

# Society Honors Distinguished Members

John Brown—Cleveland, South Carolina

The Azalea Society of America has an awards program and during the years has presented awards to our outstanding members who have made major contributions of time and energy to improve the Society. During the Society's national meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, on May 3, Awards Committee Chairman Robert "Buddy" Lee presented some well deserved awards for service to Society members.

The first Distinguished Service Award went to **Ed Collins** with the following inscription:

*You were a prime mover in the formation of the Vaseyi Chapter; chaired the 2001 and 2008 National Conventions; served as Chapter President for three terms, keeping the Chapter active and growing. You have given your time and energies by presenting programs about azaleas to many public groups.*

*Edward W. Collins, we greatly appreciate you and we thank you.*

The second Distinguished Service Award was a dual award presented to **Dr. Joe and Donna Coleman**. The inscription read:

*For over thirty years you have given your time and energy by developing and giving presentations, serving at the local and national level of our Society, presiding over flower shows, and opening your wonderful azalea garden to all. Your love for azaleas and sharing of your knowledge has truly advanced our Society and has furthered the appreciation of azaleas to many people.*

*Dr. Joe H. & Donna Coleman, we greatly appreciate you and we thank you.*

Thus concluded the presentation by the Awards Committee Chair. It was not, however, the end of the Awards Presentation.

Past President **Robert "Buddy" Lee** was chided for a serious omission in the awards listings and Tri-State Chapter President, **Larry Miller** was asked to fill in the missing award recipient. The Exceptional Service Award was presented to **Robert "Buddy" Lee** with the following inscription:

*In recognition of your dedication over many years and your talent and enthusiastic promotion of the Azalea Society of America.*

The Society has many hardworking and selfless members who have contributed much to the success of the Society over the years. We have recognized a few of these people for their efforts and need to recognize many more. One of the perks of hosting a national convention is the hosting chapter's ability to select award recipients who would not normally be able to travel to distant conventions.



▲ Robert "Buddy" Lee presents Distinguished Service Awards to Ed Collins and Dr. Joe and Donna Coleman.

▼ John Brown presents the Exceptional Service Award to Robert "Buddy" Lee.

