



The Azalean

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

VOLUME IV, No. 3

Box 6244, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

SUMMER 1982

Creating an Azalea Garden in a Hostile Area

by Arthur C. Johnson

When the chairman of ASA's board of governors, Ryon Page, was in Muskogee, Oklahoma during the summer of 1981 he found the azalea garden in Honor Heights Part to be unusually impressive, so much so that he sought out the man who was responsible for its creation. That man is the author of the article below. He has now retired from the park system, but force of habit and a well-merited sense of pride still impel him to visit Honor Heights and other Muskogee parks occasionally, and to continue his observations of azaleas and their culture.

Because Mr. Johnson wrote this article before the winter of 1981-82 we asked him to add comments on hardiness if that winter had changed his appraisals. We also asked him for other data which would interest anyone, such as ourselves, who is innocent of information about the Oklahoma climate. Mr. Johnson's responses to these further questions are set within parentheses.

--Ed.

Dwarf Conifers as Companion Plants for Azaleas

by Augustus M. Kelley

In line with our conviction that more attention should be given to companion plants for azaleas--accompaniments which are culturally compatible, and which enhance the planting by providing contrasts in form, texture, and color--we present the following piece on dwarf conifers, written by a foremost American authority on this sophisticated area of horticultural interest. Mr. Kelley is owner of the Theophrastus Press and as such publishes Lee's The Azalea Book as well as other works such as B.Y. Morrison's The Glenn Dale Azaleas and Wilson and Rehder's Monograph of Azaleas. Mr. Kelley also publishes, sporadically, Dwarf Conifer Notes, which he offers free to actual or potential aficionados. ASA members interested in asking for this publication should write to Kelley at Theophrastus, P.O. Box 458, Little Compton, Rhode Island 02837.

--Ed.

"You can't grow azaleas in Oklahoma." "It is too dry." "The weather is too unpredictable." "It is too cold and windy." "Remember Oklahoma is one of the dust bowl states." Such were the expressions we were greeted with when we first started talking about growing azaleas in our park system some 30 years ago.

We wanted a spring-blooming flower, very colorful, one that would give us mass color effect: not a spot of color here and there, but a bed of good strong color 50' to 100' long, blending well with the natural hillside of our park. None of the usual spring-flowering shrubs seemed to provide what we wanted, but we were willing to try something that hadn't been tried.

When a short time ago I joined the Azalea Society, which strikes me as one of the livelier horticultural aggregations, I received a prepared circular which told me how to grow azaleas and incidentally listed companion plants for azaleas. Impulsively I wrote back: "Like 98% of the people who write on companion plants for azaleas and rhododendrons, you have left out dwarf conifers." At the moment I cannot recall who the good 2% are. In due course, I received a communication from the honored editor of The Azalean (in England "Honorable Editor" would mean that he was serving without pay, but in this case "honored" is not a code word and means exactly what it says, for The Azalean is clearly one of the better horticultural newsletters),

suggesting that I write a note--he said article but I am reducing it to note, and if the reader persists he or she will see why--on the companionship of azaleas and dwarf conifers. 98% of horticultural societies would have and have dropped my letter into the wastebasket presumably with muttered grumblings about "crank," "crackpot," "dwarf conifer nut," etc. Somewhat airily, I accepted your editor's challenge, not realizing at the time just how much of a challenge it was. What follows is my answer--unfortunately not, but almost, meeting the further challenge of a July deadline--my best friends have been known to call me the "great procrastinator," but in this case the cause for delay was the unexpected difficulty of the task.

It all began about 15 years ago when I bought my beautiful home grounds in Little Compton, RI. When my father before me became a country gentleman, he had chosen cows--but he was only 50 miles out--although I dearly love cows I am 200 miles from the metropolis which required weekly visits and besides I had not attained the bracket which would have enabled me to maintain farmers, tractor drivers and milkmen. I needed something that could pretty much take care of itself. The solution to my georgic quest was given by an advertisement in a Sunday N.Y. Times from Walter Kolaga of the old Mayfair Nursery (now discontinued) in Nichols, upstate New York. In a striking display he offered dwarf conifers--of which I had not previously heard; and he offered also companion plants, which were then the other way around to present purposes: azaleas and small rhododendrons, among others, to go with dwarf conifers. And so, from the very beginning, I was indoctrinated by the idea that azaleas and rhododendrons go with dwarf conifers.

