Distinguished Service Awards

The ASA Awards Committee awarded the Distinguished Service Award for 2019 to three members: Ronnie and Donna Palmer (See Photo 1.) and Robert Thau (See Photo 3.).

Award to Ronnie and Donna Palmer. The award text shown in Photo 2 reads:

The Distinguished Service Award to

Ronnie and Donna Palmer In recognition of your many contributions to the Azalea Society of America. Your love for azaleas and sharing of your knowledge has truly advanced our society and has enhanced the appreciation of azaleas for many people. Over your forty years of membership in the society you have actively promoted azaleas through your Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery, donation of plants to society plant sales, sponsorship of a national convention and most recently through your work in starting the Arkansas Chapter of the society. We greatly appreciate you and thank you for your service and dedication.



Photo 1—Distinguished Service Award recipients Ronnie and Donna Palmer at their Azalea Hill Gardens & Nursery in Pine Bluff. Arkansas.

Award to Robert Thau. The award text shown in Photo 4 reads:

> The Distinguished Service Award to Robert Thau

We thank you for the time and effort spent in support of the Azalea Society of America by serving as a board member of the national society, as legacy lead, and the national membership chairman. You were instrumental in assisting Jasper, Texas, to become recognized as an Azalea City of America and in recruiting members in Texas to form the East Texas Forest Region Chapter, all while establishing and sharing your broad collection of azalea hybrids and teaching propagation of azaleas in many venues and events. Your appreciation of azaleas and willingness to share your knowledge have inspired others and truly advanced our organization.



Photo 3—Distinguished Service Award recipient Robert Thau (r.) with ASA President Rick Bauer in Robert's ever-growing azalea garden collections in Jasper, Texas.



Photo 2

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