

# President's Letter

Rick Bauer—Yorktown, Virginia

Well, we have finally come to the end of 2020. This is one year that I don't think will be soon forgotten. The COVID-19 situation has resulted in the cancellation of many activities, including our convention in Houston. Our next convention is scheduled for Charlotte, NC. Kevin McCorkle and the folks from Central Carolinas are working hard on the "Unconventional Convention." They are acting on the premise that we will still be dealing with COVID-19 and thus will have to implement changes to our normal means of conducting conventions. I refer you to his article in this issue. I'm excited about this convention and I'm looking forward to seeing old friends, visiting beautiful gardens, and adding some excellent azalea varieties to my collection. A convention registration form will be posted on the 2021 convention link on the ASA website as soon as it is available. That site is shown in the convention article on p. 80.

The President, Vice President, and three Director positions are up for election. Biographies for the candidates are included in this issue. We thank those members who stepped forward to fill leadership positions within the society. Additionally, we are asking you to vote for your favorite article in *The Azalean* this year. Please take the time to vote and to return your ballot to the society secretary by email or by mail.

COVID-19 has curtailed a lot of indoor activities; however, that hasn't stopped all activities. A number of chapters continue with their propagation efforts, plant sales, and work on their Legacy Projects. The Northern Virginia Chapter is supporting a number of Legacy Gardens, including the development of a Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA. (See related article on Jenkins in this issue, p. 81.) I encourage all of you to consider sponsoring a hybrid group as a Legacy Project and to coordinate with local public gardens to establish Legacy Gardens.

We have also been working to update our society logos. Last issue I introduced the letterhead logo. We have approved three additional logos for different purposes. Our goal was to establish a common look and feel across all of our logos. I refer you to a separate article in this issue, p. 91. If your chapter doesn't currently have a logo, I encourage you to consider adopting one based on the design of the society logos.

Finally, this is the last issue of *The Azalean* being created and published by our editor Barbara Stump and designer Pam Fitch. Both Pam and Barb previously served as editors prior to their current stints with our journal. Together they are responsible for producing over 70 journals over their combined 17+ years of service to the society. Under their auspices, the journal went from a combination of color and black and white photos to totally color photos. The articles and photos contained in the journal made it a source of excellent information and pride for our society. We will miss them and thank them for their contributions. I happy to report that Barb has agreed to continue serving on the Editorial Advisory Board of *The Azalean*.

While that is the sad news, I'm happy to report that the society has filled both their positions. Kathy Jentz has agreed to be the new editor and designer. Kathy is new to the society, but not to the field of publishing or horticulture. Many of our members in the Washington, DC area are familiar with the magazine, *Washington Gardener*, which Kathy founded and publishes. She is also the editor of the *Water Garden Journal*, the journal of the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society. We welcome her to the society and to her new position.



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 2018-2020

**President** — Rick Bauer

**Vice President** — Charles R. Andrews, III

**Secretary** — Donna Palmer

**Treasurer** — Paul Beck

**Immediate Past President** — J Jackson

## Directors

### Terms expire 2021

Dale Berrong

Jim Campbell

John Simmons

### Terms expire 2022

Fred Anderson

Robert Thau

Andy Whipple

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)

Beverly Knight, *Pres.*

### **Texas**

(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)

John Torbert, *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)

## **At-Large Contact**

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](http://www.azaleas.org).