

American Rhododendron Society

Valley Forge Chapter

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

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2005

President's Message

I hope that everyone is having a good summer, but doesn't it go by quickly? As I write this in early July, I am happy that we are having some heavy rains, as it was getting tiresome watering every rhododendron and azalea in the garden.

My tenure as president is now coming to a close and I will be handing the reins over to Bob Smetana at the beginning of September. I would like to say that I have enjoyed my job for the last 3 years, and also thank everyone who has supported and helped me do it.

Our next meeting will be the Cutting Exchange and Auction on August 14th at Chris and Bob Stamper's house, so hope to see many of you there.

The 'Plants For Members' rhododendron plants which were struck at Frank Brouse's last December are coming along well in our and Win Howe's gardens, and we will have a good selection for sale at our meeting designed for just that on September 15th. A list of what we have available will go out to everyone before the meeting, so that you can make your selections. Thank you, Frank, for taking care of them in their infancy. There are also for sale, azaleas that Win Howe rooted. Thank you, Win.

Harold Sweetman has asked me to say that a chapter member made an anonymous donation of \$3,000 to Jenkins Arboretum in Margaret Fawcett's memory. The money will be used for a summer internship, so there are now 2 interns at Jenkins for the summer. Other donations have been made by chapter members in Margaret's name, and that money will be used for landscaping and plants.

Enjoy the rest of the last, hazy days of summer.

Joan

Valley Forge ARS Calendar of Events
2005 MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

August 14, 2005 (Sunday): District 8 Annual Rhododendron & Azalea Cutting Exchange / Plant Auction

Our annual cutting exchange / plant auction will be hosted by Bob and Christa Stamper. Hope to see everyone there!

Everyone is encouraged to **bring folding chairs**.

Everyone is also encouraged to bring **plants from their garden** for the sale.

The Valley Forge Chapter
cordially invites
members of all area chapters
to the
ANNUAL RHODODENDRON & AZALEA CUTTINGS EXCHANGE/PLANT AUCTION
at
Bob and Christa Stamper's Home, 6826 Ridge Road, Zionsville, PA 18092, 610-967-2977
Auctioneer: **Hank Schannen**

Sunday, August 14, 2005 starting PROMPTLY at 1:30 p.m., rain or shine

RSVP PLEASE: Ellin Hlebik, 610/584-9764 anytime, or e mail: leftwall@yahoo.com

Proceeds go to the ARS Endowment Fund

Join your rhodie friends in an afternoon of fun and fellowship and enjoy the Stamper'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.**

Directions:

From the South: Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (the northeast extension) North to the Quakertown exit. Turn right at the exit onto route 663 towards Pennsburg. At the traffic light in Pennsburg, turn right onto Route 29. Continue on Route 29 to Pinetree Road (the road sign is on the left in front of the Fire House, but the road comes off on the right side; this is just before the Route 100 sign. If you come to the traffic light at Route 100 you have gone too far). Turn right on Pinetree Road and drive about 100 yards to Springhill Road, the first left. Turn left on Springhouse Road about 100 yards to Orthaus Road, the first right. Turn right on Orthaus Road and continue about one mile to our driveway (Orthaus Road becomes Ridge Road as it passes into Lehigh county. Our number is on the green mailbox: is 6826 Ridge Road on the right.)

From the Southwest: Take Route 100 to Route 29. Turn right onto Route 29 and drive about 100 yards to Pinetree Road. Turn left on Pinetree Road about 100 yards to Springhill Road, the first left. Turn left on Springhouse Road about 100 yards to Orthaus Road, the first right. Turn right on Orthaus Road and continue about one mile to our driveway (Orthaus Road becomes Ridge Road as it passes into Lehigh county. Our number is on the green mailbox: is 6826 Ridge Road on the right.)

From the West or East: Take Route 78 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Go south on the turnpike one exit to Quakertown. Turn right at the exit onto route 663 towards Pennsburg. At the traffic light in Pennsburg, turn right onto Route 29. Continue on Route 29 to Pinetree Road (the road sign is on the left in front of the Fire House, but the road comes off on the right side; this is just before the Route 100 sign. If you come to the traffic light at Route 100 you have gone too far). Turn right on Pinetree Road and drive about 100 yards to Springhouse Road, the first left. Turn left on Springhouse Road about 100 yards to Orthaus Road, the first right. Turn right on Orthaus Road and continue about one mile to our driveway (Orthaus Road becomes Ridge Road as it passes into Lehigh county. Our number is on the green mailbox: is 6826 Ridge Road on the right.)

September 18, 2005 (SUNDAY): 2 p.m. Plants For Members' sale. This meeting will be devoted to our "Plants for Members' sale. VF ARS meeting. Our regular meetings are usually held on a week-night, so please take note that this meeting will take place on a Sunday. More details will be mailed separately. Held at Jenkins Arboretum.

New Officers

Robert Smetana	President ('07)
Vacancy	First V.P.
Vacancy	Second V.P.
Chris Smetana	Treasurer ('06)
Penny & Tony D'Alessandro	Corresponding Secretaries ('06)
William Dennis	Recording Secretary

Directors:

Joe Bellanca ('06)
Joan Warren ('06)
Steve Henning ('07)
Darlene Henning ('07)
James Willhite ('08)
John Edinger ('08)

Newsletter Editor: Eva Jackson