

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

## NEWSLETTER June 2019

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

### Calendar at a Glance

June 30, 2019 (Sun.)	2 PM, Joint VF/GP Annual Chapter Meetings & Picnic at Perc Moser's
Aug. 18, 2019 (Sun.)	District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction at Jenkins
Sep. 8, 2019 (Sun.)	Plants for Members with Greater Philadelphia at Morris Arboretum
Sep. 27-29, 2019	2019 ARS Fall Conference, Parksville, BC
Oct. 17, 2019 (Thu.)	Speaker: Ken LeRoy, "Thomas Meehan, Father of Philadelphia Parks"
Nov. 10, 2019 (Sun.)	VF ARS Banquet, St. David's Golf Club

### President's Message

The 2019 spring season was a busy one for the Valley Forge Chapter. We opened the season on March 21<sup>st</sup> with Andy Schenck of Sam Brown's Wholesale Nursery presenting an informative talk on nursery production techniques from a grower's viewpoint. Our Plant Sale ran from Friday evening May 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank Alice Horton, our Plant Sale Committee Chair, for all her hard work in organizing and managing a very successful event - **Thanks Alice!!!** I also would like to thank the wonderful group of volunteers who helped Alice with the Plant Sale. The Chapter is fortunate to have members who are willing to pitch in and lend a hand.

As everyone is aware, on May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Valley Forge Chapter, along with the other District 8 Chapters, had the honor of hosting the 2019 ARS Convention. Based on the many complimentary messages the District received, the Convention was a wonderful success. The Convention highlights were many but I would like to mention one in particular that we are all very proud of. This year the recipient of the ARS Gold Medal Award was our own Steve Henning. The citation recognized Steve's many contributions that have supported the ARS over the years. These included his Rhododendron and Azalea website, the go-to resource for Rhododendron information, his many ARS

Journal articles and photos and many other contributions. On behalf of all the members of the Valley Forge Chapter, I would like to congratulate Steve on this very prestigious and well-deserved honor - **Congratulations Steve!!!!**

This year we will again be joining the Greater Philadelphia Chapter for our annual picnic. Perc Moser has graciously offered to host our picnic, which will be on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>. Perc's garden was also on the Convention tour and everyone I spoke with was quite impressed. This is sure to be an enjoyable event and it's always a relaxing way to spend a summer afternoon. We will also use this occasion to elect the Chapter Officers and Directors for the upcoming year.

In closing I would also like to take a moment to thank Michele Hawk for her many years of service and dedication to the Valley Forge Chapter. Michele will be moving back to the Alabama area and we wish her and her family all the best, we will miss you - **Thanks Michele!!!**

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe Summer.

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

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

## Sun., June 30, Joint GP/VF Picnic & Annual Business Meetings

2:00 PM at Perc & Sally Moser's, 301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr



Perc, who is the Treasurer of the ARS Research Foundation and a VF ARS Chapter Board member, has spent many years developing his beautiful

garden during his off hours from a very successful banking career. His 1.2-acre garden highlights many of his own Rhododendron hybrids as well as some of the best for southeastern Pennsylvania. And this year it was featured on the 2019 ARS Convention Garden Tour. We will have a quick Chapter Board and Annual Business meeting before the fun begins.

Perc and Sally will be grilling the burgers and hotdogs but please bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert. Don't miss this opportunity to spend an afternoon in this truly outstanding Main Line Garden and please bring along a friend or two.

**Directions: 301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010:**

### From Jenkins Arboretum:

Turn right on Devon State Road

In .9 mile, turn left onto W. Conestoga Road

After .5 mile, take slight left onto Upper Gulph Rd.

In 2.5 miles, turn right onto King of Prussia Rd

In 100 ft a quick left onto Upper Gulph Rd,

Keep Straight onto Old Gulph Road & then onto New Gulph Road.

In 4.6 miles, turn left onto Caversham Rd.

In 100 feet, on the right is the Moser's

301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr.

### From City Avenue (just off Schuylkill Expressway), Bala Cynwyd, PA:

Go east on City Ave toward St. Joe University

App. 1 mile, turn right onto Conshohocken State Rd.

