



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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

January / February 2014

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- January 19 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, Jim Gears, "Through The Southern Appalachian Highlands"
February 16 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, **at Uwchlan**, Gregg Tepper, "Sensory Appeal of Native Plants"
March 20 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Mike O'Hara, "Rhododendron Hybrids of Jim Barlup"
April 17 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Chuck Feld, "Boxwood Blight & Sudden Oak Death"
May 2-4 (Fri-Sun) **Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum**
May 11 (Sun.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Morris Arboretum
May 15-18 (Th-Su) American Rhododendron Society's Annual Convention in Painesville, OH
May 20-31 Post Convention Tour of "ARS Gardens in Northern Germany and Denmark"
June 29 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic
August 17 (Sun.) Valley Forge-organized District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

President's Message

We have had a great start to the 2013-2014 year. The November annual banquet was well done as usual. Two great speakers rounded out the Sept and Oct chapter meetings.

One good outcome of the cold December we had is it should kill off some of the bothersome insects in the garden. You will find details nearby of the fine programs we have lined up for the next few months while the gardens continue their suspended animation. Jim Gears will give us a pictorial tour of Joan Adcock's gardens and segway into SAHC activities. Gregg Tepper formerly of Mt. Cuba gardens will discuss how native plants appeal to us at the February joint meeting in Lionville. Mike O'Hara of the Princeton chapter will present Jim Barlup's hybrids complete with many of Jim's photos.

The chapter will be gearing up for our annual plant sale fundraiser soon. Anyone interested in helping should contact chairwoman Chris Smetana or any other board member. In the meantime enjoy your holidays and I look forward to seeing all of you at our January 19, 2014 meeting at 2pm at Jenkins arboretum.

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

Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

On January 19 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm:

Jim Gears: “*Through The Southern Appalachian Highlands*”

Jim has traveled extensively in the Southern Appalachian Highlands to observe and photograph native azaleas in wild. The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy honored him as their Volunteer of the Year in 1999 and he has received the Bronze Medal from the Valley Forge Chapter. His expertise and beautiful slides are a wonderful introduction to this.

Jim Gears will first take us on a tour of Joan Adcock’s garden. Joan, often called Georgia’s Azalea

Lady, has accumulated thousands of native azaleas over a period of 25-plus years. She has an extensive collection of *R. flammeum* (see photo) and its hybrids. We will then proceed with Jim as he travels through natural areas in Georgia and Alabama, ending at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park during the



peak of the spring wildflower bloom. The rich botanical flora in this region is a perfect complement the magnificent mountain scenery there. Get ready to walk among stands of orange and yellow Flame Azaleas, *R. calendulaceum*, along the Appalachian Trail

near Roan Mountain. Stroll through acres of brilliantly colored hybrids on top of Gregory Bald in the Smokies. Some of the species seen in abundance are Trilliums, Phacelia, Hepatica, *Hexastylis arifolia*, *Hexastylis shuttleworthii*, and *Iris cristata*. The presentation

will concentrate on wildflowers that we can grow in our gardens here in Pa., and are great companion plants for Rhododendrons and azaleas. Many are available at the annual Rhododendron Society plant sale at Jenkins Arboretum.

Refreshments: Those whose names start with letters A to G are asked to please bring finger-food treats.

On February 16 (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House

Gregg Tepper: “*Sensory Appeal of Native Plants*”

Gregg Tepper is a professional horticulturist, lecturer, consultant and life-long native plant enthusiast. After studying Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Delaware and creating his own ornamental and native plant gardens, Gregg then started his own horticultural maintenance business designing and managing private gardens. He has lectured on native plants extensively in the United States as well as at the Royal Botanic



Gardens, Kew and Wisley in Great Britain. He volunteers annually as a horticulture passer at the Philadelphia International Flower Show and pursues many botanizing excursions, to photograph and study plant communities, throughout the year. Gregg previously worked at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE where he held the positions of Horticulturist, Woods Path Horticulturist and Director of Horticulture. He is now Acting

Director and board member ex officio of the Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek. Join Horticulturist Gregg Tepper as he explores the unique and fascinating ways in which Native Plants appeal to each of our

senses: Sight, Smell, Touch, Taste, and even Sound. Learn little-known facts, hear entertaining true stories, and see outstanding photographs of the wildflowers we love of the forest and field.

