

# Chapter News and New Members

## Alabamense Chapter

*John Torbert—President*

The Alabamense Chapter held its fall meeting on October 8 via Zoom. It was decided that we will try again to hold the Spring 2021 meeting at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, which was planned for this past spring but cancelled due to COVID-19. We decided to award an annual membership to the Azalea Society and the Alabamense Chapter to three promising college students in an attempt to stimulate their long-term interest in azaleas. And finally, just as native azalea seed pods are ripening, Patrick Thompson gave a presentation on the science of seed collection.

The chapter welcomes new member Glenn Keith Bush, Nashville, TN.

## Ben Morrison Chapter

*Diane Reinke—Secretary*

The Ben Morrison Chapter members have been staying in touch by email and tending our own gardens. We look forward to the end of the pandemic and future activities.

The chapter welcomes new member Kathy Jentz, Silver Spring, MD.

## Louisiana Chapter

*Allen Owings—President*

As I write this short update in mid-October, our first in-person get together is planned for Friday November 6th at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station in Hammond. Items on the agenda include our chapter hosting the national meeting in 2022, confirmation of new officers, education plans for 2021, an update on the Azalea Trial activities in Lafayette, and more. Chapter members have also been discussing going to NC for our annual meeting next spring.

Officers for the next year are President—Allen Owings, Vice President—Peggy Cox, Secretary—Louis Wolfe, and Treasurer—Jim Campbell.

The scholarship fund and garden maintenance funds in memory of Margie Jenkins are going well. The Margie Jenkins Scholarship Fund with the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation has \$6,800. The first scholarship will be awarded at the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in January 2021 in Mobile, AL. The Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden maintenance fund contribution has received over \$11,000 with more pledged. These funds will be used to continue care and maintenance of the garden named in Margie's honor at the Hammond Research Station.

The Louisiana Chapter thanks Charlie Andrews, Rick Bauer, and Paul Beck for working with us on development of and corrections to the new ASA logos. We were glad to contribute in a small way that unfortunately took a long time.

Our group also made a \$250 donation to the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research.



▲ Photo 1—Work party at Klimavicz Legacy Garden, July 2020.

▼ Photo 2—Paul and Carolyn Beck at NVA Chapter plant sale, Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA.



The chapter welcomes new member Jeb Fields, Hammond, LA.

## Northern Virginia Chapter

*Rick Bauer—Corresponding Secretary*

Chapter activities have been curtailed for most of the year due to COVID-19. We have continued activities which occur outdoors. During the growing season we have chapter workdays at the Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, VA. On 29 July, David Meadows, Ralph Habegger, Dave Nanney, Lars Larson, and Paul and Carolyn Beck performed work weeding and removing debris from the legacy garden. (See Composite Photo 1.)

On the 19 September, chapter members Lars Larson, Karen Kinsey, and Paul and Carolyn Beck participated in a chapter plant sale at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, VA. The sale was successful and helped raise the visibility of the chapter. We will likely participate in spring sales at the garden to leverage our sponsorship of the Klimavicz Legacy Garden. (See Photo 2.)

On 26 September we held our 13th annual azalea sale at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Springfield, VA. We

# Society Officer Candidates

## *Charles A. Andrews III—President*

Charles Andrews is a retired Georgia Tech engineer, whose life-long hobby of trout fishing introduced him many years ago to native azaleas, often called wild honeysuckle, a subject about which he wants to learn everything possible.

He writes and speaks on azalea topics as well as on genealogical and history subjects. Charlie is co-author of two history books, many articles, and is currently working on two books about native azaleas: one on historic illustrations from 1690 to the present and the other on the history and characteristics of our North American azaleas. He talks on various azalea topics and has written articles in *The Azalean* and the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*.

Charlie is vice president of the Azalea Society of America and serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of *The Azalean*. He is past president of the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

With notebook, jeweler's loupe, and camera in hand, Charlie has roamed the woods in search of native azaleas for 40 years. He is fortunate to have had properties with many thousands of them, including amazing swarms of hybrids. His garden is filled with *Ericaceae* and other, mostly native, plants.

Charlie believes the ASA has much to contribute to anyone interested in these beautiful and useful plants. As popular as they are, there is still much we do not know about the two basic groups, both called azaleas. These unique plants should not be lost as stepchildren hidden behind the wide skirt of the *Rhododendron* genus. The ASA needs to be the place to go for azalea facts, culture, research, and spreading the love of gardening, and can contribute much more to its members and the public.

## *Tom Johnson—Vice President*

Tom Johnson is a lifelong horticulturist whose penchant for sharing horticulture with his professional colleagues and friends has taken him to Europe and Caribbean.

As a youth, Tom oversaw the redesign of downtown Perry, Georgia. The landscaping project won for the city a prestigious national award. He was the first student in the state of Georgia to be elected to The Governor's Honors Program in Vocational Agriculture.

In 1985, when President Jimmy Carter began building his presidential library in Atlanta, he enlisted Tom to help oversee the building of the gardens. That experience led to Tom being selected for the design team for the construction of the Evan Allen III Pavilion and the Cecil B. Day Chapel. During the development of the Carter Center Gardens, Tom apprenticed for five years under world-renowned Japanese architect Kinsako Nakane. Tom is among a handful of Americans to have had this opportunity.

After a decade at the Carter Presidential Center, Tom returned to Middle Georgia as the national horticulturist with the American Camellia Society. For the next eight years, he managed the society's camellia collection at Masee Lane Gardens, the society's national headquarters. In that role, while at Masee Lane, Tom was approached by



Photo Helen Standen, Jenkins Arb.

