
THE AZALEAN

Journal of the Azalea Society of America

Volume 6 Number 3

September 1984



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 the series *Azalea* (subgenus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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THE AZALEAN

The Journal of the Azalea Society
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THE AZALEAN is published during March, June, September, and December by the Azalea Society of America, Inc., P.O. Box 6244, Silver Spring, MD 20906. Additional copies of the current and back issues are \$2.50 each and can be obtained from the Secretary.

Opinions and views expressed in **THE AZALEAN** are those of the contributors or the 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 our readers and do not imply endorsement by the Azalea Society of America. Advertising and other contributions to **THE AZALEAN** are used exclusively to help defray the costs of publishing **THE AZALEAN**.

Address all editorial and business correspondence to The Editor, **THE AZALEAN**, 9233 Farnsworth Drive, Potomac, MD 20854.

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As your New President I would like to take this opportunity to reminisce back to 1981 and my association with the Azalea Society of America. I never dreamed that my chance meeting of several A.S.A. members setting up a booth at "Florafest" at the U.S. Botanic Garden would result in the forming of a chapter in the deep South. Total membership then stood at around 600. Several more chapters have been added and several are in the planning stage and now membership is approaching the 1000 mark. We are a young and growing organization with the pains and problems that go along. I am sure if we all work together during the coming year sharing our ideas and thoughts, then most of these problems will be solved. You know, people that like plants are such nice people. Really, I have never met a person that loves plants that I did not like.

Congratulations are in order for the Richmond Virginia chapter in hosting the sixth National Convention, which was held jointly with the spring meeting of the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Attendance was great, the flower show and tours excellent and the speakers!! What more could you ask for than Polly Hill, Rosalie Nachman and Barry Yinger. I thoroughly enjoyed it, as I am sure everyone who attended did.

"Come Alive in 85"—this is the slogan for the 7th National Convention to be held in Mobile next March. You will be hearing more about this in future issues of **THE AZALEAN**, so mark your calendar and plan to head South next year.

John U. Rochester, Jr.
President
Azalea Society of America

THE AZALEA CALENDAR

September	
22	Glenn Dale Preservation Project work day. (See ASA NEWS AND VIEWS, this issue).
October	
14	Board of Governors Meeting Washington, D.C. area. Ryon Page, chairman. (301-593-2415)
20	Glenn Dale Preservation Project work day. (See September 22).
November	
17	Glenn Dale Preservation Project work day. (See September 22).

December

3 Brookside Gardens chapter annual meeting; presentation of Frederic P. Lee award for 1984. Bill Miller, president (301-530-7683)

March

22-24 7th National Convention, Azalea Society of America, Mobile, Alabama. Russell Scott, Chairman, (205-633-7069)

May

11-12 Brookside Gardens Chapter 6th Annual Azalea Flower Show. Denise Stelloh, chairman, (301-869-5323)

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Brookside Gardens Chapter 7th Annual Azalea Sale. Richard Antony, chairman, (301-439-6085)

THE AZALEA CALENDAR lists upcoming Society and chapter activities. Items to be included should be forwarded to the Editor together with name, address, and telephone number of contact person(s) at least three months prior to the month of publication of **THE AZALEAN** in which the notice is to appear.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER CHALLENGES!

The Northwest Chapter of the Azalea Society of America goes on record of approving a one year \$250.00 donation to assist the Azalea Society of America complete the 1984 fiscal year and to maintain **THE AZALEAN** at the same quality as now exists. The Northwest chapter challenges the other A.S.A. chapters to approve similar motions.

We feel the current quality of **THE AZALEAN** represents the high caliber and integrity of our Association and we wish it to be so maintained. We are forwarding our check for \$250.00 immediately and we urge all Chapters to compete with us to overcome our present collective national society financial problem.

We have long considered the great Pacific Northwest as a leader in azalea and rhododendron culture—how about you other Chapters joining us in our effort to support the National A.S.A. in maintaining the high quality shown in our Publication which is read internationally?

Ruth Amos
Secretary/Treasurer
Northwest Chapter

Gifts of \$250.00 each have also been received from the Robert D. Gartrell chapter and from the Brookside Gardens chapter (see ASA NEWS AND VIEWS).

RHODODENDRONS, AZALEAS, AND SOME OTHER INTRODUCTIONS FROM BARNARD'S INN FARM

Polly Hill

Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

Thank you. I shall begin by taking you on a brief tour of our farm before going into the meat of the matter. Perhaps that way you can catch a whiff of our clean sea-washed air and feel the country atmosphere of this old New England farm. Should you be unfamiliar with Martha's Vineyard, let me explain that our island is a glacial moraine south of Cape Cod and further east than Long Island. The soil and growing conditions compare to those of Long Island. I believe it is fair to say that our conditions are somewhat tougher on plants due to more drought, more cold, and more wind. In the center of the island where Barnard's Inn Farm is located, we are quite unsheltered and subject to disastrous late freezes not experienced in more favorable sites on our same island. Acidity and drought are both extreme compared to most mainland soils nearby.

The original home was begun in approximately 1697 and added to room by room for almost 300 years. The various barns were added from time to time to provide for animals, but since the 1920's only people live in them or use them. Of the 67 acres, about two thirds are wooded, and only about 20 acres are open fields described and bounded by stone walls. In 1958, I became the family manager and decided to plant an arboretum from seed, using the 20 open acres. Now, about 25 years later, I am taking you to the entrance of my arboretum field. Named cultivars, like this *Prunus* 'Hally Jolivette' were purchased as liners and planted for a year or two in my small nursery bed until planted out.

This Japanese larch, *Larix kaempferi*, a seed in 1959, is now my tallest tree. I like it especially since it avoids looking dreary in winter as some larches do.

Nearby, in my nursery field, the arbor was planted on a post and wire frame in 1964. After ten years of training, the frame was removed, and it now stands free, needing only careful pruning once a year.

The large west field is about five acres in size. At the south end, I planted conifers to protect my experimental bed from wind. The conifers are a mix of species and sizes from dwarfs to tall pines and firs, and all sizes and types in between. After surrounding my special bed with a ten foot fence to keep out deer and rabbits, it was christened the Play-Pen. Here shown in June and July, the Play-Pen shelters many of my special azaleas and other choice collections. It is the biggest attraction for many visitors.

I am determined to leave the centers of our several fields open, mowing them only once a year, in October. Many lovely things appear in the fields through the seasons. The white *Iris sibirica*, totally neglected, *Aletris farinosa*, *Habenaria lacera*, and *Asclepias tuberosa* in orange, yellow, or maroon.

Following that brief tour of the farm, I shall tell you about my rhododendrons and azaleas. What are the North Tisbury's and what are they good for? At present, the most useful of my offerings appear to be the *Rhododendron nakaharai* hybrids, as hybrids they are. We will get to a few species later. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Tsuneshige Rokujo of Tokyo for the crosses he made and the seed he sent me, for I am no breeder.

'Alexander' is a cross of *R. nakaharai* and 'Kin-no-sai.' It creeps along the ground or hangs over a wall. The flower buds, even when the plants were young, seemed hardiest of all. It is an easy and sturdy plant. I am told it makes up well in a container as does 'Pink Pancake'.

Two selections have been made from the seed of *R. nakaharai* open-pollinated. These two hybrids are named 'Wintergreen', blooming in early June, and 'Marilee', which blooms in late June. 'Wintergreen' is especially fresh green through the winter when many others turn a smoky purple color. 'Marilee' has an extra sparkle due to a purple blotch in the red flower. 'Marilee' is perhaps the largest and fastest grower of the *R. nakaharai* group.

R. nakaharai x 'W. Leith', an English clone, is another cross by Dr. Rokujo. My selection is 'Joseph Hill'. It blooms in early June, the first and smoothest and richest red of them all, very close to the color of the species selection 'Mount Seven Star', which blooms several weeks later.

'Susannah Hill' and 'Red Fountain' (syn. 'Niobe') are the reverse crosses of 'Joseph Hill', namely 'W. Leith' x *R. nakaharai*. 'Susannah Hill', a dark red, blooms early and is sometimes doubled from petaloidy. 'Red Fountain' arches over and down from a vigorous center. They both bloom early in June.

