

# In Memoriam: Joseph Embrey Schild, Jr.

Joseph Embrey Schild, Jr., 84, of Hixson, TN, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 4, 2022, in a local hospital.

Joe loved the Lord and his family. He was born in Chattanooga, TN, on August 29, 1938.

He was retired from the Chattanooga Paper Board and was heavily involved in the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America (ASA).

He was an avid grower, propagator, and breeder of azaleas. In particular, he was an avid native azalea enthusiast.

He joined the ASA in 1991 as an At-Large member. He served as ASA Vice President from 1999–2000 and ASA President from 2001–2002. He wrote 27 articles that were published in *The Azalean* over a number of years.

In 2007, ASA presented him with a Distinguished Service Award. Here is the description from that award announcement in the Fall 2007 *Azalean* by Allen Owings

“A Distinguished Service Award was also presented to nurseryman, hybridizer, highly respected lecturer and author Joseph E. Schild, Jr.

“Schild’s lifetime of outstanding achievements merited the special award. Through his countless presentations to plant enthusiast groups and his plant explorations of the Appalachian gorges, plateaus and mountaintops, new selections, seed, and desirable natural hybrids have been introduced widely into azalea cultivation. He has ensured a broader appreciation and knowledge of the value of these living jewels among our membership and supporters. He provided an extensive exposure to and knowledge of the uniqueness and value of native azaleas and their interspecific hybrids.

“As part of his azalea education mission, Schild has been a dedicated supporter of the Azalea Society of America, authoring many articles for the journal.

His leadership to develop the new Azalea City official accreditation for communities across the nation is a superb example of his dedication. In addition, establishing and organizing the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society shows his great devotion toward ericaceous plants.

“Schild’s missionary work continues to include a project to establish as complete a collection of the Glenn Dale azaleas as may be possible for a public display garden at Reflection Riding Arboretum in Chattanooga, TN.

“ASA members have benefited from his inexhaustible support and work on behalf of the society. This special recognition acknowledges his tireless work of promoting azaleas, particularly our native azaleas found in the southeastern United States.”

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph E. Schild, Sr. and Leona Jordan Schild.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Lashon Schild, sons, Joseph E. (Patricia) Schild, III and Roderick (Michele) Schild, daughter, Sydonna (Lebron) Cambron, sister, Judy (James) Steinmann, grandson, Tristan (Amber) Sharp, and several nieces, nephews and extended family.

Arrangements are by Legacy Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8911 Dallas Hollow Road, Soddy-Daisy, TN. You can share your memories, stories, and photos at [legacyfuneralhome.com](http://legacyfuneralhome.com).



▲ Joe Schild, Jr.