

President's Letter

J Jackson—Trade, Tennessee

Dear Azalea Friends,

I am looking forward to the winter season for study and learning new things. Not being able to spend so much time outside due to the weather here in the Blue Ridge forces me into different modes of behavior that are beneficial to my year as a whole.

The "membership" theme has been a constant in my letters to you because it is so important to the viability of our society. Over the last 15 years I have observed chapters wax and wane, and it is hard not to be discouraged as a once vibrant chapter slows down or diminishes. Aging and changes in our lives cause a shift in interests and the ability to participate. So the constantly changing dynamics of our chapters is only natural.

The value of membership is the basis on which to build. Our members themselves hold an amazing amount of knowledge and experience with growing azaleas and gardening in general. I think more interaction with other gardening and plant society groups would be of benefit to the ASA. Affiliation with educational institutions, arboreta, and public and private gardens are also good models for chapters. Chapter plant sales have proven to be one of the most successful activities in producing proceeds and gaining new members.

Plans and details for our 2017 convention in Hammond, LA, are coming together. I am really looking forward to seeing you next spring. Thanks to Buddy Lee, there has been recent planning for the 2018 convention and from what I have heard we will meet up in Little Rock, AR.

There will be changes to the BOD this coming spring, and a new president and vice president will take up the stewardship of our society.

*Best regards,
J*

▼ This deciduous azalea is a "natural" hybrid grown from seed by J and Lindy's nursery mentor Zophar Warner who passed away in 1991. It is another "Gregory Bald type" native azalea.



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 2015-2017

President — J Jackson

Vice President — Barbara Stump

Secretary — Leslie Nanney

Treasurer — Paul Beck

Immediate Past President — John Migas

Directors

Terms expire 2017 **Terms expire 2018**

Miles Beach

Larry Miller

Bart Brechter

Jo Ann Smith

Joe Coleman

Chris Wetmore

Chapter presidents

serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Ben Morrison

(chartered May 1980)

Budne Reinke, *Pres.*

Northern Virginia

(chartered May 1980)

Rick Bauer, *Pres.*

Louisiana

(chartered June 1981)

Allen Owings, *Pres.*

Tri-State

(chartered Oct. 1981)

Beverly Knight, *Pres.*

Texas

(chartered May 1989)

Harold Hall, *Pres.*

Vaseyi

(chartered June 2001)

J Jackson, *Pres.*

Lake Michigan

(chartered May 2003)

Open, *Pres.*

Alabama

(chartered May 2005)

Patrick Thompson, *Pres.*

Southern California

(chartered March 2007)

Jim Jaeger, *Pres.*

Rev. John Drayton

(chartered May 2010)

Tom Johnson, *Pres.*

Cape Fear

(chartered October 2013)

Open, *Pres.*

Central Carolinas

(chartered October 2013)

Sandy Yakob, *Pres.*

At-Large Contact

Chris Wetmore

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. For information and a membership application, write to Leslie Nanney, Secretary, 8646 Tuttle Road, Springfield, VA 22152 or visit www.azaleas.org.