



'Valley Forge'

The American Rhododendron Society

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

January-February-March 2008

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum

Calendar at a Glance

Sun. Jan. 20, 2 pm

Karel Bernady:

"Friends and Gardens"

Sun. Febr. 17, 1:30 .m.

Alfred E. Schuyler

*"Plant Exploration in
Early America" in
Lionville*

Thurs. March 13, 7.30

p.m., Tom Ahern: *Hands-
on Hybridization,*
at Morris Arboretum

Future Events:

March 2-9

Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia Convention Center

April 17

Chapter Meeting—Location TBD

May 2 – 4

Chapter Plant Sale at Jenkins

May 7-11

Intern. Rhododendron Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

May 11

Flower/Truss Show at Jenkins Arboretum

June

South.Appalachian Highl. Conservancy Annual Meeting, Crosnore, NC

June 29:

Chapter Picnic and Annual Meeting with Election of Officers

August 17

Cuttings Exchange/Plant Auction

Happy New Year!

President's Message

The year ended with an animated presentation by Hank Schannen at our Annual Banquet in November at St. Davids Golf Club in Radnor. Kudos to Mimi Favre et al. for a well-organized event. Previous meetings featured Dennis MacMullan on yellow rhododendrons and Frank Brouse, Bill Steele, and Andy Earle with a hands-on propagation demonstration. Whose cuttings are doing best?

On **Sunday, January 20, 2 p.m.**, Karel Bernady will discuss "Friends and Gardens" at **Jenkins Arboretum**. The meeting on **Sunday February 17 at 1:30 p.m.**, followed by a social hour, will be held jointly with the Philadelphia Chapter at **Uwchlan Meeting House in Lionville**. On **March 13 at 7:30 p.m.**, we will be the guests of the Philadelphia Chapter at **Morris Arboretum**. I look forward to seeing you at all 3 meetings. Construction at Jenkins Arboretum will start in February, so please monitor the website or contact a Board member for the April meeting location. The construction will also require our flexibility at this year's plant sale.

Bob Smetana

**January 20 (Sunday), 2 p.m.
at Jenkins Arboretum
Karel Bernady, Philadelphia Chapter**

District 8 Director
Friends and Gardens

Karel, who has travelled widely here and abroad, will pay tribute to the many people who have opened their gardens for viewing the wonderful treasures they acquired or developed. He may/will comment on, and show pictures of, some of his travel companions. This should be an interesting and entertaining afternoon, so don't miss it. Just don't let it snow!

Refreshments : Members whose last names start with the letters **A to J** are asked to bring fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.

**February 17 (Sunday), 2 p.m.
Joint Meeting with Philadelphia Chapter
at Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House,
Lionville**

Alfred E. Schuyler
Curator Emeritus of Botany
The Academy of Natural Sciences
Plant Exploration in Early America:

Importance of Gardens and Herbaceous Plants
From the late 17th century to the late 19th century, during the golden age of American botany, new plant discoveries in N. America attracted the attention of naturalists, gardeners, botanists, wealthy gentry, and botanical illustrators/authors in Europe and America.

Refreshments will be provided by the two chapters. Guests are welcome.

For Directions, see website.

New member Plants:

Those new members who have not claimed their complimentary plants should do so at the January or April meetings.

2008 Plant Sale May 2-4

The Plant Sale will kick off with a Wine and Plant Gala on Friday evening, May 2nd, an opportunity for those who want to have first pick of specimens offered. This year, we will once again feature a wide collection of rhododendrons in all sizes. Camellias and Vireya rhododendrons will return. These, as well as

hardy gardenias and many other plants, are elegant and not easily found.

Volunteers, as always, will be needed to work at the sale and to unload and set up plants before the sale. So please mark your calendars and serve the dates for us.

Bill Dennis

**March 13 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.
at Morris Arboretum
100 East Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia,
PA 19118 (Chestnut Hill)
Tom Ahern, Lehigh Chapter
*Hands-On Hybridization Demo***

There is much to learn from Tom, who is a fine hybridizer and who has regularly contributed some of his hybrids, many of them unusual, to the annual Cuttings Exchange/Plant Auction.

