



## **Azalea Chapter JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER**

The Annual Cutting Party will be held at Joe and Donna Coleman's, 7997 Pleasant Hill Road, Lithonia, GA 30058, starting around 10:00 a.m. or so, on Saturday, June 26. Be sure to bring zip-lock bags to put your cuttings in along with a marking pen to identify the cuttings after you get back home. Bring a pair of shears or a sharp knife for the cutting. A folding chair and a cooler would be a good idea. If you make good bug bait, a repellent is advised. Joe also says this is a good year for ticks, so keep that in mind as you will be brushing up against a lot of bushes. As the date is a little late for native azalea cuttings, your primary choices will be evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons.

### **Azalea Chapter Field Trip Report, April 25, 2010 Andrews/Kohli Gardens**

Chapter members journeyed first to the extensive garden of Charlie and Mardi Andrews in Cumming. The Andrews garden consists of several acres, located adjacent to a tranquil stream. Around the Andrews home are various deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs. A path leading away from the home to areas near the stream are accented with planting of numerous native azaleas and other native shrubs. Near the center of this part of the garden is a neat small building, which houses a well for watering the extensive plantings. One attractive grouping of evergreen azaleas in bloom was James Harris' dark red Midnight Flare, an ARS 2010 azalea of the year, a particular favorite of the Andrews. One of Mardi's favorite plants is hellebores, which were seen in large numbers complementing the numerous plantings. Several of the Breedlove azaleas were seen in full bloom. Charlie documented these special azaleas in a CD that he has shared with chapter members. Indeed timing for this lovely garden visit was excellent as the garden was truly beautiful. The Andrews treated visitors with lemonade and cookies at the conclusion of the garden viewing.

Following the Andrews garden visit, members drove to Dahlonega to visit the garden of John and Teddy Kohli. The Kohlis open their garden to friends and neighbors annually in an "Azalea Walk." Our visit occurred at the same time as this year's event. The Kohli residence is located in a country club, just south of Dahlonega. Several years ago they designed the home and garden and moved large quantities of plants and stones from their previous residence in Cumming. One cannot help but be amazed at the size and quantity of stones used in constructing the garden. John detailed how they were able to move such massive, impressive boulders on large trailers. The large garden is located at the front of the Kohli home. A tower, featuring a sitting room for reading and viewing the garden is an attractive feature. The bloom set at the time of the tour was outstanding and the Kohli garden is truly a place of beauty. Over the years John has collected a large quantity of attractive azaleas. Visitors were served water and wine while viewing the garden.

The chapter is indeed grateful to these two families for their generosity if allowing us to visit their lovely homes and gardens. Both of these fine gardens are the result of work and love of rhododendrons by dedicated gardeners who do our chapter proud.

### **Azalea Chapter Field Trip Report, May 8, 2010 Hamilton Gardens**

On May 8, fourteen chapter members ventured to Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens in Hiawassee adjacent to the North Georgia Fairgrounds. Mr. Hamilton, a former Azalea Chapter member, arranged the development of this lovely garden on the shores of Lake Chatgoue. The pathways wind through plants of what Joe Coleman indicated were the iron clad rhododendrons that do so well in our area. Many of the plants were over thirty years old and reached heights of 30+ feet in height. Numerous flame azaleas, R. calendulaceum as well as some Exbury azaleas were in bloom. Trilliums of various species grow throughout the Garden. While the garden is well designed, much of the signage that identified the various cultivars was missing. However with such experts as Cecil Altman and Joe Coleman present, we were able to identify most of the cultivars. One truly outstanding group of plants, which Cecil identified as Cynthia, featured trusses of a foot across with individual flowers over 3 inches wide. Many of the R. calendulaceum, flame azaleas exhibited brilliant orange coloration. Barb Bloodworth was given a truss of a nice fragrant white rhododendron that Joe identified.

At the conclusion of the garden tour, the group went to a local restaurant for lunch. Chapter member Larry Smith and his wife Fran, who live in Hiawassee, were present for the garden tour and luncheon. Larry had several specimens of an azalea that he had bred (Exbury Gibraltar x yellow R. calendulaceum) These were raffled to those attending. Thanks to Larry for this fine gesture.

After lunch, eight members drove to the home and nursery of chapter member Coyle Justice, who lives near Dillard, GA (actually in NC). Much of Coyle's nursery has been turned over to his daughter-in-law, Debbie Justice. They had a good selection of broadleaf rhododendrons, native azaleas and other plants for sale. The plants were a good size and priced right. Members purchased several plants. However the outstanding feature of this part of the field trip was the azaleas, rhododendron and other plants around the Justice home. One area included yellow lady slippers in bloom amongst numerous rhododendrons and azaleas. A particularly attractive native azalea, white with bright yellow petal was identified by Coyle as R. occidentale, the famous west coast azalea that is virtually impossible to grow here. Another outstanding feature were two fairly large brilliant dark red rhododendrons in his front yard. More of our members should take advantage of the nursery. The full name and address: Big Creek Nursery, 464 Big Creek Road, Otto, NC 28763 Phone: 706-746-2318 Debbie's e-mail: mickeyjustice@windstream.net

Special thanks to Ken Gohring for these detailed field trip reports.

We are pleased to report that we now have a full slate of officers for the coming year.

President: Hugh Denny

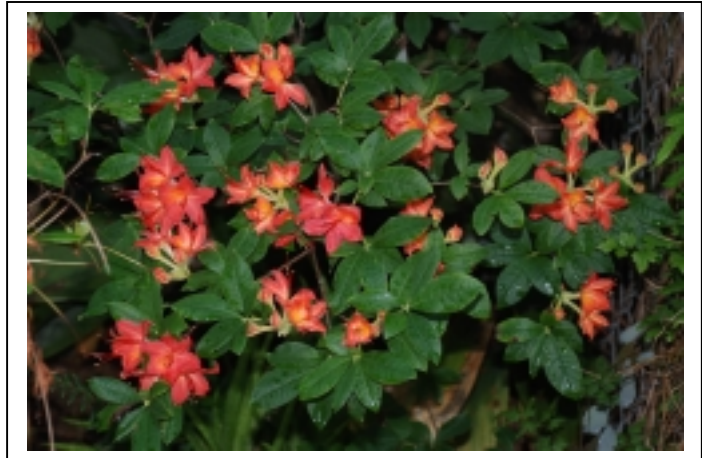
Vice President: Charlie Andrews

Secretary: Ken Gohring

Treasurer: Larry Adams  
Bob Booth 2 year terms

Board Members: 1 year term to fill out Larry's term:  
Bob Schlinder Dale Pass Joe Coleman

Finally blooming in mid-June after 8 years – had about given up hope that it would ever bloom. It was destined for the compost pile. Glad I waited one more year!



**Sunlight – Polly Hill *bakeri/cumberlandense***

These were available for sale at this year's Plant Sale. Bought two – the other one bloomed white with a deep, large yellow blotch. The yellow is a bit on the pale side, but yellow nonetheless.



**Yellow Arborens Seedling – Available from  
East Fork Nursery, Sevierville, TN**