Vol. 44 • No. 3 • Fall 2022

The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America

President's Letter

Charlie Andrews—Cumming, Georgia

Does Your Garden Have Year-Round Interest?

With fall coming, now is a good time to remind everyone that spring is not the only time for azaleas and other flowering plants. My garden originally was one with just a big spring burst. In my neck of the woods, that occurred in April. Yours may be later or earlier. Still, after the big burst, there was not much else. It has taken me years to learn how to develop a garden for year-round interest.

Surely, everyone wants their garden to have something of interest at times other than in the spring. Being fond of azaleas and companion plantings, my first step was in learning that there are late-blooming azaleas. For evergreen azaleas, the Satsuki and related groups such as some Robin Hill Hybrids and others have bloom times that extend into late May and even early June. Reblooming azaleas provide a spring bloom and a late summer and fall bloom. As for the deciduous azaleas, by carefully choosing species and cultivars, one can have plants blooming from April until August (and even early September) in my area.

Many other plants make fine azalea companions. The later-blooming *Hydrangea paniculata* and *H. quercifolia* not only extend the hydrangea blooming season, but the drying flower heads remain attractive for a long time afterwards. Clethra adds mid-summer flowers and fragrance. Viburnums come in many wonderful kinds. My favorite is the double-file viburnum, *Viburnum plicatum* f. *tomentosum*, with flowers lined up on each side of the horizontal limbs. While they bloom about the same time as our flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida)*, the berries slowly change from green to red to purple throughout the summer and fall. The attractive, veined leaves put on a multi-colored display in the fall. Other dogwood species, such as the kousa dogwood (*C. kousa)* and pagoda dogwood (*C. alternifolia*), bloom later than *C. florida*. Both evergreen and deciduous hollies provide berries long into the winter. Hardwood trees, such as hickory, sourwood, maple, and oak are a source for fall leaf color and their wonderful leafless winter outlines. This only touches the surface of what one can do to extend the garden season, but you get the idea.

Plants that bloom later than spring are not as easy to obtain. Why? We, the gardeners, are at fault. After being cooped up all winter, we are dying to get out when the weather begins to warm. That is when we go *en masse* to nurseries. People tend to buy plants when they are in bloom. A plant that blooms in July or August sitting next to a blooming one is not a hot seller in a nursery in April. Relatively few go back to the nurseries later in the summer when it would be blooming. Thus, later-blooming plants are produced in fewer numbers and are harder to find, but they are out there.

If you are stuck essentially with a spring garden, consider branching out. Think four seasons. Add year-round interest to that spring burst. Now is a good time to plan.

One thing ASA needs to do for its members is provide better information on cultivars and sources. We are working on it. In the meantime, if you have a question, let me know. You can reach me at president@azaleas.org.

~ Charlie

Azalea Society of America

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).

The Azalean

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The Azalean (ISSN-1085-5343) is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall, and winter) by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., Mrs. Denise R. Lanclos, 132 Oakview Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503.

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.

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

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Deadlines for *The Azalean*:

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

On the Cover

Rhododendron prunifolium is a native azalea, and Georgia's state wildflower is the native azalea.
Photo by Charles Andrews.

Remember, you too can write for *The Azalean*!
To submit your articles and photos for publication, contact: theazalean@gmail.com.

Georgia with Azaleas on My Mind: 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention Preview

By Charlie Andrews—Cumming, Georgia

The 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention is being held in Atlanta, Georgia Wednesday, 19 April to Sunday, 23 April. You can forget the winter because spring will be here. Atlanta is a city of trees. The first thing you will notice about Atlanta is it is green. It has the largest tree canopy of all large US cities with an amazing 47% coverage. It is a city of parks. We love flowers here. The native azalea is our state wildflower, and Georgia is proud to have 12 species of azaleas growing naturally within the state, more than any other state.

Convention Hotel

Atlanta is easy to get to from anywhere. Whether you will be traveling by air or road, many routes lead to Atlanta. Our convention hotel is the Marriot Atlanta Perimeter Center, located north of downtown Atlanta and adjacent to Atlanta's rapid transit MARTA. (MARTA is convenient to the airport and all downtown attractions.) The hotel has undergone a recent $15 million hotel renovation. We have negotiated a great rate of $134 per night, which also applies for three (3) days before or after the convention. You will have free parking and free hotel shuttle within a two-mile area.

Our hotel is in the Dunwoody area, with access to shopping, dining, parks, and more. Nearby are seven parks with 170 acres of green space including Dunwoody Nature Center. Perimeter Mall is the second largest mall in the Southeast, with 200 specialty stores. Woodhouse Day Spa is within the mall. Enjoy wine tasting at Vino Venue, Atlanta's wine school or partake in the many excellent dining opportunities in the area.

Hotel Reservation Link

Azalea-Rhododendron Convention 2023
Start Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023
End Date: Monday, April 24, 2023
Last Day to Book: Friday, March 31, 2023
Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center for 134 USD per night
COMP WIFI IN GUESTS ROOMS
COMP SELF PARKING
Book your group rate for Azalea-Rhododendron Convention 2023 at https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1654295018042&key=GRP

Native azaleas at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Photo by Pim Rust.

Tours

Our main tour days will be Thursday and Friday. Additional optional tours are also planned. On Thursday, our tour will center on the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The Atlanta Botanical Gardens is an urban oasis in Midtown Atlanta, featuring 30 acres of gardens, displays, and exhibits. These include the Rock Garden, Flower Walk, Conifer Garden, Fragrance & Sensory Garden, Skyline Garden, and the Conservation Garden. Additional stops may include the Atlanta History Center and Garden and Piedmont Park. The Atlanta History Center has a rhododendron and azalea dell originally developed by the Azalea Chapter ARS. Piedmont Park began as a fairground for expositions in 1887. The Olmsted Brothers prepared a plan for the park in 1912, which was never fully implemented but greatly influenced the development of the park.

Friday is reserved for Gibbs Gardens and Babyland General Hospital and Garden. Gibbs Gardens is a world-class, 300-acre residential estate garden in the foothills north of Atlanta. The property boasts a spring-fed stream surrounded by ferns, native azaleas, dogwoods, and mountain laurels to which have been added Japanese maples, oaks, hollies, rhododendrons, and 16 gardens including the Japanese and Waterlily Gardens, Manor House Gardens, Inspiration Gardens (azaleas and conifers), Rose Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, and Wild-

flower Meadow. Many of you may know Babyland General Hospital for the famous Cabbage Patch Kids®, but little known is the wonderful collection of azaleas and other plants with which Xavier Roberts has surrounded his "hospital."

Optional tours may include private gardens. On your own there is much to see in the Atlanta area and Georgia. Grant Park Zoo was established in 1889 in a 131-acre Grant Park greenspace. The zoo is home to some 1,500 animals. The Grant Park neighborhood contains the largest remaining area of Victorian architecture in Atlanta. The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum is an unusual linear accredited botanical garden primarily dedicated to trees, woody plants, and native and notable perennial plants, all eventually via a 22-mile loop of multi-use trails, modern streetcar, and parks based on railroad corridors that formerly encircled Atlanta. Oakland Cemetery is one of the oldest in the city and known not only for the funerary art and architecture, but also for its landscaping. The Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area is a federal park along a 48-mile stretch of the river with many miles of walking and bike trails. It contains natural flora and fauna habitats, 19th century historic sites, and Native American archaeological sites. The Carter Center and Jimmy Carter Presidential Library are located on 37 acres of garden and parkland. Atlanta was the home of Martin Luther King, Jr. His birthplace and the church where he preached are only two historic sites related to Dr. King. The Atlanta Ponce City Market is an area of shops, food hall, housing, and office space on Ponce de Leon Avenue and along the Atlanta BeltLine. The main building was once the Sears retail store and southeastern distribution center across from the old Atlanta Crackers and Black Crackers baseball stadium. Atlanta's High Museum of Art and its large collection are world famous.

Banquet Programs

We have two great presentations planned for you on Friday and Saturday nights, one on Mary Gibson Henry, an extraordinary plant explorer and another on the floral history of the Augusta National Golf Course.

Mary Gibson Henry was a self-taught field botanist and horticulturist with an international reputation. Born in 1884, Mary married a Philadelphia physician in 1909 who later became Philadelphia's director of public health. She developed an interest in plants and read widely in botany and horticulture. She was especially interested in wild plants of the southeastern United States, inspired in part by William Bartram's Travels. Beginning in 1929, she made many trips to the Southeast, the Atlantic Coastal Plain, into the Piedmont Plateau

Babyland General Hospital has more than their world-famous Cabbage Patch Kids. Photo courtesy of Babyland General Hospital.

