

P.O. Box 715 Southeastern, PA 19399-0715  
*Web site: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)*

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***April/May/June 2012***

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Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum

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

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April 19 (Thursday)	Regular Meeting: Speaker: Randy Kobetich on “Magnolias”
April 30-May 3	Getting ready for Plant Sale—Counting on <u>your</u> help!
May 4 (Friday)	Pre-Sale Party and Sale (by reservation)
May 5-6 (Sat./Sun.)	Public Plant Sale
May 4-7	Joint ARS/Azalea Society Convention, Asheville, N.C.
May 12 (Saturday)	Flower/Truss Show at Morris Arboretum, hosted by Greater Philadelphia Chapter
June 24 (Sunday):	Chapter Picnic and Annual Meeting at Winter’s (Pottstown)
August 19 (Sunday)	Cuttings Exchange/Plant Auction at Debby Schmidt’s (Chadds Ford)

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### ***President’s Message***

This past winter was the mildest on record but also very dry, a combination that can stress plants that break dormancy. Then, after spring started, we had at least one deep killing frost. Most gardeners are seeing many of their plants bloom a month ahead of normal. Therefore, our flower show will be interesting this year in that we may see varieties we never saw in the show before.

Jenkins Arboretum includes our programs in their announcement of programs, which has resulted in record attendance at our meetings. Don Hyatt undoubtedly is a major attraction, but with the additional publicity, we had to bring in additional chairs in January. The joint February meeting of Philadelphia and Valley Forge chapters in Uwchlan was again very popular with Karel Bernady, Michael Mills, and Bob Stamper each sharing their trips to Japan. In March, Kay and Herb Johns had to cancel, but, filling in for them, Andy Earle did an excellent job with his program on Companion Plants. It was a fascinating view of native plants that grow well with rhododendrons and azaleas. Andy did a great job and has a fine sense of humor!

The ARS/ASA National Convention in Asheville is booked up, with 435 expected to attend.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual picnic and election of officers on June 24 at Fred and Barbara Winter’s Company Farm in Pottstown and encourage you to visit our chapter’s website (see below).

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

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

**April 19 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m. (regular meeting):**

**Randy Kobetich: “Magnolias for Your Garden”**

Sun or shade, wet or dry, deciduous or evergreen, there is a magnolia for almost every garden. Randy, a certified Master Gardener, will help select and grow the best magnolias for maximum display and minimum care. Expect an exploration of these fascinating shrubs and trees, which Randy has been studying, hybridizing, propagating, growing and showing for many years. You probably heard Randy speak to us on cold-hardy camellias (April 2009) and on witch hazels (October 2010). He is interested especially in plants that bloom when others are dormant.

Come early and meet other gardeners over **refreshments**. Members whose last names start with the letters **K to O** are asked to bring finger food. Beverages are provided.

**Demo** in preparation for Flower Show in May: To maximize participation at the upcoming Flower/Truss Show at Morris Arboretum (see below) and to encourage members who have never entered the show before, there will be a brief demo about when and how to cut the flowers or sprays and how to prepare them for competition. It is not unusual for a novice to win blue ribbons, and there is at least one first-timer who won Best in Show with an azalea spray. So go for it!

**Annual Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum**

- May 4 (Friday): 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Party and Presale  
(by reservation, \$30/person. Check to Chris Smetana or  
ARS, P.O. Box 715, Southeastern, PA 19399-715)
- May 5 (Saturday): 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale
- May 6 (Sunday): 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale

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

**This is the big event of the year!**

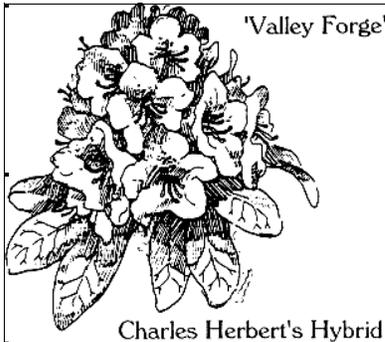
**As always, we will have a fine selection of rhododendrons, azaleas, and “companion plants”, such as other shrubs, small trees, including Japanese Maple, and choice perennials.**

**Publicity.** By now, you should have received in the mail this year’s plant sale flyer. Using this flyer or copies of it, please inform your gardening friends, neighbors, and colleagues and post a flyer, if possible, at your workplace or other locations, such as a local library or stores. Any publicity is appreciated.

**Help is needed and appreciated.** Expert or novice, please sign up at the April meeting or commit yourself when called, or just show up on workdays (Monday to Thursday preceding sale) or on public sale days (May 5 and 6). There are all kinds of chores to be done. Snacks/food and beverages will be provided.

**Plant donation also is welcome.** Please pot up your surplus garden gems as soon as possible, so they look good at the time of the sale, label them with their Latin or common names, if possible, and bring them by **Thursday May 3**. Many customers head first to the donations, which can add tremendously to the success of the sale, the proceeds of which benefit a number of horticultural, conservation, and educational efforts.