Dr. Rokujo made another cross when I asked him for whites and pinks. He crossed *R. nakaharai* with a very flat-growing white Satsuki named 'Chinyeyi'. From this came 'Michael Hill', 'Pink Pancake', and 'Late Love'. Their flowers are salmon-pink, large, and somewhat ruffled. 'Late Love' has a rosey blotch and blooms very late indeed, in July and sometimes holding into August. 'Pink Pancake' is a real carpet creeper. The leaves are narrow and dainty, and it is slow to pile up in the center. Actually, in my climate, it may lack the vigor of its siblings. 'Michael Hill' is a strong true creeper, running fast and covering the available ground.

The particular value of these crosses includes their hardiness in Zone 6, their lateness of bloom when most cultivated azaleas are finished, and their thick-textured creeping habit. The clones that seem the most carpet-like are in this group with *R. nakaharai* as a parent. They are 'Michael Hill', 'Joseph Hill', 'Pink Pancake', 'Late

Love', and 'Alexander'. If plants in this group are grown close together and their tendency to run and spread is impeded in any way, the plants will mound up in the center. If you give them ground room they will soon fill it up at least to ten feet in diameter, in my experience. Since they self-layer at the extremities, they are continually finding fresh soil. As long as I have observed them, they continue to bloom well in the old centers of the plants.

There are others of Dr. Rokujo's crosses lacking *R. nakaharai* as a parent. A hybrid of the Satsuki 'Chinyeyi' (white) and 'W. Leith' (red) resulted in my cultivar 'Louisa', a low pale pink (not salmon) that stays in bloom exceptionally long through June. Its sibling, 'Gabrielle Hill', has quite a showy blotch and a ruffle, but it has a looser habit of growth than 'Louisa'. 'Jeff Hill', also a June bloomer, resulted from 'Maruba-Osakazuki' as a female parent. It was hand-pollinated, but the label of the male parent was lost. The foliage is box-like, and the large flower on a longish pedicel presents itself with a lot of style.

The kidney-shaped bed is planted with a sampling of my azaleas in bloom, with the *Kalmia* flowering in the rear. The close-up shows 'Louisa' on the right and 'Hot Line' on the left. 'Hot Line' is my only red that has purplish overtones. I feel it lends sparkle to a mixture of the other pinks and reds. 'Trill' is a Gumpo seedling from Japan, as is 'Hot Line'. 'Andante' I have lost, but like the other two members of my Music Street Trio, the seed came from Dr. Rokujo, who collected the seed from a friend's garden in Tokyo. These three were my earliest selections. Like all the gumpos, their genes are mixed, as is the mix in Satsukis. 'Trill' has very bright red flowers and is ruffled on a compact plant. Music Street is so named in the Town of West Tisbury nearby.

Dr. Rokujo sent me seeds of a white form of *R. kaempferi*. I selected two for their special color. None of the siblings is white. 'Libby' is a graceful plant, the flower fresh pearly pink with faint lavender overtones as it fades, while 'Corinna Borden' is a pale dusty pink, a color hard to find and useful in landscaping. Unlike the redder species *kaempferis*, they are compact growing. They are thoroughly hardy but require some shade.

Dr. Rokujo crossed *R. nakaharai* with *R. kaempferi*. The slide shows two plants. I do not like their gaudy color and call them airport red, but maybe they are the ones known in the South as 'Mrs. Hill's Flaming Mamie'.

In response to my interest in whites and pinks and compact forms, Dr. Rokujo sent me five very small rooted cuttings, unnamed, but from a choice Japanese collection of the newer Gumpos. As they grew, I named them for Japanese friends: 'Eiko San', 'Midori', 'Yaye', 'Matsuyo', and 'Yuka'. Please pronounce that last name to rhyme with You-kah, not Yucca. 'Eiko San' is doubled with seven layers of five-lobed corollas superimposed. 'Beni-banyo' may be the same plant in Japan. 'Matsuyo', blooming white in mid June has many salmon streaks and dots. 'Yuka' blooms from late June into July with rich

dark green foliage and very large white flowers. Like all Japanese Gumpos and Satsukis, 'Yuka' throws sports of various types. 'Yaye' (rhymes with Hi) and 'Midori' are less hardy than the first three named of this group, but they are very lovely. I am certain they will grow better for you than for me. The flowers are large and basically white. 'Yaye' can have coral borders and other variations and bluish foliage. It is low and somewhat open. 'Midori' is also low growing with a chartreuse blotch.

All my *R. metternichii* group plants are those I grew from seed with one or two exceptions. *Rhododendron metternichii* from Oki Island came from Dr. Rokujo in a seed packet. He wrote to me November 2, 1966, "I am sending you the seeds of *Rhododendron metternichii* variety 'The Oki Island Form'. All are collected seeds. . . (It is the) best of our native *Rhododendrons* and extremely rare and difficult to get. The Oki Island is an isolated island of the Japan Sea and was not easy to get before the opening of airway." The seeds were planted on January 26, 1967. I had good germination. In 1968, 35 seedlings were planted in my nursery. In 1971, 27 plants were planted out in my Play-Pen. And from 1979 to now, many are outgrowing my Play-Pen and being moved out among my conifers, creating with other rhododendrons what I like to call "My Himalayan Meadow". *R. metternichii* from Oki Island varies in height and vigor, but all of them have the pale satiny indumentum shown in the slide with the odd flower emerging from the stem. I sent this oddity to be rooted, but it failed and has never been explained to me how it happened. The Oki Island flowers are all quite similar and quite lovely. I have about 20 plants at this time from that seed lot, collected wild in 1966.

My own *R. yakusimanum* #61-081 was sent to me as a seed by Dr. Rokujo in 1961. It is one of the white, felted, tight dwarfs, collected in the wild. The plant reminds me of a day before there were Yaks in our lives. One winter afternoon in 1961, I was going to a lecture at Longwood Gardens by Dr. John Creech, who was talking about his recent introductions from Japan. I had just received a letter from Dr. Rokujo enclosing a batch of his new hybrid azalea seeds. I offered the envelopes to Dr. Creech to see if I could share some with him. He read all the azalea names I have just enumerated until he came to an envelope labeled '*RH. yakusimanum*'. He paused and looked at me while thinking and said, "I think this one is a rhododendron". Only one plant from that envelope survived my inexperience. After several moves to find just the right shade and shelter for it and after 23 years, it is well-budded at last.

This plant of the Yak group came from American Rhododendron Society seed exchange in 1966 and was listed as self hand-pollinated from the Exbury form. However, my betters have informed me that my lot is all first generation hybrids. This individual I have referred to in the past as 'BIF #1', but I am now registering it as 'Samisen'. It is named for the Japanese musical instrument with three strings, plucked like a guitar. The name

was chosen for two reasons: it is a Japanese word that is easily pronounced, and it has three colors at once which reminded me of the three-stringed instrument. Some siblings of 'Samisen' appear behind in the slide at the left and right. Their habit is looser, but they are strong and useful plants. I am told 'Samisen' may grow to be 10 X 15 feet. It is now at least half way there in 24 years from seed. The rusty red indumentum and the neat smooth surface outline of the plant seem to me to make it an outstanding plant of the large type of *Yakusimanum rhododendron*.

Our native species also command attention. *Rhododendron vaseyi* is the first to bloom. I planted seven or eight seedlings of my own in a border with the cv. 'White Find' among them. Mine varied somewhat in the depth of pink color and also in the amount of fall coloring. They grew along together for several years, but after one especially severe winter the cv. 'White Find' proved less hardy than my pink ones. I give this species A-plus for beauty and grace.

R. chapmanii is a native of Florida, and yet it is ever-green at Barnard's Inn Farm. It is listed as endangered. These two open-pollinated seedlings from the female parent on the previous slide may or may not be pure *chapmanii*. They need to be studied further.

R. alabamense has a lovely fragrance and may lack hardiness for my area. I feel it is just on the edge. I think you in more southern zones should grow it better than I.

R. atlanticum is listed as a white species. It is native as far north as central Delaware. This white flowering plant collected from the wild is growing in our Delaware garden. The next three slides show *atlanticum* also from the wild but showing the effect of natural crossing with *nudiflorum* at some time in the past. The three pictures are taken of different individuals grown from the seed of one wild collected plant near the Choptank River and the Maryland border. They are easily grown from seed, have delicious fragrance, are richly stoloniferous and are not bothered by animals or the elements. They grow to a height of more than six feet and are shown growing up a sheltered border under an oak tree.

