

# From Laurelwood Gardens to Laurelwood Arboretum

## *Preserving the Knippenberg Legacy*



By Joe Di Giacomo

# From Laurelwood Gardens to Laurelwood Arboretum

## Laurelwood Gardens

John and Dorothy Knippenberg purchased 30 acres of property across from their home on Pines Lake Drive West in the 1940's. The site was developed by them as an active commercial nursery that specialized in rhododendrons and azaleas and became known as Laurelwood Gardens.

Dorothy applied her horticultural skills to hybridizing unique rhododendron and azalea specimens and expanding her collection as well as developing woodland, rock, and display gardens throughout the property.

## Laurelwood Arboretum

In 1960, the Knippenbergs offered to donate the entire thirty acres to the Township of Wayne to create a public park after their deaths. One condition of the agreement was that John and Dorothy could cultivate and maintain Laurelwood without restrictions so long as one of them lives.

After John's death, Dorothy continued to supervise and work in the gardens, and a small grassroots community group formed to support Dorothy in maintaining the property and ensuring its future as a public park. In 2003, this group was formalized as Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

# Laurelwood Gardens

Photo of site that became Laurelwood  
Gardens (Now Laurelwood Arboretum)

Photo by  
George E. Scheller  
Hackettstown, NJ  
1950



## Continuing the Legacy

***“...in 1960 the entire thirty acre garden was presented to the Township of Wayne and will become a public rhododendron park following our lifetime. For this reason we are trying to assemble masses of the hardiest varieties.”*** Statement by Dorothy Knippenberg made to the New York Rhododendron Chapter, February 19, 1964.



# Thousands of Seedlings

***“John Knippenberg is preparing many acres of ground with bulldozers and tractors. He has ...countless thousands of seedlings coming along to plant there. He can carry them through to maturity as Dexter did. He is a friendly fellow, and although he makes mistakes, is bound to learn something in the end, and should come up with many worthwhile hybrids. So, I think I will leave the general hybridizing to him....”*** Stated in a letter from Guy Nearing to Joseph Gable, dated January 7, 1956.



# The Role of Laurelwood Gardens in East Coast Rhododendron Hybridizing

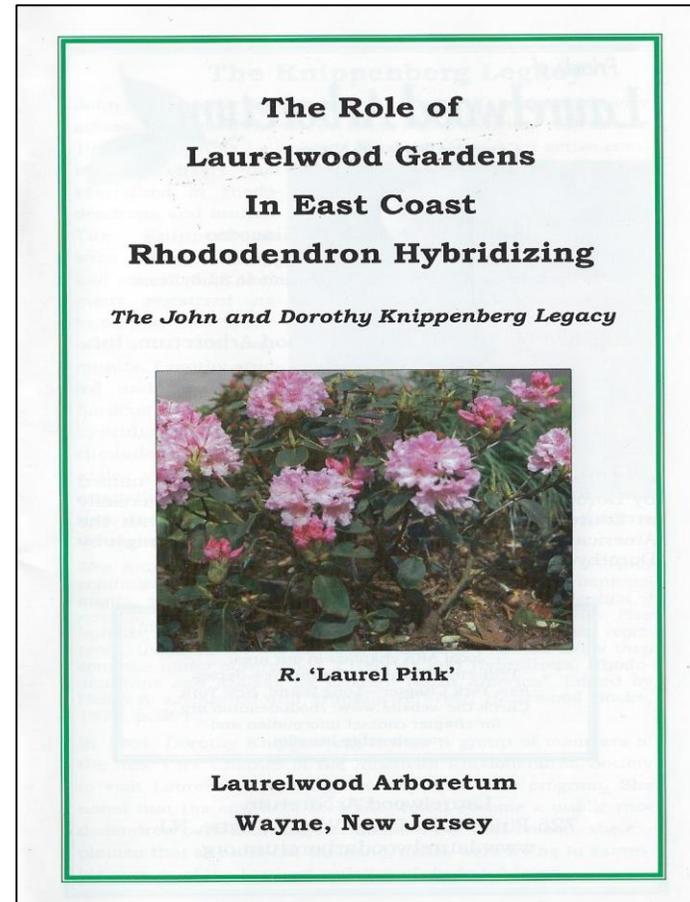
## American Rhododendron Society Endowment Fund Grant Awarded

An Endowment Fund Grant was awarded in 2017 by the American Rhododendron Society to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum to publish a booklet on the role of Laurelwood Gardens and John and Dorothy Knippenberg in East Coast rhododendron hybridizing. Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

\$2,850 – Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum

\$1,000 – Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay,  
New York

\$1,010 – Brueckner Rhododendron Gardens,  
Ontario, Canada



Copies of the booklet are available in the Knippenberg Center for Education and may be viewed on the Laurelwood Arboretum web site.

# Early Rhododendron Hybridizers

## **Connections to Laurelwood Gardens**

Rhododendron hybridizing began in the United States before 1860. Several early East Coast hybridizers had a direct or indirect connection to Laurelwood Gardens and John and Dorothy Knippenberg.

## **Rhododendron Test Garden**

The Knippenbergs maintained a test garden in which they planted cultivars sent to them by hybridizers from all over the country to be subjected to the New Jersey climate and cultivated for East Coast growers.

# The Pioneer

## **Charles O. Dexter (1862-1943)**

One of the first to undertake a massive rhododendron breeding program at his estate in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Between 1925 and 1940, he produced more than 5,000 crosses a year. Although he was a great hybridizer, he was a poor record keeper. It was not until after his death that his work as a hybridizer was recognized. Many of his rooted cuttings were purchased by Dorothy Knippenberg and grown at Laurelwood Gardens. Years after his death, Dorothy was credited with naming several of his hybrids including 'Burgundy Cherry' (pictured) 'Great Eastern' and 'Powder Puff.' Dexter's estate is now operated as the Heritage Museums and Gardens which contain plantings of 125 of his 145 known Dexter cultivars.



**R. 'Burgundy Cherry'**

# Early Hybridizer

## G. Guy Nearing (1890-1986)

Guy Nearing had a strong connection to Laurelwood Gardens. He opened a nursery at Arden, Delaware and quickly became a recognized expert. In 1929, he began to propagate rhododendrons on a large scale at Guyencourt Nurseries in Delaware. Soon thereafter, he started a small nursery in Ridgewood where he grew tens of thousands of plants in an attempt to isolate forms that would be hardy in the NJ climate. In 1947, he moved his nursery to Ramsey after his Ridgewood site was destroyed by a flood. John and Dorothy sent him pollen, and he often sent them the results of his crosses to raise at Laurelwood Gardens. Many of his named hybrids remain in the arboretum today including 'Rochelle' (pictured).



**R. 'Rochelle'**

## Early Hybridizer & Close Friend

**Paul Vossberg (1896-1974)** joined the Westbury Rose Company in 1943 where he perfected a method of successfully rooting cuttings of rhododendron varieties previously difficult or impossible to root. He was a member of the original Dexter Study Committee which was formed to locate and evaluate the many Dexter plants growing in gardens along the eastern seaboard. He became a close friend of the Knippenbergs, and he visited Laurelwood Gardens at least once a year. In 1965, he gave a small 15-inch unnamed hybrid to Dorothy to propagate. She grew the plant to its first flower and named it 'Paul Vossberg' (pictured) and introduced it commercially at Laurelwood Gardens in 1975.