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



# American Rhododendron Society

**VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER**  
**www.ValleyForgeARS.org**

**2012**

## **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**at JENKINS ARBORETUM**

**631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333**

**Opening-Night Party and Preview Plant Sale (see below\*)**

**Friday, May 4      6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Public Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 5      9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 6,      11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Rain or Shine - Cash and Checks Accepted (no credit cards)

### **AZALEAS AND RHODODENDRONS**

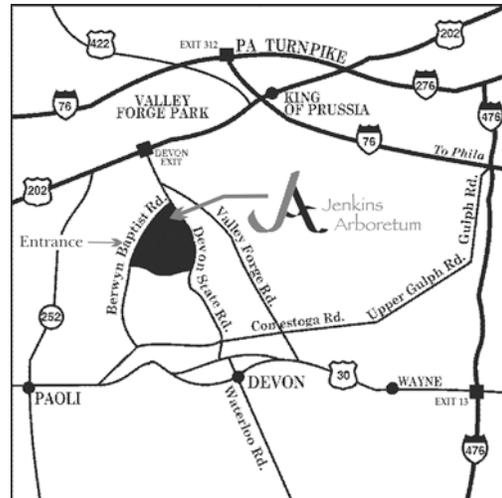
**TREES    SHRUBS    HOSTAS    CONIFERS**  
**WILDFLOWERS    FERNS    PERENNIALS**

**\*Shop at the Opening-Night Party and Preview Sale**  
**FRIDAY, May 4, 6 - 8 p.m.**  
**\$30 PER PERSON**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Full Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Payable to ARS, P.O. Box 715**  
**Southeastern PA, PA 19399-0715**  
**Deadline: May 1**



*Sale proceeds benefit horticultural, conservation, and educational efforts, including Jenkins Arboretum*

*The Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society again offers an exceptional selection of plants, many not commercially available. The selections may vary from year to year, but the quality is always the best. Native plants have not been collected in the wild.*

## **This year's selections include**

- **Rhododendron species and hybrids,**
- **Native azalea species and hybrids,** and other **deciduous azaleas**
- **Evergreen azalea hybrids**
- **Shrubs and Trees**
- **Conifers**
- **Hostas**
- **Wildflowers**
- **Ferns and other Perennials**

Photographs and information on many of these plants are available on our Chapter's website at [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

*'Wheelbarrow Raffle'* – Purchase raffle tickets and win a wheelbarrow full of exceptional plants worth about \$120 in one of 2 drawings (winner will be notified for pick-up of plants at their convenience).

*Chapter members and Arboretum staff will be available to answer your questions.*

**Planting Demonstrations**  
are offered at various times during the sale

*Tell or bring your friends and Neighbors*

Sales proceeds benefit horticultural, conservation, and educational efforts,  
*including Jenkins Arboretum*

## **Rhododendron and Azalea Flower (Truss) Show at Morris Arboretum**

100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia (Chestnut Hill)

Entrance to exhibit area: across from Main Entrance

**Saturday, May 12 (the day before Mother's Day)**

**Chair:** Michael Mills (215) 844-6253, mmm19119@earthlink.net

This juried flower/truss show is hosted this year by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter at Morris Arboretum (in odd-numbered years by the Valley Forge chapter at Jenkins Arboretum). Members of all area chapters are invited to **bring their entries between 7 a.m. and 8.45 a.m.** to make this the usually stunning and highly educational exhibit, which is **open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Classification lists and entry tags** will be available at the April chapter meetings and at the contest site, where help and guidance are offered to exhibitors. The classification lists will also be available on the chapter web sites, and tags may be requested from Michael Mills.

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

### **Informal Garden Visits in April and May**

**Kathy Woehl's (610) 644-1337**, 143 Old State Rd Devon (3<sup>rd</sup> house on right off Valley Forge Road, next to ball field —good parking if no game in session)

**Time:** any

**Christa and Bob Stamper's (610) 067-2977**, 6826 Ridge Road, Zionville, PA 18092

**Time:** Friday, May 11, 1 to 5 p.m.

**Directions: From NE Extension of Turnpike:** Exit Quakertown, turn right (west) onto Rt. 663 for about 5 miles, turn right onto Rt. 29 for about 5 miles, then right into Pinetree Rd (road sign and fire station on left). From Pinetree Rd, turn left into Springhill Rd and then onto Orthaus Rd, which becomes Ridge Rd, and right into the long Stamper driveway.

**From Rt 100:** Drive north on Rt 100 through Pottstown and turn right into Rt. 29 and then left into Pinetree Rd, then continue as above.

**From Rt. 63:** Drive north to Green Lane, turn right into Rt. 29, drive through Pennsburg, and turn left into Pinetree Rd and continue as above.

**If additional gardens will be open to visitors, emails will be sent out.**

### **Picnic and Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, June 24, starting at 2 p.m.**

**Barbara & Fred Winter's Company Farm,**

936 Shenkel Rd, Pottstown, PA 19465, (610) 326-7354

This "farm" has a history going back to the Schuylkill Canal, built 1816 to 1825 and operated by the Schuylkill Navigation Company 1825 to 1917 to carry coal to Philadelphia. The old barn, now renovated, was used for the barge-towing mules, their fertile path to and from now part of the rhododendron and azalea garden.

Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert serving 4 – 6 and your own eating utensils and chairs. Meat and beverages will be provided.

There will be a brief business meeting (election of officers) and plenty of time to tour the gardens.

**Directions: From Valley Forge area**, take Rt. 422 W to Rt. 100 S, then Rt 724 W, past Coventry Mall and Laurel Locks Farm. Turn left into Catfish Lane, bear right into Valley View Rd, and turn right into Shenkel Rd.

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

## Officers and Committees:

President: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184  
Vice President: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249  
Treasurer: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249  
Secretary: Joan Warren (610) 913-0005

### Directors:

Ellin Hlebik ('09-'12) (610) 584-9764  
Kathy Woehl ('09-'12) (610) 644-6249  
Alice Horton ('10-'13) (610) 430-0196  
Darlene Henning ('10-'13) (610) 987-6184  
Debby Schmidt ('11-'14) (610) 388-8573  
John Ryan ('11-'14) (610) 971-2368

Newsletter Editor: Vacancy  
Webmaster: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232  
Membership: Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184  
Plant Sale: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249  
Truss Show (V.F.): Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249  
Plants-for-Members: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232

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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



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