

14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087-

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

August / September 2018

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

Aug. 19 (Sun.) Dist. 8 Cuttings Exchange & Auction, Sherwood's Forest Nursery, Nottingham, PA

Sept. 16 (Sun.) - GP Plants for Members (P4M) at Morris Arboretum at 1:30 PM.

Oct 18 – Speaker: Cricket Brien, Executive Director - Tyler Arboretum: What's Going on at Tyler Outside the Rhododendron Garden.

Nov 11(Sun) - VF Banquet, St. David's Golf Club – Speaker: Dr. Peter Zale – A Century of Rhododendrons at Longwood Gardens.

Jan 20, 2019: Speaker: Linda Eirhart, Director of Horticulture, Senior Curator Plants, Winterthur.

President's Message

On June 17th we enjoyed our annual picnic hosted by the Henry Foundation in Gladwyne; this year teaming up with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Thanks to Susan Treadway for hosting a wonderful event.

We used the occasion to elect/reelect officers and directors. Debbie decided to step down and Alice moved into the Vice President position, Bob and Joan remain Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Michelle, Darlene, Kathy and Steve remain Directors and I will continue to serve as President. Perc Moser and Bob Horton were elected to the Board. I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year. Thanks to all of you for serving on the Board.

I extend a special thank you to both Debby Schmidt and Ellin Hlebig for their years of serving on the Board. Debby served as Vice President. She also has been instrumental and will continue to stay very involved in planning the 2019 ARS Convention; especially with arranging the hotel and banquet facilities. On behalf of the entire membership, I would like to say thank you for your dedication to the Valley Forge Chapter. **Thank You Debby!!**

I also thank Ellin for her years of service. She

always kept the annual Cutting Exchange and Plant Auction running smoothly and she has offered to continue to help with this event. She has always done a superb job and all of the Chapter members join me in wishing her well. **Thank You Ellin!!**

Our next event, the annual District 8 Cutting Exchange and Auction, is August 19th at Evelyn Gondek's Sherwood's Forest Nursery (directions on page 2). Donors with plants and cuttings should arrive by 1:00. The cutting exchange/sale begins at 2:00 and the auction, led by Karel Bernady, will start at 2:30. Proceeds from the day's event will benefit the ARS Research Foundation. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

In closing I want to thank everyone for your confidence in choosing me again as President. I've enjoyed working with everyone this past year and I look forward to continue working with all of you as we continue to "encourage interest in and disseminate knowledge about Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

Sincerely,

**Jerry O'Dell (610) 608-2018,
westdell@verizon.net**

Visit the Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Rhododendron & Azalea Cuttings Exchange And Plant Auction

Evelyn Gondek's Sherwood's Forest Nursery, 25 Camp Road, Nottingham, PA.

Sunday, Aug. 19, starting at 1:00 p.m., *rain or shine*

Proceeds benefit ARS Endowment Fund and Research Foundation

(Auctioneer: Karel Bernady)

1:00 pm: Bring Cuttings: If donating cuttings, please arrive around 1 p.m. Use plastic bags for each cultivar, clearly labeled. Cut 3 or 4 large-leaf (elepidote) or 4-6 small-leaf (lepidote) cuttings. Best to take cuttings early in the day, ideally from the lower portions of the shrub; if there has been a dry spell, water the night before. Place in a plastic bag with a few drops of water. Named varieties only, please! Please label the bags with a waterproof marker or pencil and add, if possible, info about characteristics or parentage. Transporting the bags in a cooler is also a good idea.

2:00 pm: Cuttings exchange/sale. Cuttings are sold for 25 cents a bag for everyone and are an easy and inexpensive way to increase one's collection of azaleas and rhododendrons.

2:30 pm: Plant Auction: Karel Bernady auctioneer. Please donate rhodies and azaleas, as well as other garden-worthy plants that you feel others would like.

Some plants are donated by chapters, some by individual members. Most years, John Bartlett of Gettysburg Garden brings an assortment of very special plants.

Important: It will help the auctioneer and the bidder if you write a description of plants that you donate for auction. Having such info will make for lively bidding, especially for one-of-a-kind or special plants.

Proceeds of the sales go to ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Prices tend to be reasonable, though sometimes a bidding frenzy results for choice items.

3:00 pm: Propagation. Frank Brouse will expertly demonstrate how to propagate from cuttings.

