

Society News

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for the 2009-11 ASA Board. Please vote using the official ballot found on the wrapper of this issue. Ballots must be received by April 1, 2009.

Candidate for President

Aaron Cook teaches at Caldwell Community College where he splits his time teaching Anatomy & Physiology and Landscape Gardening. He earned Bachelor and Master degrees in Biology Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

He has been an active member of the ASA since joining. He has helped the Vaseyi Chapter plan and run two successful National Conventions in 2001 and 2008. He has attended every National Convention since 2001. Aaron has served as a director and as vice president of the ASA.

He is an experienced field trip leader and has led trips for the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and ASA. He has led trips to the Florida panhandle, Big Bend National Park, and more than one dozen birding and ecology trips to the Outer Banks.

He has taught short courses in native plant identification and native plant propagation for Western Piedmont Community College, Mayland Community College, Wilkes Community College and Caldwell Community College.

Aaron married his wife, Lisa, in 1987. They have two children, Kaitlyn, age 18, attending college at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Matthew, age 14. Valdese has been their hometown for 18 years. They are active members in Cornerstone Baptist Church, where Aaron has served as a Deacon, the Brotherhood Director and Sunday School teacher for college-age students.

Candidate for Vice President

John Migas lives in southwestern Michigan off the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. A carpenter by trade since 1978, he operates a small nursery and landscape service in the Saugatuck-Douglas-Holland area. He is currently president of the Lake Michigan Chapter of the ASA and has just completed three terms as president of the Midwest Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

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 has served as ASA Treasurer since 2007.

He grows approximately 1,100 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*, 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.

Candidates for Director

Dr. Joe Coleman is an ardent gardener and collector of azaleas. He and his wife, Donna, have a four-acre garden featuring thousands of varieties of beautiful plants.

Starting with their original home, Joe discovered the wonder of azaleas in the garden, particularly the fact they didn't have to be mowed weekly. This fact led to growing pinestraw islands that had to be filled with a greater variety of flowers.

After meeting George Harding in the late 1970s, Dr. Coleman joined the ASA. Over the years, he has served as a director of both the ARS and the ASA, and acted as chairman of the 1984 national ARS convention. He has served in numerous local offices, presented numerous talks, opened his garden to annual cutting parties, dabbled in hybridizing, and served as chairman of flower shows. Today, he continues hitting on friends for new and interesting cutting material and hounds nurserymen to provide more and better azaleas.

Eugene "Gene" A. Stano, Jr. was born and raised in Apopka, Florida. He and his wife, Lynn, have two college-aged daughters.

His love of azaleas began with indica varieties while working as a landscaper and nursery worker. He has traveled and lived in several different areas across the United States, giving him the opportunity to meet and work with other people who share his interest in azaleas.

Stano currently lives in western North Carolina where he held teaching positions at a local community college, held horticulture therapy classes with residents in long-term care facilities, and taught community continuing education classes. He also had an integral part in writing and administering grants for the development of the tissue culture lab to study and develop protocols for native azaleas at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine.

Currently Stano serves as the Arboretum Team Leader at Haywood Community College. His responsibilities include the development and maintenance of the college's 85-acre arboretum. He is also implementing a plan to develop azalea gardens throughout the college campus.

Maarten van der Giessen majored in Chemistry at the University of South Alabama. He was the assistant manager at Cottage Hill Nursery in Irvington, Alabama, from 1987 to 1990 and has been manager and vice president of van der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Alabama, since 1990.

He is a past president of the South Alabama Nurserymen's Association, a past board member of the Azalea Society of America, and current president of the Mobile Botanical Gardens.