At that time there was no book readily available in the U.S. on dwarf conifers--but having gone through Mr. Kolaga's rather extensive stock of dwarf forms quite quickly--I was avid for more--and knew not where to turn. A visit to England on business and a visit to a second hand book shop there, which was pure chance, brought forth a used copy of Humphrey J. Welch's Dwarf Conifers A Complete Guide, 1966, and the rest is history. To this day I find the book so fascinating that I have never been able to understand how anyone could have parted with it to a used book shop. As a result I made the acquaintance of Mr. Welch himself, and through his good offices with the leading dwarf conifer specialists in the United States. When in Devizes (he has retired now) Mr. Welch was a purist and would allow nothing but conifers on his place, but I noted that the American specialists that I met grew azaleas and the dwarfer forms of rhododendrons. And so, from the very beginning, both in theory and in practice, it seemed meet and proper to grow azaleas (learning by the way which ones were extreme rabbit bait) and rhododendrons such as impeditum and its cohorts along with my dwarf conifers. I might drop in here that the lapponicums are not only good because they are small and tight but also because with proper planting, mainly in full sun, and copious watering, some of them can be induced to go on flowering nearly all summer. Right now at the end of July I can report my microleucum, a neat plant about 6 inches tall, in 1/4 to 1/3 full bloom.

Where then is the difficulty in completing this article? A picture is worth a thousand words; why can't I walk out my front door, trusty camera in hand, and find a suitable picture to illustrate their natural companionship? And I could not.¹ I searched not only in my own home grounds, but also in my favorite horticultural institution--the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, which is rich in azaleas and in dwarf conifers--with similar lack of results. I was almost ready to admit defeat, and throw in the sponge to your editor. It was only late this spring on another trip to England and a visit to a private estate there that I found the sought-for juxtapositions quite unexpectedly. And since I was there for an entirely different purpose, all I could do was to take two hasty shots at the end of a roll of film, one of which did not turn out so well but will have to do--for, after further thought, I have come to the conclusion that they give the answer to the problem. And, of course, it lies in the widely different rhythms of growth of the two classes of plants.

You can get a good display of flowers from an azalea in three to four years, but to get some kind of showing from a dwarf conifer (they come in an array of ultimate sizes) takes up to ten years and in the case of extreme dwarfs twenty to twenty-five years. In theory again, dwarf conifers with their different colors of green, as well as blue and yellow, in their varied compact forms can provide a wonderful background for azaleas. And the dwarfer forms, which come in the same wide range of colors, textures and shapes, can serve as accent plants in and among azaleas, or in carefully selected groups of two or three they can provide unique points of interest in the foreground. But in practice, this is most difficult to carry out, and the formation of an attractive grouping can take many years, and trial and error can appreciably extend the time. Full grown specimens of dwarf conifers, can, of course, be found, if you search hard enough but they are rare and appropriately expensive. And, whereas transplanting azaleas can be easy, shifting dwarf conifers with any age on them can be extremely risky.

Your editor requested that I give sources for dwarf conifers; I am suggesting that beginning enthusiasts try looking at my own newsletter Dwarf Conifer Notes, where discoverers of new conifer forms are beginning to give notices of their finds. There is also an occasional heading of "Catalogues Received" for addresses of likely sources. Since Dwarf Conifer Notes is distributed free for

¹There was a ground-hugging azalea, bought many years ago from Joel Spingarn, the leading American dwarf conifer specialist, under the name "azalea obtusum japonicum" that was in perfect scale with a nearby, particularly dense form of Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Forsteckensis' acquired directly from Mr. Welch. But for the first time the azalea died back by about half this winter and failed to bloom this spring (now it is dead) thus depriving me of a picture of my one good planting for the purpose of this note. The azalea was about 5 inches high by about 16 inches across; the 'Forsteckensis' is about 6 inches high by about 12 inches across, both in something over ten years.



This view taken into the light in late afternoon shows a prostrate spruce projecting out over the grass. If this is the plant I think it is, it is extremely slow-growing, and it also must have required twenty-five years or more to achieve its present size and effectiveness alongside the low growing azaleas.

