

American Rhododendron Society

Valley Forge Chapter

P.O. Box 715, Southeastern, PA 19399-0715
www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2004

President's Message

I hope that everyone is having a pleasant relaxing summer. Hopefully, the monsoon season is over and we can enjoy more temperate weather. Unlike some others, we were fortunate not to get too washed out and have things sailing down the street. It pays to live on high ground!

Don't forget to come to the cutting exchange at Frank Brouse's on Sunday, August 15 – our only remaining event of the summer.

Since our newsletter is only coming out every 2 months, I have to look forward to September also, and to the first meeting of our chapter year. As usual, we are designating it as a 'welcome to new members' meeting, so we hope to see many of our new members. Come and meet other chapter members and get a free plant! We will also have a plant sale, for members and by members, so if you have something you would like to sell, bring it. This sale will start before the usual meeting time, at about 7 p.m.

Hope to see many of you in August.

Joan Warren, President
Email: srwjmw@att.net

BOOKS

Fran will be ordering the book American Azaleas by L. Clarence Towe soon to be released in August. He would like to know how many are interested in purchasing it. The cost of the book is \$29.95 -member price is \$24.95. Also he'll be ordering Reiley's Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Cost of book is \$24.95 - member price is \$20. He'll need 25 orders to get the discount. Please let him know if you are interested by sending an E-mail to prfran@udel.edu or call (302) 475 4396. Thanks. -Pauline Raughley

Valley Forge ARS Calendar of Events
2004 MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

August 15, 2004 (Sunday), 1:30: Our Annual ARS Plant Auction and Cutting Exchange – at Frank Brouse’s. Always a fun time! Details are in this newsletter.

September 14, 2004 (Tuesday): 7:30 pm, Board Meeting

September 16, 2004 (Thursday): 7:00 pm. Welcome new members meeting. Members’ plant sale. Steve Henning will show slides from 2003 Rhododendron Convention in New Zealand. Plant sale starts at 7:00, meeting starts at 7:30.

October 5, 2004 (Tuesday): 7:30 pm, Board Meeting

October 21, 2004 (Thursday): A regular meeting. Program to be decided.

November 14, 2004 (Sunday): Annual Dinner. Speaker will be Kathy Van Veen from Van Veen Nurseries, Oregon.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at Jenkins Arboretum
As always, if you have program suggestions, with suggestions of presenters, please contact Reid Warren at 610-913-0005.

Election of Officers

This is our slate of officers that were elected at the June 27th picnic:

Joan Warren	President ('05)
Bob Smetana	1 st V.P. ('05)
Reid Warren	2 nd V.P. ('05)
Chris Smetana	Treasurer ('06)
Penny and Tony D'Alessandro	Corresponding Secretaries ('06)
Kelly Reese	Newsletter Editor ('05)

Directors:

Margaret Fawcett	Director ('06)
Joe Bellanca	Director ('06)
Win Howe	Director ('05)
Anne Howe	Director ('05)
Steve Henning	Director ('07)
Darlene Henning	Director ('07)

Thanks to those who have newly joined, as well as to those who have agreed to continue their terms or changed positions!

Welcome, New Members!

William and Ravella Bostard	Ruth McCarrick-Walmsey
Peter Choma	Ann Osborne
Margy Grasberger	

The Valley Forge Chapter cordially invites
members of all area chapters
to the
ANNUAL RHODODENDRON & AZALEA CUTTING EXCHANGE/PLANT AUCTION
at
Frank Brouse's Home and Nursery, 2015 Potshop Ln., Norristown, PA
Auctioneer: Hank Schannen

Sunday, August 15, 2004 starting PROMPTLY at 1:30 p.m., *rain or shine*

RSVP PLEASE to Ellin Hlebik

Proceeds go to the ARS Endowment Fund

Join your rhodie friends in an afternoon of fun and fellowship and enjoy Frank Brouse's grounds.

1:30-2 p.m.: Staging of cuttings

3 or 4 large-leaf (elepidote) or 4-6 small-leaf (lepidote) cuttings, preferably taken early in the morning and low on the plants, may be put into a plastic bag with a few drops of water. Named varieties only, please. Please label the bags with a water-proof marker or pencil.

2:00 p.m.: Cuttings exchange/sale

Anyone is eligible to buy cuttings at 25 cents a bag. Propagating from cuttings is an excellent and inexpensive way to increase your collection of azaleas and rhododendrons.

2:30 p.m.: Plant Auction

Auctioneer: Hank Schannen

Please donate rhodies and azaleas as well as other garden-worthy plants that you feel others might like. Be prepared for lively bidding! Some of the donations are one-of-a-kind hybrids or very special plants.

