The Azalean

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

VOLUME IV, No. 1 Box 6244, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906 JANUARY 1982

The Eden Hybrids

The following account of the development of the Eden Hybrid azaleas by W. David Smith is extracted from a paper written by Dr. Bruce B. Smith. Dr. Smith writes:

"The following lists, given to me by their originator, David Smith, are of the Eden hybrids which have been named and have been growing and doing well at Smith's home, Verde Vista. (Ed. near Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, in the Poconos, Zone 6. We understand that Verde Vista is on a mountain top and is exposed to winds.) Because many of the azaleas listed are the results of crosses five generations removed, the exact parentage is not provided for each individual cultivar. Smith's major purpose has always been to develop hybrid azaleas and rhododendrons that would be hardy in this area. There are six groups at this time, with two more groups to follow. Each of the six groups is segregated by color.

Group I The Red or Hinckley Group

Parentage includes: a. kaempferi; Luchu form scabrum coccineum; Hiawatha, and Hexe, believed to be a clone from Blaauw firm in Holland; Ima-shojo, and Suetsuma (syn. Flame); George Franc, thought to be simsi x indicum; the Satsuki cl. Shinkigan; and Delaware Valley White. All are hardy to -10° F.

BETSY BAHN: 3": currant red; rosette center; spreading; blooms mid-season.

BEVERLY MOHATT: 4"; vivid red; medium height; blooms mid-season.

COLONEL HINCKLEY: 3" frilled; strong purplish red; medium height; blooms mid-season.

GENE MILLER: 2 1/2" hose-in-hose; jasper red; upright; blooms mid-season.

(continued at page 2)

ASA's National Convention

Arrangements have been completed for the ASA's national convention to be held in Richmond from 8:00 in the evening of 30 April, a Friday, until mid-afternoon 2 May, a Sunday. The convention is to be a joint effort by the Richmond chapter, ASA, our hosts, and the Middle Atlantic chapter of the ARS. The program, as an annex to this newsletter shows in much greater detail, includes lectures (Japanese gardens and the applicability of Japanese principles of design and gardening techniques to enhance American azalea and rhododendron gardens; R. Yakusimanum hybrids, prostrate Keiskei hybrids and other recent Eastern America hybrids; Satsuki cultivars). The program also includes a plant sale, an azalea and rhododendron show (an additional annex to this newsletter gives details), and tours of eight private gardens, including the garden of the late Dr. Thomas Wheeldon.

The Board of Directors of ASA urges all members to attend.

Hybridizing Techniques

The following techniques for hybridizing azaleas were presented to the January meeting of the Ralph W. Pennington Chapter of the ASA by James O. Harris, originator of the Harris hybrids, and are as recorded by Ann McPhail of that Chapter.

Hybridizing involves taking pollen from the male part of the flower of one plant and putting the pollen on the female part of a flower from another plant. The hope is to combine the best characteristics (such as hardiness, flower size, fragrance, borders, good foliage, etc.) of two plants.

The pistil is the female part of the

(continued at page 6)

GOLIATH: 4 1/2"; spinel red with rosette center; upright; blooms mid-season.

HINCKLEY'S PRIDE: 2 1/2" to 3" hose-in-hose; cardinal red; medium height; blooms mid-season.

LORI BEAVERSON: 2 1/4" full double; scarlet red with jasper red stripes; spreading; blooms early mid-season.

MARY HINCKLEY: 4" single; strong red; medium height; blooms early mid-season.

SARA HINCKLEY: 3 1/2" hose-in-hose; Indian Lake; medium height; blooms early mid-season.

Group II The White or Bittinger Group

Parentage includes: Delaware Valley White; Gumpo Album; two clones of mucronatum, Indica Alba and a white clone of ripense; a clone of kaempferi; and a clone of calendulaceum. The hardiness is -10° F. After a period of drought, to a wind chill of -25° F.

ANDREW LUETTGEN: 3" with rosette center; upright, branching; blooms mid-season; registered.

BARRY BITTINGER: 3" hose-in-hose; some Indian Lake markings; medium height; blooms mid-season; registered.

DORIS RITTER (syn. WHITE CLOUD): 2 1/2" hose-in-hose, low-growing; blooms early mid-season.

DR. CORLISS: 3" single; hardiest of the whites, medium height; heavy bloomer, late mid-season.

DR. BITTINGER: 3 1/4" single; pure white; up to 4 blooms per truss; upright; blooms mid-season.