Looking back now to the visit, I would guess this border was at least a quarter of a mile long though I failed to ask, and the combinations of dwarf conifers, evergreen, and low-growing azaleas was extremely effective, and well worth waiting for. They were backed by an extraordinary profusion of deciduous azaleas in all conceivable shades of orange and red, white and yellow, still pretty much in bloom at the end of May.



A good grouping of dwarf conifers and azaleas seen by chance in an English garden, on an estate with an extraordinary collection of rhododendrons, azaleas (claims to have all known varieties of deciduous azaleas) and dwarf conifers. I would guess the dome-shaped spruce in the center of the picture is at least twenty-five years old.

Dwarf Conifers as Companion Plants for Azaleas (continued)

the asking, I do not feel that it is taking unfair or commercial advantage to mention it here. I like to think of the acquisition of dwarf conifers as a continuing process of search and discovery--culminating from visits to arboreta (there is a fine collection of dwarf conifers in the U.S. National Arboretum for residents of the Washington, DC area to explore), nurseries and private collections.

In conclusion, I am offering a picture of a planting that I have just made in a new raised bed. The bed is over 100 feet long, and I have vowed that it will be carefully planted for effect with select combinations of dwarf conifers and azaleas. Up until now the collection of dwarf conifers has been a furious pursuit of rare forms with little thought to design. In the past year or two



Dwarf Conifers as Companion Plants for Azaleas (continued)

I have begun to collect variations of kiusianum, a species azalea, and am now up to 35-40 supposedly different ones. They have been planted along the bed just in front of the back stone wall where they are supposed to provide a background for choice, truly dwarf conifers (as well as providing semi-shade for auriculas--another mania of mine). Kiusianums, I find, bloom the first year from planting as rooted cuttings, though being slow-growing it will probably be three or four years more before they give a truly floriferous account of themselves. And it will probably take considerably longer to determine which are the dwarfs, at least in my conditions. Just in front of the kiusianum in the picture, which is called 'Tatsula,' (since it bloomed while I was away I do not know what color it is), I have planted a rooted cutting of Tsuga canadensis 'Horsford,' one of the genuine dwarf forms with an annual growth well below an inch; it is on the left in the picture. On the right is a rooted cutting of Juniperus communis 'echiniformis,' one of the classic dwarf conifers, a tight, prickly, bun-formed juniper with an annual growth rate not much more than the hemlock. In the middle is a Pinus strobus witch's broom seedling from the Arnold Arboretum, a

bit of an unknown quantity, but it should give a tight bun. They will all three be different shades of green, with the Juniper shading off to a bluish or grayish green. Only time will tell if the dwarf conifers, any or all three, will catch up in scale with the azalea, or if the azalea will wait for them, or if all together they will make an attractive grouping. I will be making similar experiments along the length of the bed; and they will enable me to continue the search for new *kiusianum* forms (I really think my dear departed "obtusum japonicum" was also a *kiusianum*). (If the raised bed was a bit wider I might be tempted to try some of the low growing Satsuki forms.) And of course I will continue trying to find new dwarf conifer forms that might fit in. And here we come to the payoff; the use of dwarf conifers in association with azaleas surely requires a long term commitment to trial and error. The research can provide much pleasure. The results, as indicated by the pictures of the English garden, can give substantial satisfaction.

Finally, instead of issuing a clarion call for enthusiasts to start busily planting dwarf conifers and azaleas helter-skelter, I have been constrained to emphasize the problems. I was a bit sanguine about my ability to knock out this article with speed; instead it required some considerable thought and also some travel to clarify my own ideas. In theory they are natural companions. In practice, there are serious difficulties in acquiring just the right plants for the desired effects and then you have to wait; but I like to think that the striving for these effects constitutes one of the higher, if more difficult, forms of gardening.

Creating an Azalea Garden in a Hostile Area (continued)

A number of people grew a few azaleas in their dooryards, but their plants were generally greenhouse pot plants removed from the house in the spring. Since a few varieties were being successfully grown on a small scale, maybe, we thought, by studying their needs and trying to fill them, we might be successful, not every-time, but enough to make it worthwhile. It was worth a try.

