

President's Letter

J Jackson—Trade, Tennessee

The Azalean is back on schedule after several seasons of delays. I would like to thank and congratulate **Barbara Stump**, **Pam Fitch**, and the Azalean Advisory Committee for their excellent work.

Also, many thanks to the following committees for many hours of work:

- ▶ The Digitization Team for making past journal articles available for our Web site.
- ▶ The Web Site Committee for continued improvements to our ASA Web Site.
- ▶ The Finance Committee for a Financial and Investment Policy and clarification of non-profit tax status for our chapters.
- ▶ The Membership Committee for working with chapters and providing guidance for gaining and retaining members.

A few years ago a past ASA president and mentor said to me that all plant societies are in trouble. Just recently the Oconee Chapter in Georgia has gone into dormancy and their assets have been transferred to an escrow account for three years in hopes that Oconee can “revive” and prosper again. The rise and fall of chapters is a natural phenomenon and although this “dormancy” is distressing to me, I remind myself that the Alabamense Chapter was dormant for more than five years before it reorganized. The health of a chapter depends mainly on what **Bob Stelloh** called “spark plug(s); an interested person or persons that have a passion for azaleas and a willingness to share.” Chapters are built from the ground up, and our best course of action as a board is to look at this situation clearly and to move forward as we have in the past.

Our national board of directors will be preparing the agenda for the upcoming annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, next spring. If anyone would like to participate in the meeting, and/or has an agenda item to add, please let your chapter president know or contact me by April 1, 2016.

Stay warm and well this winter and I hope to see you this coming spring in Williamsburg.



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 2015-2017

President — J Jackson

Vice President — Barbara Stump

Secretary — Leslie Nanney

Treasurer — Paul Beck

Immediate Past President — John Migas

Directors

Terms expire 2016

Rick Bauer

Larry Miller

David Nanney

Terms expire 2017

Miles Beach

Bart Brechter

Joe Coleman

Chapter presidents
serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Ben Morrison

(chartered May 1980)

Open, *Pres.*

Northern Virginia

(chartered May 1980)

Rick Bauer, *Pres.*

Louisiana

(chartered June 1981)

Peggy Cox, *Pres.*

Tri-State

(chartered Oct. 1981)

Beverly Knight, *Pres.*

Texas

(chartered May 1989)

Mary Beth Hagood, *Pres.*

Vaseyi

(chartered June 2001)

Audrey Stelloh, *Pres.*

Lake Michigan

(chartered May 2003)

Jim Ellis, *Pres.*

Alabamense

(chartered May 2005)

Patrick Thompson, *Pres.*

Southern California

(chartered March 2007)

Jim Jaeger, *Pres.*

Rev. John Drayton

(chartered May 2010)

Tom Johnson, *Pres.*

Cape Fear

(chartered October 2013)

Matt Hunter, *Pres.*

Central Carolinas

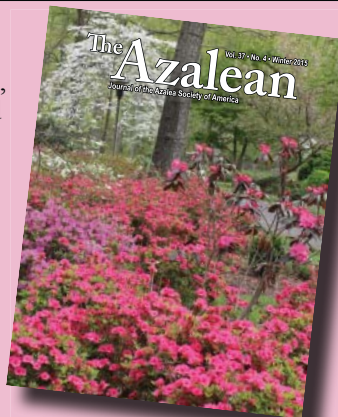
(chartered October 2013)

Chris Wetmore, *Pres. &*

At-large Contact

On the Cover

The Cosby garden in Rockville, Virginia, has an extensive and well-labeled collection of evergreen azaleas in a rural setting under tall trees. Over the years, the Cosbys have planted hundreds of azaleas and rhododendron varieties on 11 of their 79 acres. The garden is one of several private gardens being showcased during the Society's 2016 annual convention in Williamsburg, Virginia. Please see the related article on page 76. Photo by Rick Bauer.



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.