

Society Honors Distinguished Members

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 Herndon, Virginia, Awards Committee Chairman **Robert "Buddy" Lee** presented some well-deserved awards for service to Society members.

The first Distinguished Service Award went to **Phillip and Frances Louer** with the following inscription:

For nearly thirty years, you have generously given your time, energy and knowledge to spread appreciation for the beauty of azaleas. Frances, you were a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, and have served since the beginning as its only corresponding secretary. For the last ten years, you have been THE nominating committee, insuring continuity and shared leadership amongst our members. Phil, you have composed and distributed the Azalea Clipper, the chapter's newsletter, with a professional quality that makes it one of the best of its kind. You have chaired the 2009 convention committee, using your leadership skills to assure its success. Together, you have developed one of the premier azalea gardens on the east coast, and shared it with many garden clubs and other civic organizations every spring. You have given plants to many people, helping them to share in your love of these magnificent plants.

Phil and Frances Louer, we greatly appreciate you and your long-standing contributions and we thank you.

The second Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Robert B. Stewart**. The inscription read:



▲ ASA President John Brown, far left, and Past President Robert "Buddy" Lee, far right, presented the Distinguished Service Award to Phil and Frances Louer. Also pictured is their daughter, Leslie Nanney.

▼ ASA President John Brown, far left, and Past President Robert "Buddy" Lee, far right, presented the Distinguished Service Award to Jane Newman. Also pictured is Northern Virginia Chapter Member Dan Krabill.



For nearly thirty years, you have generously given your time, energy and knowledge to spread appreciation for the beauty of azaleas in the Northern Virginia area. You were a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, and have hosted tours of your garden both locally and for the ASA National Conventions. You are known as the "Azalea Man" because of your incredible azalea garden. You have successfully developed new "Bob Stewart hybrid" evergreen azaleas, with approximately 15 already named and more under evaluation. Your kindness and generosity are witnessed as you

contribute plants to the Chapter plant sales and with friends and visitors. Photos of your garden are in the Galle Azalea book, the principal reference for evergreen azaleas.

Bob Stewart, we greatly appreciate you and your long-standing contributions and we thank you.

The third Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Jane Newman**. The inscription read:

For nearly thirty years, you have generously given your time, energy and knowledge to spread appreciation for the beauty of azaleas in the Northern Virginia area. You were a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, and have served on the editorial advisory board for the Azalean. Your extensive knowledge of the Glenn Dale azaleas makes you one of the premier experts on that collection. You have shared your garden, written articles for the Azalean, and generously contributed to our local chapter plant exchanges.

Jane Newman, we greatly appreciate you and your long-standing contributions and we thank you.

The fourth and final Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Donald Hyatt**. The inscription read:

For nearly thirty years, you have generously given your time, energy and knowledge to spread appreciation for the beauty of azaleas in the Northern Virginia area. You were a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. Your contributions to the chapter and to the Azalea Society at large are almost too many to report. You have written articles, hosted garden visits, developed world-class talks using photos, music, and computer magic to demonstrate your love of azaleas. Every spring you organize and lead




Photo Pam Fitch

▲ ASA President John Brown (left) and Past President Robert "Buddy" Lee (right) presented the Distinguished Service Award to Don Hyatt. Also pictured is Phyllis Rittman.

visits down the east coast to visit your best loved Gregory Bald. You have hybridized azaleas and rhododendrons, and your contributions to the seed exchange have resulted in other named hybrids. Your expertise, ability to communicate and simple joy of sharing this vision have given thousands of plant lovers an appreciation for hybrid and native azaleas.

Don Hyatt, we greatly appreciate you and your long-standing contributions and we thank you.

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.



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