About 3:30 pm: Dessert. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share.

Beverages will be provided.

If possible, **RSVP to Ellin Hlebik by August 12** or contact her for questions at 610/584-9764 or leftwall@yahoo.com

Directions.

Sherwood's Forest Nursery is about 4 miles north of the Pennsylvania/Maryland state line. It is between PA route 272 and US route 1.

From Lancaster, coming south on PA-272:

Follow PA-272 South about 26 miles to Pine Grove Road

Turn left onto Pine Grove Road

Go 0.7 miles on Pine Grove Road to Camp Road.

Continue slightly left .2 miles on Camp Road.

Sherwood's Forest Nursery is on the left at 25 Camp Road.

From Kennett Square, coming south on US-1

Follow US-1 South about 20 miles to PA-272.

Take PA-272 Exit toward Nottingham

Go on PA-272 North 3.2 miles to Pine Grove Road

Go 0.7 miles on Pine Grove Road to Camp Rd.

Continue slightly left .2 miles on Camp Road.

Sherwood's Forest Nursery is on the left at 25 Camp Road.

On September 16, 2018, (Sunday), P4M at 1:00 pm at Morris Arboretum, Weidner Center.

Plants for Members (P4M):

On Sunday, Sept. 16, the Valley Forge (VF) Chapter will join the Greater Philadelphia (GP) Chapter for our joint Plants For Members. This will be held in the Weidner Center, at Morris Arboretum, 100 E Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. At the gate, just say you are with the Rhododendron Society and

admission is gratis. Rooted cuttings and 2-year grafts will be available. As part of this joint effort VF members are invited to join GP members for their propagation workshops. For more details on this and other GP ARS hosted events, visit their website at https://sites.google.com/a/gpchapterars.org/gpc_ars/home

On October 18, 2018, (Thursday), at 7:30 pm:

Cricket Brien:

“What’s Going on at Tyler”

Cricket Brien, Executive Director at Tyler Arboretum since 2015, will bring us up to date on what is happening at Tyler Arboretum. Cricket is inspired by Tyler’s special mix of outdoor stewardship, immersive landscape gardens, and excellent education programs that connect visitors to the history, culture, and the natural systems of this former family farm. She lives in Swarthmore with her husband and kids who all grew up with Tyler’s meadows, butterflies, hammocks, and treehouses, and are now pursuing careers in conservation, research biology, and economics.



On Nov. 11, 2018 (Sunday), Banquet at St. Davids GC at 2:00 pm, Social Hour at 1:00 pm:

Dr. Peter Zale:

“A Century of Rhododendrons at Longwood Gardens”

Dr. Zale is Associate Director of Conservation, Plant Breeding and Collections, at Longwood Gardens where he is responsible for leading curatorial activities, the plant breeding program, the plant exploration program, and the recently initiated plant conservation program focused on propagating and conserving rare native orchids. He has researched how rhododendrons have played a prominent role at Longwood Gardens for over 100 years and has put together an impressive program. He will entertain us with pictures and information about Rhododendron at Longwood Gardens over the past Century.



2018 Joint Rhododendron & Azalea Cut Flower Show Results

Report by Michael Martin Mills

A brilliant yellow-orange deciduous azalea spray took the John Wister Best in Show Trophy at the May 12 cut-flower competition at Morris Arboretum: ‘Kennell’s Gold’, entered by Susan and Marc Thomson. It was also winner of the for Best Deciduous Azalea. The Thomsons won Best in Show at the previous Greater Philadelphia competition.

A total of 136 entries were received for this year’s truss show, as ARS traditionalists will always call the competition (that name does tend to make non-rhodo people crack up).

The Best Species award was previously the Francis Sholomskas Trophy, but that trophy has been retired, and the board of directors – minus one person and operating under the radar screen – decided to recognize Karel Bernady in inaugurating the new species trophy. In addition to his abundant service to the chapter and the national ARS, Karel is one of the best when it comes to the names and nuances of North American species rhododendrons. Felicitously, the first winner of the Bernady Trophy was a native American, *R. austrinum*, the Florida azalea.

An interesting factoid is that the winner of the Becaes Hybridizers Cup, Joe Minahan’s



Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

‘Scintillation’ X ‘John Paul II’, is the sixth sister seedling of a 1989 cross to win the award, the first dating to 1998.

