

Box 865, Lillian, AL 36549. Website: [lillianrecreationalpark.org](http://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.