

President's Letter

Bill Bode — Covington, Louisiana

To be addressing this letter to all the members of the ASA as your president is truly an honor which I feel is undeserved. But -- to work.

A week after the Mobile meeting adjourned, I received an e-mail from a faithful member which presented a suggestion for upcoming meetings. This letter started by telling me how much he had "fretted" about writing to the president on such a trivial matter. That really hurt, and doubly so, since his suggestion was of real merit.

This says to me that we (all of us) need to make more use of the modern conveniences (i.e., e-mail, telephone, fax, and yes, even oldtime mail through the U.S. Postal Service). We need to know more about how the Society works, and why it should work for you. I want all of you to feel as free as I do in writing to any member, officer, or director of the ASA. We need your ideas, suggestions, comments about the function of the Society or its journal **THE AZALEAN**.

The world is rapidly closing a century and opening the Third Millennium. That is change, and the society must change also. We have changed and will change; these changes will be detailed in the September issue of **THE AZALEAN**.

As Bette Davis said so many years ago, "Buckle your seat belts, this may be a bumpy ride."

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*).

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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.

On the Cover:

Rhododendron kaempferi Planch. var. *tubiflorum* Komatsu, an azalea previously classified by a Japanese botanist as a variety of *R. obtusum*. (See page 26 where synonym appears.)

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