R. arborescens rubescens, given to me by the Arnold Arboretum, a selection found in the wild, I believe, is a June bloomer and welcome for its orderly tidy ways and dainty blossoms.

This is *Rhododendron viscosum*, a selection of mine I am naming 'Delaware Blue'. It was collected wild in Delaware, in the same Choptank River area. Compared with normal *viscosums*, the leaves are less glossy, broader and more obovate, and they have a distinct bluish cast. It is a tall, unobtrusive shrub and welcome for its time of bloom and for its fragrance. Easily grown, it appears to be trouble-free.

There are three plants of *R. bakeri* at Barnard's Farm Inn whose seeds were from Gregory Bald, in the wilds of North Carolina. The first slide shows the orange plant, blooming before *Cornus kousa* has finished. The three

are stunning together. The unnamed cultivar is tall, rangy, and tree-like. Two weeks later the cultivar 'Sunlight' comes into flower, my favorite for subtle red and gold coloring, and with a richly quilted leaf. 'Sunlight' blooms the first few weeks of July and is a medium tall shrub. The third plant, named 'Sizzler', is too hot and bold and orange for my taste. It grows in a compact mass. 'Sizzler' has black-green leaves with a pale blue reverse which are handsome throughout the season. All three plants are hard to root, but easy to grow and care for.

Rhododendron prunifolium is the last native to bloom, well into August with me. I have a seedling now 10 feet tall and growing, surrounded by the white *serrulatum*, dainty and lacey, which blooms at the same time if the *serrulatum* flowers have not been winter-killed. This year, the *serrulatum* is heavily budded, so I am hoping. These two *prunifolium* plants are named 'Hohman'. They are truly superior to my big seedling.

The next slides show you a sampling of Asian species, mostly Japanese. Earliest to bloom in April is *R. dauricum*. The seeds were taken from a white form sent to me by Dr. Rokujo in 1967. The purple form blooms a week or more before the white. They both take frost and snow without too much harm. If the flowers are browned they shrivel away and new buds open. It is a delightful plant, blooming for many weeks into May. The white ones make a background for the early hot purplish lepidotes and are a lovely companion for daffodils, especially the species and hybrids with smaller flowers. In the case of *dauricum*s, one can tell the flower color-to-be by the stem color of tiny seedlings in early spring or again in late fall, but not in summer, when all are a uniform green. This is useful knowledge for the propagator. My white seed yielded 20 whites to one purple-flowered plant.

The enormously useful Japanese species *keiskei* has this lovely white form given to me eight years ago. Any of the compact forms and 'Yaku Fairy' are among my earliest spring treasures.

R. racemosum from China is reliable and gives no trouble as it slowly spreads its wings. It is a bluish pink and is not good with fiery *kaempferi* which bloom at the same time.

The species *kaempferi* is a tall tree-like shrub requiring shade with a gift for splashing color around if that is welcome. It is best to select your plant in flower. They are easy, hardy, and upright.

The slide shows the herbaceous peony 'Alexander Woolcott' in the foreground, the lilac 'Palibin' in the center, and my azalea cv. 'Ladylocks' standing tall in the rear. 'Ladylocks' is a selection of the species *macrosepala*. The flower in profile to the left (in the slide at the convention) shows the one inch sepals. The flowers are delightfully fragrant, especially in the evening, and they are glandular sticky. It has only one drawback, a tendency to attract white fly. A spray with malathion seems

to take care of that. Dr. Rokujo's seed packet yielded an unnamed sibling which blooms a week earlier than 'Ladylocks'. It is the palest lavender, really an off-white, and very low spreading. It is equally fragrant, however, which is a rare enough quality in evergreen azaleas. 'Ladylocks' has great hardiness and vigor and will grow taller, it seems. The leaves are persistent at the twig ends. It is a useful color and an easy plant.

This plant from the Rhododendron Species Foundation is the species *nakaharai*, endemic to Taiwan, and first reported from Mount Morrison. This is the type of the species Dr. Rokujo had in his garden and used for breeding my North Tisbury hybrids. Its smooth form is impeccable, and it blooms with a light red flower in late June or into July.

The next is also the species *nakaharai*. The seed was collected for me in the wild in Taiwan on a lesser mountain bearing the English name of Mount Seven Star hence its name. The color is pure cadmium red, the flowers are larger than those in the last slide, and it blooms later in July. The plant is moderately easy to propagate. At present, I view the plant as my best offering to the azalea world.

The next group of plants seems well-adjusted to my conditions. They are raised by other growers whose names are well-known. A big splash of the Glenn Dale azalea 'Martha Hitchcock' always draws comment, as it grows along the woods edge at the end of a long view.

At the left is 'Treasure', another Glenn Dale, then the species *kiusianum* in the middle and another Glenn Dale, 'Helen Close' in bud at the right. 'Treasure' has a pinkish aura to the white and 'Helen Close' a greenish cast, with a somewhat larger white flower. Both Glenn Dales are valuable whites in May.

Here is 'Helen Close' just opening with the blossoms from *Enkianthus campanulatus* dropping over everything.

One more Glenn Dale is labelled 'Silver Mist'. Can anyone tell me if that is correct? It is a splendid plant in any case.

In 1960, Dr. Rokujo sent me this large spidery azalea as a small rooted cutting. It flourishes here, blooms regularly, and gives no trouble. Its name is *linearifolium* 'Seigai', a Japanese clone, never found in the wild, and now more than 200 years old in cultivation. What will our American breeders be working with 200 years from now?

'Asahi' is also from Japan and is one of the hardiest of Satsukis. The petals recurve and the color that occasionally appears on the white ground is pale purple. It grows to be quite large.

The large pink Satsukis in the rear are 'MaiHime' which are slow to attain hardiness. There is a young plant of my 'Yuka' in the foreground.

Possibly the largest flowered Satsuki is 'Higasa'. Dr. Rokujo used this in his breeding to improve flower size and color of red.

The Robin Hill azaleas were bred and introduced by

Mr. Robert D. Gartrell from northern New Jersey. My favorite is 'Gwenda'. It is palest pink and large flowered. Behind it grows my early flowering 'Wintergreen'. It is easy here to compare the plants for flower size and habit of growth. Other very handsome Robin Hills are 'Conversion Piece' and 'Nancy of Robinhill', here growing with *Cypripedium acaule* in the background. They bloom in late May. *Kalmia latifolia* is still in bud in the upper left corner.

This unnamed David Leach cross is *carolinianum* var. *album* x *Ludlowii*, a sibling of his 'Towhead'. I find its creamy yellow color and habit exceptionally elegant. I am also growing 'Mist Maiden', 'Pink Parasol', 'Robin Leach', 'Sumatra', and several others of his more than 60 selections. They are all superior plants with fine clear colors.

Mr. Peter Cox in Scotland created 'Chikor', much easier to propagate and grow than 'Curlew', another dwarf yellow. 'Chikor' reblooms in August in my garden, which I welcome.

Rhododendron cv. 'Bowie' Dr. Henry Skinner bred from *chapmanii* x *minus*. It is a splendid showy plant with fine lasting flowers. It is named for the town near Washington D.C. where he lived at the time.

The Yak hybrid 'Coral Velvet' is not hardy north of my garden I am told, but I have few plants with such a rich clear color blend that persists a good three weeks without fading out. It is well worth a try.

The next slide shows a group of *kiusianums*, crimson, lavender, white in the center and, in the foreground, that exceptional seedling 'Komo Kulshan', grown from wild seed. It is a most beautiful and different *kiusianum*. I am greatly pleased to have this plant.

Representing that enormous Exbury group is this picture of the Knaphill 'Toucan'. It grows in a bit of shade, which keeps the flowers from panting for moisture and wilting prematurely. Only in the wettest of springs do I succeed with those Exbury azaleas I have tried as 'Oxydol', 'Cecile', 'Sugared Almond', and others.

This little plant of mine is from Exbury seed and is fragrant. So far, it is growing in my Play-Pen and is being watched.

Back in January, Bill Bedwell suggested that I tell you something about other plants I am growing in my arboretum as well as azaleas and rhododendrons. I'll start low on the ground and work up. There are some charming native American ground covers that I find very useful. They will cover the ground well if contented with their environment.