JANE BITTINGER: 3" hose-in-hose; upright; blooms mid-season.

SUE BITTINGER: 2 1/2", very frilled hose-in-hose, ribbed lobes give added substance; upright; blooms mid-season.

MADAME PRESIDENT: 3", strong yellow blotches; very hardy; blooms mid-season.

Group III The Purple or Stiner Group

Parentage includes: ripense; mucronatum, lilacina; Sherwoodi; phoeniceum forms Maxwelli and Omurasaki; formosa; amoenum;and poukhanense var. Yedoense. The hardiness is -15° F.

ANNIE NOBEL: 2" single; heavy bloomer; cyclamen purple; bushy; early mid-season.

CAPITOLA: 4" hose-in-hose; reddish purple; bushy, mid-season.

DOROTHY STINER: 3" cyclamen purple; upright; early mid-season.

ESTELLEN: 2" tyrian purple; heavy bloomer; upright; early mid-season.

FRED STINER: 4" reddish purple, rosette center; bushy; mid-season.

IDA HARMON: 3" fuchsia, hose-in-hose; upright, mid-season.

JOHN STINER: 3" roseine purple, hose-in-hose; spreading; mid-season.

MARILYN STINER: 3" hose-in-hose, reddish purple; bushy; mid-season.

RUTH DOTSON: 3" mallow purple; average; blooms mid-season.

DAVID DEHOFF: 4" hose-in-hose; stiff upright; blooms mid-season.

THELMA ANDREWS: 3" imperial purple; upright, blooms late.

TRUDY ALCOTT: 3" double, fuchsia; upright; blooms mid-season.

Group IV The Orange-Red or Fiery Group

Parentage includes: a self red sport of the Satsuki cl. Jindai crossed with the Exbury cl. Gibraltar; a Camp's Red obtained from the National Arboretum as 7829c; the Satsuki cl. Beni-Kirishima; coccinea major, probably a form of indicum; the Luchu azalea, Scabrum; and a bakeri plant from the National Arboretum listed as 29094c.

CAROLYN FIERY: 3 1/2" double, rosette center; bushy yet tall; blooms mid-season.

DONALD FIERY: 4" petaloid, strong blotch; spreading; mid-season.

ERNEST FIERY: 3 1/2" double; excellent foliage; spreading; late mid-season.

JEAN BOTSCHELLER: 3" single; bushy, late-season.

LEISL FIERY: 3 1/2" to 4", rosette center; upright; late mid-season.

MARY ANN FIERY: 3 1/2" double; bushy; blooms mid-season.

MICHAEL FIERY: 4" petaloid; strong blotch; bushy; mid-season.

ORANGE DELIGHT: 3" single; pointed lobes are veined, which gives extra substance; upright; mid-season.

Group V The Pink or Stewart Group

Parentage includes: kaempferi (P.I. 227573); Delaware Valley White; the Satsuki cl. Shinkigan; Amanda Perry (Sherwood Red x Pink Pearl); Judge Solomon (a sport of Formosa) and the Luchu azalea, scabrum.

DAYNE RUTLEDGE: 3 1/2", deep pink; upright; blooms mid-season.

HECTOR: 3" double, strong purplish pink; upright; blooms mid-season.

HELENA: 4", strong yellowish pink; spreading; blooms mid-season.

JANICE ERHART: 3" double, deep yellowish pink; upright; mid-season.

MARY STEWART: 3" deep pink, rosette center; upright; blooms early mid-season.

RHEBA: 3" double, Indian pink; upright; blooms mid-season.

RUTH HOUSER: 2" hose-in-hose, dawn pink; heavy bloomer; spreading; blooms late mid-season.

Group VI The Variegated or Haskell Group

Parentage is complicated. Pollen from the Satsukis was introduced to certain hybrids, including the following: Hō-Raku, Jindai, Gyokushin, Mai-Hime, Shinkigan, and Beni-Kirishima. The named cultivars from these crosses, for the most part, differ from the Satsukis by being hardier and more uniform in coloring, and most bloom earlier.

ANDREW HASKELL: 3" white with strong red stripes and yellow throat; spreading; blooms early mid-season.

CASANDRA VINCK: 3 1/2" pink with deep yellowish pink specks; broad; blooms early mid-season.

DAVID HASKELL: 3 1/2" white with rose stripes and specks; spreading; mid-season.

