



*THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA*

*takes great honor in presenting*

*THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD*

*to*

*Patrick Thompson*

*Patrick Thompson, you are the sole proprietor of a company offering surveys, consultation, landscape design and installation, habitat management, and arborist work. You are a certified arborist, firefighter, and the coordinator of Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance. Your heart, however, lies with native azaleas and the Azalea Society of America.*

*You have been breeding deciduous azaleas since 2010. You often go on field trips to locate new populations and expand our knowledge of them. You write about them and are often invited to meetings and workshops to share your knowledge of native azaleas. You earned your master's degree at Auburn with a research thesis entitled "Rooting Response of Deciduous Azaleas ... Stem Cuttings to Mist Regimes and Media Mixes".*

*You are curator of Auburn University's Donald E Davis Arboretum. Starting from a collection of oaks, about 150 tree species, and only a few native azaleas, through your efforts, the arboretum now has more than 1,000 taxa and an outstanding collection of native azaleas. From these native azaleas, you developed the colorful Auburn Series.*

*You are a past president of the Alabamense Chapter. In 2013, you helped revive the chapter and have continued in its support as one of their main leaders.*

*We greatly appreciate your efforts to promote azaleas and your many contributions to the society. You are indeed a distinguished member of the Azalea Society of America.*

*Awarded this 4th day of April 2024.*

*Charles Andrews*

*President, 2024-2025*

*Robert Lee*

*Awards Chairman*