

ASA Board Nominations

The following are proposed as candidates for BOD leadership roles. The three BOD directors will serve from 2018-2020, beginning at the annual convention in Little Rock.

ASA Treasurer—*Paul Beck*

Paul has been a member of Northern Virginia Chapter since 1983, the chapter treasurer since 2010, chapter webmaster since 2013, and ASA treasurer since 2015. He is very active in the chapter, assisting with plant sales and annual auctions, and creating and maintaining the ASA online membership database. Paul also designed and implemented the ASA online repository for The Azalean. He has automated the chapter plant sales with an online inventory, bar code identification tags, descriptions, and photographs. Paul provided this automation capability to the 2016 joint ARS/ASA convention in Williamsburg, VA, and was also the treasurer for the convention. He holds a PhD in Operations Research and retired from the United States Air Force in 1984 after 20 years of service. In 2012, Paul retired from his second career, after spending 30+ years in software development. He works actively in the garden with Carolyn, his devoted wife of 53 years. They have two children and three grandchildren. Paul enjoys building and flying remotely controlled model airplanes.

ASA Secretary—*Leslie Nanney*

Leslie and her husband Dave joined the ARS in 1979, and were founding members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA in May 1980. They caught the “azalea bug” from her mother, Frances Louer, and their collection now includes over 1800 varieties of azaleas. Since moving to their current home 30 years ago, about half of the beds have been devoted to the work of a single hybridizer. Leslie and Dave are the Legacy Project leads for the Holly Springs azaleas developed by Pete Vines.

Leslie has served as treasurer of the Northern Virginia Chapter, and as a director of the ASA. She has been the ASA secretary for the last four years.

Director—*Fred Anderson*

Fred Anderson joined the ASA two weeks before the 2015 national convention in Nacogdoches, TX, which he attended and has been to every ASA convention since. He was a member at large for quite a while until he joined the Vaseyi Chapter in NC. Being in a prime azalea area, Fred has made attempts to start a new chapter called the Smoky Mountains Chapter by manning and self-funding a membership booth at garden events. Fred is a Tennessee Master Gardener and has started developing a unique azalea collection. He is the founder of Anderson Estate which he is developing as a private collection of his favorite plants. He also has a vision of planting azaleas and dogwoods all along his street. Fred is an entrepreneur and has started

several businesses from scratch. He is currently retired but still owns BrakeQuip LLC. His wife Sandra totally supports Fred in all his endeavors and next year they will celebrate 45 years of marriage. Fred and Sandra have two children and four grandchildren that all live in Australia. They have lived in Knoxville, TN, for the past 15 years. Apart from being a gardener “out of control,” he is an animal lover, a street rodder, a bee keeper and enjoys nature and socializing with people. Fred is also president of the East Tennessee Hosta Society and has a large collection of hostas that share the part shade environment where azaleas thrive. Fred enjoys travelling to conventions and meetings around the world and would be honored to be a director of the Azalea Society of America.

Director—*Robert Thau*

Robert Thau is the current president of the Texas Chapter of the ASA and former vice president. He is currently holding the position of ASA membership chairman and is active in the Legacy Project, promoting the Bowie Mill and Harris azaleas. He has been active growing plants since the early 80s and learned how to propagate when he was co-owner of a retail nursery in Louisiana, specializing in azaleas and camellias, and a member of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association. He moved to Texas in 1989 and a few years later joined the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association while deciding to start a wholesale nursery growing tropical bougainvillea. He retired in 2014 and decided to get back to his love of azaleas and built a garden named Nature’s Way Gardens. He gives tours to the public, showing the different types of azaleas available and promoting membership in the ASA.

Director—*Andy Whipple*

Andy Whipple has been a great fan of our native deciduous azaleas since attending the joint ASA/ARS 2002 convention in Atlanta. An avid gardener since childhood, he and his wife You-Ying moved to Black Mountain, North Carolina, upon retirement in 2015 and joined the Vaseyi Chapter. Andy was a professor of biology at Taylor University for 31 years, teaching several courses including Cellular and Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Immunology, and the Biology Senior Capstone course (an intense course combining biology, the scientific method, the history and philosophy of science, and the interaction of science and Christian faith). Having discovered the unwillingness of many deciduous azaleas to be propagated by the usual means, and under the tutelage of Earl Sommerville, Andy became somewhat proficient in the micropropagation of deciduous azaleas. He used this as a means to teach his students the scientific process as well as to introduce them to these wonderful plants. He continues the micropropagation of deciduous azaleas in a tissue culture lab in his basement in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.