



14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087
 Chapter's Website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER *March / April 2020*

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- 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, Mt. Cuba**
- April 29 – May 3** **ARS 75th Anniversary Convention in Vancouver, WA (<http://ARS75.org>)**
- May 1-3** **(Fri to Sun) Valley Forge Chapter’s Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum**
- May 9 (Sat.)** **Joint GV-VF ARS Cut Flower Competition (Truss Show) at Jenkins**
- June 28 (Sun.)** **Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic**
- August 16 (Sun.)** **District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction**
- Sept. 25-27** **ARS 2020 Fall Conference in Gettysburg, PA**

President’s Message

Winter is supposed to be a quiet time for plant enthusiasts but there is always a lot going on for the Valley Forge and Great Philadelphia ARS Chapters. We kicked the 2020 season off with two excellent meetings. Our first was held at Jenkins on January 19th and Linda Eirhart of Winterthur gave a very entertaining and informative presentation on how Henry Francis du Pont developed his beloved Winterthur Garden. On February 16th once again we teamed up with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter for our joint meeting at the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House in Lionville. Steve Kristoph, always the entertainer, took his show to a new level with his exciting “Game of Rhododendron Jeopardy.” It was definitely a fun afternoon and Steve kept everyone wide awake and fully engaged with his great Rhododendron “answers”. I want to thank Anne Howe for reserving the historic Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, always a great place to hold our meetings. **Thanks Anne!!!**

The Philadelphia Flower Show runs from February 29th through March 8th. While the theme this year, “Riviera Holiday,” is not exactly a run-with-it design for Rhododendrons, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter is up to the challenge and will create a “Coastal Paradise” garden, featuring azaleas, as their exhibit.

On March 19th at 7:30 we return to Jenkins to hear Dr. Jay

Townsend talk about the tree that “Grows in Brooklyn and everywhere else”, the interesting story of the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) which was introduced into this country right here in Philadelphia.

On April 18th the Greater Philadelphia Chapter Banquet will be held at Sunnysbrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting. This is always a delightful event and this year’s speaker will be Nancy Bell, the Education & Garden Coach Coordinator at Gateway Garden Center in Hockessin, Delaware and teacher at Mt Cuba Center. And don’t forget the ARS National Convention from April 29th – May 3rd in Portland, Oregon. Information can be found on the website: <http://ARS75.org>.

Also a reminder, May is just around the corner, which means our Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum. This year it begins on Friday evening May 1st, our Opening Night Party/Pre-Sale and runs through Sunday May 3rd. Alice Horton, our Plant Sale Committee Chair, is always in need of Volunteers to help out so please reach out to her this year and lend a hand with the Plant Sale.

Hope everyone is looking forward to an enjoyable Spring.

Sincerely,

Jerry O’Dell, (610) 608-2018, westdell@verizon.net

VF ARS website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

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 19th 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 continues 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.

On April 18 (Sat.) at 6 PM at Sunnybrook Golf Club, Plymouth Meeting, PA

GP ARS Banquet Speaker: Nancy Bell, Mt. Cuba Center

The GP ARS Banquet will feature Nancy Bell, the Education and Garden Coach Coordinator at Gateway Garden Center in Hockessin, DE. She has developed a lifelong fascination and passion for all things nature into a career in horticulture. She is an avid Master Gardener who has created many workshops such as Landscaping with Ornamental Grasses and Gardening for Wildlife. Her own yard is certified as a Backyard Habitat



by the National Wildlife Federation. She has completed Certificate of Merit in Ornamental Plants Series I and II and Landscape Design at Longwood Gardens. Nancy is the former host of the Garden Clinic on WDEL in Wilmington, DE.

She has led or will lead the following featured programs at Mt. Cuba Center

- Beautiful Native Plants Year-Round
- Big Benefits of Small Trees
- Building Beautiful Perennial Borders
- Perennials for the Autumn Garden
- Fool Proof Plants for Beginners
- Home Landscaping Basics
- Native Perennial Gardens
- Native Plants for Every Garden
- Native Vines
- Perennials: The Garden’s Color Palette
- Rejuvenate Your Garden
- Right Plant, Right Place

- Shade Garden Success
- Show-Stopping Autumn Perennials
- Small Space Gardening

- Spring Wildflowers for Home Gardens
- Sun-Loving Garden Perennials
- Top Ten Trees & Shrubs for Wildlife

Sunnybrook Golf Club, 398 Stenton Ave, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
Banquet details including the menu, price and directions will be sent out soon.

