

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

May/June/July 2013

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) **Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum**
- May 4-7 (Fri-Mon) American Rhododendron Society's Annual Convention in Seattle, WA
- May 12 (Sun.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum
- June 30 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic at Sylvia & Dallas Green
- August 18 (Sun.) District 8 X & Auction hosted by Michael Martin Mills & Randy Dalton

President's Message

Last year at this time we were sweltering in 90 degree heat and the Plant Sale committee was worrying whether all the Marshy Point azaleas would be past their bloom. Turns out we did fine with all the plants, but this year seems much more normal. Chris Smetana and her committee have a great sale planned for May 3, 4, and 5. They suspect perhaps even more local interest as the high-end nursery, Waterloo Gardens, closed their store in Devon. At any rate they can always use more volunteers especially Saturday morning.

Fast after the Plant Sale comes the May 12 Flower/Truss Show at which the product of prior year's rhododendron and azalea purchases are judged. The display room will be filled with cut flowers from the Valley Forge and Greater Philadelphia chapters. In fact, anyone including non-ARS members can bring their flowers and enter the competition. The more the merrier! The more flowers entered the better for the whole event. This being Mother's Day the arboretum has record crowds to view the display.

Trophies and ribbons will be presented at the annual meeting and picnic at Sylvia Greens beautiful property on Sunday June 30.

See our website for details on this action packed couple months.

Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249, vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

2013
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
Jenkins Arboretum

631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333

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

Friday May 3 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Public Plant Sale

Saturday May 4 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday May 5 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Cash and Checks accepted (no credit cards)

Chair: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249
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. You should receive 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 commit yourself when called, or just show up on workdays (Monday to Thursday preceding sale) or on public sale days (May 4 and 5). 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 2**. 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.

**Opening-Night Party and Preview Plant Sale*

FRIDAY, May 3 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Deadline for Party Reservations: April 30

_____ persons \$30.00/person Total: \$_____

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

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

Reservations will be used in the drawing of door prizes Friday evening

Joint VF & GP Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day)

Chair: Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573

We're looking forward to our 5th year of the joint Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters combined flower/truss show competition and the 21st 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 and at the April 21 VF chapter meeting.

ENTRY RULES

1. There is no registration fee.
2. All entries must be received at the show passing table between 7:30 and 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. Entries offered after 10:15 a.m. will be assigned to the conversation table and are not eligible for judging.
3. All entries must be from plants grown outdoors in the garden for no less than 6 months.
4. Only one entry of a variety may be made in each section by any member or family. However, any number of different varieties may be entered in a section.
5. Elepidote rhododendron entries shall be a single bud truss with preferably no more than 3 unopened flowers.
6. Azalea, azaleodendron and lepidote rhododendron entries shall be either a single stemmed spray or a single or multiple truss measuring not more than 14 inches in width and height above the container.
7. Classes 1 through 8 and 10 are for cut bloom entries only. Wedges may be used for staging entries. Display containers will be provided.
8. A specimen plant may be one that is grown in a container or one that is garden grown and is dug and placed in a container, to be supplied by exhibitor. Size limit: 30" in width and 48" in height above soil.
9. Exhibitors must complete an entry tag for each entry. Tags will be available at the show; the Show committee will assist as needed. Use a pencil or a

waterproof pen to fill out your tag, both top and bottom parts. Enter your name (address labels appropriate) and other information ahead of time. For plants grown from ARS Seed Exchange seed, lot number, year listed and name of seed contributor must be stated.

10. Any hybrid that is named, though not necessarily registered, and has not been exhibited in a V.F. Chapter show (i.e., is not on the current classification lists) may be entered in Class 7 but should have an appropriate permanent classification number. If necessary, confer with classification committee.

11. All entries should be properly groomed and conditioned. Artificial shine cannot be used on foliage. Leaf margins cannot be trimmed. Refer to CUTTING TRUSSES FOR SHOW on back page.

