



'Valley Forge'

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

The American Rhododendron Society

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

April/May/June 2007

Unless specified otherwise, events are held at Jenkins Arboretum

Calendar at a Glance

April 19, 7:30 p.m.

(Thursday)

Speaker:

Bruce Keyser:

How to Prune

Rhododendrons and

Azaleas

April 30, May 1-3:

Plant Sale Preps

May 4, 5, and 6

Plant Sale

May 13, 1-5 p.m.

Flower Show

May 19

Garden Visits

June 24(Sunday)

1 p.m.

Picnic and Annual

Meeting with Election

of Officers

Other Dates:

April 21

Phila. Chapter 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner

May 12

Philadelphia Chapter Flower (Truss) Show

August

Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction

President's Message

After Steve Henning's presentation at the March meeting, we were all geared up for flowers and spring. Too bad the weather didn't agree and gave us four inches of sleet. We were hoping global warming (or was that the groundhog?) would bring an early spring.

Our other presentations by John Doppel and Bud Gehrlich were very well received. Attendance at the joint Philadelphia and Valley Forge chapter meeting set a record. Many thanks to all who made it possible, especially Win and Anne Howe and Betty Bernardy. Many website changes mentioned in my last message have been made. I encourage all of you to open www.ValleyForgeARS.com and view all the great photos. Be sure to click on the Member's Area tab and click again to view the link to the Valley Forge Chapter History, for which Steve Henning and Jim Willhite drew on many members' memories

The annual plant sale is only six weeks away. If you have not been asked to volunteer, please contact the chair, Bill Dennis (nounce.2000@yahoo.com), to offer to help in the sale preparation and execution. We are expecting a record event this year, so we will need everyone's participation.

See you at the April 19 meeting, where Bruce Keyser will help us with our pruning objectives.

Bob Smetana vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

April 19 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m. –Regular Meeting

Bruce Keyser: *How to Prune Rhododendrons and Azaleas*

Bruce is a founding member and the first president of Lehigh Valley Chapter, and was one of the earliest or founding members of Valley Forge Chapter. A graduate of Delaware Valley College, he teaches *Horticulture Practices and Plant Culture* at the Barnes Foundation. He also operates a landscape contracting and design company. Bruce will demonstrate how to prune plants so that they will be strong, healthy, and attractive.

Refreshments for April meeting: Members whose last names start with the letters H to O are asked to bring fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.

May 4-6 (Friday to Sunday)

P L A N T S A L E

chaired by **Bill Dennis** nounce_2000@yahoo.com

Friday, May 4, 6 p.m.:	Plant Sale Party –by subscription
Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Public Plant Sale
Sunday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Public Plant Sale
after 3 p.m.	Clean-up

For a successful sale, we do need every member's help, and a sign-up sheet will be at the April meeting, so please volunteer some of your time!

There are any number of jobs: Plant Sale preparations begin on Monday, April 30, and continue throughout the week. On Plant Sale days, we need volunteers for answering questions and for getting customers ready for check-out.

Mary Alice Snyder, 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 are surplus. If you need help with digging, we will try to assist. email: favhun@aol.com

And remember, this sale is not "all work and no play," as those who help will tell you—sale and preparation days are lively social occasions, for which food and refreshments will be provided.

May 13 (Sunday—Mothers Day)

Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show in Jenkins Greenhouse

Co-chaired by Anne and Win Howe wahowe@bee.net
and Jim Willhite jwillhite@comcast.net

The information for this colorful and educational exhibit of members' rhododendron and azalea flowers will be mailed separately.

Members are encouraged to participate and to bring their flower trusses or sprays early in the morning. If you have never entered before, don't hesitate, for help and guidance are provided. Ask Sally Novello, who in our first show at Longwood Gardens was a first-time exhibitor and won *Best in Show* with a well-groomed azalea hybrid, 'Narcissiflorum.'

There are many other awards to be won.

