

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Steve Brainerd

Rowlett, Texas

A GIFT OF LIFE FOR LIFE

One of the practices of gardeners that has left a deep impression on me is the practice of exchanging and giving plants. A gift plant creates an indelible memory of the person whose generosity has brightened my garden. Viewing and enjoying a gift plant is a rich experience for me because of the linkage to the person. It is at this time of the year that all of us can prepare gifts of life which create lifetime memories.

Taking cuttings of azaleas is described in a December 1992 article of **THE AZALEAN** by Dick West or in Galle's *Azaleas*. I would suggest that when it is time to take cuttings, invite a friend to help and benefit from the effort. Always reserve some of the cuttings as gifts for the next spring. You will make an impression on azalea novices both from the cuttings procedure and the giving of the gift. I have found that some of the best attended chapter meetings occur when it is announced that rooted cuttings are to be given to those in attendance. A gift of life is special; the gift giver is remembered, friendship is enhanced or begun, and often a new azalea fancier is introduced to a wonderful world of color and the rejuvenating force of gardening.

Azalea Calender 1996

June 4	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
June 9	Oconee Chapter cuttings swap at the home of Frank and Ruth Bryan at 1:30PM
July 14	Ben Morrison Chapter Meeting and Cutting Picnic at Sue and George Switzers' Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting and Cutting Exchange at Green Spring Farm Park
July 15	Deadline for receiving material for the September issue of THE AZALEAN
August 18	Northern Virginia Chapter Meeting and annual plant auction at Green Spring Farm Park
September 15	Deadline for receiving material for the December issue of THE AZALEAN
September 24	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
October 22	Dallas Chapter Meeting at the Camp House/DABS at 7:00PM
December 8	Ben Morrison Chapter Christmas Party at 2:00PM

Errata: The cover photograph on the March 1996 issue was 'Princess Barbara'

On the Cover: 'Galle's Choice'

Photographer: Fred Galle

Azalea Society of America

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 Subseries Tsutsusi and Pentanthera of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

CHAPTERS

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Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual contribution of \$20.00. Life membership for an individual is \$300.00. 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 membership application, write to the Membership Committee, Azalea Society of America, P. O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.