

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

Web site: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***March / April 2015***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

### ***Calendar at a Glance***

- March 19 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Judy Smith, *The Seasons at Chanticleer*  
April 16 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Michael Martin Mills, *Name That Clone*  
May 1-3 (Fri-Sun.) Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum  
May 7-10 (Th-Su) American Rhododendron Society's Annual Convention in Sydney, BC  
May 10 (Sun.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum  
June 28 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic at Chanticleer  
August 16 (Sun.) District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction at Wayne Guyman's

### ***President's Message***

Despite the ice storm that caused huge traffic jams on both the Schykill Expressway and the Blue Route, we had a full house for Janet Novak's January lecture on the plants of Newfoundland. Despite bitter cold, we had a good turn out for George Woodard's fascinating program for the joint meeting at Uwchlan in February. George brought a selection of beautiful plants with him from Long Island that were auctioned off for \$175. The proceeds will be used to benefit the ARS Research Fund.

The March and April meetings will revert to the third Thursday 7:30 time at Jenkins. See details on Michael Martin Mills and Judy Smith upcoming lectures elsewhere in this newsletter.

We're always looking for good speakers. If any of you have suggestions, please contact me or Alice Horton our program chair.

May 1, 2, and 3 are our plant sale dates. We'll need volunteers during the week leading up to the sale to help unload, categorize, and price plants. Contact Chris Smetana [cpsmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:cpsmetana@yahoo.com) if you wish to help. The proceeds from this event fund our donations for the entire year so we need all of your support.

The flower show will be held at Jenkins this year. Entries must be in by mid-morning Sunday, May 10 according to chair Debby Schmidt. Look for details in this newsletter and on our website.

Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249, [vfarssmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:vfarssmetana@yahoo.com)

***Chapter's web site:*** [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

**On March 19 (Thursday) at 7:30 pm at Jenkins Arboretum:**

**Judy Smith: “*The Seasons at Chanticleer*”**

Art, photography, travel, gardening, teaching; these 5 words describe this local resident and next month’s speaker at Valley Forge Rhododendron society meeting. Art has always been a driving force in Judy’s creative life. She has had a camera in her hands since the age of 8, so one has always fed the other. Add a passion for travel and gardening to the mix and you get the picture.



afraid of hard work or getting her hands dirty, Judy transformed an ordinary suburban plot of land into a horticultural showplace and respite from life’s frantic pace. Throughout the process a camera or sketch pad was always ready to capture the shapes and textures of the garden’s through the seasons.

When Chanticleer first became a public garden, Judy was one of the first visitors to explore the grounds and learn from the plantsmen and

designers there. Koi from her pond were donated and the first to live in the large pond. In 20 years Chanticleer has grown to become one of the premier horticultural destinations in North America. With the endless variety of trees, shrubs and plants, Judy continues to photograph Chanticleer during all 3 seasons of the year. Come see how photos can tell a story of this magical place in Judy’s talk - *The Seasons at Chanticleer* on March 19.

Judy graduated from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia which served to hone her talents, but it was the vast garden on Pugh Road in Wayne that unleashed the passion for plant material, color and texture. She joined the local garden club Herb Gatherers in 1985 and became life long friends with garden maven Stephanie Cohen. Never

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

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**On April 16 (Thursday), 7:30 pm at Jenkins Arboretum:**

**Michael Mills “*Name That Clone*”**



*Michael (r) with Dr. Alan C. Leslie (l), International Registrar for the genus Rhododendron. [Photo by Randy Dalton]*

“Rhododendron registration.” The phrase doesn't exactly suggest a rollicking time, does it? So let's think of this from a visual point of view.

Michael Martin Mills hopes to wow you with stunning pictures of what’s really behind the concept of registering rhododendron names: the beautiful flowers themselves. Since he took over the job of North American registrar from Jay Murray in 2012, Michael has become steward to a huge trove of electronic images.

He will make use of that collection as the speaker at the chapter's January meeting, with a presentation titled "Name That Clone!"

In addition to almost 200 floral portraits (have you ever seen 'Teton Twilight', 'Sunset Gold 50' or 'Whisper White'?), Michael will explain just what registration is and why it matters. If you have a plant worthy of propagation, in need of a protected name and registration, this meeting is for you. If not, you'll love the visuals.

Michael Martin Mills is North American Registrar for the Genus Rhododendron, reporting to the Royal Horticultural Society.

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

He has been active in the American Rhododendron Society for many years, serving as board member and president of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and participating in many other ARS activities. With Randy Dalton, Michael tends a two-acre garden in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia. He is on the Landscape Committee of Awbury Arboretum in Germantown and is a donor to both the Hardy Plant Society's seed exchange and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's annual plant dividend program. Professionally Michael spent more than three decades in journalism, including many years at the Philadelphia Inquirer. He is also general manager of the Philadelphia Singers.

