

# 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, Awards Committee Chairman **Robert "Buddy" Lee** presented some well-deserved awards for service to Society members.

▼ Dr. John T. Thornton accepting the ASA Distinguished Service Award during the 2010 national convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.



The Azalea Society of America  
takes great pleasure and pride in presenting  
the Distinguished Service Award  
to

**Dr. John T. Thornton**  
in recognition of your many contributions  
to the Azalea Society of America.

The passion and intellect that you  
employed in plant research,  
hybridization, and evaluation  
will truly impact generations of gardeners.  
Pushpetappa Gardens, your private garden,  
has been a botanical inspiration  
to the many who have visited there.  
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. John T. Thornton, we greatly appreciate  
you and we thank you.

Awarded this 16th day of March 2010.  
Aaron Cook, President

▼ Maarten van der Giessen accepting the ASA Distinguished Service Award during the 2010 national convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.



The Azalea Society of America  
takes great pleasure and pride in presenting  
the Distinguished Service Award  
to

**Mr. Maarten van der Giessen**  
in recognition of your many contributions  
to the Azalea Society of America.

For many years you have given your  
time and energy by serving at the national level  
of our society, donating your time and  
beautiful azaleas to our conventions,  
preservation of azalea cultivars, dedication  
to the horticultural industry and opening  
your nursery and 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.

Mr. Maarten van der Giessen, we greatly appreciate  
you and we thank you.

Awarded this 16th day of March 2010  
Aaron Cook, President