

# President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

As I write this message, we are still in the middle of winter. Some of my winter plants such as hellebores are blooming, but most are still in their winter hibernation. The buds on my camellias and azaleas are a harbinger of a colorful spring around the corner. Spring is when our gardens come back to life and when our society enters prime time.

By the time you read this message, the convention in Charleston will likely be a pleasant memory. I always enjoy our conventions, not only because we visit some beautiful gardens, but it gives us a chance to link up with friends, many of whom we see only once a year. I thank Tom Johnson, the Rev. John Drayton Chapter, and the rest of the team for the work they put into planning and executing the convention.

In 2019 I look forward to the society building on the successes of 2018. Our two Azalea Cities designated last year are continuing their promotion of azaleas, with both cities holding azalea festivals this year. The fall edition of *The Azalean* had an article on the historic Azalea Trail in Lafayette, Louisiana. The folks in Lafayette are interested in working with the society to continue the promotion of azaleas. Work continues to preserve the native azaleas on Hooper Bald near Robbinsville, NC. The Northern Virginia Chapter continues to work with Norfolk Botanical Garden to expand their Glenn Dale collection and will plant Klimavicz hybrids in a Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, Virginia this spring. There are other initiatives throughout the society promoting azaleas through collaboration with public gardens, nurseries, Master Gardeners and other horticultural organizations, and city officials. I hope to be reporting on them later in the year. I encourage our chapters to explore collaborative efforts to further the promotion of azaleas.

Our society members have a wealth of knowledge. I encourage you to share your knowledge with the rest of the members of the society through your chapter newsletters and by writing articles for publication in *The Azalean*. Articles can cover a broad range of topics, especially as they relate to azaleas in some manner. If you have any questions about writing and submitting articles, please contact our editor, Barbara Stump at [theazalean@gmail.com](mailto:theazalean@gmail.com). We have also enhanced *The Azalean* by now printing it in full color. I personally think it improves the experience of reading our journal and hope you agree.

Finally, I encourage you to get involved in the Legacy Project, either as a Legacy Lead or as a contributor to a Legacy Team. This project provides an excellent means of retaining documentation and historical information on hybrids and their hybridizers. It is also a way to ensure the perpetuation and propagation of true copies of the cultivars. The project can also provide a structure for interesting chapter programs. As I write this message, we currently have 16 hybrid groups in the project, and I expect additional hybrids to be added this year. Guidelines for the project are on the society website. If you have any questions about the project (or any other aspect of the society), contact me at [president@azaleas.org](mailto:president@azaleas.org).

## Request for Can Can Chorus Cuttings

Sandra McDonald created a series of hybrid azaleas developed from florist azaleas in the 1970s. They are listed in Galle on page 276 (in the 1987 edition). I have copies of 'Mademoiselle Gigi' and 'Mademoiselle Yvette'. If anyone has copies of the following varieties and can provide cuttings, please contact me at [president@azaleas.org](mailto:president@azaleas.org).

'Mademoiselle Amy'  
'Mademoiselle Charlene'  
'Mademoiselle Margot'

'Mademoiselle Bridgette'  
'Mademoiselle Lisette'  
'Mademoiselle Nanette'



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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**Terms expire 2019**

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**Terms expire 2020**

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Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

### Chapters

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(chartered May 1980)

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(chartered May 1980)

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Robert Thau, *Pres.*

### 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](http://www.azaleas.org).