and Deb White**  
whiteaz@verizon.net

**White's Nursery, LLC**  
Specializing In Azaleas and Rhododendrons  
[www.whites-nursery.com](http://www.whites-nursery.com)

22531 Wildcat Road  
Germantown, MD 20876  
301 788 3293  
301 471 5958

# Recognizing Generous ASA Members

*By Paul A. Beck, Treasurer*

I would like to recognize and thank the following members who made donations during 2021 totaling \$4,474 to the **Operating Fund** and \$2,795 to the **Azalea Research Fund** of the Azalea Society of America. My apologies if I missed anyone.

## Operating Fund

### \$5 to \$49

Benjamin, Chip & Pulak, Doug  
Brizzi, Steve  
Carlson, Barbara & Larry  
Carpenter, Debora  
Guthrie, Judge Judith  
Jones, Bill  
Manning, Hailey & Mark  
Martin, Larry & Milbrey  
Matthews, Jim  
McDavitt, William & Mary  
Nuccio's Nursery  
Pairo, Ellen-Jane & Bill  
Reinke, Phil  
Ritch, Francine  
Stromeyer, Cheryl & F. Wayne, MD  
Sweetman, Dr. Harold & Christine  
Torbert, John & Bowen, Kira  
Westmoreland, Phillip Dale  
Wright, Esther R.  
Yang, Jimmy

### \$50 to \$99

Bange, Faith  
Burd, Ginger & Sam  
Harrison, Eve & Bob  
Simmons, John, MD & Patsy  
Westmoreland, Phillip Dale

### \$100 to \$499

Cosby, Elizabeth  
Hargroves, Nancy & Herbert  
John, Sue  
Lanclos, Mrs. Denise  
Palmer, Ronnie & Donna  
Stump, Barbara

### \$500 to \$999

—

### \$1,000 and over

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens  
Northern Virginia Chapter ASA

## Azalea Research Fund

### \$5 to \$49

Jones, Bill  
Paull, Joan  
Robinson, Dan, Sr  
Sperling, Barry  
Stromeyer, Cheryl & F. Wayne, MD  
Wallace, Peter

### \$50 to \$99

Booth, Hale  
Burd, Ginger & Sam  
Simmons, John, MD & Patsy

### \$2,500

Dolan Gardens (Frances Jones)



YOUR COMPLETE GARDEN CENTER  
(337) 948-7343

ERIC LASTRAPES  
lastrapesc@gmail.com  
Find us on  
Facebook

3934 I-49 N. SERVICE RD.  
OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570



Ground Cover & Shrubs

57 Joe Gunter Road  
Forest Hill, La 71430

318-748-7523  
guntersnursery7523@yahoo.com

*The 86th*  
**RIVER OAKS GARDEN CLUB**  
**AZALEA TRAIL**



**BACK TO OUR ROOTS ... BRINGING NEW BLOOMS\***

*Sharing Houston's Gardens since 1935*

**\* GARDENS ONLY THIS YEAR**

**MARCH 4, 5 & 6**

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY**

**11 am - 5 pm**

*Visit our website for information*

[www.riveroaksgc.org](http://www.riveroaksgc.org)

Tickets on sale at HEB and other select locations



**River Oaks Garden Club**



**riveroaksgardenclub**

# A Hidden Garden in the Heart of Shreveport

By Emily Young Feazel—Shreveport, Louisiana

The R. W. Norton Art Gallery, nestled on 43 sculpted acres in the old South Highlands neighborhood of Shreveport, Louisiana, has been free and open to the public since its inception in 1966. The museum's eclectic permanent collection of almost 9,000 objects spans over 4,000 years, ranging from Egyptian Old Kingdom to contemporary Neo-realism. Upwards of 300 artists are represented in canvas, paper, and other media, including several hundred sculptures from miniatures to life-size, Classical marble works from Greece and Rome, 16th-century tapestries that once graced the palace of a French king, colonial silver from the hand of Paul Revere, decorative arts in glass and porcelain, and much more.

