

14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087  
 Chapter's Website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

**NEWSLETTER** *April/May 2022*

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

**Calendar at a Glance**

- 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) at Jenkins.
- May 4-8** ARS Annual Convention, Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington.
- 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 (Tue.-Thu.)

**Coming Events Featured In This Newsletter**

**Annual GP Banquet**  
*Saturday, April 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m.*  
*Sunnybrook Golf Club*  
*398 Stenton Avenue*  
*Plymouth Meeting, Pa.*  
**Featuring Steve Wright**

**VF Chapter Plant Sale**  
*Fri., April 29 to Sun. May 1*  
*Jenkins Arboretum*  
**Friday, April 29, presale by ticket only**  
**Sat. & Sun. sale open to public**

**ARS Annual Convention**  
*Wed. May 4 to Sun. May 8*  
*Vancouver, WA*  
**Pre-Tour and Post-Tour Available**

**Joint VF/GP Cut Flower Show**  
*Sunday, May 8*  
*Jenkins Arboretum*  
**Entries accepted 7:30 to 9:30 AM**

**ARS/Tyler Hybridizers Test Garden**  
**Nominations sought for test garden.**  
**Cultivar selection committee will decide what's to be planted**

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Jerry O'Dell, (610) 608-2018, [westdell@verizon.net](mailto:westdell@verizon.net)

VF ARS website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

*The Greater Philadelphia Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society*

## *Annual Banquet*

*Saturday, April 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m.  
Sunnybrook Golf Club  
398 Stenton Avenue, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.*

Steve Wright

“The Wild, the Weird, and the Wonderful:  
Discovering America's Most Remarkable Rhododendrons”

In 2020 Jenkins Arboretum started a Rhododendron Germplasm Repository. The primary goals of this project are to collect, preserve, display, and distribute the most outstanding rhododendron and azalea specimens native to the eastern United States. Steve Wright is the Director of Horticulture and Curator of Plant Collections at Jenkins, and he has been visiting private collectors and specialty nurseries, as well as many natural areas in the Appalachians, to acquire propagules from remarkable plants for the repository. This presentation will feature some of his best discoveries as well as a long wish list of some of the “wildest” plants you can imagine.

In addition to managing Jenkins' collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, Steve specializes in ecological gardening using native eastern plants. He is a director of the Valley Forge Chapter of the ARS and a member of the Azalea Society of America.

We gather at 6:00 p.m. for cocktails (cash bar) and hors d'oeuvres, with dinner at 7:00 p.m. followed by the program. Table favors will be chapter-propagated rooted cuttings.

The evening will conclude with the avidly anticipated plant exchange we call Rhododendron Roulette. For each reservation, please bring a rhododendron, azalea, or companion plant for the exchange. Please put your name on the tag in case the recipient wants to get more information. (Never done this before and unsure? Contact chapter president Ron Rabideau at myricaria@gmail.com or 856-456-2344.)

**Directions:** Sunnybrook Golf Club is at 398 Stenton Avenue, corner of Joshua Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 (closest Pennsylvania Turnpike exit is Exit 333). If lost en route, call the club at 610-828-9617 for directions. (Note: Per club rules, no denim or jeans, “soft spikes only.”)

Reservation Form on Next Page.

**Greater Philadelphia ARS Annual Banquet  
April 9, 2022  
Reservation Form**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose an entrée for each reservation:

Filet Mignon \_\_\_\_\_ (number) x \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

Seared Ahi Tuna \_\_\_\_\_ (number) x \$47 = \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian (pasta primavera) \_\_\_\_\_ (number) x \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with a check for the total, payable to “Greater Philadelphia Chapter ARS”, to:

Linda Hartnett  
1070 Beech Hollow Road  
Ambler, PA 19002

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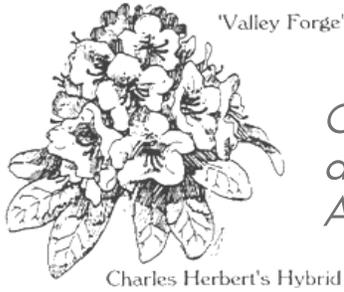
**ARS Fall Meeting  
Gettysburg, PA  
Mason-Dixon Chapter to Host ARS Fall  
Meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
Tuesday 9/27 - Thursday 9/29**

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 include a visit to John Bartlett’s Gettysburg Gardens and Nursery, and a guided bus tour of Gettysburg Battlefield, 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](mailto:John_Kaylor@comcast.net).





