



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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2013

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- January 20 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, Joseph Klimavicz, "Hybridizing Evergreen Azaleas"
February 17 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, **at Uwchlan**, Norm Beaudry, "Searching for the 5/5/5 Rhododendron"
March 21 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Karl Bernady, "Novel Technique for Grafting Rhododendrons"
April 18 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Herb Johns from Point Phillip Perennials, "Companion Plants"
May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) **Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum**
May 4-7 (Fri-Mon) American Rhododendron Society's Annual Convention in Seattle, WA
May 12 (Sun.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum
June 30 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic
August 18 (Sun.) Valley Forge-organized District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

President's Message

The banquet was a great success. Przemyslaw Walczak gave a detailed presentation on Chanticleer, the food and beverage was excellent, and the event was well attended. The table favors from Jim Gears nursery were so large they needed a separate table. Jim gave a great description of the plants prior to folks making their selection. Thank you, Kathy, and all who made this possible.

We had a good turnout for the "Plants for Members Sale" featuring the John Doppel hybrid one year old cuttings. We only had a couple dozen plants left over. Rick Colbert of Tyler and Joe Minahan gave great presentations at the September and October meetings.

The winter meetings are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember the meeting time shifts to 2pm on the third Sunday for Jan and Feb. The Feb meeting is a joint production with the Greater Philadelphia chapter at the Uwchlan Meeting House.

The plant sale and flower show committees will be providing details at the next few meetings regarding those events. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

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

See you in January.

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

Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

On January 20 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm:

Joseph Klimavicz: "Hybridizing Evergreen Azaleas"

Joe Klimavicz, with the help of his daughters, has been developing exciting new hybrid evergreen azaleas. Many are named and registered. Joe Klimavicz has been an avid hybridizer of fine evergreen azaleas since the late 1980s. He carries out his active program in the back yard of his one-third acre home in Vienna, Virginia. This garden is an example of highly intensive cultivation.

Each year, Joe makes five to ten crosses and raises 500-1000 new hybrids that he moves out of his basement and into his cold frames for the growing season. He raises most of his plants in a one-gallon size, but admits that he eventually throws 99% of them away, saving only the very best of each cross for further evaluation and breeding, or perhaps a prestigious spot in his garden. The Klimavicz hybridization program is aimed at developing sturdier varieties that are



better able to survive neglect. Specific hybridization objectives include a plant that is hardy, vigorous, disease and insect resistant, floriferous and has a flower that is long lasting and bright in color.

The photo is of Joe's azalea "Caitlin" named after his daughter Caitlin.

Refreshments: Those whose names start with H to Q are asked to please bring a finger-food.

On February 17 (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House

Norm Beaudry: "Searching for the 5/5/5 Rhododendron"

The February meeting at the Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House is a joint meeting of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and the Valley Forge Chapter.

The program features Norm Beaudry, chair of the ARS Seed Exchange Committee. His topic is "Searching for the 5/5/5 Rhododendron," that is searching for the rhododendron with excellent flowers, leaves and plant habit. Norm will review some of the hybrid rhododendrons by Bob Furman on Cape Cod and as well as the hybrids of Delbert Brim in North Carolina and Eveline Pilkington on Cape Cod. He will also mention the rhododendrons of Jim Barlup and Frank Fujioka, both in Washington State, and Jens Birck in Denmark, that he is using in his personal hybridizing program in Bethesda, Maryland.

The photo is of Norm and his wife Jean receiving the ARS Silver Medal in 2009 in Everett, Washington. They have been active



members of the ARS since 1975. In 1988 they were founding members of the Sandwich Club, which identifies and studies the Dexter and Cowles hybrids on the Heritage Plantation in Sandwich, Massachusetts. They created a database of over 1,400 of these plants. Besides

being chairman of the Sandwich Club, Norm became chairman of the ARS seed exchange

program in 2009 and is treasurer of the ARS Research Committee.

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 (Bus. US 30): 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. (at 2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (2nd light from Rte. 113), and come in to the Meeting House.

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike: Take 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. (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.

