

## This Week in the Garden: “Missing the Masters?” - April 11, 2020

by Don Hyatt

Usually at this time of year, I am sitting at my computer working on my income tax return. In the background, I always have the Masters Golf Tournament on TV but when the golfers reach the Azalea Hole, No. 13, I stop everything so I can admire the flowers. This year, the tax deadline and the Masters were both postponed and I miss the azaleas!

Fortunately, John Kohli has been sharing images of his lovely North Georgia garden located in a gated, mountain community near Dahlonega. The Augusta National Golf Club boasts that they have more than 30 azalea varieties. Where have they been? John has hundreds of choice varieties in his spectacular landscape including evergreen azaleas, native azaleas, his own hybrids, and more. Here are just a few scenes.

In April of 2023, John’s Azalea Chapter ARS will be co-hosting a convention near Atlanta with our Northern Virginia Chapter ASA. This joint ARS/ASA Convention will be fantastic. After all, Carolyn Beck is already working on the plant sale!



Sunset in the Kohli Garden

Photo: J. Kohli



*R. austrinum* ‘Biltmore’

J. Kohli



Kohli Garden from the Street

J. Kohli



‘Purple Choptank’

J. Kohli



Kurume Azaleas: ‘Kintaiyo’ & ‘Mizu-no-Yamabuki’

J. Kohli





Azaleas Growing on a Rock Ledge J. Kohli



'Rivermist' J. Kohli



Kohli Hybrid: 'Breaking White' J. Kohli

Several of us visited John after the 2013 ASA Convention in Athens, GA. His house is nestled in a wooded hollow along a stream, but above the home are rocky outcroppings where John has built trails that wind among the boulders. He has planted azalea cultivars and companion plants in a natural setting. It is perfection! He has featured many of his own hybrids like 'Breaking White', a cross of 'Koromo-Shikibu' x 'Parfait'. Gorgeous! Thanks, John!



'Koromo-Shikibu' J. Kohli



John Kohli in his Garden, April 2013 D. Hyatt



Photo: J. Neckel



Photo: J. Neckel



Photo: J. Neckel



Photo: J. Neckel

### Flower Arrangements

Joanne Neckel has been busy making some charming flower arrangements for the Easter season. Beautiful!!! Thanks for sharing!

The Mohrs have been cutting camellias from their garden to bring inside. They float them in water so they can admire the blooms up close. I intended to make an arrangement with some flowers on the next page but haven't done it yet.



Photo: R. & G. Mohr



'Kumasaka' and Yoshino Cherry in the Mohr Garden R. Mohr

### Peace Be with You!

We wish everyone peace and good will through this very difficult time. This ordeal will pass and then we can get together again. Take care and stay safe.



‘Apritan’

D. Hyatt



*R. kaempferi* ‘yellow’



Bluebells D. Hyatt

**Hybridizing:** The fragrant Dexter ‘Apritan’ is opening ahead of schedule but I have nothing to cross on it. Azaleas don’t cross with large leaf rhodies. My yellow *R. kaempferi album* azalea from Sandra McDonald is opening but it is sterile both ways. If only Bluebells crossed with rhodies!

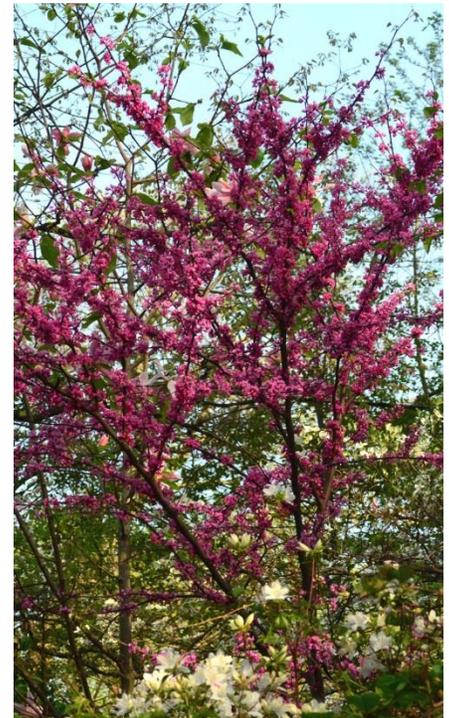
**Landscaping:** I am always looking for landscape combinations that go well together. I also like to grow plants that remind me of good friends. A grouping that satisfies both requirements is a pink magnolia from Augie Kehr called ‘Daybreak’ planted with the red bud, *Cercis canadensis* ‘Appalachian Red’. ‘Daybreak’ blooms later and avoids the frost. Red buds are typically purple but this form is a crimson red and the perfect color. It was discovered in the wild by a chapter member, Max Byrkit.

Augie and Max have both passed away but they were founders of our chapter, great mentors, and very good friends. It is a nice remembrance to have their plants side by side in my garden.

I planted the azaleas ‘Dayspring’ and ‘Festive’ with those trees, and my huge ‘Corsage’ is nearby. Great grouping!



Magnolia ‘Daybreak’



‘Appalachian Red’ D. Hyatt



‘Dayspring’



‘Festive’ D. Hyatt



‘Corsage’ D. Hyatt

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