



# American Rhododendron Society

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

## **NEWSLETTER**

*September/October/November 2005*

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### ***Calendar of Events***

- September 6 (Tuesday), 7:30 p.m.: **BOARD MEETING** at Jenkins Arboretum
  - September 18 (**Sunday**), 2 p.m.: **Members' Plant Sale**
  - October 20: (Thursday), 7.30 p.m.: **Regular Meeting**: Dennis Macmullan
  - November 4-6 (Friday-Sunday): **Northeast Regional Conference** in East Windsor, New Jersey (for details and Registration Form, see Summer 2005 issue of ARS Journal (and page 2 of this Newsletter)
  - November 13 (Sunday): **Annual Banquet**. Speaker: Don Hyatt
  - December: **NO** meeting
  - January: **Regular Meeting**: Member Steve Henning: 2005 Victoria Convention and Gardens
  - February: **Joint Meeting with Philadelphia Chapter** at Uwchlan Meeting House:  
Members Karl Bernady and Jim Gears: Native Azaleas
- Unless specified otherwise, regular meetings are held at Jenkins Arboretum**
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### ***President's Message***

It is hard to believe it's Labor Day weekend. The summer has been a challenge. Wet, then dry, and now hoping for wet again. At least, it hasn't been a rhodie-killer like 2002. I hope your summer has been enjoyable, wet or dry.

The Cuttings Exchange and Auction was a great success. Despite rumors to the contrary, no one really did melt.

The new VFARS season starts with the September 18 meeting at Jenkins Arboretum. This meeting will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, so there's plenty of light to examine the plants at the Members' Plant Sale. Several members have been nurturing the Plants-for-Members for the better part of the year for this event. The proceeds from these plants go to benefit your chapter's activities. If you have plants you'd like to sell, please bring them early.

Make sure you have plenty of space in your vehicle, as there will be many special plants at very reasonable prices for you to purchase.

We have a great year planned for you, continuing with the second meeting on Thursday, October 20 at 7.30 p.m. and the Annual Banquet, on Sunday, November 13.

I look forward to seeing all of you and encourage you to visit the chapter's website at

[www.valleyforgears.org](http://www.valleyforgears.org)

*Bob Smetana*

**September 18 (Sunday), 2 p.m.  
Fall Kick-Off: Members' Plant Sale**

Since the days are getting shorter, this meeting was moved to a **Sunday**. In addition to individual members being able to sell plants and to retain the proceeds, the Chapter will sell plants-for-members from cuttings taken in members' gardens and rooted at Frank Brouse's greenhouse or by Win Howe. Enclosed is a list of plants-for-members and other information. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire specimen plants, **do** bring a friend or potential member! Also, fall is ideal for planting.

**October 20 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.**

**Dennis Macmullan**

**The Hybridizer's Art: Interior-Northeast Style**

Dennis, a Chapter member, will present slides of rhododendrons hybridized by people we all know.

**Refreshments at September and October**

meetings: Members whose last names start with the letters **A to G** and **H to O**, respectively, are asked to bring fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.

**November 4-6 (Friday-Sunday)  
Northeast Regional Conference  
(District 7) in East Windsor,  
New Jersey**

By early November, you may want a break from raking leaves or doing other fall chores and attend the conference arranged by our neighboring district.

The program and other details are found in the Summer 2005 *ARS Journal*, which you should have received some time ago.

The area's many attractions, for which information will be made available, range from historical to botanical and from shopping to art.

**November 13 (Sunday),  
Annual Banquet**

**1 p.m. hors d'oeuvres, 2 p.m. dinner**

You will soon receive an invitation to the annual banquet, which will be at a new location. The speaker is Don Hyatt, a retired mathematics and computer science teacher who is also a photographer and explorer of native deciduous azaleas. He will speak on "Landscaping with Rhododendrons and Azaleas." **Penny and Tony D'Alessandro (717/687-8188) made the dinner arrangements.**

**Other Fall Events**

**Jenkins Arboretum:** Sept. 23 (Opening Reception—by subscription) until October 1: "A Jewel in the Backyard" Art Exhibition in the Arboretum's Greenhouse.

**Octoraro Farm Nursery (Jim –610/793-2313):**

Fall Open House, Sept. 9-10 and Sept 16-17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Or by special appointment: 9/12-9/15. Directions to 698 Lees Bridge Rd: Take Route 1 to Nottingham Exit, go north on Rt. 272 for 1 mile, turn left into Lees Bridge Rd and proceed 4 miles to nursery. Jim specializes in native and evergreen azaleas, rhododendrons, kalmias, wildflowers, ferns, native trees, and shrubs.