In .5 mile, turn left onto Montgomery Ave.

In 4.3 miles, turn right onto New Gulph Rd.

In .8 miles, turn right onto Caversham Rd

In 100 feet, on the right is the Moser's

301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr.



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After you use one of these links, when you start typing it again, some browsers will fill in the link automatically.

# Rhododendron & Azalea Cuttings Exchange & Plant Auction

Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd, Devon, PA 19333

*Proceeds benefit ARS Endowment Fund and Research Foundation*

**Sunday, Aug. 18, starting at 1:30 p.m., rain or shine.**

**1:30 pm: Bring Cuttings:** If donating cuttings, please arrive around 1 p.m. Use plastic bags for each cultivar, clearly labeled. Cut 3 or 4 large-leaf (elepidote) or 4-6 small-leaf (lepidote) cuttings. Best to take cuttings early in the day, ideally from the lower portions of the shrub; if there has been a dry spell, water the night before. Place in a plastic bag with a few drops of water. No unidentified cultivars, please! Please label the bags with a waterproof marker or pencil and add, if possible, info about characteristics or parentage. Transporting the bags in a cooler is also a good idea.

**2:00 pm: Cuttings exchange/sale.**

Cuttings are sold for 25 cents a bag for everyone and are an easy and inexpensive way to increase one's collection of azaleas and rhododendrons.

**2:30 pm: Plant Auction:** Karel Bernady auctioneer. Please donate rhodies and azaleas, as well as other garden-worthy plants that you feel others would like. Some plants are donated by chapters, some by individual members. Most years, John Bartlett of Gettysburg Garden brings an assortment of very special plants.

**Important:** It will help the auctioneer and the bidder if you write a description of plants that you donate for auction. Having such info will make for lively bidding, especially for one-of-a-kind or special plants.

**3:00 pm: Propagation.** Frank Brouse will demonstrate how to propagate from cuttings.

**About 3:30 pm: Dessert.**

Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share.

**Beverages will be provided.**

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**On September 8, 2019, (Sunday), P4M at 1:00 pm at Morris Arboretum, Weidner Center.**

**Plants for Members (P4M):**

On Sunday, Sept. 8, the Valley Forge (VF) Chapter will join the Greater Philadelphia (GP) Chapter for our joint Plants For Members. This will be held in the Weidner Center, at Morris Arboretum, 100 E Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. At the gate, just say you are with the Rhododendron Society and admission is gratis. Rooted cuttings and 2-year grafts will be available. As part of this joint effort VF members are invited to join GP members for their propagation workshops. For more details on this and other GP ARS hosted events, visit their website at [https://sites.google.com/a/gpchapterars.org/gpc\\_ars/home](https://sites.google.com/a/gpchapterars.org/gpc_ars/home)

**On October 17, 2019, (Thursday), at 7:30 pm:**

**Ken LeRoy:**

**“Thomas Meehan: Father of Phila. Parks”**

Ken LeRoy is a certified arborist dedicated to integrating trees and plants into urban and suburban environments. Ken has cared for old trees on historic sites with stories to tell. He pursued his interest at Temple University's School of Horticulture and is an arborist representative with John B. Ward & Co. Arborists. Arboretum Philadelphia is a community Facebook page that Ken LeRoy founded where one can document impressive trees and shrubs in the Philadelphia area.

Thomas Meehan was a noted British-born nurseryman, botanist, and author. He worked at Kew Gardens before moving to Germantown where he started a nursery. Meehan is considered to be the father of the urban park movement in Philadelphia. He campaigned to establish and preserve parks including Historic Bartram's Garden.



# The Philadelphia Story 38

## Rhododendrons In America's Garden Capital

### ARS 2019 Philadelphia Convention Final Report

After a well-deserved respite, the ARS 2019 Convention committee met on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, for what should be its last meeting. Those attending were: Karel Bernady, Vicky Buckley, Craig Conover, Linda Hartnett, Steve Henning, Darlene Henning, Kim Kopple, Michael Martin Mills, Jerry O'Dell, Ron Rabideau, Bob Smetana, Harold Sweetman, Kathy Woehl and Debby Schmidt who teleconferenced.