The old Atlanta Oakland Cemetery is known for its architecture, flora, and famous people buried there. Photo by Melissa McAlpine, courtesy of Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau Marketing.

and the Appalachians. One of her main goals was to find outstanding forms of deciduous azaleas. Her first trip to the Southeast was in search of *Rhododendron speciosum*, now *R. flammeum*. She, with some of her children, also made plant exploration trips into an unexplored area of the Canadian Rockies in the Peace River area, where Mount Mary Henry in British Columbia is named for her. This intrepid plant explorer fearlessly wandered through pathless forests, waded into snake-infested swamps, crossed streams, and climbed mountains in search of America's floral beauties.

The Augusta National Golf Course is world famous as is the 13th Hole, but do you know the rest of the story? Of course, plants are a major part of landscape design. The property that Bobby Jones purchased was once Fruitlands Nurseries, where the Berckmans family grew and sold not only fruit trees and shrubs in the latter half of the 1800s but was also an early promoter of evergreen azaleas for the out of doors.

Seminars

Saturday is a day planned for short seminars and roundtable discussion sessions.

Plant Sale

As expected, many plants will be available at our plant sale, including rhododendrons, azaleas from Legacy Project hybridizers, and deciduous azaleas. A web page with images and descriptions of the plants will be available in December with the cultivars and species for sale.

Tentative Schedule

- Wednesday, 19 April
  - Breakfast (on your own)
  - Registration
  - Lunch (for ARS & ASA officers)
  - ARS /ASA Board of Directors Meeting (overlapping meetings)
  - Hospitality Reception
  - Dinner (on your own)
- Thursday, 20 April
  - Breakfast
  - Thursday Tours
  - Hospitality Reception
  - Plant Sale
  - Dinner (on your own)
- Friday, 21 April
  - Breakfast
  - Friday Tours
  - Plant Sale
  - ASA Banquet
- Saturday, 22 April
  - Breakfast
  - Azalea/Rhododendron 101 (half-day workshop for public)
  - Saturday Optional Tours
  - Seminar & Roundtable Sessions
  - Plant Sale (also open to public)
  - ARS Banquet
- Sunday, 23 April
  - Breakfast (on your own)
  - Plant Sale (morning; also open to public)

Convention Website

More details, including convention registration information, will soon be available on the 2023 convention web page found on the ASA website at https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2023.

So plan to come to Georgia with "Azaleas on My Mind" next April. The dates are Wednesday, 19 April to Sunday, 23 April 2023. You don't want to miss this!

Atlanta is a city of trees. Photo by Gene Phillips.

The Kurume Azaleas- Part 1

By Ajit K. Thakur, Ph.D.—Springfield, Virginia
and Carolyn Beck—Oak Hill, Virginia

Brief History of the Kurume Azaleas

Creech (1989) and Okamoto et al. (2007) provides excellent descriptions of the origin of the Kurume Hybrid Azaleas. Here we will briefly describe their research findings. The first introduction of the Kurume Azaleas was made by Motozo Sakamoto, a retainer of the Kurume feudal clan during the late Edo Period (1850s). Some of his original introductions, such as 'Kochonomai', 'Kurainohana', and 'Shakkyo' still could be found in the Kurume trade (Kurume-shi Sakai Tsutsuji Sentaa, 2 undated). The name Kurume was given because many of these plants were distributed by farmers and nurserymen near and around the newly founded Kurume City (1899). The city itself is a prefect of Fukuoka City in Kyushu, Japan. These plants were originally collected from Mount Kirishima which houses three important evergreen azalea species: *Rhododendron sataense* Nakai (*Sata tsutsuji*), *R. kiusianum* Makino (*Miyama Kirishima tsutsuji*), and *R. kaempferi* Planch (*Yama tsutsuji*). Many of the original Kurume Azaleas may have been selections of *R. sataense* (*Sata tsutsuji*). The group's color range is the same as in this species- white, purple, pink, and red. Later these three species were used to produce the modern-day Kurume Hybrids. The first descriptions of the Kurume Azaleas were recorded in gardening books about 320 years ago. New hybridization started about 180 years ago.

Kurume Hybrid plants are mostly low-to-mid size growing (4'-6' in 20 years) with a handful growing up to 8' in height. They are compact and persistent and shiny leafed. The flowers are mostly single and hose-in-hose with a couple being semi-double or double. They are much smaller in size (less than 2" in diameter or so) compared to the Satsuki, Mucronatum (Ryukyu), Hirado, possibly an *R. scabrum* G. Don (*Kerama tsutsuj*i) hybrid group of evergreen azaleas with large flower sizes, and other Japanese evergreen hybrid groups.

Kurume-shi Sekai Tsutsuji Sentaa (Kurume City World Azalea Center) in one of their publications (2022) lists the Kurume Hybrids by periods as follows: the Edo (also called the Tokugawa) Period (1603-1867)- 66 cultivars (e.g., 'Agemaki' (Wilson # 41, 'Jose'), 'Azuma Kagami' (Wilson # 16, 'Pink Pearl'); the Meiji Period (1868-1912)- 170 cultivars (e.g., 'Ima Shojo' (Wilson # 36, 'Fascination'), 'Osaraku' (Wilson # 17, 'Penelope'); the Taisho Period (1912-1926)- 33 cultivars (e.g., 'Kagura' (NA 45419), 'Fukuhiko' (NA #45440); and the Showa Period (1926-1989)- 57 cultivars (e.g. 'Kunimitsu' (NA 45423), 'Gunki' (NA 45419)). Since then, the Kurume Branch of the National Institute of Vegetables, Ornamental Crops and Tea, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), henceforth to be called the Kurume Research Station, scientists and others around Kurume City, have been producing the Kurume Hybrids. While the collection and hybridization were going on in the Kurume City and other parts of Fukuoka, Kyushu, there were parallel processes going on in the Edo (name of Tokyo until 1868) area of Japan with similar parentage as the ones in the Kurume Hybrids. However, these plants are not accepted as Kurume Hybrids; they are categorized as Edo Kirishima Tsutsutji group (2010). An old cultivar that is still available both in Japan and the West from the Edo Kirishima Group is called 'Hinodegiri' ('Red Hussar', Wilson #42).

While we thought the dust settled down on the origin of the Kurume Hybrids, there has been a new twist in the hypothesis that these hybrids are products of *R. kiusianum*, *R. sataense*, and *R. kaempferi*. More recently, new research indicates that *R. stenopetalum* (Hogg) Mabb (formerly *R. macrosepalum* Maxim) (*Mochi tsutsuji*), *R. ripense* Makino (Kishi tsutsuji), and their hybrids known as Ryukyu or *R.* × Mucronatum groups) may be important players in the original Kurume Hybrids. For example, Ueno et al (2005) used AFLP (Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism) marker and suggested that *R. stenopetalum* and *R. ripense* are possible parents of some of the Kurumes because they contain this marker which is different from *R. sataense*, *R. kiusianum*, and *R. kaempferi*. Okamoto and Nonaka (1999) examined the stomatal shape of some Kurume cultivars and

Fig. 1-'Aioi' (syn. 'Fairy Queen'). Photo by Carolyn Beck

Fig. 2-Azuma Kagami (syn. 'Pink Pearl'). Photo by Carolyn Beck.

Fig. 3-'Fuji-no-asahi'. Photo by Carolyn Beck.

that of *R. stenopetalum* and *R. ripense* and found that the stomatal shape these cultivars possess are from the latter species.

Okamoto et al (2000a, b) found some Kurume cultivars carry the specific loci on the Aat-2 allele of aspartate aminotransferase in dormant flower buds. This does not exist in *R. sataense*, R. *kiusianum*, and *R. kaempferi*. They determined that this trait is derived from *R. stenopetalum* and *R. ripense*. These facts further support the view that both *R. stenopetalum* and *R. ripense* played an important role in the origin of some Kurume cultivars.

Passage of the Kurume Azaleas to the West

In the 1870s a few of these azaleas were imported from Belgium, England, Holland, or Japan as florists' azaleas (named as Belgian Indica Azaleas). The first collection of Kurume Azaleas was displayed in San Francisco in 1915 at the Pan Pacific Exposition by Kijiro Akashi. As it turns out, many of these plants, although brought from the Kurume area, were not Kurume Hybrids. Some of them were actually Mucronatum Hybrids, and yet some were either Hirado or Satsuki Hybrids. Since then, there have been five major introductions, one in England and four in the US between 1915-1976. The complete lists of these introductions can be found in Galle (1987) and most in Lee (1958).

The Domoto Brothers Introductions

The Domoto Brothers (Toichi and Kan Domoto) of Hayward, California were so impressed by these plants that they sent their father Kanetaro Domoto of the original Domoto Brothers, Inc. of Oakland, California to Japan to buy a large number of these plants. They received the exclusive right to propagate and distribute these plants. The Domoto Brothers gave exclusive rights to three major East Coast nurseries- the Bobbink & Atkins Nursery (Lambertus Bobbink & F.L. Atkins of East Rutherford, New Jersey), the Cottage Gardens Nurseries in Long Island, New York, and Henry A. Dreer, Inc. of Riverton, New Jersey. With the approval of the Domoto Brothers, these three nurseries together decided to give English names to these plants. Because of that, there has been a conundrum regarding these imported azaleas. Since all the records of these plants have been lost, it is not possible to correlate many of them with their Japanese origins. Some of these introduced plants were actually from other hybrid groups such as Mucronatum, Satsuki, etc. Some of

their introductions have vanished with the passage of time except in some old gardens.

