

President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan



Being this is the fall issue of the *Azalean*, I find appropriate that I'm writing my president's letter on the last evening of the fall season. Yes, tomorrow is the first day of winter and snow is upon us here in Michigan. Snow is a good thing for those of us who live in the north in that once March arrives we are really looking forward to the spring season. Over the past few months it's been hard driving around with my window half open.

Still, I have yet to complain about a cold, windy, snowy day, especially after the summer that we had here in Michigan. I spent at least 50 days swimming in Lake Michigan thinking the heat would never end. I was very fortunate not to lose a plant due to the drought. Once again, I'll never complain about a day below zero, but give me a hot day and you are sure to hear from me.

On December 20, 2012 the Research Foundation of the Azalea Society of America received a donation of stocks worth \$10,000 from Ethel Larus in memory of her husband Charlie Larus. For those of you who were at this year's convention in Asheville, we visited the gardens of Mary and Ed Collins in Flat Rock which they purchased a few years ago from the Larus's.

Please remember that this is the time for our Membership Renewal. Dan Krabill has sent out notices recently; please respond so that he can rest a bit easier. Also, a few chapters are assisting Dan with getting their members dues in on time. Our Membership Chair, Eve Harrison, is always waiting to hear from others to help her promote our group in any way. Please contact Eve.

With our new Editors Bonnie and Preston Cooley, our goal is to get the *Journal* back on schedule. We are getting closer and closer to this goal, which has not been easy. We are lacking articles for new issues, so please submit an article. Chapter news and updates, garden visits, activities and events are always welcome. We need articles!

Jim Thornton has the 2013 convention in Athens, Georgia in full stride. Please plan on attending for a great April meeting. Take care and the next time it snows, remember...I simply love it!

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 which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

Officers for 2012-2013

President — John Migas
Vice President — J Jackson
Secretary — Leslie Nanney
Treasurer — Dan Krabill
Immediate Past President — Aaron Cook

Directors

<u>Terms expire 2013</u>	<u>Terms expire 2014</u>
Eve Harrison	Miles Beach
Barbara Stump	Lindy Johnson
Rocky Voci	Larry Miller

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Jim Duffy, <i>Pres.</i>	Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Rick Bauer, <i>Pres.</i>
Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Dr. Allen Owings, <i>Pres.</i>	Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>Pres.</i>
Texas (chartered May 1989) JoAnn Smith, <i>Pres.</i>	Oconee (chartered Nov. 1991) Jim Thornton, <i>Pres.</i>
Vaseyi (chartered Nov. 2001) April Sanborn, <i>Pres.</i>	Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003) Phil Lanning, <i>Pres.</i>
Alabamense (chartered May 2005) Patrick Thompson, <i>Pres.</i>	Southern California (chartered March 2007) Jim Jaeger, <i>Pres.</i>
Rev. John Drayton (chartered May 2010) Tom Johnson, <i>Pres.</i>	

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$25; life-membership for one or two persons at the same address 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 Leslie Nanney, Secretary, 8646 Tuttle Road, Springfield, VA 22152 or visit www.azaleas.org.