HELEN: 2 1/2" hose-in-hose, shades of pink brushed over a white background; bushy; mid-season.

JANE GEISELMAN: 2" hose-in-hose, strong purplish pink with yellow throat; upright; mid-season.

JENNIFER VINCK: 3 1/2" white with rose-red stripes and specks; broad; blooms early mid-season.

JUDY HASKELL: 2 1/2" hose-in-hose, very frilled, bright red specks on white; upright; early mid-season.

SUSANA: 3" white with shades of pink and strong red blotch; bushy; mid-season.

MAE KNAPPER: 3 1/2" frilled white with jasper-red stripes and specks; spreading; mid-season.

DANCING BUTTERFLY: 3" white with heavy ruby red spotting on 3 lobes and violet purple stripes; bushy; blooms mid-season.

W. David Smith, who bred and introduced these Eden hybrids, is a two-career man. A professional concert pianist and teacher until he was 45, Smith's attention turned to rhododendrons and azaleas when he had to forego further concert work because of an injury to one of his hands. " Living in the Poconos of Pennsylvania," Dr. Bruce Smith writes, "he was aware of R. maximum and R. nudiflorum, both of which grew wild in that area. In a lean-to greenhouse built by himself and with a few varieties acquired from a local nurseryman, namely arborescens, calendulaceum, viscosum, vaseyi, roseum, and schlippenbachi,(and phoeniceum, kaempferi, bakeri, and the Luchu azalea scabrum which were acquired later) a new lifelong career began for W. David Smith.

"This new career has continued uninterrupted for over 30 years and to date has culminated in four gardens where over 350 hybrids are growing and doing well... He has titled his hybridizing efforts the Eden hybrid azaleas and the Susquehanna Valley hybrid rhododendrons."

About the Author: Dr. Bruce B. Smith is professor and chairman of the Department of Biology, York College of Pennsylvania, York, Pa. He has published, in various scholarly journals, articles dealing with the pre-seed development of flowering plants. In 1975, he presented his findings on new techniques of clearing botanical tissue to the International Botanical Congress, USSR.

Editor's Note: A future issue will up-date Mr. Smith's work on the Eden hybrids, and particularly will contain an account of his success in breeding fragrance into the flowers.

Hybridizing Techniques
(continued from page 1)

flower. The anther is the male part, and contains the pollen.

Select two plants you wish to cross. Most hybridizers agree that it doesn't make much difference which is the seed parent and which is the pollen parent. If the flowers of the two plants are not blooming at the same time you will need to store the pollen as described below, until the blooms on the seed parent open. The day the blooms open, remove all the stamens so it can't fertilize itself with its own pollen.

Now to the actual fertilization. Soon after the flower on the seed parent has opened, a shiny sticky substance will appear on the tip (stigma) of the pistil. Then and only then can pollination proceed. As for the pollen (male) parent, select stamens with pollen streaming out the end of the anther. Apply the pollen to the tip of the female parent's pistil. Do this to several blooms. Immediately after pollinating, tag the branch with a record of the parentage, writing the female name first and the male parent's name second, thus; Amaghasa X Grace Freeman.

If your cross has been successful, within a day or so this will be the first bloom on the plant from which the petals fall. Within 6 weeks you will be able to distinguish a seed pod. The seed within the pod needs additional time to mature.

If you want to cross two plants that bloom at different times you will need to store pollen from the earliest blooming plant until the later blooming plant flowers. The method for gathering and storing pollen is as follows:

1) Take a small bottle (such as a medicine bottle, about 6 oz. size). Place about 1 inch of silica gel in botton.

2) Next, place a small cotton ball on top of the silica gel.

3) Collect pollen (stamens and all), drop it inside a gelatin capsule (capsules are available at most drug stores. Size 000 is best).

4) Place the filled capsule on top of the cotton ball, cover the bottle with an air-tight cap and then place it in a freezer. Pollen has been successfully used which had been stored up to 5 years.

Leave the seed pod to develop on the female parent plant as long as possible, usually about four months. Collect the seed pods about 15 September (about 15 October in Washington, D.C.) or at least before the first frost. If you become impatient and can't wait to try the cross, collect one pod a month early, but leave the others in case the first one is not mature.

Store at room temperature in small paper envelopes (coin collectors' 2 x 2" envelopes are a useful size) left unsealed to facilitate drying. The drying period will last for several days for evergreen azaleas to about three weeks for deciduous azaleas. If the pod does not open voluntarily at the end of the drying

period, pinch off one end and roll the pod between thumb and forefinger to force out the seed. Be sure to do this onto a sheet of white paper, else you may lose the seeds.

