



# American Rhododendron Society

**VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER**

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

## **NEWSLETTER**

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***April/May/June 2011***

***Calendar at a Glance*** (see inside for details)

***April 21, 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)***

***Week of April 25 (Mo-Fri)***

***April 29 (Friday)***

***April 30-May 1 (Saturday/Sunday)***

***May 8 (Sunday)***

***May 11-15***

***June 26 (Sunday)***

***August 21 (Sunday)***

**Harold Sweetman: "Winds through the Trees"**

**Getting ready for Plant Sale--With your Help**

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

**Public Plant Sale**

**Flower/Truss Show at Jenkins Arboretum**

**ARS National Convention, Vancouver, WA**

**Picnic/Annual Meeting at Dawna and Lou Winegrad**

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

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***President's Message***

The entire nation mourned when Sylvia and Dallas Green's granddaughter Christina and five others died in Arizona. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Green family and all families affected by this tragedy.

Our well-received winter programs included one by Michael Mills at Jenkins (January) and by Karel Bernady at a joint meeting with Philadelphia Chapter at the Uwchlan Meeting House (February).

And now, despite the challenges of winter and deer, some of us already have rhododendron blooms in our gardens, and we all look forward to an active spring: Harold Sweetman's program on **April 21**, the Chapter plant sale on **April 29 to May 1** (see sale catalog on our website), and the Flower Show, jointly with the Philadelphia chapter, on **May 8**--all events held at Jenkins Arboretum.

400 attendees are expected at the ARS National Convention May 11-15 in Vancouver, WA, and we hope to see most of you at our annual picnic/election of officers on **June 26** at Dawna and Lou Winegrad's (former Becales property).

Steve Henning, 610/987-6184, [rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)

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

## **Regular Meeting: April 21 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.**

at Jenkins Arboretum

Harold Sweetman, "*Winds through the Trees*"

Harold will give us an armchair tour through the extraordinary current exhibit (until June) at Jenkins Arboretum that features 63 one-of-a-kind sculptures by local and national artists. The sculptures, many of which harness energy from sun or wind, produce sound and/or movement and demonstrate what happens when art and science meet.

To encourage especially novices to submit entries into this year's **Flower /Truss Show**, there will be a **brief demo** about how to cut and prepare rhododendron flowers and azalea sprays.

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

## **Plant Sale: April 29 -May 1 at Jenkins Arboretum**

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

By now, you should have received this year's plant sale flyer in the mail. Additional copies will be available at the April meeting and [online](#). Using this flyer, please let your gardening friends and neighbors know 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, and "companion" plants, including choice perennials, most are listed in our [plant sale catalog](#).

**We need the help of every member, novice or expert.**

Please volunteer **some of your time** and sign up at the **April** 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, please remember as you divide some of your choice plants that we do appreciate **Plant Donations** of any kind, if possible labeled with their Latin or common names. Please bring them by **Thursday** of the plant sale week.

## **Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum**

**Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day)**

**Chair:** Bob Smetana, (610/688-5249, [VFARSSmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:VFARSSmetana@yahoo.com))

We're looking forward to our 3rd year of the joint Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters combined flower/truss show competition and the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 10:15am, 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 21 VF chapter meeting.

**Picnic and Annual Meeting June 26 (Sunday), 2 p.m.  
at Dawna and Lou Winegrad's,**

**154 Ivy Lane, Glen Mills, PA 19342, 484-832-1173, [dmwinegrad@gmail.com](mailto:dmwinegrad@gmail.com)**

The Winegrad property was the garden of the late Doris and Joe Becales, members of the Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters. The garden was on a tour during the 1976 ARS Convention held in this area. It has many interesting features and contains many of Joe's own hybrids. Dawna and Lou are very excited to have everyone at their place and are looking forward to the event

Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert for 4 to 6 persons and your own 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:**

Heading **South** on Route 1 (Baltimore Pike) from Rt. 476, toward Lima, look after about 7+ miles for a large Wawa store with gas station on the left, then turn left into Dougherty Blvd and again left into Ivy Lane (Fox Valley development, **which is hard to spot**\*)  
Heading **North** on Route 1 (Baltimore Pike) from Rt. 202, turn right into Dougherty shortly past Richardson's Garden Center, and then left into Ivy Lane (don't miss it!).

\*Dawna and Lou plan to post signs and balloons at the entrance to their development.

**Parking** is on the street or on a small dead end road just across from the house.

Driveway to house is VERY steep, so wear sturdy shoes. Anyone who needs it can be dropped off at the bottom of the driveway.

**How to deal with global warming in the garden:** Member Bill Dennis highly recommends a lengthy but interesting article by Carol Dippe on the website Alternet ([www.alternet.org/environment/149851/](http://www.alternet.org/environment/149851/)), according to which rhododendrons with their shallow roots are particularly vulnerable.

**Rhododendrons In The Landscape:** Harold Sweetman and others familiar to us are quoted in an 8-page article entitled *Rhododendron Revisited* in the March 2011 edition of the magazine *Garden Design*. This article is on line at [www.rhodyman.net/RhododendronRevisited.pdf](http://www.rhodyman.net/RhododendronRevisited.pdf).

**IMPORTANT: E-mail Addresses**

Since the newsletter is distributed **by email** to those with an email address, it is important that anyone who establishes an email address for the first time or changes an email address informs Steven and Darlene Henning ([rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)). Steve emails the newsletter, and Darlene (Membership) sends it by U.S. Mail to those without an email address. Emailing the newsletter is saving us expenses (printing and postage).

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

## Save The Azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum

Some of you are aware of the plans of the **US National Arboretum (USNA) in Washington, DC**, to destroy their Glenn Dale Azalea hillside planting due to lack of funding. A massive response and political pressure led to the USNA's decision to suspend these plans—for now. [Friends of the National Arboretum](#) (FONA), a nonprofit organization, created an endowment to save the two threatened collections and have raised \$1 million so far but are casting a wide net to raise a second million by seeking at least \$10 from anyone who wishes to help assure the future of these collections. They appeal to plant society members, garden club members, and Arboretum visitors. The reality is that we have the power to save the Azalea and Boxwood Collections and, by acting now, to prevent problems in the future. For more information on how to help, go to [savetheazaleas.org](http://savetheazaleas.org). Donations must go to the [FONA Save Azalea & Boxwood Collections Fund](#) and **not** to the National Arboretum.

Contributions to the Newsletter, published quarterly OR as needed, should be directed to Eva Jackson ([NoelEvaJackson@comcast.net](mailto:NoelEvaJackson@comcast.net)).

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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

**NEWSLETTER**



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