**R. 'Paul Vossberg'**

## Early Hybridizer

**Joseph G. Gable (1886-1972)** produced rhododendrons and azaleas with finer flowers and tougher plants at his nursery in Stewartstown, Pennsylvania. For over 40 years, he experimented with rhododendrons and azaleas trying to raise rare species and create new hybrids. Several of his early creations found their way to Laurelwood Gardens. He named some of his hybrids after family members. His 'Caroline' (pictured) was named for his daughter, Caroline. It was used by Dorothy Knippenberg as a "parent" for her 'Caroline Gem' which she raised at Laurelwood Gardens in 1955. Today, the arboretum is home to many of his rhododendrons and azaleas.



**R. 'Caroline'**

# Long Island Hybridizer

**Nathaniel Hess (1907–2001)** helped to found the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1951 and served as its President from 1957 to 1960. John and Dorothy were active members of the New York Chapter. He introduced many West Coast classic rhododendrons to our cold East Coast climate at his gardens in Sands Point, Long Island. He showed that the tempering effect of the Long Island Sound favored the culture of a large collection of exotic rhododendron varieties. In 1972, he created a new hybrid that he named 'Dorothy Knippenberg' which was registered in 1992 with the American Rhododendron Society.

## **R. 'Dorothy Knippenberg'**

Elepidote. ('Scintillation' seedling, open pollinated). Seed collected (1972), G (1977), N, I (1982), and REG (1992): Nathaniel Hess, Sands Point, NY.

Very fragrant, openly funnel-shaped flowers of heavy substance, with 7 smooth-edged lobes, are 4" across x 2.5" long, white with moderate reddish orange (179C) dorsal spotting. The light green calyx is 0.1" long, and there are no stamens. The ball-shaped truss of 14 flowers is 6.5" wide x 6.5" high. Leaves are elliptic, mucronate (apex) and rounded (base), 5" long x 2.5" wide; moderate yellow green (147B above, 147D below), and glabrous.

The shrub has a spreading, well-branched habit, holds its leaves 2 years, and is very floriferous, blooming mid May. It is 5' high x 5' wide 14 years from seed, and is hardy to at least -5°F.

## Baldsiefen Nursery

**Warren Baldsiefen (1922-1974)** started a nursery in Rochelle Park in 1964, and he soon outgrew its location and he moved his nursery to Paramus before finally settling in Bellvale, NY. The cuttings that became 'Burgundy Cherry' and 'Dexter's Pink Satin' which Dorothy raised at Laurelwood Gardens were purchased from Baldsiefen Nursery in a collection of numbered Dexter rooted cuttings. She purchased hundreds of rooted cuttings from his nursery over the years. Her named hybrid 'Laurel Pink' (pictured) was available for sale at the nursery at one time.



**R. 'Laurel Pink'**

# West Coast Hybridizer & Close Friend

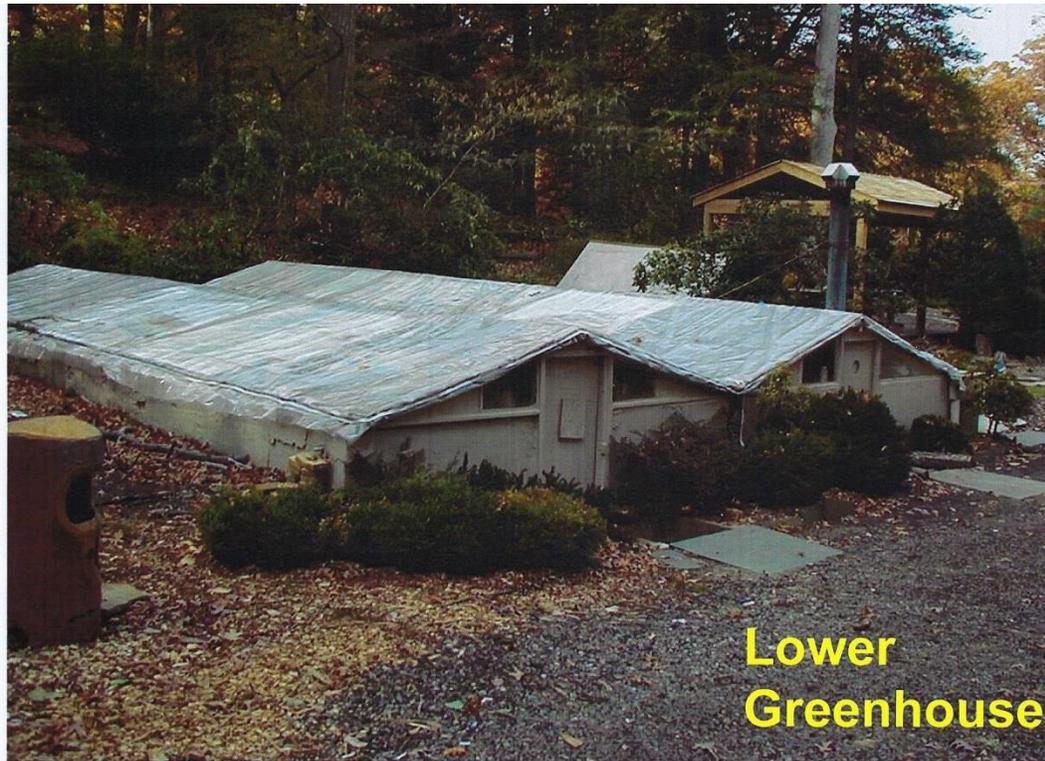
**Ted Van Veen (1916-2003)** took over the management of Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon upon his father's death in 1961. The nursery became one of the largest purveyors of rhododendrons in the nation by the early 1970's. In 1959, John and Dorothy visited the nursery with Paul Vossberg. It was the start of a life-long business relationship and friendship. Over the years, the Knippenberg sold and shipped thousands of cuttings from rhododendrons to Van Veen Nursery. Upon Ted's death, his daughter, Kathy, took over the management of the nursery, and she propagated our new 'Laurelwood Sunset' azalea (pictured) for us. Sadly, Kathy passed away in 2016.



**'Laurelwood Sunset'**

# Rhododendron Propagation Laurelwood Gardens

**Lower Greenhouse**



**Rooting rhododendron cuttings**



Lower greenhouse was demolished in 2012 to make way for the construction of the new Knippenberg Center for Education.

# Rhododendron Propagation Laurelwood Gardens

**Rhododendron cold frames**



**Rhododendron seedlings**



# Rhododendron Propagation Laurelwood Gardens

**'Roseum Elegans' cuttings -1956**



**Seedlings from pollen from Great Britain – Planted February 1956**



# Thousands of Rhododendron Seedlings

***“On a hillside we raised 6,000 Dexter seedlings and are now removing plants as they bloom well and have some unusual trait.”***

Statement by Dorothy Knippenberg to members of the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, February 19, 1964.

***“We raised 4,000 seedlings of ‘LaBar’s White.’ Try raising seeds of this, interesting things happen. The seed was open pollinated, and about 10% were pure white. Our select form was the finest of these seedlings, the largest truss, almost a pure white, buds are pure white too. Only the stamens show a little pink.”***

Statement by Dorothy Knippenberg to members of the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, February 19, 1964.

# Knippenberg Rhododendrons

Dorothy Knippenberg began hybridizing rhododendrons in 1955. Together with her husband, John, they cultivated more than 50 new named rhododendron hybrids.



*AZ 'Carolina Rose'*

# Knippenberg Rhododendrons

[Source: International Rhododendron Registrar, Royal Horticultural Society]

The named hybrids listed below were either hybridized, raised, grown or named by Dorothy and John Knippenberg. The list includes the eight hybrids registered by them with the American Rhododendron Society and the Royal Horticultural Society.