First, the committee wants to thank everyone who helped make the convention a resounding success. Thanks to the committee for spending the past 3 years making sure that all plans were in place and making sure they happened. Thanks to all volunteers who manned registration, the plant sale, the photo contest, the flower show, the banquets, the auctions, the garden tours, the lunches, and all of the other items necessary to make the convention a success. Thanks to those who opened their gardens and those who acted as docents at the gardens. Thanks to those who made contributions and donations.

The weather couldn't have been better. We received many compliments on the Wine & Dine Garden Party at Jenkins, the evening at the Helicopter Museum, the plant sale, the

hotel, the gardens, the lunches, the open bar, the banquet, the speakers, the items in the auctions, the phytosanitary inspections, shipping plants for people, and most of all, the friendly volunteers that made sure everyone had a good time.

Michael Martin Mills is still busy with the financials. Financial details are not entirely complete, but there may be a small surplus. A full accounting will be made when everything is finalized. It was decided unanimously that any surplus would be split evenly among the 4 chapters that fronted money for the convention. Then, it will be up to them to decide whether they want to contribute to the ARS Endowment Fund, the ARS Research Fund, the ARS General Fund, or anything else.

Linda Hartnett did a masterful job handling registration, especially a number of last-minute changes in registration. A total of 235 registered. Of these, 212 were advance registrations, 13 were late registrations and an additional 10 registered but had to cancel because of family emergencies. Note, the late registrations slightly exceeded the cancellations. Here is the final count on the various events:

Board of Directors' Box Supper:	27
Wednesday's Pre-tour to Chanticleer and Winterthur	110
Thursday's Garden Tour and Lunch at Tyler Arboretum	150
Thursday Evening's Garden Party at Jenkins Arboretum	170
Friday's Garden Tours to Mt. Cuba, Longwood & Guymon	161
Friday Evening's Dinner and Speaker at the Helicopter Museum	166
Saturday's Garden Tours to Morris, Stoneleigh, Moser & Farley	157
Saturday Evening's Banquet, Annual Meeting & Keynote Speaker	142

Thank you to everyone for a great convention.

Stephen Henning, Convention Co-chair

Karel Bernady, Convention Co-chair



## Rhododendrons by The Seaside 2019 ARS Fall Conference September 27-29 in Parksville, BC

The Mount Arrowsmith ARS Chapter is hosting the Fall Conference in Parksville on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

The conference features twelve distinguished [speakers](#) whose overall theme is ‘Rhododendrons as the World Warms’.

Three [bus tour options](#) are included, along with a bulbs workshop and sale, two propagation workshops, [plant sale](#), [photo exhibition](#), and silent auction.

Saturday and Sunday breakfasts are included, along with Saturday lunch. In addition, a no-host bar and full-course buffet dinner are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings, providing lots of time for socializing, catching up with old friends, and making new ones.

**Location:** Parksville Community and Conference Centre  
132 Jensen Avenue East, Parksville, BC

**Dates:** September 27 – 29, 2019

**Time:** 3:00 PM Friday September 27, 2019 to 1:00 PM Sunday September 29, 2019

**Registration is required. Early registration is recommended as space is limited.**

For more information visit their website at <http://marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/>

*You're invited to the celebration!*



### World-renowned Keynote Speakers

Kenneth Cox • Jens Nielsen • Steve Hootman  
Lionel de Rothschild • Steve Krebs • Valerie Sosa

### Tours to the Northwest's Outstanding Gardens & Nurseries

## The 2020 ARS Convention April 29 to May 3, 2020

### Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington

The chapters of ARS District Four in Oregon welcome everyone to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society at the 2020 ARS Convention in the Pacific Northwest.

The 2020 ARS Convention will honor the founding of the ARS in Portland, Oregon, in 1945. The first ARS convention was held in Portland in 1961.

They have an impressive group of keynote speakers as noted above.

The garden tours will visit great gardens including the historic Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden, the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden, the Portland Japanese Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden, and Iseli Wholesale Nursery.

