

The history of the Satsuki Azalea

Collection number 13

In 2007 there was a discussion between the members of the Satsuki Azalea Society over what should be done with some surplus funds being held.

The decision was made that the Satsuki Azalea Society would purchase a tree and offer it to the National Collection on a loan basis. Bob Thompson at Dai-Ichi volunteered to source a tree for the Society from Japan. To this end he approached Mr Goto of Goto Bonsai Nurseries and having explained the reason why we wanted a tree Mr Goto offered a tree at a substantially reduced rate. Unfortunately, it was still too costly for the Society to pay so Bob generously stepped in and undertook to cover the shortfall. The tree was purchased and arrived at Dai-Ichi in Newbury in February 2008.

That year the Satsuki Azalea Society was invited to the Midland Bonsai Society's annual show at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on the 15 June, so it was decided that that would be an ideal time to hand the Satsuki Azalea to the National Collection.

Below is a photo of the tree at Dai-Ichi just prior to hand over.



June 2008

Since this time sadly Bob Thomas has passed away and the Satsuki Azealea Society has been wound up. At that time they left the tree in the possession of Ray Bedows, who has kindly left it on loan to the National Collection. Ray alone maintains it, with the team keeping an eye on things for him.



17 August 2008



Aug 2010



April 2018



April 2019



May 2020



May 2020