Before the seed is sown, you must be sure it is clean because bits of pod or other plant trash will encourage fungus if sown with the seed. The more quickly it is sown, once it is ripe, the higher will be the per cent that it germinates.

Use a small water-proof container without a drain hole for sowing. Styrofoam and plastic are both good. Fill the container with a sowing medium to a depth of at least two inches in two layers. For the first (bottom) layer use 60% perlite and 40% soaked Canadian peat moss about one and one-half inches deep. Smooth this layer but do not pack it down. Then add the second (top) layer, which should consist of milled sphagnum moss, moist but not wet, about one half inch deep. Water the medium thoroughly with one part Clorox to ten parts water. Spread the seed on top of the medium, using a folded paper "trough" to distribute the seed as evenly as possible. Now spray very lightly with the Clorox-water mix, and cover the top of the box with a pane of glass. Do not water again until the seeds germinate.

To encourage effective and even germination, keep the containers under flourescent lights for about 16 hours per day. The lights should be 6 to 12 inches above the seedlings. Seventy degrees Farenheit is ideal.

After the seeds germinate and develop a set of true leaves, slip the glass from the top of the container, a little more each day, making sure the planting medium does not dry out. In a few days the glass can be removed totally without the seeds wilting. When the second set of true leaves develops it will be time to transfer the seedlings to roomier quarters and a different growing mix. An excellent mix for this stage is 65% ground pine bark, 25% Perlite and 10% Canadian peat.

A rule of thumb in breeding: as one parent use a tender plant of the best form and for the other parent use a variety of proven hardiness. The seedlings from your cross may be all tender or all hardy or mixtures of both, but if you've chosen the parentage wisely and have a little luck to boot you may get seedlings that combine hardiness and vigor with the best ornamental qualities of both parents.

If you cross two species all the seedlings will show similar properties; seedlings resulting from the cross of two hybrids will show great diversity; and seedlings from the cross of a hybrid and a species will show less variation.

Additional James Harris Hybrids

by Ann McPhail
Seneca, S.C.

James Harris has named 10 of his new hybrids after ladies of the Ralph W. Pennington Chapter, ASA, as follows:

SUE BELL: (Amagasa X Grace Freeman #2) Syn; 191-I; Growth Habit 30" tall, 28" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3" across. (Red Group 56 B, bordered with Red Group 47 C, Deft Rose. R.H.S. Colour chart).

MARGARET ROWELL: (Mothers Day X Red Slippers) Syn; 204-A; Growth Habit 14" tall, 19" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3" across, semi-double, hose in hose, (Cardinal Red, Red Group 53-B, R.H.S. Colour chart) Blooms mid to late April.

MARY ANN EGAN: (Amagasa X Grace Freeman #2) Syn; 191-H; Growth Habit 28" tall, 36" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3 1/2" across. (62-D bordered by Red Group 52±B. R.H.S. Colour chart.)

BUDDY McMAKIN: (Grace Freeman #2 X Amagasa) Syn; 87-D; Growth Habit 28" tall, 24" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3 1/2" across. (Red Purple Group 65-C, bordered with Red Purple Group 66-B.)

BETSY MONNEN: (Delos X Amagasa) Syn; 90-B; Growth Habit 24" tall, 21" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3 1/2 " across, double. (Red Purple Group 68-A, Roseine Purple, R.H.S. Colour chart).

LEE THOMAS: (Banka X Target) Syn; 73-C; Growth Habit 21" tall. 34" wide in 10 years. Flowers 5" across. (Pink with Red Blotch).

MATTIE BARRON: (Caroline Dorman X Grace Freeman #2.) Syn; 195-A; Growth Habit 20" tall, 34" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3" across, Double White, (23 Petals). (Stripes of 186-C, R.H.S. Colour chart).

FRANCIS E. SEIDLER: (Amagasa X Grace Freeman #2) Syn; 191-J; Growth Habit 24" tall 29" wide in 10 years. Flowers 2 3/4" across. (Red Group 62-D, bordered by 51-A, Rhodinite Red, R.H.S. Colour chart).

CILLE SHAW: (Amagasa X Grace Freeman #2) Syn; 191-Q; Growth Habit 18" tall 26" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3 1/4" across. (Red Group 65-D, bordered by 64-8, Magenta Rose. R.H.S. Colour chart).