### American Rhododendron Society

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

20/20  
VISION



*Looking forward, reflecting back*

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

## Barbara Bullock Receives ARS Award of Merit



***At ARS 2019 Convention, Barbara Bullock was presented the ARS Award of Merit. It reads:***

*“As Curator of Azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum for the past 29 years, you have transformed a cherished floral display in Washington, D.C., into one of the finest evergreen azalea collections in the world. You have documented azalea cultivars & existing plantings with excellent photographs & written records. You greatly expanded the collection by adding new varieties & companion plants. Using volunteers, you have maintained planting & removed invasive weeds. You recently oversaw the restoration of the original Glenn Dale azaleas set out in 1947. Using your expert horticultural knowledge & innate artistic talents, you skillfully created a beautiful landscape while maintaining its scientific integrity. For your exemplary work, the American Rhododendron Society gratefully presents the Award of Merit to Barbara Bullock. May 18, 2019, Philadelphia, PA”*

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## 2019 Gold Medal Award: Stephen Henning



***ARS President Ann Mangels, left, and Glen Jamieson, JARS Editor, present Steve Henning the ARS Gold Medal. The Award reads:***

*You have immersed yourself fully in a wide variety of activities that support the American Rhododendron Society. These include*

*maintaining Henning's Rhododendron and Azalea pages for over 20 years. This publication provides a wealth of educational material on almost every aspect of rhododendrons. You have written excellent articles and provided rhododendron photos for the ARS Journal. You launched on your personal website both the Rhododendron and Azalea Bookstore and later, the ARS Store, with all proceeds directed to the ARS. You also acted as the Registrar for the very successful 2018 joint spring convention*

*between the ARS and the German Rhododendron Society. Most recently, you served as co-chair for the 2019 ARS Spring convention. For your outstanding contributions, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to present the Gold Medal to Stephen M. Henning. May 18, 2019, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

## 2019 Pioneer Achievement Award: Charles Owen Dexter



*At the 2019 ARS Convention, Joe Brusco, left, president of the Massachusetts ARS Chapter & Mike Karkowski, Director of Horticulture at Tyler Arboretum, accept copies of the Pioneer Achievement Award to be displayed at Heritage Museum and Gardens and at Tyler Arboretum.*

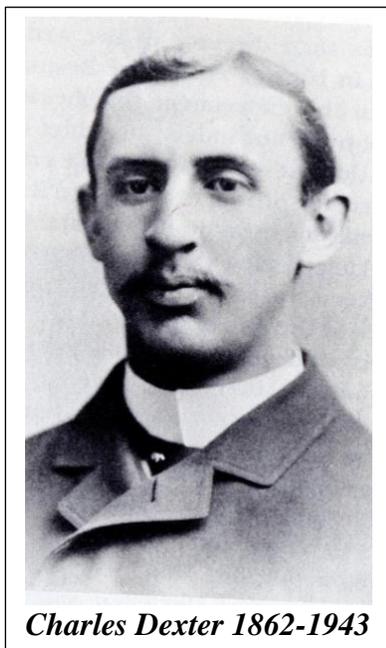
The Award reads:

*The 75 years that have passed since Charles Owen Dexter's death validates the importance of his accomplishments. He was the first to realize East Coast gardeners needed hardy rhododendrons better suited to the extremes of their climate than the twentieth-century varieties that were sensations in the British Isles and Pacific Northwest. Along with Gable and Nearing he produced hardier plants with wonderful flowers. Dexter produced them in far greater quantities than any others. His legacy is preserved in Dexter rhododendron*

*collections at Heritage Museums & Gardens, Tyler Arboretum, Scott Arboretum, Jenkins Arboretum, and other major gardens. Gardeners along the Atlantic Coast and inland to the Great Lakes owe to Dexter thanks for all that he did to give them the beauty of his rhododendrons. Presented this 18th of May 2019.*

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## Tributes to Rhododendron Pioneer, Charles O. Dexter



**Charles Dexter 1862-1943**

Here are several comments received when soliciting nominations for the Pioneer Achievement Award for Charles Owen Dexter.