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 20 (Thursday) at 7:30 pm:

Mike O'Hara: "East Coast-West Coast Hybrids of Jim Barlup"

Mike O'Hara has been an ARS member for 10 years and is President of the Princeton Chapter. Mike has 3/4 of an acre full of rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas. He has hybridized for 5 years and has approximately 500 seedlings in cold frames in his yard from seedlings started the past 2 years. His objective is creating better yellow, orange and purple hybrid rhododendrons. Mike has worked with Jim Barlup (see photo) for 4 years now. Jim has supplied many of his hybrids to Mike to test in his garden. Jim has also sent Mike many packets of seed and capsules of pollen.



prolific and one of the best hybridizers in our country today. Jim's stated goal: "as a West Coast hybridizer, I want to introduce more East Coast hybrids into my garden. My goal is to merge the wide range of Western colors with Eastern hardiness to produce new plants for hybridizers and growers on both coasts." Jim is well known for his East-West hybridizing program. Jim Barlup was awarded the ARS Gold Medal in 2004 in part for his generously sharing breeding material and insights, making over 1,000 crosses each year, critically evaluating his seedlings, and encouraging nurseries and others to test grow his most beautiful selections. Jim is also a professional photographer and has supplied Mike with beautiful photos of his best hybrids. It is amazing what Jim Barlup has produced and many of these are hardy in the East.

Mike will present pictures of many of Jim Barlup's beautiful Hybrids and show some of Jim's methods of hybridizing. Jim Barlup is a member of the Cascade and Seattle chapters of the ARS in Washington State. Jim is the most

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

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 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.



ARSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society

Every purchase benefits the ARS

At the October 4, 2013, ARS Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized the creation of an online ARS website that would not be selling items but would link to other providers. The online store was authorized to use the ARS logo and name to sell ARS logo merchandise and develop a relationship with Amazon as an affiliate store. Product providers accessed through the ARS online store at ARSStore.org pay referral fees directly to the ARS on sales made from ARSStore.org referrals. These fees from sales referrals go 100% to the ARS.



The store has three divisions:

1. **ARS Logo Merchandise:** featuring knit, woven and denim shirts, jackets, caps, visors, and computer briefcases.
2. **Amazon Merchandise:** featuring Rhododendron & Azalea Books, Garden Books, Garden Tools, and any other item sold on Amazon.
3. **Participating Merchants:** featuring other merchants who agree to give referral fees to the ARS for each purchase when you mention ARSStore.org.

ARSStore.org has no expenses, only earnings.

To access each division, go to ARSStore.org and from there select what interests you. If you don't see an item, use the Amazon search feature. Amazon sells just about everything. You get the same low Amazon prices from the ARS store, but by using it the ARS gets a fee for referring you. As long as you go to Amazon from ARSStore.org before making a purchase, the ARS gets a referral fee.



You may wonder if people who are not members of the ARS may use ARSStore.org. Yes, most certainly! The objective of creating the ARSStore website is to raise money for the ARS. The more money we raise, the better it is for the ARS. Invite all of your friends to use it.

The referral rate starts at 4%. If a total of 7 or more items are purchased from Amazon in a month, the rate is 6% or more. Typically it will be between 6% and 6.5%. It is 17% on ARS Logo Merchandise.

At ARSStore.org, every purchase you make results in a contribution to the ARS at no additional cost either to you or to the ARS.

2014 Annual ARS Convention

May 15-18, 2014, Cleveland, OH

The American Rhododendron Society invites you to attend, Annual International Convention May 15-18, 2014, Greater Cleveland area, situated along the scenic shores of Lake Erie - *WHERE EVERY GARDEN TELLS A STORY*. Welcome to the "City of Trees," experience the special beauty and variety of a Midwestern spring. Visit carefully chosen tours - in our woods, along our shores in private and public gardens in the Greater Cleveland area. Visit:

- David G. Leach Research Station,
- Holden Arboretum
- Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden
- Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
- Cleveland Botanic Garden
- Lake View Cemetery
- Schneider Healing Garden

Enjoy speakers with fresh perspective and interesting garden themes that will entertain and inform. All roads and airways (Hopkins International Airport), lead to Quail Hollow Resort Hotel in Painesville, OH, where the Convention will be held. Put this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.

For further details visit the [conference website](#).

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener: Beth Smith's Cranberry Pie

- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 1/2-3/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- 1 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil

Butter a 10-inch deep pie plate. Wash and drain cranberries, removing stems. Place berries and nuts in bottom of pan, then sprinkle 1/3 cup of sugar over all. To make batter, beat eggs, stir in remaining 1 cup of sugar. Pour batter, which will be fairly thick, over berries and nuts. Bake 1 hour at 350°. Serve warm to 8.

Philadelphia Flower Show

The Philadelphia Flower Show Committee Chair, Linda Hartnett, is looking for volunteers to help with the ARS booth at the 2014 show. If you'd like to join in please contact her at 215-287-0731 or lindahartnett@gmail.com.

Linda 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.

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.

