

Society Officer Candidates

Paul Beck—Treasurer

Paul has been a member of Northern Virginia Chapter since 1983. Paul has been very active in that chapter since 2010, as treasurer and as webmaster and developer of the chapter's website, and Treasurer of the ASA since 2014. He played a major role in digitizing past issues of *The Azalean*. He developed the ASA online membership database, the searchable azalea information repository, the online repository for *The Azalean*, all of which he migrated to the new ASA website. He has automated the chapter plant sales and annual auctions with a barcoding sales and inventory control system. In addition, Paul automated the 2016 Williamsburg joint ASA-ARS convention plant sale and automated the 2018 convention plant sale. He retired from the US Air Force in 1984 after 20 years of service and then retired again in 2012 from his second career in the software development industry. Paul works actively in the garden with Carolyn, his wife of 56 years, and they have two children and three grandchildren. He enjoys building and flying remotely controlled model airplanes. Paul holds a PhD in Operations Research and Statistics.

Donna Palmer—Secretary

Donna Palmer is a retired elementary and middle school teacher. She has been a member of the ASA for over 40

years and is an active member of the Arkansas Chapter of ASA. She and her husband, Ronnie, started Azalea Hill Garden & Nursery, close to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, around 1972. It has been their goal to provide a good selection of azaleas and give customers information about selection and planting in their locations.

Directors for 2020-2022

Fred Anderson—Director

Director Fred Anderson joined the ASA two weeks before the National Convention in Nacogdoches, TX, in 2015, 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



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9AM - NOON



totally supports Fred in all his endeavors and next year they will celebrate 47 years of marriage. They have lived in Knoxville, TN, for the past 17 years. Fred and Sandra have two children and four grandchildren that all live in Australia. Apart from being a gardener “out of control,” he is an animal lover, a street-rodder, 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 like azaleas. Fred enjoys travelling to conventions and meetings around the world and would be honored to continue as a director of the Azalea Society of America.

Robert Thau—Director

Robert Thau is the current President of the Texas Forest Country Chapter of the ASA and former President and Vice President of the Texas Chapter of the ASA. He is currently holding the position of ASA Membership Chairman and is active in the Legacy Project, promoting the Bowie Mill and Harris hybrid azaleas. He has been actively 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, while being 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, and gives azalea-related talks and workshops to garden clubs to inform people about the many cultivars available and promote membership in the ASA.

Andy Whipple—Director

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 propagation process to teach his students the scientific method 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.

Deadlines for input for *The Azalean* in 2020



Spring 2020 Issue—February 1

Summer 2020 Issue—March 15

Fall 2020 Issue—July 1

Winter 2020 Issue—October 1



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