

Society News

Membership Renewals Due

Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer

It is almost time for most of us to renew our memberships in the Azalea Society of America. The year your membership expires appears on the top line of the address label for this issue of *The Azalean*. If the year 2009 appears on that line, your membership expires at the end of this year.

Dues notices are mailed in early November. If we get your check before then (or an e-mail saying you're sending it), you may take a \$1 "early bird" discount off the amount of the check. That's our thanks for not having to spend the time and money to mail you a dues notice. Or, if you know you are not going to renew, please let us know by letter or e-mail, so we will not have to mail you a dues notice.

First, review the information on your address label and make any needed corrections. Also, if your telephone number or e-mail address has changed, please provide us with the correct information.

Then, circle an amount in the table below to show the number of years and the type of membership you would like. The table includes a \$1 discount for each year paid in advance, up to \$5 per year. Those years are paid in full, even if the dues are increased later. For example, to renew for four years as a Regular Member, circle \$94 in the table.

Years	Regular	Contributing	Supporting	Endowment
1	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$200
2	\$49	\$99	\$199	\$399
3	\$72	\$147	\$297	\$597
4	\$94	\$194	\$394	\$794
5	\$115	\$240	\$490	\$990
6	\$135	\$285	\$585	\$1185

Subtracting \$1 for your "early bird" discount? [] Yes [] No

Or, consider joining for life, for the one-time payment of \$500 or five consecutive annual payments of \$100 each. Sorry, this is not available for organizations or overseas members.

Finally, write your check or money order in US dollars for the total amount, payable to the "Azalea Society of America." Mail it along with a copy of this page to:

Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer
6009 Copely Lane
McLean, VA 22101-2507

Alternatively, you may pay your dues with a credit card online through Paypal (<http://www.paypal.com>). Send your dues payment to: PayTheASA@aol.com. You can open a PayPal account in minutes (and if it asks, please mention PayTheASA@aol.com as the person who referred you). Then describe your changes, your membership type, and the number of years you are renewing for in the comments section.

Recognizing generous ASA donors

Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer

I would like to recognize and thank those individuals who have donated to the ASA by paying dues in excess of the \$25 per year standard amount. We have three categories for donations in excess of regular dues -- Endowment (\$200 or more per year), Sustaining (\$100 or more per year), and Contributing (\$50 or more per year).

Below is a list of members in these three categories for 2008 and 2009.

Contributing Members 2008

Annual Dues Payments of \$50 to \$99

Virginia & Samuel Burd	W. T. Norris, Jr, MD
Jozef M. Delvaux	Cid & Liza Scallet
Marianne & Bruce Feller	Bruce Seal & Liz Rachun
Bob & Martha Kelly	Mr. Frederick L. Thane
Joan Lunney	Mr. & Mrs. Art Vance
Magnolia Plantation	Phillip Dale Westmoreland

Sustaining Members 2008

Annual Dues Payments of \$100 to \$199

Louis J. Appell, Jr	Dan & Barbara Krabill
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens	Dr. & Mrs. Donald E. Moreland
Kinney Nursery	Barbara & Michael Stump

Endowment Members 2008

Annual Dues Payments of \$200 or more

Robert & Dixie Lee	Donald H. Voss
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Contributing Members 2009

Annual Dues Payments of \$50 to \$99

John Bartlett	Richard and Nancy Lear
John & Carolyn Brown	Magnolia Plantation
Virginia & Samuel Burd	Dr. Patrick McKenna
Jozef M. Delvaux	Dr. W. T. Norris, Jr.
Deborah B. Head	Mr. Frederick L. Thane
Bob & Martha Kelly	

Sustaining Members 2009

Annual Dues Payments of \$100 to \$199

Louis J. Appell, Jr	Cid & Liza Scallet
Kinney Nursery	Shangri La Botanical Gardens
Dr. & Mrs. Donald E. Moreland	Barbara & Michael Stump

Endowment Members 2009

Annual Dues Payments of \$200 or more

Robert & Dixie Lee	Donald H. Voss
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Report from the ASA ARF

James O. Thornton, chairman

In the last issue of *The Azalea* we applauded the Board of Directors for approving the formation of the Azalea Research Foundation, and we gave you an overview of the foundation and what it will be doing.