Norm Beaudry: "I am aware of 200 named and registered rhododendron that we have grown, many of

*always look forward to seeing the perfect 'Scintillation', 'Janet Blair' trusses and many fortunei hybrids like 'Dexter's Honeydew', Peppermint and 'Spice' spreading their fragrance throughout our neighborhood. Many of his creations are still commercially available and can be viewed at the Heritage plantation at Sandwich, Massachusetts on Cape Cod."*

Karel Bernady: "... in 1945 a Dexter Study Committee was formed to evaluate his plants, which were widely dispersed, so as not to lose his contributions to horticulture. Through the dedication of this committee and many others, Charles Dexter became the most widely studied hybridizer in America. The best of his work was selected, propagated and distributed. More than 175 of his plants are listed in *The International RHODODENDRON REGISTER* and *CHECKLIST, Second Edition*, and its Supplements. All were described by rhododendron enthusiasts other than Mr. Dexter."

*which are the dominant entry in many eastern gardens. We currently grow over 80 Dexter creations in our garden and each spring, we*

John Delano: *“Since Mr. Dexter often used the species fortunei in his breeding program, many of his hybrids, as well as their derivatives, have large flowers with a wonderful scent! We’ve had numerous people visit our garden and they were bowled over by the fragrance of these flowers! Furthermore, the plants tend to have a good sturdy structure, so they withstand snow loads quite well.”*

Bruce Feller: *“While not as carefully documented as some may like, his prodigious hybridizing efforts nonetheless produced many new cultivars eclipsing those few varieties then commercially available. Many of these plants have excelled in the intervening years and performed exceptionally well in gardens in the Northeast, extending westward to Ohio. For those familiar with the accomplishments of his few contemporary peers at the time, his efforts are legendary among legends.”*

Harold Greer: *“Charles O. Dexter was certainly a pioneer in rhododendrons and many of his plants are still being grown after more than 80 years, which shows he was a worthy pioneer in rhododendrons.”*

Steve Henning: *“In going over lists of previous awards, one name was surprisingly absent, Charles Owen Dexter. He passed away in 1943, a year before the ARS was founded, but was a true pioneer in hybridizing rhododendrons hardy for the East Coast of the US. Since his death, his plants have been the focus of in-depth studies. Fortunately, Philadelphia is home to perhaps the largest collection of mature Dexter cultivars anywhere in the world, namely the Wister Rhododendron Garden at Tyler Arboretum, and Scott Arboretum and the Wister Garden, both of which are at Swarthmore College.”*

Don Hyatt: *“The Dexter rhododendrons are clearly some of the most valuable hybrids for those of us who try to garden in more challenging climates. They have also proven to be valued garden plants in the more benign climates of the Pacific Northwest and UK.”*

Stephen Krebs: *“I believe that the Dexter hybrids are an American version of the ironclads.*

*Although they were developed in the relatively mild climate of Cape Cod, they have proved adaptable further north in New England, at low elevations in the southeast, and in the continental climates of the Midwest. ...*

*Holden Arboretum, where I work, also field planted Dexter seedlings for evaluation, and ultimately introduced R. ‘Maud Corning’, which is the most fragrant zone 5 cold-hardy rhododendron that I am aware of. In addition to these hybrids, we have superb 40-50-year-old specimens of R. ‘Ben Moseley’, R. ‘Janet Blair’, R. ‘Lavender Princess’, R. ‘Parker’s Pink’, and R. ‘Scintillation’ growing at the Leach Research Station and The Holden Arboretum main campus.”*

Leslie Lutz, Jr.: *“I spend every working day walking among the work of Mr. Dexter and I can attest to the beauty and magnificence of what he achieved during his lifetime. At Heritage, we actually have a week in late May dedicated to Rhododendrons and during that celebration we discuss Charles Dexter during the many public programs we present. ... Our records show that among the recipients of his seedlings were Pierre S. DuPont of Longwood Gardens, Henry Francis DuPont of Winterthur and Thomas Everett of The New York Botanical Garden.”*