ANN LEE McPHAIL: (Chikyū no Haru X Surprise) Syn; 115-B; Growth Habit 44" tall 33" wide in 10 years. Flowers 3" across, 6 Lobes, (Red Group 55-C Neyron Rose, R.H.S. Colour chart).

Editor's Note: Earlier introductions by Harris were described in the January 1981 issue of The Azalean, Volume 3 No. 1. Additional Harris hybrids, not yet named, will be described in future issues.

Showing Azaleas

by Cleo Moosberger
Silver Spring, Md.

Selecting the Specimen: The condition of the truss should be one of prime maturity with all the parts intact, spent flowers removed and foliage attached and unblemished. Trusses are at prime when approximately one-half of the flowers are open and the rest are in bud. Foliage should be sufficient to clothe the framework of the branch but should be subordinate to the flowers. Specimen trusses should have some leaves present around the truss to give a general impression of their size, color and indumentum. If no leaves are present, the Judge deducts all foliage points. The foliage must be well balanced and proportioned to the size and habit of the plant and to the flowers. Nutrient deficiencies and cultural practices show up very distinctly in the foliage. Cut several of each plant you want to exhibit and select the best specimen indoors when closer inspection is possible. Select an upright-growing branch instead of a lateral if possible because it is more easily staged and more showy on the table. Of course if growth habit of the plant precludes upright staging, then stage as naturally grown.

Grooming for the Show Table: First and foremost the specimen must conform to the show schedule in matters such as length of truss, and should be placed in the proper class. It must be absolutely clean. It should show no torn or mutilated flowers or foliage, nor evidence of insect damage or diseased flowers, etc. (Underdeveloped or torn leaves may be removed, but the removal must not be detectable.) There should be no foreign matter or particles such as oak tassels or other debris. A small brush is handy in removing all dust and dirt particles. The small petioles on the stems should be removed with a razor blade or nail scissors, and the scar if apparent camouflaged with dirt.

Potted Plant Classes: The pot should contain only one plant which may have one or more basal stems. The shape of the plant should display the flowers to best advantage, and the trusses should be distributed evenly and uniformly over the plant. Proper pruning will improve the form. If lacking, it should be deducted in scoring. Plant should appear vigorous, thrifty and attractive growing; should have been in the post for at least six months. The pot should be in proper proportion to the plant (not to exceed 12"); the pots may be clay, plastic, ceramic, or other material but must be clean. The plant must have been grown by the exhibitor. Grooming suggestions specified above should be applied to the container grown plants being shown.

Staging the Specimens: Legible, accurate and neat labeling is essential. An improperly labeled specimen may not only cost you the ribbon, but is also misleading to the viewing public. Entry card must be complete with name, address, entry number and other pertinent information. Return address labels are handy and save time.

Specimens should be staged upright in the bottle. (Cotton or other appropriate material may be used for wedging.) Be sure that the water level in the bottle is

proper and that the stem reaches the water. (Exhibitor and/or the committee should check the water several times during the course of the show). If a specimen has been properly conditioned over night it will stand up several days.

Another Bonsai Book

Bonsai afficionados may be interested in writing for the catalogue called Hortus which lists and briefly describes several Japanese (English language) books on bonsai, as well as several schools of ikebana, plus an American book, Native Treasures, prepared for the 1973 International Bonsai Conference, on how to collect, train and maintain native American plants as bonsai. The address for the Hortus catalogue is: International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., 2130 Pacific Avenue, Forest Grove, Or., 97116.

ASA Slide Library

The Brookside Garden Chapter's News contains a note that is applicable to all chapters, particularly those in either warmer or colder areas than Brookside's Zone 7:

> "Though we have a good collection of slides, due largely to the duplication of George Harding's personal collection, we are still not able to sufficiently serve all our members. For members that live in a climate similar in temperatures to the Washington, D.C. area we have a wide selection. However, for those who live far north or south of this area our slide programs are deficient. The programs that we are in need of slide donations are:
>
> "1) Azaleas for the Warm Climate: This program needs the groups Southern Indian, Belgian Indian, Pennington, Pericat, Satsuki, and Rutherford.
>
> "2) Azaleas for the Cold Climate: We need North Tisbury, Shammarello, Girard, Pride, and Gables. At present we have 20 of the 60 named Gables so inquire just to see if we have it.
>
> "3) Azaleas and Rhododendrons in the Landscape: For this program we would like to have slides of individual's gardens or public gardens, i.e. Brookside Gardens, Calloway Gardens, etc. If you have a favorite shot that you would like to share you can not only have the opportunity to show off your garden but to help others obtain ideas on how to plant their own gardens.