DRAINAGE & SOIL - We felt that drainage and planting soil were the first problems to be conquered. In heavy, tight prairie soil how best could one obtain sharp drainage? The answer was to make all planting beds raised above the surrounding area 10 to 12". These raised beds were filled with a loose humus mixture as close to peat moss as financially possible. We settled on a bed of rotted pecan shells, some sand and just enough peat moss to give the plants an easy out into the mixture. The pecan shells are readily available from local shelling plants. Sometimes salt is used to soften the hard shell, so to avoid any salt damage, shells are stock-piled for from three to five years. This time lapse has the added advantage of helping decompose the shells. These shells also help provide the necessary acidity for successful growth. The beds are surrounded with large loosely laid rocks, blending the beds into the natural hillside and holding the soil mixture in the beds. (We are located between the limestone and sandstone area. The soil in the park is basically sandstone with the pH of 6.5. Pecans do a wonderful job for the proper pH of 4.5 but are used also to provide sharp drainage needed for our heavy spring rains. A.C.J., 21/7/82.)

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MOISTURE - The next most important factor was moisture, enough to provide a cool moist soil to raise the humidity and lower the temperature. Azaleas have a shallow root system and are very sensitive to drought so provisions had to be made for summer watering. We solved the problem by putting spray heads on 8' to 10' poles, giving us a gentle rain-like watering. This provided a moist atmosphere, lowered the temperature and gave the plants the necessary soil moisture. The raised bed prevented the roots from standing in water, sure death. The watering was often done all night and repeated whenever the soil one inch below the top felt either hot or dry.

EXPOSURE - Much has been written about the necessity for planting azaleas on the north or east side of a building or planting them where they have high shade, never planting them on the south or west side of a building or in the full sun. We found that this is overrated. Our experience was that, provided you give the plants proper soil and moisture, they will grow anywhere. Those in the sun have better color, but fade much more quickly than those in the shade of trees or building. The plants grow equally well, sun or shade.

PLANTING - The best time to plant azaleas here in Muskogee is from early spring through the blooming period and up to the middle of June. After the fall rains start, azaleas can again be planted until freezing weather. Planting during blooming period certainly enables one to blend color better and to select the color desired.

FERTILIZERS - We have never found it necessary to add fertilizer to our planting medium. We have added iron chelates when yellowing of leaves from chlorosis made it necessary. Were fertilizers felt necessary because of poor growth or poor foliage color, a standard prepared azalea fertilizer might be used. Let me caution that I strongly feel more azaleas are killed from over-fertilizing or fertilizing too late in the season than almost any other factor, all other things being satisfactory.

Creating an Azalea Garden in a Hostile Area (continued)

ACIDITY - The problem of obtaining a soil with a pH of 4.5 to 5.5 seems to be solved with well-rotted pecan shells, sand and peat moss mixture.

HARDINESS - During the thirty years that we have been growing azaleas in our park, nature has been almost always kind. There have been several times when late frosts have browned early blooms or buds but did no plant damage, even to the more tender Southern Indicas. I recall one year when the Formosa was partly buried under 12" of snow. The only part of the plant to bloom was that covered with the snow, but the plant was not damaged and today stands 8' high and as wide.

The winter of 1973-74 was a different story. We had an extremely mild season with many January and February days 69 degrees and above. By the middle of March buds on early azaleas were showing color. Although no early growth was evident on the bulk of the azaleas, we felt that the sap was ready to flow. Then Bang! On March 17th, 18th, and 19th the temperature dropped to 17 degrees with even daytime temperature not reaching 30 degrees. This dramatic change resulted in early bud and bloom damage, but even more serious was the bark damage done at the ground level, in many cases completely girdling the stem. We were prepared for a sad azalea season and sent out word that our loss was great - possibly almost half of our plantings. Suggestions from our Mobile friends were no fertilization, cover the damaged bark with moist mulch and water freely. All of this we did as much as possible. The surprising thing was that the plants, where the bud was not damaged, bloomed as usual and then after blooming, many died. The resultant loss was approximately 4,000 plants.

We would like to be able to list those varieties that didn't survive, but we can find no pattern to work from. Neighboring plants in large beds of the same variety responded differently: one died, one looked sick with maybe one branch left living, and one bloomed and grew as though nothing had happened.

Of all the types of azaleas, Glenn Dale appeared to suffer the least. Next was the Kurume, on down to Back Acres and Satsukis. The last two appeared to suffer the most, not with loss of whole plants, but with many stems killed to the ground. Fortunately, in many cases new growth appeared below the frozen damage so the plants will eventually replace themselves. It was interesting that the age of the plant was not a decisive factor; some of the oldest plants suffered like the young ones.