12. Classification and placement will be by the Show Committee. A class or section may be subdivided when deemed appropriate.

13. Judging will start at 10:45 a.m. Only the show and clerk's chairmen and judges and clerks are allowed in the exhibit area during judging.

14. Judges, at their discretion, may award ribbons for first, second and third places in each section. Honorable Mention will be awarded when appropriate. Any award can be omitted. Two or more of second or lower awards may be awarded.

15. The show will be open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. Exhibits, but not trophies and ribbons, may be claimed at the close of the show on Sunday. The Committee will dispose of exhibits not claimed.

SHOW CLASSES

Class 1.0 Rhododendron Species

- Section 1.1 Elepidotes
- Section 1.2 Lepidotes

Class 2.0 Rhododendron Hybrids Elepidotes

- Section 2.1 White
- Section 2.2 White, prominent blotch
- Section 2.3 Pink, light
- Section 2.4 Pink, deep
- Section 2.5 Pink, prominent blotch
- Section 2.6 Red, scarlet (orange red)
- Section 2.7 Red, rose red or crimson
- Section 2.8 Red, dark or blackish
- Section 2.9 Red, prominent blotch
- Section 2.10 Blue-purple, lavender pink
- Section 2.11 Blue-purple, strong purple
- Section 2.12 Blue-purple, prominent blotch
- Section 2.13 Yellow, light shades
- Section 2.14 Yellow, deep shades
- Section 2.15 Yellow-orange, any shade
- Section 2.16 Lax truss, any color
- Section 2.17 Yakushmanum hybrids (at least ½ yak)

Class 3.0 Rhododendron Hybrids Lepidote

- Section 3.1 White
- Section 3.2 Pink
- Section 3.3 Salmon
- Section 3.4 Lavender shades
- Section 3.5 Yellow-cream
- Section 3.6 Red
- Section 3.7 Multi-color

Class 4.0 Azalea Species

- Section 4.1 Deciduous
- Section 4.2 Evergreen

Class 5.0 Azalea Hybrids-Deciduous

- Section 5.1 White
- Section 5.2 Cream or off-white
- Section 5.3 Yellow
- Section 5.4 Orange
- Section 5.5 Salmon or orange-pink
- Section 5.6 Pink
- Section 5.7 Red
- Section 5.8 Multi-color

Class 6.0

- Section 6.1 White, single
- Section 6.2 White, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.3 White, colored blotch, stripe or border
- Section 6.4 Pink-clear, single
- Section 6.5 Pink-clear, hose-in-hose, or double
- Section 6.6 Pink-clear, prominent blotch
- Section 6.7 Pink orange, single
- Section 6.8 Pink orange, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.9 Pink orange, prominent blotch
- Section 6.10 Pink lavender, single
- Section 6.11 Pink lavender, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.12 Pink lavender, prominent blotch
- Section 6.13 Rose red, single
- Section 6.14 Rose red, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.15 Orange-red, single
- Section 6.16 Orange-red hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.17 Salmon
- Section 6.18 Lavender-purple, single
- Section 6.19 Lavender-purple, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.20 Multi-color
- Section 6.21 Strap Petal, all colors

Class 7.0

New Azalea and Rhododendron Hybrids (see Rule #10)

- Section 7.1 Azalea-evergreen
- Section 7.2 Azalea-deciduous
- Section 7.3 Rhododendron-epidote
- Section 7.4 Rhododendron-lepidote

Class 8.0

ARS Seed Exchange (see Rule #9)

- Section 8.1 Azalea-evergreen or deciduous, species or hybrid
- Section 8.2 Rhododendron-lepidote or epidote, species or hybrid

Class 9.0

Specimen Plants (see Rule #8)

- Section 9.1 Azalea-evergreen
- Section 9.2 Azalea-deciduous
- Section 9.3 Rhododendron-lepidote
- Section 9.4 Rhododendron-epidote

Class 10.0

Azaleodendron

Class 11.0

Bonsai (not eligible for Best in Show)

**Picnic and Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 30, starting at 2 p.m.**

At Sylvia and Dallas Green's

846 Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD 21918 (410-378-4016)

Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert serving 4 – 6 and your own eating utensils and chairs. Meat and beverages will be provided. We encourage new members or members who have never attended before simply to join in the fun and bring along their families or gardening friends. There will be only a very short business meeting.