*Co-Hosted by Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens  
and The Valley Forge Chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society*

# Plant Sale Weekend

**Opening Night Party & Pre-Sale**

**Friday, April 29 from 6 – 9pm**

Tickets required. Purchase pre-sale tickets online at  
[jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale](http://jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale) or  
by calling 610-647-8870 ext. 114

**Public Plant Sale**

**Saturday, April 30 from 9am - 4pm**

**Sunday, May 1 from 9am - 4pm**

Join us at Jenkins for a special one-weekend only sale to shop  
for **rare and unusual rhododendrons and azaleas**,  
plus native trees, perennials, and shrubs.

Open to the public; tickets are not required. Rain or shine.

**Learn more:** [jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale](http://jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale)

***Can't make it to the Plant Sale Weekend?***

*Shop for native plants throughout the season at  
The Garden Shop at Jenkins, open daily from April through October*



**JENKINS  
ARBORETUM  
& GARDENS**



631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon, PA 19333

610-647-8870

[jenkinsarboretum.org](http://jenkinsarboretum.org)



**Come one Come all!** It's time to get on board for the long-awaited 75th (plus 2) ARS Anniversary Convention. There's still room on the tours, in the hotel, in the special meetings and banquets.

Included with registration are the morning clinics and afternoon sessions with three excellent speakers: Juliana Medeiros, Steve Krebs, Valerie Soza. Check out the [schedule](#). The **Plant & Book Sale** will have some wonderful plants and you'll find an amazing collection of books (lists are on the [website](#)).



And just in case you think you've "been there, done that" - the chance to tour **Iseli Nursery** (Thursday) is a rare one. This is one of the most outstanding conifer displays and collections in the world (above).



**The Stewart Garden** (formerly Dover Nursery)

The Thursday tour includes a visit with catered lunch at the Stewart Garden, formerly Dover Nursery, where Mike and Maria have been installing new beds, boulders, and beautiful trees and plants over several years for the occasion-not to be missed.



**Sebright Gardens, Woodburn Nursery:** also new to northwest conventions. And the pre-tour and post-tour are both packed with destinations sure to thrill plant lovers.



**Dan Hinkley** is now scheduled to do talks on Thursday and Saturday. You're probably aware what a treasure he is to the northwest plant world. Thursday evening he'll be talking about the development of his own garden, and his book recently published, *Windcliff*. As one of the intrepid plant explorers, he'll be sharing his 22 years of botanizing in Vietnam at the Saturday lunch-a nice balance to Steve Hootman's treks seeking species rhodies there.

### **We're getting down to the wire!**

Join your rhody friends! We are under-booked (about half of those who had registered in 2020), so **we would really appreciate your support.** Registration & details at [www.ars2022.org](http://www.ars2022.org)



Click [HERE](#) for the **revised convention video**.

## *Truss show at Jenkins is Back May 8*

Mother's Day event will be a fully integrated two-chapter affair

Hard to believe, but it has been four years since the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters have had a classic cut-flower competition, which just about everyone simply calls the "truss show," a phrase that can raise eyebrows among the pre-indoctrinated.

In 2019, in keeping with long-established practice, the chapter-level show was on hiatus as the District 8 chapters hosted the national convention. The national ARS stipulates that the spring convention must have its own truss show, and that year a "people's choice" format was adopted. The pandemic forced cancelation of the show the next two years.

This year, the competition will be at Jenkins Arboretum, on Sunday, May 8, entries accepted 7:30-9:30 a.m.

For many years, the two chapters used an alternating-host system. In even-numbered years, Greater Philadelphia hosted the show at Morris Arboretum, using the chapter's rules, regs and trophies. In odd-numbered years, the Valley Forge Chapter was host at Jenkins, with somewhat different fine print and its own set of trophies. In the mid-teens, the two chapters' catalogues of previous entries was merged.

This year there will be a fully integrated joint show. Perc Moser of Valley Forge and Michael Martin Mills of Greater Philadelphia are co-chairs.

As a result, regular entrants from each chapter will notice a few changes. The display vases and entry tags, for instance, will be from Valley Forge, and the blended classes and rules are closer to Greater Philadelphia's, but the sweepstakes point system largely comes from Valley Forge. Since Valley Forge was cagey a

number of years back and ordered a scillion ribbons (buy in bulk! save money!), all winners will take home ribbons imprinted "Valley Forge Chapter." Trophies will be a mix from each chapter, with the older, no-more-room-for-engraving ones being retired.

A few key points for people entering trusses of rhododendrons and sprays of azaleas – which the co-chairs hope will include everyone in both chapters who has a garden with plants of our favorite genus.

- Entries will be accepted from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Sunday, May 8, Jenkins Arboretum. This is a bit earlier in the day than the schedule Valley Forge used, a bit later than the Greater Philadelphia habit.