On March 21 (Thursday) at 7:30 pm:

Karel Bernady: “Novel Technique of Grafting Rhododendrons”



Karel will share his personal experiences with a new grafting approach. Karel co-chairs the Greater Philadelphia Chapters Plants and Propagation Committee with responsibility for the Chapter's Plants for Members Program. The Greater Philadelphia Chapter began its Plants for Members Program in 1986. When Karel was appointed to manage the program in 2003, he documented the propagation performance of the various cultivars attempted.

Experience over the last eight years with poor rootability of some plants and death of successfully rooted varieties during summer's heat caused Karel to consider grafting as a possible solution to these difficulties. In May 2010 Karel attended the International

Rhododendron Symposium in Bremen, Germany. At the Fredo Schröder Nursery, Timo Schröder demonstrated in detail the grafting method used for elepidote rhododendrons, i.e. the simultaneous grafting and rooting of a scion/unrooted understock unit.

The nursery propagates 1.5 million elepidotes per year by the technique. Armed with information Timo provided, Karel tried the method in November 2010 on thirty-one elepidote cultivars. The



results were gratifying and he has further refined his technique. He will share the information learned and encourage us to try the technique to propagate troublesome elepidote rhododendrons.

He serves as Chairman of the Trustees of the Research Foundation and co-chairs the Research Committee of the ARS.

Refreshments: Those whose names start with R to Z are asked to please bring a finger-food.

Select ARS Commercial Members

Bovees Nursery, Portland, Oregon (vireyas)
Greer Gardens, Eugene, Oregon
Rarefind Nursery, Jackson, New Jersey
Van Veen Nursery, Portland, Oregon *
WW Nurseries, Indiana, Pennsylvania *
*WW & Van Veen Nurseries do custom propagating.
This is a member service and not an endorsement.

Student Membership

Student membership in the ARS is now available to young people under 18 and those over 18 with student ID. The ARS would like to encourage young people to join our Society by making it affordable. With their membership, they will receive an electronic version of the Journal but not a paper copy.

Plant Labels are available for Chapter Members

In cooperation with Jenkins Arboretum, plant labels are made for VF ARS members from January through March. If you have any questions, please contact Eva Jackson (noelevajackson@comcast.net). Labels will be made **only** for members and only for their **own use**. The sequence of orders processed will give priority to active members.

Quantity: 96 labels maximum per order/member.

Cost: \$20.00 for 1 to 96 labels, with check made out to Valley Forge Chapter, ARS, and money passed on to Jenkins.

Writing the information for labels:

Each line of a WP document becomes one plant label of one or two lines (your choice, depending also on how much info you want to have listed). If you want two lines, the lines must be separated by a semicolon (;) and no spaces. The lines must be single-spaced (for a total of 96 lines maximum).

Examples:

P.J.M.:(Weston) = 2 lines on plant label, no spaces before or after semicolon
Girard's Pleasant White = 1 line on plant label

Notes:

- 1) No line on the plant label can be longer than 26 characters (including spaces). If you have 2 lines, neither line can be longer than 26 characters (including spaces).
- 2) The format is yours, i.e., it may be 'P.J.M.' or

just P.J.M. Plant names should not be abbreviated.

3) Species names cannot be italicized by the engraving machine.

Checking label information: After you have prepared your list (as outlined above) and thoroughly checked/rechecked your own resources, you are encouraged, but not required, to send or e-mail your copy to Eva Jackson (noelevajackson@comcast.net) for a final check of spelling and other errors (yes they do creep in!). The copy will be returned to you promptly, with suggestions, if necessary, but you have the final say. However, it cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to check for accuracy of labels that cannot be corrected once engraved and that may pass on false information on numerous occasions (plant sales, flower/truss shows, cuttings exchanges, garden tours).

Engraving label information: The final plant list should be emailed to Harold Sweetman at: Harold@jenkinsarboretum.org, with 'metal plant labels' in the subject line. Labels are machine-engraved by a Jenkins Arboretum staff member onto large sheets.

Finishing labels: The engraved label sheets must be cut into individual labels, their corners rounded, and a hole punched for wiring. **This job needs to be done by you** at Jenkins Arboretum (with tools provided and as instructed). Wire for attaching label to plant is **not** provided.