**New Members:**

We welcome the following new members:

**Janet Alvarez**, Havertown, PA

**Jesup Randell**, Malvern, PA

**Lathrop Nelson Jr.**, Bryn Mawr, PA

**Mike and Chris O'Hara**, Jameson, PA

**Meir and Haia Mazuz**, Reading, PA

**Dale Scanlan**, West Chester, PA

**Peter F. Murphy**, Wayne, PA

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**If you live near new members, please call,  
welcome, and invite them to come along with  
you to a meeting.**

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

For a smooth running of the Chapter, we still need a **First V.P.** and a **Second V.P.**, a new **Membership Chair**, to replace the late Margaret Fawcett; **Greeters** who make new members and visitors feel welcome at meetings; **Hosts and hostesses** who set up the refreshment table at all monthly meetings; a **Refreshment Coordinator**; and, last but not least, a **Truss Show Chair**.

If you are willing to fill or share any one of these positions--or have other skills to offer--, please call **President Bob Smetana—610/688-5249**, who will be happy to hear from you. He also appreciates any suggestions.

## **Membership Dues for 2005-2006**

You will receive separately a renewal notice, unless you prepaid dues, are a life member, or joined recently and are automatically a member for next year. Please send check, made out to Valley Forge Chapter ARS, to **Chris Smetana**, our treasurer (**610/688-5249**). Please do so ASAP, but no later than **December 1**, to save us reminder notices, and you the \$3 surcharge for the **Winter** issue of the *Journal*. Paying by credit card is intended only for the convenience of **international** members.

**Please list your e-mail address on the return envelope. It helps us to keep in touch and to communicate with you between newsletters.**

And remember that memberships make excellent presents for any occasion! Gift memberships may be submitted with your renewal form or with order forms accessed through the ARS web site (<http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>).

## **Plant Donations for Plant Sale 2006**

As you go about your fall chores and find plants that need to be divided, have layered, or have sprung up in the wrong places, please pot up these treasures, label them, if possible, and store them until next spring. Named or unnamed, they are very much appreciated, for the proceeds are **pure profit**. This year's earnings from donations were meager by comparison with other years, so let's make a special effort for 2006. (**For next year's sale, we also need a new Plant Donation Coordinator**).

## **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 2006 Gold Medal Plant Awards**

Every year at about this time, the PHS publishes a list of plants that are considered superior but may not have their own advocacy group. For a complete list, please access the organization's web sites ([www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org)).

## **Pass-Along Plants**

On the morning of the memorial service for Margaret Fawcett (June 3), The Inquirer had an article by Denise Cowie entitled "Pass-Along Plants Bring Real Pleasure." How timely! In my reflective mood, it made me think of the many plants that were passed along to us by ARS members and other friends. Margaret had given me just recently a red Epimedium. Years earlier, it was a climbing Hydrangea. A yellow Epimedium from Helen Roback has become a large patch. The late Don Mannion looked for and found a good home for an R. 'Break Fast', given to him by Fred Winter, who also had named the plant. When I stroll along the paths in our garden, I delight in the many plants that we owe to the generosity of these and many other gardening friends.

Eva Jackson

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Valley Forge Chapter  
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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



***NEWSLETTER***

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**Board Members:**

President:	Bob Smetana	610/688-5249 ('07)
First Vice President		<b>Vacancy</b>
Second Vice President		<b>Vacancy</b>
Treasurer:	Chris Smetana	610/688-5249 ('06)
Rec. Secretary	Bill Dennis	610/935-2696 ('07)
Corr. Secretary	Penny and Tony	
	D'Alessandro	717/687-8188 ('07)
NL Editor	Eva Jackson	610/687-2289 ('07)

**Directors:**

Joe Bellanca	610/647-4875 ('06)
Joan Warren	610/913-0005 ('06)
Steve and Darlene Henning	610/987-6184 ('07)
James Willhite	610/793-3743 ('08)
John Edinger	610/687-4526 ('08)

**Other vacancies include**

Membership Chair  
Truss Show Chair  
Greeters Hosts and Hostesses  
Hosts/hostesses and  
Refreshment Coordinator.

You are encouraged to send news and other contributions to the Newsletter Editor:  
**Eva Jackson, 730 Limehouse Road, Radnor, PA 19087,  
tel. : 610/ 687-2289, e-mail: noeleva\_jackson@juno.com**

**ARS Web Site** <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>  
Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://valleyforgears.org>

