

President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

When you read this message, we will be coming into "Prime Time," for our gardens and azaleas. This is my favorite time of year when bare branches started showing signs of life (hopefully) and my garden starts breaking out in bursts of color from the many different varieties of azaleas and companion plants which we have planted over the years.

This is also the time for the society to come back to life after a long winter. I'm excited about some of the new and ongoing initiatives in the society. I'm hoping to see a large number of you at the ASA convention in Little Rock. The folks from the Louisiana Chapter stepped up to the plate for the second year in a row, working with members of the ASA in Arkansas, the Little Rock Visitor's Bureau and Arkansas Master Gardeners, to bring our convention to a part of the country we've not visited before. I'm also excited about a new concept being tested at this convention. There will be a workshop on azaleas held the day of registration, primarily for non-ASA members of the Master Gardeners. In addition to a number of sessions on azaleas and their propagation, the attendees will also be given memberships for the remainder of 2018. It would be great if we could get a new chapter in Arkansas.

Those ASA members who have been involved in the efforts to restore the native azaleas on Hooper Bald are probably familiar with the town of Robbinsville, NC. Robbinsville is currently applying to become an Azalea City and are looking to hold an Azalea Festival in June. We hope to be active participants in this festival and perhaps gain new members in western North Carolina.

Fred Anderson, an ASA member from Knoxville, TN is actively participating in horticulture venues in the Knoxville area, talking about the ASA and azaleas in an attempt to gain new members and start a new chapter in East Tennessee.

The Legacy Project continues to build strength as more people become involved in adopting different hybrid groups to maintain. Efforts are currently underway to add these hybrids to public gardens, propagate them for sale to the public and collect and maintain information on the cultivars. For example, the Northern Virginia Chapter is currently working with Meadowlark Garden in Vienna, Virginia to establish a Klimavicz Legacy Garden. Sponsoring a hybrid group (or several) is an excellent project for any individual or chapter to take on.

In a previous President's Message, I spoke about purpose. We are the ASA and we are the ones who promote it and derive the benefits of membership. I encourage you to actively participate in developing worthwhile programs in your chapters, educating the general public on azaleas and helping our society grow. The society is what we make it. We have a lot of talent in our ranks, horticultural and otherwise. If you see the opportunity to make a contribution, do it. I know that many of us, myself included, feel a little inadequate in our knowledge of azaleas. Getting involved is how you learn. Don't let what you can't do keep you from doing what you can.

I hope to see you in Little Rock.



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*).

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At-Large Contact

Robert Thau

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.

For the Record

In Paul Beck's article "Tax-Exempt" vs. "Public Charity" in the Winter 2017 issue, (page 89, paragraph 2, line 4) the amount shown for average yearly receipts for a "Tax-Exempt" entity should have been shown as \$5,000, not \$50,000.