▲ Photo 3—Shown (l to r) Jake Summers, intern at Jenkins Arboretum, Rick and Susan Bauer. Jake is coordinating the Jenkins' Holly Springs Legacy Garden project at Jenkins Arboretum.

normally hold a live and a silent auction; however, due to COVID we cancelled the indoor events this year. A presale was open to chapter members. Members were able to select azaleas online and to pay for and pick up the orders at the church or, if desired, at another pre-coordinated time and location. We use the funds derived from our sales to support our various Legacy Project initiatives as well as to make donations to other horticultural activities.

The chapter also provided many Marshy Point Azaleas to the Potomac Valley Chapter (PVC) of the American Rhododendron Society. PVC is developing a Marshy Point Legacy Garden at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, MD. Carolyn Beck is working with Carol Segree, Don Hyatt, and others to make this garden a reality.

Finally, the chapter is working with Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA, to develop a Holly Springs Legacy Garden. Jenkins has assigned one of their interns, Jake Summers, to coordinate this project. Dave and Leslie Nanney delivered the first group of Holly Springs Azaleas to Jenkins on 13 September. Additional azaleas were delivered to Jenkins by Rick and Susan Bauer on 8 October. (See Photo 3.)

The chapter welcomes new member Barbara Tozzi, Vienna, VA.

## **At-large Members**

The ASA welcomes new at-large members Angie Hice and Robert C. Hice, Jr. Blairsville, GA; Karin Guzy, Marietta, GA; Marie Hartford and John Schmied, Bothell, WA; and Rama Lopez-Rivera, Edinburgh, Midlothian, United Kingdom.

John Drayton Hastie Jr., asking him to become Magnolia's executive director. At Magnolia, Tom's responsibilities include the restoration of America's oldest romantic-style garden.

Tom was responsible for the establishment of the Rev. Drayton Chapter of the society and has served as its president since its inception in 2010. During this period, he and his chapter sponsored two successful conventions in Charleston and Summerville, SC. Tom has also served as a director of the society.

## Directors for 2021-2023

### *Michael Bamford—Director*

Michael Bamford and his wife Pim recently became members of the Northern Virginia Chapter; their interest in native azaleas started in the 1970s. They have been members of Atlanta's Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for almost a decade, where Mike has chaired the Plant Sale and Project Garden Committees. Under Mike's tenure, the plant sale has seen remarkable growth in both sales and profits. As Committee Chair of Projects, Mike worked collaboratively with other organizations to promote native azaleas in public areas. Connecting the chapter's expertise in growing, planting, and selection with other organizations in Georgia has resulted in successful plantings along Atlanta's Beltline and Pathways. The committee supported plantings at Lockerly Arboretum's Ernest Koone Azalea Garden and the continued preservation of rhododendrons at Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge. Mike is a retired engineer and professional from the toy industry.

### *Dale Berrong—Director*

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. He enjoys propagation and is in the process of building a large garden at his home in Danielsville, GA. 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 has been an ASA director from 2019-2021, and he would be honored to continue to serve the ASA from 2021-2023.

### *John Simmons—Director*

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.

# Renewal Time is Here!

*By Paul Beck, Treasurer*

That time of year, when your annual dues need to be paid, is here. Check your expiration date on the mailing label on this issue of *The Azalean*. If it says '2020' you need to pay your dues for 2021. Dues are still \$30 per year. Paper mailing of reminders went out in mid-November, and an email reminder shortly thereafter. If you use email, and were not notified last year about your renewal via email, please send me your email address at [treasurer@azaleas.org](mailto:treasurer@azaleas.org).

In an attempt to improve renewal percentages, again this year the follow-up reminders will be handled by the local chapters instead of by me. Hopefully the more local approach will be more fruitful.

Renewal is best accomplished by using the **Join Us, Renew** or **Donate** link on the ASA website. If you choose to not renew electronically, you may use the renewal form on the wrapper of this issue of *The Azalean*. This application form is also available on the ASA website.

This year I am again encouraging the use of our **subscription service**, via the **PayPal™** credit card payment service. This will allow you to register your credit card with PayPal, and have your annual membership fees deducted automatically. Click on the "Yearly Automatic Subscription" accordion near the bottom of the **Join Us** page.

Finally, as a service to our members who do not like to use PayPal, I will continue to take your payment over the phone. Call me at 703-860-5676. If you have not called me before, our telephone SPAM blocker will catch you first. Press "0" to get through the blocker, and we will answer if we are here. **DO NOT leave your credit card number on our voice mail.**

## For the Record

In the Summer 2020 issue of *The Azalean* (Vol.42, No. 2), p. 42, the photograph of the back page of the *Gekkan Satsuki Ken Kyusha* should refer to the 2014 publication (No. 28), not the 2020 publication (No. 30).

In the same issue on p. 44, there are three corrections: Bottom left- 'Balsaminaeflorum' should have been spelled as given in the IRRC: 'Balsaminiflorum'. This azalea, called 'Komane' in Japan, is a garden variety of *R. indicum* and did not require the *R.* designation before its name consistent with our editorial style. On the same page, bottom right, the Satsuki 'Sumizome' should not have an *R.* designation for the same reason. 'Sumizome' is a Satsuki Hybrid, being a sport of another hybrid called 'Shinno-no-tsuki', which in turn is a hybrid of 'Adesugata' x 'Zetsurin'.