President's Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

Seems like it’s been a long hot summer this year or maybe I was just getting tired of the irrigation routine on those hot dry days. My azaleas have had their share of pest and other problems. However, all and all, they have come through the heat and summer stress as good as ever. It still amazes me how most evergreen azaleas can survive during harsh conditions. Now with that “touch of fall” in the morning air, it’s more comfortable to be outside as I care for and prepare my azaleas for those cold blustery days of winter. Each season brings its enjoyment and also its work.

Comments after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

It sure is a reality check when a huge natural disaster strikes. Priorities can change overnight, and hobby and leisure time activities take a back seat to more pressing concerns. I must confess that for the first few days after Hurricane Katrina, I was in shock and disbelief at the devastation, and azaleas were not on the top of my to-do list. Then along came Hurricane Rita. To all our Society members who were affected by these two storms, my wish is that you have recovered from the damage and have some extra time for gardening and other leisure activity. It sure helps relieve the stress caused by storm damage and displacement. Also, a great “thank you” to all the concerned members who sent their thoughts and prayers during this time.

I have commented before on how amazed I am about the harsh conditions and stress that azaleas can endure and still perform well. After Katrina I still stand by that comment. Most azaleas fared well during the storm, especially if they were well established in the ground. Some container azalea losses occurred for nurseries and collectors after the storm because there was no electric power to water the plants. High temperatures in the 90s and no rain for weeks after the storm only added to the difficulty of caring for the azaleas. In some cases, there were just too many downed trees to get to the plants. However, I have found some things that can really do some damage to azaleas, and they are track hoes, bobcats, tractors, and some young enthusiastic equipment drivers. The combination of these four things can get really interesting when trying to get 50-plus trees out of your nursery, yard, and azalea garden. I’m just kidding; those guys were great, and I have a brand new perspective on garden design. Every day can bring its learning experiences. Hope everyone is doing well.

Best regards,

Robert (Buddy) Lee
Independence, Louisiana

Wanted Good-doer Lists from Flood Zones

Those of you whose azalea gardens or nurseries have survived the flooding, please send lists of those that withstood flooding. Tell us whether the water was fresh, saltwater, or brackish and how many hours (or days) the flooding lasted. Send lists to the Editor at the address shown on p. 51.

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 2005-2006

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

Directors

Terms Expire in 2006
Bob Hobbs
Ron Hooper
Tom Milner

Terms Expire in 2007
Joe Coleman
Aaron Cook
Mary Rutley

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors

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.

Districts

Tri-State (chartered Nov. 1991)
Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 1980)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Alabamense Chapter (chartered May 2005)
Carlton LMond, Pres.

Ben Morrison
Harold Belcher, Pres.

Louisiana (chartered June 1981)
William Bode, Pres.

Tri-State (chartered May 1989)

Dallas Chapter (chartered May 1989)

Vaseyi Chapter (chartered June 2001)
Ed Collins, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered Nov. 1991)
Allison Fuqua, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres.

Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980)
Dan Krabill, Pres.

Larry Miller, Pres.

Oconee Chapter (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.

Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003)
John Migas, Pres.