

## January 2024 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

We hope you all had a great holiday season. We went into the season with our Holiday Social/Annual Meeting. We had a great turnout and more on the event is below.

We're coming into a quiet period for our chapter with our next meeting scheduled for March. There are a couple of things we'd like you to do, however. Many of you have memberships which expired on 31 December. Please renew as soon as possible so that we don't have to send out multiple reminders. More information on doing this is available below.

Also, we have the annual society convention coming up in Auburn, AL 2-4 April. It looks like it's going to be a great event with some interesting speakers and great gardens. Conventions are a great opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, hear excellent speakers and experience beautiful gardens in different parts of the country. You are encouraged to attend.



### Holiday Social/Annual Meeting 3 December 2023

The chapter held our annual Holiday Social at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on 3 December. We had a great turnout and had ample delicious dishes to sample. Additionally, everyone left with an azalea. Below are photos of the event. Additional photos are at the end of this message.



Once again, we had a great selection of dishes



Chapter President Barb welcomes the attendees



Chapter members socialize before the dinner



Members Wrap Azaleas for "Pass the Parcel", a tradition from Australia

In addition to the social and gastronomic portion of the event, it was also our important annual meeting. At the meeting we voted for officers and approved the budget for 2024. We also approved donations for 2023.

The officers elected for 2024 are:

President – **Barb Kirkwood**  
Vice President – **Dave Nanney**  
Treasurer – **Paul Beck**  
Secretary – **Joanne Neckel**

Following are the approved donations for 2023. Those with asterisks were either chapter members' additions or modifications to the recommendations made by the Executive Committee:

\$1000 Green Springs Title I  
\$1000 Green Springs new pavilion\*  
\$2000 Alabamense Chapter of the ASA (to support the 2024 ASA convention)\*  
\$2000 Jenkins Arboretum  
\$3500 for the ASA General Fund  
\$1000 Kirkwood Church (in thanks for providing the meeting facility)\*

Finally, we approved the budget for 2024, a copy of which was included in the December ***Azalea Clipper***.

### **Membership Renewal**

Memberships are on a calendar year basis, ending on 31 December. We are starting a new year. Unfortunately, we have members who have not yet renewed their memberships for 2024. Your membership expiration date is on the mailing envelope of ***The Azalean*** or can be found on the ASA membership database.

If your membership has expired, **PLEASE** take this time now to renew. Instructions for doing so are on the society's website at <https://www.azaleas.org/joinus/> or you can call **Pat Insley**, at (703) 597-7539 and renew over the phone.

The Society does offer a subscription plan where you are billed automatically through PayPal each year without any further action on your part. You can cancel at any time. You may sign up for this option on the website <https://www.azaleas.org/joinus/>.

### **Azalea Society of America Convention – Auburn, AL 2-4 April**

The Society annual convention this year is sponsored by the Alabamense Chapter of the ASA and will be held in Auburn, AL. This looks to be an outstanding convention with beautiful gardens (including Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA) and excellent speakers (including our own **Joe Klimavicz**).

If you've been to a convention before, you know that they are a lot of fun and educational. It's also great to get together with old friends and meet new ones from around the country (and the world). If you haven't been to a convention yet, this is an excellent opportunity.

The convention preview is at <https://play.soundslides.com/885wYRKR>.

The website for the convention is <https://azaleas.org/convention-2024/>.

NOTE: A \$50 late registration fee will be added for registrations after 1 February.

## **New Members**

We welcome **Tara Spears** to the chapter. **Tara** is from West Chester, PA and works at Jenkins Arboretum.

## **Azalea Foster Homes Needed**

We have an abundance of 6000 plants from various sources, including the convention, and our propagation efforts. We need to find a couple of members who would be willing to "foster" some plants until we can get them to sale. Care is pretty easy. They need a shady or afternoon shade area and some occasional water if Mother Nature does not provide. Even a rank amateur can be highly successful at this task and even a small space will help us out for a few months. If you have some space and can loan it out to us, please contact **Barb Kirkwood** at 703-268-6958 or [kirkwoodb@aol.com](mailto:kirkwoodb@aol.com).

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events –**

Below is the schedule for 2024. Additions and deletions will be made as changes occur.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Mar 17	Meeting with speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Apr 2-4	National Convention	ASA	Auburn, Alabama
Apr 27	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
May 4	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
Jul 14	Cutting and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Sep 21	Fall Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Beck House
Oct 6	Fall Meeting w Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Dec 8	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

## **Other Activities/Notes –**

**Photos for *The Azalea Clipper*/Facebook** – We are looking for pictures of your garden to share with other members on our chapter **Facebook** page and in the **Clipper**. Now is the time to show off a little. Send me your pictures at [rickfbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rickfbauer@gmail.com). We are also always looking for articles for ***The Azalea Clipper***. They don't have to be long and can be on any azalea related subject (e.g., gardens (public or private), hybridizers, companion plants etc.). Pictures are also always appreciated. Please consider writing an article. Contact me at [rickfbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rickfbauer@gmail.com) or 757-771-4446 if you have any questions. **Clipper** articles can also be the basis for later submissions to ***The Azalean*** (see below).

***The Azalean*** – The editor of ***The Azalean*** depends on member submissions of articles of interest to the general **ASA** membership. If you have an article to share, send it to them at [theazalean@gmail.com](mailto:theazalean@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi.



Budne was in the Christmas spirit!



Members sample the delicious selection of dishes



Members break bread with one another



Barb and Dave present Paul and Carolyn with an oil painting.



Paul Beck gives the treasurer's report



Members get ready to "Pass the Parcel", a tradition Barb brought back from Australia



Kirkwood hall is transformed



Members socialize before the luncheon