The beauty of the Norton is not limited to inside the museum. The surrounding 40 landscaped acres are given over to botanical gardens in which tens of thousands of plants provide a visual delight year-round. The evolution of the original scattered plantings into an overarching botanical garden is the work of Kip Dehart and her grounds crew. She designed and oversaw the construction of all the various ecosystems, and their attendant plant beds, from the emergent and marginal water feature plantings to the dry and dusty cacti, other succulents, and various woody species

of the xeriscape garden. Recent additions include a Japanese maple area featuring more than 50 varieties of this delightful little tree, and two new beds outside the museum's gates where walkers, joggers, and casual passerby can sit and enjoy the day even when the gardens are closed.

Rated "one of the South's favorite spots" by *Southern Living* magazine, the Norton's gardens are perhaps best known for their thousands of native and hybrid azaleas. Each spring, usually sometime between the ending weeks of March and early April, these plants burst forth in pinks, whites, purples, oranges, and yellows, like clouds of cotton candy sprawling beneath the understory. The original azalea plantings were the work of Mrs. Margaret Norton in the early 1960s and her vision has continued to this day.

After last year's severe winter, we are looking forward to a beautiful 2022 season full of bright color. To celebrate this spring renewal, our Twilight Talkies series of free movies on the lawn will kick-off on March 25, 2022. Soft breezes through the towering pines overhead create the perfect backdrop to enjoy a relaxing movie under the stars. From Hawaiian to BBQ to hot dogs and ice cream, local food trucks never fail to provide delectable sweet and savory treats.



In a further indoor salute to all things vernal, the Norton will be hosting its 6th annual BLOOM! Juried Exhibition, a dynamic and diverse assortment of floral-themed works of art. Although this exhibit began with featuring local and regional artists, over the past few years it has grown to include international artists from across the globe, including Greece, Great Britain, and Austria, among others. This year, BLOOM! can be viewed in the museum's special exhibit galleries from March 25–May 8, 2022. So, please come and enjoy the beauty and excitement of the R. W. Norton Art Gallery! For more information, visit [www.rwnaf.org](http://www.rwnaf.org) or call (318) 865-4201.

**Address:**

R. W. Norton Art Gallery  
4747 Creswell Ave.  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71106

**Museum Hours:**

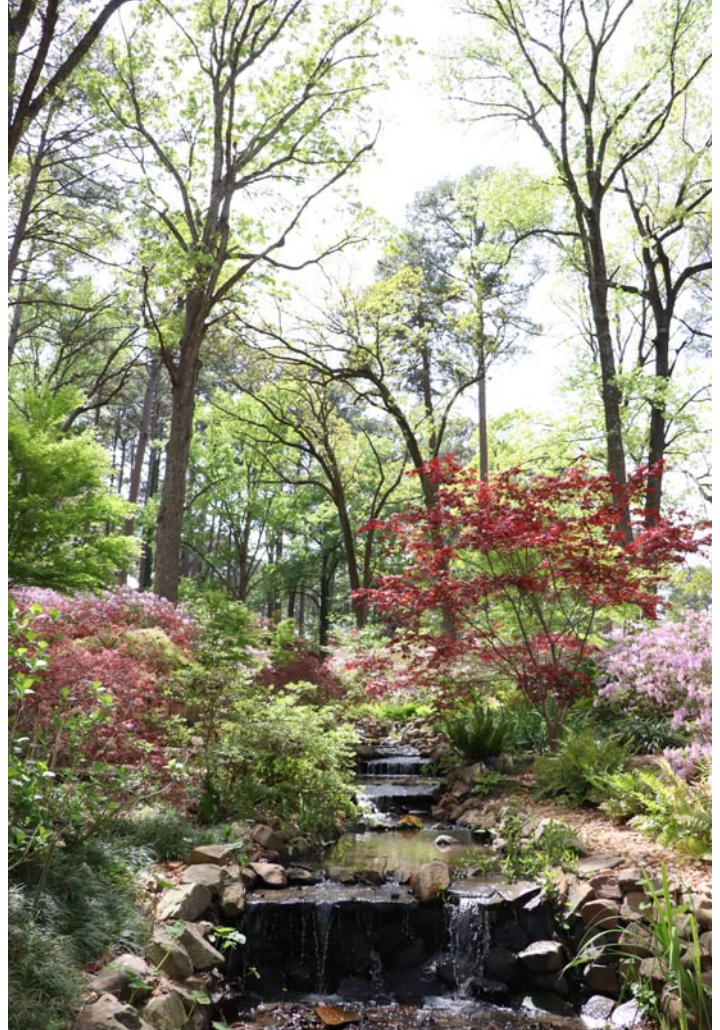
Thursday through Saturday: 1:00 - 5:00 pm  
Closed: Monday - Wednesday