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## Valley Forge Chapter Annual Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum May 1 to 3, 2014

- May 1 (Friday):** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Party and Presale  
(by reservation, \$30/person. Check to Chris Smetana or  
ARS, P.O. Box 715, Southeastern, PA 19399-715)
- May 2 (Saturday):** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale
- May 3 (Sunday):** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale

**Chair:** Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249 [cpsmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:cpsmetana@yahoo.com)

**This is the big event of the year!** As always, we will have a fine selection of rhododendrons, azaleas, and "companion plants", such as other shrubs, small trees, including Japanese Maple, and choice perennials.

**Publicity.** You should receive in the mail this year's plant sale flyer. Using this flyer or copies of it, please inform your gardening friends, neighbors, and colleagues and post a flyer, if possible, at your workplace or other locations, such as a local library or stores. Any publicity is appreciated.

**Help is needed and appreciated.** Expert or novice, please sign up at the April meeting or

commit yourself when called, or just show up on workdays (Monday to Thursday preceding sale) or on public sale days (May 3 and 4). There are all kinds of chores to be done. Snacks/food and beverages will be provided.

**Plant donations are welcome.** Please pot up your surplus garden gems as soon as possible, so they look good at the time of the sale, label them with their Latin or common names, if possible, and bring them by **Thursday April 30**. Many customers head first to the donations table, which can add tremendously to the success of the sale, the proceeds of which benefit a number of horticultural, conservation, and educational efforts.

## Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day)

**Chair:** Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573

We're looking forward to our 7th year of the joint Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters combined flower/truss show competition and the 21st year of VF chapter's show. To make this the stunning and highly educational juried display that it has been in previous years, members of all area chapters are again encouraged to bring entries. We will begin accepting entries at 7:30 am on the upper

level of the education center at Jenkins. Entries must be in by 10:15 am, and judging will begin at 10:30. The show will be open to the public from 1-5pm that day.

Help will be available, especially to those who haven't entered before—so don't be hesitant. Classification lists will be available on the VFARS website [www.valleyforgears.org](http://www.valleyforgears.org) and at the April 16 VF chapter meeting.

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 2015 Rhododendrons of the Year

### Mid-Atlantic Region

Twenty-nine rhododendrons selected for their adaptability in eight regions of the United States have been awarded Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) honors for 2015. The purpose of the awards is to educate the public about the wide range of rhododendrons that can be grown successfully in people's gardens. To be selected for a ROY award a plant must have excellent foliage and flowers, have an attractive plant habit, prove itself hardy for the specific region and be pest and disease resistant. Those selected for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2015 are:

#### Elepidote Rhododendron: John C White



Flower has ¼" strong purplish pink edging blending through purplish pink and pale purplish pink to light orange and strong yellowish pink in throat, reverse deep purplish pink. Dome-shaped truss of 12-13 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves between narrowly elliptic and elliptic, acute to slightly apiculate, cuneate, 6¼" long, glabrous, olive green. Plant upright, broad, well-branched. Height: 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant hardy to -10° F (-23° C). Hybridized by Ring. Photo by Don Hyatt

R. 'Vulcan' x *R. fortunei*, Gable form

#### Lepidote Rh.: R. Southland'



Flower light yellowish-pink with brown speckles in throat, openly campanulate, slightly fragrant, 1¼" across. Held in ball-shaped trusses of 10 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, flat, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 1¾" long, retained 3 years. Typical height: 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Kehr. Photo by Boris Bauer.

*R. minus* var *chapmanii* x *R. keiskei*, prostrate form

#### Evergreen Azalea: R. Ashley Ruth'



Flower white with a broad border of deep purplish pink. Some petaloid stamens. Truss holds 2-3 flowers. Blooms midseason.

Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, 1¾" long, glossy, moderate yellow green, hairless. Intermediate plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Hardy to 0° F (-18° C). Hybridized by Stewart. Photo by Tijs Huisman.

R. 'Asahi-sakigaki' x R. 'Margaret Douglas.



### Deciduous Azalea: 'My Mary'

Flower brilliant yellow with orange tube, no markings, tubular funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 2½" across, fragrant. Conical trusses hold up to 25 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves near narrowly obovate to elliptic, mucronate apex, cuneate base, 1¼" long, deciduous. Attractive, compact habit. Grows to 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Insect and disease resistant. Plant is hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Beasley.

R. 'Nacoochee' x R. *austrinum*

The above 4 rhododendrons were selected for their adaptability and awarded the ROY, Rhododendron of the Year, Award for 2015.

For more photos and descriptions look up: [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#), [2010](#), [2009](#), [2008](#), [2007](#), [2006](#), [2005](#), [2004](#) in the corresponding 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the JARS each year.

