

A courtesy block of rooms has been reserved for us by the hotel and a specialized web page will be provided for ease of registration for attendees: We request that attendees wait until the hotel registration website is published at the time of convention registration rather than reserve accommodations in advance. Parking at the hotel is complimentary, except for valet parking.

The Hilton Charlotte University Place has stated that rooms reserved via the courtesy block are refundable if cancelled the day before the reservation date.

Registration

More information about registration, including venues, registration fees, hotel rates, and a more detailed schedule will be forthcoming.

The opening of registration may be delayed beyond that of past conventions, as we monitor and assess conditions with everyone's safety in mind. We expect registration to open in early 2021 but no later than Feb 1, 2021. An email or mailed reminder will be sent to all ASA members in advance of the opening of registration. Please check the ASA home page <https://www.azaleas.org/> and the Convention webpage <https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2021/> for updates.

We hope to see you in Charlotte in 2021 and together we will enjoy April's most brilliant of days.

*"In my mind I'm gone to Carolina
Can't you see the sunshine?
Can't you just feel the moonshine?
Ain't it just like a friend of mine
To hit me from behind?
Yes, I'm gone to Carolina in my mind."*

—James Taylor

References and Acknowledgments

- ¹Franklin, Patrick and Sean Henry. "The Hidden Botanical Wonderland of the Southeast—The R.A. Bartlett Research Arboretum." *The Azalean*. Summer 2020: 42(2):34-36.

The author thanks Amanda Wilkins and Dr. Larry Mellichamp for providing valuable input for this article, especially some of the copy/ information for Juniper Level Botanic Garden and UNCC Botanical Gardens. Used here with their permission.

Kevin McCorkle is a practicing Landscape Architect in Charlotte, NC, and president of the Central Carolinas Chapter since 2017. Kevin also serves as the Legacy Lead for the Kelly Strickland and Aaron Varnadoe ASA Legacy Projects.

Welcome New Editor Kathy Jentz

New Editor/Designer for *The Azalean*

Kathy Jentz will take over editing and design of *The Azalean* with the Spring 2021 issue. Since 2005, Kathy has been founder, editor, and publisher of *Washington Gardener Magazine*, the gardening publication published specifically for the local metro area—Zones 6-7—Washington, DC, and its suburbs. In this work, she coordinates the work of eight to ten steady columnists and over 20 volunteer book reviewers. She is a life-long gardener from a family of farmers and dedicated gardeners. Her mission is to turn black thumbs green. Kathy believes that growing plants should be stress-free and enjoyable. Her philosophy is inspiration over perspiration.

Currently, she is President of the Silver Spring Garden Club and on the board of several other clubs and organizations. You can read Kathy's work in the *Washington Examiner* and *Washington Woman* in addition to regular guest spots on Channel 9, Channel 4 and WAMU radio. Kathy's work has been featured in numerous area publications including the *Washington Examiner* newspaper, *Pathways* magazine, and *Washington Woman* magazine. In addition, she appears on regular gardening guest spots on Channel 9, Channel 4, as well as WTOP, WAMU, and WOWD-LP radio stations in Washington, DC.

She is currently the Green Media columnist for the *Mid-Atlantic Grower* newspaper, where she does a great deal of hand-holding and coaxing to get independent garden centers, plant breeders, and other horticultural businesses to join the social media revolution and maximize their online brands. She also edits the quarterly *Water Garden Journal*, the official publication of the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society. Welcome to the ASA!

▼ Kathy Jentz does it all: gardens, writes, publishes.



Photo Drena J. Galaza, WGM