"As with any organization, participation by all its members is the only means of success. Therefore, we are relying on you to help augment our library. So if while viewing your slides during these cold winter months you find some that you would be willing to donate whether they fit into one of the above categories or others you feel would be of interest, please contact:

JO ANN RICCHIUTI, Slide Custodian
5796 Western View Place
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771
(301) 831-7561"

Correspondence of B.Y. Morrison

Very briefly we return to the correspondence of B.Y. Morrison with Hugh A. Caldwell, Jr., an azalea fancier who at that time lived in Charlotte, N.C. All the quotations--we think we have selected some that are of general interest--date from Morrison's years in Pass Christian, Miss., to where he moved after retiring as first Director of the National Arboretum in 1952. Morrison wrote:

"When I made up my mind to retire from USDA, I started planning work that would busy me when I was retired.....When I was ready to come down (to Mississippi) I hired a truck and driver and brought down some 124 flats of seedlings, so there need be no delay in getting the program under way here. Here, I started breeding work again, and continued with fewer and fewer crossings until 1958 when I made only three. One in 1959 I did not even plant.

I now (6 October 64) have a huge collection, even after many have been destroyed by burning, a formidable lot of azaleas that are not only splendid but quite unique.

Meantime many of my later things--later in dates of breeding--have been showing up spectacularly fine things and now my personal problem is to get them in any quantity to Tingle (the nurseryman whom Morrison had selected as the commercial outlet for his Back Acre hybrids.) (My aim was and is to produce) doubles that will be cold hardy, and kinds with white or nearly white centers and colored margins. As I noted, these plants are closer to Satsukis than to Glenn Dales, as the line that would be closest to them among the Glenn Dales (Eros, Sterling, Aztec, etc.) was a line that I did not pursue in USDA.

There are two mistakes in the (Tingle) catalogue. The first plant is Elise Norfleet, not Elsie. It is a single dark crimson

red with a white eye, tinted slightly with pink. It is late. It is not double."

On Fertilizers:

"From my own experience I have now decided that I am a poor gardener. I rarely have trouble from overfeeding and most of my old plants, could they talk, would tell you that I do not feed enough. So, my Satsukis are in the neglected class. I have no special ideas about their proper feeding and the only thing I have read is not strictly applicable. It was in one of the books on bonsai that I borrowed from the AHS Library.....The recommended fertilizers were such that are not common in this country, from seeds, rape seed in particular. But I feel sure that cotton seed meal will do and mean to try it this spring on some of my small stuff. The part that I do NOT understand is that all were not applied direct, but the meal was put in water, allowed to ferment, stand, be drained clear, and the resulting liquid diluted before use. This again sounds just too much to bother with. I have used cotton seed meal on Glenn Dales and it works fine. Use it at the same time that I used 5-10-5 with the acid residue. The meal is supposed to activate the good bacteria in the soil, those that work on the humus bases."

On Frustrations:

"Your problem in finding rare kinds of plants including azaleas is the same problem that has been the fate of all others who want such. The fact seems to be that nurserymen in general have no courage to buy anything that they may have to try out before they can rush into full scale propagations and sales. In one way I can understand all this, but I cannot see why they dare not try a few new things each season, and after they learn the uses in their own areas, why they cannot go ahead."

On Satsukis:

"Frankly I would not be willing to advise anyone, anywhere, as to which are the "best" Satsukis. It could perfectly well be, that any few I might choose as kinds that I like best would not be hardy with you or anyone. IF and I mean IF I understand what scraps are written here and there, there will be not only a northern limit but a southern limit of usefulness. The southern limit I believe will be determined by the tendency of some kinds to push into growth with any

mild weather in winter, and then lose all flower buds when the next cold comes. I have lost buds in this way more than once. Also, I think Miss Lawrence (newspaper garden writer in Memphis) will be unwise to write about any of them until a lot more is known, as facts, not as beliefs.

