

President's Letter

J Jackson — Trade, Tennessee



Hello azalea and gardening friends,

This is my first president's letter to the Society. I am honored and a bit awed to find myself writing to you. As the time drew near for me to return to my day job a deep longing to stay home and see all the seasons unfold filled me, so I retired from "going to sea" for the last 36 years. Lindy and I have been working in our garden and really enjoying the spring season. It is still early spring here in the Blue Ridge of East Tennessee. *Rhododendron vaseyi*, *R. canescens*, *R. austrinum* have gone by and *R. periclymenoides*, *R. atlanticum*, and *R. calendulaceum* are now quite a show. We recently drove 400 miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway to the James River valley and back searching for things in bloom. This time of the year we always look forward to gathering with ASA members to visit gardens and azaleas in the wild.

The convention in Athens was a wonderful event. Thank you again to the Oconee Chapter for a great weekend. It is always an exciting time for meeting new people and reconnecting with friends who share similar interests.

The Board of Directors meetings included several difficult issues that face us. We have a lot to offer as a plant society. The ability to gain and retain membership is a constant concern. I feel as long as we share our passion for the plants and provide information and gardening fellowship we will grow. We have a rich history of hybridizing, collecting, and growing azaleas. Our ability to provide hard to find and beautiful plants will continue to attract members.

I look forward to getting to know many more of you as my time of service to you unfolds.

Best regards,
J Jackson

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 2013-2014

President—J Jackson
Vice President—Eve Harrison
Secretary—Leslie Nanney
Treasurer—Dan Krabill
Immediate Past President—John Migas

Directors

<u>Terms expire 2014</u>	<u>Terms expire 2015</u>
Miles Beach	Mike Sikes
Lindy Johnson	Barbara Stump
Larry Miller	Rocky Voci

Chapter presidents
serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) open, <i>Pres.</i>	Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Rick Bauer, <i>Pres.</i>
Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Peggy Cox, <i>Pres.</i>	Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>Pres.</i>
Texas (chartered May 1989) David Creech, <i>Pres.</i>	Oconee (chartered Nov. 1991) John Harrison, <i>Pres.</i>
Vaseyi (chartered Nov. 2001) Audrey Stelloh, <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, *Pres.*

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.