

President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

As you read this message we are in prime time for our azaleas. The focus of our society is to promote azaleas. We do this through research, education, propagation, and introduction of azaleas to the general public. There are initiatives throughout the society to collaborate with nurseries and public gardens to promote specific azalea varieties, both natives and hybrids. For several years, the society has been promoting hybrids through the Legacy Project.

I'm pleased at the growth in the Legacy Project. What started out as a project in the Northern Virginia Chapter and encompassed four hybrid groups, is now a society-wide project with participation by eight chapters and the Royal Horticulture Society and now encompasses 20 hybrid groups. Most recently we added the Schroeder and Carla Hybrids to the project. There are great initiatives being undertaken throughout the society as part of the project. I detail some of them in my article in this issue.

Don Hyatt has also written an excellent article in this issue on the Marshy Point Azaleas and their hybridizer, Harry Weiskittel. Through a collaboration between the Ben Morrison Chapter and the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, they are working to create a Legacy Garden of Marshy Point Azaleas at London Town Garden in Edgewater, MD. There are many other ways in which individuals and/or chapters can promote azaleas through the Legacy Project. If you are interested in sponsoring a Legacy Hybrid group, more information is located on our website at <https://www.azaleas.org/legacy-project/>.

We have also posted two documents on the society website, one to assist chapters in running conventions and the other with ideas for running a successful chapter. They are available at [About the Society/Chapters/Resources](#). Hopefully they will provide you beneficial ideas. If you have any ideas to add to either document or additional comments, please send them to me at president@azaleas.org.

A word of caution. There are scammers all over, ready to cause you to part with your money. Recently the ASA and other plant societies have been beset by scammers sending out emails to members asking them to purchase money cards or send checks to fake organizations with the promise of reimbursement by the society. We will NEVER ask you to send money on behalf of the society via email. If you are ever in doubt, call the person who allegedly sent you the email.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of Margie Jenkins, of our Louisiana Chapter. Ms. Margie was the grande dame of the society. She ran the Jenkins Farm and Nursery in Amite, LA, up until the time of her death at the age of 98. Many of us had the opportunity to visit her nursery as part of conventions sponsored by the Louisiana Chapter. Those of us who were fortunate to meet her will always remember her warmth and grace. Her passing is a true loss. Our sympathies go out to her family.



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*).

Officers for 2017-2019

President — Rick Bauer

Vice President — Charles R. Andrews, III

Secretary — Leslie Nanney

Treasurer — Paul Beck

Immediate Past President — J Jackson

Directors

Terms expire 2020

Fred Anderson

Robert Thau

Andy Whipple

Terms expire 2021

Dale Berrong

Jim Campbell

John Simmons

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Ben Morrison

(chartered May 1980)

Budne Reinke, *Pres.*

Northern Virginia

(chartered May 1980)

Lars Larson, *Pres.*

Louisiana

(chartered June 1981)

Allen Owings, *Pres.*

Tri-State

(chartered Oct. 1981)

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(chartered May 1989)

David Creech, *Pres.*

Vaseyi

(chartered June 2001)

Aaron Cook, *Pres.*

Lake Michigan

(chartered May 2003)

John Migas, *Pres.*

Alabamense

(chartered May 2005)

Amanda Wilkins, *Pres.*

Rev. John Drayton

(chartered May 2010)

Tom Johnson, *Pres.*

Central Carolinas

(chartered October 2013)

Kevin McCorkle, *Pres.*

Arkansas

(chartered 2018)

Ronnie Palmer, *Pres.*

Texas Forest Country

(chartered 2018)

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.