"Mr. Frederic P. Lee is well along with the labors on the revised edition of his book, reading proof the last time I heard. He will have a long list of Satsuki descriptions in it, made up from notes from all persons who have any, and they are all amateurs and NOT nurserymen who have anything for sale. Lee is a retired lawyer and a good gardener. He has some of the original USDA lot and I have yet to hear what injuries or rather what kind of injuries he finds. You will also find in the Lee book list a lot of new spellings! The Japanese are making revisions in the way they Romanize the Japanese names and I have had help for myself and for Mr. Lee. I suppose the people in general and the nurserymen in particular will all howl. For example, Bunkwa now becomes Bunkā, and will be so printed. Kowkoku will appear as Kōkokū. And there will be a note on how to pronounce all Japanese names."

Editor's note: Excerpts form earlier correspondence between Morrison and Crowley were published in The Azalean, Volume II, No.4, October 1980. Excerpts from Morrison's correspondence with Mrs. Corinne Murrah, for whom he named one of his finest back acre hybrids, were published in Volume III, No. 1, January, 1981.

Care of Potted Azaleas

Potted "florist" azaleas need strong light but no long periods of direct sun. They also need regular sprays of cold water and protection from hot drafts, advises Elvin McDonald, whose column on gardening appears in more than 100 newspapers. He suggests that you water by standing the pot in a deep saucer of tepid water for 30 minutes or so. McDonald used one of his recent columns to urge readers interested in azaleas to join the ASA in order to get the society's "excellent Newsletter".

Additional Azalea Nursery

A nursery which we are adding to our master list of those which specialize in azaleas and will ship:

Gordon W. Severe Nursery
10 Vera Lane (Oak Orchard)
Millsboro, Delaware 19966
(302) 945-2912

Extensive listing of Eden Hybrid (to begin to be released Autumn, 1982), Robin Hill, Linwood, Harris, Back Acre, Girard, Glenn Dale, and many miscellaneous azaleas. Mr. Severe will ship transplants via UPS and will deliver large wholesale orders via company truck.

Earlier lists of azalea nurseries appeared in The Azalean issues of April and July, 1980, and April and October, 1981. Interested as we are in developing and maintaining a complete and reliable master list, we urge any reader who knows of a nursery we have omitted to write to The Azalean. The one requisite is that the nursery will ship plants.

Elections to Board of Governors, ASA

A commitee consisting of the ASA President, Ryon Page, as non-voting Chairman, and chapter presidents or their representatives, has nominated the following slate to replace governors whose terms are expiring: Malcolm Clark, Donald Hager, George Harding, Alice Holland and Frank White.

Thumbnail sketches of these nominees are as follows:

Malcolm (Mal) Clark, West Caldwell, N.J. Born and reared on a small Pinehurst N. C. nursery; now maintains a West Caldwell garden with more than 700 azalea cultivars. Breeds hardy H2 bicolors to zone 6-7 winters. Early member of ASA; charter member and treasurer Gartrell Chapter. Math teacher and computer programmer. Now cataloging Robin Hill azaleas.

Donald W. Hager, Spotsylvania, Va. Retired from career to establish and operate Hager Nurseries, Inc., now two years old. A long-time azalea hobbyist, with extensive knowledge of azaleas and special interest in hardiness. Hybridizes azaleas and propagates clones. Incumbent member Board of Governors; vice president of ASA; vice president Northern Va Chapter, ASA. Member ARS.

George Harding, Germantown, Md. Retired chief of horticulture and maintenance for National Capital Parks, National Park Service; a founder of the Society. Has propagated azaleas since 1924 and has had an azalea nursery since 1929. His collection exceeds 1200 azaleas and 300 rhododendron cultivars. Member Board of Governors for four years. Member ARS.

Alice Holland, Silver Spring, Md. Home economist. A founder of the Society; member Board of Governors three years, national secretary four years. Has been collecting azaleas for past 20 years; now has some 400 varieties.

Frank White, Lanham, Md. Azalea nurseryman with one of the largest collections on the east coast. A founder of the Society. Hybridizes and propagates extensively. Member and chairman of the Board of Governors four years. Past president of Potomac Valley Chapter, ARS.

Under terms of the By-laws, Article XIII, Section 9f, additional nominations may be made by members. Each such nomination must be accompanied by a petition signed

by twenty or more members, and be forwarded to Ryon Page, 10702 Edgewood Ave., Silver Spring, Md., by 15 April 1982.

All nominations will be considered by the ASA membership at the forthcoming annual meeting.