- (r) **'Amber'** R, N
- (r) **'Bayberry'** R, N
- (r) **'Big Mac'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'La Bar's White' (s) × *macabeanum* H: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1955), G: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1968), REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1977) Flowers palegreenish yellow with a dark red blotch.
- (r) **'Big Willy'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'La Bar's White' × *williamsianum* R: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (pre 1985), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg Flowers white.
- (r) **'Bittersweet'** R, N
- (r) **'Blueblood'** R,N
- (r) **'Blush Button'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'C.O.D.' × 'Dexter's Honeydew' R: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (pre 1966), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1966)
- Flowers shaded coral red in bud, opening egyptian buff (407/1).
- (r) **'Burgundy Cherry'** cv. Parentage unknown H: C.O. Dexter (pre 1943), G: C.O. Dexter, N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1974), REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1980) Flowers carmine (21/3) with doge purple (732) at base of throat and in a dorsal blotch.
- (r) **'Buttercup'** R, N
- (r) **'Butterscotch'** R, N
- (r) **'Candleglow'** R, N
- (r) **'Candlelight'** R, N
- (az) **Carolina Rose Group** gp Azaleodendron : *minus* Carolinianum Group (s) × *prinophyllum* H: D.L. Hardgrove (pre 1946), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg Flowers pink (though shade can be variable). Lvs evergreen. Habit varying from open to dense. Essentially looks like an evergreen *prinophyllum*.
- (r) **'Caroline Gem'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : Elizabeth Group × 'Caroline' H: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1955), G: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1966), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1967) Flowers with buds carmine rose (621) opening (621/2) with a slight coral flush.
- (r) **'Carved Ivory'** R, N
- (r) **'Constance'** R, N
- (r) **'Copperside'** R, N
- (r) **'Coral'** R, N
- (r) **'Cranberry'** R, N
- (r) **'Crepe Myrtle'** R,N
-

- (r) **'Dexter's Red Velvet'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Pygmalion' × *haematodes* × 'Wellfleet', exact combination unknown H: C.O. Dexter (pre 1943), G: Scott Arboretum, N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (pre 1972), I: Laurelwood Nursery (pre 1972), REG: Princeton Chapter Study Group (1997) Flowers bright crimson red without a blue undertone, with a dark greyish purple (201A) spotted flare extending from throat to near the margin of the dorsal lobe.
- (r) **'Dexter's Ruby Heart'** N, I
- (r) **'Firepink'** H
- (r) **'Great Eastern'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : probably a subsect. *Fortunea* hybrid H: C.O. Dexter (pre 1943), G: C.O. Dexter, N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, REG: Scott Arboretum (1983) Flowers deep purplish pink , paling to light purplish pink and pale purplish pink toward centre, with four dorsal rays of strong greenish yellow and faint dorsal spotting of brilliant greenish yellow becoming more-or-less solid near the rays.
- (r) **'Hardy Giant'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : *fortunei* × *rex* subsp. *Fictolacteum* H: D.L. Hardgrove, G: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1953), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Laurelwood Gardens (1966), REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1966) Flowers light yellow (10B), with a raspberry-colored blotch.
- (r) **'Ivory Cloud'** H
- (r) **'Jackpot'** H
- (r) **'June Rose'** R
- (r) **'Knee High'** R, N
- (r) **'Laurel Pink'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Boule de Neige' (s) × *catawbiense* × F.C. Puddle Group R: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (pre 1966), REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1966) Flowers neyron rose (623) in bud, opening 623/3.
- (r) **'Laurelwood Snow Bunting'** cv. Lepidote rhododendron : *mucronulatum* (Vossberg's pink selection) × Bric-à-brac Group H: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1960), G: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1963), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, REG: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (1988) Flowers rose madder (23/2) in bud, opening 23/3, fading to white; pistil pink; filaments white, anthers black. Syn: 'Snow Bunting' (First published in Roslyn Nursery cat., 1988)
- (r) **'Mariposa'** H
- (r) **'Maybell'** H
- (r) **'Maywood'** H
- (r) **'Moondrop'** H
- (r) **'Moonflower'** H
- (r) **'New Hope'** H
- (r) **'Our Choice'** H
- (r) **'Paul Vossberg'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : thought to be *maximum* × *thomsonii* H: P.D. Vossberg (1960-1965), G: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg, I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (c 1975), REG: ICRA (1994) Flowers strong red (53B), with a dark garnet red blotch on the dorsal lobe.
- (r) **'Persimmon'** H
- (r) **'Platinum'** H
- (r) **'Powder Puff'** cv. Parentage unknown H: C.O. Dexter (pre 1943), N: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (pre 1978), I: Mrs J.F. Knippenberg (pre 1978) Flowers lavender pink in bud, opening nearly white.
- (r) **'Red Flag'** H
- (r) **'Ripe Peach'** H
- (r) **'Silverside'** H

- (r) **'Splash'** H
- (r) **'Springfield'** H
- (r) **'Springwood Pink'** H
- (r) **'Springwood White'** H
- (r) **'Sterling'** H
- (r) **'Topaz'** H
- (r) **'Topps'** H
- (r) **'Wayne Pink'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : Dexter hybrid (s) × unknown G: J.F. Knippenberg (1953), N: J.F. Knippenberg, I: J.F. Knippenberg, REG: J.F. Knippenberg (1966) Flowers spiraea red.
- (r) **'Wisteria'** H
- (r) **'Yellow Jack'**

- **Legend:**
- (az) = Azaleodendron
- (r) = Rhododendron
- H = Hybridized by
- G = Grown to first flower
- R = Raised by
- N = Named by
- I – Introduced commercially by
- REG = Registered by

# Knippenberg Rhododendrons

*Photos by Dorothy Knippenberg*

**R. 'Laurel Pink'**



**R. 'Hardy Giant'**



# Knippenberg Rhododendrons

*Photos by Dorothy Knippenberg*

**R. 'Big Mac'**



**R. 'Wayne Pink'**



# Knippenberg Rhododendrons

*Photos by Dorothy Knippenberg*

**R. 'Topaz'**



**R. 'Big Willy'**



# Knippenberg Rhododendrons

*Photos by Dorothy Knippenberg*

**R. 'Powder Puff'**



**R. 'Blush Button'**



## 1973 Bronze Medal Award New York Chapter

Dorothy Knippenberg was awarded the 1973 Bronze Medal by the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. The Citation read in part:

*She is a knowledgeable horticulturalist who has encouraged others to see truly the beauty of rhododendrons and to enjoy growing them. Visitors to Laurelwood are inspired by the magnificence of the woodland landscaping, designed, planted and lovingly nurtured by Dorothy. The challenge of hybridizing encouraged numerous crosses and thousands of seedlings resulting in the selection of several new hybrids: 'Carolina Rose,' 'Wayne Pink' and 'Blush Button.'*



## Observations of An International Visitor to Laurelwood Gardens

In 1961, Dietrich Hobbie, one of the most famous German hybridizers, visited the United States to attend the International Rhododendron Conference in Portland, Oregon. After a long train trip from the West Coast, he arrived in New York and set out to visit many East Coast gardens. His observations were published in an article entitled *"Rhododendrons in the USA and Canada."* The article was translated from the German by Alfred Huber and it was republished in the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society in October 1962. This is his comment about Laurelwood Gardens.

The Knippenbergs grew Hobbie hybrids in their test garden.

