



'Valley Forge'

The American Rhododendron Society

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

April/May/June 2008

Calendar at a Glance

April 17, 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)

April 28 to May 2 (Mo-Fri)

May 2 (Friday)

May 3-4

May 11 (Mother's Day)

May (for dates, see inside)

June 29 (Sunday)

August 17 (Sunday)

Howard Kline:

His Rhododendron and Azaleas Hybrids;

Flower Show Primer:

How to prepare entries for Flower Show

Getting ready for Plant Sale

Pre-Sale Party and Sale (by subscription)

Public Plant Sale

Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show

Garden Visits

Picnic and Annual Meeting

Cuttings Sale and Plant Auction

President's Message

We had a great three months of speakers and demonstrations. Karel Bernady transported us to several Pacific NW gardens and luminaries of the rhody world in our January meeting. The joint February meeting featured Earnest Schuyler and a fun social hour following the meeting. The Greater Philadelphia chapter hosted us at their meeting at the Morris Arboretum for a great presentation and hybridizing demonstration by Tom Ahern. Several of us purchased the hybridized plants at the auction following.

The last speaker of the year will be Howard Kline on April 17 presenting his hybridization efforts. This will be our last chapter meeting at Jenkins before the expansion of the education center. Be sure to attend this meeting as there will also be a demonstration on truss preparation following Howard's presentation. I want to encourage all of you to participate in our Flower/Truss Show on Sunday, May 11. Your board feels this is a core function of our organization and we're making a big push to expand participation. There will be folks on hand to help you prepare your trusses on Sunday morning, too.

Everyone is getting geared up for the Plant Sale on May 2, 3, & 4. Please contact Bill Dennis or anyone on the committee to find how you can help with the sale. Plants will be coming in the week prior to the sale and helping hands are always welcome in setting up.

Be sure to mark June 29th on your calendar for the annual picnic and officer election at Fred and Barbara Winter's gardens.

Bob Smetana, vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Regular Meeting: April 17 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.

Howard Kline: His Hybrid Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Postponed from last fall, this slide presentation is the next-best thing to seeing Howard's magnificent garden in the spring and soon the only way to see it, for house and garden will be for sale. Howard has been a very active member and a perennial winner at the Chapter's annual Flower and Truss Show and has his plants featured prominently in our online photo gallery (ValleyForgeARS.org). He grows many of the classic hybrids by Joseph Gable, John Dexter, and other well-known hybridizers, but the highlights are his own deciduous azalea hybrids, plus plants he has acquired at ARS-related sales or has grown from seed obtained through the ARS Seed Exchange.

Demo on how to prep for the Flower/Truss Show. Select the best flower trusses and sprays in your garden and contribute to the stunning display of the wide range of locally grown rhododendrons and azaleas! And, with no previous experience, this primer will help you win ribbons! **If you have early-blooming trusses in your garden, please bring them to the meeting.**

Refreshments for April meeting: Members whose last names start with the letters **H to O** are asked to bring finger food desserts. Beverages will be provided.

Plant Sale

chaired by Bill Dennis 610/255-3785 nounce-2000@yahoo.com

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the sale and post the enclosed flyer or copies of it on the bulletin boards of your workplace, library, or other visible locations. We will have the usual fine selection of plants and, because of the warming trend, plants not previously considered hardy in this area, such as Camellias, Tea Plants, and Gardenias, as well as heat-tolerant rhododendrons and azaleas. **We need every member's help**, whether it is expert or novice, so please volunteer **some of your time**, if it is only a few hours. Sign up at the April meeting, call Bill Dennis, or just show up on workdays during the week or on the two sale days. Snacks/food will be provided.

We also appreciate **Plant Donations of any kind** by Thursday.

Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show

May 11 (Sunday—Mother's Day), Jenkins Greenhouse

chaired Jim Willhite, jwillhite@comcast.net

Members of all area chapters are invited to bring their entries between **7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.** Information (entry rules, show classes, etc.) will be available at our web site, at the April meeting, at the plant sale, and at the Flower Show site, where help and guidance are provided. We hope to have hundreds of rhododendron flowers/trusses and azalea sprays for a stunning display, reflecting the many varieties grown in this area. The show is open **to the public** from **1 p.m. to 5 p.m.** On Mother's Day, many visit beautiful Jenkins Arboretum, where rhododendron and azalea blooms should be at their peak.

Informal Garden Visits (wear sturdy shoes)

From May 5 thru May: Joan and Reid Warren, Elverson, PA. For directions, phone or email (610/913-0005 srwjmw@dejazzd.com). **Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.:** Tom Ahern, 1360 Puggy Ln, Bethlehem, PA 18015 (610/868-5840).

www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Picnic and Annual Meeting June 29 (Sunday), 2 p.m.

at Barbara and Fred Winter's "Company Farm"

936 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 610/326-7354

Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to serve 4 to 6 persons and your own eating utensils and chairs. Meat and beverages will be provided. We encourage new members and their families to join us. New officers will be elected in a brief business meeting.

Directions: From Valley Forge area, take Rt. 202 S to Rt. 422 W to Rt. 100 S, then onto Rt. 724 W. Continue past Coventry Mall and Laurel Locks Farm, turn left into Catfish Lane, bearing right into Valley View Road, and turn right into Shenkel Road.

Coming on Rt. 100 S or N, pick up Rt. 724 W at Coventry and follow directions above.

Welcome the following Associate Members:

Myo and Thein Thein **Myint**, 933 Morris Ave., Bryn Mawr, Pa 19010-1851, 610-5250599,
myintm933@comcast.net

Michael Martin **Mills**, 632 Burnham Rd., Philadelphia, Pa 19119-3510, 215-844-6253,
mmm19119@earthlink.net

Changes in Directory (changes highlighted)

Howard Kline, **208 Sweetwater Ln, Newmanstown, PA 17073, 610/589-4116**

Bronze Medal

At the February meeting, Darlene and Stephen Henning were presented the Bronze Medal. The citation reads in large part as follows: "Since joining the chapter in 1972, you have been active in various capacities both in the Valley Forge Chapter and in the American Rhododendron Society as a whole. Over the years, Steve, you have had two terms on the Board of Directors, and both of you are presently serving terms as Vice-President and Director, respectively. Many times, you have shared with us your professional slide shows of Rhododendron gardens in other parts of the world. In the last few years you have both been very active at the plant sales, Steve helping with transportation and unloading of plants and Darlene with the pricing and labeling. You also were both active in the 2004 National Convention as bus captains. For many years, you have contributed to the American Rhododendron Society's website, with your "Creator and Proprietor of Henning's Rhododendron and Azalea Pages," a website giving a complete guide to the culture and care of rhododendrons and azaleas, with links to Valley Forge Chapter and other pertinent websites. You have researched and drawn from your personal memories the history of the Valley Forge Chapter which you have now published on the Chapter's website."

Valley Forge Website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Website liaison: Jim Willhite—jwillhite@comcast.net

with link to Henning's Rhododendron and Azalea Pages

In addition to current Chapter-related events and directions (www.ValleyForgeARS.org), these websites contain a great deal of information, such as instructions for the planting and care of rhododendrons and azaleas, hybridizers and their hybrids, terms or lingo frequently used, and much much more.

www.ValleyForgeARS.org

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER
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Board members:

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Second Vice President/ Membership:	Vacancy	
Treasurer:	Chris Smetana ('08)	610/688-5249
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	Win Howe ('09)	610/458-5291
	Mimi Favre ('10)	610/296-5569
	Darlene Henning ('10)	610/987-6184

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www.ValleyForgeARS.org