Philadelphia Flower Show

The Philadelphia Flower Show Committee Chair, Linda Hartnett, is looking for volunteers to help with the ARS booth at the 2013 show. If you'd like to join in please contact her at 610-940-9478 or lindahartnett@gmail.com.

She needs volunteers who are willing to help with setting up the show entry, hosting the exhibit for a few hours (morning, afternoon, or evening), and/or disassembling the exhibit at the end of the show. Please contact Linda ASAP for scheduling purposes. This is a unique opportunity to see the show (free passes are provided to volunteers). The ARS exhibit has an excellent reputation. Be a part of it.

Ruth Robinhold, age 99

Ruth Robinhold, 99, of Lafayette Hill died Thursday, Dec. 13. Some of you may have known Ruth, as she was a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter.



In Philadelphia, she cofounded the oldest competitive women's rowing club in America. Each May, the winning boat in the girls' quad races is awarded the Ruth Robinhold trophy. A 1930 graduate of Germantown High School, Mrs. Robinhold spent most of her life in Lafayette Hill, where she raised many varieties of rhododendron. In 2004, Mrs. Robinhold moved to Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill. A skilled gardener, Mrs. Robinhold completed the horticulture program at the Barnes Foundation, was a participant and award winner in the Philadelphia Chapter Truss Show for 38 years and a member of Morris Arboretum.

Jenkins Arboretum Gift Shop

At any time of the year, consider shopping here for gardening friends. In addition to greeting cards and gardening and related books, the shop has some very unique gifts.

2013 Annual ARS Convention

May 1 – 5, 2013

The 2013 ARS Convention's theme is "Rhododendrons, Then, Now and in Your Future." It will be held at the Seattle Airport Marriott Hotel in SeaTac, WA from May 1 to 5, 2013. Highlights include informative talks by Mike Stewart of Dover Nursery, Richie Steffen's of the Elizabeth Miller Botanical Garden, Dennis Bottemiller of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, Kristian Theqvist from the new Finnish Chapter, and Brian Coker from the New Zealand Rhododendron Association. A full day tour to beautiful gardens on Whidbey Island, and wonderful half-day tours to local gardens are being offered to convention attendees. There will also be a plant sale, book sale and a judged photo contest. For further details visit the [conference website](#).

Download [registration form](#). Both members and non-members are encouraged to sign up for this not-to-be-missed event.

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:

Date and Nut Loaf

1 lb. dates (sliced/chopped)
1 lb. walnuts (chopped)
½ cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
2 eggs (jumbo)
½ cup sugar

Mix batter of eggs, sugar, flour and baking powder. Mix in chopped nuts and sliced, chopped dates. Pour very heavy batter into loaf pan lined with several layers of waxed paper. Bake 1 hour at 300-325° until toothpick comes out clean.

Vireyas: Indoor Rhododendrons



Vireyas are the tropical rhododendrons that must be kept indoors in the winter. Their culture is basically the same as orchids. So if you like to raise orchids, vireyas are a way for you to also keep alive your interest in rhododendrons during winter.

About a third of all rhododendron species are tropical vireya rhododendrons. Vireyas have scales; hence they are lumped with the lepidote rhododendrons. Even though they are lepidote rhododendrons, vireyas are usually treated separately since they are very different from other lepidotes.

Other unique features include:

- Vireyas have no blue pigments, so there are no mauve, blue, purple or violet vireyas.
- Vireyas never have spotted flowers.
- Vireyas do have seeds with "tails" or "wings" on each end, and idioblast cells (very large water and sugar storage cells), neither of which occurs with other rhododendrons.
- Vireyas do not look like other rhododendrons. They typically bloom twice a year and have waxy-looking flowers.
- Vireyas do not grow where other rhododendrons grow. They grow more like orchids and grow where orchids grow. They are found in tropical areas where there is no frost. They are often epiphytes and are commonly grown in fast draining mixes used for orchids such as a mix of conifer bark mini-nuggets, pumice, and perlite.

They are usually called vireyas and not rhododendrons. Azaleas have a similar situation and are seldom called rhododendrons. Of course, both vireyas and azaleas are rhododendrons.

