

14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087  
 Chapter's Website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

## **NEWSLETTER**                      **January / February 2020**

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

### **Calendar at a Glance**

- Jan. 19, 2020 (Sun.)** 2:00 pm, Linda Eirhardt, "Azaleas & Rhododendrons at Winterthur"  
**Feb. 16, 2020 (Sun.)** 2:00 pm, Steve Kristoph at Uwchlan, "Game of Rhododendron Jeopardy"  
**Feb. 29 – Mar. 8** (Sat to Sun) Philadelphia Flower Show "Riviera Holiday"  
**March 19 (Thu.)** 7:30 pm, Dr. Jay Townsend "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn & Everywhere Else"  
**April 18 (Sat.)** Greater Philadelphia Chapter Banquet, Speaker: Nancy Bell  
**April 29 – May 3** ARS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Vancouver, WA (<http://ARS75.org>)  
**May 1-3** (Fri to Sun) Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum  
**June 28 (Sun.)** Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic  
**August 16 (Sun.)** District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

### **President's Message**

2019 was an eventful year for the Valley Forge Chapter and once again we finished up with two entertaining and informative presentations. Our October 17th meeting featured arborist Ken LeRoy, whose passion for Philadelphia's arboriculture history was clearly evident as he talked about the legacy of Thomas Meehan, considered to be the Father of Philadelphia Parks. As an added bonus, two of Meehan's descendants were in attendance to add some interesting details to Ken's talk.

Once again, our November Banquet at St. David's Golf Club was an enjoyable occasion with delicious food and enthusiastic Rhododendron comradery. As always, we have Bob Smetana to thank for reserving the ballroom and Kathy Woehl for handling the registrations and other arrangements - Thanks Bob and Thanks Kathy!!! We also heard Jenny Rose Carey's delightful talk on "Glorious Shade, the Art of Shade Gardening." For many of us, this was the second time this year we had the pleasure of hearing Jenny. Her presentation at the 2019 ARS Convention Banquet on Philadelphia's horticultural history was also very well-received.

This year's banquet was also a first for me for I had the privilege of presenting the Bronze Medal Award to Alice and Bob Horton. It was truly an honor for me to

bestow this award to two very deserving recipients – Congratulations Alice and Bob!!!

Our first meeting of 2020 will be at Jenkins Arboretum on Sunday afternoon January 19th at 2:00. Linda Eirhart of Winterthur Museum, Gardens and Library will talk about "Azaleas and Rhododendrons at Winterthur" and how the H.F. du Pont garden evolved. On February 16th at 2:00, we team up with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter at the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House in Lionville for our joint meeting. This year Steve Kristoph returns to lead us in a not-to-be-missed "Game of Rhododendron Jeopardy." On March 19th at 7:30 we will be back at Jenkins to hear Dr. Jay Townsend talk about the tree that "Grows in Brooklyn" and everywhere else, the story of the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Hope you can join us for these talks and please bring one or two friends along as well.

In closing, I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season and a very Happy and Healthy 2020.

Sincerely,

Jerry O'Dell (610) 608-2018, [westdell@verizon.net](mailto:westdell@verizon.net)  
 (610) 608-2018 [westdell@verizon.net](http://westdell@verizon.net)

VF ARS website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

**On January 19, 2020, (Sunday.) at Jenkins at 2:00 pm:**

**Speaker: Linda Eirhart:  
“Azaleas and  
Rhododendrons at  
Winterthur”**

Linda Eirhart is the Director of Horticulture/Senior Curator of Plants at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library.

Linda will begin her presentation with an overview of the history and design influences that went into the Winterthur garden development. She will share some of the amusing correspondence between H.F. du Pont and the nurserymen and rhododendron and azalea hybridizers he was in contact with. You will hear about how DuPont worked with these men and used their plants to create his “Wild Garden.” Although there are thousands of azalea cultivars available today that was not the case



when du Pont was starting his garden. In the early 20th century, he began collecting and trying “just about every new evergreen azalea that became available.” An example is the Kurume azaleas which now make up the main display in Azalea Woods. They were first displayed in this country in 1915; two years later Mr. du Pont purchased several from

Cottage Garden Nursery.

