

President's Letter

William F. Bode — Covington, Louisiana

Fellow Members,

This message will probably reach you in the year 2001. Thus, despite all the sooth-saying, nay-saying fliberty-gibs, we actually survived "Y2K" and are entering the 21st Century.

I would like to be able to greet each one of you and wish you the happiest of holidays and to those of you who are religious, a blessed season.

Looking forward to the New Year, I would ask all of you to continue the effort to expand the membership. We have finally stopped the downward slide in numbers and have actually shown a gain, small indeed, but a gain.

Most of us, I'm sure, are sick to death of politics, but we have another election to face. The spring issue of **THE AZALEAN** will contain the slate of candidates for Society offices for 2001-

2003. I do not know who they will be as of this writing, but I know the members of the nominating committee, so I am certain of the excellence of those nominated.

A last but not least chore for all of you is the selection of the best article published in 2000 in **THE AZALEAN**. I have been so disappointed in the past at the low response to this request for those who work hard, be they a novice or master, to bring articles of value to all of the Society. At the 2000 annual convention, over 70% of those attending expressed their choice at the meeting, backed up by responses tallied from online votes; what a compliment to the two authors so chosen. I urge you to do a kindness to this year's authors and express your opinion.

Happy New Year!

Sharing Gems of Photography



The electronic age is helping us access information so much more readily than many of us could have thought possible. In trying to obtain images to illustrate the articles in this issue, your editor had to go a little far afield. Our authors were busy enough creating the text and did not supply slides or that now-magical digital image, the jpeg file. So, knowing that ASA member Don Hyatt has been hard at work his own very informative website, which does a beautiful job of describing and illustrating native azaleas, among other things, I asked him by e-mail if he might have some images we could use for this issue.

Within minutes he had not only answered yes, but gave me a wealth of

images and information, pulled from his website (see below*). I selected a form of *R. prunifolium* and a hybrid of *R. austrinum* to use. Now, not only do we have Don to thank for these images, but we also need to thank the Species Study Group of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the ARS because members of that chapter originally took the slides. Finally, we should thank George K. McLellan for giving Don permission to post the information on his website, since Mr. McLellan arranged the numbered slides into a program he presented at the East Coast Regional Conference of the ARS in November 1999.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of all these people.

Barbara S. Stump, Your Editor

www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/gardencenter.html

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

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Terms Expire in 2001

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(chartered May 1989)
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(chartered Nov. 1991)
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Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual dues amount of \$25.00; life membership for an individual is \$500.00. 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 a membership application, write to the Membership Committee, Azalean Society of America, P.O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536.