**Botanical Garden Hours:**

Monday and Tuesday: 4:00 pm - Sunset  
Wednesday - Sunday: Sunrise - Sunset

**About the Author:**

Emily Young Feazel is Designer, Exhibits & Special Events at the R.W. Norton Art Gallery.



Photos by Emily Feazel, courtesy of the R.W. Norton Art Foundation.



I love my customers' trees as much as they do. Maybe more.

Jose Rivas champions the trees, landscapes and property investments of the customers in his care. And he's one of the many reasons we've become the premier scientific tree and shrub care company in the world.

877-BARTLETT | [bartlett.com](http://bartlett.com)



**BARTLETT**  
**TREE EXPERTS**

SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

**EVERY TREE NEEDS A CHAMPION.**  
The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

# America's Foreign Country: The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

By Caroline S. Byrne—Baton Rouge, Louisiana

---

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is wild and mysterious. It is made up of a large variety of habitats from swamps, wetlands, and bayous to prairies and North America's only land-building river delta. Housed in Louisiana's Office of Cultural Development, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area works to preserve and promote the cultural, historic, and natural resources of the Atchafalaya basin and floodway. The welcome center is about 20 miles east of Lafayette. The protected area stretches from the Old River Control Structure in Concordia Parish all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico in Terrebonne Parish, and from Avoyelles to Lafayette and East Baton Rouge. The Louisiana French dialects and heritage, coupled with the unique ecosystems throughout the heritage area, are just a few things that make the region so special.

Atchafalaya residents and natives have used the flora and fauna native to these habitats in food, medicine, and more throughout history. The Acadiana Native Plant Project is one such organization working to preserve Louisiana's native plants and promote their uniqueness and uses.

Ecosystems, especially those that make up the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, are complex. Especially with the way humans have adapted to disaster and changed the land, preserving ecosystems has become a crucial way to protect against destructive environmental forces. A hallmark of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is our relationship with water, and native plants have served protection and adaptation purposes throughout history. For example, indigenous peoples used river cane to weave baskets and also used native seeds and berries for dye, while early colonists insulated their homes with spanish moss. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) leaves are ground into filé powder to flavor and thicken gumbo. American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is harvested and processed for healing tinctures. Cultures throughout Acadiana have used a wide variety of native plant life for medicinal purposes.

The Acadiana Native Plant Project (ANPP) exists to promote the use of native plants in Louisiana landscapes. The group propagates native plant species in the spring and educates visitors through virtual tours and workshops. ANPP also admin-

isters the Louisiana Certified Habitat Program for southwest Louisiana. The program invites Louisiana residents, businesses, schools and other public entities to use their outdoor space to create a native habitat.

The program further emphasizes the importance of using native plants that serve as the foundation for all habitat types and natural ecosystems. They also provide shelter and food for native wildlife.

So, what is a native plant? The Acadiana Native Plant Project defines native plants as those already growing in the Acadiana region before the arrival of Europeans. The rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), for example, has grown in Louisiana's coastal prairie for millenia. Its existence supports native bee pollinators and indigenous peoples used it to create a fiber for shoes. Other plants native to Louisiana include the box elder (*Acer negundo*), the indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), the trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), and the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

The Acadiana Native Plant Project's website, [www.greauxnative.org](http://www.greauxnative.org), includes recommendations for Louisiana native landscaping plants. The "Instead of That Plant This" documents offer explanations and suggestions for native plant replacements to popular non-natives. Instead of Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), introduced into the U.S. from China in 1816 and displacing native plants ever since, gardeners can plant American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*), a native, non-aggressive deciduous vine with fragrant blue flowers. In place of crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* sp.), which are vulnerable to mildew, sooty mold, and aphids, landscapers can plant rusty blackhaw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*), which is native and has striking fall colors. Native azaleas, sometimes called honeysuckle or flame azaleas, come in white, pink, orange, yellow, and red. All these changes help enhance Louisiana's ecosystem and the wildlife that make the state so unique.

