

President's Letter

Charlie Andrews—Cumming, Georgia

We had a wonderful time in Georgia at the Joint ARS/ASA Convention. The weather was great, we saw some very nice gardens, and plants, and, best of all, talked shop with our friends. The Azalea Society is a great organization. It has much to offer to those of us who like azaleas and other plants.

We are a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization that focuses on education; promotes understanding and skills in classification, hybridization, propagation, and culture of azaleas; encourages introduction of new species and hybrids; advances scientific knowledge; serves as a clearing house of information; and increases the bonds of fellowship among those who grow and appreciate azaleas.

We try hard to manage a tight operating budget. Our expense to produce *The Azalean* runs about \$19K each year, and our total dues revenue is approximately \$15K, or roughly half of the \$29K total revenue (Refer to the ASA Financial Statement on page 47 of this issue). By far, most of the operating expense each year is in producing *The Azalean*, an excellent publication, improving with every issue. Additional Society revenue sources are advertising in *The Azalean*, seed exchange, and dividends. These sources together do not cover the total shortfall in our operating expenses. We rely upon donations to make up the difference between revenue and expenses. In recent years, the donations by members have fallen off.

If enough of us regularly donated to the operating budget, we may not have to consider raising dues in the near future. Our annual dues are only \$30 US, \$45 Canada, and \$60 for all other countries. Additional donations to the operating fund will greatly help your society. You can pay online any time, including when you renew your membership before January 1. You may also pay by check. Donations are fully tax deductible.

Another method to help ASA is to consider putting a bequest to the Azalea Society of America in your will. Please consider these suggestions. We want to continue spreading the word about these wonderful plants.

~ *Charlie*



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

President — Charles R. Andrews III
Vice President — Tom Johnson
Secretary — Denise Lanclos
Treasurer — Paul Beck
Immediate Past President — Rick Bauer

Directors

Terms expire 2024	Terms expire 2025
Frank Russenberger	Senora Simpson
Shane Harris	Michael Bamford
Allen Owings	John Simmons

Chapter presidents serve as ex-officio directors.

Chapters

Ben Morrison (chartered May 1980) Budne Reinke, Pres.	Northern Virginia (chartered May 1980) Barbara Kirkwood, Pres.
Louisiana (chartered June 1981) Allen Owings, Pres.	Texas Forest Country (chartered Oct. 2018) Betty Horne, 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) Wilson Taylor, Pres.	Central Carolinas (chartered Oct. 2013) Kevin McCorkle, Pres.

Arkansas
(chartered Sep. 2018)
Ronnie Palmer, Pres.

At-Large Contact
Rick Bauer

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 Mrs. Denise R. Lanclos, 132 Oakview Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503. or visit www.azaleas.org.