Cornus canadensis was hard to get going until I fed it with rotting wood from an old locust stump. I also put a rotting oak log nearby. Now it is spreading nicely through the pine needle mulch in a site with filtered shade. Our lovely twin flower, *Linnaea americana*, required the same treatment. The plant seems eager to move toward more light. Neither plant can survive much competition.

The trailing arbutus, *Epigaea repens*, is abundant on Martha's Vineyard and transplants easily in our acid sandy soils, enjoying also our cool nights. If you have the right conditions, although many do not, you could risk a try.

An easier plant is bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, a typical woodlander. The cultivar 'Multiplex' is equally happy here. Catch the seeds from the singles before the pods burst and plant immediately in leafy moist shade. But beware of mice.

Pyxidanthra barbulata, known as Pyxie moss, is native to the New Jersey Pine Barrens and much admired by rock gardeners. It spreads slowly in our soils. In most other soils, it fails. I am sorry.

These last two natives may be quite familiar to you: *Iris cristata* f. *alba*, a more rapid spreader than its blue species form, and *Shortia galacifolia*. With a bit of care to keep up the moisture, the *Shortia* seems happy in the shadier parts of my Play-Pen.

In addition to the *Rhododendrons*, I have been working with several other genera. *Cornus florida*, our native dogwood, is not too hardy as a plant and blooms during our period of late frosts, but the oriental dogwood, *Cornus kousa*, is tougher and starts to bloom in June after frost. My trees are grown from seeds that came from M. M. Brubaker. His plants had been selected as Henry Hohman's best. I have been advised that at least six of my selections are worth propagating.

'Square Dance' is the tree in the center. *Cornus* 'Gay Head' was selected for its excellent habit and flowering. My friends named this one for my husband, 'Julian', for the beauty of its flowers. He is our very successful vegetable grower. *Cornus kousa* is also spectacular in fruit, and here is a group in early fall color. The two in the foreground will color later. The double allee of 24 trees, all from seed, shows the diversity of a strong species. The dense compact tree, second from the left is 'Snowbird', just recently distributed.

I would like to claim this picture for Barnard's Inn Farm, but my daughter photographed the picture for me in Britain at a beautiful garden called Trewithen. I wanted so much to be able to have this kind of thing in my own garden that I began specializing in camellias back in 1958. That is another story. I will just touch on my current status after 24 years of trials. After 18 years, I had achieved this from seed. That was in 1978 and the tree is now gone. In April of 1980, these buds opened low on a seedling plant and the other pictures from 1980 showed these results. Three of my *camellia saluenensis* seeds, kindly sent from Wisley, must have been pollinated by *japonica* resulting in *williamsii* hybrids. These are the flowers from one of them.

The hardiest plant of all, the toughest species when 24 years have passed, is *Camellia oleifera* from China. For me it blooms in October and November, with over two inch wide white single flowers. It is a lovely sight. Early in the Camellia project I had 600 individuals on test of different species. Now I have 75 plants in all. Of the

many I have tried, the only commercial cultivar that lives and blooms for me is 'Kumasaka'.

Magnolia macrophylla stands as a plant apart in my arboretum. Visitors are amazed at the size of its white flowers, to 11 inches, at its fruit aggregates, the size of a softball but pink, and at the size of its leaves, to 24 inches on Martha's Vineyard. Dr. John Fogg, the Magnolia registrar at the time, advised me to register it. Julian Hill is partial to big white flowers, so the decision on that name was easy. The tree is hardy, reliable, and a splendid parent. After only nine years from seed, it flowered and fruited, and in another nine years, two of its progeny are flowering. *Magnolia* 'Julian Hill' is now being distributed.

Magnolia stellata 'Centennial' will take full exposure to sun, cold, and wind at 10 degrees below zero and still produce abundant blossoms in early spring. This Japanese hybrid *Magnolia wieseneri* is a smallish tree with fragrant flowers and handsome fruit. It grows rather slowly in my Play-Pen. The cross is *hypoleuca* x *sieboldii*.

The outline of this tree is unusual for the species *hypoleuca*, which was sent to me with two other young seedlings by Dr. Rokujo. The flower, with its flush of pink outside the petals, is also exceptional. It is fragrant and well-formed. I am registering it as 'Lydia', and it has been distributed.

Even before specializing in camellias, I had tentatively planned to go in for hollies. Three species already grown on our island: *glabra*, *verticillata*, and *opaca*. I have named and introduced three species of *opaca*. The two female cultivars are 'Martha's Vineyard' and 'Barnard Luce'. Both are glossy, large-berried, and fully hardy with me. I hope they will extend the culture of hollies even farther north and farther inland from the coast than they now grow at present.

Ilex crenata 'Muffin' is a low twiggy male from Japanese seed. I offer it as competition to *Ilex crenata* 'Helleri', as I believe it to be even hardier.

Ilex verticillata, known locally as black alder or winterberry, is a tough natural species with great variation within its limits. I have named 'Bright Horizon' and 'Earli-bright' to introduce this vigorous healthy strain to holly lovers. Growing in the wild near our farm is this ancient native specimen. It is in a stream bed area, and I was not able to get closer to quite fill the frame for you.

This tree caught our eye as we drove along the New Jersey Turnpike. You will see from the picture that it does not bulge in the middle. The tree was about 20 feet tall in 1975. These are two of the propagations growing on the farm, not from grafts, but rooted easily from cuttings. I have named it *Juniper* 'Slender'. Maybe it is *Juniper virginiana* as I have been told, but I find it atypical. In any case, I would consider it to be a valuable landscaping form. Unlike the *virginianas* all around us, it keeps its green color for nearly all winter. The fuller taper at the top of the tree adds class.

As I am an inveterate seed collector, I grew this clematis from seed gathered by the roadside in Pennsylvania Dutch country. The holly tree on the right is *Ilex* 'Nelson West', a narrow-leaved male *I. opaca* found wild in New Lisbon, New Jersey.

Clematis 'Starfish' is another June bloomer grown from seed in 1958. *Clematis* 'Gabrielle', a *Viticella* hybrid, blooms from July 4 to Labor Day at a time between my June bloomers and the fall tiny-flowered species. The color is particularly difficult to reproduce in a slide, a mixture of light purple and warm rose. The original plant clammers over my stone walls between day lilies at its feet which bloom at the same time.

I grow several herbaceous clematis. This furry one comes from shale barrens in Virginia or nearby mountains. It is called *C. albicoma* var. *coactilis*. A friendly seed collector shared it with me.

Dr. Donald Wyman once told me that three species of crabapple would come true from seed: *Malus torinoides*, *M. sargentii*, and *M. hupehensis*. So I tried all three and have fine healthy plants as a result. This large tea crab, *M. hupehensis* has been named 'Wayne Douglas'. Both the flowers and the fruit are exceptionally

large for the species, and the form is a delight to my eye. It will soon be in the trade.

I planted seed from a hybrid crabapple because it had such enormous fruit. This is the result. The fruit is inconspicuous and best forgotten. But the single pink flowers are fragrant and the tree itself is a weeper. I have named it 'Louisa'. I tied it up to five feet then let it go its way. This is the shape it takes of its own accord. If you like this chance seedling let it be its own advocate for one of the two messages I try to pass on to other amateurs like myself. They are: 1) keep your records and 2) grow some of your own plants from seed.

This lecture accompanied by many beautiful slides was presented at the Sixth National Convention of the Azalea Society of America, May 11-12, 1984 at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Polly Hill is a graduate of Vassar College and a member of numerous horticultural and plant Societies. She is internationally recognized for her work in developing the North Tisbury hybrid azaleas. An author of many articles on diverse horticultural subjects she has served on the Arnold Arboretum Visiting Committee and currently is a member of the Winterthur Gardens and Grounds Advisory Committee.

SHADY GARDENS

Rosalie Nachman
Richmond, Virginia

Although we know azaleas and rhododendrons are the most beautiful of all plants, even they are far more attractive when used in a comfortable garden situation rather than "rowed out" as if they were cabbages or soldiers. In my garden, I now have no beds and no grass, only paths. The paths may be made of stone, slate, or brick as long as they look natural and curve. Straight lines have no place in a naturalistic garden. Small pools in irregular shapes add greatly, as do ground covers such as pachysandra (solid and variegated), liriope (dwarf, "fat", wide-leaved, variegated, and black), Rain-bow ajuga (not as aggressive as the green), and sarco-coccas, which smells like heaven in March. There are at least a dozen varieties of ferns that are truly indispensable in a shady garden. Maidenhair, Hart's Tongue, Autumn, Lady, Japanese Painted, some evergreen, some deciduous, all hardy and all lovely.

