

# President's Letter

William F. Bode — Covington, Louisiana

Fellow members, this is the last letter that I will write you as President of our Society. As you know, the President's term of office begins at an annual meeting and ends with the announcement of the newly elected officers at the second annual meeting following. The new officers will assume their duties at the annual meeting to be held at Asheville, North Carolina, June 14-17, 2001.

Those officers will be the most qualified of any we have presented in years. The nominating committee did its job to fulfill not only the letter, but also the spirit, of our By-Laws. My most sincere thanks to the nominating committee for their efforts that proved the system does work.

In leaving, I must say it was a pleasurable and rewarding experience. However, I despised acting as Secretary. So, there's good and bad in all events. To those of you who have participated in the Society's activities, such as attending chapter meetings, giving lectures or talks, writing articles for **THE AZALEAN**, sharing your knowledge on our Internet mail list, and trekking to the annual meeting, and simple things like answering your mail, I am most grateful. To those of you who did none of the above, I

urge you to come join those who did, and you will be rewarded by understanding why they enjoy it.

Those involved in the membership recruiting effort are to be congratulated. This last year the Society showed a gain in membership. Hopefully the decline in membership has stopped. I had hoped to gain more members in the western states, and to form chapters in the Carolinas and East Texas, but I leave that to those who follow. I urge all of you to continue with this effort in support of the new officers and the board of directors.

We have had some great meetings in the past few years; the meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, had the largest attendance of any of the Society's meetings. The meeting in 1999 in Mobile, Alabama, introduced us to deciduous azaleas that thrive in the Deep South. In 2001, we have a chance to view some of the best growing habitat for native azaleas. For those of us who have not experienced these in their native settings, DO NOT PASS THIS UP! Join us in Asheville in June.

Goodbye and thank you,  
Bill Bode

## On the Cover:

*Rhododendron vaseyi*, a native of the Blue Ridge Mountains, photographed at 4,900 feet on Pilot Mountain in Pisgah National Forest amid thousands of other *R. vaseyi* specimens. Looking Glass Rock is in the distance. Since this mountain-dweller blooms in mid-June, it should be in full bloom during the 2001 convention in Asheville.

[Photo by Ed Collins.]

# 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 1999 - 2000

President — William Bode  
Vice-President — Joseph E. Schild, Jr.  
Secretary  
Treasurer — Robert Stelloh  
Immediate Past-President —  
James O. Thornton

## Directors

Terms Expire in 2000  
Robert Lee  
Maarten van der Giessen  
Stephen Schroeder

Terms Expire in 2001  
Gen. Bryghte Godbold  
Donald Hyatt  
Col. Murray Sheffield

Chapter presidents serve as  
ex-officio directors

## Chapters

**Brookside Gardens**  
(chartered Aug. 1979)  
Dianne Gregg, Pres.

**Ben Morrison**  
(chartered May 1980)  
Mrs. Alan D. Jones, Pres.  
**Northern Virginia**  
(chartered May 1980)  
David Nanney, Pres.

**Louisiana**  
(chartered June 1981)  
Dr. John Thornton, Pres.  
**Tri-State**  
(chartered Oct. 1981)  
Robin Hahn, Pres.

**Dallas Chapter**  
(chartered May 1989)  
Roby Odom, Pres.  
**Oconee Chapter**  
(chartered Nov. 1991)  
Dorothy Hester, Pres.

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual dues amount 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, Azalean Society of America, P.O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.