Non-natives, also known as "introduced" plants, came to the United States from other parts of the world as people settled the area. These settlers brought their favorite food, medicinal, and household plants along with them. Such plants were bred with desirable characteristics including beauty, and are often found in landscaping. Non-



# Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Lake Martin, Louisiana. Photo courtesy of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

natives include roses, azaleas, and crape myrtles, and though they provide little regarding ecosystem services, they are long-lived and beautiful.

The Azalea Trail in Lafayette is one way to take in these beautiful non-natives. It also offers a prime opportunity to explore historic downtown Lafayette, the Oil Center, and the University districts and garden neighborhoods. The Azalea Trail spans approximately 25 miles through Lafayette’s urban core. These azaleas bloom three times a year, but the best time to catch them is from late February through March. Christened “The General Lafayette” in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette,

the Southern Indian lavender ‘Formosum’ azalea was named Lafayette’s official city flower in the 1950s.

For more information on Lafayette’s Azalea Trail, visit [www.azaleatrail.org](http://www.azaleatrail.org). Learn more about the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area at [www.atchafalaya.org](http://www.atchafalaya.org). To learn more about native plant species and receive gardening advice, visit [www.greauxnative.org](http://www.greauxnative.org).

#### About the Author:

Caroline S. Byrne is the assistant director of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, Baton Rouge, LA.



## AZALEA HILL GARDENS & NURSERY

### EVERGREEN AZALEAS

We grow Glenn Dale, Back Acres, Robin Hill, Satsuki, Huang, Holly Springs and others

Request list: email [ronnie.palmer88@yahoo.com](mailto:ronnie.palmer88@yahoo.com)  
or text 870-489-0884

1106 S. Evans Road  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71602  
Phone (870) 247-1574

Visit [www.azaleahillgardens-arkansas.com](http://www.azaleahillgardens-arkansas.com)





## The Jungle Gardens of Avery Island

*By Katlyn Decou—Avery Island, Louisiana*

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

Avery Island's Jungle Gardens, home of world-famous TABASCO® brand Pepper Sauce, is located near New Iberia, Louisiana. It is one of the most attractive natural places one could ever visit. The idea of E. A. McIlhenny, the gardens began over a century ago. Initially, it was a wildlife refuge for the snowy egret and only later a working plant nursery.

By the early 1920s, McIlhenny's greenhouses, lath houses, and nursery brimmed with unusual decorative and functional plants. He specialized primarily in four groups: azaleas, bamboos, camellias, and hollies. In 1926, he formally organized Jungle Gardens as Jungle Gardens Inc. The company's purpose was to conduct general nursery business, which included propagation of plants and nursery stock, landscape gardening, and buying and selling at retail and wholesale of things he

produced, including cut flowers.

McIlhenny's nursery stock at its incorporation was enormous. At one time, Jungle Gardens, Inc. grew plants in the tens of thousands and boasted 6,000 acres of land, some on Avery Island, some off. Today, Jungle Gardens no longer operates as a nursery. It occupies some 175 acres on Avery Island, which includes the famous Bird City wildfowl refuge and the "Old Nursery" that served as McIlhenny's experimental plots and exhibition gardens. In addition to selling plants, McIlhenny was the recipient of early USDA plant introductions. Countless numbers of species imported into the U.S. primarily from Asia, including from China and Japan, were sent to Avery Island as trials. Many of these introductions survived and continue to thrive today.

