



'Valley Forge'

# The American Rhododendron Society

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

**VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER**

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

## ***NEWSLETTER***

### ***June 2009***

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

***June 28 (Sunday)***

***August 16 (Sunday)***

September 17 (Thursday)

October 15 (Thursday)

October 23-25

November 15 (Sunday)

**Picnic and Annual Meeting at Smetana's**

**Cuttings Sale and Plant Auction at Warren's**

Regular Meeting at Jenkins Arboretum: Harold Sweetman on Vireyas

Regular Meeting at Jenkins Arboretum: Norm Beaudry on Sandwich Club

Eastern Regional Conference in Lionville, PA

Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club in Radnor: Rick Darke on

Appreciating Native Azaleas in the Wild and in Gardens

#### ***President's Message***

The annual plant sale was successful, if not prolonged. The Friday night event was well attended, but Saturday and Sunday customer counts were down due to weather. Therefore, we continued sales into the next weekend. And that weekend included the Truss Show, which attracted 250 entries, many from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

Anyone who got their plants into the ground shortly following the plant sale have had great weather (cool and rainy) for transplanted rhodies. Hopefully, we have a nice dry day for the Annual Picnic and Election of officers on June 28. We'll also present ribbons and awards for the Truss Show winners. Here is the slate of officers and directors up for election on that day:

President:	Steve Henning
First VP	Bob Smetana
Treasurer	Chris Smetana
Recording & Corresponding Secretary	Joan Warren
NL Editor	Eva Jackson
Directors	Kathy Woehl
	Mimi Favre
	Darlene Henning

As you can see, I'll be stepping down as President, and Steve Henning will stand for election as your new President. I know you'll support him as you have supported me these last four years.

The final summer event is the District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction at Joan and Reid Warren's on August 16. The new program year starts in September with an exciting schedule. Don't forget to go to our website [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org) for details on these upcoming events. See you at the picnic! Bob Smetana [vfarsmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:vfarsmetana@yahoo.com)

# **Picnic and Annual Meeting**

## **June 28 (Sunday), 2 p.m.**

at Chris and Bob Smetana's  
14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 610/688-5249

Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to serve 4 to 6 persons and your own eating utensils and chairs. Meat and beverages will be provided.

We encourage **new members and their families to join us**. If you live near new members, please encourage them to join us. There will be only a brief business meeting to elect the new officers (see below for the list of candidates).

### **Directions to Smetana's from Jenkins Arboretum**

Take Devon State Rd., going past Jenkins Arboretum, to the light at Conestoga Rd. Turn left onto Conestoga Rd, which curves to the left and becomes Upper Gulph Rd. At the stop sign at King of Prussia Road, make a quick right and then a quick left, still being on Upper Gulph Rd. The first left is Northwoods Rd. Go to #14, which is the third house on the right and has the black mail box.

### **Please welcome our newest members:**

#### **Primary (Valley Forge Chapter) members:**

Karen Sullivan Family  
Bev Evans  
James Dobner  
Lucille Amadie  
Alice Horton Family  
The May Family  
Charlotte Martin  
Doug & June Berry  
David W. Kaybill  
Steve Hendrecikson

#### **Associate member (primary member in another chapter):**

Susan Cadwalader

# Results of Flower Show on Sunday, May 10, at Jenkins Arboretum

Jim Willhite, Chair

This year's show was special, for two reasons:

First, Jenkins Arboretum just completed construction of its new building, which includes a large sunlit room that was ideal for our Show. Hundreds of visitors poured into Jenkins to see this new building and, of course, the fabulous gardens. Check our Online Photo Gallery for digital images ([www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)).

Second, Valley Forge Chapter exhibitors were joined this year by a contingent of exhibitors from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Beginning this year, the two chapters alternate in hosting the flower shows. VF Chapter was on this year, Philadelphia is on next year, and VF is on again in 2011. The members of both chapters, and of other area chapters, are urged to submit trusses in both shows. Greater Philadelphia Chapter more than held its own, helping us fill the room with hundreds of flowers and winning many ribbons and trophies.

The winners are:

Cathy and Brian Keim of SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY for MOST POINTS  
SORBER TROPHY (BEST RHODODENDRON)  
for Unknown (likely 'John Paul II')  
KLINE TROPHY (BEST SPECIES) for R. austrinum

Jenkins Arboretum of VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER TROPHY (BEST IN SHOW)  
GABLE TROPHY (BEST AZALEA)  
HERBERT TROPHY (BEST NEW HYBRID)  
BEST EVERGREEN AZALEA  
all for R. 'Gloria Still'

Sue and Marc Thomson of RAUGHLEY TROPHY (BEST DECIDUOUS AZALEA)  
for R. 'Coral King'

The trophies and ribbons for all categories will be presented at our Annual Picnic in June.

We had an all-star list of judges: Patricia Walton, Allan and Shirley Anderson, and Frank Furman from New Jersey, and Allan Glassman and John Doppel from Lehigh County, PA. This group of judges has contributed some of the most interesting hybrids for our region in recent years.

Kudos go to the Warrens and the Stampers for yeoman's duty as Clerks, to hard-working Chris Smetana handling the luncheon, to our QC/classification guru Howard Kline, who personally checked each of the 250 entries, to Linda Willhite for scorekeeping, **and to everyone else who pitched in.**

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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



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*Our mission is to make gardeners aware of the many varieties of the genus Rhododendron, which includes azaleas. Beautiful blooms and foliage are a valuable four-season addition to any garden: New growth is often as attractive as are the flowers in spring, leaf color and texture add interest in the summer, foliage can be brilliant in the fall, and plant architecture is a bonus in the winter.*

We meet throughout the year, with most meetings held at Jenkins Arboretum, and actively support horticultural, conservation and educational efforts, including the arboretum.

Chapter activities include regular speakers; garden tours; and plant, seed, and plant exchanges.

Other Membership benefits include chapter newsletters and the quarterly **Journal of the American Rhododendron Society**

*Encourage your gardening friends to visit us at*  
[www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)