

# President's Letter

J Jackson — Trade, Tennessee



Dear Azalea Friends,

Summer quickly followed spring here in the Blue Ridge. We had unusually warm (80F) days in May and had to be more careful than usual to protect our azalea seedlings from getting desiccated.

I am extremely sorry to report the passing away of **Bob Stelloh** and **Ed Collins**. These two men have been so very important and inspiring to our society. Both Ed and Bob were personal mentors and friends to me. They will be sorely missed. We can honor and remember them best by keeping the ASA healthy and growing.



During a discussion the other day with one of our past ASA presidents, he lamented to me that since he had served in almost all capacities in the society that he felt at a loss as how to serve the society. My advice to him was to get very active again at the chapter level and maybe to serve as a chapter president again. To me the chapter presidents are some of the most important members of the ASA. The society is grown from the chapter level upward. National can assist by providing guidance to the chapters or in business and BOD business decisions, but the health of the ASA is determined by the health of its chapters. Most new members join at the chapter level and a few join during a convention.

The business of the society was conducted via an email meeting of the BOD this summer. The hope is that by meeting at least twice a year more issues can be resolved instead of being carried forward year after year. Details such as "Position Descriptions" for ASA officers will help the BOD serve in a more effective and efficient manner.

It will soon be seed collecting time again. The ASA seed exchange is a benefit that attracts more attention each season. My wife **Lindy Johnson** is chairperson of the ASA seed exchange. Please consider gathering seed from your favorite azaleas in the garden or in the wild and sending them to Lindy. It is preferable to send "uncleaned" seed capsules. Crushing the seed capsules is not a good practice because it causes mold problems on the germinating flats. We have seed cleaning tools here that work well.

Thank you to everyone who donated seed last season.

All the best,

*J Jackson*

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

#### Officers for 2014-2015

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

#### Directors

Terms expire 2016	Terms expire 2015
Rick Bauer	Mike Sikes
Paul Beck	Barbara Stump
Larry Miller	Rocky Voci

*Chapter presidents  
serve as ex-officio directors.*

#### Chapters

<b>Ben Morrison</b> (chartered May 1980) open, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Northern Virginia</b> (chartered May 1980) Rick Bauer, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Louisiana</b> (chartered June 1981) Peggy Cox, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Tri-State</b> (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Texas</b> (chartered May 1989) David Creech, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Oconee</b> (chartered Nov. 1991) John Harrison, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Vaseyi</b> (chartered Nov. 2001) Audrey Stelloh, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Lake Michigan</b> (chartered May 2003) Jim Ellis, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Alabamense</b> (chartered May 2005) Patrick Thompson, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Southern California</b> (chartered March 2007) Jim Jaeger, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Rev. John Drayton</b> (chartered May 2010) Tom Johnson, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Cape Fear</b> (chartered October 2013) Matt Hunter, <i>Pres.</i>

**Central Carolinas**  
(chartered October 2013)  
Chris Wetmore, *Pres.*

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$30; life-membership for one or two persons at the same address is \$600. 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).