Wilson's Fifty

The second formal collection was imported by Earnest H. Wilson, the famous plant explorer, who visited Kijiro Akashi's nursery in Kurume in 1918. He purchased 50 of the best Kurume selections and brought them to the Arnold Arboretum. They were given to the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens in Wisley, England and Thomas Welden of Richmond, Virginia. Wilson gave English names but kept their original Japanese ones. Except for one ('Hinodegiri'), the other 49 cultivars are true Kurume Hybrids (Okamoto, 2010). The cultivar 'Hinodegiri' is actually an Edo Kirishima Hybrid. The original Japanese names were retained with some spelling variations because of lack of Kanji characters and were assigned Wilson's numbers 1-50. Wilson further gave Western names to these 50 cultivars. They were all Kurume Hybrids and were also given accession numbers Wilson #1-50. Many of his collection are not around anymore. According to Okamoto, Wilson's 50 came from four different sources: 19 cultivars bred by Motozou Sakamoto and his associates; 29 cultivars bred from the Meiji to the Taisho era (1912-1926) at the Kurume facility; one cultivar ('Hinodegiri'), an Edo Kirishima Azalea from the Edo (current Tokyo) area; and a seedling of 'Osaraku' from the Korakuen Nursery in Korakuen City. Dr. Akihide Okamoto (2010) published a table in the article showing some inconsistencies in names, flower types and colors between the entries in the World Azalea Center of Kurume City and the Wilson Fifty list. He had the corrections intimated to the International Rhododendron Society earlier. We have incorporated his corrections in this article. As you will see, Galle (1987) did not have a chance to incorporate these changes.

The Stevenson Introductions

Between 1937 and 1938, J. B. Stevenson of England imported a large number of azaleas from Yokohama Nursery and K. Wada. He gave these plants to the now defunct Sunningdale Nursery of Surrey, England who grew and sold them mostly as florists azaleas. Many of these plants were actually not Kurume Hybrids, but Hirado, Satsuki, and Mucronatum Hybrids. Unfortunately, many of these plants did not survive the English climate. Some of these plants were mislabeled or given English names so it is difficult to trace their groups. Some of the Japanese names he put for-

Fig. 4-'Fukuhiko'. Photo by Carolyn Beck.

Fig. 5-'Ima Shojo' (syn. 'Christmas Cheer'). Photo by Dr. Ajit Thakur.

Fig. 6-'Kintaiyou'. Photo by Carolyn Beck.

Fig. 7-'Kirin' (syn. 'Coral Bells'). Photo by Dr. Ajit Thakur.

Fig. 8-'Mizu-no-yamabuki'. Photo by Dr. Ajit Thakur.

Fig. 9-'Osaraku' (syn. 'Penelope'). Photo by Dr. Ajit Thakur.

ward were distorted Japanese words (e.g., "Geisha" became "Gaeshi" in his document).

The USDA Introduction

R. Kent Beattie acquired originally 90 and later another 37 azaleas for the US Department of Agriculture's Plant Introduction Section (Inventory No. 95) between the years 1929 and 1930. Out of these, 60 were Kurume Hybrids and the others mostly Mucronatum, Satsuki, and Hirado Hybrids. They were grown in the Department's Glenn Dale, Maryland Plant Introduction Gardens and were assigned introduction numbers PI XXXXX. Among these 60 Kurumes, 49 were new and the other 11 were from the earlier introductions by the Domoto Brothers and Wilson. The Plant Introduction section retained the original Japanese names and also assigned the accession numbers beginning with PI. Most of the documents regarding these plants are not available anymore and many of these plants are not found in the nursery business. Lee's *The Azalea Book* (Lee, 1958) lists most of these Beattie Kurume plants, some of which are not actually Kurume Hybrids.

The National Arboretum Introductions

Between the years of 1976 and 1978, Drs. John L. Creech and Frederic G. Meyer along with Sylvester G. March, with the help of Dr. Masaaki Kunishige of the Kurume Station and later Director of the Botanical Institute of Miya Prefecture, selected and imported 50 Kurume Hybrid azaleas that covered the entire color range of these hybrids from Kurume, Japan. Out of these 50 cultivars, 33 were released to a few selected nurseries and arboreta. They are mostly single and a few h/h flowering plants. Many of them display some color variations (sporting) like many of the Satsuki Azaleas. They retained the original Japanese names of these plants and assigned accession numbers as NA XXXXX. Many of them are still available from specialty growers. According to Dr. Kunishige, these 33 cultivars represent some of the best Kurume Hybrids. We have cross validated these NA XXXX series comparing against Japanese Kurume lists. Many of the National Arboretum Introductions can still be found in the gardens of some Azalea Society of America members.

Designations of Hybrids and Introductions

In the following list, the cultivars are given their proper designations as follow:
NA = The National Arboretum Introductions; PI = The Beattie Introductions; Wilson = The Wilson

50's; Domoto = The Domoto Brothers Introductions; Stevenson = The Stevenson Introductions. The others are identified by either the hybridizer or the importer's names.

Identifiable True Kurume Hybrids from Japan

'Agemaki' (syn 'Jose', Wilson #41); Purplish pink, single
'Aioi' (syn 'Fairy Queen', Wilson #43)- Purplish pink, h/h
'Akebono' (Domoto)- Red, h/h
'Aratama' (NA 45406)- Red, single
'Arziemakie' (Stevenson)- Yellowish-pink, darker spotting, single (flowers too large to be a Kurume; possibly a Mucronatum Hybrid)
'Asa Gasumi' (syn 'Rosy Morn', Wilson #14)- Pale purplish pink, purplish red stripes, h/h
'Asahi' (Beattie, PI 77089)- Purplish pink, single
'Atsumi Zakura' (NA 45404)- Light red, h/h
'Augigasana' (Stevenson)- Pale pink, deeper pink margin, brown blotch, single (possibly a Mucronatum Hybrid)
'Aya no kanmuri' (in Japan) ('Aya no kamuri', Beattie, PI 77121- 'Aya kammuri' (syn 'Pinkie', Wilson #19)- Purplish pink, single
'Ayagoromo' (Domoto)- Pink, single
'Ayahime' (NA45405)- Reddish purple, single
-'Azuma Kagami' (syn 'Pink Pearl', Domoto- Wilson #16) - Pink, h/h
'Azuma Shibori' (Beattie, PI 77076)- White, h/h
'Benifude' (syn 'Sunbeam', Wilson #30; Beattie, PI 77069)- Pink, single
'Bijinsui' (syn 'Little Imp', Wilson #13)- Purplish pink, single
'Chigo no Mai' (Stevenson); Light red, pale red center, h/h
'Chiyo no Akebono' (Domoto; Stevenson)- Purplish-pink, single
'Choraku' (Stevenson)- Dark purplish red, red stripes, single
'Ezonishiki' (misspelled as 'Ezoishiki'; NA 45415)- White, red flecks, h/h
'Fudestukasa' (in Japan) (Stevenson misnamed it 'Fude Tsukata' (Stevenson)- Purple, h/h
'Fudesutesan' (Domoto)- Deep yellowish-pink, single
'Fudesute Yama' (syn 'Poppy', Wilson #35)- Red, single
'Fuji Asahi' (NA 45438)- White flushed yellow, yellowish pink edges, h/h
'Fukuhiko' (Stevenson; NA 45440)- Light red, red flecks, single
'Gosho Zakura' (-sakura) (syn 'Vanity', Domoto; Wilson # 46)- purplish pink lighter center, single
'Gunecho' (Domoto)- Purplish pink, single
'Gunki' (NA 45422); White, red flecks, h/h
'Hachika (aka Hatsuka) Tsugi' (syn 'Prudence', Wilson #7)- purplish pink, single
'Hagoromo' (Domoto)- Light pink, single
'Hakuo Nishiki' (NA 45436)- White, red flecks, h/h

Fig. 10-'Shizu-no-mai'. Photo by Carolyn Beck.

Fig. 11-'Tokoharu'. Photo by Carolyn Beck.

Fig. 12-'Wakaebisu'. Photo by Carolyn Beck.

