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5/22

FOR ZONE HAISE REPORTER  
RHODODENDRON GARDEN NAMED FOR HAL AND JUDY  
ABROMS, ABROMS IN PICTURE

So Index



Photographer

COLOR

1299

Neg. No.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK ORDER

INTER-OFFICE

Birmingham News

Photographic Department

(THIS SIDE TO BE FILLED OUT BY PERSON REQUESTING SERVICE)

Date of Wednesday No. of  
Assgn. May 22 Time 11 PM Photos 1  
Column \_\_\_\_\_ Photos Used on: \_\_\_\_\_ Time or color  
Layout \_\_\_\_\_ News ( ) Day or Date May Edition all  
29 zones

To work with Jeely Huse Authorized  
Photographer Signature JH

Meet at: Assignment ( ☒ ) City Room ( ☐ ) Dept. Charged neighborhoods

SUBJECT Botanical Gardens  
dedication of Abrons  
"Rhododendron species"  
garden (dedication is May 19)  
ceremony

Get shot of Jeely & Hal  
Abrons + ~~3 children~~  
in garden.

ADDRESS Botanical Gardens

REMARKS MEET at receptionist  
desk.

for Lou Ann  
Shelley  
879-0863





THE

BROMS

RHODODENDRON  
SPECIES GARDEN





As you enter the Abrams Rhododendron Species Garden, you embark on a journey around the globe, if only symbolically, for rhododendrons can be found on every continent except Africa and South America. Walk these garden paths, and you will meet representatives from Europe and Asia, as well as a fine collection of North American natives.

Unlike many garden plants which have been improved by man, species plants are identical to those found growing in the wild. They are botanically distinct, and as such, they are both a genetic resource as well as an aesthetic one. These plants come as settlers to a new land, bringing with them the appearance, fragrance, or feeling of their region. Their offspring, like the citizens of our own melting pot, prosper from the recombination of disparate traits.

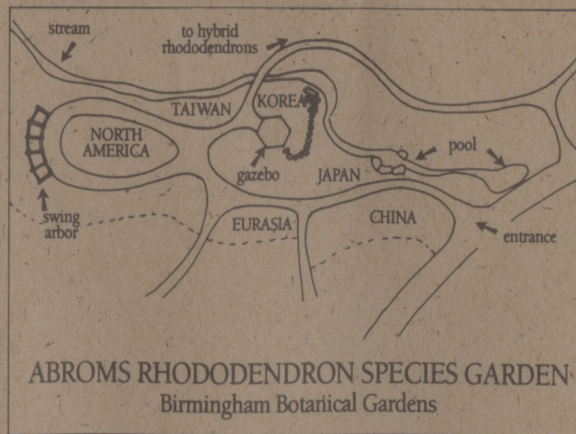
For the plant hybridizer, a collection of species is like an artist's palette of color. The genetic heritage of these plants offers a breeder an opportunity once each year when the rhododendrons bloom. When pollen is transferred from the flower of one species to another, the flora of two continents merge, as man works with nature to produce a hybrid. The outcome of these endeavors can be enjoyed in the adjacent display of hybrid rhododendrons. You could say that the Abrams Rhododendron Species Garden is the home of the parents, and the children live next door.

To the gardener, growing species rhododendrons is like welcoming ambassadors from faraway lands. While the North American

natives are diverse—evergreen and deciduous, spring and summer blooming, tall and short—the exotic species also have their own distinctive character. The leaves may be glossy or fuzzy, enormous or minuscule; buds may be big or colorful, the forms upright or spreading.

Of course, not all species rhododendrons thrive in Birmingham's climate. Those that grow in cold climates or at high altitudes may not adapt to our hot, humid summers. And although a plant may live, its appearance and culture can change when it is relocated from its natural habitat to our gardens. For that reason, the Abrams Rhododendron Species Garden serves for testing, as well as for display.

In the interest of clarity, landscape designer Norman Kent Johnson has organized the rhododendrons according to their region of nativity. For example, you will encounter a bed that represents the rhododendrons of China and its regions such as Tibet, Manchuria, Szechwan, and Yunnan. Elsewhere are plants from Japan, Taiwan, and Russia. At the far end of the garden you will find the most familiar, the rhododendrons of North America. However,



many of these may seem foreign, for our country hosts many species in diverse ecosystems.

While this garden represents a botanically ordered collection, it is indeed a garden. Take a quiet stroll, leaving the sunny open spaces behind. Enter a garden sheltered by a canopy of hardwood forest, and enjoy the trickling stream as it lazily flows from pool to pool. Rest in a rustic swing at the high point on the path, or walk on down to the benches in the gazebo.

Although the Abrams Rhododendron Species Garden is new, it holds a bit of Birmingham Botanical Garden history. The gazebo stood in the former iris garden until it was relocated in keeping with the Gardens' Master Plan. It lends its naturalistic style to the arbor, swings, benches, and birdhouse that you find here.

This garden, like any other, has seasonal features. While the flowering of rhododendrons dominate spring and early summer, companion plantings offer additional interest. These have also been carefully arranged geographically, so each display is a sampling of plants that might be found growing together in nature.

When the rhododendrons are not in flower, they have more subtle qualities. The shades of green, the sizes and shapes of leaves, and the contrasts in texture make these evergreen beauties a year-round delight. In winter the deciduous ones tantalize the gardener as their buds swell with promise.

Come delight in the cosmopolitan plantings of the Abrams Rhododendron Species Garden. A world of botanical wonder awaits you along these paths.



THE ABROMS  
RHODODENDRON  
SPECIES GARDEN

A Gift From  
Judy and Harold Abroms  
In Honor of Their Grandchildren

Justin Falk Berman  
Alyza Lauren Berman  
Lila Rachel Berman

Michelle Ann Abroms  
David Allen Abroms  
Sarah Rachel Abroms

Rebecca Angela Genz  
Michael Henry Genz  
Julia Amanda Genz

Dedicated May, 1991



ARBOR SWING

Given by Friends  
In Loving Memory of  
Andy Abroms

Dedicated May, 1991