

# President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan

Here it is almost midnight and I was going to send an e-mail to our Editor **Pam Fitch** explaining why I haven't completed my first President's Letter. Well after spending some time describing how busy I have been, I suddenly realized that I have the making for a great article for the journal. So I saved my excuses, which will be revealed in an article soon to be released.

Since our recent convention in Evansville, Indiana, it has been nothing but hectic here in the Midwest. Anticipated blooms have been constantly interrupted by constant winds and heavy rains. This spring has been the wettest on record. There is nothing like wanting to spray for petal blight but all you can do is watch the rain fall.

I thank all of you for having faith in me to lead our group of azalea enthusiasts. The next two years will be very exciting and challenging. We are off to a great start, being that I feel we are very lucky to have a great group of volunteers that continue to give to the Azalea Society.

Our outgoing President **Aaron Cook** will not wander far from the work table, being that he has taken on the role to chair our new Save the Azaleas Committee.

Also, past President **Jim Thornton** has switched gears and has handed off the leadership of the Azalea Research Foundation to **Hale Booth**. For now, Jim has agreed to chair our Advertising Committee, which he has been working on since day one. Fellow Lake Michigan chapter members **Tadeusz Dauksza** and **Rocky Voci** will assist on the committee.

**Buddy Lee** will now be leading the Azalea City Committee, and I thank **Joe Schild** for being the pioneer with this project. **Eve Harrison** will continue to chair the Membership Committee and **John Brown** will continue with our Archives. **Bob Stelloh** has been one of our greatest assets working as our Webmaster.

Our Editor **Pam Fitch** is always on the look-out for articles for the journal. Don't hesitate to sit right down and send her something new to read.

I thank all of our officers, directors, committee chairpersons, chapter presidents, and the membership for being part of our Society's family. It's been said that our conventions are like a family reunion. Well, they are and our highlight at this year's convention was presenting a new charter for the Reverend John Drayton Chapter of South Carolina. We now have 12 chapters in our Society and we also have our next four conventions planned. We have great leadership on all of our committees. I'd say we're headed in the right direction.

Have fun planting!



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** — John Migas  
**Vice President** — J Jackson  
**Secretary** — Carol Flowers  
**Treasurer** — Dan Krabill  
**Immediate Past President** — Aaron Cook

## Directors

Terms expire 2012	Terms expire 2013
Jim Campbell	Eve Harrison
Vincent Ciolino	Barbara Stump
Miles Beach	Rocky Voci

Chapter presidents

serve as ex-officio directors.

## Chapters

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

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](http://www.azaleas.org).