‘Hana Asobi’ (syn ‘Sultan’, Wilson #50)- Reddish pink
‘Hanaikada’ (Domoto)- Reddish-purple, single
‘Haru no Akebono’ (Stevenson)- Light red, single
‘Haru no Kyoki’ (Stevenson)- White, greenish buds, single
‘Haru no Sato’ (misspelled by Stevenson as ‘Had-no-Sato’, Stevenson; NA45435)- Light reddish purple, h/h
‘Haru no Shiori’ (in Japan) (misspelled by Stevenson as ‘Haru no Shiou’, Stevenson)- Purple, white eye, h/h
‘Harumuji’ (Stevenson); White, single
‘Hatsunami’ (Beattie, PI77075); Deep purplish-pink, single
‘Hime Kagami’ (Domoto); White, reddish-purple flecks, h/h
‘Hino Hakama’ (Beattie, PI 77126); Strong reddish-purple, single
‘Hino Tsukasa’ (NA 45436); Red, single
‘Hinode’ (Beattie, PI 77101); Deep purplish-pink, single
‘Hinodegiri’ (syn ‘Red Hussar’, Wilson #42; ‘Beni Giri’, van Ness); Purplish red, single (**The Japanese horticulturists classify this cultivar as an Edo Kirishima Tsutsuji group member, not as a Kurume cultivar**)
‘Hinode no Kumo’ (Stevenson); Red, single
‘Hinode no Taka’ (syn ‘Ruby’, Wilson # 48); Purplish red, single
‘Hinomayo’ (van Nes); Deep purplish-pink, single (too tall for a Kurume)
‘Hiyakkasen’ (in Japan) (‘Hiyakasen’ or ‘Hikkase’, misspelled Japanese word, Stevenson); Light red, h/h
‘Hokorobi’ (Beattie, PI 77125); White, flushed reddish-purple, single
‘Hou Ou’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Ho O’, ‘Apple Blossom’, Domoto; Wilson #9)); White with purplish red stripes, single
‘Ima Murasaki’ (NA 45408)- Purple, single
‘Ima Shojou’ (in Japan) (Syn ‘Christmas Cheer’- ‘Imashojo’, Domoto)- ‘Fascination’, Wilson # 36)- Red h/h
‘Ina Zuma’ (in Japan) (Syn ‘Ima Zuma’, ‘Chi no Ito’, Stevenson)- White, red flecks, single
‘Irohayama’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Iroro Hayama’ or ‘Dainty’, Wilson #8)- White margined light purple, single
‘Itten’ (NA 45410; Stevenson)- Light purple, single
‘Iwato Kagami’ (Domoto- NA 45411)- Light red, h/h
‘Izumi Kawa’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Izumigawa’; Stevenson)- Light purple, pale purple center, h/h
‘Kagura’ (NA 45419)- Reddish purple, h/h
‘Kamakura’ (Unknown introducer)- Carmine red, darker stripes, single
‘Kara Nishiki’ (Beattie, PI 77084- NA 45420)- Light red, red flecks, single
‘Kasane Kagaribi’ (syn ‘Rosita’, Wilson #32)- Yellowish pink, h/h
‘Katsura no Hana’ (syn ‘Ruth’, Wilson #27)- Purplish pink, single
‘Kimigayo’ (syn ‘Cherub’, Wilson #15)- Pink with lighter center, single
‘Kirin’ (syn ‘Coral Bells’, Domoto- ‘Daybreak’, Wilson #22- ‘Pink Beauty’, Beattie, PI 77064)- Pink, h/h
‘Kiritsubo’ (syn ‘Twilight’, Wilson #24)- Light purple, single
‘Ko Asobi’ (Beattie PI 77089)- Red, single
‘Kogasane’ (Beattie, PI77116) (The Kurume Hybrid by this name is red h/h in Japan)- Strong red, h/h
‘Kokinran’ (Stevenson)- Yellowish-pink, white throat, red spots, single
‘Kokonoye’ (in Japan) (‘Kokonaye’, Knap Hill- Stevenson)- Purple, pale purple center, h/h
‘Komachi’, (Stevenson)- Reddish-purple, pale purple center, single
‘Komurasaki’ (Beattie, PI 77127)- Light purple, single
‘Konohana’ (NA 45425)- Strong red, pale red center, single
‘Koshikibu’ (Beattie, PI 77139)- Light reddish purple, single
‘Kotsubo’ (Beattie, PI 77133)- Purple, single
‘Kuni no Homare’ (Domoto)- Light red, pale red center, h/h
‘Kumo no Ue’ (syn ‘Salmon Prince’, Wilson #29)- Pink, single
‘Kumoi’ (Domoto)- Red, pale red center, h/h
‘Kumo Giri’ (-Kiri) (Beattie PI 77120)- Deep yellowish-pink with darker spots, single
‘Kunimitsu’ (NA 45423)- Light purple, pale purple center, red flecks, h/h
‘Kurai no Hime’ (syn ‘Carmine Queen’, Wilson #40)- Purplish pink, h/h
‘Kuren no Yuki’ (syn ‘Snowflake’- Wilson #2- ‘Kurenosuki’ (Domoto- is probably misspelled name)- White, h/h
‘Kyu Miyagino’ (Beattie, PI 77114)- Reddish-purple, h/h
‘Maikujaku’ (in Japan) (‘Maikojaku’, Stevenson)- White, Purple flecks, h/h
‘Maya Fujin’ (NA 45443)- Purple, single
‘Mikaeri Zakura’ (or Sakura) (in Japan) (‘Mikaera Zakura’, Stevenson)- Light reddish-purple, pale purple center, single
‘Miyagino’ (Domoto- Beattie, PI 77144)- Pink, h/h
‘Miyako Shibori’- (Beattie, PI 77070)- White, red flecks, single
‘Mizu no Yamabuki’ (Domoto)- Light yellowish white, deeper yellowish throat, h/h
‘Momiji Gasani’ (Beattie, PI 77124)- Red, h/h
‘Momo Zono’ (Beattie PI 77108)- Light pink, single
‘Murasame’ (Beattie, PI 77090)- White, purple flecks, single
‘Nani Wagata’ (syn ‘Painted Lady’, Domoto- Wilson #5)- Light pink, lighter center, single
‘Ogi no Odorikarako’ (in Japan) (‘Ogi no Odorikaraki’ syn ‘Kojo no Odorikaraki’, Stevenson)- Reddish purple, single
‘Ohigasane’ (in Japan) (Syn ‘Okikasane’, aka ‘Cherryblossom’, Wilson #5)- Light red, h/h
‘Ohzora’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Ozora’)- Red, pale red center, h/h
‘Ohouchiyama’ (in Japan) (‘Oouchiyama’, Stevenson, NA45418)- Reddish-purple, h/h
‘Oimatsu’ (Domoto) Deep red, single
‘Oino Mezame’ (syn ‘Melody’, Wilson #26)- Pink, single
‘Omoine’ (syn ‘Dame Lavender’, Wilson #25)- Light

