



NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2006

Calendar of Events

- September 5 (Tuesday), 7:30 p.m.: **BOARD MEETING** at Jenkins Arboretum
- September 21 (Thursday), **6 p.m.** (please note time): **“Plants for Members” Sale** (see attached list)
- October 19: (Thursday), 7.30 p.m.: **Regular Meeting:**
- November 12 (Sunday): **Annual Banquet.**
- December: **NO** meeting

Unless specified otherwise, regular meetings are held at Jenkins Arboretum

President's Message

With the exception of four weeks without rain in August, the summer has been pretty good. And now that we've had nine inches of rain in the last week, the rhodies are quite happy.

The picnic was another of those wet periods, but, thanks to the efforts of our hosts Joan and Reid Warren, became a shining event.

The Cuttings Exchange and Auction also came off very well. Sylvia and Dallas Green's beautiful home and gardens and Hank Schannen's unique auctioneering skills combined to provide an excellent event. ARS members came from near and far, and many donated plants and cuttings to help us raise nearly \$600, which will be split between the Research Foundation and the ARS Endowment Fund. Many thanks to hosts, auctioneer, organizers, donors, and buyers.

We have an exciting program planned for you for the next year. The September 21 “Plants for Members” Sale at Jenkins Arboretum will be one hour earlier than usual, **at 6:30 p.m.**, as we plan to hold it outdoors. We will tell you about the rest of next year's program at that meeting.

Bob Smetana

www.valleyforgears.org

**September 21 (Thursday),
6:30 p.m.**

Plants for Members Sale

Please note the early starting time. Individual members will be able to sell plants and 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 these plants.

This is an excellent opportunity to acquire specimen plants, so bring a friend or potential member! **Remember that fall is ideal for planting.**

**October 19 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.
"Rhodies 101"**

This program is on the cultivation of rhododendrons and azaleas and organized by the Chapter's "experts", with new members in mind and as a refresher for others. Bring your questions!

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.

In addition to hosts/hostesses, **we need greeters who welcome new members and visitors at monthly meetings, a vital function.** If there is not an official greeter, be an unofficial one.

November 12 (Sunday),

Annual Banquet

Speaker: Rick Colbert

Director, Tyler Arboretum

Topic: The John Wister Collection

Further information will be forthcoming.

Other Fall Events

Jenkins Arboretum: September 23: Gala Reception and Auction of Giant Watering Cans Painted by area artists. By subscription: \$100/person. For more information, including location of event, call 610/647-8870. One watering can will be raffled off, and until about one week before the auction, raffle tickets (\$5 each or \$20 for 5) can be purchased at the Arboretum.

On September 16, the 4th Annual Members' Day of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) will be held at the Marine Parade Ground of the former Philadelphia Navy Yard at Broad Street and Constitution Ave. We will be represented at this event, with **Mimi Favre** spearheading the efforts to promote rhododendrons and azaleas and ARS area chapters.

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

Fall Open House, Sept. 8-9 and Sept 15-16, 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. For additional information, visit www.octorarofarmnursery.com

Membership Dues for 2006-2007

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. 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 for the convenience of **international** members.

Please list your e-mail address on the renewal envelope. It helps us to keep in touch by communicating with you between newsletters.

E-mail addresses:

Please check the Membership List and let us know if your e-mail address is correct. Any time your e-mail address changes, please notify Bob Smetana, President (vfarssmetana@yahoo.com), Chris Smetana, Treasurer (cpsmetana@yahoo.com), and Eva Jackson, Newsletter (noeleva_jackson@juno.com).

New Members:

We welcome the following new members:
Frank S. Welsh, famewelsh@verizon.net
Norman Beaudry, Beaunorm@verizon.net
(Assoc. Member)
Victoria Buckley, vgbuckley@yahoo.com
(Assoc. Member)

Changes in Membership List:

Jennie and Jim Sauer, jjbauer@verizon.net
Beth Ehland, b_ehland@yahoo.com
Barbara Ludwig, BLUDWIG@verizon.net

Vacancy

The position of a Board **Director**, whose term will end in 2008, has become available. Anyone willing to serve in this capacity, which includes attendance at Board meetings, should contact President Bob Smetana.

Plant Donations for Plant Sale 2007

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, 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 2007. (For the 2007 sale, we also need a donation coordinator.)

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 2007 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).

John C. Wister Rhododendron Collecton at Tyler Arboretum

Attached is a list of plants that are needed to replenish the John C. Wister Rhododendron Collection at Tyler Arboretum. If you have any of these plants in your garden and are willing to have cuttings taken, please contact our member Jim Willhite for further action.

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

**American Rhododendron Society
Valley Forge Chapter
P.O. Box 715
Southeastern, PA 19399-0715**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



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Joan Warren	('09)
James Willhite	('08)
VACANCY	('08)
Darlene Henning	('07)
Mimi Favre (serving out S. Henning's term)	('07)

You are encouraged to send news and other contributions to the Newsletter Editor:
Eva Jackson
e-mail: noeleva_jackson@juno.com

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