3:00 p.m.: Propagation Demonstration-Optional

For those interested in learning from the experts.

At about 3:30 p.m.: Dessert

Please bring *your* favorite **fingerfood** dessert. You also may bring a box lunch and eat it any time. Seating is limited, so please bring your own chairs. **Beverages will be provided.**

RSVP PLEASE before 8/12/04, Questions? Call Ellin Hlebik.

Directions:

From New Jersey via NJ and PA Turnpikes, or **Allentown area** via Northeast Extension, or **points east of Valley Forge via PA Turnpike:** Take **Exit 25** Norristown. After toll booths, bear left and turn left into Plymouth Rd. At the traffic light, turn right onto Germantown Pike **West**. Follow Germantown Pike **West** for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Potshop Road. Entrance to Frank's place is 0.2 mi on the left (across from elementary school).

From Philadelphia and southern N. J.: Take Schuylkill Expressway and Route 476 N. Instead of taking Turnpike, take far right lane and bear right onto Germantown Pike **West**. Follow Germantown Pike **West** for 5.8 miles. Turn right onto Potshop Road. Entrance to Frank's place is 0.2 mi on the left (across from elementary school).

From Pottstown/Reading areas: Take Route 422 east to Route 29/Collegeville exit. Turn left and follow Route 29 for 2.4 mi. to where it T's at East Main St. Turn right onto East Main and bear right at the traffic light onto Ridge Pike. After going over the bridge, turn left at the traffic light onto Germantown Pike. Take Germantown for 4.8 miles to Potshop Road (it is the 2nd traffic light **past** intersection with Route 363). Turn left onto Potshop and the entrance to Frank's place is 0.2 mi on the left (across from elementary school).

STEELE'S NURSERY GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

After threatening for years, Steele's Nursery is finally going to close. We will have a final two-weekend sale to eliminate the excess stock, clear out the large plants on our neighbor's property, and sell the propagating supplies (propagating shelves & lights, small poly-tents 4'x4'x12', pots & trays, & sales supplies)

The sale will be September 11, 12, & 18, 19. Everything must go.

9Am until 5Pm. Rain or shine

On the 11th all plants will be full price (One has his/her choice)

On the 12th all plants will be 25% off

On the 18th all plants will be 50% off

On the 19th all plants will be 75% off

The next week any plant organization desiring to purchase plants for a plant sale, door prizes, or whatever, may do so at 10% of the original price.

Many of you have been concerned that those difficult to find, unusual varieties would no longer be available when we stop. Jim Fry (who is currently President of the New York Chapter of the ARS) has purchased all our liners containing over 1000 varieties of azaleas and close to 300 varieties of lepidotes. Jim plans to continue where we left off. Once he gets set-up and ready to sell, he will contact those of you who are currently on our mailing list. It is our understanding that Jim will ship!

We would like to thank you for your business and your friendship, -Mich & Bill

Note from Joan - this sale will be vital to all VFARS members who want to obtain Bill's plants - not only those which he has potted and usually sells, but some from his garden also.

Like any other sales to get your choice you should be here a 9 AM on the first day. To get a Bargain show up at 9AM the last Day.

**DIRECTIONS TO STEELE'S NURSERY
1055 EAST NIEL'S LANE
WEST CHESTER, PA 19382-7178
PHONE 610-696-5042**

FROM THE NORTH AND NORTH EAST AND NORTH WEST

Get on Route 202 south to West Chester. The first traffic light you to will be at South Matlack Street. Continue on 202 South one and one-half miles to the next traffic light. This is Skiles Boulevard and Stetson Middle School. Continue on Route 202 South for two Blocks (0.2 of a mile). Part way down a hill, just before a large stone church **TURN RIGHT**. This is **West Pleasant Grove Road**.

WEST PLEASANT GROVE ROAD

On West Pleasant Grove Road continue west about one half mile to the first, and only road on the right. This is Dunvegan Road; **TURN RIGHT**. (If you come to a dead end before Dunvegan Road you have gone too far; go back and look for Dunvegan.) After turning on to Dunvegan Road turn right at the dead-end. The next right will be East Niel's Lane. Turn Right. (Ignore West Niel's Lane on the left.) Steele's Nursery is the fourth driveway on the left. The name William F. Steele is on the mailbox; the # 1055 is on the post.

FROM THE SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST AND SOUTH WEST

Get on Route 202 north to West Chester. When you get to the traffic light at Route 202 and Route 926 (**Street Road**) **get in the left lane**. You will go down a hill and just start up the next hill. (About one-half mile.) Immediately past a large stone church on the left, turn left. This is **West Pleasant Grove Road**. **Follow the directions above for WEST PLEASANT GROVE ROAD**