Linda will also have available for purchase the just published “The Winterthur Garden Guide: Color for Every Season.” This is a revised edition of the out-of-print Winterthur book: *The Winterthur Guide to Color in Your Color*, with new sections written by Linda and includes updated photography by her and Volunteers.

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**On February 16, 2020, (Sunday.) at Uwchlan at 2:00 pm:**

**Speaker: Steven Kristoph:  
“Game of Rhododendron Jeopardy”**

Our very entertaining speaker will be Steve Kristoph who teaches landscape design at Rutgers University, and also runs a nursery in New Jersey. He has been an adjunct instructor at Rutgers University for over 25 years. He also owns and operates the Steven Kristoph Nursery in Monmouth County NJ where he grows many types of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials.

Steven Kristoph has been an ARS member for over 30 years. His interaction with the Society has led him to many new, exciting, and unique plants, and not just rhododendrons! Every one of his new finds has a story associated with it.



Steven is passionate about plants and likes to share his passion with others. Taking time to smell all the roses is important to him and you

can bet if there’s an indumented rhododendron leaf close by it is likely to get a gentle caress.

For the program, Steve Kristoph will channel his Alex Trebek to produce a game of "Rhododendron Jeopardy." The show features a quiz competition in which contestants are presented with clues about Rhododendrons and Azaleas

in the form of answers, and must phrase their responses in the form of questions. Everyone can play along.

**Refreshments** will be provided by the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge chapters

## Directions to Uwchlan 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.

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### On March 19, 2020, (Thursday) at Jenkins at 7:30 pm:

#### Speaker: Dr. Jay Townsend, “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn and Everywhere Else”

**Jay Townsend** grew up in Wawa, PA. In the 1970s he moved to the West Coast where he worked for the Davey Tree Expert Company. In the early 1980s, Jay earned a master’s degree from the Longwood Program in Public Horticulture. He returned to Davey Tree to open and manage the company’s Wilmington office. In 2007, Jay returned to the University of Delaware to earn a doctorate in Plant Science.



His research concerned the psychological effect street trees have on city residents. He continues his research and publishing today.

*Ailanthus altissima* has a record from the dawn of history as a medicinal plant in China. It was introduced into the United States in 1784 by

William Hamilton for his Woodlands estate on the west side of the Schuylkill. Despite its rank odor and proclivity for suckering, it was planted extensively as a street tree in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was even used as a symbol for thriving under difficult conditions in the 1943 Betty Smith novel “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.” As the public came to realize its negative features, the tree was removed from streets and gardens but it continue to spread in untended areas.

Today it is considered an invasive in the United States, Europe, New Zealand and Australia. More recently, the tree has taken on additional notoriety as the preferred host of the spotted lantern fly. Jay Townsend will fill us in on the rich history of this sometimes loved and sometimes hated tree species.

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## The Philadelphia Flower Show Wants You

“*Riviera Holiday*” is the theme of the 2020 Philadelphia Flower Show. ARS members are needed to set up the exhibit and serve as docents during the show. It runs from Saturday, February 29, through Sunday, March 8. Set-up involves minimal heavy lifting. It’s great fun to be able to wander the floor of the convention center to see the other exhibits being installed. (Tip: the set-up badge will get you into the center through Thursday afternoon, by which point most exhibits will be close to complete.) Docents staff the exhibit for a four-hour morning, afternoon or evening shift, and are

welcome to spend the rest of the day taking in the show. Translate: it’s free admission (rather than \$35 and up per person). What do the docents do? Answer questions and tout rhododendrons (as we do all the time already). While the Greater Philadelphia Chapter takes the lead on creating the exhibit, all ARS members in the area are welcome and invited to join set-up and/or take a docent shift.

**For set-up, contact Linda Hartnett** ([lindahartnett@gmail.com](mailto:lindahartnett@gmail.com); 215-287-0731).

**For docent scheduling, contact Michael Mills** ([mmm19119@gmail.com](mailto:mmm19119@gmail.com); 215-527-7145)

## Valley Forge Chapter Awards Bronze Medal to Alice & Bob Horton



*Alice and Bob Horton with Chapter President Jerry O'Dell*

Congratulations to Alice and Bob Horton who received of the Bronze Medal at the VF ARS Banquet. The inscription read:

*Since becoming members of the Valley Forge Chapter you both have been very active in supporting many Chapter activities and your willingness to take on more responsibilities has been admirable.*