ARS 2020 Fall Meeting in Gettysburg, PA

Mason-Dixon Chapter to Host ARS Fall Meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

September 25 – 27, 2020
Wyndham Gettysburg



The Mason - Dixon Chapter will host the 2020 Eastern Regional Rhododendron Society Fall Meeting in Gettysburg Pennsylvania. The

convention will be held at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel just off route U.S. 30, east of its intersection with route U.S. 15.

The dates to be put aside are September 25, 26 and 27, 2020. The ARS board of directors will meet on the 25th followed by the evening festivities and the start of the plant sale. The convention will run through Sunday noon on September 27, 2020.

Sonny Coble and Ray Smith are co-chairs, and have a select committee to insure a successful meeting.



Spotted Lanternfly Update



First discovered in the United States in Berks County, Pennsylvania, *Lycorma delicatula* has spread to more states including Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.

This pest, which is not a true fly, is actually a planthopper, an insect with piercing-sucking mouth parts. Spotted lanternflies use stylets to penetrate plants such as grapevines, hops, fruit trees, and other woody trees and shrubs, then suck out the carbohydrate-rich sap of the plants, using this for their own nutrition.

They excrete a sugary residue, known as honeydew, which is colonized by sooty fungi. Plants are damaged by the loss of sap and the appearance of fruits and foliage is ruined.

Egg masses survive overwinter and hatch into nymphs which develop through several stages into adult winged insects. The spotted lanternfly loves to lay its eggs on tree-of-heaven, *Ailanthus*. So controlling this invasive tree in woodlands helps reduce the possibility of providing a haven for the invasive spotted lanternfly.

Rhododendron of the Year Plant Awards: 2020

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 2020. The purpose of the awards is to educate the public about the wide range of rhododendrons that can be grown successfully in gardens. To be selected for a ROY award a plant must have excellent foliage and flowers, have an attractive plant habit, prove itself cold and heat hardy for the specific region and be pest and disease resistant.

For each region, the Plant Award Committee has chosen four plants - an elepidote and a lepidote rhododendron, a deciduous azalea and an evergreen azalea. A [vireya](#) rhododendron was selected for the Hawaii/Southern California region. The awards for all years are posted at: [rhododendron.org/roy20ma.htm](#): 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004.

Rhododendrons of the Year for all 8 regions are announced in the JARS each year. Those selected for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2020 are:



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Bea MacDonald'

The flowers are light orange-yellow with 0.25" edging of strong pink and a red-brown flare, widely funnel-campanulate, crinkled edges, 3.1" across. The lax truss has 7-9 flowers. It blooms in early midseason. The leaves are narrowly elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, and dull green. It has spreading, dense plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft. in 10 years. It is plant and bud hardy to -5°F (-21°C). It was hybridized by Cowles. It is a cross of fortunei hybrid (Dexter R460) x Margaret Dunn.



Deciduous Azalea: R. periclymenoides

Rhododendron periclymenoides is commonly called pink azalea and pinxter flower. The flower is orange to red, sometimes yellow, slightly fragrant, and funnel-shaped, 1½" to 1¾" across. The truss holds 3-7 flowers. It blooms late to very late. Its leaves are ovate or obovate to elliptic, up to 3" long, deciduous. It is a low shrub, often stoloniferous. It grows to 4 ft. tall in 10 years. It is cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). This native species is found in the eastern United States on the Cumberland Plateau in Kentucky and Tennessee and on the mountains of Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina.



Lepidote Rhododendron: R. keiskei var. keiskei'

The flower is pale yellow, widely funnel shaped, 1 1/8" - 2" across. Inflorescence 2-6 flowered. It blooms early midseason. The leaves are lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, acute apex, cuneate or rounded base, 1 1/4" to 3" long, bronze-colored when young. It has open growth habit. It grows to a typical height of 2 ft. in 10 years. It is plant and bud hardy to 0°F (-18°C). It is native to Japan (widely distributed, Honshu to Yakushima).