***"In Wayne, New Jersey, are the Laurelwood Gardens. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Knippenberg, have built up a wonderful rhododendron park in hilly woods between dogwood trees, maples, pines and oaks. Countless rocks and smaller granite stones were excavated. The ice age glaciers had broken them from the Canadian shield and moved them far to the South. Colonies of very pretty lady slippers (Cypripedium acaulis) in rose and yellow hues were blooming under the trees. It took several hours to walk through all the gardens led by the enthusiastic Knippenbergs."***

# Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum was incorporated in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is a volunteer nonprofit conservancy whose mission is to preserve Laurelwood Arboretum as an oasis for the enjoyment of nature and to provide opportunities for environmental awareness through educational programs, community involvement and outreach activities.

After Dorothy Knippenberg's death in 2006, a partnership was formed between Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum and the Township of Wayne. Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum assumed responsibility for maintaining and improving the arboretum's horticultural inheritance. This includes managing designated public funds and Laurelwood's employees and planning a variety of educational programs and activities for the community.

Last October, we registered our record 500<sup>th</sup> member. We have expanded our membership from 350 members in 2015 to 557 members in 2019. Membership dues and donations support our efforts to maintain and operate the arboretum and offer education programs.

Our more than 200 volunteers logged a record 14,000 hours working on projects in the arboretum last year, which represented \$403,656 in value-based dollars using the standard hourly rate assigned to volunteer labor in New Jersey. This amount reflected the benefit that the Township of Wayne and community received from the efforts of our volunteers.

- **Vision**
- To connect people with nature.
- **Core Values**
- **Stewardship** — Commitment to the conservation of this treasured oasis for present and future generations
- **Environmental Education** — Engaging the public through workshops, programs and activities
- **Horticulture** — Pursuing excellence in landscape design and horticultural practices
- **Teamwork** — Realizing our mission through the cooperative efforts of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, Wayne Township officials and employees, community organizations and members of the public.
- **Leadership** — Cultivating emerging leaders.
- **Community** — Promoting involvement through membership, volunteering, events, programs, tours, social media and outreach.
- **Financial Responsibility** — Ensuring the future of Laurelwood Arboretum through effective fiscal management and fundraising initiatives.
- **Organizational Excellence and integrity** — Commitment to the highest standards of professional conduct.

# What is an arboretum?

The word Arboretum comes from the Latin arbor, "tree," and the suffix -ētum, "place," making the meaning "a place of trees."

***"A place where trees and plants are grown in order to be studied or seen by the public." --Merriam Webster Dictionary***

# Plant Propagation Program

Our inaugural efforts with the propagation of plant cuttings three years ago were successful. We propagated 58 cuttings taken from the 'Laurelwood Sunset' evergreen azalea "mother plant" and rooted them in our Educational Greenhouse.

Our propagation committee took 188 cuttings from mature rhododendrons in the arboretum and from private gardens to root them in the Educational Greenhouse.



**R. 'Laurelwood Sunset' cuttings in rooting box**

# Naming of 'Laurelwood Sunset'

Registration of 'Laurelwood Sunset' with the Royal Horticultural Society

Unnamed evergreen azalea hybridized in 1975 by Dr. Al Fitzburgh at his home in Caldwell, NJ. 'Cherokee Chief' selfed.



# Propagation of 'Laurelwood Sunset'

Cuttings from the "mother plant" sent to Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon in 2015 for custom propagation.



New cuttings of 'Laurelwood Sunset' being propagated in the educational greenhouse at Laurelwood Arboretum in June 2017



# Propagation of 'Laurelwood Sunset'

Rooted cuttings arrive at Laurelwood Arboretum from Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon



Rooted azalea cuttings being potted at Laurelwood Arboretum in 2017.



# Education Center and Greenhouse

## Knippenberg Center for Education

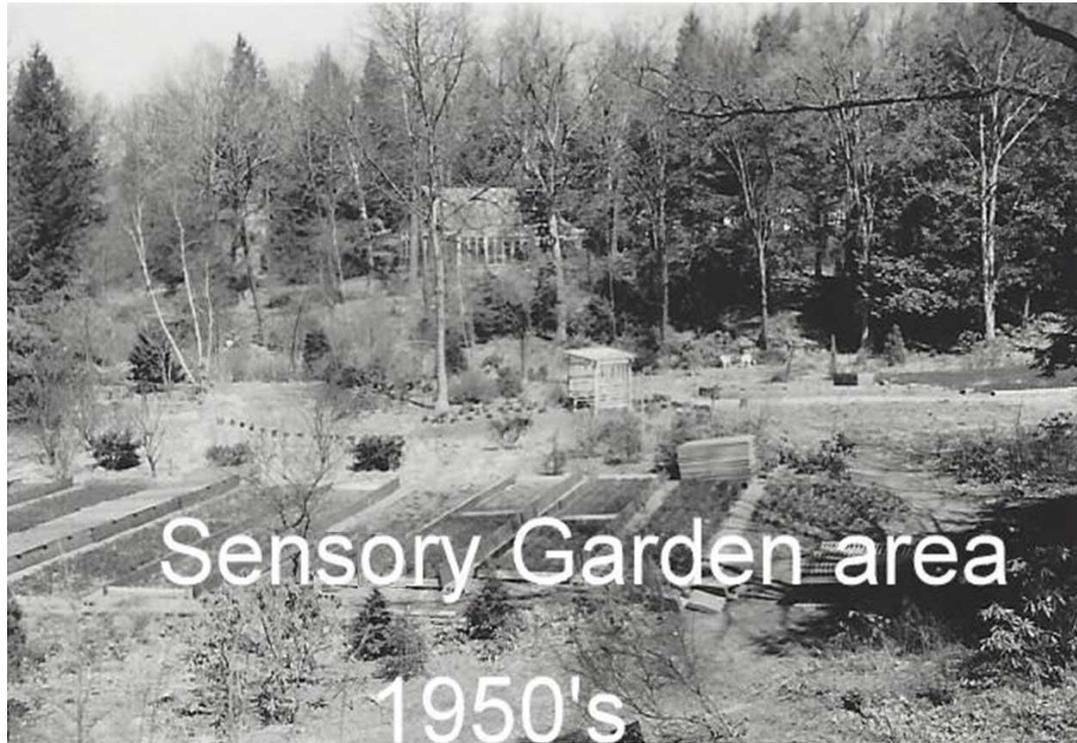


## Educational Greenhouse



# From Commercial Nursery To Public Park

**Then – Plant Cold Frames**



**Now - Sensory Garden**



# Garden Enhancements

## Pre-Wetlands Garden Location



## New Wetlands Garden



### THE WETLANDS GARDEN

- Native Dogberry
- Norway Spruce
- Leucothoe
- Kousa Dogwood
- Swamp Magnolia
- Catawba
- River Birch
- Arbutus
- Dappled Willow
- Foxglove
- Beautyberry
- Morning Light Maiden Grass
- Rhododendron
- Japanese Cedar
- Kousa Dogwood
- Beautyberry

Generously Donated by  
THE VEALE FAMILY

# Garden Enhancements

**South Rock Garden**



**Three Corners Garden**



# Garden Enhancements

**Pre-Native Plant Garden  
Development**



**Native Plant Demonstration Garden**



# Garden Enhancements

**Pond Perennial Garden**



**Summer Garden**



# Donate-A-Bench Program

We are now offering an opportunity for donors to select either a beautiful hand-hewn bench by artist David Robinson or a contemporary teak bench, either one to be dedicated with a commemorative plaque. We have identified 11 spots in the arboretum where a bench would be a welcome addition. The style and size of bench has been chosen to fit each location.