purple with lighter purple center, single
‘Ominosera’ (‘Onno Sora’, Stevenson)- Light purple, narrow petals, white anthers, single
‘Oogocho’ (NA 45418)- Deep purplish-red, darker blotch, irregular semi-double or h/h
‘Osaraku’ (syn ‘Penelope’, Wilson #17)- Purplish pink, pale purple center, single.
‘Osaraku’ Seedling (syn ‘Winsome’, Wilson #49)- Light purple with lighter center, single
‘Otome’ (syn ‘Maiden’s Blush’, Wilson #18)- Pink with lighter center, single
‘Rangyoku’ (Beattie, PI 77109- Stevenson’s ‘Rankyoken’ is the same)- Strong red, single
‘Rashomon’ (syn ‘Meteor’, Wilson #37)- Deep red, single
‘Rikyugonomi’ (in Japan) (‘Rikugonomi’, NA 45450)- Reddish-purple, h/h
‘Sakura Tsukasa’ (syn ‘All-a-glow’, Domoto; Beattie, PI 77129; Wilson #44)- Light purple, single
‘Saotome’ (syn ‘Pink Pearl’, Domoto; Wilson #21)- Purplish pink, single
‘Seigai’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Seikai Ao Umi’, ‘Madonna’, Wilson #1)- Yellowish white, h/h (there is an *R. stenopetalum* f. *linearifolium* variety by the same name but the plant and the flowers are entirely different from this Kurume)
‘Shino Nome’ (Stevenson)- Pale reddish purple, single
‘Shinmiyagino’ (‘Shinimiagagion’, Stevenson)- Magenta, irregular single and h/h
‘Shin Seigai’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Shin Seikai’, Old Ivory, Wilson #3)- Yellowish white, h/h;
‘Shin Utena’ (syn ‘Santoi’, Wilson #28)- Yellowish pink, lighter center, single
‘Shintoki no Hagasane’ (syn ‘Rose Taffetas’, Wilson #20)- Pink, h/h
‘Shintsuuten’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Shintsune’, Stevenson) (Erroneous spelling)- Strong reddish-purple, single
‘Shirataki’ (Beattie PI 77103)- No description available
‘Shizu no Mai’ (NA 45426)- Light red, red flecks, h/h
‘Shuchuka’ (in Japan) (‘Shjuchuke’, Stevenson, misspelled)- Red, pale red center, semi-h/h
‘Suetsumuhana’ (in Japan) (‘Suetsumu’, in the US, syn ‘Flame’, Wilson #34)- Reddish pink, single
‘Sui Yohi’ (syn ‘Sprite’, Wilson #10)- White, flushed pink, darker pink border, single
‘Suga no Ito’ (syn ‘Kumo no Ito’ & ‘Betty’, Wilson #31)- Pink, single
‘Surusumi’ (in Japan) (‘Surisumi’, Beattie PI 77143)- Dark purple, single
‘Tago no Ura’ (NA 45429)- White, h/h
‘Takamakie’ (Stevenson)- White, purple flecks, single
‘Takasago’ (syn ‘Cherryblossom’, Domoto- Wilson #11)- Pink, h/h
‘Tama Beni’ (NA 45427)- Strong red, single
‘Tama no Utena’ (syn ‘Flamingo’, Wilson #45)- Yellowish pink with lighter center, single
‘Tama no Yukari’ (syn ‘Tama no Midori’, Beattie, PI 77093)- Pink, single
‘Tamafuyo’ (syn ‘Fancy’, Wilson #23)- Pink with lighter centers, single
‘Tancho’ (syn ‘Seraphim’, Wilson #6)- Pink with lighter center, h/h
‘Tennyo no Mai’ (NA 45430)- Red, single
‘Terukuni’ (in Japan) (misspelled as ‘Terukimi, Domoto’)- Light red, red flecks, single
‘Tokoharu’ (syn ‘Joushun’) (NA 45433)- White, purple flecks, h/h
‘Tokonatsu’ (Stevenson; NA 45432)- White, purple flecks, single
‘Tsuki Minoen’ (NA45431)- Red, pale red center, single
‘Tsuta Momiji’ (syn ‘Cardinal’, Wilson #33, Domoto)- Pink, h/h
‘Ukamuse’ (syn ‘Princess Delight’, Wilson #47)- Vermillion, single
‘Usu Yukari’ (in Japan) (misspelled as ‘Usugukari’, Stevenson- NA 45413)- Light purple, pale purple center, single
‘Waka Kayede’ (syn ‘Red Robin’, Wilson #38)- Purplish red, single
‘Wakaba’ (‘Wakalia’, Stevenson) (‘Wakalia’ is not a Japanese name)- Pink, single
‘Wakaebisu’ (NA 45450)- Light red single, often variable
‘Yakumo’ (in Japan) (misspelled as ‘Yukumo’- there is no such Japanese word)- Strong red, h/h
‘Yatsu Hashi’ (Beattie PI 77119)- Dark pink, single
‘Yaye Hiryu’ (syn ‘Yaye Giri’, ‘Scarlet Prince’, Wilson #39)- Vermillion, h/h
‘Yomei Nishiki’ (NA 45446)- Purple, deep purple flecks, single
‘Yourou’ (in Japan) (syn ‘Yoro’, NA 45447)- White, single
‘Yorozuyo’ (syn ‘Purity’, Wilson #4)- White, greenish throat, tubular, single
‘Yoshi Migatake’ (Stevenson; NA 45445)- Light red, h/h
‘Yozakura’ (Stevenson)- Light purple, single

Postscript

The Kurume Hybrids are taken to be hybrids produced by Kirishima Azaleas in the Kurume area of Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan. In that respect, the Kurumes are more territorial than the Satsuki Hybrids which can be hybridized anywhere in Japan. Our main goal was to see how many of the so-called “Kurume” cultivars listed in the US are true Kurume Hybrids following that context. In order to do so, we had to rely on documents and books from Japan. Unfortunately, many of them are in Kanji and took us a while with the help of Dr. Yoko Thakur to understand them. Such an endeavor is extremely time consuming and occasionally prone to error.

The Kurume Vegetables and Ornamental Research Station in Fukuoka maintains a complete list of the currently available Kurume Hybrid azaleas along with their photographs as JPEG files. Dr. Satoshi Yamaguchi was the keeper of

these documents until he retired a while ago. A few of the ASA members may have copies of his database.

Visitors to Japan interested in viewing large collections of Kurume Hybrids, the following places are recommended (Kurume no Tsutsuji, 1989):

1. Chu-ou Koen (Central Park)- unspecified large number of specimens.
2. Chikugo-gawa Kurume Tsutsuji-en (Chikugo River Kurume Azalea Garden)- Over 30,000 specimens of Kurume Hybrids. The park also maintains a large number of Satsuki and *Enkianthus campanulatus*, among others.
3. Kurume-shinrin Tsutsuji Kouen (Kurume Azalea Forest Park)- Over 60,000 Kurume specimens, many Satsuki, and Inter-group Hybrids.
4. Tsutsujigaoka Park (Tatebayashi City, Gunma Prefecture)- Famous for its collection of a large number of larger than 400-year-old *R. kaempferi* specimens, as of 1989, it contains over 5,000 Kurume specimens (50 cultivars) as a gift from the Executive Committee of International Azalea Festival, 1989.

In Part 2 of this article in a future issue, we will discuss the many other cultivars that are often either listed or sold in the business. Some of them may actually be true Kurume Hybrids but cannot be verified using Japanese literature.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Dr. Akihide Okamoto, currently of Kurume-shi Sekai Tsutsuji (Kurume City World Azalea Center), for sharing some of their research materials and permission to use some of his photographs. The authors also thank Dr. Yoko H. Thakur for translating some of the documents written in Kanji. Finally, they thank William C. Miller III and Barbara Stump for careful review and suggesting numerous changes and corrections.

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About the Authors

Dr. Ajit K. Thakur is a retired statistician whose love for azaleas (species evergreen and hybrids as well as the Kurume and Satsuki Hybrids) spans about 46 years. He has given seminars on azaleas on many occasions and written about them in *The Azalean* and is a long-time member of the Society. He has traveled throughout Japan and has been fortunate enough to have observed many exciting and unusual varieties of both hybrid and deciduous azaleas.

Carolyn Beck is a retired Registered Nurse and an active member of the Azalea Society of America in the Northern Virginia Chapter. She is a frequent contributor to *The Azalean*. She and her husband, Paul, have a diverse garden with an emphasis on azaleas. She propagates both evergreen and deciduous azaleas from cuttings and seeds for the Society.

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Welcome New Members!

New At Large members include:
- Alison Baringer, Wilmington, NC
- C. Hoff, Elkhart, IN
- Allen Pacheco, Townsend, MA
- Michael Shields, Astoria, OR

The Alabamese Chapter welcomes:
- William Adair, Hoover, AL

The Ben Morrison Chapter welcomes:
- Pitoon Ekarintaragun, Chesapeake Beach, MD

The Louisiana Chapter welcomes:
- James R. Leonard, Lafayette, LA

The Northern Virginia Chapter welcomes:
- Katherine Mazzocco, Gloucester, VA
- Jake Summers, Glen Mills, PA

Vaseyi Chapter welcomes:
- Clarence D. Coffey, Crossville, TN
- Janet Dowlen, Crossville, TN
- William R. Tatum, Crossville, TN

Azalea Society of America

Society Officers for 2023-2025

For our next election, we will be electing society officers to serve during the term 2023-2025. The positions up for election are Society President and Vice President. Additionally, we will be electing three Directors to serve during the same period. Those interested in volunteering for one of these positions, or who would like more information, should contact the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Rick Bauer, at rickfbauer@gmail.com. Volunteers should submit a copy of their resume no later than 30 September. These will be published in the Winter issue of *The Azalean*.

Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

By Jake Summers—Glen Mills, PA

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is a place that grows not just gardens, but gardeners. The Hamilton Educational Fellowship at Jenkins is a comprehensive program that prepares emerging professionals for a career in horticulture and related fields. After earning a degree in Botany from Connecticut College, I worked for two years as an arborist in Savannah, Georgia, before accepting the Fellowship and moving back home to Pennsylvania. Every fellow has a project that they champion for the duration of their two years. Out of the list of potential projects, I chose to design and implement the Holly Springs Legacy Garden.

The arboretum had considered expanding into a space on Azalea Hill to create a new Legacy Garden that would feature the Holly Springs Hybrids. Azalea Hill is brimming with hybrid evergreen azaleas that make up a large part of Jenkins' accredited *Rhododendron* collection. When in bloom, the paths are lined with pinks, purples, reds, and whites, and makes it a must-see from late April through late May. I jumped at the opportunity to add to it.

Initially, there was some hesitation from Jenkins leadership about assigning this as a Fellow project. It was large in scope, especially for an inexperienced gardener like me; it required us to acquire many of the Holly Springs Azaleas; and it would require a great deal of coordination and collaboration with outside partners to make it possible. However, even with potential obstacles to success in my path, the challenge of designing a new garden for our visitors was exhilarating. My excitement was magnified with another purpose of the Legacy Project: to preserve the germplasm (genetic material).

