Greetings! I hope that you are having a great spring. With all the ups and downs with the weather this year, such as cherry blossoms opening in early January in Washington, DC, and flooding in the Gulf States, it sure puts our azaleas to the test.

I’m convinced that gardeners are much more aware of the weather than the rest of the population. We tend to mention past seasons not so much with dates but with phrases like “that was the spring that had the best azalea blooms I’ve ever seen” or “remember that was the spring with the late frost that nipped some of the azalea buds” and “that was the winter when the snow was perfect for protecting the azaleas.”

I’m sure that you can come up with many similar “phrases” from your own past azalea experiences. One thing for sure, every year brings not only new challenges in caring for our azaleas, but also a renewed and invigorated enjoyment of these beautiful plants.

Speaking of seasons, I guess you could say that I’m in the “winter” of my presidency of our Society. It’s hard to believe that I have been president for four years. The time has passed “fast and furiously,” and there seemed to always be something to complete or someone to contact.

Overall, it has been a wonderful and gratifying experience. I would like to thank the board of directors, officers, and membership for giving me the opportunity to serve and for their support during the last four years. My wish is that what has been accomplished during my tenure has had a positive impact on our Society.

I hope everyone is having a great spring, and someday in the future you can say “that was the spring that had the most fantastic azalea blooms ever.”

Sincerely,
Robert ‘Buddy’ Lee

On the Cover
The Encore® Azalea Autumn Bell™ (RobleohPP) was introduced in 2006. With light green foliage and ruffled pale pink flowers embellished by delicate white lacing and magenta freckles, it is a garden designer’s delight.

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 2006-2007
President — Robert Lee
Vice President — William McDavid
Secretary — Carol Flowers
Treasurer — Bob Stelloh
Immediate Past President — Joseph E. Schild, Jr.

Directors
Terms expire 2007 Terms expire 2008
Joe Coleman John Brown
Aaron Cook Ron Hooper
Mary Rutley Tom Milner

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters
Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979) Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980)
Dr. Charles Evans, Pres. Harold Belscher, Pres.
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Eastern Virginia
Larry Miller, Pres. (chartered May 1989)
Oconee Chapter (chartered Nov. 1991) Vaseyi Chapter
Allison Fuqua, Pres. (chartered June 2001)
Lake Michigan Alabamense Chapter
John Migas, Pres. (chartered May 2005)

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of $25; life-membership for an individual is $500. 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, 7195 Henson Landing Road, Welcome, MD 20693 (phone 301-934-3556).or visit www.azaleas.org.