Judges for the show were Norman Beaudry, Kimberly Kopple, Adam Levine, Ron Rabideau, Harold Sweetman, and Joan Warren. Kim and Adam were first-time judges. He is the editor of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Grow magazine. Kim, former chapter president, is akin to the longtime nurse who knows as much as the doctor, as she has clerked for the truss show for many years, absorbing the vocabulary and techniques of numerous judges through the years.

This was the tenth year of the joint Greater Philadelphia- Valley Forge competition. It was the first year with heightened coordination; earlier in the year, Joan Warren and Michael Mills merged and adjusted the entry sections and the catalogue of previous entries to eliminate discrepancies.

Next year’s truss show will be one of those periodic special versions. It will be part of the ARS national convention in Malvern, with the possibility of entries from all over the US & Canada.

The trophy winners are:

Best in Show, ‘John Wister Trophy: ‘Kennell’s Gold’, Susan and Marc Thomson.

Best Rhododendron Hybrid, Ross B. Davis Jr. Trophy: ‘Solidarity’, Bud & Marilyn Gressman.

Best Deciduous Azalea, Walter Kern Trophy: ‘Kennell’s Gold’, Susan and Marc Thomson.

Best Evergreen Azalea, Maxine C. West Trophy: ‘Salmon Pincushion’, Michael Martin Mills.

Best New Hybrid, Joseph J. Becaes Hybridizers Cup: ‘Scintillation’ X ‘John Paul II’, Joseph Minahan.

Best Species, Karel F. Bernady Trophy: *R. austrinum*, Michael Martin Mills.

Best Foliage, Dan & Betts Layman Trophy: ‘John Paul II’ X ‘Harold Amateis’, Joseph Minahan.

Sweepstakes, Judi Meade Trophy for Most Points, Michael Martin Mills.

The Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Continues to Grow

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Muni/Albany/Documents/2017/All%20SLF%20Handouts%2011-7-17.pdf>

First discovered near Reading, Pa., in 2014, the spotted lanternfly has spread across 13 counties in SE Pennsylvania, munching on suburban maples, grapes and orchards. It likes to eat everything. And the worst thing is it's not very tasty, so it has no real predators here in the U.S.

Impact: The Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, an invasive planthopper is native to China, India, and Vietnam. It was introduced to Korea where it is a major pest. In the US it has already impacted vineyards, hop farms, orchards, and nursery crops. It is expected to impact the hardwood timber industry. It is a heavy feeder and can suck the sap from small branches, causing extreme stress and even death to trees, shrubs and other woody plants.

Identification: The Spotted Lanternfly adult is approximately 1" long and 1/2" wide at rest. The forewing is grey with black spots and the wings tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in grey. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band. The legs and head are black; the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Immature stages are black with white spots, and develop red patches as they grow.

Symptoms: Trees, such as tree of heaven and willow, will develop weeping wounds. These wounds will leave a greyish or black trail along the trunk. This sap will attract other insects to feed, notably wasps and ants. In late fall, adults

will lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces like stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, and structures. Newly laid egg masses have a grey mud-like covering which can take on a dry cracked appearance over time. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30-50 brownish seed-like deposits in 4-7 columns on the trunk, roughly an inch long.

A quarantine is in place to stop the movement of this pest to new areas within or out of the current quarantine zone. On May 26, 2018, a new Spotted Lanternfly [Order of Quarantine and Treatment](#) was published in the PA Bulletin.

The Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine now covers 13 counties in SE Pennsylvania: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill. The quarantine of the infested areas regulates the movement of any material or object that can spread the pest.

The materials include firewood or wood products; brush or yard waste; remodeling or construction materials and waste; packing material such as boxes, grapevines for decorative purposes or as nursery stock; and any outdoor household articles, including tarps, grills, lawn mowers and other equipment.

Visit www.agriculture.pa.gov to access the "Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Checklist" or contact a local municipality or extension office.

