

# President's Letter

John Brown — Cleveland, South Carolina

As I write this letter, the temperature outside is a frosty 10 degrees F; the ground is frozen solid; and seed and plant catalogs are strewn across the table. My thoughts are reaching forward to the time that this issue of *The Azalean* will be delivered, and the first flower buds will be expanding in our gardens.

Serious writers have waxed eloquent on the subject of the new life and growth of spring for generations. For me, it is a chance to stir up these winterized muscles and bones to see what is new and improved in my garden, and to see how the winter's root development brings out new flushes of growth and bloom. That special tender shade of green that appears as shrubs and trees sprout new growth seems to indicate a plant's hope and enthusiasm for better things to come. By association, some of that enthusiasm rubs off on me. It trims years off one's apparent age and makes us feel young again. There is no greater reason for devoting the time and energy necessary to having a garden. This special time must be enjoyed in season and stored in memory to be held dear until next year.

The Society archives has a new project underway. The position of Slide Librarian has passed into oblivion over time as personal slide collections disappeared and digital images came into prominence. Past President Art Vance is the last recorded Slide Librarian and passed the collection of Society slides to the Vaseyi Chapter for review. The collection included almost 200 slides, representing the work of **George Harding, Emile Deckert, John Pararas, Bill Miller, Ivan Anderson, David Sauer, Bennett**, and others. It included pictures of Glenn Dale, Back Acres, Vuyk, Linwood, Pericat, Chisolm-Merritt, Gartrell, Girard, North Tisbury, Pennington, Robin Hill hybrids, and many species. While the photography is limited to the technology available in the 1970's and early 1980's, the slides are historically significant.

Reports from other Slide Librarians indicate that some ASA slides are still out on loan from years ago. The current archives project is to collect as many of the slides as possible, convert them to digital images, and produce CDs for distribution. The original slides will be stored in the ASA archives at North Carolina State University. If you have, or know of someone who has slides from the ASA slide library, please send them to me. People contributing these historical slides will be given first shot at copies of the CD containing the complete set.

The good news is that Agility Marketing is again providing ASA memberships to garden writers across the country to promote interest in azaleas. Let me be the first to welcome you back to our group. Last year's effort was apparently well received by the garden writers to the point that the effort is being repeated.

The At-Large gift memberships provide us with a large group to bring into our Chapter functions. Chapter Officers can work with Secretary Carol Flowers and Treasurer Dan Krabill to get lists of the members who live in the area appropriate for your chapter. While Chapter membership is not included in the gift memberships, it is a minor cost to gain access to the local groups. The basis for many an excellent article lies in the activities of our local chapters.

The 2008 Annual Convention to be held in Asheville, North Carolina, is fast approaching. You might still be able to make a last minute reservation to join the group. It promises to be another great convention with excellent speakers, interesting garden tours, and lots of sharing, caring people.



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 which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

## Officers for 2007-2008

**President** — John Brown  
**Vice President** — Aaron Cook  
**Secretary** — Carol Flowers  
**Treasurer** — Dan Krabill  
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## Directors

<b>Terms expire 2008</b>	<b>Terms expire 2009</b>
Maarten van der Giessen	Vincent Ciolino
Ron Hooper	J Jackson
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Chapter presidents  
serve as ex-officio directors.

## Chapters

<b>Brookside Gardens</b> (chartered Aug. 1979) Dr. Charles Evans, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Ben Morrison</b> (chartered May 1980) Harold Belcher, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Northern Virginia</b> (chartered May 1980) Eve Harrison, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Louisiana</b> (chartered June 1981) Dr. Allen Owings, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Tri-State</b> (chartered Oct. 1981) Larry Miller, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Texas</b> (chartered May 1989) Bart Brechter, <i>Pres.</i>
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<b>Lake Michigan</b> (chartered May 2003) John Migas, <i>Pres.</i>	<b>Alabamense</b> (chartered May 2005) Carlton LeMond, <i>Pres.</i>
<b>Southern California</b> (chartered March 2007) Jim Jaeger, <i>Pres.</i>	

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$25; life-membership for one or two persons at the same address 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 Carol Flowers, Secretary, 700 New Hampshire NW, Apt. 1011, Washington, DC 20037 or visit [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org).