A Legacy Garden preserves and celebrates the cultivars from an individual hybridizer. The Legacy Project was established to ensure that the germplasm of certain azalea cultivars would be preserved for posterity. In this case, it would be for the Holly Springs Hybrids: a collection of relatively small, late-blooming, evergreen azaleas. The Holly Springs Hybrids were created by hybridizer Col. Pete Vines, who sold his azaleas out of a small nursery in Virginia. In his youth, Pete attended the University of Mississippi, and he named his hybrid collection after Holly Springs, MS, an antebellum town just north of the university. There are close to 100 different named Holly Springs Hybrids, as well as several that have yet to be named.

The process of designing and installing a garden starts well before any plants are bought or soil is disturbed. To begin this project, I first organized plant lists and sorted the Holly Springs by mature height, bloom time, and bloom color. I wanted to make sure that the colors wouldn't clash with any neighboring plants, as the intense blooms tend to be variable, or even bicolor. I also wanted the bloom times to be spread out, ensuring that the garden would have the appearance of blooming continuously during the season. I designed the garden with flower colors at the forefront. When entering the garden, visitors will see pinks transition into oranges, reds, and purples. A streak of white runs through the middle. I mapped out a sinuous path that maximizes the visitor experience of the garden. I decided to leave a few flowering dogwoods and a handful of existing Holly Springs Azaleas that were planted in the space previously, but everything else was transplanted out to make way for this new garden space. Many of the older Holly Springs were heavily rabbit-browsed, so we potted them up to rejuvenate them in our nursery. During the design process, I was connected with Dave Nanney, who is the Legacy Lead for the Holly Springs Hybrids. Dave and his wife, Leslie, visited Jenkins in September 2020, bringing with them 56 Holly Springs Azaleas that were donated by the Northern Virginia Chapter (NVA) of the Azalea Society of America (ASA). Shortly thereafter, Rick Bauer, an original member of the team that developed the Legacy Project, and his wife Susan, stopped by Jenkins to deliver an additional 61 Holly Springs Azaleas.

Carolyn and Paul Beck were also instrumental in the completion of this project. They transported 98 Holly Springs azaleas, donated by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, to Jenkins before this project even started (in 2018). In 2021, Caro-

lyn contacted us to donate an additional 26 mature Holly Springs azaleas from their personal garden in Virginia (many over 30 years old). After seeing the size and quality of the plants, we couldn't refuse. I am so grateful for their coordination, outreach, generosity, and assistance.

After acquiring the plants from Virginia, it was time to start preparing the site. With the help of our faithful garden volunteers, we raked out the debris from the Holly Springs area and filled any existing holes with soil. With the space newly cleared, it was finally time to get to planting. On planting day, we were very thankful to have Tyler Arboretum's horticulture staff join us and our garden volunteers to assist with the planting. The additional help allowed us to finish most of the planting in one busy morning, putting in close to 180 plants. The design came out even better than I had hoped. The space is virtually unrecognizable from what it was previously.

After the planting, we received yet another generous donation from the NVA of the ASA for buying companion plants. A dynamic garden is constantly evolving, and the next phase of this project is to underplant the azaleas with complementary groundcovers. These include ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), snowy barrenwort (*Epimedium* × *youngianum* 'Niveum'), and heartleaf skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*). These plants, among other herbaceous perennials and understory trees, will add off-season interest and complement the Holly Springs Azaleas with their flowers and foliage.

We installed two benches in the garden, one of which was donated by the NVA in honor of Pete Vines. This gives visitors the opportunity to relax and enjoy the space. Finally, we installed an informational plaque that explains the Legacy Garden to any curious guests.

On May 15th, we held a dedication ceremony for the legacy garden. Many of the NVA chapter

Holly Springs Legacy Garden as viewed from the entrance the day of the ceremony. Inset: Holly Springs Azalea Hybrid 'Larry Martin' flower. Photos by Lisa Roper.

The Tour of the Holly Springs Legacy Garden the day of the ceremony. Photo by Rick Bauer.

members were able to attend, and we were honored by the presence of Pete Vines and his family. I finally was able to meet the man whose legacy will now live on at Jenkins. Pete seemed very touched by the ceremony and in seeing so many of his plants in a public garden.

This project gave me the opportunity to design a space from the ground up, and it allowed me to express the culmination of my horticultural knowledge. Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is free of an admission fee and is open year-round. Stop by from May-June to see the new Holly Springs Legacy Garden in all its glory. We hope to see you in the garden!

About the Author:

Jake Summers is an arborist and horticulturist who lives in Glen Mills, PA. He earned a degree in botany from Connecticut College in 2016. After college, Jake worked for Bartlett Tree Experts in Savannah, GA, before he moved back to his home state of Pennsylvania. He worked at Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens as a Hamilton Educational Fellow. At Jenkins, Jake designed and established the Holly Springs Legacy Garden, which houses a collection of rare azalea hybrids. Jake also has a passion for food security, and volunteers his time at Martha's Community Farm, where he has created a mushroom cultivation program. In his spare time, Jake loves to forage for mushrooms with his partner, Heather, and his dog, Beau.

The plaque for the Holly Springs bench, donated in Pete's honor. Photo by Steve Wright.

Jake Summers (left) and Pete Vines (right) sitting on the donated bench in the Holly Springs Legacy Garden. Photo by Susan Bauer.

Chapter News

Chapter members Carolyn Beck, David Meadows, Paul Beck, Ralph Habegger, and John Kirkwood take a break from mulching and fertilizing the Klimavicz Legacy Garden. Photo by B. Kirkwood.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Rick Bauer, Corresponding Secretary

The chapter has developed a Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, VA. While workdays were curtailed during the first years of the COVID pandemic, they have begun again. Chapter members gathered on 14 July (pictured above) to fertilize and spread mulch on the garden. We anticipate additional workdays as we maintain and replace plants which have died.

The chapter is also working with a number of gardens to expand their azalea collections. Our most recent contribution was 134 Satsukis which were donated to Jenkins Arboretum through the generosity of chapter member Mike of White's Nursery in Germantown, MD. The folks at Jenkins were very appreciative, especially since this contribution allows them to extend their azalea bloom season into June. Photo below by Helen Standen, Jenkins' nursery /greenhouse manager.

Finally, the chapter had its annual cutting and plant exchange on 17 July at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church (pictured below). We had an excellent turnout with 29 members and guests in attendance. We had a large number of azaleas and other plants in our exchange as well as a good selection of cuttings for those wanting to propagate azaleas. We also had an excellent selection of deciduous azaleas for sale.

Paul Beck and members of the Jenkins staff with the donated Satsuki. From left-to-right: Nick Campbell - summer intern, Nicki Achor - Hamilton Fellow, Fiona Gorman - summer intern, Paul Beck, Karen Miller - Head Horticulturist, Steve Wright - Director of Horticulture, and Liesl Barkman - Hamilton Fellow. Photo by H. Standen.

Today, My Favorite Satsuki Hybrid is 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'

By William C. Miller III — Bethesda, Maryland

This is the fourth in a series of "favorite" articles. 'Ambrosia' and 'Opal' were identified as my favorite Glenn Dale and Linwood Hardy Hybrids; and cardinal flower (or *Lobelia cardinalis*) was identified as my favorite perennial companion plant. It was really difficult selecting one favorite Glenn Dale Hybrid when I had 454 candidates to choose from. Fortunately, my task of selecting a favorite from any group is limited to plants with which I have first-hand experience. While there are many thousands of Satsuki[1] (species and hybrids), I have comparatively few in my azalea collection.

