

President's Letter

James O. Thornton

Conyers, GA

*A*s Bob Hope always said, "Thanks for the memories."

For the past few years, as Vice President and as President, we've had some good times and some bad times, and we've lost a few stalwart soldiers along the way. Overall, I can say, "It's been a pleasure to have served."

Hey, don't get me wrong! I don't intend to steal silently away into the night without asking, "Is there still some way I can help." God knows we need help in many areas right now, and we need folks standing in line, ready to ask, "Where can you use me?" So...I guess my last message to you is to ask, no, beg all of you to step forward and lend a hand!

Remember the old army movies where the bywords were, "keep your mouth shut and don't volunteer for nut'in!" Well, folks, this ain't the army and nobody is going to put you in the mess hall or put you on guard duty, but we have to have volunteers to keep our ship afloat!

We've been lucky in the past in filling the critical slots, but we still need help in other areas and people who will help those who are trying to hold us together. Soliciting and writing articles for our journal, working on membership, developing a web page, I could go on and on, and I'm sure you could come up with your own list of things we need to do. As John Wayne might put it to get your attention, "Look, Pilgrims, it's time to quit thinking and start doing!"

The pay ain't good but I guarantee satisfaction! Would I lie?

Semper Fi, Jim Thornton □

AZALEA CALENDAR

1999

March 31-April 2	Annual Convention and Annual Meeting at Mobile, Alabama
April 5	Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at Davis Library, 7:30 PM
April 30-May 2	Landon Azalea Festival and Brookside Gardens Chapter Show, Bethesda
May 8	Brookside Gardens Sale at the Tilden School
May 22	Brookside Chapter Sale at Brookside Gardens

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 azaleas Subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

OFFICERS FOR 1998-1999

President	James O. Thornton
Vice-President	William Bode
Secretary	Ruth Bryan
Treasurer	Robert Stelloh
Immediate Past-President	Stephen S. Brainerd

DIRECTORS

Terms Expire in 1999	Terms Expire in 2000
Gen. Bryghte Godbold	Robert Lee
Donald Hyatt	Maarten van der Giessen
Col. Murray Sheffield	Stephen Schroeder

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

CHAPTERS

Brookside Gardens (chartered August 1979) Dianne Gregg, <i>President</i>
Richmond, Virginia (chartered August 1979) Frank J. Digney, <i>President</i>
Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Joe Miller, <i>President</i>
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Dan Krabill, <i>President</i>
Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Vincent J. Ciolina, <i>President</i>
Tri-State (chartered October 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>President</i>
Dallas Chapter (chartered May 1989) Roby Odom, <i>President</i>
Oconee Chapter (chartered November 1991) Mike McNeal, <i>President</i>

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$25.00; life membership for an individual is \$500.00. 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 a membership application, write to the Membership Committee, Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.