

# President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan



It's hard to believe the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are just days away. Local stores have been setting up Christmas items in the front of the entrances for weeks now. What about turkeys and Thanksgiving Day? It seems they went from Halloween straight through to Christmas. Oh well, it must be a money thing.

Just a few weeks ago my 'Lemon Lights' were in bloom. Now, our nights are in the 20s; frosty mornings have returned; the grass stays wet until two in the afternoon; and cold, windy, rainy days have replaced the sun which has been gone for weeks. It's just the way November has always been, and it's just the beginning.

But the change in weather hasn't slowed me down one bit. I have thousands of azalea seedlings to be potted; leaves to be raked; seed to be collected; firewood to be cut, split, and stacked; plants to be dug; customers who want to be attended to "now" (not tomorrow); and greenhouses that need to be covered with plastic. Oh, I forgot, I have to build new ones since the old ones were knocked down by last year's snow. What else can I add to the list? Oh yeah, our usual 100 inches of snow to be shoveled.

To be honest, the summer went by extremely fast. I was very fortunate to keep myself extremely busy throughout the year. Spring was beautiful this year. Here in Michigan, our blooms start in late April with the early-blooming lepidote rhododendrons along with all the spring bulbs and ending with the late-blooming native azaleas *cumberlandense*, *prunifolium* and *arborescens* along with the *maximum* rhododendrons in August.

Switching gears to Society business, our editor Pam Fitch has decided to resign. Her service to the ASA has been greatly appreciated and we will all miss her dearly.

The Harding Garden Memorial will begin construction soon, and the ASA Board approved a one-time donation for its use.

Members are working to get the Alabamense Chapter back up and running, with a meeting to elect new officers scheduled for this fall season.

Friends of the National Arboretum must not be forgotten. Donations for the cause will be greatly appreciated. Check out the Web site [www.savetheazaleas.org](http://www.savetheazaleas.org) for more information.

Last but not least, registration for the 2012 ASA convention in Asheville, North Carolina is well on its way. The word is out, register early. Rooms are filling up so hurry!

For now, I'm going to try to slow down and enjoy the upcoming holidays and try to visit some friends. Let it snow.....

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

<b>Terms expire 2012</b>	<b>Terms expire 2013</b>
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) Jeff Abt, <i>Interim Pres.</i>
<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 May 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).