Michael Martin Mills: *“Dexter died in 1943. The youngest of his hybrids are about 75 years old. Yet to this day I still receive applications for the registration of a name for a Dexter hybrid. Typically, these are from the Sandwich Club or some of its members or from Heritage Museums & Gardens. Posthumous registration applications are by no means rare, but in terms of longevity and frequency, Charles O. Dexter is in a league of his own.”*



**Dexter’s R. “Scintillation”**

Richard Murcott: *“Charles Dexter was, and still is, the foremost rhododendron hybridizer in the east. ... His plants are spectacular in bloom; the plants are attractive and they are perfectly hardy for me and a good part of the east coast. ... To show just how important the Dexter hybrids are, there is a group of enthusiasts who still go up to Heritage Plantation, the current name of the Dexter garden, and search out still unidentified super hybrids. It is impossible to overstate the obviously enormous contribution made to rhododendrons for which we all should be very grateful. He brought rhododendrons out of the 19th century and into the 20th century.”*

Peter Norris: *“Dexter purchased two adjacent farms in Sandwich totaling about 120 acres and began his efforts to hybridize rhododendrons suited to the maritime climate. For the next 25 years, until his death in 1943,*

*Dexter and his staff, headed by the talented plantsman Tony Consolini, produced copious quantities of hybrids and distributed tens of thousands of rhododendrons all across the country. Many of these ‘Dexter’ hybrids, such as ‘Scintillation’, ‘Appleblossom’, ‘Peppermint’ and ‘Honeydew’ are still favorites in the NE region. “*

Jerry O’Dell: *“One only needs to stroll Tyler Arboretum’s Wister Rhododendron Garden during the spring bloom season to fully appreciate Charles O. Dexter’s lasting contribution to the field”*

Harold Sweetman: *“The Dexter name is synonymous with the early hybridizing of rhododendrons in the United States. Although most of the early Dexter hybrids went to elite estate gardens and collectors, they are now commonly available for most rhododendron enthusiasts and have held up to the test of time.*

## 2019 ARS Photo Show Results

### Flower, truss, or spray

Jackson McCarter - ‘Hachmann’s Charmant’

### Landscape or plants in the wild or a garden

Joe Brusio - Boulderwoods

### People, insects, or animals

Jackson McCarter - Yak, pollen on bee

### Best in Show

Joe Brusio - Red bracts.

## 2019 ARS Truss Show Results

### Best in Show:

Michael Martin Mills - ‘Eliza Hyatt’

### Best Evergreen Azalea:

Michael Martin Mills - ‘Eliza Hyatt’



### Best Deciduous Azalea:

Bruce Feller - *R. prinophyllum*



### Best Elepidote Rhododendron:

Bruce Feller - ‘Bob Bovee’



Note: I apologize, but these are my photos, not photos of the actual winning trusses.

**American Rhododendron Society**

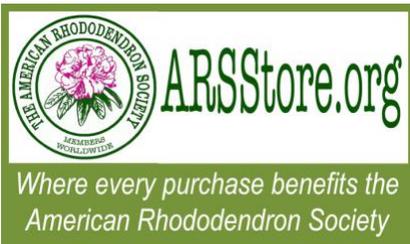
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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



**NEWSLETTER**

**June 2019**



<b>In This Issue</b>	<b>Officers and Committees:</b>
Page 2 Joint GP/VF Picnic & Annual Meeting	President: Jerry O’Dell (610) 608-2018
Page 3 District 8 Cutting Exchange & Auction	Vice President: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
Page 4 ARS 2019 Phila. Convention Report	Treasurer: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249
Page 5 ARS 2019 Fall Conference, Parksville ARS 2020 Portland Convention	Secretary: Joan Warren (484) 369-8103
Page 6 ARS Award of Merit: Barbara Bullock 2019 Gold Medal: Stephen Henning	Directors:
Page 7 2019 Pioneer Award: Charles Dexter Tributes to Charles Dexter	Perc Moser ('18-'21) (610) 525-3651
Page 9 2019 ARS Truss Show 2019 ARS Photograph Show	Kathy Woehl ('18-'21) (610) 688 9173
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	Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184

**VF Chapter’s web site: [ValleyForgeARS.org](http://ValleyForgeARS.org)**

Please contact us with 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](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).