(Winters are no special problem with us. It is the early spring and late frost that get us. In 1979-80 everything was wonderful and the azaleas started off in an ideal situation. We generally do some winter watering, not enough to encourage early growth but enough to protect life.

Winter of 1981-82 was again ideal but more winter watering was necessary. There was a late frost but the turning on of the sprinkler system and the washing off of the frost saved the buds. A couple of times we used smudge pots. A.C.J. 21/7/82.)

Creating an Azalea Garden in a Hostile Area (continued)

AZALEAS IN GENERAL - Azaleas are now all grouped together as one series of the overall Rhododendron genus. However, there are now between seventy and eighty species of azalea and several thousand varieties to give color, contrast, long season of bloom and hardiness. One of our early problems was finding sources for different varieties. Now that we're in contact with many good growers and breeders, we know that a better white than 'Snow' and a better pink than 'Coral Bells' are available. Let's put variety in our planting.

HYBRID GROUPS GROWING IN HONOR HEIGHTS PARK:

Kurume - Currently there are 61 varieties of Kurume growing in our park, from 'Addy Wery' (Note: Lee lists 'Addy Wery' as an Ouden hybrid) to 'Wards Ruby.' They all respond equally to our type of treatment. Selection should be made on color and type of bloom desired. On the bottom of the list would be 'Snow' because its blooms do not fall clean, and 'Coral Bells' for undependable bloom. A better white would be 'Hime-Kagami' and, for pink, 'May Glory.' (Note: Lee lists 'May Glory' as the product of a cross between a Sander hybrid seedling and the Kurume 'Hi-No-Mayo'.)

Kaempferi - The Kaempferi Hybrids are an upright growing group of azaleas, many in our park being over 6 feet high. They are hardier than Kurume and generally bloom later. There are thirteen varieties growing in Honor Heights Park. The white of 'Annamaria,' the pink of 'Betty' and the red of 'Holland Red' all do well with us.

Pericat - We grow thirteen varieties of Pericats covering the full range of color: white 'Gardenia Supreme,' pink 'Hamptom Beauty' and red 'Hiawatha.'

Feldyk - This Dutch hybrid group was originally developed as a hardier evergreen azalea with larger flowers. The flowers range from two to two and a half inches across. All are late mid-season bloomers. Plants appear to be hardy in this area. We have four varieties of Feldyk in our park; all are tall and open in growth. I believe the white of 'Palestrina' (syn. Wilhelmina Vuyk) is the best. (Note: Lee lists 'Palestrina' as a Vuyk hybrid, a group related to Feldyks, also of Dutch origin.)

Glenn Dales - This is the largest group of evergreen azaleas available to us in eastern Oklahoma. Our selection contains most of those available to us from commercial channels, providing a total of just over three hundred. Our plants are from nine to twenty-seven years old; they cover the complete color range and season of bloom of the evergreen azaleas, from April through May and early June. Date of bloom is much governed by temperature, moisture and shade. For example during the past ten years, 'Day Spring's' peak bloom has been any time between March 23 and April 19, but it still is one of our earliest to bloom.

Thoas that we like best by color and season are:

Early April:

White -- Day Spring, Festive
Orange Red -- Ballet Girl
Red -- Wildfire, Trouper
Pink -- Modesty, Morning Star
Lavender -- Seneca

Mid April:

White -- Glacier
Orange Red -- Picador, Katinka
Red -- Red Bird, Trouper
Pink -- Illusion
Lavender -- Zulu

Late April:

White -- Treasure, Angela Place
Orange Red -- Buccaneer, Commodore, Scout
Red -- Galathea, Beacon
Pink -- Fashion, Abbot
Lavender -- Sambo, Nocturne

Early May:

White -- Driven Snow, Helen Close
Orange Red -- Copperman, Tanager
Red -- Pearl Bradford
Pink -- Crinoline, Peerless
Lavender -- Chanticleer

Mid May:

White -- Cadenza, Moonbeam, Lyric
Red -- Aztec, Darkness
Pink -- Pink Star, Cremona, Fountain
Lavender -- Gawain
Salmon -- Sagittarius

Gable - There are thirty varieties in our park. Selection by color would be:

Purple -- Herbert
Lavender -- Corsage
Pink -- Jessie Coover
Red -- Campfire
Red Orange -- Stewartstonian
White -- Rose Greeley
Magenta -- LaRoche

Chisolm-Merritt - There are seven varieties in the park. None is outstanding.