## Previous Mid-Atlantic ROY Winners

<b>Elepidote Rhododendron:</b>	<b>Lepidote Rhododendron:</b>	<b>Evergreen Azaleas:</b>	<b>Deciduous Azaleas:</b>
2014: 'Nestucca'	2014: 'Kehr's White Ruffles'	2014: 'Caitlin Marie'	2014: R. calendulaceum
2013: 'Taurus'	2013: 'Cornell Pink'	2013: 'Rose Greeley'	2013: R. schlippenbachii
2012: 'Janet Blair'	2012: 'Windbeam'	2012: 'Sandra's Green Ice'	2012: 'Aromi Sunny-side-up'
2011: 'Brown Eyes'	2011: 'Molly Fordham'	2011: 'Tina's Whorled'	2011: R. prunifolium
2010: 'Scintillation'	2010: 'Mary Fleming'	2010: 'Carrie Amamda'	2010: 'Klondyke'
2009: 'Wheatley'	2009: 'Landmark'	2009: 'Koromo-shikibu'	2009: 'Old Gold'
2008: 'Mist Maiden'	2008: 'Weston's Aglo'	2008: 'Dream'	2008: 'White Lightning'
2007: 'Caroline'	2007: 'Olga Mezitt'	2007: 'Fairfax'	2007: (none)
2006: 'Bellringer'	2006: 'PJM Elite'	2006: 'Elsie Lee'	2006: 'Homebush'
2005: 'Calsap'	2005: 'Dora Amateis'	2005: 'Nancy of Robin Hill'	2005: 'Gibraltar'
2004: 'Gigi'	2004: 'April Pink'	2004: 'Girard's Fuchsia'	2004: 'Crimson Tide'

**ARSStore.org** *Where every purchase benefits the American Rhododendron Society*

## Winter Deer Damage

By Sean McNamara, Aug. 2014 Turf Magazine

It can be frustrating when a deer munches on your hosta or azaleas, but when they turn your arborvitae hedge into a line of popsicle plants like something out of a Dr. Seuss book, it's downright maddening. Deer browse damage, especially during the winter months, is severe.

Deer do their most destructive damage in the winter from Thanksgiving to April. The winter of 2013-2014 was among the worst in recent memory.

Snow, ice and freezing cold temperatures took a toll on landscape plants. However, in many suburbs it was not the cold that did the greatest damage, it was hungry deer.

Here are six things you need to know to protect your plants from deer.

### 1. Deer will only eat evergreen trees and shrubs during winter months.

There is no need to protect evergreens during the growing season. But in the autumn as deciduous shrubs lose their leaves, food becomes scarce, and in the depths of winter deer diets change to include arborvitae, rhododendron, azalea and hollies. Plants that are "deer resistant" in one area may not be in another. Where deer populations are high, the list of deer-resistant plants is short.

### 2. Fences aren't always the answer.

A deer can easily jump over a 5- to 6-foot fence. A true deer fence should be 8 feet high and should be monitored and maintained throughout the year. A fallen tree can take out a section of fence and give deer access to a protected landscape. In many communities,

zoning laws may restrict the size and type of fencing allowed.

### 3. Most deer repellents don't work during the winter.

Traditional deer repellents typically use offensive smells to keep deer away from potential food. But during winter months freezing temperatures suppress odor. During the winter you need to use a strong taste deterrent such as thiram.

### 4. Spray repellents need to be long lasting.

It is near impossible to apply liquid repellents during winter's freezing temperatures, wind, snow and ice. A deer repellent that needs to be reapplied every month is just not practical. For a successful deer repellent program, a long-lasting thiram-based product with a superior

sticking agent must be used. However, thiram is a restricted chemical and can only be used by Licensed Pesticide Applicators.

### 5. Don't protect plants the deer don't eat.

Many people plant shrubs they know that deer won't eat, such as boxwood and pieris. Avoid spraying the plants they leave alone.

### 6. Watch the acorn masts.

Deer and other critters eat acorns and nuts in the fall to load up on carbohydrates before cold sets in. When acorns are plentiful, deer are less likely to decimate evergreens that winter. However, when acorn masts are light, deer will run out of fat reserves and feed heavily on evergreen trees and shrubs in order to survive the winter.

*Thanks to Ellin Hlebik for recommending this article by the maker of DeerPro Winter.*



## **Richard Allen Colbert 1956- 2014**

As you may know, Tyler Arboretum recently suffered a great loss with the passing of Executive Director Rick Colbert. Richard Allen Colbert, age 58, of Newark, DE, passed away at home on November 29, 2014. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April of 2012.

A native Delawarean, Rick was born in Wilmington and was a 1974 graduate of Newark High School. He attended the University of Delaware, graduating in 1978 with a BS degree in Agriculture with an emphasis in plant science and ornamental horticulture. He graduated with Honors and Distinction. He returned to the University of Delaware to study business and graduated with an MBA in 1986.