Wildflowers are nestled here and there for a spot of color—blueets, bloodroot, trillium, and *Equisetum* or horsetail rush (likes a moist spot). There are many kinds of moss that look lovely on rocks and in bare spots. What is more refreshing to the eye than wildflowers peeping through a bed of moss? Some of my favorite perennials

are hellebores—Christmas and Lenten rose—and the little hardy orchid, *Bletilla*. There are dozens of exciting hostas now on the market. Some are dwarfs, others giants, with all possible yellow, white, and green variegations and bloom times. Do plant lots of bulbs! I like to group at least five of one variety together, and I find that jonquils, scilla, and crocus are my best returnees.

Variegated leaves are a good contrast to the azaleas. Variegated English holly is good, but aucuba is a must—dwarf green and variegated are both tops, as is 'Sulphurea' with its yellow edge, 'Picturata' which reverses it, and 'Crotonifolia' whose scattered blotches are much more effective than "gold dust". Willow-leaved aucuba is a nice compact shrub with lots of red berries (if a male aucuba is available). Speaking of berries, try viburnums and both the red and white berried nandina. *Mahonia bealei* and nandian are favorites of mine and have babies all over the yard.

Andromeda or *Pieris japonica* is one of the earliest and showiest bloomers in the garden. There are several good varieties, but the one that claims to be pink is only pink in bud. Camellias do beautifully most years. My best doers in Richmond are 'Gov. Mouton', 'Brilliant',

'Lady Clare', 'Cabeya de Vaca', Dr. Tinsley' and 'Rose Hill'. They give good shiney texture and height plus lots of bloom before the azaleas.

I nestle the deciduous azaleas between and behind the other plants. 'Gibraltar' can't be beat, but its seedlings are fun, too. One of my chance seedlings is a great yellow.

My first "exciting" azaleas came from the old Tingle Nursery. Not all of the names matched the plants. It has taken me twenty-four years to begin to get the names corrected. Identification of azaleas is frequently a problem! My favorite of the Gables just can't be beat—"Big Joe" and 'Purple Splendor' are tops. They are especially hardy, as are the Girard's, Shammarello's, and Pride's. Back Acres are lovely—"Margaret Douglas", 'Marian Lee', 'Ivan Anderson', and 'Red Slippers'. Of course, Ben Morrison's namesake is exciting, as are all of his Glenn Dales. 'Anna Kehr' is a fine new cross. 'Balsaminaeflorum' is a low-growing, tiny, unusual old-timer. Satsukis bloom late and are particularly important to the smaller garden, since they do not grow tall. I'd like to try the new curly leafed ones! My old 'Issu no Haru', 'Kotobuki' and 'Yama no Hikari' are show offs, too. What a challenge azaleas are! There are so many really good ones that there is no place to stop collecting.

Some of the rhododendrons that seem to thrive in my shade are 'Vulcan', 'Elegans', and 'Scintillation'. The Yakusimanums are tops and don't outgrow a small garden. They also have good texture. *Makinoi* is another good small garden type rhododendron.

Middle sized trees—dogwood and Japanese maples—add variation in height. Do add some big (at least two man-size) rocks; the plants look natural against them, and rocks hold moisture. Selective pruning and heavy mulching are important. Prune out the dead parts of any plant first, step back and look at what is left before getting clipper-happy. The low branches of all trees are removed because nothing except mushrooms will grow in too much shade.

A collection must be unified to make a garden. Contrast in texture, height, and materials used lends interest, but something must always be predominant. The garden must blend, flow smoothly from one area to another with the most plants playing a supporting role at any given time and an everchanging picture developing as the blooming season progresses. Each plant has its time to shine, some center stage as real prima donnas and others only coming into their own as accents or grade notes in a quiet garden.

Presented at the Sixth National Convention of the Azalea Society of America, May 11-12, 1984 at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Rosalie Nachman has many years experience developing her outstanding private garden featuring azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias. She is one of the founders of the Richmond Chapter of ASA and is currently on the Board of Directors of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. She also is a member of the Richmond Chapter of Ikebana International, Richmond Camellia Society, and the Westham Garden Club.

"Azalea Classic" DOUBLE AZALEAS

Frederic P. Lee
Bethesda, Maryland

Nursery catalogs and popular horticultural works, when describing azalea flowers, are full of indiscriminate and confusing use of such terms as "hose-in-hose," "double," "semi-double," and "fully double."

Little difficulty arises in using "single" to describe the most common azalea flower form with its calyx of five green sepals (or more accurately five calyx lobes since they are usually fused at the base into a tube), its corolla of five colored petals or corolla lobes, and finally its five to ten stamens and single pistil. Sometimes the sepals are quite minute and inconspicuous. But with the increase of petals through the transformation of sepals or stamens or both, various doubling effects occur that correspondingly vary the flower's appearance. These effects give rise to decidedly different esthetic values in the gardener's eye. They also serve as a method of

identifying some of the named hybrids. According to S. F. Blake, senior botanist, Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, U.S.D.A., his profession would designate any such transformation of sepals or stamens to petals as petalody of the calyx or stamens, and any increase of petals without or in addition to transformation to petals of other flower parts as a form of chorisis. Botanists can hardly expect the laymen to take these hurdles gracefully.

These "doubling" effects in azaleas usually take one of four general forms:

First, the sepals, but not the stamens, are fully transformed to petals. If the transformed sepals look the same as the petals and the calyx and corolla have the appearance of two cycles of petals, one growing within the other, thereby giving a double-decker effect, then

the flower is hose-in-hose. This type of flower is common among azaleas. Examples are Kurumes 'Coral Bells' and 'Ho-oden', Pericat hybrids 'Hampton Rose' and 'Morning Glow', Gable hybrids 'Chinook' and 'Mary Dalton', and Rutherfordiana hybrids 'Dorothy Gish' and 'Salmon Glow'. The sepals of a hose-in-hose flower are "petaloid" sepals. Thus the flower will have five petals and five petaloid sepals or for the less discriminate but still accurate, ten "tepals." The lay gardener will content himself with saying the flower has ten petals. In general the nurseryman uses the designation hose-in-hose, for flowers in this group, but occasionally he designates them as double.

Sometimes the sepals are only partially metamorphosed into petals. In Pericat hybrid 'Hampton Beauty' and Glenn Dale hybrid PI 141788 ['Fashion' Ed.], and Kurume 'Christmas Cheer', the transformed sepals are smaller and narrower than the petals or are contorted. Such flowers are not hose-in-hose. In Kurume 'Debutante' only some of the sepals may change to small, contorted petals. Some nurserymen also call these flowers hose-in-hose. Their appearance is more nearly that of a single flower.

Second, in another form of doubling, the stamens, but not the sepals, are fully changed to petals. This results in filling in at least, in part, the space occupied by stamens in single flowers. The pistil is usually but not always retained. Among azaleas such flowers are much rarer than the hose-in-hose type and the center petals created by the transformed stamens are usually smaller than the regular petals. Azalea examples are Kurume 'Shishu' and Gable hybrids 'La Premiere' and 'Louise Gable'.

For azalea flowers with fully transformed stamens, but true sepals, there seems to be no distinctive name. B. Y. Morrison, editor of *The National Horticultural Magazine*, and Clement G. Bowers, author of *Rhododendrons and Azaleas*, would not use the term "petaloid stamens" but would restrict that term to partially transformed stamens where the character of the stamen is still apparent. Morrison suggests "semi-double" for this type of flower, but Alfred Rehder, one of the authors of *Rhododendron Species* and of *A Monograph of Azaleas*, and W. H. Camp,¹ assistant curator, New York Botanical Garden, restrict "semi-double" either to flowers where only some of the stamens are transformed to petals or to flowers where the transformed stamens are not changed to full fledged petals, respectively. To the nurseryman these flowers are double. However, the amorphous term "double" tells little, for it may mean merely an increase in the number of petals without change in the stamens, or a transformation of sepals to petals as in a hose-in-hose flowers, or a replacement of disc florets with strap or ray florets as in the Compositae.