For more information on vireyas or to buy vireyas visit bovees.com .

Rhododendron Documentation

Jim Willhite is major US contributor

hirsutum.info is a non-commercial website that has the goal of posting photos of every named rhododendron and azalea. They even have a few that aren't named. This is the ambitious work of the Dutch Chapter of the ARS. They not only post photos, but they also include detailed information on each species and hybrid variety.

For species they have the detailed botanical classification, description, hardiness, and lists of named selections and old names (Yes, the Latin names do change!). For hybrids they have the hybridizer, registration status, description, hardiness, and the parents.

They are only in their 4th year and already have posted 14,000 rhododendrons, 6,000 azaleas, and 900 vireyas. They have over 1,200 species.

They list over a 1,200 hybridizers and have over 10,000 photos contributed by over 150 photographers from around the world. Harold Greer acts as a consultant. The major contributors are Garth Wedemire from Canada, Everalrd Daniel from England, Herman van Ree and Tijs Huisman from Holland.

Valley Forge Chapter's Jim Willhite is the major contributor from the US having contributed over 300 photos.

Membership Dues for 2013

Dues were due on December 1. Darlene Henning is contacting anyone who missed the deadline. If you need to contact her, you may call her at 610-987-6184 or email mdhenning@earthlink.net.

New Plant Registrar

Welcome to Michael Martin Mills who took over as the Registrar of Plant Names for the Genus Rhododendron. For more information visit the ARS Plant Name Registration Site at:

<http://www.rhododendron.org/plantregistry.htm>

Overwintering Containers

Many of us have containerized rhododendrons that we didn't get planted this past fall. Now is the time when we are concerned about how they will overwinter. We can help them along by taking several precautions. They need protection from winter wind and winter sun. They also need a fairly stable cold temperature and hence protection from heat and extreme cold. Hence, a garage attached to a heated home is probably not the best place unless it is well insulated from the heat in the house. Before storing, move any plants in small pots into larger pots since it is hard to control moisture and temperature in small pots.



Actually the deciduous azaleas are probably the hardiest and the easiest to care for. But make sure that even the deciduous azaleas are exposed to light so they know when to break dormancy. That way you don't have to worry about when to move them or uncover them. You just watch them break dormancy in the spring naturally.

An unheated garage or other building with a window is ideal as it protects from winter wind, tempers the extremes in temperature to give a good average temperature, and provides daylight. In such a building, shelves in the north windows are a good place to set the plants. That way they get light to bring them out of dormancy in the spring. Check every few weeks to make sure they don't need watering. They seldom need watering, especially if none are left in small pots.

A cold frame set up like a Nearing frame (facing north and shielded from direct sun) works well.

Some people set the pots in a north facing area outdoors and cover the pots with leaves leaving the tops of the plants exposed to light.

Bob Smetana puts his potted plants in his north facing basement window wells that naturally get fallen leaves in them and has excellent luck.

John Doppel puts his second year seedlings in hoop houses located in an area with high shade. He leaves the ends open. That works well for him.

Gems on the ARS website:

<http://rhododendron.org>

The main very useful sections are:

- [Fundamentals of Rhody & Azalea Care](#)
- [Plant Data: Rhododendrons, Vireyas & Azaleas](#)
- [Proven Performer Lists](#)
- [2013 Rhododendrons of the Year](#)
- [Selected Articles from the ARS Journal](#)
- [ARS Book List and Ordering Information](#)
- [2013 ARS Convention in SeaTac, WA.](#)

Internet Search Tips

When searching for horticultural information include the term "extension" to limit the search to university sites and eliminate commercial sites. Conversely use the term "nursery" to eliminate university sites and include commercial sites.

Utilize our website:

<http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

The main sections of our website are:

- [Join Us](#): Membership Application
- [Links](#): Information, Gardens & Sources
- [Events](#): Our Events Calendar
- [News](#): Flower Show Results & Newsletters
- [Contact Us](#): Our Mailing Address
- [Members Area](#): Chapter History Pages
- [Gallery](#): Photo Gallery for Members

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Valley Forge Chapter
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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER ***January/February 2013***

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Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Please contact us of any 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).