

Officer Candidates for 2019

Candidate for President—Rick Bauer

Azalea Society President Rick Bauer is running for another term as society president. Rick and his wife Susan have been members of Northern Virginia Chapter since 2002. Rick served as the chapter vice president of the Northern Virginia Chapter for four years and chapter president for five years. He also served as an ASA director for two years. He was co-chair of the 2016 ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia. He also was a member of the team which digitized *The Azalean*. Rick was part of the team which started the 'Legacy Project' within the Northern Virginia Chapter. This project is designed to help ensure the continuation of knowledge about azalea hybridizers and their plants and to maintain true specimens of their cultivars. He retired from the US Army in 1994 after 20 years of active service and retired in 2011 from Science Applications International Corporation, where he helped develop software applications for Army customers.

Candidate for Vice-President—Charles Andrews

Charles Andrews of Cumming, Georgia, is a member of the Vaseyi Chapter ASA and a former member of the Oconee Chapter and is currently serving as ASA vice president. He is a plant lover in general, but his heart is with azaleas. He enjoys writing and speaking on azalea topics, has contributed to *The Azalean*, and serves on the journal's Editorial Advisory Board. He is past president of the Azalea Chapter ARS. Charles believes ASA and ASA chapters can be more proactive in membership and knows we have to give value for annual dues in order to retain members. For over 35 years, Charles has been studying American deciduous azaleas, a group of plants that are poorly understood, even today. He and like-minded azaleaphiles spend many hours in the field each year trying to better understand the distribution, habitat, characteristics, and dynamics of this amazing plant complex, primarily found in eastern North America. He believes these plants deserve more scientific study and horticultural emphasis. Charles is working to make accurate information on the history, identification, distribution, and culture of native azaleas more available.

BOD Candidate—Dale Berrong

Dale Berrong has been interested in plants, propagation, and gardening for over 20 years and joined the ASA following attendance at the joint ASA/ARS convention in Virginia in 2016. Dale is a past president of The Maple Society, North American Branch and currently vice-president of the Azalea Chapter/ARS. He enjoys propagation and is in the process of building a large garden at his home in Danielsville, Georgia. After his retirement and the sale of his company in 2016, it has become his full-time job.

During his career, Dale has served on the boards of for profit corporations, not for profit corporations, and corporate pension plans. He would be honored to serve the ASA.

BOD Candidate—James Greene Campbell

Jim Campbell is a native of Louisiana, born in New Orleans. He attended the Tulane University School of Architecture and spent his career as an architect, working for a number of firms in Louisiana. He retired in 2008.

Jim has been growing camellias and azaleas since 1966. He opened Riverside Camellias Nursery in 2000. His personal collection has over 1300 varieties of camellias and over 400 varieties of azaleas. He worked with Tom Johnson, former Horticulturist with the American Camellia Society assessing damage to large camellia gardens and camellia collections in Louisiana and listing the value of the plants lost due to Hurricane Katrina damage.

He been a member of the American Camellia Society for over 50 years and has served on the Board of Directors of the Society for many years. He also served as the President of the American Camellia Society.

Jim has been a member of the Azalea Society of America for numerous years and has served on the Board of Directors.

BOD Director Candidate—John Simmons

John is a relatively new member of the Vaseyi Chapter. He has had an interest in azaleas since a next door neighbor taught him to root azalea cuttings during his medical school years from 1964-1968. John has explored many areas looking for wildflowers and has long been fascinated with the native azaleas. He is now the lead on a legacy garden featuring the work of George Beasley. In an effort to grow membership in the society, he is teaching a class on azaleas at a Life Long Learning program at Wofford College. John also teaches classes on meditation and mindfulness and enjoys gardens and gardening as venues and activities for meditation.

Don't Miss the 2019 ASA National Convention!

"History, Azaleas, and Sweet Tea" March 14-16, 2019. Head-quartered in Summerville, SC

Organized and sponsored by the Rev. John Drayton Chapter and Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. Details and registration form available in the Fall 2018 issue of *The Azalean* and available from the ASA website at: <https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2019/>

Free One-Year Memberships

In order to promote early membership renewals, we tried something new this year. All members whose membership expiration date was 2019 or later as of 8 December had their names put into a lottery. This information was provided in November to all members whose membership was expiring at the end of 2018. We drew three names and awarded the winners with a free one-year membership in the society. Congratulations to:

- Chip Benjamin & Doug Pulak, Northern Virginia
- Elizabeth F. M. Wells, Vaseyi
- Jackson & Pamela McCarter, Vaseyi