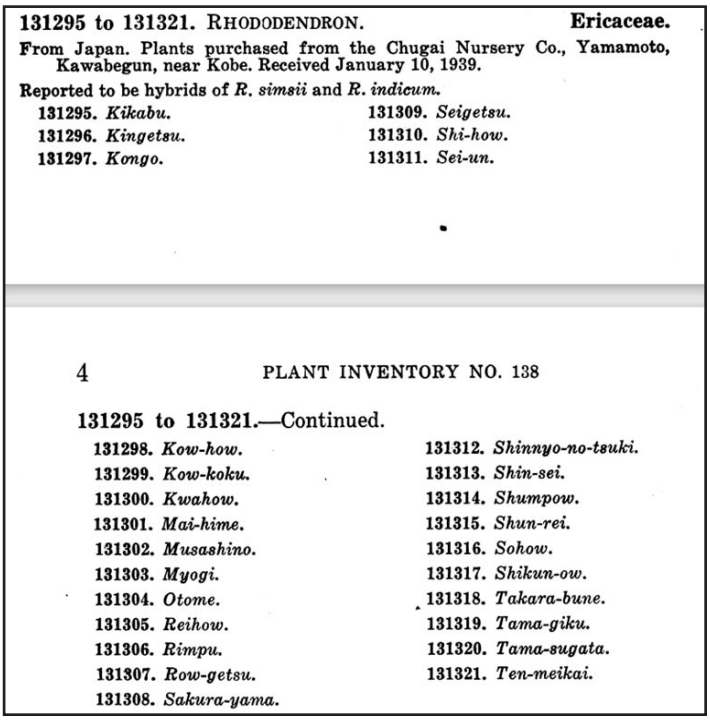
'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' is what the Japanese call a *soko-jiro*... a white throat with a solid, colorful border; and it's sometimes what we refer to as a "picotee." (See Figure 1.) For me, the draw is the flower. Lacking fragrance, the 2.5-3.0 inch, single flower has overlapping lobes, is vivid, purplish-red with a whitish center (not a pure white), and blooms mid- to late-May in my Mid-Atlantic garden. Self-colored flowers, the color of the border, are mentioned in the literature; but I don't believe I've ever seen them on my plant. The flower color is tough to photograph. I attribute that to environmental factors. Images taken early in the day (e.g., 8:00 AM) exhibited what I would call an electric glow (perhaps that's what they meant by "vivid") which I didn't find in images taken in mid-day. In my experience, 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' is a slow grower. My 30+ year old plant is roughly one meter tall and one meter wide... perhaps owing to the fact that it gets full afternoon sun, is exposed to the deer, and doesn't enjoy regular fertilization. By the way, I know it's the deer browsing because the bunnies can't reach that high.

My introduction to 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' actually began many years ago when I learned that it was one of the many azaleas that Ben Morrison used in the development of the Glenn Dale Hybrids. Morrison acquired it from the Chugai Nursery Co. (*Chugai Shokubutsu Yen*), Seed Merchants and Nurserymen, in 1939. Of course, the Chugai Nursery with locations in Yamamoto, Kawabegun, and near Kobe, was pretty popular because it published its catalog in English. The first USDA acquisition was recorded in Plant Inventory No. 138 on page 4 as PI131312 in a group of plants described as "Reported to be hybrids of *R. simsii* and *R. indicum*" (See Figure 2). There were subsequent introductions by Dr. John Creech in June, July, and September of 1955, which were recorded as PI226148, PI227102, and PI228116. In 1958 and 1959, 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' was distributed from Glenn Dale with 23 other Satsuki Hybrids to a select group of "cooperators" as a part of the Glenn Dale evaluation process. Ben Morrison, who had retired to the Back Acres in Pass Christian, Mississippi, in 1952, was one of the cooperators. In May of 1962, Dr. Joseph J. Higgins from the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station requested feedback on the cooperators' experience with the plants that they received. The cooperators were provided with a form that listed the cultivars and had a number of columns to which they could apply a check-mark. They were asked to indicate whether or not the azaleas successfully overwintered (yes or no), and whether they were desirable for the trade (yes or no). Finally, they were given a column and a tiny space to make "comments." Most cooperators favorably checked the appropriate columns and sent the list back. Rather than fill out the form, Ben Morrison wrote a one and one-half page letter. A frequent recipient of distributions out of Glenn Dale, Morrison's response is fascinating and will be the substance of a future article.

Fig, 1. 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' is a slow growing, vivid purplish-red Satsuki Hybrid that blooms mid to late May in the author's garden. The unique color of the border is a remarkable quality. The image has not been "photoshopped" or enhanced in any way. 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' was registered in the early Shōwa Era probably in the late 1920s or the 1930s. Photo by William C. Miller III.

The Orderly Process of Discovery

As is my practice and in preparation for this article, I surveyed the limited number of reference books (i.e., *A Brocade Pillow*, Lee, Galle, Kennedy, Callaham, the *IRRC* etc.) in my personal library to see just how big a



131295 to 131321. RHODODENDRON. **Ericaceae.**

From Japan. Plants purchased from the Chugai Nursery Co., Yamamoto, Kawabegun, near Kobe. Received January 10, 1939.

Reported to be hybrids of *R. simsii* and *R. indicum*.

131295. *Kikabu.*
131296. *Kingetsu.*
131297. *Kongo.*
131309. *Seigetsu.*
131310. *Shi-how.*
131311. *Sei-un.*

4 PLANT INVENTORY NO. 138

131295 to 131321.—Continued.

131298. *Kow-how.*
131299. *Kow-koku.*
131300. *Kwahow.*
131301. *Mai-hime.*
131302. *Musashino.*
131303. *Myogi.*
131304. *Otome.*
131305. *Reihow.*
131306. *Rimpu.*
131307. *Row-getsu.*
131308. *Sakura-yama.*
131312. *Shinnyo-no-tsuki.*
131313. *Shin-sei.*
131314. *Shumpow.*
131315. *Shun-rei.*
131316. *Sohow.*
131317. *Shikun-ow.*
131318. *Takara-bune.*
131319. *Tama-giku.*
131320. *Tama-sugata.*
131321. *Ten-meikai.*

Fig. 2. USDA Plant Inventory No. 138 on page 4 showing 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' as PI131312 in a group of plants described as "Reported to be hybrids of *R. simsii* and *R. indicum*." Photo by William C. Miller III.

task this was going to be. I also went back and looked at the many fine Satsuki articles that have appeared in *The Azalean* which were conveniently listed chronologically by Jim Trumbly in an article published in the Winter 2016 issue.[2] Fully expecting to find general agreement among the sources, it didn't turn out that way. I knew then that this was going to be a challenging undertaking since I couldn't even find consensus on the formula that was attributed to 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' or the English translation of the cultivar name. Translations of the Japanese cultivar name from several sources include Everlasting Moon, Eternal Moon, and Angel's Moon.[3] In an email, Trumbly explained that one thing that sometimes explains conflicting translations of kanji is whether one uses the old or newer kanji translation (Chinese or Japanese convention). He was told by friends/Satsuki experts that both are used and it depends on the cultivar.

I learned a long time ago that behind every beautiful flower there is a story. I couldn't learn anything useful about the origin of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' when I let my fingers do the walking through the internet. To complicate matters further, it became apparent that the 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' story is bigger than I realized and includes 'Kusudama', 'Shinnyo-no-hikari', and 'Sumizome'; and a paradigm shift in Satsuki development. As I am not a Japanese horticulturist and I don't read kanji, the Satsuki dictionaries, which are written in kanji (Japanese words), hiragana (other Japanese words), katakana (foreign loan-words), and Romaji (Roman spellings of Japanese words) were not helpful. It is said that the Japanese particularly like the extreme variability of the Satsuki flower coloration. I don't share that view, and I perceive the variability to be potentially a major problem in propagating plants that are true to the official description. Ben Morrison demonstrated his understanding of flower behavior (and the relevance to propagation) in an original drawing that I found in the files at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station. Dr. Charles Evans and I published the drawing in a 1985 article entitled "Pattern of Sporting."[4] Do not misunderstand. Morrison was personally fascinated by the variability of the Satsuki, and he had a substantial Satsuki collection in Pass Christian; but he didn't feel that Satsuki were desirable for the trade, since the trade had a preference for plants that do not require special treatment or handling. Careless propagation of highly variable azaleas can be disastrous and can create confusion that would take years to resolve, if ever. Incidentally, and this is key, Jim Trumbly's article entitled "Propagating Multi-Patterned Satsuki"[5] should be required reading for anyone who presumes to propagate azaleas... especially Satsuki Azaleas. If you don't know your *sokojiro* from your *fukurin* or understand the intricacies of Satsuki behavior you're going to screw up big time if you fail to exercise the requisite care.[6]

The Reach of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'

One measure of an azalea is its "reach" or impact. The value of a cultivar is not solely how well it sells, but also whether it catches the imagination of the bonsai and hybridizing communities. Like countless other azaleas, did it disappear almost immediately after it was introduced? The answer is no. I found plenty of evidence that 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' is a common subject for bonsai treatment. One advertisement that I found was for a 30-year-old bonsai specimen, and all they wanted was EUR 1,290.00 or just a little over $1,300. The record also shows that 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' was well received by the hybridizing community. By my count, 27 of the 454 Glenn Dale Hybrids were derived from crosses which used 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' as the pollen parent (Example: 'Martha Hitchcock'). Morrison also used 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' to produce three of his Back Acres Hybrids (Example: 'Painted Tips'). Howard Kerrigan, who was a California breeder in the early 1950s, used it as a seed parent and introduced 'Fiesta'. In more recent times, Robert Gartrell used it in his Robin Hill and Cripple Creek work (Examples: 'Betty Anne Voss' and 'Indian Mound' respectively). Pete Vines used it in his Holly Springs introductions (Example: 'Blue Ice'). Buck Clagett used it in his Bowie Mill Hybrids (Example: 'Elizabeth Ann Rowe'). These are just the major, domestic hybridizing programs that we know about.