**Rustic bench at the Dawn Redwood Glade**

# Propagation Greenhouses – Then and Now

**Upper Greenhouse Before Demolition**



**Now - New Propagation Greenhouse**



# Visitor's Experience Enhancements

## Notice Board Built by Eagle Scout



## New and Updated Brochures



# Visitor's Experience Enhancements

## Monthly Guided Tours



## New Cell Phone Tour

### Cell Phone Tour Instructions

This tour guides you along the major pathways through the arboretum. It takes about 1 hour to complete. You can proceed from one tour Stop to the next at your own pace.

At each Stop you can listen to an audio clip.

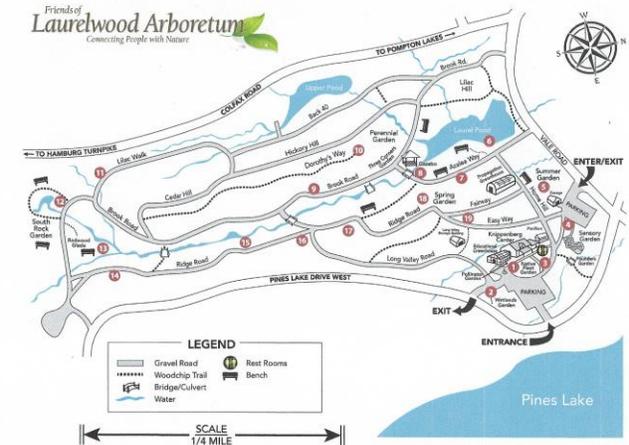
At the end of audio clip are directions for walking to the next Stop.

- Dial 973-547-1750 and follow the directions
- Start, stop or replay whenever you wish
- To stop, simply hang up
- To restart, redial the phone number
- To repeat a Stop, press the Stop number again

This audio tour was made possible by a generous donation from the Ira A. Roschelle, MD Family Foundation.

Please leave us a comment about your visit today at [info@laurelwoodarboretum.org](mailto:info@laurelwoodarboretum.org) or 973-831-5675.

The complete text of the cell phone tour can be found at [www.laurelwoodarboretum.org](http://www.laurelwoodarboretum.org).



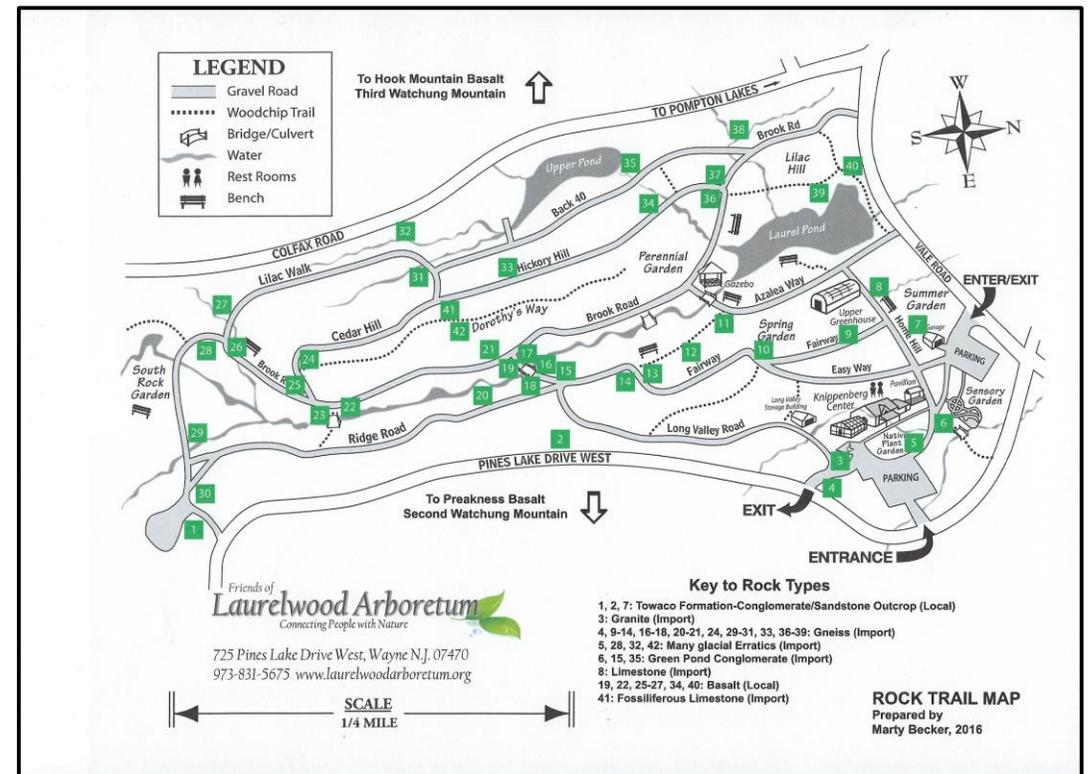
- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| #1 Knippenberg Center Complex        | #11 Lilac Walk and Back Forty       |
| #2 Wetlands Garden                   | #12 South Rock Garden               |
| #3 Native Plant Demonstration Garden | #13 Dawn Redwood Glade              |
| #4 Sensory Garden                    | #14 Ridge Road                      |
| #5 Summer Garden and Jack's Bench    | #15 Eastern Hemlock                 |
| #6 Laurel Pond                       | #16 Southern Magnolia 'Edith Bogue' |
| #7 Azalea Way                        | #17 Hybrid Rhododendron Collection  |
| #8 Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo       | #18 Spring Garden                   |
| #9 Brook Road                        | #19 Easy Way                        |

