

In Memory

William Ray Dodd Sr.—1920–2020

Allen Owings—Robert, Louisiana

The Azalea Society of America was sad to hear of the passing of William Ray Dodd Sr. earlier this year. Mr. Dodd died on the morning of August 9th at his home in Lillian, AL, at the age of 99. He was a retired US Army Lt. Colonel and lifetime member of the ASA.

He was born in Semmes, AL August 25, 1920, into a family whose values instilled a love of all things botanical. At a young age, he added photography to his repertoire, and throughout his life documented his many travels and experiences in film. He graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile, AL, then attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute from 1938 to 1940 before it became Auburn University and remained an active Auburn Alumni over the years. He finished his studies at Troy State with a degree in History in 1964. In 1939 he took his first flight from Auburn Airport, and proceeded to become a licensed pilot in 1940, leading to his entry into the Army Air Corps in 1942, until he retired in 1966. By



that point he had flown on three continents, and roughly 70 airplanes, helicopters, and experimental aircraft. In 1942 he married Mary Elizabeth Evans of Butler, AL, and they had three children, Elizabeth Evans, William Ray Jr, and David Franklin.

Following his military service, he returned to the realm of horticulture by rejoining Tom Dodd Nurseries, as well as starting his own nursery dedicated to rare plants. He pursued his passion for plants heading up the Mobile Parks Department from 1971-1984, helping to start the Mobile Botanical Gardens, working closely with the Magnolia Society and Camellia Society, and being active in the Alabama Wildflower Society, and a lifetime member of the Azalea Society of America. Once fully retired, he moved to Lillian, AL, and proceeded to dote on his wife until her passing, and then spoil his grandchildren and great grandchildren while also entertaining them with a never-ending series of photos and stories from all over the world. He has left us to join his wife, Mary Elizabeth Evans Dodd, and sons, William Ray Dodd Jr, and David Franklin Dodd. He was the brother of Tom Dodd Sr.

A private graveside service was held on Saturday, August 15, 2020. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Lillian Recreational Park, home of his last project—the Bill and Mary Dodd Native Azalea Garden. Lillian Recreational Park, P.O.

A large advertisement for the Azalea Trail in Lafayette, Louisiana. The top half features a photograph of a brown and green trolley bus with "LAFAYETTE LIMO & TROLLEY" written on its side, parked on a street next to a large, vibrant pink azalea bush. Below the photo is a green banner with white and pink text. The banner includes the text "LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA'S HISTORIC AZALEA TRAIL Official Azalea City" and the website "WWW.AZALEATRIL.ORG". On the left side of the banner, it says "TROLLEY RIDES SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021 HISTORIC AND GARDEN DISTRICTS". On the right side, it says "BEAUTIFUL MUSEUMS, HISTORIC HOMES, CHURCHES, AND SCHOOLS RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING ARTS, AND MUSIC". At the bottom of the banner, there are two QR codes and several logos: Scenic Lafayette, Azalea Society of America, Atchafalaya, and Lafayette Louisiana.

Box 865, Lillian, AL 36549. Website: lillianrecreationalpark.org.

The world will forever be a smaller place without him to remind of us the wonder that awaits.

Robert Thau—1949-2020

Richard Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

October 19th was a sad day for the Azalea Society of America. After battling cancer for over a year, Robert Thau, President of the Texas Forest Country Chapter, succumbed to the disease. I met Robert at the national convention in Williamsburg in 2016, soon after he had joined the society and we became fast friends.



Robert was an active member of the Texas Chapter and became chapter president in 2018.

Robert actively promoted the society in his hometown of Jasper, TX. He frequently gave talks to other plants societies, including the Master Gardeners. He held many workshops on propagating azaleas and was a consummate collector of azaleas, amassing a collection of over 1400. He was always willing to open his garden to visitors, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for azaleas. It was not unusual for visitors to depart with an azalea given to them by Robert.

Robert was known as “Mr. Azalea” in Jasper. His presentations and interactions with other groups resulted in enough new members joining the society that he was able to start the Texas Forest Country Chapter and serve as its first president. During this time, he was instrumental in getting Jasper recognized as an Azalea City. He was also deeply involved in a state-funded beautification project for Jasper, with a focus on azaleas.

Besides serving as president of two different chapters, Robert also served as a Director on the society’s board and was also chair of the Membership Committee. He was also an Associate Member of the Northern Virginia Chapter and joined us annually for chapter events. His contributions to the society and to the promotion of azaleas resulted in him being awarded the Society’s Distinguished Service Award in March 2020.

Throughout his illness, Robert was always upbeat. While he set about getting all of his affairs in order, he also continued to plan for the future, propagating azaleas for upcoming conventions and planning azalea buying trips to Virginia and Maryland next spring.

Robert is survived by his wife Rosa Lee. He leaves behind countless friends who will miss his infectious enthusiasm and positive outlook, as well as his in-depth knowledge of azaleas.

New Society Logos

The Azalea Society has had a couple of different logos for many years. Several years ago, the ASA Board of Directors started an effort to update the logos. Allen Owings and the Louisiana Chapter stepped forward to create a new letterhead logo with input from Charlie Andrews. This logo was introduced in the Fall 2020 issue of *The Azalean*. Three additional logos were created, building on the same theme. They are shown below:



Our goal is to standardize the look of the logos and develop “brand identity.” Places where the logo could be used are return address labels, business cards, ball caps, shirts, etc. While the Letterhead, Abbreviated and Curved Text logos are primarily society level logos, chapters are encouraged to use the Flower Only logo as part of their chapter logos. Here is an example from the Northern Virginia Chapter:



The logos are accessible from the society webpage at <https://www.azaleas.org/society-logos> in jpg format, both with white background and with clear. Instructions for downloading the logos are on the logo webpage.