

# Society News

## Bylaws Amendment Proposed

The society's board of directors is recommending the following amendment to the society's bylaws. (Note that the revised language appears in **bold**.)

It is moved that the bylaws of the Azalea Society of America be amended so that Article III (Membership) section C (Dues) reads:

1. Annual—Annual membership dues shall be payable on the first day of the calendar year to which such dues apply. For any special classes of membership established by the Board (for example, Contributing, Sustaining, and Endowment), the amount of dues received in excess of the scheduled amount of regular annual membership dues shall, **based on anticipated need as determined annually by the Finance Committee, be used in whole or in part either for operating expenses, or** be added to the General Endowment reserve. Interest earned on savings accounts or investment instruments associated with this reserve shall be transferred each year to the Society's operating fund.

The proposed amendment shall be voted on by ASA membership at the 2007 annual meeting in Nacogdoches, Texas, March 29 - April 1, 2007.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for officers and directors. To vote please use the official ballot found on the wrapper of this issue. Ballots must be received by March 15, 2007.

### Candidate for President

**John Brown** is retired from a career in industrial construction with Fluor Corporation (Daniel Construction). He currently spends time finding new plants to investigate, and is rekindling his interest in collecting the Glenn Dale azaleas and working with deciduous azaleas.

John and his wife, Carolyn, live on the family farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in northwestern South Carolina. They have three dogs:



Photo Bob Stelton

▲ John Brown

Anna, Tigger, and Dusty. The Brown's latest project is the construction of a retirement home which will provide years of landscaping enjoyment.

John served as ASA Secretary from 2001-06. He presently serves as a Director. Other accomplishments include leading the effort to establish the society archives at North Carolina State University, D. H. Hill Library. He also has served as secretary of the Vaseyi Chapter since its charter was granted in 2001.

### Candidate for Vice President

**Aaron Cook** is a biology and horticulture instructor at Caldwell Community College, Hudson, North Carolina. He earned Bachelor and Master degrees in Biology Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He conducted graduate research on the genetics of a rare Linville Gorge plant *Hudsonia montana*.



▲ Aaron Cook

He is an active member in the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, American Rhododendron Society, Azalea Society of America, and the International Plant Propagators Society.

He is an experienced trip leader for the Nature Conservancy, annually leading trips to Bluff Mountain, Yellow Mountain, Panthertown Valley, and Bat Cave. He has also led trips to the Florida panhandle, Big Bend National Park, and Outer Banks.

Aaron taught short courses in native plant identification for North Carolina State University, Western Piedmont Community College, Mayland Community College, Wilkes Community College, and Caldwell Community College. He has also presented seminars and short courses in plant propagation. He served as both an instructor and participant at NCSU's Wildflower weekends at Highlands, and Western Carolina's Native Plants in the Landscape Conference. In addition, he regularly participates in annual meetings of IPPS and ASA.

### Candidate for Treasurer

**Dan Krabill** has been a member of the ASA since 1987. He was vice president of the Northern Virginia Chapter in 1997-98 and 2003-04, and president in 1999-2000 and 2005-06. He served on the Finance Committee of the ASA Board in 2005 and 2006.

He grows approximately 1,000 varieties of azaleas at his

home in McLean, Virginia, including the great majority of the Glenn Dales. He has published an article "Photographing the Glenn Dale Azaleas" in *The Azalean*, has a number of photos on the ASA's Web site, and has distributed a CD consisting of digital photos of most of the Glenn Dale azaleas.

Dan is a management consultant to the banking industry. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Miami University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard with a concentration in finance.

#### Directors 2007-09

**Vincent Ciolino** is a long time member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA and has served as chapter president. He frequently attends ASA national conventions and is active in numerous horticultural societies.

**J. Jackson** and his wife, Lindy, operate a small container nursery, The Tennessee Rose Native Azalea Nursery, in the Blue Ridge of East Tennessee. In the beginning everything was grown in the ground, but pressure from deer browsing forced a change to container production.

The nursery specializes in growing native and hybrid deciduous azaleas. For several years, plants were grown from micro propagated (tissue culture) liners. During the last few years, however, the Jacksons made a deliberate move to growing deciduous and evergreen forms of the rhododendron species from seed.

The decision to cultivate from seed was motivated by preservation. Many rhododendron species have become endangered from the practice of collecting wild plants. The Jacksons seek out specimens in the wild (and in collections) that have superior characteristics of growth, foliage and bloom, and propagate open pollinated seeds from the plants.

The Jacksons believe one of the most enjoyable aspects of the process is exploring for and finding beautiful specimens "in bloom" or "in seed" in the wild. Digital photography is used to document the bloom and growth habit of the plants. GPS coordinates are used to map the plant location which allows the plant to be easily relocated without having to mark or tag the specimen in any way.

**Dave Nanney** is a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA. He served in the federal government for 38 years, serving proudly in the Pentagon in Information Technology. He served active duty in the U.S. Army for two years in the late 60s.

Dave earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University College University of Maryland and American University in Business Administration and Technology of Management.

