

President's Letter

Robert (Buddy) Lee — Independence, Louisiana

The fall of 2006 has been a very active time for me with activities concerning our society. So many items have been coming to the forefront that it's hard to decide where to start. Fortunately, all topics are positive and continue to perpetuate our society toward a bright future.

Barbara Stump, the editor of our society's quarterly journal for the past several years, decided to relinquish the position to give her more time to pursue other activities. One major event that Barbara is working on at the present time is planning and coordinating the ASA National Convention and Membership Meeting titled, *Azaleas in the Pines – A Texas Garden Party*, to be held March 29 to April 1, 2007 in Nacogdoches, Texas. And just as a reminder, the convention overview and registration form was published in the Fall 2006 issue of *The Azalean*. From what I hear and read about the convention, it's going to be one of the best conventions ever. Make sure to mark your calendars and send in your registration forms early.

Barbara also has been voted to serve as treasurer for the Dallas Chapter of the ASA, which recently had a reorganization meeting in Houston, Texas. Bart Brechter, the newly elected president, and Barbara are planning yearly chapter meetings throughout the East Texas area.

In addition, Barbara will continue her duties with Stephen F. Austin State University and will oversee the activities at the SFA Mast Arboretum's Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. As you can tell, Barbara will have a full slate to keep her busy in the future. Thank you, Barbara, for all the time and energies that you devoted to making our journal the best ever. Best wishes to both you and Mike in your future endeavors. Thank you.

Pam Fitch is taking over duties of editor of our journal beginning with this Winter 2006 issue. The ASA Board had an easy choice when it came to selecting our next editor. We were extremely fortunate to have a qualified candidate apply for the position. Pam is a skilled journalist who is experienced with media relations, public relations, and marketing. She has proficient computer knowledge including graphic design applications. Pam's professional references gave outstanding comments about her ability to get tough projects completed and her ability to work well with others. I know Pam will be a great asset to our society and with everyone helping by submitting articles in a timely manner we will take our journal to a new and higher level. Welcome aboard, Pam.

Joe Schild has been busy lately with all the new Azalea City applications. South Gate, California, is our most recent city to receive the certification from our society. Houston, Texas; Tyler, Texas; and Palatka, Florida, are three more cities that have completed their applications and are in review. This is a wonderful project for our society and for the cities. Thanks, Joe, for all the work and effort that you are investing in this project.

There are a lot of exciting things going on with our society; too many to mention in this letter. If any member is interested in working with us in any capacity you will be more than welcome. Also, members are invited to join in the board meetings, and your comments will be welcomed. This is your society, and we need your input.

Welcome to all the new members. I hope that you will enjoy being a member of ASA. Please feel free to join in and share your azalea experiences and knowledge with us. If you have any questions about azaleas or the society, go to our Web site at www.azaleas.org.

I hope you are having a wonderful winter, and all your azaleas are happy and well mulched. See you in Nacogdoches!

Sincerely,
Robert 'Buddy' Lee



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 2006-2007

President — Robert Lee
Vice President — William McDavit
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Directors

Terms expire 2007	Terms expire 2008
Joe Coleman	John Brown
Aaron Cook	Ron Hooper
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Chapter presidents
serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979) Dr. Charles Evans, <i>Pres.</i>	Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Harold Belcher, <i>Pres.</i>
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Eve Harrison, <i>Pres.</i>	Louisiana (chartered June 1981) William Bode, <i>Pres.</i>
Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Larry Miller, <i>Pres.</i>	Dallas Chapter (chartered May 1989) Bart Brechter, <i>Pres.</i>
Oconee Chapter (chartered Nov. 1991) Allison Fuqua, <i>Pres.</i>	Vaseyi Chapter (chartered June 2001) Ed Collins, <i>Pres.</i>
Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003) John Migas, <i>Pres.</i>	Alabamense Chapter (chartered May 2005) Carlton LeMond, <i>Pres.</i>

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$25; life-membership for an individual is \$500. 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, 7195 Henson Landing Road, Welcome, MD 20693 (phone 800-446-0428 / 301-934-3556).