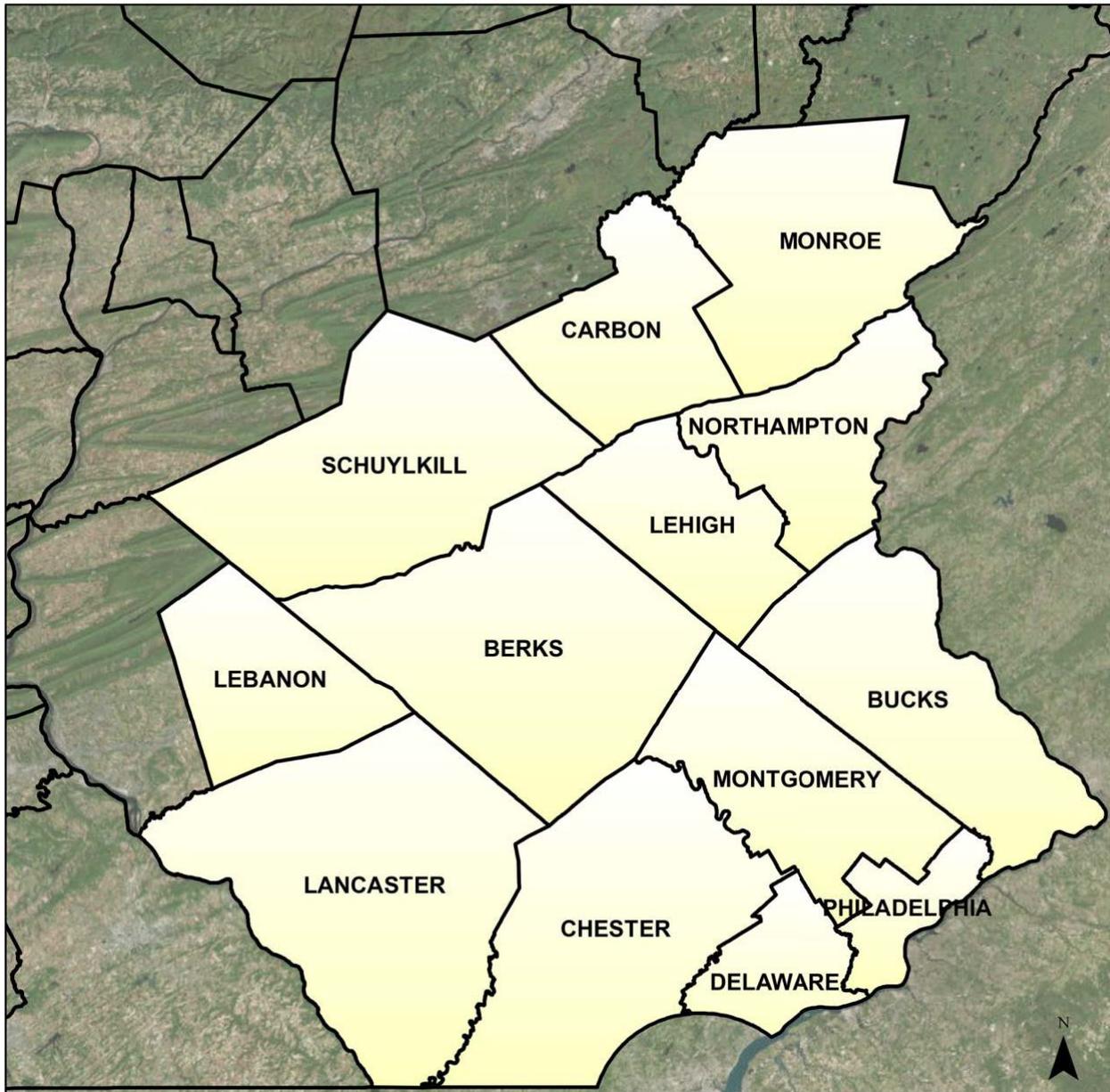


*Photos courtesy of Park et al. 2009, *Biological Characteristics of Lycorma delicatula and the Control Effects of Some Insecticides*.

(A) Spotted Lanternfly showing the fore and hind wings (B) Resting against bark (C) Lateral view (D) Early nymphs (E) Late nymphs (F) Feeding on wild *Vitis* sp. (G) Weeping sap trail on tree (H) Egg mass covered in waxy coating (I) Old hatched egg mass on a trunk.

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Map

Counties Under Quarantine as of November 4, 2017



If you find Spotted Lanternflies in a municipality where they are known to exist, you should try to kill them.

