



'Valley Forge'

The American Rhododendron Society

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

April/May/June 2006

Unless specified otherwise, events are held at Jenkins Arboretum

Calendar at a Glance

April 20, 7:30

(Thursday)

Speaker:

Harold Sweetman

and

Informal Truss Show

May 1-5

Plant Sale Preps

May 5, 6-8 p.m.

Plant Sale Party

May 6 and 7

Plant Sale

June 25 (Sunday)

1 p.m.

Picnic and Annual Meeting with Election of Officers

Other Dates:

May 13

Philadelphia Chapter Flower (Truss) Show

May 12-15

National Convention in Washington, D.C.

Date in August TBD

Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction

October

Pacific Region Intern.Rhodo. Conf. In Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

President's Message

It's finally spring (at least as of this writing). The buds are swelling, and any deer damage will hopefully be filled in by new growth. I hope everyone's garden weathered the winter well.

We have had three great speakers since I last wrote to you. **Steve Henning** transported us to Victoria, B.C., so we could enjoy the sights and almost the sounds of the gardens on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. **Dick Lighty** thrilled us with his lifetime of work designing gardens that reflect the splendor of northern Delaware. Most recently, **Dave Hendricks** exposed us to companion plants that help emphasize rhododendrons in our gardens. These folks deserve a hearty "thanks" for enlightening us through the winter.

Joan Warren is getting everyone organized for our biggest event of the year, the Annual Plant Sale. We need volunteers for setup May 1-5 and also for the sales event, starting with the Friday evening plant sale party on May 5 and followed by the May 6 & 7 sales days. You can sign up at the upcoming meeting or contact any Board member and let them know when you can help. We can use all the volunteers we can get!

Tell all your friends and neighbors to support us by coming to the plant sale!

Thank you!

Bob Smetana vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

April 20 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m. –Regular Meeting

Harold Sweetman: Plant Exploration Trip to India

Harold does not need a great deal of introduction. We know that he is an excellent speaker and photographer, and his presentation should be a real treat for all of us.

Informal Flower Show—Show and Tell

Bring any rhododendron trusses or azalea branches that are in bloom in your garden. They need not be “groomed”, since this is a non-competitive show. Win Howe will provide containers (tubes) to display them. This show will give members a chance to see plants that are not in bloom at the regular juried show, which is set aside this year because of the Annual Convention in Washington.

(elsewhere in this newsletter, see THE COMPETITION WANTS YOU)

Refreshments: We call on members whose last names start with the letters H through R to bring finger-food desserts.

May 13 (Saturday)—THE COMPETITION WANTS YOU!

Philadelphia Chapter Truss Show at Morris Arboretum,

Entries accepted from 7:30 a. m. til 8:45 a.m. (when tags must be completed)

For those who do not attend the Annual Convention in Washington, here is your chance to compete for real and win some trophies and ribbons. The format used by the Philadelphia Chapter for this juried show is similar to that used by Valley Forge Chapter. The show takes place directly across the street from Morris Arboretum’s main entrance on Northwestern Avenue. Scads of ribbons and 10 trophies are awarded and will be presented to the winners at Philadelphia Chapter’s annual picnic in June.

June 25 (Sunday), 2 p.m.

Picnic and Annual Meeting

at Joan and Reid Warren’s, 34 Briardwood Drive, Elverson, Pa

Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to serve 4 to 6 person 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 very brief business meeting.

Directions: see page 4.

Unrelated to rhododendrons but of interest to generalists or herbalists **may be an exhibit, until June 26, on the Hidden Treasures of the Mysterious Schwenkfelder Herbarium at Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center, 105 Seminary Ave, Pennsbury, PA (www.schwenkfelder.com).**

Letter From Plant Sale Chairperson Joan Warren

The 2006 Plant Sale will soon be upon us, and I would like here to thank those “unsung heroes” who have worked behind the scenes in previous years and again this year: Eva Jackson for designing and writing the plant sale notices; Noel Jackson for delivering flyers up and down Main Line (assisted last year by Joe Bellanca doing the western part of it); Charles Odenweller for maintaining the customer mailing list; Bonnie Bennett and George Elser, along with Noel and Charles, for manning the check-out booth; Reid Warren, Tony D’Alessandro, Win Howe, and Steve Henning for driving trucks and loading and unloading plants; Mary Alice Snyder for ordering and being in charge of perennials; Penny D’Alessandro for feeding us; Chris Smetana for always being there to give a helping hand; and all the staff of Jenkins for helping with set-up and for doing the heavy work.—I hope I haven’t missed anyone, but if I have, please pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

I ask all members to volunteer some of their time to help make this year’s sale the success it always is. Remember that this is our only fundraising event, so we depend on it to provide for all other events and to make donations to the horticultural and environmental organizations that we support.

A sign-up sheet will be at the April meeting, so please volunteer some of your time!

Plant Sale preparations begin on Monday, May 1, in the afternoon, with plant deliveries, and continue throughout the week. I will be there all week long, from 8:30 a.m. until late afternoon. On Plant Sale days, we need volunteers for check-out stations and for advising buyers or answering questions. Plant information will be available to help with the latter.

Mary Alice Snyder, who is in charge of **Perennials** (Greenhouse), will need help arranging and pricing plants. email: ASRN1109@hotmail.com

Mimi Favre will be in charge of **Plant Donations**. Please bring **any** plants that you have thinned out or any unwanted plants. If you need help, we will pot up plants and help digging—just let us know. email: favhun@aol.com

Eva Jackson will be in charge of the **Raffle**, another successful part of the sale, and needs volunteers (may be a sit-down job) for selling tickets on Friday evening, on Saturday, and on Sunday. email: noeleva_jackson@juno.com

And remember, this sale is not “all work and no play,” as those who help will tell you—sale and preparation days are also social occasions.

Thank you and see you in May

Joan Warren, Plant Sale Chairperson

email: srwjmw@att.net

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



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Directions:

From PA Turnpike: Exit 22 (Morgentown). At end of ramp, turn right into Rt 10 N, turn right into Joanna Rd, turn right onto Elverson Rd, turn left into Hopewell Rd, turn left into Red Hill Rd, and turn left into Briarwood Drive and make U-turn to #46.

From Valley Forge area: Follow PA 23 W to Elverson, turn right into Rt. 82, turn right into Red Hill Rd, and turn left into Briarwood Drive and make U-turn to #46.

Suggestion: Go on line to search Mapquest for the most current directions or call hosts (610/913-0005).

Please send news items to Newsletter Editor:

Eva Jackson, e-mail: noeleva_jackson@juno.com

ARS (national) Web Site <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>

Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://valleyforgears.org>