

# President's Letter

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Friends,

With the 2001 convention in Asheville, North Carolina, behind us, but still much in mind for its great programs and tours, we look to new and exciting adventures. In my remarks to the members in Asheville, I noted the importance of bringing in new members through mentoring and just being a friend.

Our Society is growing through each of us answering azalea questions from our neighbors and being a friend in the garden. Often a gift plant to a neighbor is treasured for many years; long after other purchased azaleas may have passed on, that gift and the giver are recalled with pleasure. What if we had included an application to the ASA with the azalea? Remember, autumn is the time to plant azaleas and cultivate friendships in the process.

The 2002 Convention in Atlanta will be upon us before we may even think of it; therefore, it is important that our azaleas and members be well represented during the joint ARS/ASA Convention. I am looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones at that occasion, as I am sure you all are.

With warm regards and looking to a bright future, I remain your friend.

## Upcoming Conventions

**2002:** April 17-21, in Atlanta. The convention will be jointly hosted by the Azaleas Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and the Oconee Chapter of the ASA. Volunteers are needed to help with registration and other convention duties. Please contact Jim Thornton to offer your services at 770-483-1593 or [jot@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jot@worldnet.att.net). Earl Sommerville is the ARS contact: 770-428-3226 or [earlsommerville@mindspring.com](mailto:earlsommerville@mindspring.com). A large collection of plants will be for sale at the convention. More details and registration forms will be in the Winter 2001 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. The convention information website is: [www.arsazalea.tripod.com](http://www.arsazalea.tripod.com) or you can go to any search engine and type in ARS/ASA and it will link you to this website and the ASA website.

**2003:** Convention location is under review by the Society's board of directors. More information will be published in **THE AZALEAN** as it becomes available.

**2004:** The Ben Morrison chapter is planning the 2004 ASA convention. Carol Segree is chairwoman of the planning committee for this big event. Contact her at 301-261-6215. As a highlight, chapter member Gray Carter has offered to propagate R. 'Ben Morrison' plants for sale at that convention.

# 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 2001-2002

**President** — Joseph E. Schild, Jr.  
**Vice-President** — Robert Lee  
**Secretary** — John Brown  
**Treasurer** — Robert Stelloh  
**Immediate Past-President** — William Bode

## Directors

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

**Terms Expire in 2003**  
Leslie Ann Nanney  
Maarten van der Giesen  
John Migas

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors

## Chapters

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

**Ben Morrison**  
(chartered May 1981)  
Bob McWhorter, *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)  
Eugene Westlake, *Vice-Pres.*

**Oconee Chapter**  
(chartered Nov. 1991)  
Mike McNeal, *Pres.*

**Vaseyi Chapter**  
(chartered June 2001)  
Ed Collins, *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, 1000 Moody Bridge Road, Cleveland, SC 29635.

## On the Cover:

One of the beautiful azaleas featured in Don Hyatt's keynote speech June 16, 2001, was this native hybrid he and others who make the pilgrimage to Gregory Bald have christened *Rhododendron* "Gregory Salmon Balls." It is so named because the round trusses of salmon flowers reminded them of balls of poached salmon. If this variety is ever registered they might change it to R. 'Gregory Salmon.' [Photo by Don Hyatt]