*Alice, from the outset your skill in running a plant sale was apparent as you successfully managed the greenhouse and perennial plant sales portion of our Annual Plant Sale. When the Chapter was in need of a Chair for the Plant Sale Committee, without hesitation you volunteered for the role and have successfully managed the entire Plant Sale for the last two years.*

*Bob, as the quiet member of the team you are always there providing behind-the-scene support to Alice wherever needed. At every Plant Sale you are available to offer assistance, answer customer questions and provide direction to keep things moving in an orderly fashion and the delicious lunches that you provide for all the Chapter volunteers each year keeps everyone well fed and in good spirits.*

*In addition, both of you have broadened your Chapter responsibilities and are presently serving on the Board of Directors, Alice as Vice-President and Bob as Director.*

*Therefore it is with great pleasure that the Valley Forge Chapter awards the Bronze Medal to you on this 10th day of November, 2019.*

## Valley Forge Bronze Medal Recipients

The Valley Forge Chapter's first Bronze Medal recipient was Charley Herbert, the founder of the Valley Forge Chapter. It was from the Philadelphia Chapter.

The chapter has a total of 37 members, who have made outstanding contribution to the American Rhododendron Society, who have received the Bronze Medal.

The Bronze Medal was authorized by the American Rhododendron Society in 1967, the same year the Valley Forge Chapter was welcomed into the American Rhododendron Society. The Bronze Medal Award was created to recognize Society members who make outstanding contributions to a Chapter, which may include accomplishments of the recipient outside the Chapter consistent with the goals of the Society. It is the highest award an American Rhododendron Society Chapter can bestow on one of its members. The award consists of an engraved medal and a certificate citing the recipient's accomplishments. A committee of Bronze Medal recipients is responsible for nominating award recipients. Congratulations to the following members of the Valley Forge chapter who received the American Rhododendron Society's Bronze Medal:



- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1972 Charles Herbert (from Philadelphia Chapter)  | 1995 Harold Sweetman, Ph. D.   |
| 1978 Ethel Herbert                                | 1997 Frank Brouse              |
| 1979 Dr. Carol High                               | 1997 Nancy Greenwood           |
| 1980 Clarence & Evelyn Rahn                       | 1997 Ann & Winfield Howe       |
| 1981 Al & Edna Curley                             | 1997 Ruth & William Miller     |
| 1982 Ross Davis, Jr.                              | 2000 Bonie Marcus Bennett      |
| 1983 Lloyd E. Partain (from Philadelphia Chapter) | 2000 Margaret Fawcett          |
| 1984 Fred S. Winter MD, & Barbara                 | 2000 William D. Perry          |
| 1986 Francis H. Raughley, Jr.                     | 2000 W. Robert Stamper         |
| 1987 Robert & Helene Huber                        | 2001 Sylvia Green              |
| 1987 S. Reid Warren III & Joan                    | 2006 William Dennis            |
| 1991 James D. Gears                               | 2006 Tony & Penny D'Alessandro |
| 1991 Howard R. Kline                              | 2006 Mary Alice Snyder         |
| 1992 John & Bette Gross                           | 2007 Mimi Favre                |
| 1992 Donald H. Mannion                            | 2007 Darlene & Steve Henning   |
| 1992 Pauline Raughley                             | 2010 Chris & Bob Smetana       |
| 1992 William & Ellen Steele                       | 2016 Charlie Odenweller        |
| 1994 Eva & Noel Jackson                           | 2019 Alice & Bob Horton        |
| 1995 Barbara Ludwig                               |                                |

## Spotted lanternfly DNA may hold key to eradication



*Spotted Lanternfly Adult*

Researchers have sequenced and assembled the lanternfly's genome after capturing a bug in Berks County last fall that provided the genetic materials needed for the sequencing, according to a new study published in the journal *GigaScience*.

The genome will give researchers more tools to fight the lanternfly, said Julie Urban, a research associate professor at Penn State. In the short term, it will allow researchers to track spotted lanternfly populations and learn more about their movement. In the longer term, it could help them develop gene silencers or other lanternfly-specific methods of control.

Researchers have been searching for weapons against the bug since it was discovered in Berks County in 2014. Little is known about the biology of the bugs, which pose a threat to vineyards, lumber and other agricultural products in Pennsylvania.