- Please use Valley Forge entry tags only. It's always more efficient for the show crew if entrants fill out the tags before arriving, and tags will be available at the Greater Philadelphia Banquet/Valley Forge April meeting on Saturday, April 9. Or contact Perc Moser ([percmoser@gmail.com](mailto:percmoser@gmail.com); 610-635-8290) or Michael Mills ([mmm19119@gmail.com](mailto:mmm19119@gmail.com); 215-844-6253) to have tags mailed to you.

- Refer only to the 2022 brochure and catalogue when filling out tags, or you'll get some things wrong. The brochure will also be available April 9, and it and the catalogue and brochure will be posted on both chapter websites around May 1.

One of the advantages of using Jenkins is that the Mother's Day throng of flower lovers provides an ample audience to see the colorful array of our flowers in their vases. (Mother's Day also results in a full parking lot at Jenkins, but those who bring their entries Sunday morning will beat the rush. Hint, hint.)

## Nominations sought for ARS/Tyler Hybridizers Test Garden

### Cultivar selection committee will decide what's to be planted

Actualization of the new rhododendron test garden at Tyler Arboretum, first reported in the last newsletter, is proceeding at such a pace that the Founding Task Force is seeking nominations of plants to be included. Do you know of an excellent, relatively new cultivar from the mid- Atlantic region that ought to be more widely grown?

A Memorandum of Understanding between the parties was executed in January, tree removal has taken place in the designated plot, and a selection committee has been assembled. With a goal of propagating cultivars for the garden in the coming fall, the selection committee will be making decisions over the summer on what to include in the first planting of the test garden.

As reported in the last issue, the concept of the garden is to select and evaluate rhododendrons (principally elepidotes) hybridized and grown in the mid-Atlantic region, with a long-term goal of broadening the choices (commercial and otherwise) that gardeners have when choosing rhododendrons for their homes. Preventing extinction of superior new hybrids is another goal.

The selection committee consists of Ron Rabideau, Greater Philadelphia president and ARS Eastern vice president; Carol Segree, ARS Potomac Valley Chapter; Steve Wright, director of horticulture, Jenkins Arboretum; Peter Zale, associate director, Longwood Gardens; the members of the Founding Task Force (Tom Ahern, Karel Bernady, Michael Martin Mills, Perc Moser); and a representative of Tyler Arboretum.

To make selections, the committee needs nominations. As Tom Ahern recently wrote, "Here is where you come in. We know that there are many hybrids out there that have been hybridized by ARS members over the years that have had little or no chance to be propagated and distributed to chapter members and the general public.

"We are seeking nominations from the hybridizers themselves, from anyone growing the plant or a



*Site at Tyler Arboretum after tree removal*

clone, or even if you have a neighbor who is growing one. If the plant is worth propagating and you would like to nominate it, please download our application form and submit it. You can submit as many as you wish but we are limiting the number of plants in the garden by a single hybridizer to three."

In addition to background data on the cultivar, the nominations need to be accompanied by photographs (truss and full plant out of bloom). Plants need to be from this region, specifically within 150 miles of Tyler in Media, Pa. As well, a nominated plant must have bloomed at least three seasons and by the end of this coming summer it must have at least six stems of current year's growth (2 inches or longer) available for cuttings.

The nomination process is entirely digital, structured with the help of Steve Henning. Click on <http://arsstore.org/TylerTestGarden/Documents/HybridizerGardenFillableForm.pdf> for the form, which has instructions, including how to submit photos.

If you have questions about the garden or the nomination process, please correspond with the Founding Task Force via email at [arstylergarden@gmail.com](mailto:arstylergarden@gmail.com).

You may read more about the concept and plans for the garden (with photographs) at <http://arsstore.org/TylerTestGarden> and <http://arspvc.org/RA-News/V17.1/TestGarden-02.pdf>.

Steve Henning, editor  
 103 Acer Place  
 Lancaster, PA 17601



**NEWSLETTER**  
*April/May 2022*



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| ARS websites:<br><a href="http://rhododendron.org">rhododendron.org</a> <a href="http://ARSStore.org">ARSStore.org</a><br><a href="http://ARSOoffice.org">ARSOoffice.org</a> <a href="http://ARS2019.org">ARS2019.org</a> | Erin Van Yahres ('20-'23) (610) 644-2806   |
|   | Steve Wright ('19-'22) (267) 481-0175  |
|   | Darlene Henning ('19-'22) (717) 735-7116   |
|   | Perc Moser ('21-'24) (610) 525-3651  |
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|   | Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter   |
|   | Truss Show (VF): Perc Moser (610) 525-3651   |
|   | Webmaster: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116<br>VF Chapter's web site: <a href="http://ValleyForgeARS.org">ValleyForgeARS.org</a> |

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](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).