

President's Letter



J Jackson — Trade, Tennessee

Dear Azalea Friends,

The fall of the year is closing in after a really wet and cool summer. We have had a good growing season for azaleas and now the seed pods and flower buds are swelling. In June I had the pleasure of chasing the bloom of native azaleas with several of our members. It was a wonderful experience to spend time with passionate plant people looking for native azaleas in the wild.



Most of us prefer gardening to dealing with business issues. However, it is one of my duties to keep the membership informed on ASA business. There has been a good deal of discussion among the Board of Directors and members about ASA finances. After much discussion on how to increase returns on the endowment fund, a motion was made, a vote taken and the motion below was passed.

Our Endowment Fund and Research Fund exist to provide a perpetual resource of money for the ASA. Our objectives for these funds are to retain and to the extent possible increase their purchasing power over time, and to produce a reasonable return annually for distribution to meet current needs of the ASA. To meet these objectives, investment decisions shall be made with the goal of maximizing the long term total return of the entire portfolio both from market value increases (realized and unrealized gains) and from current yield (interest and dividends). Within the limits of this philosophy, the Finance Committee and the Research Committee shall each allocate their assets among equities, debt securities and cash, and shall make their specific investment recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall then direct the Treasurer to make the investment recommendations it approves. The Finance Committee and the Research Committee shall periodically track market conditions and the performance of their investments and recommend any resulting changes in investments to the Executive Committee for its approval and direction to the Treasurer. These committees shall endeavor to, but are not required to, invest donations to their respective funds in accordance with the wishes of the donors. None of these committee members can be held personally responsible for the results of their investment activities done in good faith.

The Board of Directors is tasked in the by-laws to oversee the assets of ASA as stated below:

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. General Powers

The direction and management of the affairs, business, and property of the ASA shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors (herein also referred to as "the Board").

Our Treasurer, Dan Krabill has formed a standing Finance Committee. Now the real work begins for the Finance and Executive Committees. Anyone with questions or concerns about ASA finances should feel free to call me.

It is my pleasure to report that there is a new chapter forming in Wilmington, North Carolina. We look forward to meeting and being with the members from the "Cape Fear Chapter" of the Azalea Society of America in the near future.

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 *Pentanthena* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Eriaceae*).

Officers for 2013-2014

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

Directors

Terms expire 2014	Terms expire 2015
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) Jim Ellis, <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 Turtle Road, Springfield, VA 22152 or visit www.azaleas.org.