Further, there are flowers with unchanged sepals but changed stamens in which the stamens, or some of them, are only partially and not fully transformed to

petals. Such petals are either small and narrow or contorted or else the filament or another of the stamen or both remain visible. Gable hybrid 38-G ['Maryann' Ed.], and occasional flowers on *austrina*, exhibit this trait.

Third. When you consider azalea flowers that have both the sepals fully transformed to petals and the stamens partially transformed to petals, the situation is worse. Some nurserymen call these flowers "fully double." Their partially open buds frequently resemble a rose or camellia bud. Pericat hybrids 'Harmony', 'Glory', 'Splendor', 'Richesse', and 'Rival' and *indicum* Sweet (macrantha) 'Warai-gishi', are examples of hose-in-hose with stamens partially transformed to petals.

Fourth. A final class apparently involves an increase of petals irrespective of, or in addition to, a transformation of sepals or stamens to petals. The center of the corolla is quite filled in. In azalea *mucronata* f. *plena* ('Fujimanyo') the sepals are retained but all the stamens are transformed or partially transformed to petals. Frequently what appear to be small green rudimentary leaves show in the center of the flower and some of the partially petaloid stamens show green or fringed tips. However, the 30 or so petals are a larger number than can be accounted for by transformation of the ten stamens of the species *mucronatum* to which 'Fujimanyo' is assigned. *Poukhanense* 'Yodogawa' and the Indian azalea, 'William Bull', present a similar situation. A breaking up of the tissues of the pistil may account for the extra petals not attributable to transformed stamens. Similarly two tiny petal-like appendages are occasionally found at the base of the filament of the stamen in the flowers of some azaleas. I have observed no azalea where in addition to the abnormal increase in petals the sepals have been transformed to petals so as to give, for instance, a hose-in-hose effect with an entirely filled in corolla.

Other unusual flowers are Rutherfordiana hybrids 'Crimson Glory', which has five sepals and five petals but about 15 to 20 stamens either partially petaloid or unchanged, and 'Alaska', which have five sepals and five stamens but ten petals. Ordinary observation would not determine whether these five extra petals in 'Alaska' are transformed stamens in a ten-stamen flower or are duplicate petals in a five-stamen flower. About the best the nurseryman has been able to devise for flowers with a large increase in number of petals is "double," "very double," or "quite double."

Views as to appropriate designations for various types of doubling in azaleas were obtained from five experts whose names have been above mentioned. The views expressed are roughly summarized in the table below.

¹Camp points out that transformed or petaloid stamens are called by the botanist staminodia, i.e., abortive or sterile stamens, but staminody usually refers to the reverse change from other parts of a flower into stamens.

	<i>Blake</i>	<i>Bowers</i>	<i>Camp</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Rehder</i>
1. (a) Fully transformed sepals	Petaloid sepals	Hose-in-hose ¹	Hose-in-hose or petaloid sepals	Hose-in-hose or petaloid sepals	Hose-in-hose or petaloid sepals
(b) Partially transformed sepals					
2. (a) Fully transformed stamens	Petaloid stamens	Semi-double	Petaloid stamens or staminodia	Semi-double	Double if number increased
(b) Partially transformed stamens		Petaloid stamens		Petaloid stamens	
(c) Only some stamens transformed					
3. Both sepals and stamens transformed	Petaloid sepals and stamens	Double	Hose-in-hose with petaloid stamens or staminodia	Double	Double with petaloid sepals
4. Increase of petals without transformation of sepals or stamens	Pleiotaxy of petals	Double	Duplicate petals	Double	Double

¹Only if sepals fully transformed to petals and fused so that calyx and corolla have same appearance and look like two cycles of petals one growing inside the other.

Under the circumstances, no one can blame the nurseryman or popular horticultural writer for making indiscriminate use of such terms as double, semi-double, and fully double, or even occasionally misusing hose-in-hose. A classification of azalea flower types along with lines provided for peonies by the American Peony Society might be useful. Groupings that take account of obvious differences in appearance, rather than groupings botanically exact, would be most helpful. A tentative suggestion is—

Class I. Single types: Flowers with true (or only partially transformed) sepals, true petals, and normal stamens. The conspicuous stamens and pistil give this type its distinctive appearance. Examples: Kurumes 'Hinode-giri', 'Debutante', and 'Christmas Cheer', the species *Kaempferi*, Pericat hybrid 'Hampton Beauty', and Glenn Dale hybrid PI 141788 ['Fashion' Ed.].

Class II. Semi-double types: Flowers with true (or only partially transformed) sepals, true petals, but all or most of the stamens partially transformed to petals, i.e., the transformed stamens are smaller than the true petals or contorted or the anther or filament of the stamen remain evident. In addition there may be extra petals of similar appearance not accounted for by transformation of stamens. There may be a few normal stamens or a few stamens fully transformed to petals. Examples: Gable hybrid 38-G, Indian 'William Bull', *mucronatum* f. *plena* ('Fujimanyo'), and Rutherfordiana hybrid 'Crimson Glory'.

Class III. Double types: Flowers with true (or only partially transformed) sepals, true petals, but all sta-

mens fully transformed to petals. In addition there may be extra petals of similar appearance not accounted for by transformation of stamens. Examples: 'Shishu', Gable hybrids 'La Premiere' and 'Louise Gable', and *indicum* Sweet vars. *macrantha* PI 78380 and 'Beni-kirishima'.

Class IV. Hose-in-hose types: flowers with sepals fully transformed to petals and fused to a tube so that calyx and corolla look alike and appear to be two cycles of petals, one growing within the other. A hose-in-hose flower may be a single hose-in-hose, semi-double hose-in-hose, or double hose-in-hose. Examples: single hose-in-hose, Pericat hybrids 'Harmony', 'Glory', 'Splendor', 'Richesse' and 'Rival' and *indicum* Sweet (*macrantha*) 'Warai-gishi'. I have not yet observed a flower that could be described as a double hose-in-hose within these definitions.

It should be noted that occasionally an azalea may display flowers of more than one class at the same time or its flowers may vary in class in different years.

Frederic P. Lee, author of *The Azalea Book*, D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, N.J. (1958) wrote the above as part of a larger article edited by Clement G. Bowers published in the *National Horticultural Magazine*, 47:42-45 (1947).

"Azalea Classics" are articles published in the past which **THE AZALEAN** staff deems worthy of being brought to the attention of today's azalea enthusiasts. Whenever possible "Azalea Classics" will relate to a feature article in **THE AZALEAN** in order to increase the perspective of the issue. We think this is a valuable way to link the past, present, and future in azalea horticulture.

THE HAGER HYBRID AZALEAS

Don Hager
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Too many years ago, after suffering a severe bite from the Azalea Bug, I began to have hallucinations about developing a super race of huge-flowered, super-foliated, exquisite azaleas that would bloom month after month and be immune to bugs and diseases. However, for one reason or another, Mother Nature just did not want to cooperate with me. After a few lessons in her classroom (and some expert instructions from a very knowledgeable group of azalea growers), it made sense to take into account her many years of experience and to cooperate with her. While many delusions have been swept under the seedling tables, I have learned that Lady Nature is very amenable and not at all hard-nosed when it comes to making some improvements on her handiwork. Now that we have come to terms and I have agreed to stay within her guidelines, an easy relationship has resulted.

Ignoring some excellent advice at the very beginning of my hybridization work, it did not take long to realize that a helter-skelter plan was producing some beautifully inferior azaleas. Going back to the drawing board, and picking up the ignored advice, plans were made for short-, medium-, and long-range planning, objectives were set, and a record keeping system was devised. Too late and too smitten with Azalea Fever, I discovered it was not all fun and that a lot of hard detail work would be involved. I cannot say that I regret one moment of it.

Regardless of one's objectives in any hybridization program, a great deal of the fun comes from suddenly becoming aware that a certain seed has developed into an azalea that does not even faintly resemble the parents. A better feeling is generated when one sees an outstanding foliage plant that produces the type of flower wanted, and a sense of elation is generated when the flower turns out to be far superior to the parents. I suppose the saddest part is having to dump so many azaleas that do not come up to expectations.