# Educational Programming

## Children's Butterfly Day



## Geology of Laurelwood Arboretum



# Educational Programming

**Children's Fairy Day**



**Artificial Floating Islands Project**

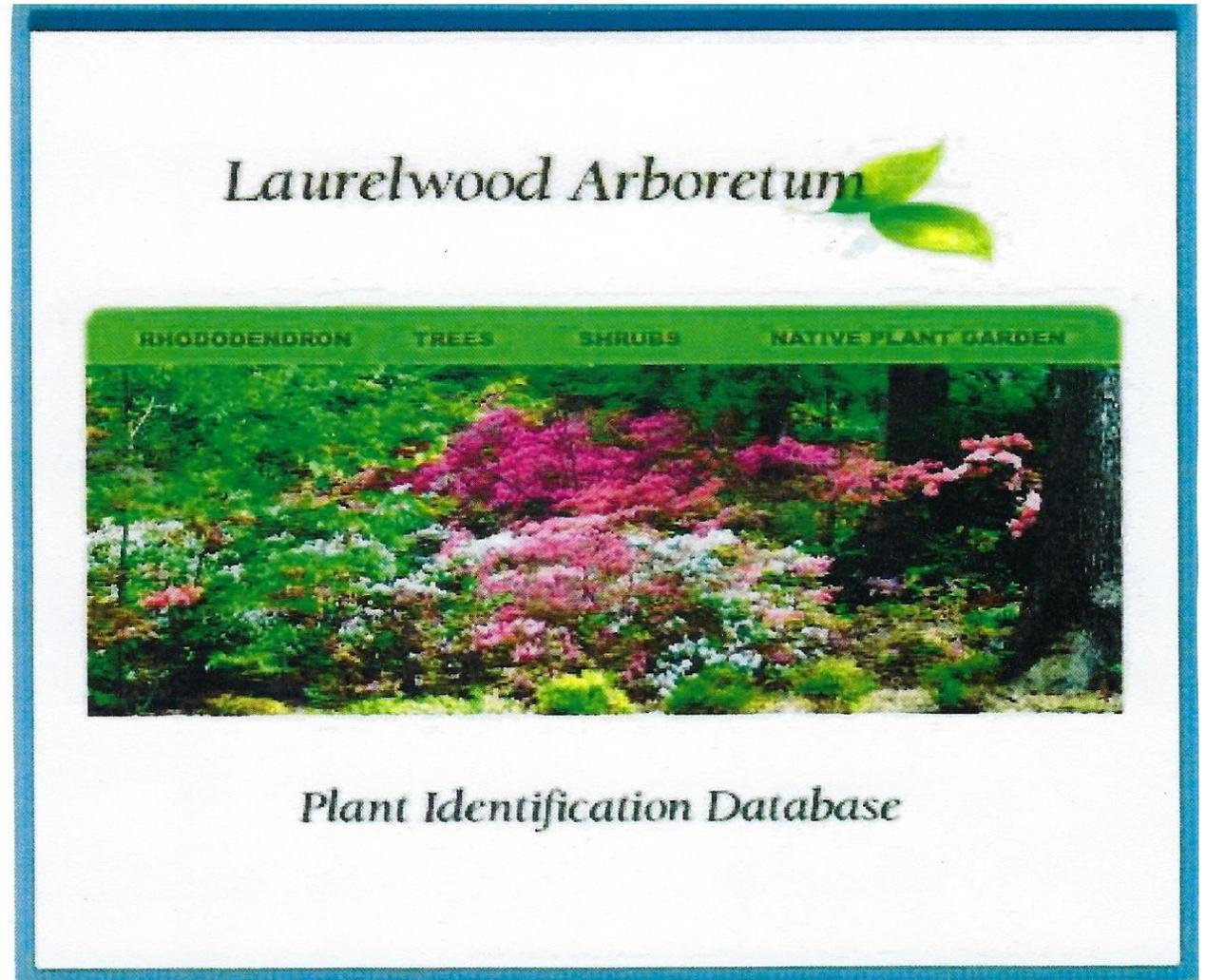


# Plant Collection Management

The Plant Collection Management Committee was established in 2016. It is responsible for the cataloging and tracking of trees, shrubs, rhododendrons, and certain herbaceous perennials in Laurelwood Arboretum. More than 1,600 plants in the arboretum have been cataloged and entered in the plant collection database by this volunteer committee.

The database includes detailed information on each plant including its botanical and common name, description, native range, photo, accession number, and location in the arboretum.

In 2017, the Rutgers Master Gardener Association awarded the State Award of Excellence to our Plant Collection Management Committee.



# Laurelwood Arboretum Plant Labeling & Accession

Plant labels are vital to the curation of the arboretum's collections. Not only are they a convenient way of providing information, they also link the particular plant to its record, stored on the arboretum's plant database using a unique number called an accession number.

Laurelwood Arboretum, like all museums and arboreta, has developed a numbering system so that each plant can be treated as an individual. Our Plant Collection Management Committee assigns a unique accession number to each plant that it has categorized and entered into our computerized database. For newly acquired plants, every plant is given an accession number when it is planted in the arboretum.

The plant label includes the plant's proper botanical name which appears across the top of the label followed on the next line by the plant's common name and where relevant, the variety or cultivar name appears on the third line. Whereas common names vary from country to country, and even region to region, the use of the botanical, or scientific, names ensures correct identification of plants around the world.

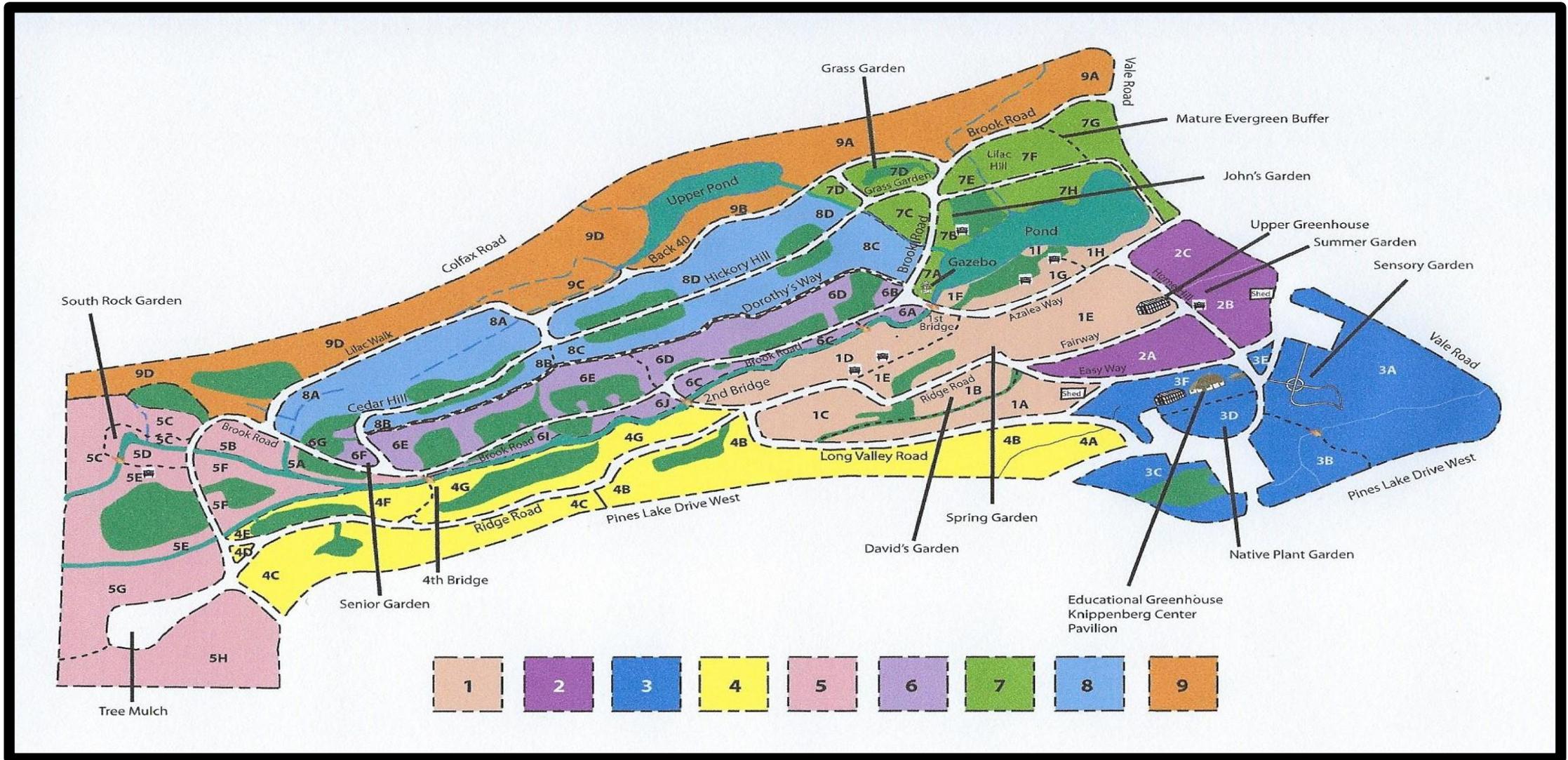
The long number at the bottom of our plant labels is the accession number which includes the date the plant was added to our plant collection. The major exception to this rule is where

information about particular plants has been lost or where plants, particularly many of the trees on the site prior to its acquisition by the Knippenberg's, and rhododendrons and azaleas and some other shrubs, that were planted pre-dating accession records. In this instance, the accession date reads 0000.

