

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

NEWSLETTER **March/April 2022**

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- Mar. 17 (Thu)** **7:00 pm, virtual program, Doug Tallamy, "Let it Be an Oak"**
- April 9 (Sat)** **GP Annual Banquet, Steve Wright, "The Wild, the Weird, & the Wonderful"**
- April 29-May 1** **VF Chapter Plant Sale (Fri., Sat., & Sun).**
- May 4-8** **ARS Annual Convention, Portland, Oregon. [More information on Page 9](#)**
- May 8 (Sun)** **Joint GP and VF Truss Show at Jenkins.** Entries accepted 7:30-9:30 a.m. Brochure and entry tags will be available at the GP Banquet/VF April meeting, April 9, or contact truss show co-chairs Perc Moser or Michael Martin Mills. Catalogue of previous entries will be posted on both chapter websites in May.
- Sep. 26-28** **ARS Fall Meeting, Gettysburg, PA (Mon-Wed)**

President's Message

Everyone is ready to begin the spring season and eager to get back to work in their gardens. With the latest Omicron outbreak, we once again started the season via Zoom with two very entertaining and enlightening presentations. We began the 2022 season on Sunday, January 16th with a talk on Tyler Arboretum's Wister Rhododendron Garden, presented by Olivia Kirkpatrick. Since her presentation, Olivia has moved on in her career and we wish her well. That said, I hope she can find the time to stay involved with the Chapter and ARS activities. On Sunday February 20th our annual joint meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter was also presented virtually thanks to Ron Rabideau, President of the GP Chapter. Our speaker was Dr. Peter Zale, who gave an entertaining and informative talk on the history of plant conservation and exploration at Longwood Gardens.

Although not a VF Chapter ARS sponsored event, on March 17th Jenkins Arboretum's virtual "Third Thursday Lecture Series" will feature Doug Tallamy, Ph.D., who will talk about the importance

of Oaks in our suburban neighborhoods. On April 9th the GP ARS Chapter will hold their annual banquet and Steve Wright, Jenkins Arboretum Director of Horticulture & Curator of Plant Collections and VF Chapter ARS Board Member, will be the speaker. Steve is also working on developing the very important VF Chapter ARS Travel Grant which is explained on page 3.

I am happy to report the ARS/Tyler Mid-Atlantic Hybridizer Test Garden project is moving along very nicely. The Plant Sale Committee is working closely with Jenkins on making plans for a joint Plant Sale for the first weekend of May. The joint VF/GP Chapters Truss Show will be at Jenkins.

I will take a moment to reach out to say thanks to Steve Henning for always putting together an interesting and well organized Chapter newsletter.
Thanks Steve!!!

Wishing everyone a happy spring season.

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

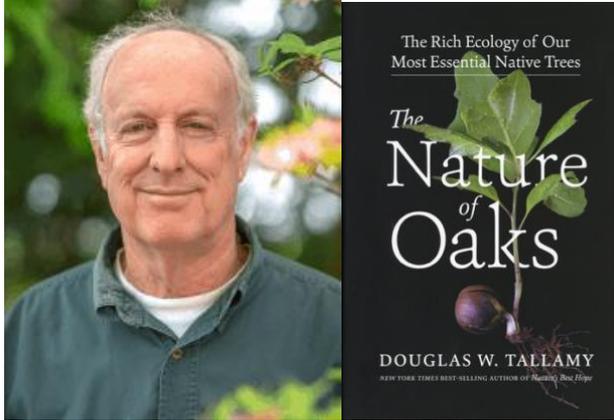
VF ARS website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

On March 17, 2022 (Thursday) **Virtual** at 7:00 pm,

Free but you must [register](#).

Speaker: Doug Tallamy

“Let it Be an Oak”



Oaks are superior trees for suburban restoration projects because of their many ecological and aesthetic attributes. Doug Tallamy, the author of *The Nature of Oaks*, will compare oak

species to other popular shade trees in terms of their ability to support animal diversity, protect watersheds, sequester carbon, and restore lost plant communities.

Doug Tallamy is a Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His book [Bringing Nature Home](#) was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. [The Living Landscape](#), co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014; [Nature's Best Hope](#), a New York Times Best Seller, was released in February 2020, and his latest book [The Nature of Oaks](#) was released by Timber press in March 2021

Free virtual lecture; [click here to register](#).

On April 9, 2022 (Saturday) GP Banquet

Speaker: Steve Wright, Jenkins:

“*The Wild, the Weird & the Wonderful*”



Steve has been collecting the Eastern US's most outstanding native rhododendrons and azaleas for Jenkins's Rhododendron Germplasm Repository. He has collected from the wild, from private collections, from specialty



nurseries, and from Jenkins and other arboreta.