Satsuki - We have 52 varieties. Many suffered loss of stems during the 1974 freeze. Most of them rejuvenated themselves from below the split bark. From those that survived, I would select:

Gumpo -- White, pink, rose
Heiwa -- White with splotches of pink
Wakamatsu -- White with a pink wash
Wakabisu -- Light salmon
Eikan -- Pale rose pink
Eikwan -- Pink with white edge (NOTE: Lee lists Eikan and Eikwan as synonymous, and notes that the clone is extremely variable.)
Gunrei -- White with pink wash

All of the above, except Wakabisu, are excellent in tubs or planter boxes.

Back Acres - There are thirty-five varieties in our park. Like the Satsukis, they suffered much bark damage in 1974. Even years later they continued to show die-back.

The blooms don't provide much strong color. The exception with us is the variety 'Red Slippers', a fire house red.

Southern Indicas - We have a few of them growing more or less as trial plants and to widen the azalea field. Most were lost in the freeze of 1974. The following remain:

Formosa	Lawsal (syn. Pride of Summerville)
Jennifer Lynn	Kate Arendall
Judge Solomon	Mrs. G.G. Gerbing
Pride of Mobile	Madam Dominique Vervaene
President Claeys	Perfection

Pride of Dorking

Ryuku - Ryukus are hardy in this area. Those in our collection include:

Delaware Valley White (syn. Mucronatum)
Ledifolia Alba (syn. Mucronatum)
Sekidera

Sawada - Mr. Sawada of Overlook Nursery, Mobile, Alabama introduced his first azalea, 'Gulf Pride', in 1927. He has grown many millions of azaleas since then seeking a better color, form, and hardiness, chiefly in Kurumes. From some 30,000 seedlings, just four have been named and we have two of them in our garden:

El Frida

Gloria

Macrantha - A low spreading dense very late azalea with single 2" scarlet red and violet red hardy flowers, that bloom off and on during early summer months.

Orange

Ovata

Red

USDA (syn. Yerkes-Pryor) - There are sixteen in our collection. Some of the better ones are:

White -- Casablanca, H.H. Hume
Pink -- Guy Yerkes, Rose Banner
Red -- Carillon
Lavender -- Eureka

Robin Hill - We haven't had Robin Hills long enough to give a complete evaluation on their merit, but they appear to fill a void because they have a long blooming period and large flowers. We have 11 varieties. All need further study.

Pink -- Gwenda, U-17-3
White -- Lady Robin, Mrs. Villars, Sara Holden
Red -- Mrs. Updike, Nancy of Robin Hill, Early Beni

Greenwood Hybrids - Our stock came from Island Garden Nurseries in Eugene, Oregon. We have had them about ten years and they have responded well to our growing conditions. They are supposed to be hardy to zero. With us they took 7 degrees below zero during the winter of '76 - '77.

Pink -- Dolores, Linda, Mona Lisa, Puff Pink
Red -- Red Feather, Star Ruby, Torchlight
Orange -- Greenwood Orange
White -- Sleigh Bells
Orchid -- Greenwood Orchid, Jan, Katie

Linwood Hardies - Several have appeared quite hardy here and in Oklahoma City:

Salmon Pink -- Blush, Salmon Spray
Violet Red -- Cerise
Pink -- Dark Pink, Light Pink
Red -- Dr. Curtis Alderfer
Orange -- Orange
White -- White

Knap Hill - We grow, successfully:

Red Orange -- Copper Cloud

Exbury - There are ten varieties in our park covering the complete color range. We have found them difficult to handle. They will not set buds in the shade, and the foliage burns in the sun in our climate, so we settled on early morning sun with noon and afternoon shade. Thus relocated, we have got good bloom quantity, color and size but no fall foliage color.