The accession number is comprised of a 12-digit number containing a two-digit plant location code, one-digit letter indicating the plant type, four-digit year received, and a unique five-digit number indicates the plant's accession. For example, the plant label for a *Lindera benzoin* shown below includes the accession number 3D-S-2015-00065 indicating that it was added to the arboretum in 2015 and it was the 65<sup>th</sup> plant added to the plant collection database. Its location code, 3D, indicates that it is located in the Native Plant Garden, and the letter "S" indicates it is a Shrub.



# Plant Management Location Map & Codes



# Rhododendron Study Team

The Rhododendron Study Team at Laurelwood Arboretum has set a goal of identifying and tagging the rhododendron collection. The study team volunteers have identified and cataloged 403 rhododendrons and azaleas. Detailed information on each plant has been entered into a plant collection management computerized database (shown below).

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 Connecting People with Nature

**Plant Identification Report**

**Rhododendron: 403 Records**

Accession No. Tag	Name	Flower Color	Flower truss	Bloom Time	Fragrant	Elepidote/Lepidote	Hybridizer	Location
2A-R-0000-00120	'America'	Red	Flower opening funnel-shaped, purplish-red with a slight bluish cast, with dark red spotting. Ball-shaped truss holds 10-12 flowers.	Late Midseason	No	Elepidote	Koster & Sons	2A - Easy Way, right side
4A-R-0000-00121	'Pearce's American Beauty'	Red	Flower openly funnel-shaped, frilly, 3" across, strong purplish-red with yellowish-green spots and three dorsal white rays from base to spots. Ball-shaped trusses of 18 flowers.	Very Late	No	Elepidote	Pearce	4A - Long Valley Road, left side
4G-R-0000-00123	'Babylon'	White	Flower very large, satiny white with a chocolate blotch.	Early	No	Elepidote	G. Reuthe, Ltd.	4G - Ridge Road
4G-R-0000-00124	'Babylon'	White	Flower very large, satiny white with a chocolate blotch.	Early	No	Elepidote	G. Reuthe, Ltd.	4G - Ridge Road
1C-R-0000-00125	'Babylon'	White	Flower very large, satiny white with a chocolate blotch.	Early	No	Elepidote	G. Reuthe, Ltd.	1C - Long Valley Road, right side
6D-R-0000-00126	'Babylon'	White	Flower very large, satiny white with a chocolate blotch.	Early	No	Elepidote	G. Reuthe, Ltd.	6D - Brook Road, set back, behind 'PJM' cluster
2A-R-0000-00127	'Boule de Neige'	White	Flower openly funnel-shaped, slightly wavy edges, 2-1/4" across, white with sparse green and brown dorsal spotting. Ball-shaped truss holds about 10 flowers.	Midseason	No	Elepidote	Oudieu	2A - Easy Way, right side
6D-R-0000-00128	'Boule de Neige'	White	Flower openly funnel-shaped, slightly wavy edges, 2-1/4" across, white with sparse green and brown dorsal spotting. Ball-shaped truss holds about 10 flowers.	Midseason	No	Elepidote	Oudieu	6D - Brook Road
1D-R-0000-00129	'Cadis'	Pink	Flower 3-1/2" to 5" across, wavy-edges, fragrant, light pink, flushed yellow. Held in flat trusses with 9-11 flowers. Bloom is best when plant is 5 years or older.	Late Midseason	Yes	Elepidote	Joseph Gable	1D - Ridge Road
8C-R-0000-00130	calendulaceum - 'Flame Azalea'	Orange, red, yellow	Funnel-shaped, shades of orange, scarlet and yellow. Sometimes slightly scented. Inflorescence 5-5 flowers.	Late Midseason to Late	Yes, slightly	Elepidote		8C - Hickory Hill near brook
2A-R-0000-00131	'Calsap'	White	Flower tubular funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 2-1/4" across, white with a dark red blotch, reverse slightly flushed very pale purple. Held in conical truss of 18 flowers.	Midseason	No	Elepidote	M. W. Michener	2A - Fairway, east side
1D-R-0000-00132	'Caroline'	Lavender	Flower slightly scented, orchid lavender with an orange blotch in throat. Held in ball-shaped truss.	Early	Yes, slightly	Elepidote	Joseph Gable	1D - Ridge Road
4A-R-0000-00133	'Catawbiense Album'	White	Flower broadly funnel-shaped, 23/8" to 3" across, white with green or brown markings. Conical-shaped truss holds about 18 flowers.	Late Midseason	No	Elepidote	A. Waterer	4A - Long Valley Road, left side
6D-R-0000-00134	'Catawbiense Album'	White	Flower broadly funnel-shaped, 23/8" to 3" across, white with green or brown markings. Conical-shaped truss holds about 18 flowers.	Late Midseason	No	Elepidote	A. Waterer	6D - Brook Road, near Dorothy's Way
7C-R-0000-00135	'Cornell Pink'	Pink	Flower broadly funnel-shaped, 1-1/2" across, pink with faint orange dorsal spots, inflorescence 2-3 flowers.	Very Early	No	Lepidote	Henry Skinner	7C - Hickory Hill, east side, near corner
1D-R-0000-00136	'David Gable'	Pink	Flower 3-1/2" across, deep purplish-pink with a deep red blotch in throat. Held in dome-shaped truss of about 8 flowers.	Early Midseason	No	Elepidote	Joseph Gable	1D - Ridge Road

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**Rhododendrons**

**Rhododendron - 'Paul Vossberg'** Accession No **8B-R-0000-00155**





<b>Name</b>	'Paul Vossberg'
<b>Category</b>	Rhododendron
<b>Parent</b>	maximum x thomsonii sso thomsonii
<b>Flower Color</b>	Red
<b>Flower Truss</b>	Flower openly tunnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 2-1/2 inch across, strong red with dark green blotch. Held in ball-shaped trusses of 13-15 flowers.
<b>Bloom Time</b>	Late
<b>Fragrant</b>	No
<b>Elepidote/Lepidote</b>	Elepidote
<b>Foliage Description</b>	Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic, acute with auriculate base, 5-1/2" long.
<b>Height in 10yrs</b>	4 feet
<b>Cold Hardiness</b>	-10 degrees (F) (-23 degrees C)
<b>Hybridizer</b>	Paul D. Vossberg
<b>Location</b>	Dorothy's Way
<b>Location Code</b>	8B
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>ARS Registration Ref</b>	ARS 842
<b>Year Planted</b>	0000
<b>Remarks</b>	Hybridized by Paul Vossberg, one of the early members of the Dexter Rhododendron Committee, between 1960-1965 and grown by Dorothy Knippenberg at Laurelwood Gardens and named by her circa 1975.

# Art In The Arboretum - A Sculpture Trail

We have embarked on a major new project for the benefit of the arboretum. The Sculpture Trail, the second in our multi-year Art in the Arboretum series, will be an installation of more than 15 sculptures by prominent artists that will be carefully placed around the arboretum to enhance the landscape. These professionally curated sculptures will serve to enhance the park by complementing its landscape and serene setting. In addition to docent-guided tours, school-age and adult educational programs will be developed. The installation of the sculptures is underway, and we plan to open The Sculpture Trail to the public in June 2021.

All sculptures will be available for sale through an exclusive agreement with “Broadfoot & Broadfoot, A Collection of Fine Art,” Boonton, NJ. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) and will be applied to the installation of deer fencing to ensure that herds, which have overrun the park over the past few years, will no longer decimate the beautiful shrubbery and grounds.