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

Directions: From Valley Forge area, (about 1 ½ hour driving time) take Route 202 to Route 1

South to Maryland. Seven miles beyond the state line, look for Banks Auto Recyclers on the left. The Green driveway is the next left, directly across from Merry Knoll Lane.

From I 95: Take exit 100 (Rising Sun) and follow Route 274 7 miles into Rising Sun, MD. At the light in Rising Sun, turn left on Route 273. Go straight and roundabout and after ½ mile, turn left onto Route 1 South. After about 4 miles, look for Banks Auto Recyclers on the left. The Green driveway is the next left, directly across from Merry Knoll Lane.

**Members of ALL area chapters are invited to the
Rhododendron & Azalea Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction
Sunday, August 18, starting at 1:30 p.m., rain or shine
At Michael Martin Mills & Randy Dalton's
632 Burnham Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19119-3510 (215-844-6253)**

The annual ARS District 8 cuttings exchange and plant auction is hosted by Valley Forge Chapter. It consists of an exchange of cuttings members bring, an auction of plants members donate and a demonstration on how to root

cuttings followed by desserts which members bring. All of the proceeds benefit the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Directions will be posted on line and in the next newsletter.

**2013 Annual ARS Convention, May 1 – 5, 2013
Seattle, Washington**

The 2013 ARS Convention's theme is "Rhododendrons, Then, Now and in Your Future." It will be held at the Seattle Airport Marriott Hotel in SeaTac, WA from May 1 to 5, 2013. Highlights include informative talks by Mike Stewart of Dover Nursery, Richie Steffen's of the Elizabeth Miller Botanical Garden, Dennis Bottemiller of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, Kristian Theqvist from the new Finnish Chapter, and

Brian Coker from the New Zealand Rhododendron Association.

A full day tour to beautiful gardens on Whidbey Island, and wonderful half-day tours to local gardens are being offered to convention attendees. There will also be a plant sale, book sale and a judged photo contest. For further details visit the conference website. <http://olympiachapterars.org/2013-ars-international-convention.html>

Self-Guided Tour of Pennsylvania Gardens & Nurseries On April 24-25

The ARS Potomac Valley Chapter has planned a self-guided tour of world-class gardens and nurseries near Kennett Square, PA. Don Hyatt has opened up the tour to members of the Valley Forge Chapter. They offer a suggested timetable, so feel free to join the group on any part of the trip or visit the nurseries and gardens on your own.

Wednesday, April 24: Gardens

One can easily spend several days in that area and still not do them justice. Below are some of the public gardens in the region. Many of them are huge and one can easily spend a full day there and not see everything. Many of the gardens have timed tickets so they limit the number of people in the garden. Tickets can be purchased online.

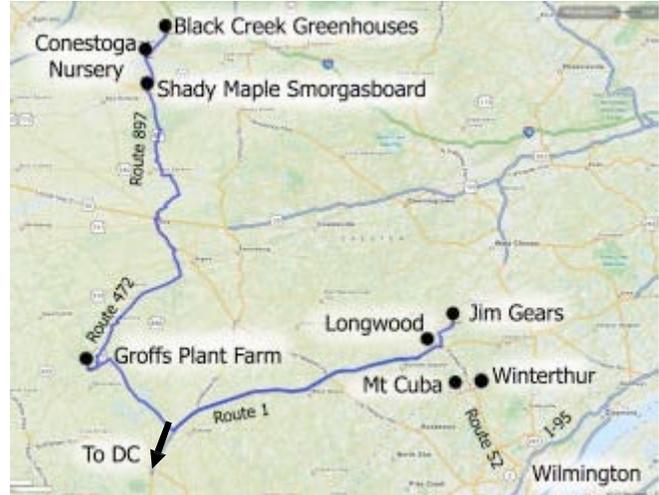
Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348
Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tickets: \$18 (\$15 seniors)
Website: www.longwoodgardens.org

