

President's Letter

J Jackson — Trade, Tennessee



Dear Azalea Friends,

Spring in the Blue Ridge was spectacular and has already moved toward summer. The convention in Nacogdoches was great fun, with lovely gardens to visit. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) was considered a success and several important business items were discussed and settled. *The Azalean* Advisory Committee met in person for the first time to put in place more efficient and supportive procedures for producing the journal. The BOD approved moving forward with the digitization of past articles from *The Azalean*. A complete index of *The Azalean* articles is now available on the website (azaleas.org). These articles constitute one of the assets of our society. The wealth of information is very impressive, and we hope to be able to share this asset with our membership. Back issues of *The Azalean* are also very valuable assets, and the pricing structure needs to be revisited. Having an index of these back issues available should generate new interest. I have ordered several back issues for my own library and to share with family and friends.



The membership directory is now available on our website for active members. The Website Committee continues to update and improve our site. The Membership Committee is being reformed and more clearly defined. **Chris Wetmore** is interim membership chair and is actively seeking feedback and information from all our chapters.

The BOD has approved an investment policy that more clearly defines how society assets can be invested. By-laws relating to this issue were amended by a vote of the membership.

The Azalea Research Committee chair has been added as an ex-officio member of the BOD, as well as a member of the Finance Committee. These changes were also voted on by the membership as amendments to the by-laws.

Lindy and I recently had the pleasure of joining the semi-annual mountain tour with members of the Northern Virginia, Oconee, Vaseyi, Central Carolinas and Louisiana chapters. We were also accompanied by Dr. Ralf Bauer from Germany. **Don Hyatt** and **George McClellan** are two treasures of our society, and they lead wonderful tours. We saw incredible native plants and vistas on Roan Mountain, Wayah, Winespring and Hooper Balds.

The Louisiana Chapter has voted to be our host for the 2017 ASA Convention. Details will be shared as their planning moves forward.

Best regards,

J Jackson

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 (*Eriaceae*).

Officers for 2014-2015

President—J Jackson
Vice President—Barbara Stump
Secretary—Leslie Nanney
Treasurer—Paul Beck
Immediate Past President—John Migas

Directors

Term expires 2016	Term expires 2017
Rick Bauer	Miles Beach
Larry Miller	Bart Brechter
David Nanney	Joe Coleman

*Chapter presidents
serve as ex-officio directors.*

Chapters

Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) open, <i>Pres.</i>	Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Rick Bauer, <i>Pres.</i>
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Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Peggy Cox, <i>Pres.</i>	Tri-State (chartered Oct. 1981) Greg Wedding, <i>Pres.</i>
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Texas (chartered May 1989) Mary Beth Haygood, <i>Pres.</i>	Oconee (chartered Nov. 1991) John Harrison, <i>Pres.</i>
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Vaseyi (chartered Nov. 2001) Audrey Stelloh, <i>Pres.</i>	Lake Michigan (chartered May 2003) Jim Ellis, <i>Pres.</i>
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Alabamense (chartered May 2005) Patrick Thompson, <i>Pres.</i>	Southern California (chartered March 2007) Jim Jaeger, <i>Pres.</i>
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Rev. John Drayton (chartered May 2010) Tom Johnson, <i>Pres.</i>	Cape Fear (chartered October 2013) Matt Hunter, <i>Pres.</i>
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Central Carolinas
(chartered October 2013)
Chris Wetmore, *Pres.*

Regular membership is open to all interested parties for an annual amount of \$30; life-membership for one or two persons at the same address is \$600. 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 Leslie Nanney, Secretary, 8646 Tuttle Road, Springfield, VA 22152 or visit www.azaleas.org.