Refreshments: Please bring fingerfood desserts.

Reminder: As a horticultural organization, we welcome anyone who shares our dedication to the genus *Rhododendron*. Since we have no religious or political affiliations or aspirations, members should refrain during chapter activities from making political, religious, or other remarks or jokes that may offend.—The Editor

Membership Directory Update:

Primary members: David/Winnie Alcorn,; Bruce/Cheryl Braverman,; George Funkhouser, Michelle Hawk, Peter/Bernadette Heaton,; Noel/Eva Jackson; Ruth Montgomery (Life Member), Mike/Chris O'Hara,; Frances Pane and Joel Kauffman (F membership); Ralph/Liz Schumacher,; James A. Willhite,

Assoc. Members: Tom/Barbara Ahern,; Eugenia Beutler, John/Holly Doppel,; J. Dale/Ita J. Howe,; Joan Roberts, Hank Schannen, Maria Sinibaldi/Jerry Sowa, Jon Villaume,

Bronze Medal

Congratulations to Mimi Favre, who was awarded the Bronze Medal at the Banquet on November 11. The Bronze Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to the Chapter and the Society. The Awards Committee consists of previous Bronze Medal recipients.

Mimi Favre

“You have been active since you became a member in 1992, using your artistic, organizational, and horticultural skills. You were elected to the Board of Directors in 1995 and joined the Board again in 2005. You have served in so many diverse capacities, often initiating action. To mention just a few: You have been on the Nominating Committee. You have been Publicity Chair and have been very involved in the annual plant sale. You have designed educational posters for our Flower/Truss Show at Longwood Gardens, at which you also exhibited, and have designed logo aprons, T-shirts, and bags. Also, you have arranged our Annual Banquets, including this 40th Anniversary dinner. In addition to your consistent, ongoing dedication to this Chapter, you worked on the District 8 Committee that hosted the 2004 ARS Annual Convention in King of Prussia, and served as Chair of Ways and Means. You have promoted the Society at every opportunity, most recently at a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society event. Projects large and small, you did them all!

In the end, however, we value you for the work you have done and your current contributions and look forward to your participation in future Chapter activities.”

Summary of Hank Schannen’s

“Forty Years of VFARS” at the 40th Anniversary Banquet

Hank would like to see, during the next 20 years, improvements in 20 aspects of rhododendron

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culture. These are improvements in: Yellows—Fragrance—Reds—Root rot rResistance—Double flowers—Extreme hardiness—New growth/rRe-blooming—Foliage—Blotches—Heat/sun tolerance—Yakushimanum hybrids—Truss size—Tetraploids—Dexter hybrids—Red lepidotes (small-leaf rhododendrons)—Keiskei var. cordifolia—PJM—Unusual flowers—Other good things ----**A tall order!**

Plant Labels

The plant label machine at Jenkins Arboretum is available to us during January, February and March. Members who are up to date in their dues are eligible, and priority is given to those who help with the plant sale and other functions. The cost for up to 96 permanent labels/member or family is \$20, which is for the material provided by Jenkins. The label information must be submitted first in paper form for verification and then in diskette or CD form. For detailed instructions, please contact Wenner Smith.

PHS 2008 Gold Medal Plant Winners

Common Boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Dee Runk’; Gold Rush Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* ‘Ogon’; Japanese Hornbeam, *Carpinus japonica*; Japanese Plum Yew, *Cephalotaxus harringtonii* ‘Duke Gardens’; Sweetbay Magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana* ‘Jim Wilson’ Moonglow™; For details, go to www.PennsylvaniaHorticulturalSociety.org

Book Sales

Timber Press books 20% off. Recommended to new members is *Greer’s Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons—Species and Hybrids*—\$20--all about culture and care.

Pauline and Francis Raughley

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

January/February/March 2008

Board members:

President:	Bob Smetana ('07)
First Vice President	Steve Henning ('07)
Second Vice President:	Vacancy
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	Randall Jessup ('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

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

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

