



'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 2009

Calendar at a Glance:	January and March meetings : St. Luke in Devon
Sun. Jan. 18, 2 pm	Sun. Febr. 15, 2 p.m.
Steve Henning: 2008	Rick Lewandowski,
Rhododendron	Mt. Cuba Center
Conventions	"Gardening Inspired by Nature"
	Thurs. March 19, 7.30 p.m., Victoria Laubach,
	"Welkinweir Arboretum and Estate House"

Future Events:

March 1-8	Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia Convention Center
April 17	Chapter Meeting—at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Devon
May 1-3	Chapter Plant Sale at Jenkins
May 10	Flower/Truss Show at Jenkins Arboretum
June 12-14	South.Appalachian Highl. Conservancy Annual Meeting, Crosnore, NC
June 28:	Chapter Picnic and Annual Meeting with Election of Officers
August 16	Cuttings Exchange/Plant Auction

Happy New Year!

President's Message

The 2008 banquet was a great success. The Perkins gave a lively presentation, food and beverages were excellent, and the company was perfect. Everyone went home with multiple plants, which will reward for years to come. Thank you, Mimi, and all who made this possible.

Our first two chapter meetings of the season were at our temporary meeting spot at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon. The weather cooperated, and we had a good turnout for the "Plants for Members Sale," at which nearly 300 one-year-old cuttings were snapped up by members. The October meeting featured the Bartram Gardens curator Joel Fry, who walked us through a very interesting history of plant discovery from the 17th century to the present. We had two large rhodies as door prizes, and Bob and Christa Stamper drew them both.

We're looking forward to three winter meetings. The **January** meeting features Steve Henning, who will present slides and commentary from his recent travels to Scotland. This meeting is a Sunday 2 pm meeting at St Luke Lutheran Church in **Devon**. February brings us to our annual joint meeting with the Greater Philadelphia chapter at the **Uwchlan** meetinghouse at 2 pm. Rick Lewandowski of the Mt. Cuba Center will be the featured speaker. Appetizers and beverages follow.

March finds us back in our temporary **Devon** meeting place to welcome Victoria Laubach of Welcaweir for a 7:30 pm meeting.

Bill Dennis and his Plant Sale Committee have been busy these last few months purchasing plants for the May sale. This is nearly a year-round undertaking, as commitments need to be made as much as nine months in advance in order to obtain choice plants.

Don't forget to go to our website www.ValleyForgeARS.org for details on these upcoming events. See you in January.

Bob Smetana vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

Sunday, January 18, 2 p.m.

at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon

Conestoga and Valley Forge Roads

Speaker: Member Steve Henning on

2008 Intern. Rhododendron Conference in Scotland and

2008 ARS Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma

After showing pictures that prove that there are actually rhododendrons in Oklahoma, Steve will lead us through 24 great old gardens of Scotland and the Lake District of northern England, including the Vireya collection of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, Glendoick (Cox), and Branklyn; only the latter two are repeats from prior trips. The gardens were all beautiful and full of rhododendrons .

Sunday, February 15 (Sunday), 2 p.m.

Joint Meeting with Philadelphia Chapter at Uwchlan Meeting House, Lionville

Rick Lewandowski, Director, Mt. Cuba Center, Greenville, Delaware

Gardening Inspired by Nature: Treasures Beyond Compare

With their richly layered habitats featuring a vast array of colors, textures, and forms, the temperate forests of the eastern U.S. harbor enormous opportunities for continued discovery and horticultural development. In his presentation, Rick will provide a glimpse into the thrill of domestic plant exploration, including that of native azaleas, and the inspiration that nature provides to observant gardeners. You'll also gain a greater appreciation for gardens, such as Mt. Cuba Center, that are designed to be diverse and beautiful, in harmony with their regional character, and wildlife-sustaining as well as environmentally responsible examples. Please join Rick to share his passionate quest for discovery, learning, and sharing.

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

For Directions, see website.

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

at St. Luke's Church in Devon

Victoria Laubach, Director of

Welkinweir Arboretum and Estate House in Northern Chester County

At Welkinweir, the former estate of Everett and Grace Rodebaugh, 55 acres of arboretum and ornamental gardens around the house give way to naturalistic areas that make up most of the 197-acre property. Now preserved by the nonprofit Green Valley Association and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the landscape is most beautiful in the spring, with the trees flowering and a significant collection of azaleas in bloom. Large tree specimens and wildlife in and around a series of ponds offer interest year-round.

2009 Plant Sale May 1-3

The Plant Sale will kick off with a Wine and Plant Gala on Friday evening, May 1st, an opportunity for those who want to have first pick of specimens offered.

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

Also, please keep in mind that we accept any **donation of plants** that are surplus in your garden for our special “Garden Treasures” corner at the plant sale. These donations are pure profit to the Chapter. Please bring them during the week of set-up.

Bill Dennis Nounce_2000@yahoo.com

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

Please welcome the following

New Members:

Kurt Meschter (Assoc. Member—primary member: Philadelphia)

Linda Young-Bandala (Assoc. Member)

Andy Earle (Assoc. Member—primary member: Philadelphia)

Membership Directory Update (*changes in italics*):

Robert and Barbara **Tiffany**, tiffanydesign@comcast.net

Randell **Jessup**, *Jesup*

Marvin V. and Kathryn S. **Andersen**

Jenkins Arboretum, email Harold@jenkinsarboretum.org

Michelle **Hawk**, mvhawk@verizon.net

John Haas, Johnottohaas@yahoo.com

Lathrop **Nelson**, nelson1b@msn.com

Paul **Weinstein**/Michael **Rauske**, mikerauske@comcast.net

Tamar Jefferis

Pauline **Raughley**

In Memoriam

Dr. William Mark Zurich, Jr., of Toms River in New Jersey, whose superb and meticulously tended garden was open for visit during the 2004 ARS Convention, died last November at age 60 years of a heart attack while raking leaves. Bill was a long-time member of Princeton Chapter and its Vice President for the last four years. In addition to being an enthusiastic gardener in his spare time, Mark Zurich was a practitioner of urologic surgery and known as a truly compassionate physician and dedicated husband and father. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Virginia Taylor Zurich, and his extended family and to the members of Princeton Chapter, who also will greatly miss him.

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Valley Forge Chapter
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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

January/February/March 2009

Board members:

President:	Bob Smetana ('07)
First Vice President	Steve Henning ('07)
Second Vice President:	Vacancy
Treasurer:	Chris Smetana ('07)
Rec. and Corr.	
Corr. Secretary	Bill Dennis ('07)
NL Editor	Eva Jackson ('07)
Directors (6):	Mimi Favre ('07)
	Darlene Henning ('07)
	Randall Jesup ('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, NoelEvaJackson@comcast.net or (new: jackson.evar@gmail.com). The next 3-month newsletter is due around April 1. Information for the newsletter should be received by March 15.

ARS (national) Web Site <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>
Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://valleyforgears.org>