Now, let's go a little further and cover some of the details, like the areas of research we will be considering for grants. You might find these areas interesting in that most of these items have been a nemesis of azaleaphiles for years. I'm sure that you will, as I have, find several problem areas you would personally like to fund!

Classification (Systematic Botany)

- plant identification
- chromosome studies
- phylogenetic grouping

Hybridization

- climatic hardiness
- disease resistance
- pest resistance
- plant habit
- flowering improvement (apomixis in plants, polyploidy, color)
- studies relating to mechanization programs for hybridizers
- naming and registration standards for hybridizers' new introductions

Cultural

- studies regarding the prevention of diseases and pests, such as:
 - *Exobasidium vaccinii* (leaf gall)
 - *Phytophthora* (root rot)
 - *Phomopsis* (die back)
 - *Ovulinia* (petal blight)
- fertilization influence
- pruning
- growing-on procedures, maintenance, schedules, etc. for cuttings, seedlings, and tissue culture

Public Relations/Education

- illustrated papers
- computerized presentations regarding all aspects of growing azaleas for the average gardener
- how-to booklets

As you can see the list is long, and there is plenty of room for more areas of research in our quest for the "perfect" azalea.

How do we go about accomplishing this work? In the beginning, we'll provide grants to researchers. Grants meaning dollars, and dollars meaning a bank account with lots of money coming from contributions. Contributions come from our "first responders," meaning you, our ASA

members. We'll also seek funds from the rest of the world of folks who have the same interest and love of our azaleas. Please note, it will be to our advantage for members to give to show that the ASA stands behind us in this new undertaking. So please step forward.

We already have some money in the bank and we have a plan to spend as we go. We need your gifts to keep the process sustainable. The money we have in the bank comes from members and others who had the vision of the ASA having a research group long before the board decided to formally create one.

The list goes back to 1991 when the Oconee Chapter was given its charter. Then-ASA-President Malcolm Clark came down to formally welcome us into the fold. While visiting with me, he shared his wish to donate a sum to the Society for research. At that time, he was uncertain what that might be since it was based on the sale of some property. After his passing, that sum amounted to \$10,000. What a visionary! What a benefactor!

There are others I'd like to list for they too had that same vision but contributed in different ways, whether it was donating their speaker remuneration or chapters donating a portion of their convention proceeds. Contributions were also made in memory of someone who loved the azalea.

Freda Barry
John and Carolyn Brown
Malcolm Clark
Tadeusz Daukza
David Dethero
Ian Donavan
Jan Flick
Carol and Dale Flowers
Fred and Jan Hertel
Donald Hyatt
Dan and Barbara Krabill
Robert "Buddy" Lee
Betty and Tom Loggia
Ken and Rita Majer

William and Mary McDavitt
Sandra and Ken McDonald
Dr. and Mrs. Don Moreland
New York Chapter ARS
Bob Stelloh
Southeast Chapter ARS
Patty Stratton
Art and Diane Vance
Kathy Van Veen
Northern Virginia Chapter ASA
Vaseyi Chapter ASA
Mary M. Wise
2003 ASA/ARS Convention
2008 ASA Convention

As I said, these are people who gave long before the Azalea Research Foundation received its approval and we are very grateful for their generosity. Since then, we made the official announcement in the last journal and made a plea for your donations. Sad-to-say but the response was less than expected—but it's a start. We are delighted to have received donations from the following:

Larry Asbill
Gerald Hudgens
James and Patsy Thornton

Maybe you haven't read the last journal or maybe you just set our envelope aside, but for whatever reason, go back and take another look at the list, think about our cause, our future, and help promote the Azalea Research Foundation! Can't find the envelope? No problem. Just send your donation to: Azalea Research Foundation, c/o James O. Thornton, 884 June Dr., Conyers, GA 30094-5016.