Very early, I decided to strive for some of Joe Gable's objectives, mainly hardiness and clarity of color. Added to this were the aims of a larger flower and a more floriferous plant. To make the decisions on what azaleas to use for parents, it was necessary to go over my evaluation sheets very carefully. This is the information that I gather on the pros and cons of the characteristics of any azalea I grow. After the parent choices are made, the cross pollination done, and the flowers tagged, comes the waiting for development of the seed pods. Finally the seed is sown, the plants develop to the blooming stage, and a preview of coming attractions is shown for the first time. Patience is then necessary. Many azaleas, as is the case with a number of Ben Morrison's Back Acres hybrids, may take three to five years to develop their true characteristics. To cite an

example, 'Barbara Workman' was kept from the rejects only because of a superior foliage. During the third and fourth year with this azalea, a distinct orange glow developed on the flower and with each passing year, the plant became more floriferous. This plant has been a most pleasant surprise.

Regardless of one's objectives in hybridizing, there are occasional azaleas that develop with no clear relationship to the parents. 'Lovable', 'Rosalie Nachman', and 'I'll Be Damned' fall into such a category. 'Lovable' has evolved into a plant with rhodo-like trusses and 'Rosalie Nachman' has a beautiful clarity of color. 'I'll Be Damned', which incidentally will not be released until the spring of 1985 because of anticipated demand, has a 4½" to 5½" flower, semi-double, white with irregular pink tinting at the tips of the petals, large glossy, dark leaves, very persistent, a rather low, very dense habit going to 2½ to 3' and, most amazing of all, has bloomed continuously in a cool greenhouse for over 2½ months.

'Lozenge', 'Magic Lily', 'Musical', 'Patti Ann Hames', 'Alvera Hager' (named for my wife who has retained the patience of a saint with me), and 'Mom' have all met their breeding objectives. 'Clara Lee Hager', 'Hager White', 'Jeffie Moss' and 'Mary Ellen Hager' have proven to be exceptional. 'Mary Ellen Hager' has such a dense, glossy, superior foliage that I consider it to be among the best azaleas in this respect that I have ever seen.

The 'Fun Series' was so named for a mixture of three separate reasons. First, a highly irregular method of choosing the parent plants, secondly, the comments of visitors upon viewing the plants in bloom, and finally, in the case of 'Foey' and 'Oh Nuts', sheer frustration with the slight variability of these two plants. 'Kelly' is named for my German Shepherd who has taken it upon herself, and quite vigorously, to defend the azaleas from the depredations of the rabbits. It is planned, as of this date, to release approximately 25 more azaleas in the 'Fun Series' within the next two years.

Last, but not least, is the planned release within the next two years of a group of deciduous hybrids. This group has evolved from crosses made from the Rothschild series of the Exburys. When I first saw the Rothschilds, I was particularly impressed with the clarity of color and that a few seemed to be rather resistant to mildew. Three of these have already been named, 'Burnt Gold', 'Mahogany', and 'Roger Kohn'. The flowers of the first two are self-explanatory, and 'Roger Kohn' is a combination of pink and yellow.

Still being pursued are the goals of developing a good evergreen plant with the beauty of a 'Satrap' flower, the sweet scented flowers of a 'Koromo-shikibu' and the nice habit of a Gable's *poukhanense* in dropping its flowers cleanly.

I sometimes say a little prayer as I am working in hope that Mother Nature will smile on my efforts to attain such azaleas.

HAGER HYBRIDS

BARBARA WORKMAN	('Bowman' x 'Stewartstonian') X 'Mrs. Dorenbos') Rosy salmon, light red blotch gives orange glow, rounded petals, red stamens and pistil, single hose-in-hose, 2½", crisp ovate medium green leaf, dense spreading to 4'. Early midseason.
CLARA LEE HAGER	((('Gyokushin' x 'Beni-giri') X ('Gunrei' x 'Louis Koster')) Pastel pink, profuse fine pink stripes and rays, green base in throat, rounded petals somewhat ruffled, single, 3", glossy dark green leaf, low spreading to 2'. Midseason.
HAGER WHITE	('Aikoku' (White form) X 'Leprechaun') Pure white, exerted stamens and pistil on all flowers, rounded petals, single, 3½", glossy dark green leaf, persistent, very dense low spreading to 1½/2'. Late.
JEFFIE MOSS	('Stewartstonian' X 'Illusion') Coral red, light red blotch, funnel shape, single hose-in-hose, 2½", glossy dark leaf, bright red stems, dense twiggy to 4'. Early midseason.
LOVABLE	('Glacier' X 'Alight') White, light pink margins, rounded and slightly ruffled, rhodo-like trusses, 3", very round glossy leaf, broad spreading to 4'. Late midseason.
LOZENGE	((('Madeira' x 'Nocturne') X 'Warai-gishi') Soft clear pink of candy wintergreen lozenges, rounded petals, single hose-in-hose, 2½", crisp heavy medium green leaf, erect spreading to 7'. Early midseason.
MAGIC LILY	('Mother of Pearl' X 'Mandarin') Pink and white variegation, white tube, some what funnel shape, single hose-in-hose, 1½/2", light hairy leaf, spreading ascending branches 3'. Early midseason.
MARY ELLEN HAGER	((('Tharon Perkins' x 'Niagara') X 'Debonaire') Salmony orange pink, carries as apricot, slightly tubular, single, 2", dark glossy broad ovate leaf, dark bronze in fall and winter, excellent persistent foliage, dense compact broad spreading to 3'. Midseason.

MUSICAL	((('Hinode-giri' x 'Amoena Purple') X 'Camelot') Medium pink with slight blue tint dark pink blotch, slightly tubular, 2", glossy dark leaf, dark bronze in fall, persistent, broad spreading to 4'. Early midseason.
PATTI ANN HAMES	('Lilacina' X Gable <i>poukhanense</i>) Medium lavender, brownish blotch somewhat starry, 4/5" with age, single, spent flowers drop cleanly, large medium green hairy leaf, broad open spreading to 6'. Early midseason.
ALVERA HAGER	((('Pink Pearl' x 'Mandarin') X 'Mother of Pearl') Light pink with white variegation toward margins, tubular, single, 2", hairy medium green ovate leaf, upright spreading to 5'. Early midseason.
MOM	('Eucharis' X 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing') Pure white, rounded petals, single, to 5" as plant matures, large ovate medium green leaf, upright spreading to 5'. Midseason.
ROSALIE NACHMAN	((('Macrantha Rose' x 'Pat Kraft') X 'Orange Beauty') Light pink, orange tone, bright pink blotch, single, 3/3½", narrow glossy dark leaf, low spreading to 2/2½'. Late.

HAGER FUN SERIES

ANGEL	((('Getsutoku' x 'Dream') X 'Glacier') Salmon pink, red blotch on upper three lobes, red pistil and stamens, overlapping lobes, rounded petals, 3/3½", small pointed dark green leaf, dense compact semi-dwarf to 1½/2', single. Late.
FOOEY	((('Dream' x 'Blizzard') X 'Surprise') Bright red center, gradually fading to coral pink with irregular white border, rounded petals, single, 2½/3", medium green ovate leaf, vigorous upright to 6'. Midseason.
GEE WHIZ	((('Aviator' x 'Veteran') X 'Gyokushin') Flesh pink base, many fine light pink rays, green throat, rounded petals, single, 3", glossy dark ovate leaf, dense twiggy low spreading to 2'. Late.
GRABBIT	('Harbinger' X 'Hatsushima') Salmon pink, heavy red blotch, white rays at margins, somewhat funnel shape, single, 3", broad ovate leaf, medium spreading to 5'. Late midseason.

I'LL BE DAMNED ('Polar Sea' x 'Corinne Murrah') X 'Debonaire') Light pink, variable shading to white center, touch of light green at base of throat, deeply ruffled to give an orchid like appearance, white pistil and stamens, semi-double. 4½/5½", large ovate glossy dark leaf, persistent, dense compact to 3'. Mid to late midseason.

OH NUTS ('Harbinger' X 'Hatsushima') Some white edging, shading to salmon to dark red at center, somewhat tubular, rounded petals, single, 3", broad spreading to 5', medium ovate leaf. Midseason.

GOSH DARN IT (('Salmon Spray' x 'Salmon Bells') X 'Blaauw's Pink') Rosy salmon, bright red blotch, tubular, single, 2", narrow ovate glossy leaf, broad spreading to 3'. Early.