Researchers could also try to interfere with bacterial endosymbionts, or what amounts to internal organs made of bacteria, in the lanternflies. Two endosymbionts' genomes were also sequenced as part of the project.

Urban, whose research is focused on this area, said the plant sap the bugs feed on is nutrient poor. The endosymbionts turn the plant sap into amino acids that sustain the lanternflies, she said. Knowing more about them — and how they're transferred from a parent into

lanternfly eggs — could hold a key to defeating the insect.

“Since lanternflies are the only thing out there with these bacterial symbionts, if you're just blocking those symbionts, it won't have an impact on other critters out there,” she said.

She said she's been doing dozens and dozens of dissections to try to figure out how the bug's ovaries develop and how the endosymbionts are passed to the next generation.

The genome was sequenced and assembled using new technology that allowed researchers to simply take the DNA from a single insect found in nature. Typically, researchers would have to inbreed an insect over many generations before they could complete the sequencing.

Researchers didn't need to breed the lanternfly in a lab, something that would have been a setback, as they've been unable to successfully rear lanternflies through an entire life cycle.

Geib wrote that the genome can be used to help identify the lanternfly's origins, as well as potentially track its movement and spread. He wrote it could also help researchers to develop better lures and biopesticides because they'll know more about the bug's molecular mechanisms.

“Having the genome for this pest opens the door to a better understanding of its biology and behavior, and makes coming up with potential control methods much more likely to happen, such as developing a lure for a trap through understanding the insect's olfactory genes, or exploring avenues such as gene editing or RNAi,” Geib said in a [USDA news item](#).

<https://www.mcall.com/news/breaking/mc-ews-spotted-lanternfly-dna-20191113-xix2rg6a3va3zlxlrpp5apsxxy-story.html>

## Spotted Lanternfly & Ailanthus

The March VF ARS Chapter meeting will be on the ailanthus tree, the preferred host of the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). Many people are removing all female ailanthus trees and leaving a couple male ailanthus trees as trap trees and installing SLF traps on these trees. This accomplishes 2 goals, it monitors the SLF population and reduces the numbers.



*An ailanthus tree*



*Ailanthus trees are most conspicuous when the samaras appear. They turn a pink to red color when ripe. This easily distinguishes them from stag horn sumac.*

## Students & Young Professionals

The ARS has recognized the importance of reaching out to students of all ages and young professionals. It is encouraging the ARS Chapters to incorporate student activities and student involvement. Also, chapters are encouraged to attract young professionals in their communities, especially ones with a professional interest in rhododendrons, azaleas and horticulture in general.

The 2020 ARS Convention in Vancouver, WA will set an example of what can be done. Some ideas the ARS recommends are:

- have a poster contest for young people at plant sales and chapter banquets;
- add a student category to photo contests;
- give ARS memberships to school and university libraries;
- promote chapter activities on Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook, and on a chapter website;
- invite arboretum interns and students to do a poster for a poster session;
- offer free registration to students to come to a local convention or conference;
- provide opportunities for students and young professionals to enhance their resumes by participating in chapter activities such as propagation workshops;
- encourage members to register as gardening merit badge counselors, landscape architecture merit badge counselors, or plant science merit badge counselors in Scouts BSA which is coed now;
- ask local students and young professionals as to what ARS activities would interest them;
- form an advisory group of students and young professionals;
- identify key contacts in the community to work with the chapter; and
- in every chapter activity, think of ways to interest students and get them involved.

*You're invited to the celebration!*



### World-renowned Keynote Speakers

Kenneth Cox • Jens Nielsen • Steve Hootman  
Lionel de Rothschild • Steve Krebs • Valerie Sosa

### Tours to the Northwest's Outstanding Gardens & Nurseries

## The 2020 ARS Convention

**April 29 to May 3, 2020**

**April 27 to May 5 with optional tours.**

**Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington**

The chapters of ARS District Four in Oregon welcome everyone to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society at the 2020 ARS Convention in the Pacific Northwest.

The American Rhododendron Society celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a return to Portland, Oregon, where the Society began in 1945, to present a group of world-renowned keynote speakers and tours to the Northwest's outstanding gardens and nurseries.

