

President's Letter

Aaron Cook — Valdese, North Carolina



Fellow members, this is my last President's Letter. How well I remember that Saturday in early May in Virginia when I accepted the reins of leadership from **John Brown**. As most of you know, the President's term of office runs from convention to convention in two-year cycles. The new ASA President and Vice President will assume their duties at the annual meeting in Evansville, Indiana.



▲ Past President John Brown handed the reins to then incoming ASA President Aaron Cook in May 2009 at the national convention in Virginia.

My two-year stint as President has flown by. As a Society we have had our successes and failures. We have been uplifted by conventions in Virginia and New Orleans. We have galvanized azalea lovers everywhere and successfully worked to save the Glenn Dale azaleas on Mt. Hamilton. (See related article on page 11.) My hat is off to all involved, but especially to **Steve Henning** and **Don Hyatt**.

There were high points to be sure, but low points as well. We suffered the loss of some of our most loyal members during the past two years. Personally, I was particularly hard hit by the sudden loss of our dear friend and Texas Chapter President **Michael Stump**. (See related article on page 16.)

Have we accomplished everything we set out to do? No. I leave much work to be completed by **John Migas**, **J. Jackson**, **Dan Krabill**, and **Carol Flowers**. I have absolutely no reservations about the qualifications and dedication of this group of officers.

Overall, my tenure has been a very gratifying experience. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the board of directors, my fellow officers, the chapter presidents, and the many members who have provided me with warm friendship and support. I could not have accomplished anything without you. I hope that what we have accomplished together has had and will continue to have a positive effect on our Society.

My Kindest Regards to Everyone,
Aaron Cook

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation, and appreciation of azaleas which are in the subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

Officers for 2010-2011

President — Aaron Cook
Vice President — John Migas
Secretary — Carol Flowers
Treasurer — Dan Krabill
Immediate Past President — John Brown

Directors

Terms expire 2011	Terms expire 2012
Dr. Joe Coleman	Jim Campbell
Eugene Stano, Jr.	Vincent Ciolino
Dave Nanney	J Jackson

Chapter presidents
serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979) William C. Miller III, Pres.	Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Harold Belcher, Pres.
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Eve Harrison, Pres.	Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Dr. Allen Owings, Pres.
Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, Pres.	Texas (chartered May 1989)
Oconee (chartered Nov. 1991) Jim Thornton, Pres.	Vaseyi (chartered June 2001) April Sanborn, Pres.
Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003) Phil Lanning, Pres.	Alabamense (chartered May 2005)
Southern California (chartered March 2007) Jim Jaeger, Pres.	Rev. John Drayton (chartered 2010)

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$25; life-membership for one or two persons at the same address is \$500. Members receive *The Azalean* and are eligible for participation in all activities of the Society including those of the chapter with which the member affiliates. For information and a membership application, write to Carol Flowers, Secretary, 700 New Hampshire NW, Apt. 1011, Washington, DC 20037 or visit www.azaleas.org.