

# President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

As I write this message, I'm reflecting on the great time I just had hiking in the Smoky Mountains with other society members. A major benefit of membership is the ability to enjoy azaleas in their native habitat with fellow knowledgeable members. I'm continually learning about azaleas, both deciduous and evergreen. For example, during this year's trip we were treated to a well-researched presentation on identifying different native azalea species by our society vice president, Charlie Andrews.

There has been a lot of activity in the society over that past few months. Dave Banks and Paul Beck continue to enhance the functionality of our website. One issue we face is content management. The webmaster is not expected to be a subject matter expert (though he or she may be). We're looking for knowledgeable members to step forward to manage the content of various portions of the site. Our website is our society's face to the world. Outdated or invalid content doesn't reflect well on our society. We will be looking for volunteers to assist in this regard. I encourage you to volunteer.

Our society logo has gotten a little long in the tooth. We are currently developing a new logo which reflects the beauty of our azaleas, both deciduous and evergreen and which can be used for a multitude of uses such as business cards, letterhead and clothing. This will be another way in which we can get exposure for our society.

We continue to focus on the Legacy Project. Members of the Central Carolinas chapter are going to great lengths to preserve the Strickland azaleas. The Northern Virginia chapter is working with different public gardens to establish Legacy Gardens to highlight the hybrids of chapter hybridizers. The Texas chapter has stepped forward to sponsor a number of Legacy hybrid groups and they are actively propagating azaleas. Information on sponsoring a Legacy hybrid is located on our website or you can contact me directly. Our website also has a list of current Legacy hybrids.

We will continue to leverage our Azalea Research Fund to encourage studies of import to our community. We are exploring identifying areas of particular concern and soliciting studies in these areas. We are also encouraging the application and designation of Azalea Cities, especially as it can be used to increase membership in the society.

Planning is well underway for our 2018 convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. I always look forward to meeting in different parts of the country and seeing the local gardens and hearing local speakers.

Finally, I want to reemphasize that the WE are the society. Our society is only as good as we make it. I encourage all of you to volunteer at your local level. Set goals for your chapter and plans to achieve them. Sponsor a Legacy Hybrid group, propagate plants and feature them in your local plant sales. And finally, step forward when calls go out for volunteers. Don't let what you can't do keep you from doing what you can.

*Best regards,  
Rick*

## Deadlines for input for *The Azalean*

October 30—Winter 2017 issue  
December 1—Spring 2018 issue  
February 1—Summer 2018 issue  
July 1—Fall 2018 issue



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 2017-2019

**President** — Rick Bauer  
**Vice President** — Charles A. Andrews, III  
**Secretary** — Leslie Nanney  
**Treasurer** — Paul Beck  
**Immediate Past President** — J Jackson

### Directors

Terms expire 2018	Terms expire 2019
Larry Miller	Jim Campbell
Jo Ann Smith	Kevin McCorkle
Chris Wetmore	Sally Perkins

Chapter presidents  
serve as ex-officio directors.

### Chapters

<b>Ben Morrison</b> (chartered May 1980) Budne Reinke, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Northern Virginia</b> (chartered May 1980) Barbara Kirkwood, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Louisiana</b> (chartered June 1981) Allen Owings, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Tri-State</b> (chartered Oct. 1981) Beverly Knight, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Texas</b> (chartered May 1989) Harold Hall, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Vaseyi</b> (chartered June 2001) J Jackson, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Lake Michigan</b> (chartered May 2003) John Migas, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Alabamense</b> (chartered May 2005) Patrick Thompson, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Rev. John Drayton</b> (chartered May 2010) Tom Johnson, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Central Carolinas</b> (chartered October 2013) open, <i>Pres.</i>

**At-Large Contact**  
Robert Thau

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](http://www.azaleas.org).