The Bitter 1981-82 Winter

The National Climatic Center (Asheville, N.C.) confirms that January 1982 was just what most of us suspected: a humdinger. Nearly 100 record lows were registered across the country during the week of 15-22 January, says the NCC. Sunday, 10 January, was at -26° F. the coldest day ever recorded in Chicago. Buffalo's temperature plunged to its all-time January low (-16°F.) on the 17th. Washington, D.C. had two record-shattering days: 2°F. on 11 January and -5°F. on the 17th.

The Climatic Center has not given us comparable readings for areas to the south of D.C., but it reports that the south was battered generally by winter storms, unusual in their number and ferocity, during January. " Almost unheard of" ice covered portions of Lake Pontchartrain and Mobile Bay. Four inches of snow fell as far south as Shreveport and Monroe, La., and Jackson, Miss. The Florida freeze during the second week of January was not the coldest on record for Florida's citrus area, "but durations of temperatures below 26°F. that surpassed previous events in some areas made it one of the worst cold outbreaks of the last decade."

Azalea growers may be able to turn this general debacle to their advantage by doing extensive hardiness reporting, ASA chapter by chapter, for which this newsletter will be glad to serve as a central clearing house. We suggest that data concerning loss of or major damage to plants should include not only minimum temperatures and the duration of prolonged periods of cold, but also all other conditions which are believed to affect hardiness--items such as snow cover, siting and exposure to wind and winter sun, air and water drainage, the condition of the plant when it went into winter dormancy, and an estimate of which of these conditions may have been the determining factor.

One member, John Rochester, president of the Louisiana chapter, ASA, already has done a preliminary survey of losses. Writing from Franklinton, La., in later January, Rochester reports:

> "I've had some losses, but nothing drastic. My southern Indicas have quite a bit of leaf damage in the container stock; I don't know about the buds yet. The Glenn Dales and Satsukis fared well, and the Robin Hills look like they never had been through a freeze. Some of the Linwood Hardys don't look too good but we'll have to wait to see how they recover.
>
> "Our low was 4°F. Then we had an ice storm with a temperature of about 30° F. It lasted some 14 hours. That melted, and 24 hours later we had a second ice storm, and it lasted about 24 hours before it melted.

"Since I began this letter a week has passed and more damage is showing up in the nursery. The liners that were under the pines show a good bit of damage. Some of my southern Indicas, Fisher Pink, Pink Elegans and Judge Solomon have shed most of their leaves. I guess I have about 5,000 one-gallon cans like this.

"The Back Acres look like they made it O.K. Moresca looks the worst. I think it will lose all its leaves but I can't yet tell about the blooms.

Back Copies of The Azalean

Back copies of The Azalean are available for $1.25 each. Send your orders to the Secretary, ASA. As a guide for tentative buyers, the following list identifies articles in issues throughout the past year which may have reference value:

January 1980	The Robin Hill Azaleas, Part I, by Matthew Nosal
	The Linwood Hardy Azaleas, by Frank B. White
April 1980	Deciduous Azaleas, Part I: The Native Americans, by Judson Hardy
	The Robin Hill Azaleas, Part II
	Addendum on the Linwood Hardy Azaleas, by George Harding
July 1980	Deciduous Azaleas, Part II: The Asiatic Species
	The Beltsville Dwarfs
July 1980 (Special Issue)	The Gable Azaleas, by George Ring
October 1980	The North Carolina Hybrids
	Observations by B. Y. Morrison on the Glenn Dales
January 1981	The Harris Hybrids, by Dewey Garrett
April 1981	The "Eye-Catcher" Glenn Dales (The varieties which are outstanding as both "Eye-catchers" and "Good-doers".)
	Propagation of Azaleas (by root cuttings, air layering, ground layering and stem cuttings), by Don Hager
July 1981	Some Thoughts on Satsukis, by Carl R. Hahn
	The Origin of Satsukis: The Yakushima Connection, by Barry Yinger
	More Thoughts About Satsukis, by George Harding
October 1981	Satsuki Azaleas as Bonsai by Jack C. Crowley
	Ferns as Companion Plants for Azaleas, by George Phair
	Will It live Over Winter? by Don Hager (A compendium of over-wintering suggestions).
	The New Carla Hybrids, plus some additional North Carolina Hybrids

Besides these 1980 and 1981 editions of The Azalean, a few copies of the 1979 editions, Volume I, Nos. 1 and 2, also are available from the Secretary at the same price, $1.25 per copy.