



Visit our Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

NEWSLETTER

January/February/March 2011

At a Glance

- **January 16 (Sunday), 2 p.m., at Jenkins:** Michael Mills--An Eclectic Presentation
- **February 20 (Sunday) 2 p.m., at Uwchlan Mtg House, Lionville:** Karel Bernady--Rhododendron Conference in Germany
- **March 17 (Thursday), 7.30 p.m., at Jenkins:** Steve Henning--Long Island Gardens & Hybrids
- **April 21 (Thursday), 7.30 p.m., at Jenkins:** "Wind in the Trees"
- **April 29-May 1 (Friday-Sunday):** Chapter Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum
- **May 8 (Sunday):** Joint Flower/Truss Show of Philadelphia/Valley Forge Chapters at Jenkins Arboretum
- **June 26 (Sunday):** Annual Meeting and Picnic
- **August 21 (Sunday):** Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction

Of particular interest to our members should be **two FREE programs offered by Jenkins Arboretum, for which you need to register (610/647-8870, www.Jenkinsarboretum.org):** A Valentine's Day (Feb 14, 1 pm) **Pruning Workshop** (Maggie Knapp) and on March 12, 9 am-12 noon, an Introduction to the **Broad Diversity of the Genus Rhododendron** (Harold Sweetman).

Happy New Year VFARS Members and Associates!

Steve asked me to write this column. An active fall schedule started with the Plants-for-Members sale and an inspiring presentation on Witch Hazels by Randy Kobetich. We had a delightful annual banquet, thanks to the efforts of many, but especially Mimi Favre and Kathy Woehl. Joel Fry from Bartrams Gardens enlightened us on the historical significance of Philadelphia as a nexus of plant discovery and export 200 years ago. Chris and I really appreciated the recognition given us with the Bronze Medal.

Meetings on the horizon include the upcoming January 16 presentation by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter's Michael Mills. The February joint meeting at Uwchlan on February 20 will feature our District 8 rep, Karel Bernady, and the March 17 meeting will feature VF president Steve Henning. Most meetings will include door prizes for lucky members, another reason to attend and to bring guests. See you on Sunday, January 16.

Bob Smetana (610/688-5249, vfarssmetana@yahoo.com)

**January 16 (Sunday), 2 p.m., at Jenkins Arboretum
Michael Martin Mills
*An Eclectic Presentation***

Michael, a Philadelphia Chapter member and former President, was with *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for many years and is well known for his column dispensing savvy advice to gardeners. Do not miss this entertaining presentation of common-sense horticultural wisdom. Bring your questions and suggestions, for this is an interactive program.

Refreshments: We ask those whose names begin with the letters K to R to bring finger food (sweet or savory).

**February 20 (Sunday), 2 p.m.
at Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House, Lionville
Joint Meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter
Karel Bernady
*German Rhododendron Society Meeting in May 2010***

Last May, Karel, our ARS District 8 representative, attended the 75th anniversary celebration of the German Rhododendron Society in the Hanseatic city of Bremen, which is known for its large and beautiful rhododendron park, and visited a number of well-known gardens and nurseries in the general area.

Refreshments will be provided by the two chapters

Directions to Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House, 5 N. Village Ave., Exton, PA 19341.
From the Exton Mall, at Rt. 100 and Lincoln Highway: Go north on Rt. 100 for 2.9 miles, turn left on Rt. 113, Uwchlan Ave. and go 0.4 miles, turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (the 2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (the 2nd light from Rte. 113, and come in to the Meeting House.
From Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 312 at Rt. 100: Go south on Rt. 100 for 1 mile, turn right onto Rt. 113, Uwchlan Ave. and go for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (the 2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (the 2nd light from Rte. 113, and come in to the Meeting House.

**March 17 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m. at Jenkins Arboretum,
Steve Henning
*Long Island Gardens and Hybrids***

Last spring, our own chapter president attended the ARS National Convention on Long Island and visited the Phipps Estate and the Feller, Werner Brach, Dick Murcott, Bud Gehrich, and other gardens. These gardens included hybrids introduced by the Long Island Chapter's own hybridizers.

Refreshments: We ask those whose names begin with the letters S to Z to bring sweet or savory finger food.

Visit the Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: ValleyForgeARS.org

Member News:

Chris and Bob Smetana were awarded the much-deserved **Bronze Medal** at the November banquet. “Since becoming members of this chapter, you have both willingly undertaken enumerable tasks, have been active board members and have used your business skills and connections to enhance the chapter and to help it grow. Chris, you have helped with the plant sale for many years, and last year you took over the running of it, very successfully. Now we look forward to working with you on future plant sales. You have also been our treasurer for 5 years, keeping us solvent and able to have funds for chapter events. Bob, you were instrumental in bringing the chapter into the cyber age by helping to set up a web site on which our history, activities and events, annual plant sale, and many photographs of rhododendrons are posted. You were President of the Chapter for 4 years, during which you continued to lead us into newer and more creative ways to organize the Valley Forge Chapter. Both of you have always been willing to participate and take an active role in the chapter and its activities, all the while promoting the chapter. You helped to plan, and worked in, the District 8 National Convention in 2004, as well as the 2009 Regional Conference that we hosted. You have also been very gracious hosts, many times, holding the annual picnic at your home. Therefore, as a token of our esteem and with our appreciation, the Valley Forge Chapter is pleased to present you, Chris and Bob, with our highest award, the Bronze Medal this 14th day of November 2010.”

Frank Brouse, who is recovering at home from cardiac surgery and doing well, would probably appreciate calls from fellow members (610/539-4620).

We welcome the following new Members (if you live near one, please establish friendly contact and maybe car-pool to some events):

Doug and Jane Berry, 3216 Rock Rd, Perkiomenville, PA 18074, 215/234-0373, doug64comet@yahoo.com

Robert Broberg, 479 Leopard Rd, Berwyn, PA 19312, 610/695-4660

Austin Deputy, 2964 Harmonyville Rd, Elverson, Pa 19520-8980, tua81971@temple.edu, 610/451-2527

Richard Garrison, 2 Phillips Ln, Chester Springs, PA 19425, 610-7875

Kevin Smith, 106 Windswept Dr, Feasterville, PA 19053, 215/436-1412,

kfsraider@verizon.net

New Associate Members:

Ellen Steele, 1055 E. Niel's Lane, West Chester, PA 19382, wfsteele@verizon.net, 610/696-5042

New email addresses:

Warren: srwjmw@windstream.net

Stamper: dingo@ptd.net

If you have not yet paid your dues for the current membership year (2010/11), please send check, payable to Valley Forge ARS, to our Treasurer, Chris Smetana, 14 Northwoods Rd, Radnor, PA 19087 (tel. 610/688-5249, VFARSmetana@yahoo.com). If in doubt, check with her.

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Important Notice

Our chapter newsletter went “electronic” last January and has been **e-mailed** since then to all those with an e-mail address.

Due to unusual circumstances at this time, we will mail the current newsletter again by U.S. mail to **everyone** and later in the month electronically to all those email-connected. If you have or will set up an e-mail address, or any time you make a change in your e-mail address, please notify Steve Henning at rhodyman@earthlink.net, for he distributes the newsletters and other e-mail notices electronically.

Also, please don't hesitate to call Steve, our President (610/987-6184), or Eva Jackson, our Newsletter Editor (215/402-8649), or Chris Smetana, our Treasurer (610/688-5249), any time you feel you might not be in the “loop.”

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to Eva Jackson, Newsletter Editor (349 Fox Hound Drive, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444, 215/402-8649, noelevajackson@comcast.net).

**American Rhododendron Society
Valley Forge Chapter
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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



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