

Reduce Your Dues? Here's How.

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

While our annual rate of \$25 for a regular membership is already a pretty good deal, now there are some ways to make it even better--both for you and for the Society! They all have to do with postage and interest. First, if you send your name and address and anything that has changed since the Roster was printed to:

Bob Stelloh, Treasurer
Azalea Society of America
585 Ransier Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739

by October 15th, send \$1 less than the normal dues amount. That saves us the envelope and postage to send your annual dues notice, and we get a few months interest on your money. We think that's worth a \$1 thank you.

The dues rates are unchanged for 2000.

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| Regular | \$25 |
| Contributing | \$50 |
| Sustaining | \$100 |
| Endowment | \$200 |
| Life | \$500 |

To save even more, take a discount of \$1 for each year you pay in advance, up to a maximum of \$5 per year. Thus, when you renew for multiple years, pay \$25 for the first year, \$24 for the second year, \$23 for the third year, \$22 for the fourth year, \$21 for the fifth year, and \$20 for every year after that. And do it by October 15th to also earn the "early bird" \$1 discount. If you do this at the website, we will compute the correct amount of dues to pay for the choices you make. Paying in advance saves the postage for both you and the Society, you get the \$1 discounts in place of the interest on your money, and we earn the interest on your money instead. Another good deal for everybody!

Paying in advance also locks in payment for those years at the current dues rate. While the Board of Directors can raise the dues at any time, the dues you pay in advance at the current rate will always be taken as full payment for those years, regardless of any future dues increase.

Renewing Online

If you have access to the Internet, you can renew online. Don't be put off by this long explanation--like so many things, it is a lot easier to do than to describe.

First point your browser to

<http://www2.azaleas.org>

which is the address of your new, still-under-development Azalea Society website. Once there, click on Sign In and enter your e-mail address and password** to let us know you're a member. Then click on Renewal, which shows an application form filled in with your information. Change it as necessary, and choose the type of membership you would like. Then click Verify to show a summary page of the information. When it is correct, click Finish, and we will send you an e-mail with that information. Please print that e-mail and mail us a copy, with the dues amount it shows, to the address it shows. Remember, if you do this by October 15, take off that \$1 discount.

While we are working on handling online payment by credit card, it may not be ready for this year's dues. If we can take credit cards, we will post that on the website. If such a notice is not posted, just print the page, and mail it with the dues amount it shows.

Finally, we will send out dues renewal notices by e-mail to every member who has sent us their e-mail address. We will do this in early October, in time for you to respond by October 15th and take advantage of the "early bird" discount.

**No password, or forgot or want to change yours? Click Submit after entering your e-mail address and we will send you an e-mail with a confirmation code. Read your mail (without closing your website browser) and note that code. Then go back to the website, enter that code to confirm that you can get e-mail at that address you gave us, and enter a new password of your choice. The next time you visit, your e-mail address and password will tell us you are a member.

Current Membership Statistics

Art Vance —

New Bern, North Carolina

As of the end of July, ASA membership is 665, only 92.5 percent of last year's total membership of 719. The trend has been downward since 1996, when we had 802 members. In the past decade the highest membership level was 940 members in 1993.

Chapters that are growing are Oconee and Tri-State, but growth is still modest. Highest losses are in the Northern Virginia, and Richmond, Virginia, chapters. At large membership is down 8.6 percent.

Encourage your friends who are members to renew and recruit new ones. [*Art Vance is Membership Database Chairman for ASA, Ed.*]

Membership Information Online

For the benefit of subscribers to the azalea listserv who are not members of the ASA, membership information is available at three sites:

1. www.azaleas.org
(the official website of the ASA)
2. www.plantweb.com/azaleasociety
(the official website of the Louisiana chapter)
3. www.theazaleaworks.com
(Bill Miller's website with unofficial information about the ASA)

Recruit your computer-friendly friends to join the Azalea Society of America. With the plant descriptions database being developed and more people sharing azalea information online, this is a great time to become a member.