Winterthur, 5105 Kennett Pike (Route 52), Winterthur, DE 19735
Hours: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
(last entry 3:15 PM)
Timed Tickets: \$18 (\$16 seniors)
Website: www.winterthur.org

Mt Cuba Center, 3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin, DE 19707
Advance Ticket Purchase Required: \$10
Website: www.mtcubacenter.org

Thursday, April 25: Nurseries

They do have a timetable for the nursery visits. Jim Gears usually has just a few open house days a year, but he has kindly invited us to visit him on this trip. Located just a few minutes from Longwood Gardens, we will start there. **Please visit during the time window unless you make special arrangements with Jim.** Be aware that numbers on his street are illogical and parking is limited, but feel free to call if lost. Jim does **not** take credit cards; so pay by cash or check. The other sites are more flexible with respect to nursery visits. If you can't make it to Jim's place in time, meet up with us at one of the other nurseries.



They plan to meet for dinner at a good Pennsylvania Dutch restaurant in East Earl, PA, before heading home. Price is \$17.99 (\$16.19 seniors) and includes a huge salad bar, home made breads, desserts, and grill.

8:30 to 10:00 AM is when Jim will open
Jim Gears, Pennsbury Gardens, 2065 Parkerville Rd., West Chester, PA 19382
610-793-2313

Native Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Wildflowers
10:30 – 1:00 PM

Groff's Plant Farm, 6128 Street Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536
717-529-3001
Perennials, Annuals, Shrubs (No Credit Cards)

1:30 – 3:30 PM
Conestoga Nursery, 310 Reading Road, East Earl, PA 17519
717-445-4076
Landscape Plants and Perennials

3:30 – 5:00 PM
Black Creek Greenhouses, 211 E. Black Creek Road, East Earl, PA 17519
717-445-5046
Annuals and Perennials

5:00 – 6:30 PM (Dinner)
Shady Maple Smorgasbord, 129 Toddy Drive, East Earl, PA 17519
717-354-8222
Website: www.shady-maple.com

ARS Proven Performer List for the Greater Philadelphia Area

The ARS asked chapters to compile lists of the best performing rhododendrons in their areas. The list below give plants with good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases for the given area. The listed plants have proven their ability to perform well in members' gardens and are recommended to others.

Elepidotes



'English Roseum'



'Gigi'



'Ben Moseley'



'Cadis'



'Janet Blair'



'Judy Spillane'



'Caroline'



'Catawbiense Album'



'Ken Janeck'



'Mary Belle'



'Chionoides'



'County of York'



'Mist Maiden'



'Nestucca'



'David Gable'



'Dexter's Champagne'



'Percy Wiseman'



'Roseum Elegans'



'Ruth Davis'



'Scintillation'



'Olga Mezitt'



'Windbeam'



'Solidarity'



'Todmorden'



PJM Group



'Wheatley'



'Wynterset White'



'Yaku Angel'



R. hyperythrum

Lepidotes



'Ginny Gee'



'Mary Fleming'

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:

Debby's Favorite Grilled Teriyaki Chicken

- 6 whole large chicken breasts, boned
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 cloves minced garlic or 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons salad oil
- 1/4 cup sherry
- 2 tablespoons grated ginger

Make marinade by combining soy sauce, sugar, garlic, oil, sherry and ginger. Heat in microwave 1 minute on high or in pan until very warm but not boiling. Let cool.

Soak chicken in marinade the day before cooking.