The most effective way to eliminate these insects is to disrupt their favorite food and hangout. In late summer and fall, Spotted Lanternflies prefer feeding on *Ailanthus altissima*, commonly known as the "Tree of Heaven." They can be found feeding on other plants and trees, but *Ailanthus altissima* is their favorite host. If you have *Ailanthus* on your property: please consider removing female *Ailanthus* trees and reducing the number of male *Ailanthus* trees. Then treat these remaining "trap trees" with systemic insecticides and/or special Spotted Lanternfly sticky traps. This is a longer-lasting solution than simply spraying the insects you see.

The 2018 ARS Annual Meeting in Bremen, Germany

Report by District 8 Director, Steve Henning

The summer witnessed the culmination of a gigantic effort by 4 European chapters of the ARS and the German Rhododendron Society to pull together to create the first ever ARS Convention on the European continent in 5 countries with 3 different currencies, 5 different languages, and people coming from 20 countries. Planning started several years ago. Options ranged from the convention only which was 8 days in Bremen, Germany, to add 3 pre-tours and 1 post-tour which extended it to 25 days in 5 countries with 50 stops, most at beautiful gardens, but also at windmills, nurseries, historic cities, a palace, castles, many ferry rides, parks, and the world's largest rhododendron festival.

We had some last-minute additions, so the ARS brought about 130 people from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, UK, and the US. The DRG, German Rhododendron Society, added about another 30 people from all over Europe.

Nearly all meals were included and all were fantastic. Salmon and white asparagus were two specialties we enjoyed. Breakfast always had freshly baked bread. There was not one box lunch. Usually beer and wine were included, however coffee, tea, and water were often extra. We ate in restaurants, castles, a palace, hotels, and had some catered meals in gardens. All hosts respected the dietary restrictions of everyone.



The Danish-Swedish tour was the most memorable with a stay in a 500-year-old hotel, a 3-nite stay in an ultra-modern high-efficiency budget hotel, and touring in the double-decker team bus for the Bremerhaven Fischtown Pinguins

ice hockey team. In Finland we were the first and maybe the last to see Kristian Theqvist's private garden which is at a secret location on a small island in Finland. We visited the world's second largest rhododendron garden in Bremen twice.



Rcv. 'Bloombux®'

Of course, we saw rhododendrons, lots of rhododendrons including Joe Minahan's John Paul II. It was at Hachmann's in Germany. One new rhododendron that was interesting was the small-leaved Rcv. Bloombux® which is being offered as a replacement for Buxus in areas where boxwoods are threatened by boxwood blight or the boxwood moth. The blight is a fungus that attacks most English and American boxwoods. As a bonus, Bloombux® has soft pink flowers from late May to mid-June.

I photographed 77 species rhododendrons and 378 hybrid rhododendrons. These photos can be seen at [http://ars2018.org/SteveHenning/album/Rhododendron Photos/index.html](http://ars2018.org/SteveHenning/album/Rhododendron%20Photos/index.html). Many varieties were ones that are not common in the US and Canada. What impressed me was that the native American deciduous azaleas and the ironclad rhododendrons were well represented in Europe. The ironclads included 'Boule de Neige', 'Caracatus', 'Catawbiense Album', 'Catawbiense Boursalt', 'English Roseum', 'Lee's Dark Purple', 'Nova Zembla', 'Purpureum Grandiflorum', and 'Roseum Elegans'. They also had the azaleodendron, 'Beauty of Littleworth'. Probably the rhododendron most frequently seen was 'Furnival's Daughter'.

Some rhododendrons that impressed me are:



In Finland, the ironclad rhododendrons and Northern Lights deciduous azaleas were well represented. The marquee rhododendrons in Finland are 'P.M.A. Tigerstedt' and their native *R. tomentosum* (formerly *Ledum* 'Labrador Tea').

We had lots of photographers on the trip. Bill Heller was the official photographer, but so many people were taking picture that we created a website for photo albums from the trip. They are at <http://ars2018.org/photos.php>.

One purpose of the ARS Annual Meeting is the board of directors meeting. We easily had enough board members to get a quorum. So, we proceeded.

- ARS Store announced it had passed the \$3,000 mark in earnings.
- Chapters have had success with popup garden tours which are self-guided tours scheduled about a week in advance.
- After Kathy VanVeen's passing, the Van Veen nursery is operating, business as usual, under the oversight of the Portland Chapter

and the ARS. Chapter are encouraged to send cutting to the Van Veen nursery to be rooted for P4M programs and chapter plant sales.

