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# President's Letter

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L. Malcolm Clark

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Dues are due. Barely half have renewed. Lay this down, go find the form and send it in. If you can afford a little extra, that too, please. Improved services depend significantly on these gifts.

A ballot is enclosed and biographical sketches herein published. Last year 5% bothered to vote. Really now! There are choices to make and these seem real. Having long worked to democratize the election process, the current "turnout" raises questions about my own judgement (i.e., what other windmills do I chase?). Bother to become informed, and vote.

During 1993 ASA plans to open a "bookstore". As a beginning the basic literature will be offered, hopefully, including some Japanese titles. If you have any suggestions, please pass them on to me. Also a seed exchange is in the works, with initial distributions planned for next winter, so produce an extra pod or two. If you have dreamed of crosses, you had neither time nor space to grown on, now's your chance.

Let me devote the remaining space here to our main abiding problem—less than 1% of ASA members feel any obligation to periodically submit an article for publication in **THE AZALEAN**. General appeals have long been made, but to no lasting effect. A different approach is clearly called for and "itemize and assign" seems appropriate.

Possible articles may be roughly categorized and a tentative list follows. This is meant to be a "sign up sheet". Both individuals and chapters are solicited. Forward your responses to me personally and I will synthesize these into what amount to committees. To get the job done on any long-term basis we need a commitment from each chapter and 30 plus individuals. Less than this will have me "on the horn" buttonholing by mid-January. To get the ball rolling I have signed up for "Hybridization" and a regular "Breeder's Corner" column will begin in March 1993. This is meant in part to go hand-in-hand with the new seed exchange. Clearly, I will need help in both word and seed, so don't consider that category "taken".

General Culture (soils, planting, mulch, pruning, pests, etc.)

Special Culture (Bonsai, hanging baskets, forcing, etc.)

Propagation

Hybridization

Clonal Description

Clonal Evaluation (hardiness, pest resistance, color fastness, etc.)

Research (may partly overlap evaluation)

Companion Plants

Landscaping with Azaleas

Gardens (public and private)

History

Book and Article Reviews

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**On the Cover:** Mass planting of azaleas  
Transplanted azalea seedlings

**Photographer:** Jean Minch

## Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of the series *Azalea* (subgenus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$20.00. Life membership is \$300.00. Members receive **THE AZALEAN** and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society including those of the chapter with which the member affiliates. For information and membership application, write to the Secretary, Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.