

President's Letter

John Migas — Saugatuck, Michigan



Here it is just a few days away from Groundhog Day and our temperature is 45 degrees F. Just two days ago we had a 12-inch snowstorm and 25 degrees. What a difference in just a few days.

Our Michigan winter has been extremely mild, only a few nights in the single digits, and we are way below our normal snowfall. By now, Lake Michigan is usually frozen out from shore at least one mile, but today the beach looks as if it is summer.

Most everyone that I have spoken to claims that their plants look excellent, bud set is the best it has been in years, and no reports of snow load damage. Wow, come on spring. **Buddy Lee** of Louisiana commented just last week that he has some azaleas showing color. **Bill Pinkerton** of Tennessee claims that he has daffodils eight inches tall, and **Dr. Frank Emert** of Vincennes, Indiana, has camellias in bloom.

Our Vaseyi Chapter is busy preparing for the upcoming convention. This is a joint convention with the American Rhododendron Society so it will be heavily attended. Reports show that there are only 50 rooms available. The committee has garden visits scheduled before and after the convention, so plan on arriving early or staying a day or two afterward.

It is sad to report that one of our founding chapters, Brookside Gardens, that was formed in 1979, has disbanded. After considerable discussion by the group, a way forward could not be found, and acting chapter president **Bill Miller** announced to the ASA Board of Directors that the chapter was disbanding. ASA Treasurer **Dan Krabill** reports that chapter members have already begun to affiliate with other nearby chapters.

On the sunny side, I'm extremely excited to report that the long lost Alabamense Chapter has re-surfaced. Although inactive since 2005, this chapter has remained on record with the Society. During the past few months, **J. Jackson** and **Jim Thornton** have worked with **Larry Quick** and **Patrick Thompson** of Auburn University to reform the group. A meeting has taken place and a new slate of officers will be elected in March.

I'm proud to announce that **Preston Cooley**, along with wife **Bonnie**, will be taking over for **Pam Fitch** this coming spring as editors of *The Azalean*. They will be working together on the Winter issue during this transition period. I wish the best for the Cooleys as editors and thank Pam for a job well done.

For now, spring is just around the corner. I hope to see you all in Asheville, and do have a short winter.

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

Brookside Gardens (chartered Aug. 1979) William C. Miller III, Pres.	Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Jim Duffy, Pres.
Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Rick Bauer, Pres.	Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Dr. Allen Owings, Pres.
Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, Pres.	Texas (chartered May 1989) JoAnn Smith, Pres.
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 May 2010) Tom Johnson, Pres.

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.