Evergreen Azalea: 'Wagner's White Spider'

The flower is white with faint yellowish-green spots on the top three petals, single, 3" across. The petals are strap-shaped. The truss holds 2-4 flowers. It blooms early midseason. The leaves are oblong, broadly acute to rounded apex, cuneate base, 2" long, flat edges, matte, moderate green. It is intermediate in plant habit. It grows to a typical height of about 3 ft. in 10 years. It is plant and bud cold hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Wagner.

Previous Mid-Atlantic ROY Winners

Elepidote Rhod.:	Lepidote Rhod.:	Evergreen Azaleas:	Deciduous Azaleas:
2019: 'Ken Janeck'	2019: 'Rhein's Luna'	2019: 'Treasure'	2019; <i>R. cumberlandense</i>
2018: 'A. Bedford'	2018: '24-Karat'	2018: 'Dreamsicle'	2018: <i>R. arborescens</i>
2017: 'Gilbert Myers'	2017: 'Blaney's blue'	2017: 'Ben Morrison'	2017: <i>R. canescens</i>
2016: <i>R. hyperythrum</i>	2016: <i>R. minus var. minus</i>	2016: 'Inch'	2016: <i>R. atlanticum</i>
2015: 'John C. White'	2015: 'Southland'	2015: 'Ashley Ruth'	2015: 'My Mary'
2014: 'Nestucca'	2014: 'Kehr's White Ruffles'	2014: 'Caitlin Marie'	2014: <i>R. calendulaceum</i>
2013: 'Taurus'	2013: 'Cornell Pink'	2013: 'Rose Greeley'	2013: <i>R. schlippenbachii</i>
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: <i>R. prunifolium</i>
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'

Plant Labels are available for Chapter Members

R. fortunei
'Lushan'

In cooperation with Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, plant labels are made for VF ARS members from January through March. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Wright (steve@jenkinsarboretum.org).

Eligibility:

Labels will be made **only** for members and only for their **own use**. The sequence of orders processed will give priority to active members.

Description:

The product is a permanent, laser-engraved, black anodized aluminum plant label. Each will measure ¾ inches wide by 3 inches long and will come with rounded corners and a pre-punched hole for hanging. Hanging wire is the responsibility of the member (small diameter bell wire is recommended).

Quantity:

120 labels maximum per order/member.

Cost:

\$30.00 for 1 to 40 labels, \$50 for 41 to 80 labels, and \$70 for 81 to 120 labels. Checks should be made out to "Valley Forge Chapter, ARS", and the money will be passed on to Jenkins.

Instructions for submitting:

Create a document, preferably in Microsoft Word or similar program, that lists all plant tags to be made. Be sure to write the names *exactly* as you would like them to appear on the label – capitalization, spelling, quotes, etc. must be carefully reviewed before submission. Jenkins staff will review the document, recommend edits, and confirm those edits before any label-making will take place. For

single-line labels, the list is simple. If double-line labels are desired, simply put the second line in parentheses.

Single Line Examples:

- *R. mucronulatum*
- *R. x 'Hershey's Red'*
- '*Koromo Shikibu*'

Double Line Examples:

- *R. fortunei* ('Lushan')
- *R. x 'PJM'* (Weston Hybrid)
- '*Anna Kehr*' (Kehr Hybrid)

Notes:

- 1) No line on a plant label 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.

Checking label information:

After you have prepared your list (as outlined above), thoroughly check and recheck using your own resources. As mentioned earlier, the Jenkins staff will thoroughly review and offer suggested modifications, but it would be very helpful to have someone else give your list a check ahead of time. It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to check the labels for accuracy as they cannot be corrected once engraved. Inaccuracies 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 Steve Wright at: steve@jenkinsarboretum.org, with 'metal plant labels' in the subject line.

You're invited to the celebration!



World-renowned Keynote Speakers

Kenneth Cox ● Jens Nielsen ● Steve Hootman ● Juliana Medeiros
Lionel de Rothschild ● Steve Krebs ● Valerie Soza ● & more!

**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

ARS Chapters in Oregon welcome everyone to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society at the 2020 ARS Convention in the Pacific Northwest.

The American Rhododendron Society celebrates its 75th 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. It is conveniently located in Vancouver, WA, near the Portland Airport. 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, 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
75th Anniversary
20/20
VISION
Looking forward, reflecting back
Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

Which Native Trees Are Native Locally?