# Installation of Sculptures Is Underway

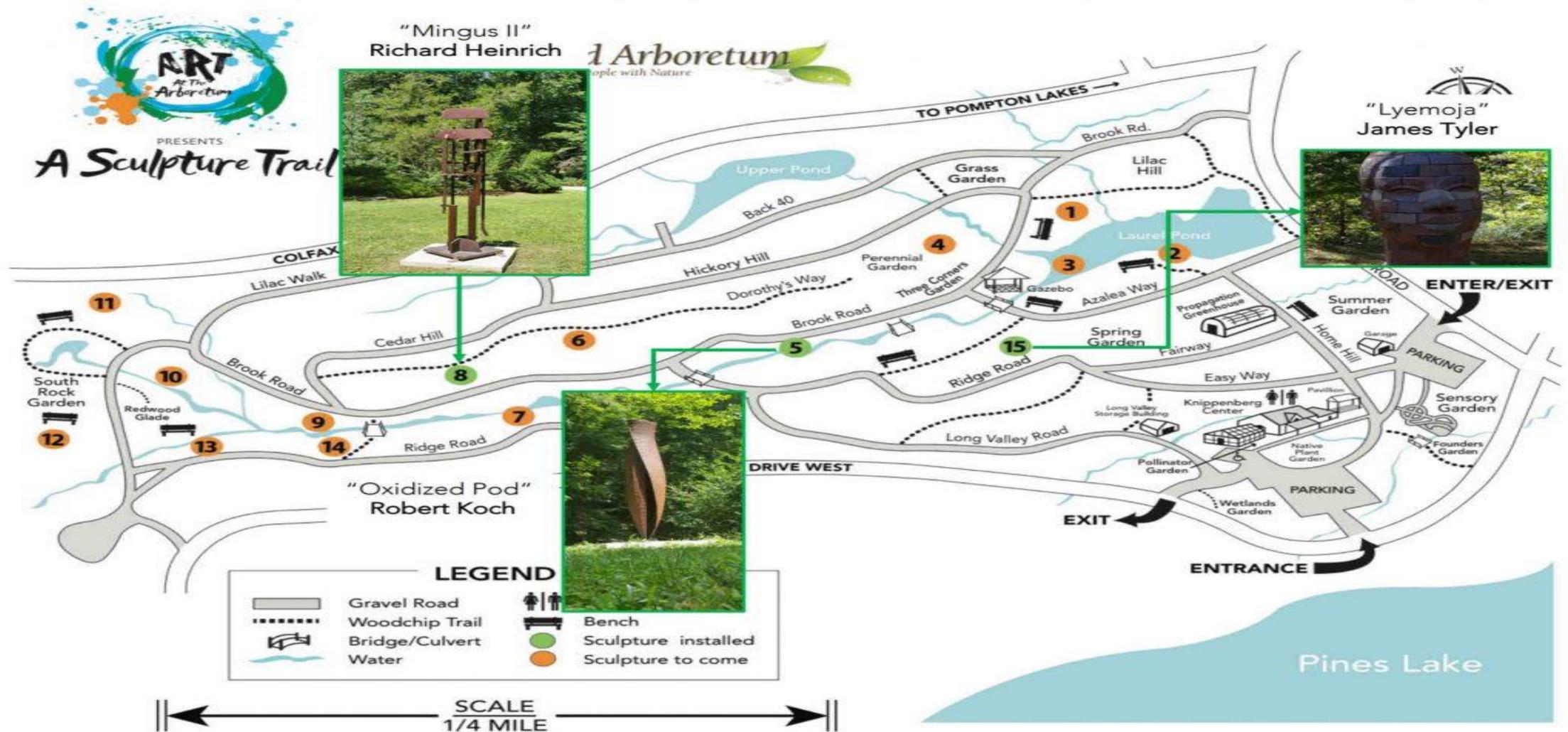
Installation of “Iyemoja’ brick head by artist James Tyler



“Iyemoja” sculpture – Location #15



# A Sculpture Trail



# Laurelwood Rhododendron Collection

'Alena'	'Catawbiense Album'	'Ellie Green'	'Llenroc'	'Prom Queen'	
'Amanda Young Young'	'Catawbiense Boursault'	'English Roseum'	'Mary Belle'	'Purpureum Elegans'	
'America'	'Charles Thorold'	'Entourage'	'Mary Fleming'	'Ramapo'	
'Atroflo'	'Chesapeake'	'Gertrude Saxe'	'Molly Fordham'	'Rochelle'	
'Avondale'	'Chionoides'	'Gomer Waterer'	'Mountain Aura'	'Rosey Future'	
'Babylon'	'Christmas Cheer'	'Hardy Giant'	'Mrs. Furnivall'	'Scintillation'	<i><u>Species</u></i>
'Barbara Hall'	'Cliff Garland'	'Henry's Red'	'Nadia'	'Solidarity'	<i>carolinianum</i>
'Ben Mosley'	'Conawago'	'Ignatius Sargent'	'Night Music'	'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague'	<i>degronianum</i>
'Betty Hume'	'Cornell Pink'	'Ingrid Mehlquist'	'Nova Zembla'	'Tow Head'	<i>hyperythrum</i>
'Blue Peter'	'County of York'	'Janet Blair'	'Olga Mezitt'	'Van Nes Sensation'	<i>keiskei</i>
'Boule de Neige'	'Cyntha'	'Kelcey Lynn Young'	'Parker's Pink'	'Vulcan's Flame'	<i>merchernichii</i>
'Brandywine'	'David Gable'	'Ken Janeck'	'Paul Vossberg'	'Westbury'	<i>mucronulatum</i>
'Brown Eyes'	'Dexter's Harlequin'	'La Bar's White'	'Pearce's American Beauty'	'Weston's Aglo'	<i>schlippenbachii</i>
'Cadis'	'Dexter's Pink Satin'	'Landmark'	'Phyllis Korn'	'Wheatley'	<i>sutchunensi</i>
'Calsap'	Dexter's Appleblossom'	'Lavender Princess'	'Pink Pearl'	'Whitestone'	<i>williamsianum</i>
'Carolina Rose'	'Dorothy Russell'	'Lee's Best Purple'	'Pioneer Silvery Pink'	'Windbeam'	<i>yakushmanum</i>
'Caroline'	'Brown Eyes'	'Leggs'	'PJM'	'Wyanokie'	
'Catalgia'		'Lenape'	'Powder Puff'	'Yaku Princess'	

# Laurelwood Azalea Collection

'Amethystinum'

'Balsaminiflorum'

'Blaauw's Pink'

'Bond Street'

'Buccaneer'

'Caroline Gable'

'Coccineum Speciosum'

'Conversation Piece'

'Corsage'

'Daybreak'

'Dayspring'

'Fedora'

'Garden State Glow'

'Geisha'

'Gibraltar'

'Girard's Hot Shot'

'Girard's Ruschia'

'Glory'

'Hakata-shiro'

'Herbert'

'Hersey's Red'

'Hino-crimson'

'J.T. Lovett'

'James Gable'

'Kaempo'

'Karens'

'King's Red'

'Laurelwood Sunset'

'Lorna'

'Louise Dowdle'

'Louise Gable'

'Magnifica'

'Martha Hitchcock'

'Mary Poppins'

'Mildred Mae'

'Morning Glow'

'Mother's Day'

'Othello'

'Palestrina'

'Rearden's Red'

'Renee Michelle'

'Rose Greeley'

'Rosebud'

'Salmon Beauty'

'Snow'

'Snowclad'

'Springtime'

'Stewartonian'

'Stolen Kiss'

'Tradition'

'Weston's Lemon Drop'

'Yellowood'

## Species

*amagianum*

*arborescens*

*calendulaceum*

*cumberlandense*

*kaempferi*

*maxwelli*

*nudiflorum*

*periclymenoides*

*poukanense*

*viscosum*

*waragishii*

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