deep breath and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. During this time, there are also numerous conifers pushing new growth with some of the most intense colors of blues and golds seen nowhere else. As the high temperatures return, we find ourselves looking to the amazing collection of crape myrtles that bloom with just as many colors as the azaleas and provide interest when everything else is coping with the summer heat. Eventually fall returns and takes us on another rollercoaster ride of colors as the leaves begin to change to brilliant reds, yellows and oranges, with the oaks, hickories, and maples. The cycle then repeats itself; however, as the plants grow larger and more are added to the collections, the show becomes better every year!

Patrick Franklin

Patrick has been working with trees most of his life. Growing up in the Sandhills region of eastern North Carolina, he has always enjoyed being in the forest and working with plants. After earning his BBA, he applied to work in Arboriculture at one of the offices for Bartlett Tree Experts. Patrick is the great grandson of F.A. Bartlett and the 4th generation to be involved in the family business caring for trees. He is proud to be part of a company with an impressive history dating back to 1907. After spending 10 years in Charleston, SC, managing trees on clients’ properties, Patrick decided to focus on an MBA degree, which he received with honors. He then moved to Charlotte, NC, in 2013 and began work at the R.A. Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories and Arboretum where he is currently the Vice President of Special Operations. Patrick is active in acquiring plants for many of the collections at the Arboretum and is proud to continue the family business of caring for trees and the tradition of collecting plants from around the world.

Sean Henry is a Research Technician at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory and Arboretum in Charlotte, NC. Originally from the Philadelphia area, he has had a lifelong passion for horticulture, particularly edible landscapes. He is a commercially licensed drone pilot and has been studying the use of drones in arboriculture for the past five years. In addition to flying UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems), he works with Dr. Tom Smiley studying soils and fertilizers, lightning protection in trees, cabling, bracing, and conducting tests on drought resistance, tree growth regulators, and saltwater intrusion remediation.
The chapter welcomes new members Deborah Pollard of Hillsborough, North Carolina, Amanda Taylor and Zach Spurgeon of Morganton, North Carolina and associate members J. Jackson and Lindy Johnson of Trade, Tennessee (Vaseyi) and Suzanne Medd of Hendersonville, North Carolina (Vaseyi).

**Louisiana Chapter**
The chapter welcomes new member Larry Dickerson, Kiln, Mississippi.

**Northern Virginia Chapter**
The chapter welcomes new members Anthony Tarn, Remsenburg, New York, and Mike Hudgins, Hayes, Virginia.

**Texas Chapter**
*David Creech—President*
We had great help from members of the chapter and others in Houston in setting up what would have been a fine convention in March. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the following:
- In Houston: Bart Brechter (for overall management of the convention, arrangements with speakers, venues, and hotel), Vickie Lange (for helping with logistics of the whole convention and fielding registration questions), Kay Rice (plant sale coordinator), Margaret Pfeiffer (for coordinating transportation), and Pam Rundle (for hospitality arrangements).
- In Nacogdoches: Sherrie Randall (for registration), Don Parsons (for processing registration funds and refunding them).

The chapter hopes to hold a fall plant sale in Nacogdoches and welcomes new member Kay Rice, Houston, Texas.

**Texas Forest Country Chapter**
*Robert Thau—President*
This year was a time that we will not forget in a long time. Our ASA convention was canceled along with the Jasper Azalea Festival, due to the Coronavirus, and we were also told to stay at home till further notice.

Now on the bright side, our Jasper City Park is really coming together; we are a little behind our schedule which was mainly due to weather. We are putting off planting azaleas till this fall.

Our chapter still has our yearly propagation workshop scheduled for June, if we are told everything is safe.

All our members need to always be looking for new members so our society can grow.

**Vaseyi Chapter**
*Aaron Cook, President*
The Vaseyi Chapter had planned several events and speakers over the months of April and May. Of course, due to the COVID19 pandemic, everything has been put on hold. It is mid-April and everything it seems is in full bloom here in Hendersonville, NC. We had a series of severe storms pass through late Sunday night, April 12th. Many of our members had some damage to their gardens and some are still without power as of Tuesday April 14th. We are looking forward to being able to gather as a group in the near future. Stay Safe.

The chapter welcomes new member Richard Parker, Hayesville, North Carolina.

**At-Large Members**
Welcome new at-large members Bradley Powers, Southport, North Carolina; Barbara Roberts, Alpharetta, Georgia; Jacqueline Gonzalez, Tallahassee, Florida; and Felix Dejesus, Plantation, Florida.

Photo 1—The elusive and mysterious Strickland Hybrid deciduous azalea “Kelly’s Double” being grown for the 2021 ASA Convention Plant Sale inventory.