Japanese references state 'Kusudama' is a sport of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. Jim Trumbly has a theory that the relationship is reversed and that 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' was a sport from 'Kusudama'. 'Kusadama' is a multi-patterned Satsuki that exhibits a mix of all of the flower patterns. Like 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki', it was registered in the early Shōwa Era. Photo by Jim Trumbly.

Satsuki Taikan, Mrs. Maruyama, and the Paradigm Shift

The solution to my problem was to contact Jim Trumbly, explain my predicament, and ask if he could help me cut through the confusion. Jim has many years of experience with growing Satsuki and is a keen observer of azalea behavior. He is a well-respected member of the Satsuki Aikokai of Sacramento and has access to personnel and resources that I can only dream of.

With the help of Mrs. Maruyama, a Satsuki expert with the Maruyama Bonsai Nursery, they were able to extract details from *Satsuki Taikan*.[7] The "creator" of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' is identified as Yoshie Aoyama. It was registered in the early Shōwa period and that would probably have been in the late 1920s or 1930s. The formula for 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' is 'Zetsurin' × 'Adesugata'. The formula for the seed parent, 'Zetsurin', is 'Kyokkonishiki' × 'Shikainami'. 'Adesugata', unfortunately, has unknown parentage. 'Kusudama' and 'Sumizome' are sports of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki and 'Shinnyo-no-hikari' is a sport derived from 'Kusudama'.

'Zetsurin' is a very large, single, *korin saki* (nearly perfectly round flower shape) flower form. It has a snow white base with s*hibori, fukurin*, and solid red and solid white flowers. In other words, multiple flower patterns on the same plant. Mrs. Maruyama's translation of the description of 'Adesugata' was... Unknown parentage. Large single flower, white base, deep purple, *fukurin* (irregular white margin) pattern. From the early Taisho Era.

During a recent phone conversation with Jim Trumbly where we discussed 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' and azalea behavior, I asked him if he knew how one determines which is the sport and which is the original flower? It's sort of a brain-twister question like which came first the chicken or the egg. He offered the following comments:

"Japanese references state that 'Kusudama' is a sport of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. In my experience, this seems highly unlikely; in fact, I would think it would be the opposite... that 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' came from 'Kusudama'. The basis for this is the hierarchical dominance of different Satsuki flower patterns. Concentric patterns dominate over radial patterns. So much so, that over time I have never seen a viable exception. That is, where a branch of concentric or solid-colored flowers (selfs) is capable of producing a radial pattern (shibori) type flower on new growth. Not only does this apply to a branch, but also to the entire plant. Such is the case with 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki', a cultivar consisting of a single type of flower, the concentric sokojiro pattern. To the contrary, 'Kusudama' is a multi-patterned Satsuki with a mix of concentric and radial patterned flowers. Its *sokojiro* flower, to me, is identical to the flower of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. I explained this hierarchy of Satsuki flower pattern dominance in "Propagating Multi-Patterned Satsuki," *The Azalean*, Summer 2016.

"'Kusudama' and 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' were registered in the early Shōwa Era, latter 1920s or 1930s. 'Shinnyo-no-hikari' was registered in about 1945. 'Sumizome' has the same flower as 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki', but with a smaller leaf. The time of its creation is unknown.

"I think 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' has great significance in the modern horticultural story of Satsuki. To appreciate this, consider the story of its grandparents, 'Kyokkonishiki', and the Belgium Indian cultivar known in Japan as 'Shikainami'. 'Kyokkonishiki' is said to have been produced in the early Taisho Era (about

'Shinnyo-no-hikari' is a highly variable sport of 'Kusudama'. It is white with flakes, stripes, and sectors of vivid purplish pink; and occasional bordered flowers resembling 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. It has variegated leaves, and it was registered around 1945. Photo by Jim Trumbly.

1915). It was a popular Satsuki because of its flower shape, korin, and a pure white color base with red markings. But what is unusual about its story is that it was the mother plant used by Japanese hybridizers in crosses with late blooming Belgium Indian cultivars, "Western" azaleas. I believe this was very unusual for the time, especially in light of Japanese thinking about Satsuki. Not only was there pride in their special beauty, but they were considered Japan's very own. Also, reflect on how they taxonomically separated evergreen azaleas. Nonetheless, it marked the beginning of a new direction in Satsuki development, that of creating larger flowered Satsuki. The Belgian crosses also imparted other newer characteristics such as wavy petal margins, *namiuchi*. Among the earlier generations of these crosses, 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' became one of the most popular."

In conclusion, the use of the Belgian Indian (non-Japanese) cultivars represented a change in the development of the Satsuki Hybrids, and 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki', my favorite Satsuki, was an early and significant step in the forefront of that paradigm shift to increase flower size and produce cultivars with ruffled and wavy margins. Possibly, we may never be able to retrospectively determine which flower was the original flower, and it may not really matter or be a useful distinction since they are all expressions of the same genetic material. Clearly, however, it would be to everyone's benefit for us to ensure that all propagations conform to the official descriptions.

Notes and References

1. The plural of deer is deer. The plural of Satsuki is Satsuki... and not Satsukis. See page 82 of *A Brocade Pillow*, a worthy Satsuki reference on which to base *The Azalean* editorial policy.
2. Trumbly, Jim, 2016. "Chronological List of Satsuki Articles in *The Azalean*." *The Azalean* 38(4) 85-86.
3. I have a problem with the translations of the cultivar name in that there is not consensus, and I cannot verify them with my available resources. I don't have the cultural background to see where they got Eternal or Everlasting. It turns out that Shinnyo was a Japanese Buddhist nun from the 13th century. With that interpretation, one could have Moon of Shinnyo or Shinnyo's Moon which is consistent with how many Japanese azaleas are named after people or places e.g., 'Hakatashiro' with Hakata (the ancient name for Fukuoka) being a place and shiro meaning white.
4. Evans, Charles H. and W.C. Miller III, 1985. "Pattern of Sporting." *The Azalean*, 7(1), pp 1-2.
5. Trumbly, Jim, 2016 "Propagating Multi-Patterned Satsuki." *The Azalean*, 38(2): 28-30.
6. Given that any discussion of Satsuki Hybrids benefits from a certain understanding of Japanese terminology, one would be advised to get a copy of "Chart 1 Japanese Classification of Satsuki Flower Forms" that appeared on page 36 of the Summer 2001 issue of *The Azalean* in the Jim Trumbly article entitled "The Changing Fashion of Satsuki." The other indispensible resource is the 24 descriptions in Galle of the color patterns in Satsuki Azaleas on pages 205-207 (209-211 in the revised and enlarged Galle).
7. Suzuki, Harukichi and Masao Suzuki, 1972. *Satsuki Taikan*. Tokyo, Japan. *Satsuki Taikan* contains 1,500 descriptions of Satsuki Hybrids.

'Sumizome' is a sport of 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki' and has the same flower as 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. The leaves are smaller and more round and the stamens and pistil are pale pink. Photo by Jim Trumbly.

Acknowledgments

I would like to gratefully recognize the assistance of Jim Trumbly, an ASA member and Mrs. Maruyama, a Satsuki expert, with Maruyama Bonsai Nursery in Sacramento, CA... both of whom have horticultural expertise and cultural perspective without which this article would not have been possible.

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Cheers to the Azalea Cocktail

By Kathy Jentz—The Azalean, Editor

The Azalea cocktail is fruity and fun. This pink libation is traditionally served at the Masters Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, but there is no reason you cannot enjoy it anytime of year. Here is an easy recipe to try this cocktail at home.

There is a 'Cocktail' azalea. It is part of the Glenn Dale Hybrids. (There is also a 'Cordial' azalea in that collection as well.) Photo by Dan Krabill.

Ingredients

1 part lime (or lemon) juice
1 part pineapple juice
3 parts gin or vodka*
A splash of grenadine**
Ice

*To make a mocktail version without alcohol, you can substitute in a non-alcoholic gin like Lyre's Dry London Spirit or Cedar's Distilled Non-Alcoholic Spirit. You can also use a good tonic water.

**Add just enough grenadine to turn the drink pink. If you don't have any on hand, you can use cherry, cranberry, or pomegranate juice instead.

Directions

Combine all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker. Shake well then strain into tall cocktail glasses filled halfway with ice. Serve immediately.

Variations

To make it creamy, add in 2 parts whipping cream to the shaker when mixing it. To make it fizzy, add one part sparkling wine to the glass and use a bit less ice. Some "cheat" recipes use a shortcut of lemonade instead of the fruit juices.

Garnish

Add a small slice of fresh pineapple, lemon, or lime. You can also skewer a curl of lime/lemon peel along with a maraschino cherry on a cocktail pick.

Caution!

Note that no part of any azalea plant should actually be consumed. Azaleas contain grayanotoxins that can cause cardiac disorders and other health issues. Which is too bad, as it'd otherwise make a nice-looking garnish. Place the azalea flower next to the glass or in a nearby vase, if desired.

Pink cocktail photo by Wesley Tingey, Unsplash.com.