The following are found in our parks:

Red Orange -- Brazil, Tunis, Firefly
Yellow -- Brightstraw, Princess Royal, Golden Peace
Pink -- Cecile, Strawberry Ice
Red -- Leo (Evergreen) (NOTE: Possibly a Leo Kelly, a Knap Hill)
Fire Ball (NOTE: Not Identifiable)
Orange -- Gibraltar
White -- White Swan

Deciduous Species - In addition to the above azaleas there are a number of species both native American and Oriental to be seen in the park. A great many of them have served as breeding stock for hybrid varieties now on the market. Also, many are valuable in themselves, either for their woodland character or fragrance.

White -- alabamense, canescens, japonicum, schlippenbachii (white)
Yellow -- austrium, flavum (syn. ponticum), mollis, calendulaceum
Red Orange -- bakeri, prunifolium
Pink -- prinophyllum (syn. roseum), schlippenbachii
Violet Red -- roseum

Miscellaneous - The following azaleas are classed as miscellaneous because they don't fall into any of the other classes. We have eight (8) varieties of this type. The following do especially well with us.

Lavender -- poukhanense, Pennington Purple
Orange -- Judd
White -- Pennington White, Martin's White

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THE GLENN DALE PROJECT

The ASA's offer to restore and then augment what still exists of B.Y. Morrison's original planting of Glenn Dale azaleas at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Introduction Station has been accepted by the USDA.

The ASA visualizes this project as a protection operation: building and then preserving a collection of the worthy cultivars of Morrison and other foremost azalea hybridists, maintaining them in a pollen and cutting bank, and to rescue them from the oblivion into which so many of the Beltsville Dwarfs and even some of the Glenn Dales and other hybrid groups, have vanished. The USDA supports these objectives, and sees the project also as a site for studies in the propagation of woody ornamentals and for germ plasm distribution.

The Beltsville (MD) area selected is a favorable planting site, and what's almost more important, it's protected. Morrison wrote this when he selected it back in the '30s: "The terrain on which the plants were set is gently rolling.

The Glenn Dale Project (continued)

The soil is light, well drained, and quite dry in the higher parts, to uniformly moist in the lower parts. Typical acid soil plants of the region grow naturally well on the site, which was a rather open wood. Some trees were removed before the planting but enough were left to provide a thin, high deciduous shade..."

No longer. Morrison's plantings are neglected today, and badly overgrown, and tags are missing.

Roger Brown, President of the Ben Morrison chapter, has taken the lead in getting the project moving, although he emphasizes that it cannot be a one-chapter project--there must be a multi-chapter contribution: donation of plants and donation of funds--if the project is to achieve its worthy potential.

For right now, Brown has called for a work party for 16 October, the first of a series to clean up the five-acre area, root out saplings, cut back old plants and begin the process of identification. Volunteers should contact Brown on 301-577-7509.

Thus far, 50 varieties of Glenn Dales have been donated by Frank White (Ben Morrison chapter), and 75 numbered Back Acres have been given by Dewey Garrett (Ralph W. Pennington chapter) and by George Harding (Brookside Gardens chapter) most of which Harding took as cuttings from the garden of Mrs. Corinne Murrah in Memphis in 1974.

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BOG'S APPRECIATION TO BOB STEWART

The Board of Governors of ASA conveyed to Bob Stewart, via President Jerry Goodman, the following letter of appreciation:

Robert B. Stewart
7107 Oriole Avenue
Springfield, VA 22150

14 July 1982

Dear Bob:

The Board of Governors, Azalea Society of America, by unanimous vote, has asked me to convey their appreciation for your intensive and imaginative support of ASA, as a member, in Flora Fest III. The bamboo facade which you designed and constructed was truly outstanding. It was highly appropriate, enhancing our azalea garden. Obviously the facade was the product of many days of work in advance of and during setup.

I wish to add my personal thanks for your part in the project.

Jerry Goodman
President, ASA

O D D S A N D E N D S

Next Issue:

In the next issue of The Azalean, we intend to continue our account of hybrid groups of azaleas with an article by William Guttormsen, of Canby, Oregon, concerning the Greenwood hybrids, which Mr. Guttormsen originated.

Correction:

Charles Evans (Brookside Gardens chapter) has corrected us on the parentage of the azalea 'Ben Morrison.' We had listed (in Volume IV, No. 2 of The Azalean) one parent as 'Adzama-no-Hana.' It should be 'Adzuma-no-Hana,' a Satsuki imported by the Chugai Nursery Company and introduced as PI 127653 by the plant introduction section in 1938, says Evans.