Resources on 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

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](#)
- [2014 ARS Convention in Painesville, OH.](#)

2014 Gardens Tour in Northern Germany and Denmark

The ARS Board attempted to get the Danish Chapter to hold a convention following the 2014 ARS convention in Cleveland but was unable to arrange it. The Board subsequently asked William R. Heller, president of the Seattle chapter, to plan a rhododendron garden tour of Denmark and Northern

Below is the itinerary for this '2014 Rhododendron Garden Tours in Northern Germany and Denmark'. The tour will leave just after the 2014 ARS Convention in May in Cleveland, OH. You do not have to attend the convention to go on this tour of Northern Europe. We will all meet at one of 2 hubs: either JFK or Newark in the East, or Seattle in the West, to fly to Hamburg, Germany. A Coach will pick us up and take us to the rhododendron Gardens and sites in Northern Germany and Denmark.

The cost is \$3,975 each for double occupancy rooms (\$4,400 for single occupancy). The

Tour includes round-trip Airfare from the airline hubs, coach and driver, hotels, all breakfasts and 4 dinners. The fare is based on present exchange rates and fees and should be accurate within about 10%.

We ask that everyone on the tour meet at one of the two airline's hubs and fly as a group to Hamburg, so we know everyone will be there when we arrive in Hamburg. Once we know who is going and from where they are coming from, group airfares to Europe will be arranged and we will let people know exactly where they need to meet the group.

The itinerary sets out an exciting twelve-day tour sure to delight rhododendron lovers. Review the tour schedule and if you find it enticing, download the [Registration Form](#), [Itinerary](#), and [Overview](#). Contact Bill Heller at william.r.heller@boeing.com for additional details or confirm your interest in the tour. [<http://rhodyman.net/tour/index.htm>]

Northern Germany and Denmark Tour Itinerary

May 20 Tuesday Dep. for Hamburg, Germany
May 21 Wednesday Arrive Hamburg, take Coach to hotel in Oldenburg, Germany, stay 3 nights.
May 22 Thursday Westerstede for its Annual Rhododendron Festival
May 23 Friday Hobbie Linswege Rhododendronpark, Schlosspark in Lütetsburg.
May 24 Saturday Brun's Nursery & Rhododendron Park in Gristede, Bremen
Rhododendron Park in Bremen.
Travel to Hamburg hotel, stay 1 night.
May 25 Sunday Hachmann's Rhodoland, 'Planten un Blumen' Hamburg Botanical Garden.
Travel to Sonderborg, Denmark, stay 1 night.
May 26 Monday Inge & Harry Froloch's garden in Sønderborg, Haje & Askel Hojgaard's garden in Skarbakp, then Ulla and Svend Aage Askjaer's garden in Spøttrup.
Travel to Viborg, Denmark, stay 1 night.

May 27 Tuesday Rhododendron Haven by Helle & Claus Erik Jorgensen in Tørring, Halse's garden in Fuhén.
Travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, stay 4 nights.
May 28 Wednesday Gammel Køgegård Manor House & Danish Display Garden in Køge, Peter Hansen's large garden outside Nakskov.
May 29 Thursday Svend Hansen's Kaernehuset Nursery & Gardens with the largest plantings from Svend's seed collections from China in the 90'ties & Frederikborg Castle and the baroque garden in Hillerød, Denmark.
May 30 Friday Nivaagaard, an Art Museum and Park where Svend Hansen has done the bulk of the planting, Carl Adam Lehmann's summer garden in Hornbaek.
May 31 Saturday Rosenborg Castle and Gardens, back to Carl Adam Lehmann's Garden in Copenhagen and depart early evening from Copenhagen.

American Rhododendron Society
 Valley Forge Chapter
 P.O. Box 715
 Southeastern, PA 19399-0715

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER
January/February 2014

In This Issue	Officers and Committees:
Page 2 January Meeting February Meeting	President: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249 Vice President: Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573 Treasurer: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249 Secretary: Joan/Reid Warren (610) 913-0005
Page 3 March Meeting	Directors:
Page 4 ARS Commercial Members Internet Resources Plant Labels for members Student Membership	Alice Horton ('11-'14) (610) 430-0196 John Ryan ('11-'14) (610) 971-2368 Ellin Hlebig ('12-'15) (610) 584-9764 Kathy Woehl ('12-'15) (610) 644-6249 Steve Henning ('13-'16) (610) 987-6184 Darlene Henning ('13-'16) (610) 987-6184
Page 5 ARSStore.org	Membership: Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184
Page 6 2014 ARS Convention From the Hungry Gardener Philadelphia Flower Show	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184 Plant Sale: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249 Plants-for-Members: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232 Programs: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196 Truss Show (V.F.): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573 Webmaster: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232
Page 7 Tour of Germany & Denmark	Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org
Please inform us of any email changes or if you receive this newsletter by letter carrier rather than email, even though you have email. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (rhodyman@earthlink.net).	