President’s Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

This summer has kept me busy taking care of my azalea plants in my garden. Having sheared and fertilized the azaleas after they had bloomed, the rest of my garden time has been devoted to re-mulching beds, weeding, and an occasional application of insecticide. It’s a lot of hard work, but it’s part of the enjoyment of taking care of plants and watching them grow.

This past May, the national convention and membership meeting was held in Holland, Michigan. I must say that the topography was a little different from our usual convention settings. John Migas and numerous volunteers put forth a great effort, and the end result was a wonderful and enjoyable event. The weather could not have been better, and the azalea blooms were at their peak. I don’t think that the timing could have been any better. Thank you, Lake Michigan Chapter for a fantastic and memorable convention. The 2006 convention will be a joint meeting of the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America, May 12-15 in Rockville, Maryland (Washington, DC, area). You don’t want to miss this convention.

I would like to welcome our newly elected board members and officers, Mary Rutley, Aaron Cook, and Joe Coleman, Bob Stelloh, and John Brown. Joe Coleman has served the ASA in numerous positions and this will be his second term as board member. Mary Rutley and Aaron Cook are new to the board; however, they bring a lot of experience with them. Bob Stelloh, our treasurer, and John Brown, our secretary, have always been faithful workers for our Society. Leslie Nanney and Tadeusz Daukszka will be leaving the board, and I would like to thank them for their hard work and service. I’m looking forward to working with the newly elected and present board member and officers. We are already off to a great start for this year.

Congratulations to Bob Stelloh for receiving The Distinguished Achievement Award at the general membership meeting in Holland, Michigan. Bob Stelloh is presently our treasurer and manager for our Web site; however, Bob wears many different ASA hats, and I would probably miss something if I started listing all of them. He received a plaque and a high speed computer. I still can’t believe that we surprised him! Thanks to the members that helped in making this award happen, and a great big thank you to Bob Stelloh for all of his service to our Society.

Hope you are having a great summer.

On the Cover

Mark (Alan M.) Phillips, of Glenaire Gardens in Cary, North Carolina, has developed this ‘New Look’ azalea from an unknown cross with George Lindley Tabor. The beautiful rose-, pink-, and white-striped flower is densely packed in peak bloom, accented by the plant’s dark foliage. The foliage has a leathery feel, with leaf hairs on the tops and edges. The plant is bud- and plant-hardy to 11°F in Cary, North Carolina. The flowers, borne up to 12 in a ball-shaped cluster, are broadly funnel-form with extremely wavy (five + five) lobe margins (most stamens are petaloid and suggest a ‘triple hose-in-hose’ appearance). The plant appears to have potential as a good landscape specimen, presenting prominent, long-lasting flowers from April 13 through May 7, 2005. It is currently being tested for wholesale nursery production. ‘New Look’ azalea was registered by the RHS July 26, 2004; see complete description in Murray, Jay. 2005. ‘Register of Plant Names—Winter 2005 Supplement’. Journal American Rhododendron Society. 59(1): 55. (Photo courtesy of Pete Holland, Glenaire Retirement Community Center, Cary, North Carolina.)

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 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 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, Azalea Society of America, 1000 Moody Bridge Road, Cleveland, SC 29635.