

President's Letter

J Jackson—Trade, Tennessee

With a dusting of snow on the ground and a bright, cold and sunny morning it is hard for me to think in terms of spring, but at the same time I have vivid memories of spring bulbs, early azalea blossoms, trees coming into leaf and spending time in the garden.

A question I have been pondering is, "What are the "assets" of the Azalea Society of America?"

First, a definition of asset: A useful or valuable thing, person, or quality. Synonyms: benefit, advantage, strength, attraction, resource, merit

So here is my list of the Society's assets in no particular order:

- The membership and friendships
- The "knowledge" base and learning opportunities
- The quarterly journal, *The Azalean*, and its archives, both hard copy and online
- Our Web-site
- The Azalea Research Committee
- Providing access to rare and hard-to-find cultivars and species
- Conventions and tours
- The seed exchange
- The monetary assets in the bank

Although we are a small plant society, we have much to offer people who are interested in azaleas and gardening with azaleas. Our BOD has been busy taking care of the Society business, and I am very pleased with the changes and improvements that have taken place over the last couple of years. If any member has a business item they want to have considered at the next annual BOD meeting, please get in touch with me or with our Secretary, Leslie Nanny before April 1, 2016.

The convention in Williamsburg is going to be great and I look forward to spending time with you there.

▼ This beautiful light pink deciduous azalea was grown from open-pollinated seed from the Zo Warner selections, so it is a natural hybrid of *R. arborescens* and *R. cumberlandense*. It is very fragrant and blooms in mid-June for us in Tennessee.



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 *Pentanthra* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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Terms expire 2016 **Terms expire 2017**

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At-Large Contact

Chris Wetmore

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. For information and a membership application, write to Leslie Nanney, Secretary, 8646 Tuttle Road, Springfield, VA 22152 or visit www.azaleas.org.

Photo J Jackson