We all like to plant native plants, but how native. Lancaster County published a list of the 79 trees native to Lancaster County. This should be similar to lists for nearby counties.

Acer negundo (Box Elder)
Acer nigrum (Black Maple)
Acer rubrum (Red or Swamp Maple)
Acer saccharinum (Silver Maple)
Acer saccharum (Sugar or Rock Maple)
Amelanchier arborea (Serviceberry)
Amelanchier canadensis (Shadbush)
Amelanchier laevis (Shadblow)
Aralia spinosa (Devil's Walking Stick)
Asimina triloba (Pawpaw)
Betula alleghaniensis (Yellow Birch)
Betula lenta (Sweet or Black or Cherry Birch)
Betula nigra (River Birch)
Carpinus caroliniana (Hornbeam)
Carya cordiformis (Bitternut Hickory)
Carya glabra (Pignut Hickory)
Carya ovalis (Sweet Pignut Hickory)
Carya ovata (Shagbark Hickory)
Carya tomentosa (Mockernut Hickory)
Castanea dentata (American Chestnut)
Castanea pumila (Chinquapin)
Celtis occidentalis (Dogberry)
Celtis tenuifolia (Dwarf Hackberry)
Cercis canadensis (Eastern Redbud)
Cornus alternifolia (Pagoda Dogwood)
Cornus florida (Flowering Dogwood)
Diospyros virginiana (Persimmon)
Fagus grandifolia (American Beech)
Fraxinus americana (White Ash)
Fraxinus nigra (Black Ash)
Fraxinus pennsylvanica (Green or Red Ash)
Gleditsia triacanthos (Honeylocust)
Ilex opaca (American Holly)
Juglans cinerea (Butternut)
Juglans nigra (Black Walnut)
Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Redcedar)
Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree)

Magnolia acuminata (Cucumbertree Magnolia)
Magnolia tripetala (Umbrella Magnolia)
Magnolia virginiana (Sweetbay Magnolia)
Malus coronaria (American Crabapple)
Malus lancifolia (Lanceleaf Crabapple)
Nyssa sylvatica (Black or Sour Gum)
Ostrya virginiana (Hop Hornbeam)
Pinus echinata (Short Leaf or Yellow Pine)
Pinus pungens (Table Mountain Pine)
Pinus resinosa (Red or Norway Pine)
Pinus rigida (Pitch Pine)
Pinus strobus (Eastern White Pine)
Pinus virginiana (Virginia Scrub Pine)
Platanus occidentalis (Sycamore)
Populus deltoides (Eastern Cottonwood)
Populus grandidentata (Bigtooth Aspen)
Populus tremuloides (Quaking Aspen)
Prunus americana (Wild Plum)
Prunus pensylvanica (Fire Cherry)
Prunus serotina (Black Cherry)
Prunus virginiana (Choke Cherry)
Ptelea trifoliata (Hop Tree)
Quercus alba (White Oak)
Quercus bicolor (Swamp White Oak)
Quercus coccinea (Scarlet Oak)
Quercus marilandica (Blackjack Oak)
Quercus montana (Chestnut Oak)
Quercus muehlenbergii (Chinkapin Oak)
Quercus palustris (Pin or Swamp Oak)
Quercus phellos (Bartram Oak)
Quercus rubra (Northern Red Oak)
Quercus stellata (Post Oak)
Quercus velutina (Black Oak)
Rhus glabra (Smooth Sumac)
Rhus typhina (Staghorn Sumac)
Robinia pseudoacacia (Black Oak)
Salix nigra (Black Willow)
Toxicodendron vernix (Poison Sumac)
Tsuga canadensis (Eastern Hemlock)
Ulmus americana (White Elm)
Ulmus rubra (Slippery Elm)

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



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March / April 2020



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ARS websites:	Kathy Woehl ('18-'21) (610) 688 9173
rhododendron.org ARSStore.org	Bob Horton ('17-'20) (610) 430-0196
ARSOoffice.org https://ars75.org/	vacant ('17-'20)
Use Walmart.ARSStore.org	Membership: Darlene Henning (717) 735-7116
	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116
	Plant Sale: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter
	Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	Webmaster: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116
	VF Chapter's web site: ValleyForgeARS.org

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).