

President's Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

The Azalea Society of America will soon have another local chapter. Thanks to Carlton LeMond and other dedicated Alabama members, this new chapter is off to a great start. Their "ground breaking" meeting was held in Birmingham this past July and was well attended. Officers were elected, by-laws completed, and plans for future meetings were scheduled. If everything goes to schedule, the Alabamese Chapter will be chartered at the national convention in Michigan this coming May 2005.

Speaking of the convention, it looks like everything is on track for another outstanding meeting—next year in Holland, Michigan. I recently spoke to John Migas, convention coordinator, and he and his convention committee are polishing up the

final details of this convention. Look for the convention information in the winter edition of *The Azalean*. Sounds like a great line-up of speakers and tours that I'm sure you will not want to miss.

There are a lot of exciting things going on with our Society. The Azalea City Program and the ASA Archives Project are off to a fantastic start. You will be hearing and reading more about these new programs in the near future. Also, the on-line azalea discussion group has been very busy recently with many interesting azalea-related topics. If you have not signed on to the azalea group, I would highly recommend it. There are numerous ways that you can become involved in our Society, so come on and join in on the excitement.

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*).

Officers for 2003-2004

President — Robert Lee
Vice-President — William McDavid
Secretary — John Brown
Treasurer — Bob Stelloh
Immediate Past President — Joseph E. Schild, Jr.

Directors

Terms Expire in 2005

Leslie Ann Nanney
Joe Coleman
John Migas

Terms Expire in 2006

Robert Hobbs
Ron Hooper
Tom Milner

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors

Chapters

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979) Dr. Charles Evans, <i>Pres.</i>	Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Carol Segree, <i>Pres.</i>
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Barry Sperling, <i>Pres.</i>	Louisiana (chartered June 1981) James Campbell, <i>Pres.</i>
Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Robin Hahn, <i>Pres.</i>	Dallas Chapter (chartered May 1989) Eugene Westlake, <i>Vice-Pres.</i>
Oconee Chapter (chartered Nov. 1991) Allison Fuqua, <i>Pres.</i>	Vaseyi Chapter (chartered June 2001) Ed Collins, <i>Pres.</i>

Lake Michigan Chapter

(chartered May 2003)
John Migas, *Pres. Pro-tem*

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual 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, Azalea Society of America, 1000 Moody Bridge Road, Cleveland, SC 29635.

In Memory Col. Elvin Murray Sheffield (1920-2004)

William C. Miller III — Bethesda, Maryland

It is my sad duty to report the death of Col. Elvin Murray Sheffield, 84, on September 24, 2004. Murray suffered a massive heart attack while cleaning up damage sustained from Hurricane Ivan. A retired career Air Force officer, Murray served in World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam. A Thirty Second Degree Mason and a Shriner, Murray was a member of the ASA board of directors from 1997 to 2001, and managed the back issue pro-

gram for *The Azalean* for many years. Murray and his wife Inez took great pride in their incredibly beautiful four-acre azalea garden with 4,000 azaleas of 250 varieties at their home in Wetumpka, Alabama. At-large members of the ASA, they were regular attendees at ASA national meetings, and Inez remarked in a personal note that he "loved the Azalea Society and the tours."