The 2020 ARS Convention will honor the founding of the ARS in Portland, Oregon, in 1945. The first ARS convention was held in Portland in 1961.

**Hotel:** The **Heathman Lodge** will provide the ultimate in hospitality for your visit to Portland. Conveniently located, airport close, in Vancouver WA. When you make reservations, be sure to request the "American Rhododendron Society Block" to secure your group discount rate. Standard rate level @\$139 or business level rate @\$149.

**Speakers:** During the convention week, you'll have the opportunity to experience talks from some of the world's foremost experts on woodland plants and the genus Rhododendron.,

including the most up-to-date DNA research. as noted above.

**Garden Tours** will visit great gardens including the historic Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden, the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden, the Portland Japanese Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden, and Iseli Wholesale Nursery.

**Pre-Tour:** From April 27 to April 28, a 2-day, 1-night pre-tour will go up to Puget Sound to visit gardens, nurseries, and the Species Foundation.

**Post-Tour:** From May 3 to May 5, a 3-day, 2-night post-tour will go down through the Willamette Valley to Eugene. Then it will go over to the Oregon Coast. Then it will return to Vancouver. The entire tour will be packed with visits to gardens, nurseries, and scenic wonders on the Oregon Coast including Heceta Head Light House, Sea Lion Caves, an aviation museum, and Monrovia nursery.

**Plant Sale:** A massive plant sale with rhododendrons and companion plants will open Wednesday, April 29.

**Important information** will be posted to [ARS75.org](http://ARS75.org), but those changes will go unnoticed unless you are prompted. You can sign up to be on their [email list](#) so you are the first to know about anything new.

**Registration** is to open on at <http://ARS75.org>

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**American Rhododendron Society**

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**20/20  
VISION**



*Looking forward, reflecting back*

**Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020**

**AUTUMN IS RENEWAL TIME! RENEW TODAY**

Would you like to make a gift to the General Fund? Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Remember someone with a gift to the Endowment Fund Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Who would you like to remember? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to make a gift to Research Foundation? Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here only if you do not wish to have your phone, fax, and e-mail address printed in our membership rosters

**PLEASE REMIT DUES BEFORE DECEMBER 1**

Student (St).....\$10

Regular (R) .....\$40

Commercial (C).....\$90

Sustaining (SU).....\$75

Sponsoring (SP)...\$150

Commit for Life (L), payable over 3 years (1-\$400 & 2-\$350) \$1000 (individual)

Commit for Life (L), payable of 3 years in increments of \$500 \$1500 (Family)

Memb. type \_\_\_\_\_ x no. yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ = Total US Funds Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not wish to receive the Journal ARS

Make Checks Payable to: **Valley Forge ARS**

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**14 Northwoods Road  
Radnor PA 19087**

**ARS Membership Renewals  
Were Due December 1st**

Our membership chair, Darlene Henning, thanks everyone who renewed their dues on time.

If you need to renew or want to be a new member, use the form on this page. If you have

any questions, contact: Darlene at her new phone number: 717-735-7116 or by email at [mdhenning@earthlink.net](mailto:mdhenning@earthlink.net).

**Calendar the ARS 2020 Fall  
Conference on Sept. 25-27,  
2020 in Gettysburg, PA**

*Amazon drops ARSStore.org. Walmart & Amazon Smile are available.*



Amazon terminated its agreement with [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org) and the approximately 5% commission the ARS received. AmazonSmile is still available and pays 0.5% to the ARS. What is even better is the Wal-Mart ARS Store. The online Wal-Mart ARS Store offers virtually the same products with free shipping and pays the ARS approximately 4% on online sales. Use the Wal-Mart ARS Store at:

[Walmart.ARSStore.org](http://Walmart.ARSStore.org)

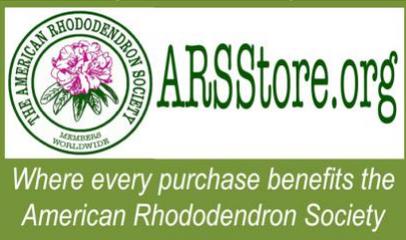
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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



**NEWSLETTER**

**January / February 2020**



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<p>Please contact us with email changes or if you receive this <b>newsletter</b> by letter carrier rather than email, even though you have e-mail. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (<a href="mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net">rhodyman@earthlink.net</a>).</p>	