



'Valley Forge'

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

# The American Rhododendron Society

## VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 715 Southeastern, PA 19399-0715

### NEWSLETTER

### January-February-March 2007

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum

#### Calendar at a Glance

<b>Sunday Jan. 21, 2 pm</b> John Doppel: "The Hybridizer and his Garden"	<b>Sun. Febr. 18, 2 p.m.</b> Bud Gehrich, past ARS president, at Uwchland Meeting—Joint meeting with PHL chapter	<b>Thurs. March 15</b> 7.30 p.m. Steve Henning "The Rhododendrons and Gardens of Scotland"
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#### Future Events:

<b>March 4-11:</b>	Philadelphia Flower Show at Philadelphia Convention Center
<b>April 19:</b>	Chapter Meeting: Bruce Keyser on Pruning
<b>May 4, 5, and 6:</b>	Chapter Plant Sale
<b>May 12 and 13:</b>	Flower Truss Show
<b>June 24:</b>	Picnic and Annual Meeting with Election of Officers
<b>August 19</b>	Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction

#### President's Message

We finished the first half of our 2007 membership year with a fine banquet at the Desmond Hotel, thanks to Mimi Favre and Penny and Tony Alessandros. Everyone enjoyed the gift plants that Joan and Reid Warren, Frank Brouse and Beth Ehland nurtured from cuttings that were stuck one and two years ago.

Your Board of Directors has completed the regular donations for 2007 to ARS Endowment Fund, Jenkins Arboretum, The Research Foundation, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Species Foundation, and Tyler Arboretum.

Jenkins Arboretum is conducting a major fund-raising campaign for additions to the building and endowment; an initiative the Board feels fits the definition of our chapter's mission. Therefore, the Board will propose an additional \$5,000 donation to the Jenkins Fund at the January 21 meeting and to contribute a like amount in each of the next two years, subject to future Board approval. We can fulfill these intentions only to the extent that the proceeds from future plant sales meet our expectations. We welcome your comments and support either at the meeting or to any Board member.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 21 at 2 p.m.

Bob Smetana vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

**January 21 (Sunday), 2 p.m.**

**John Doppel**

**“The Hybridizer and his Garden Through the Seasons”**

John and Holly, members of the Lehigh Chapter, garden on 10 acres of open high ground with strong winds in winter and scorching sun in summer. John hybridizes with considerable success in this difficult environment but good test area. An engaging speaker with a sly sense of humor as well as a good photographer, John will share his experiences and show pictures not only of his rhododendrons and azaleas but also of the many other species that he grows.

**Refreshments for January meeting:**

Members whose last names start with the letters **A to J** are asked to bring fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.  
(see also Volunteer Opportunities)

**February 19 (Sunday), 2 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting with Philadelphia Chapter at Uwchlan Quaker**

**Meeting House**

**“Bud” Gehrlich**

**Past President of ARS**

Bud, an active member and a past president of the New York Chapter, and his wife, Ruth, have a “show case” rhododendron garden that is frequently on garden tours. Bud has been a hybridizer for several decades and will share some of his experience.

For this meeting, **refreshments** (wine, soft drinks, hors d’oeuvres), will be provided by the two chapters. Guests are welcome.

**For Directions, see website.**

**March 15 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.**

**Steve Henning**

**“The Rhododendrons and Gardens of Scotland”**

Steve and Darlene, long-time and active members of the Chapter, visited during the peak of the rhododendron blooming season 9 well-known historic Scots gardens, such as the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh and Glendoick Gardens. These gardens are home to many original rhododendrons brought to the UK by plant explorers from all over the world, including 70 R. species that are parents of many of the hybrids that we enjoy this side of the Atlantic. Steve will also show us photos of such companion plants as Himalayan Poppy, Meconopsis betonicifolia, and six varieties of Trillium.

**Refreshments for March meeting:** Members whose last names start with letters **H to O** are asked to bring fingerfood desserts.

**Chapter Web Site**

Notice the changes in is our web site. We are going to use lots of photos and to give it generally a fresh look. Please remember that all events are listed on this web site and that maps and directions are provided.

**Membership Directory**

**Enclosed is the new Membership Directory.**

Please welcome the following new members:

**Primary members:**

Victoria Dennis,

**Associate member:**

Eugenie Beutler

## Bronze Medals

Congratulations to this year's Bronze Medalists:

### Penny and Tony D'Alessandro

"You have worked as a team in various major activities of the Chapter...and have both been instrumental in introducing the planting of native azaleas in your hometown park in Strasburg, PA."

### Bill Dennis

As one of our longer-tenured members, "you conducted the advance plant sale during its initial years, [you] have also been generous in donating plants from your garden to the sale [and] just recently have agreed to accept the chairmanship of the plant sale for the coming year."

### Mary Alice Snyder

"...an enthusiastic and loyal supporter of the Chapter in many ways. You have served as a Director...you organized the Chapter Annual Dinner.. have assumed for some years responsibility for the perennial and native plant section of the Chapter annual plant sale... with a keen sense of humor and an ever-present friendly smile."

The full citations will appear in the next issue of the Journal. The medals were awarded at the Fall Dinner.

## Metal Plant Labels

The plant labelling machine, donated by the Chapter to Jenkins Arboretum a number of years ago, is available to us again for making permanent metal labels during January, February and March. Eligible are members who are up to date in their dues. Priority is given to members who help with the plant sale and other functions. The cost for up to 96 permanent labels/member or family is \$20. This amount will be given to the Arboretum for providing the material. The labeling information must be submitted first in paper draft form and then in diskette or CD form. For detailed instructions, please contact Wenner Smith ([smithacre@aol.com](mailto:smithacre@aol.com)).

## Plant Sale—It's Almost too late!

Too late? It's January!

The sale will be May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Yes, almost, but yet not too late to arrange your busy schedule so that you will be able to volunteer time at the spring Plant Sale. We need help with the set-up, during the sale, and at the end of the sale (clean-up—special reward)—there is a task for everyone.

We do need your help (no kidding) *desperately*. But remember, you will help raise the funds that are necessary to find good speakers and to donate to Jenkins Arboretum (see President's message), the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, the Species Foundation, and other educational and horticultural organizations. These organizations help preserve the natural heritage that we hope to pass on to future generations.

Furthermore, this year's sale is going to be more fun than ever! I promise!

**Again, please freely volunteer your time or respond favorably when asked, always remembering that your help is very much appreciated and absolutely essential to the success of the sale.**

Bill Dennis,  
Plant Sale Chair

### "The Gardener's Lament"

Thirty days have September, April, June and November, all the rest have 31, except January—which has 100.

submitted by Frank Brouse

### PHS Gold Medal Plants for 2007

Lagerstroemia indica 'Whit III' PinkVelour, a new crepe myrtle; Rhus typhina 'Bailtiger' Tiger Eyes, a staghorn sumac; Cornus venus, a new hybrid dogwood ([www.goldmedalplants.com](http://www.goldmedalplants.com))

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***NEWSLETTER***

*January/February/March 2007*

**Board members:**

President:	Bob Smetana ('07)
First Vice President	Steve Henning ('07)
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<b>Directors (6):</b>	Mimi Favre ('07)
	Darlene Henning ('07)
	James Willhite ('08)
	Steve Cooper ('08)
	Joan Warren ('09)
	Win Howe ('09)

You are encouraged to send news and other contributions to the Newsletter Editor:

**Eva Jackson, e-mail: [noeleva\\_jackson@juno.com](mailto:noeleva_jackson@juno.com)**

**ARS (national) Web Site <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>**

**Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://valleyforgears.org>**