Grill just before serving. May hold in 200° oven, covered, while having first course. Serves 4 to 6.

Note: Boned chicken grills very quickly. The only way I can get my husband to grill chicken for guests! People eat this heartily, even in hot weather.

The Culture of Rhododendrons

By Dr. Michael Dirr from his *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Dirr's observations in the first three paragraphs below echo comments by Harold Greer, Hank Schannen and many other experts!!! **BEWARE OF ROOT BOUND CONTAINER PLANTS!!!***

Having tracked rhododendrons and azaleas from the Midwest to East Coast to the southeastern United States, I can unequivocally state that **inadequate drainage is the most prominent factor** limiting growth. If poor drainage does not directly kill plants, it predisposes them to insects and diseases such as root rot.

They have fine silk-like roots, generally without root hairs, and are easy to transplant balled and burlapped or from a container; the root mass is usually profuse, which allows for successful planting; numerous plants are container-grown and the roots form a web (almost fabric-like) at the interface of the medium/container; if plants are left in the containers too long **the root mass is so thick and matted it must be cut**; ideally make vertical slits with a knife; this will insure contact with the soil when planted and, hopefully, root penetration into the native soil.

I have observed azaleas and rhododendrons newly transplanted into a landscape that were wilted or dead; a simple tug on the plant and removal from the ground **showed the plant was removed from the container and planted as a solid mass**; water uptake was severely limited as the planting hole became dry; I suspect more one gallon azaleas die this way than any other cause.

Provide light shade in the North, even heavier shade in the South; have noticed tremendous lacebug infestations on plants exposed to full sun; the State Botanical Garden has a fine collection of ironclad *R. catawbiense* hybrids

that were planted on a slope with the root balls above the soil and covered with pine bark; over the years they have prospered, but have received fertilizer and water as well as an occasional insect spray. Rhododendrons are extremely sensitive to salinity, high pH (chlorosis), and winter injury.

With emphasis, I recommend gardeners contact their local Extension offices for state or regional guides to the best rhododendrons and azaleas. Almost all states produce some type of guide. Recently, Rhododendrons in Alabama, Circular ANR-1 51, crossed my desk. Therein, 31 rhododendrons with hardiness, color, height, and characteristics are discussed. This is a logical starting point for those who simply want to test the Rhododendron waters. Be aware that many rhododendrons are grown in the Pacific Northwest and shipped East. The cultivars may or may not be adapted. Do your homework!

[Rarefind Nursery has an excellent guide to planting: <http://www.rarefindnursery.com/index.cfm/action/howtoplant.htm>]

Some Good Mail Order Nurseries

[Greer Gardens in Eugene, OR](#)

[Rarefind Nursery in Jackson, NJ](#)

[W.W. Nursery in Indiana, PA](#)

[Van Veen Nurseries, Portland, OR](#)

Resources on our website:

<http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

The main sections of our website are:

- [Join Us](#): Membership Application
- [Links](#): Information, Gardens & Sources
- [Events](#): Our Events Calendar
- [News](#): Flower Show Results & Newsletters
- [Contact Us](#): Our Mailing Address
- [Members Area](#): Chapter History Pages
- [Gallery](#): Photo Gallery for Members

American Rhododendron Society
 Valley Forge Chapter
 P.O. Box 715
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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER
March/April 2013

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District CutX & Auction	Secretary: Joan Warren (610) 913-0005
ARS Seattle Convention	Directors:
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Mail Order Nurseries	Ellin Hlebig ('12-'15) (610) 584-9764
Resources on our Website	Kathy Woehl ('12-'15) (610) 644-6249
	Membership: Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184
	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	Plant Sale: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249
	Plants-for-Members: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232
	Programs: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
	Truss Show (V.F.): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	Webmaster: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232
	Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Please contact us of any email changes or if you receive this **newsletter** by letter carrier rather than email, even though you have e-mail. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (rhodyman@earthlink.net).