Rick was committed to the field of public horticulture and enjoyed sharing his knowledge of plants. In 1978, Rick became the first horticulturist for the City of Newark before becoming the Supervisor of Parks. He developed and implemented a program to beautify the traffic islands throughout Newark using low maintenance plants. During this time, he wrote articles that were nationally published and received local and national awards for his innovative ideas.

In 1991, Rick became the executive director of Tyler Arboretum in Media, PA. During his 23-year tenure at Tyler, he played an instrumental role in transforming the arboretum to become a regional, family-oriented destination. Tyler experienced significant growth and improvements under Rick's leadership, including expanding the educational outreach, increasing the community programs available, and restoring, upgrading and maintaining plant collections.



Rick received honors and awards for his contributions to the field of horticulture. He was honored with the 1988 Award of Merit from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the University of Delaware College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008, and the American Public Gardens Association Service Award in 2012. Throughout his career, Rick served on multiple professional committees and was a guest speaker across the country. He recently served on the Longwood Graduate Program Executive Committee and the Scott Medal and Award committee. He was the treasurer for the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta from 2002 to 2006 and was involved in the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Rick shared his love of woodworking with his family and friends. Many have been recipients of handmade items, including the famous “Rick Rack.” He passed along his joy of gardening and interest in plants to his children and grandchildren. Rick enjoyed playing golf and tennis. He ventured abroad to Ecuador, France, England and Italy. He always dreamed of playing golf and visiting gardens in Scotland. In July, his brother, Tab, fulfilled his dream. Most of all, Rick enjoyed his time at the beach with his supportive wife, Cathy.

Rick was dedicated to his family and his faith. He was always surrounded by a loving family that he cared for deeply.

During his tenure, Rick brought Tyler Arboretum to the precipice of a new era of growth and development. His passion, fiscal responsibility, persistence and methodical patience set the groundwork for several new endeavors that will keep Tyler at the forefront of public horticulture and a premiere destination and community resource.

## Coming ARS National Meetings

### 2015 ARS Annual Convention,

70th Anniversary, May 6 -10, 2015

Sidney, BC Canada

Website: <http://www.2015rhodo.ca/>

### 2015 Fall Regional Conference

New York Chapter

Long Island, NY

### 2016 ARS/ASA Annual Convention,

April 20-24, 2016

Williamsburg, VA

Website: <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>

Note the 2015 Fall Regional Conference and 2016 ARS Convention are an easy drive away. Sneak a peak at what is being planned for 2016 at <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>. With Don Hyatt involved we know it will be great. Be sure to calendar it now.

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## News from ARSStore.org

### *Special Book Offer for ARS*

The newest addition to ARSStore.org is the all-new edition of the book, *Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases and Pests* published by the **American Phytopathological Society (APS)**.

ARSStore.org negotiated a \$20 discount on sales from ARSStore.org and also a donation to the ARS of 5 percent of the proceeds from sales made using this special ARS promotion. This is a special offer for ARS members on this much-improved second edition of the classic reference. A book review appeared in the Fall 2014 Journal of the ARS.

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## In 2015, the Valley Forge Chapter of the ARS Supports the following:

- **ARS Endowment Fund**
- **ARS Research Fund**
- **Jenkins Arboretum**
- **Rhododendron Species Foundation**
- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Cons.**
- **Tyler Arboretum.**

## From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener: Cheese and Vegetable Chowder

3 Tablespoons butter

1 ½ Cups chopped celery

1 Cup shredded carrot

¼ Cup sliced green onion

2 10-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> oz.cans condensed cream of potato soup

1 12-½ oz. can chicken broth

½ Cup water

2 Tablespoons snipped parsley

Few drops bottled hot pepper sauce (Tabasco)

1 13 oz. can evaporated milk

3 Tablespoons dry sherry (optional)

In large saucepan melt butter. Cook celery, carrot and green onion in butter until tender but not brown. Add potato soup, chicken broth, water, parsley and hot pepper sauce. Cook and stir until boiling, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in the cheese, milk and sherry. Heat through but **do not boil**. Sprinkle with additional sliced green onion. Serves 6 to 8.

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## 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

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## ARS 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.

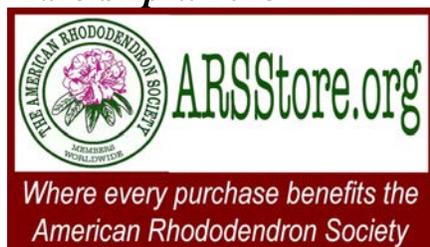
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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



**NEWSLETTER**

*March/April 2015*



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Please contact us with 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](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).