



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

## **NEWSLETTER**

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### ***April/May/June 2010***

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

***April 15, 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)***

***Week of April 26 (Mo-Fri)***

***April 30 (Friday)***

***May 1-2 (Saturday/Sunday)***

***May 8 (Saturday)***

***May 14-17***

***May 19-25***

***June 27 (Sunday)***

***August 15 (Sunday)***

**Frank Plucinsky, photographer:**

**4 Seasons at Jenkins Arboretum**

**Getting ready for Plant Sale**

**Pre-Sale Party and Sale (by reservation)**

**Public Plant Sale**

**Flower/Truss Show at Morris Arboretum**

**ARS National Convention on Long Island**

**Intern. Rhodo. Symposium, Bremen/Germany**

**Picnic and Annual Meeting at Henning's**

**Cuttings Sale and Plant Auction—more later**

***See inside for details***

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

We are approaching a very exciting time, and most of us already have rhododendron blooms in our gardens, despite the challenges of winter.

In February, at our joint meeting with the Philadelphia Chapter, a capacity crowd learned from Liz Ball how fortunate we are to be gardening in the Delaware Valley. In March, Jerry Van De Sande shared with us his secrets as head propagator at Rarefind Nursery.

We are looking forward to the **April 15** program on “4 Seasons at Jenkins Arboretum” by Frank Plucinsky, a noted photographer of native plants. Chris Smetana’s committee has worked hard for our chapter plant sale at Jenkins **April 30 – May 2**, and Mike O’Hara’s illustrated Plant Sale catalogue may be previewed on our chapter website. On **Saturday, May 8**, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter will host our **combined flower/truss Show at Morris Arboretum**; submissions must be at **Morris Arboretum before 8:45 am**.

Steve Henning, President (610/987-6184, rhodyman@earthlink.net)

**Chapter’s website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)**

**Regular Meeting: April 15 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.**  
at Jenkins Arboretum

**Frank Plucinsky: *Four Seasons at Jenkins Arboretum***

Frank Plucinsky, noted nature photographer, who spent this past year photographing the many rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plants at Jenkins Arboretum, will share his amazing photos with us.

Brief demo about how to submit rhododendron flowers and azalea sprays to this year's Flower/Truss show at **Morris Arboretum**, chaired this year by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

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

**Plant Sale: April 30 -May 2**

Chairperson, Chris Smetana (610/688-5249),

Using the flyer that was mailed to you, please inform your gardening friends and neighbors about the sale, by email or in person, or by posting it on bulletin boards at your workplace, at the local library, at local stores, or at any other location. We will have the usual fine selection of rhododendrons, azaleas as well as companion plants, including choice perennials.

**We need the help of every member, novice or expert,  
and if for only a few hours.**

Please volunteer **some of your time** and sign up at the **April 15** meeting, commit yourself if called, or just show up on workdays during the week of the sale or on the two public sale days. Snacks/food will be provided.

Also, we do appreciate **Plant Donations** of any kind, if possible labeled with their Latin or common names, by **Thursday** of the plant sale week.

**Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show**  
**Saturday, May 8 (the day before Mother's Day),**

**Morris Arboretum, Chestnut Hill,**

Hosted by Greater Philadelphia Chapter,  
chaired by Michael Mills, **215/844-6253**

Members of **all** area chapters are urged to bring their entries **before 8:45 a.m.** A brochure (entry rules, show classes, etc.) will be available from Michael Mills (see above), on our web site, 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. Following the judging, the show is open **to the public.**

## **Picnic and Annual Meeting June 27 (Sunday), 2 p.m.**

at Darlene and Steve Henning's, 610-987-6184  
173 Deysher Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522 (Caution: 7 mi from Fleetwood!)

Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert for 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.

**For Directions, see last page.**

**Please welcome our newest Members and contact them, if they live near you:**

Dawna and Lou Winegrad, 154 Ivy Lane, Glen Mills, PA 19342, 484-832-1173.

Some of you may recognize the address as that of the late Joe Becales.

**Directory correction:**

Beverly Evans, 108 Sullivan Road, Butler, PA 16001, 724/282-1494.

### **IMPORTANT: E-mail Addresses**

Since the newsletter is distributed from now on **by email only** to those with an email address, it is important that we be informed of any changes in an email address. Anyone who establishes an email address for the first time also should inform Chris Smetana (610/688-5249, via [rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)). Emailing the newsletter is saving us expenses (printing and postage)..

### **In Memoriam,**

Sadly, Valley Forge Chapter lost two friends, Bill Steele and Frank West. We extend our sincere condolences to their families.

**William Steele**, a long-time member, died at age 81 after fighting cancer for over 10 years. An expert in azaleas, especially evergreen azaleas, Bill and his wife, Mich (Ellen), were active members and, after retiring from teaching, the owners of a nursery on their West Chester property, where they also grew lepidotes and native plants. For their spring sales, gardeners came from all Middle Atlantic states. When Bill discovered yellow spots on azalea leaves caused by a soft-bodied scale, he worked with entomologists at Penn State University and Cornell University toward understanding and eradicating the condition. The Steeles were awarded the Bronze Medal, and the Azalea Society of America gave Bill a prized commendation. When they gave up their Nursery, the Steeles donated their Holly Springs and Pete Vines azaleas to Jenkins Arboretum in Devon.

**Franklin West**, a founding Associate Member of the chapter and a member of the Greater Philadelphia and Pine Barren chapters, died at age 88. Frank is best known as co-editor of *Hybrids and Hybridizers: Rhododendron and Azaleas for Eastern North America* (1978).

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

**Directions to Hennings for June 27 Picnic & Annual Meeting:**

**From Valley Forge area**, take Rt. 422 or Turnpike W to Rte 100 and proceed N on Rte 100 toward Boyertown.

**From Rt. 100 in Boyertown**, proceed W on Route 73 for 6.9 mi to traffic light in Pleasantville. Turn right onto Oysterdale Rd for 1.1 mi and turn left onto Lobachsville Rd. Proceed 0.7 miles, then bear left and proceed further on Lobachsville Rd for another 0.4 mi to stop sign in Lobachsville. Turn right onto Long Lane, proceed 0.2 mi to stop sign, then go straight onto Deysher Road for 0.7 mi up the hill to the Henning's stone farmhouse on right.

**From Main Street in Kutztown**, turn SE onto Noble St and proceed 3 mi to stop light in Lyons. Turn right and, after 0.1 mi at traffic light, turn left for 2.3 mi to New Jerusalem, the second stop sign. There, take a slight left onto Deysher Rd, \*continue for about 1 mi to stop sign, bear slightly left to stay on Deysher Rd for another mile. The stone house is on the left.

**From Rte. 222 business/5th St Highway in Reading**, proceed E on Rte 12 (Warren St. bypass)/Rt. 2026 for 11.7 miles to second stop sign, take a slight right onto Deysher Road. Follow directions \* above.

**Park** by white 3-car garage, or barn across from garage, or on lawn in front of the house, or in field below barn.

Contributions to the Newsletter, published quarterly, in the summer, and as needed, should be directed to Eva Jackson via [rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net).

**American Rhododendron Society  
Valley Forge Chapter  
P.O. Box 715  
Southeastern, PA 19399-0715**

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

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*April/May/June 2010*