
President's Letter

Reflections on the Past A Vision of the Future

Through past unselfish gifts of extraordinary people, the Azalea Society of America stands today as a repository of azalea knowledge, chronicled in the pages of **THE AZALEAN**, and stored in the hearts and minds of its membership. This knowledge, tempered by our own experiences, is a cumulative process given freely to us by gardeners who have authored books and magazine articles, hybridized and cultivated plants, offered their gardening secrets, and invited us into their homes to share their food and conversation. It is this spirit of giving and unselfishness that is a major strength of our society.

Elton John admonishes in *The Lion King*, "You should never take more than you give, in the *Circle of Life*". I believe in that philosophy but find the work of Galle, Lee, and Morrison sobering in that context. If you believe that by giving, you will receive more than you give, then the Azalea Society of America is a wonderful depository.

Our organization's members are writers, social hosts and hostesses, event coordinators, chapter officers, lecturers, ambassadors of good will, and gardeners who adore azaleas. Members of the Azalea Society of America are contributing to the ever-building azalea knowledge base. No matter what the gardening experience level, the contributions continue that gift receiving tradition that makes an organization great. Through involvement, the member may not actually hybridize a yellow evergreen azalea, but the inspiration may be seeded for someone who will. Participation is contagious, especially with azaleas in bloom. Who can resist people's smiles as they stroll in the spring through a sea of azalea color at a local arboretum? The challenge is to enhance our stewardship and increase our gift receiving, so that future generations will be able to enjoy even more than us, the wonder of azaleas. □

Correction

The *On the Cover* caption for the March 1995 issue of **THE AZALEAN** should read 'Betty Anne Voss'.

On the Cover: 'Princess Margaret'

Photographer: Richard T. West

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* (sub-genus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

OFFICERS FOR 1995-1996

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Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

CHAPTERS

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- Oconee Chapter** (chartered November 1991)
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Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$20.00. Life membership for an individual 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.