

## **Handout notes for the Native Azalea Study Group, slightly rev 11/10/2013**

### **Member List (as of 10/31/2013)**

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### **Native Azalea Study Group Possible Project Types**

Data Collection Methodology/Standards  
Documentation Methodology  
Factual Research  
Literature Search  
Accumulation of Pertinent Literature  
Field/Garden Observations  
Propagation Methods  
Interviews/Surveys  
University Studies  
Identification Guides  
Articles  
Pamphlets  
Programs/Expert Speakers  
Seminars/Conferences

# Native Azalea Study Group

## Project Ideas

Many of these ideas need to be broken into multiple, limited projects. A single project should have specific objectives. In general, any multi-year project should be still be limited to a small set of objectives (e.g., bloom times).

1. Define a digital image methodology for field research.
2. Identify pertinent data to be collected from field observations.
3. Create a database for morphological data collection.
4. Who are the experts in various areas of native azalea knowledge?
5. Collect pertinent native azalea knowledge references.
6. What species do our gardeners grow? Which are poor performers? Great performers?
7. Analyze the *canescens*–*periclymenoides*–*prinophyllum* complex.
8. Analyze the large *viscosum* complex.
9. Should the pink tetraploid of the Florida panhandle be a new species?
10. Is winter bud analysis useful in identification?
11. Can *calendulaceum* be pink?
12. What affects flower color shifts and color changes as corollas mature?
13. How conflicting are published species identifications and keys? What is incorrect?
14. Develop a complete identification, description, and comparison guide, written in as simple terms as possible.
15. Document bloom times over multiple years, using consistent sets of plants.
16. In collections and natural populations, what are the earliest and latest specimens of each species to bloom?
17. What is the correct distribution of the various species?
18. Were there ever native *calendulaceum* in New York?
19. What is the southern range of *vaseyi*?
20. What is the range of *flammeum*?
21. What is the evidence of native azaleas in the outlying states of Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio?
22. Are *prunifolium* in other canyons near Providence Canyon?
23. Other than Providence Canyon, where are *prunifolium* found?
24. Where are the various species found in Georgia? This may need to be broken into multiple projects. Need similar sets of projects for other states.
25. Other than Cheaha, where are *cumberlandense* found in Alabama?
26. What are the geographical limits in performance (e.g., hardiness, heat tolerance) for each species?
27. Establish public and private repositories across the country as test gardens, gene pool repositories, and protection of outstanding native azalea clones.
28. Identify outstanding native azalea clones that should be preserved.
29. Where are species sympatric (i.e., where do species overlap in geographic distribution)?
30. What are the specific differences and similarities in habitat among the species and varieties? This can be broken into multiple species-by-species projects.
31. How can one tell a hybrid from a species? Can hybridization be measured?
32. How prevalent are natural hybrids?
33. Investigate natural *calendulaceum* hybrids.

34. At Vogel State Park, can both *calendulaceum* and *cumberlandense* be found? Are there signs of hybridization?
35. Can a native azalea diploid X tetraploid cross produce diploid offspring? triploid offspring? tetraploid offspring?
36. What is the source of the large number of Breedlove triploids?
37. Why is *occidentale* difficult to grow in the east?
38. What varieties and forms below species level are worth noting and propagating?

## **Native Azalea Study Group Project Plan Outline**

Name\*

Description\*

Goal\*

Related Projects\*

Specific Objectives\*

Resources Required\*\*

Budget\*\*

Project Manager

Primary Participants

Deliverables

Data Collection Forms

Tasks

Schedule

\* needed for prioritization

\*\* needed for approval

## **Native Azalea Study Group Organizational Issues**

Membership Requirements

Officers & Leaders (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Asst Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Project Chairs?)

Committees

Dues

Periodic or Ad Hoc Meetings

Project Prioritization & Approval

Communication & Information Dissemination