Dave and his wife, Leslie, have been avid collectors of azaleas and rhododendrons since moving into their first home in 1973. They have been strongly influenced by Leslie's mother, Frances Louer, an avid collector with more than 8,000 azaleas.

The Nanneys have more than 2,500 azaleas and rhododendrons and enjoy using the ASA and American Rhododendron Society conventions to travel across the county and world. Dave is also an avid soccer player and fan playing at the Pentagon and rooting for D.C. United soccer team.

Dave has served several terms as Treasurer and President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA.

#### ASA Year 2006 Highlights

*By Carol Flowers, ASA Secretary*

Our 2006 Azalea Society of America Convention, *Capital Adventure*, took place in Rockville, Maryland at the DoubleTree Rockville Hotel. The convention was held jointly with the American Rhododendron Society, May 12-15, 2006. Activities during the convention included two days of garden tours, Azalea Society board of directors meetings, many interesting talks by experts on a wide variety of topics including horticulture trends, plant exploration, new plant introductions, and disease control, and, of course, the society's annual meeting and banquet.

During the annual meeting Dr. John Creech was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for the many years of contributions he has made to the plant world. The



Photo: Walter Przytycki

▲ ASA President Robert Lee presents the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. John Creech at the 2006 national conference. The award read: The Azalea Society of America confers upon you its Distinguished Service Award in special recognition of your outstanding azalea plant exploration and plant introduction accomplishments. — Your visits to and study of azaleas on the islands of Japan have provided much information on the origin of the Kurume azaleas and on *R. kaempferi* and resulted in your introduction of many azaleas as recorded in the USDA Plant Introduction listings between 1953 and 1978. — Azalea enthusiasts everywhere are forever grateful for these contributions to azalea horticulture. As Thomas Jefferson, one of America's first great horticulturists, stated in 1800: "The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture." John L. Creech, we thank you for your contributions and services as a patriot, scientist and horticultural ambassador.



society now has a new secretary, Carol Flowers, and three newly elected directors, John Brown, Ron Hooper and Tom Milner. A huge plant sale room full of beautiful azaleas and rhododendrons was a hit with convention attendees. Following the convention many participants enjoyed a post convention tour of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Much work has been done this past year on the Azalea City project. We will have several new Azalea Cities shortly. Several applications for this honor have been received. More and more interest in the many different types of azaleas nature provides mankind is being shown by our nation's plant lovers. This program will help keep azaleas on the minds of our gardening friends.

Much work has been done on the Archive Project. John Brown reported that an index has been created for the society's archives. This is currently online at the society website, [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org). The ASA currently occupies some seventeen plus feet of shelf space in the D. H. Hill Library at North Carolina State University.

## KURUME

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due to the lower light levels in Scotland adversely affecting the setting of flower buds and causing the wood to only partially ripen. It is also said that Kurumes perform better in countries where the summer and winter seasons are clearly defined.

The most spectacular aspect of Kurumes is their flowers. They more readily cover themselves with color than most other groups of azalea and when in full-flower it is often impossible to see the leaves. They perform best when placed in full sun as this tends to ensure that they achieve a good bud-set, remain compact, and most varieties will spread and form a mound that is 4' to 6' in width. Because they tend to be early flowering, the Kurumes usually get a head start on seasonal growth, so a good measure of sun also provides an opportunity for the wood to ripen in the fall, which the Kurumes appear to need. In deeper shade the plants grow much more leggy, with an open plant habit that can reach over 6'; they are also more prone to wind damage, lichen problems, and fewer flowers.

The only boundaries in horticulture are those that are man-made. The above comments on hardiness and cultivation are intended to encourage you to have a go at growing these most rewarding plants. Only by your own experience will you learn the approach that best suits your climatic conditions and thus enable you to enjoy the stunning performance of the Kurume azaleas as each new flowering season comes around.

And, out there in the real world, there are plants of "Stevenson's" superior Kurumes waiting for you to find and collect for use in your hybridization projects, or for you to simply enjoy as spectacular garden plants in their own right.

Many garden writers are now members of the society. We hope these folks will enjoy the membership and that our publication, *The Azalean*, will provide valuable information when they write their articles.

We now have a beautiful new color brochure that the society can use to make plant lovers aware of the society, the work it does, and the many ways people can learn about azaleas through membership in the organization.

As the society evolves changes are continually made to the society bylaws. A change has been proposed this year and will be voted on at the convention annual meeting in 2007. You can find further information on this subject on page 90 of this publication.

In conclusion, we want to say thanks to Barbara Stump for the work she put in over the years that she was editor. Our publication, *The Azalean*, has been a first class journal. Barbara has done a lot to keep up the fine quality. After this issue Barbara will no longer be our editor. Taking her place will be Pam Fitch. Again, thanks Barbara.

*John Hammond's interests in propagating and cultivating azaleas and rhododendrons stretch back over 30 years, although he has been involved with gardens for considerably longer. He is particularly interested in the history of old azalea and rhododendron gardens and encouraging their restoration. He is Vice-President of the Scottish Rhododendron Society, ARS Alternate Director at Large, and a frequent contributor to the Journal, ARS.*

## References

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