OH HEAVEN (('Kaghetsu' x 'Silvercup') X 'Masterpiece') Flushed lavender pink, striped and heavily sector

KELLY magenta, rounded petals, single, 2½/3", ovate medium green leaf, broad spreading to 4'. Midseason.

SON OF A GUN ('Arctic' X 'Acrobat') White, irregular purple striping, slightly ruffled, heavy substance to flower, single, 2½", glossy semi ovate leaf, upright spreading to 4'. Midseason.

WOW (('Geisha' x 'Rose Greeley') X ('Cadenza' x 'Capella') White, lavender striping, rounded petals, ruffled, single, 2½/3", medium green ovate leaf, dense spreading to 3'. Midseason.

(('Warai-gishi' x 'Gunrei') X 'Macrantha Pink') Clear medium pink, rosette type double, 2½", extremely floriferous, narrow glossy dark leaf, low spreading to 2½/3'. Late midseason.

Don Hager is a nurseryman, previous contributor to **THE AZALEAN** and a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter.

ASA NEWS AND VIEWS

GLENN DALE PRESERVATION PROJECT

On June 12, 1984, representatives of the Glenn Dale Preservation Project of the Azalea Society of America met with Dr. John L. Creech, former Director of the U.S. National Arboretum, for a walk through the "woods planting" at the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland. On hand to meet with Dr. Creech were Andy Dietz, Tony Dove, and Bill Miller. Drawing on his experience and intimate knowledge of the "woods planting", Dr. Creech was able to identify several cultivars, including a large 'Vittata Fortunei'. Further, he explained the general organization of the historic area, which contains specimens dating back to the Beattie and other early Japanese introductions (1920's), unnamed Glenn Dale hybrids, unnamed Belgian-Glenn Dale hybrids (late 1940's), Glenn Dale parents, and other interesting evergreen and deciduous groups.

In addition to providing an extensive oral introduction to the "woods planting", after a lengthy search, Dr. Creech was able to locate an ancient ledger from some old files that had been removed to storage. The small old ledger, unimpressive at first glance, was the key to where things were planted. Worn undoubtedly from age and use, it would never have been recognized for what it was had it not been for Dr. Creech's efforts. The information contained within the ledger will provide perspective and rational basis for trying to identify the many beautiful specimens in the "woods planting".

As an interesting note, Dr. Creech related that Ben Morrison had ordered the destruction of the "woods planting" after his retirement, an order that Dr. Creech resisted by not being able to spare the time or the manpower.

The Society is reminded of the Glenn Dale Work Days scheduled for September 22, October 20, and November 17. Put these dates on your calendar, there will be no separate notice. Bring your rakes, pruners, shearers, and other equipment and help the Azalea Society save the beautiful azaleas at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station. Work will commence at 9:00 a.m. For more information, contact Roger Brown (301-577-7509) or Andy Dietz (301-384-2092).

1985 NATIONAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Be sure and reserve March 22, 23, and 24, 1985 for the Annual Convention and Meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama.

The Mobile Chapter is making progress with the plans for the 1985 Convention. The rooms have been reserved at as reasonable a rate as possible. The buses have been spoken for, and the main argument left to be resolved concerns the menus. Should Southern Gumbo be served, Southern "Po Boys", or Southern Fried Chicken? Even though the argument rages hot and heavy, rest assured that the finest culinary achievements will be served (within the price limitations, of course).

Pat Ryan of Bellingrath Gardens has assured us that he has arranged for the peak of azalea bloom to be on Saturday, March 23 so that we may view the gardens in their finest attire. (Hopefully, his connections are better than most of ours.)

The next issue of **THE AZALEAN** should have the agenda for the convention and the almost final details for the get-together. Enjoy spring in Mobile as well as at home. Plan to attend.

Russell Scott, Chairman
1985 ASA Convention

CHAPTER NEWS

A hearty welcome to the Flame Azalea chapter of Greenville, South Carolina. Thirty-seven members formed the chapter, with the charter being issued to our eleventh chapter at the May 1984 National Meeting. With the mailing of this issue of **THE AZALEAN**, there are more than 800 Azalea Society members, including two new life members, I. Lee Amann and Hugh Caldwell.

The 1984 ASA National Convention was a great success. We wish to thank the Richmond Virginia chapter and members of the American Rhododendron Society's Middle Atlantic chapter for all of their efforts and hospitality. Thanks also to Don Hager and the Northern Virginia chapter for the plant sale and resulting gift of more than \$600 to the national ASA treasury. It is also our pleasure for those unable to attend the weekend's activities to publish in this issue the addresses delivered by Polly Hill and Rosalie Nachman.

The Brookside Gardens chapter reports that it has had a very active spring and summer. The season opened May 5th with the chapter's seventh annual Azalea Mart, under the direction of Richard Antony. Two weeks later, on May 19th and 20th, the fifth annual chapter azalea flower show, "Maryland, My Maryland" (in honor of Maryland's 350th anniversary), was staged at Wheaton Plaza Mall in Wheaton, Maryland, under the splendid leadership of Denise Stelloh. More than 20,000 people viewed the over 250 azalea sprays and potted plants plus a dazzling array of artistic azalea designs. Chapter president Bill Miller was awarded "Best in Show" for his exhibit of 'Rivermist'. Nancy Batson was awarded the "Sweepstakes Prize" in recognition of receiving the most blue ribbons. A month later, the chapter held its seventh annual azalea cutting and plant auction. More than 100 plants and 500 cuttings were "on the block" with the proceeds going to aid the national society. This, together with a gift from the Robert D. Gartrell chapter and another from the Northwest chapter (see page 41 this issue), has provided a welcome needed boost to sustain the current level of ASA activities.

Azalea Society members have also been busy writing about azaleas. "Azaleas - Washington's Pride", by Ryon Page, Chairman of the Board, ASA, appeared in the May 1984 and second issue of *Washington Gardener*, a new horticultural magazine distributed in the Washington,

D.C. area. Earlier, "Patio Tree Azaleas" by William L. Brown of the Louisiana chapter appeared in the March 1st issue of *Florists' Review* (The Weekly Magazine for Growers, Wholesalers and Retailers Since 1897). That issue of *Florists' Review* also reprinted "The Azalea Family Tree" by Nancy E. Evans, which appeared in the March 1984 issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

IN MEMORIAM JIMMIE L. CROWE

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Jimmie L. Crowe on June 5, 1984. Jimmie was a member of the Brookside Gardens chapter and at the time of his death was Assistant Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. Jimmie had been instrumental in conducting the Florafest exhibitions held in the spring at the Botanic Garden during the late 1970's and early 1980's, which were staged by many national capital area garden clubs and plant/flower societies, including the ASA. Jimmie was also a leading supporter and member of the Brookside Gardens chapter azalea testing program to evaluate locally uncommon azaleas for their growth potential in the Washington, D.C. area.

AZALEA PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Most important, without doubt, to Azalea Society members is that *The Azaleas*, by Fred C. Galle is scheduled for release at the 1985 ASA National Convention in Mobile, Alabama. This monumental treatise of azalea horticulture, listing more than 6,000 azalea varieties, will be published with accompanying full color plates by Timber Press of Beaverton, Oregon. Additional information will be provided in forthcoming issues of **THE AZALEAN**.

Azalea lovers will also be interested in *A Brocade Pillow (Azaleas of Old Japan)* by Ito Ihei and translated by Kanami Kato with an introduction and commentary by John L. Creech. *A Brocade Pillow* was first written in the seventeenth century and classified 350 types of azalea flowers. Here, for the first time in English, is a guide of early Japanese azaleas and cultivation techniques, illustrated by 154 charming woodblock prints and 16 plates in full color. 162 pp. 6 1/4 x 9 1/4" ISBN 0-8348-0191-4. Published May 1984. John Weatherhill, Inc., (publishers of Fine Books on Asia and the Pacific), 6 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016. \$22.50. Contact: Ruth Stevens.

A new reference on *Phytophthora*, *Phytophthora: Its Biology, Taxonomy, Ecology and Pathology*, edited by Dr. D. C. Erwin, Dr. S. Barnicki-Garcia and Dr. P. H. Tsao, all of the University of California, Riverside, has been published by the American Phytopathological Society. 392 pages. \$76.00.

Chapter and member activities for inclusion in **ASA NEWS AND VIEWS** should be sent to the Editor three months prior to the month of publication desired in **THE AZALEAN**.