Steve's presentation will feature his best discoveries as well as some of the *wildest* plants you can

imagine.

Steve Wright is the Director of Horticulture and Curator of Plant Collections at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. He belongs to the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA and is a director for the VF ARS. In addition to managing Jenkins' accredited collection, he specializes in ecological gardening using native plants of the Eastern US.

Valley Forge Chapter ARS Travel Grant \$500 Grant for Horticultural Student or Young Professional



What:

The mission of the American Rhododendron Society is to encourage interest in, and disseminate information about, the genus Rhododendron. To help fulfil this mission on a local level, the Valley Forge chapter of the ARS will award one \$500 travel grant annually to support a university student, budding plant enthusiast, or emerging horticultural professional in Southeastern Pennsylvania who would like to learn more about the genus and/or connect with leaders in the field. Grant funds may be used in any way that helps develop the recipient's understanding of, and interest in rhododendrons and azaleas. These experiences might include visiting specialty nurseries or botanical institutions, or participating in national conventions, regional conferences, plant exploration expeditions, and so on.



How:

To apply, please submit the following to VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com:

1. A short essay that includes the following:
 - a. An introduction about you
 - b. A description of the experience in which you hope to participate
 - c. An explanation of how this funding would help further your interest in the genus Rhododendron
 - d. A breakdown of how funds will be spent
2. Two letters of recommendation

The grant period opens December 1st and closes March 31st in 2022. All applicants will be notified of their status by March 15th. Successful applicant must complete their experience before December 31st of the year funds were granted. NOTE: Awardees may not apply in consecutive years. Send any questions to VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com.

But:

At the completion of the experience, a brief written report must be submitted to VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com. This must include a spending report as well as photographs that may be used in newsletter and/or other promotions. Though not a requirement, grantees may be asked to deliver a program to the chapter members about their experience.



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.

Rhododendron of the Year Plant Awards: 2022

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 2022. 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 has been selected for the Hawaii/Southern California region. The awards for all years are posted at: [2022](#), [2021](#), [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 2021 are:



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Dexter's Honeydew'

Flower very pale purple at margins, fading to greenish white at center and a light yellow throat, openly funnel-shaped, wavy-edged, 3½" - 5¼" across. Ball-shaped trusses hold 7-10 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves narrowly oblong, 3" to 4¾" long, flat, acute apex, cuneate base, wavy margins. Spreading plant habit, grows wider than tall. Typical height: about 4 ft. in 10 years. Plant and bud hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Dexter.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Aromi Sunstruck'

Flower vivid yellow with a vivid orange yellow blotch, tubular funnel-shaped, wavy-edged lobes, 1¾" across. Held in lax truss with 14 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 2.4" long, dull green above, with discrete hairs below. Grows to an approximate height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Plant and bud cold hardy to at least 10°F (-12°C). Hybridized by Aromi.



Lepidote Rhod.: 'Oritani'

Flower pink, funnel-shaped, 2" across. Truss holds 2-5 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic to narrowly obovate, mucronate apex, cuneate base, 3" long, moderately glossy. Dense growth habit. Grows to an approximate height of 4 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -25°F (-32°C). Hybridized by Theum.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Quakeress'

Flower white with flakes of moderate purple, very unevenly expressed in different flowers, wavy-edged, 2"- 2¾" across. Truss holds 2 to 7 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, large, somewhat roughened, hairy. Upright to somewhat spreading plant habit. Grows to a typical height of about 6 ft. in 10 years. Plant and bud cold hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Raised by Morrison.

Previous Mid-Atlantic ROY Winners

Elepidote Rhod.:	Lepidote Rhod.:	Evergreen Azaleas:	Deciduous Azaleas:
2021: 'Jack Cowles'	2021: 'Weston's Pink Diamond'	2021: 'Betty Ellen'	2021: <i>R. austinum</i>
2020: 'Bea MacDonald'	2020: <i>R. keiskei</i> var. <i>keiskei</i>	2020: 'Wagner's White Spider'	2020: <i>R. periclymenoides</i>
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</i> var. <i>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 Amanda'	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'

ARS/Tyler Mid-Atlantic Hybridizer Test Garden

Tyler Arboretum and the ARS plan to plant and trial mid-Atlantic hybrids. Southeastern Pennsylvania is fortunate to have hybridizers that have created the amazing plants we find at our plant sales. Unfortunately, gardeners in general don't find these beauties at the nurseries they patronize.



