

President's Letter

J Jackson—Trade, Tennessee

Dear Azalea Friends,

As summer approaches here in the Blue Ridge a wonderful spring season brings us waves of flowers and luxuriant green leaves in the woods. The transition from spring to summer here in the southern Appalachians is always "magical." Most of my days this time of year are spent gardening and walking around looking at plants, at the same time identifying and labeling them. It is likely that many of you are enjoying similar activities.

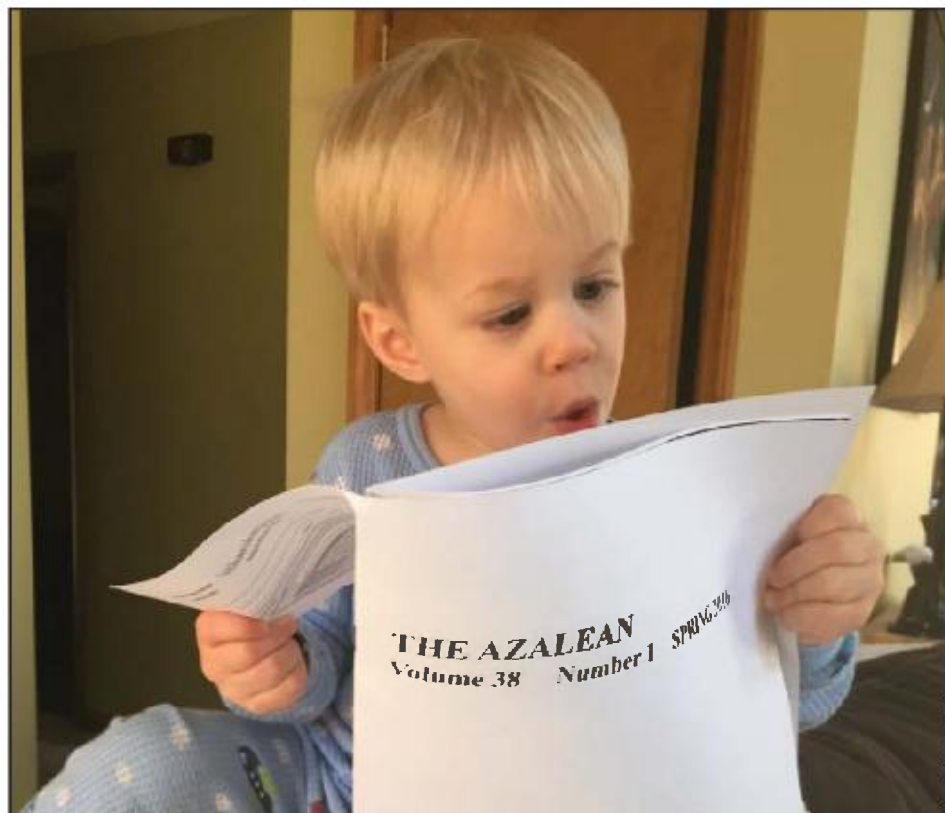
The 2016 Williamsburg convention was well attended, educational, and a great pleasure to attend. Many thanks to the Northern Virginia Chapter (ASA), The Middle Atlantic Chapter (ARS), and the Potomac Valley Chapter (ARS) for all the time and effort put forth to provide an excellent convention experience. There were beautiful gardens, great speakers and a most amazing plant sale! Spending time with old friends and meeting new friends is a good reason to mark these conventions on your calendars and make plans to attend.

The BOD had a successful business meeting and the minutes are posted on our ASA website for all interested members. Gaining and retaining members is a perennial subject that the BOD works toward.

Attracting younger members through affiliations with educational institutions, arboreta, and other gardening groups is a productive path that is being pursued. Introducing young people to the wonderful world of azaleas is an activity we can all participate in. For example, note photo below showing that Chris Wetmore's son Clayton has already picked up the recent copy of *The Azalean*, without any prodding from his parents!

Lindy and I are looking forward to our summer treks in the mountains and visiting friends in their gardens.

*Best regards,
J*



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 2017 **Terms expire 2018**

Miles Beach

Larry Miller

Bart Brechter

Jo Ann Smith

Joe Coleman

Chris Wetmore

Chapter presidents

serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

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(chartered May 1980)
Budne Reinke, Pres.

Northern Virginia
(chartered May 1980)
Rick Bauer, Pres.

Louisiana
(chartered June 1981)
Allen Owings, 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)
Open, 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)
Open, Pres.

Central Carolinas
(chartered October 2013)
Sandy Yakob, Pres.

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.