- The JARS published an article on Longwood in the recent summer edition and will publish articles on Tyler and Winterthur in the coming fall issue. Registration for the ARS 2019 Convention in Philadelphia will start with the Winter 2019 issue.
- The Fall ARS Meeting is October 19 to 21, 2018, in Chattanooga. It promises to be a fun time. Information and the registration form are posted at <http://ARStore.org/Fall2018>
- The 2020 spring meeting will be in Portland, OR, and the 2021 meeting will be in Montreal.

At the ARS 2018 Banquet in Bremen, Gold medals were presented to: June Walsh of Eureka, CA, Hartwig Schepker of Bremen, Germany, and Dave Banks of Williamsburg, VA. Silver medals were presented to: Hans Rudolf Lytchoff Elberg of Denmark and Kristian Theqvist of Finland. Jim Barlup had received the ARS Pioneer Achievement Award earlier.



The Philadelphia Story 19

Rhododendrons In America's Garden Capital

The 2019 ARS Convention will be at The Desmond Hotel in Malvern

The Greater Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, Susquehanna Valley & Valley Forge Chapters of the ARS will host the 2019 Convention Thu. May 16 to Sun. May 19.

Karel Bernady and Steve Henning are Co-Chairs for the convention. The Desmond in Malvern is the convention hotel. The Desmond will host the main banquet and a second banquet will be held off site at the American Helicopter Museum which is about 10 minutes from The Desmond.

The convention hotel is The Desmond, a beautiful hotel nestled in the historic Chester County. The Desmond features deluxe 4-poster King Size beds. But, if you choose, you may have 2 Queen Size beds.

Until May 1, 2019, we have 80 rooms blocked out for 4 nights, Wednesday night through Saturday night, and 15 rooms blocked out for

Tuesday night, at the convention rate of \$149. Guests arriving on shoulder nights will be accommodated at the convention rate.

Tour itineraries are being planned, with a mix of outstanding public gardens including Chanticleer, Winterthur, Tyler Arboretum Jenkins Arboretum, Longwood, Morris Arboretum, and Mount Cuba, and fine private gardens. In addition, a plant sale, breeders' roundtable, a truss show and photo competition are planned.

Anyone interested in working on the planning committee is invited to contact Karel Bernady or Steve Henning (rhodyman@earthlink.net).

Closer to the convention, many more members will be needed to carry out a variety of duties – tour docents, plant sales, goodie-bag stuffing, staffing the registration table and more.

The following is a synopsis of the events planned:

Tuesday, May 14, 2019: ARS Executive Committee meets in the evening

Wednesday, May 15, 2019: ARS Board of Directors meeting all day.

We will have a pre-tour to [Chanticleer](#) and [Winterthur](#). A box lunch at Winterthur is included.

Thursday, May 16, 2019: The convention starts with a bus tour and box lunch at [Tyler Arboretum](#) followed by a bus tour and Wine & Dine Garden Party at [Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens](#). Plant sale opens after we return from Jenkins. No program Thursday night.

Friday, May 17, 2019: A full day of bus tours at [Mt. Cuba Center](#), [Longwood Gardens](#), and [Wayne Guymon's WynEden](#). A box lunch at Longwood is included. Dinner followed by a program will be at the [American Helicopter Museum](#) that evening. There will be a shuttle to and from the hotel and the American Helicopter Museum.

Saturday, May 18, 2019: A full day of bus tours to [Morris Arboretum](#), [Stoneleigh](#), [TBA](#) and [Perc Moser's Garden](#). A box lunch at Morris is included. Banquet and keynote speech will be at [The Desmond](#) in the evening.

Sunday, May 19, 2019: Breeders roundtable in the morning. We will have open houses at private gardens and a list of more public gardens.

**American Rhododendron Society
Valley Forge Chapter
14 Northwoods Rd
Radnor, PA 19087**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

August / September 2018

*Where every purchase benefits the
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Oct. 18, Cricket Brien, “What’s Going On at Tyler”	Treasurer: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249
Nov. 11, Dr. Peter Zale, “A Century of Rhododendrons at Longwood Garden,” VF ARS Banquet	Secretary: Joan Warren (610) 913-0005
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	Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	VF Chapter’s web site: ValleyForgeARS.org
Please contact us with email changes or if you receive this newsletter by letter carrier rather than email, even though you have e-mail. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (rhodyman@earthlink.net).	