

# President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan

Tomorrow will be the first day of March, and here in Michigan you would think that it is the middle of January. Just yesterday we woke up to a devastating snowfall that was not kind to the landscape. Many snapped limbs are now on the ground and shrubs laid over on their sides. This is not uncommon for us Midwesterners, especially along the shores of Lake Michigan. We still have another four to six weeks of unpleasant weather before spring arrives.

For myself, along with most other gardeners, spring can't arrive soon enough. The snow usually begins around Thanksgiving, but this winter our first measurable snowfall didn't arrive until mid-January. Since then we've had well over 70 inches of that white stuff.

Our average snowfall for a season is just around 75 inches, far from the 150-plus inches of snow that we had just two and three years ago. I know everyone is thinking about the snow cover on the plants. Just ask the East Coast victims about snow cover and what does Don Hyatt think about snow cover. In Michigan, we get it every year, year after year.

It won't be long before we all meet in Athens, Georgia. The Oconee chapter assures us of a great event. The plant sale is in the works with many varieties from local members. The conventions are a great time to meet up with friends and an opportunity to meet new ones.

I hope that all can attend and support the Oconee chapter. The next conventions are to be held in Charleston, South Carolina, for 2014 and Nacogdoches, Texas, for 2015.

Our upcoming BOD meeting will be a very interesting day of events. Many topics need to be discussed, and we as a board hope to get these issues resolved. I ask that all chapter presidents have a copy of their bylaws present for this meeting. We as a group are in need of volunteers, either on a chapter level or on the national level. There are some positions open and we need help from the membership. Also, our editors, Bonnie and Preston Cooley, are in need of articles. Please send them some articles for the Journal.

From what I have been told, spring has arrived for some. Barbara Stump reports redbud blooms along with some azaleas in Texas, Buddy Lee reports an early bloom of azaleas in Louisiana, and Georgia has some daffodils showing color. As I said earlier, here in Michigan we have nothing but snow to report.

For all the membership, I wish you a happy spring and hope to see you in Athens!



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

**Terms expire 2013      Terms expire 2014**

Eve Harrison	Miles Beach
Barbara Stump	Lindy Johnson
Rocky Voci	Larry Miller

Chapter presidents  
serve as ex-officio directors.

## Chapters

<b>Ben Morrison</b> (chartered May 1980) open, Pres.	<b>Northern Virginia</b> (chartered May 1980) Rick Bauer, Pres.
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<b>Louisiana</b> (chartered June 1981) Peggy Cox, Pres.	<b>Tri-State</b> (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, Pres.
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<b>Texas</b> (chartered May 1989) David Creech, Pres.	<b>Oconee</b> (chartered Nov. 1991) John Harrison, Pres.
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<b>Vaseyi</b> (chartered Nov. 2001) Audrey Stelloh, Pres.	<b>Lake Michigan</b> (chartered May 2003) Phil Lanning, Pres.
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<b>Alabamense</b> (chartered May 2005) Patrick Thompson, Pres.	<b>Southern California</b> (chartered March 2007) Jim Jaeger, Pres.
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<b>Rev. John Drayton</b> (chartered May 2010) Tom Johnson, Pres.	
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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](http://www.azaleas.org).