*'Fashion Plate' of Becales,
Michael Mills photo*

Valley Forge Chapter along with the Greater Philadelphia and Lehigh Valley Chapters plan to change that, though admittedly it will take a few years. It will also take money (more about that below).

A group of four local ARS figures, with the approval of the national ARS organization, and Tyler Arboretum intend to create a test and display garden in the arboretum for cultivars recently hybridized in the mid-Atlantic region. The goal is to seek out elepidotes with less common coloration and moderate stature, to record their performance over a few years, and to publish the assessments of the trials. And then, it is hoped, the wholesale propagators will take notice and retail garden centers will offer more interesting choices. The maturing garden should also prevent extinction of worthy hybrids that have had minimal propagation.

The Founding Task Force consists of Perc Moser, Karel Bernady, Tom Ahern and Michael Martin Mills. Negotiations with Tyler, led by Mandy Santiago, executive director, and Mike Karkowski, director of horticulture, have been friendly and have unfolded at a brisk pace, an indication that both sides are eager to make the new garden happen. It is likely that a formal Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by both sides before spring.

The first stage of the process will be creation of a selection committee, charged with deciding which cultivars are to be planted. The four Task Force members and a representative of Tyler will be the core of the committee.



*'Steve's Sunrise' of Reiley,
Mary Reiley photo*

Among the hybridizers whose creations will be considered for inclusion in the garden are Joe Minahan, Tom Ahern, Joe Becales, Norm Beaudry, John Doppel, Frank Furman, Perc Moser, Ed Reiley, Hank Schannen, Ron Rabideau and Howard Roberts, whose works have been within a 150-mile radius of Tyler Arboretum. The intention is that all the hybrids being trialed are innately likely to be good-doers for the mid-Atlantic climate, with its hot, humid summers and winters that, even if milder of late, are not unlikely to have temperatures near zero Fahrenheit.



*'Cause of Our Joy' of Minahan,
Karel Bernady photo*

The selection committee will have to work expeditiously, since many of the cultivars will have to be propagated and grown to planting size. Current plans are for the first set of roughly 40 cultivars to be planted in groups of three. Planting will take place in a plot

adjacent to the existing Wister-era collection of rhododendrons.

The heart of the project will begin after the plans' first season in the ground, with details recorded on many attributes that combine to make a top-rate variety – vigor, shape, flower and foliage appeal, disease resistance and the like. An evaluation panel will be formed in due course.

The project will require funding. The Task Force and Tyler intend to each fund half the project, whose preparation and installation are projected to cost at least \$15,000, to be followed by annual maintenance expenditures. Each of the Task Force members has pledged to make a large personal contribution, and the three chapters of ARS District Eight will be counted on to help fund the ARS side of the agreement. Fundraising will be conducted, soliciting both horticulturally focused foundations and individual ARS members.

ARS Fall Meeting

Gettysburg, PA

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

Monday 9/26 - Wednesday 9/28



The Mason-Dixon Chapter will host the 2022 Eastern Regional American 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 plans outlined so far, offer both unique activities that can't be found elsewhere

(Gettysburg Battle field tour and Eisenhower Farm tour), two excellent speakers for the dinners and opportunities to purchase or win unique plants. As the plans firm up, we will be sharing the details. They are looking for donations of those unique plants, the rare plants from local hybridizers and those one-of-a-kind, highly sought plants, that would attract and entice members to attend the conference. If you would like to help, contact Mason Dixon president, John Kaylor at 240-446-3793 or John.Kaylor@comcast.net.



AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



ARS2022

RETURN TO THE NORTHWEST

SPRING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

PORTLAND-VANCOUVER | MAY 4 – 8, 2022

**A belated
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Anniversary
Celebration
of the ARS**

**Hosted by the chapters of ARS District 4
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Post-Tour**

Registration now open! ARS2022.org

**A promotional video
of the convention
is posted on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)**

**We hope you plan
to attend!**

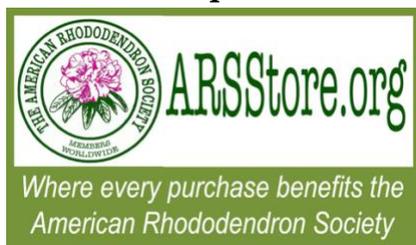


Steve Henning, editor
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NEWSLETTER

March/April 2022



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	Plant Sale: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter
	Truss Show (VF): Perc Moser (610) 525-3651
	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 email rather than letter carrier. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (rhodyman@earthlink.net).