

Society News

Proposed By-laws Amendment

At the November 10, 2005, teleconference meeting the Society's board of directors approved a **motion to amend** the by-laws of the Society to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting in 2006. The motion would add the Web site manager (Webmaster) to the board of directors and reads as follows. (Note that the revised language is printed in red.)

It is moved that the By-laws of the Azalea Society of America be amended so that Article VI (Board of Directors) Article B (Composition) shall read:

“Following the transitions period (Article VI.L.), the Board shall include four (4) elected officers (the President, Vice President, Secretary, and

Treasurer); six (6) elected Directors At Large; the immediate Past President; and the president of each ASA chapter, who while holding such office shall serve ex officio as a member of the Board; in addition, the Editor of *The Azalean* **[and the Webmaster]** shall **[each]** serve ex officio as a member of the Board. The aforementioned persons shall be the voting members of the Board. No person shall hold more than one of these positions on the Board at the same time; if the serving president of a chapter shall be elected as an officer or Director At Large of the Society, the vice-president of the chapter shall replace the chapter president as ex officio member of the Board.”

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee of Buddy Lee, Carlton LeMond, and John Migas proposed the following slate of officers to the ASA board at its November 10, 2005, meeting. The board approved the slate.

Candidate for Secretary

Carol Flowers

Candidates for Board of Directors, 2006-2008

John Brown, Ron Hooper, Tom Milner

Background information on these candidates follows.

Carol Flowers, candidate for secretary says her hobbies involve gardening and playing her grand piano. Her interest in azaleas began in earnest about 30 years ago when all the large trees surrounding her new house died. The contractors had filled in around the trees when building the house and suffocated the tree roots. She remembered her college years when she spent hours roaming around the 400-acre Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, New York. The thousands of huge azalea and rhododendron plants were magical to her, particularly when they were in bloom. After having all the dead trees cut down, she and her husband decided to create their own mini arboretum on their 1-acre house site. She called the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC, for information on how to grow these plants. The kind folks there put her in touch with the American Rhododendron Society. From the members there, she learned all about propagating and caring for these magical plants. Eventually she and her husband joined the Azalea Society of America and have been active in the Ben Morrison Chapter for many years. She has enjoyed being both chapter treasurer and secretary at various times and also serving many years ago as secretary for the ASA board.

John Brown, candidate for director, and his wife Carolyn live in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains with their three dogs. He has served as the ASA secretary since 2001 and worked on the 2001 Asheville convention committee. Currently he handles *The Azalean's* back issue business and chairs the archives committee in addition to the secretary's duties. The Browns are eagerly anticipating moving into their new house on the same farm (the old house is 200 years old and counting) and starting new gardens. Native azaleas in bunches and batches will be the theme.

Ron Hooper, candidate for director, resides with his wife Nancy in Aiken, South Carolina, and works as an analytical chemist. Ron started collecting rhododendrons while living in east Tennessee. He became an active member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of ARS and served one term as vice president. He also served as a board member for the University of Tennessee Arboretum for several years, providing specific input on their rhododendron collection. After moving to South Carolina, Ron changed his focus to native plants, particularly native azaleas. He joined the ASA Vaseyi Chapter when it was formed and has become an avid collector of native azaleas. Ron enjoys attending the regional and national meetings of both the ASA and ARS. He has been an ASA board member for the past two years.

Tom Milner, candidate for director, has been retired for two years from a real job (40 years as a helicopter pilot), and he continually wonders how he ever found time to work for a living. His days are spent caring for his plants, mostly azaleas and rhododendrons, both named cultivars and his own hybrid seedlings, in his small one-man nursery. He is a lifetime resident of coastal Mississippi, and has been a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA for 12 years and an ASA board member for the past two years.

Please use the official ballot found on the wrapper of this Winter 2005 issue of *The Azalean* to vote for officers and to vote for the best article in 2005.