May 19 (Saturday)

Garden Visits

organized by **Bob Stamper** Rstamper@muhlenberg.edu

Times:

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. **Chris and Bob Stamper**, 6826 Ridge Road, Zionsville, PA 18092

12 noon to 2 p.m. **Holly and John Doppel**, 200 Wert Road, Lenhartsville, PA 19534

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. **Howard Kline**, 500 Plum Creek Road, Leesport, PA 19533

Lunch: Bring your own. Holly and John Doppel have a great area for sitting and eating.

Transportation: Provide your own or carpool.

Directions: see our website www.ValleyForgeARS.org, check mapquest, or contact Bob Stamper.

June 25 (Sunday), 2 p.m.

Picnic and Annual Meeting

at **Sylvia and Dallas Green's Stone Lea Farm**

846 Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD 21918

stonelea46@yahoo.com

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 brief business meeting.

Directions

From Valley Forge area (about 1-1/2 hr driving time), take take Route 202 to Route 1 S to Maryland. Seven miles beyond state line, look for Banks Auto Recyclers on left. The Green driveway is the next left, directly across from Merry Knoll Lane.

Or take Interstate 95 S through Delaware to exit 100 (Rising Sun) and take a right. Then take first left (Rt. 274) 7 miles into Rising Sun, MD. At light in Rising Sun, turn left into Rt. 273.* Go straight at roundabout and, after ½ mile, turn left into Rt. 1 S. After about 4 miles, see Banks Auto Recyclers on left. The Green driveway is the next left, directly across from Merry Knoll Lane.

Or take Interstate 95 N to exit 100 (Rising Sun/North East) and turn left, following directions above*.

Caution: If you come to the Conowingo Dam, you have gone too far by about a mile!!!

Sylvia and Dallas offer the use of their swimming pool, but please bring your own towel.

Family members are invited and encouraged to come along.

Welcome New Members:

Frances Pane, 726 Old State Road, Berwyn, PA 19312

Chester County Library, Linda Smith, 459 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA 19341

Paoli Library, Francis Sack, 18 Darby Road, Paoli, PA 19355

The memberships for the 2 libraries are complimentary

Valley Forge Website www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Website liaison: Jim Willhite—Jwillhite@comcast.net

Members are encouraged to visit the chapter's redesigned and greatly expanded website, which now will contain Newsletters and a great deal of other pertinent information.

Don't miss the photo gallery of rhododendrons and azaleas in members' gardens.

You are encouraged to view and register. Also, Jim Willhite will appreciate feedback.

Jim and his contributors deserve our sincere thanks.

40th Anniversary of Valley Forge Chapter

March 1 marks the 40th anniversary of our Chapter. On March 1, 1967, several members of the Philadelphia Chapter joined with rhododendron fanciers from the Valley Forge area in forming the Valley Forge Chapter. It started with 16 Members and 10 Associate Members. The first officers were President Charles W. Herbert, Phoenixville, PA; Vice President Oscar F. Krebs, Norristown, PA; and Secretary Treasurer Ruth Amenda, Perkiomenville, PA. Meetings were held at Charlie Herbert's home. Bob Huber is the only founding member who still belongs to Valley Forge Chapter.

For a compilation of the history of the Chapter, we need slides or photographs of people and events.

Steve Henning, Acting Chapter Historian
rhodyman@earthlink.net

50th Anniversary of Philadelphia Chapter

We congratulate the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, founded November 11, 1957, on its 50th anniversary. The occasion will be celebrated at the Chapter's

Annual Banquet

Saturday, April 21, 6 p.m.

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, Thomas Road, Lafayette Hill*

*Speaker: Paul Meyer, Director of Morris Arboretum,
His Exploration and Plant Collection Trip to the Caucasus Mountains
in the Republic of Georgia*

Menu Selection: Filet Mignon \$50, Salmon \$42, Vegetarian \$40

Send check, payable to Greater Philadelphia ARS, to Linda Hartnett, 831 Foxwood Circle, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444.

**off Germantown Avenue, west of Northwestern Avenue and Chestnut Hill College
For directions, call Club at 215/233-3901—for more details, call Michael Mills 215/844-6253.*

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



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Please submit material for publication to

Newsletter Editor: Eva Jackson noeleva_jackson@juno.com (space underscored)