The gardens were opened to the public in 1935 as a drive-through attraction, appealing to both local visitors as well as to those traveling the U.S. Paths and walkways wind through the property, enabling visitors to enjoy the many hidden splen-

dors of this unique landmark. A prominent garden director, who visited Jungle Gardens in 2018, commented at the end of his tour, “Seeing Jungle Gardens was like visiting a garden I expected to see 100 years ago.” Jungle Gardens is a timeless place. Little has changed in the past century other than the ages of the plants growing there.

For most of the 20th century, Jungle Gardens and Avery Island were thought to have the largest collections of bamboo. McIlhenny embraced bamboo as a potentially valuable commodity. He believed that both timber bamboo and edible shoot bamboo would be useful to Louisiana’s economy, and planted more than 64 varieties in and around Jungle Gardens. At the time, McIlhenny was the nation’s only commercial bamboo grower and he sold many species successfully. Although the U.S. bamboo industry never flourished, McIlhenny’s ability to see bamboo’s potential, and his success with a number of productive varieties, astonished experts. Several bamboo types still flourish in Jungle Gardens. The more interesting of these surviving varieties include a giant yellow bamboo with pale green stripes called ‘Robert Young’, located just before the Camellia Study Garden; impressively large ‘Moso’ and ‘Henon’ bamboos, found in a pretty grove near Bird City; and a small patch of ‘Meyerii’ bamboo, which is quite tall and often very dark, almost black, growing to the left of the old entrance gate.

Camellias were fabulously popular in mid-19th-century Europe. Admired by celebrities and aristocrats, many varieties were considered essential for the chic gardens of south Louisiana plantation owners. As a result, antebellum planters imported camellias from France to enhance both their gardens and their reputations. Although the Civil War put an end to extravagant gardening, many of the camellias continued to thrive on their own in the region’s rich soil and semitropical climate.

While visiting old plantation gardens along



Pictured on opposite page, Southern live oak skirted by azaleas. Pictured above, Encore® azalea ‘Conled’ which is marketed under Autumn Coral®, its registered trademark name.

Bayou Teche, young McIlhenny rediscovered the forgotten and now less-fashionable camellias. Around 1900, he began to collect camellias and by 1902 he possessed more than 100 varieties in Jungle Gardens. In the following decades he continued to import camellias from Europe and Japan as well as breed them to produce new varieties.

In 1950, a year after his death, the nursery published a camellia catalog that offered 251 camellia varieties—many of which originated in Jungle Gardens. Nursery sales ended around 1952. The camellias that remained in Jungle Gardens were essentially abandoned, but continued to thrive untended. Fields of camellias were allowed to return to natural forests. Today thousands of camellias persist in those mature woodlands. They not only thrived but continued to reproduce on their own. In 2018, a walking trail was cut through the camellia-forested area of the Old Nursery. The lovely trails take visitors on a never-before-seen trip through that abandoned nursery.

#### Article Credits:

All photos are by Pam McIlhenny. Text by Katlyn Decou, Marketing Coordinator of the McIlhenny Company. Staff botanist Garrie Landry contributed to this article.

**Chastant Brothers, Inc. is a 3rd generation, family-owned and operated farm store based in Lafayette, LA.**

We make a custom camellia-azalea fertilizer called the “Bayou Special.”



Find us on Facebook or online at:  
[www.chastantbros.com](http://www.chastantbros.com)

**CHASTANT BROTHERS, INC.**

FERTILIZER • LIME • SEED • CHEMICALS • GARDEN SUPPLIES



#### Poole Brothers Nursery

is Central Louisiana’s top spot for the most beautiful flowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, and more! We have been growing the best plants in the area since the 1920s, and we’re not stopping now.



@PooleBrosNsy

Visit us at 3334 Hwy. 112,  
LeCompte, LA 71346

[www.poolebrosnsy.com](http://www.poolebrosnsy.com)



# JUNGLE GARDENS



## Avery Island

<https://www.junglegardens.org/tour-options>



*Jungle Gardens offers wonderful attractions that will appeal to nature lovers, bird watchers and any visitor interested in experiencing the beauty of nature and abundant wildlife in a pristine, tranquil setting.*