



## ***NEWSLETTER***

***September/October/November 2007***

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

- **September 20 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m. :** The propagation of rhododendrons and azaleas
  - **October 18: (Thursday), 7.30 p.m.:** Howard Kline's magnificent hybrids
  - **November 12 (Sunday):** Annual Banquet.
  - **December: NO meeting**—Wishing you Happy Holidays!  
**Unless specified otherwise, regular meetings are held at Jenkins Arboretum**
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### ***President's Message***

Even the rain didn't dampen the buying spirit at the District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction. Wil Smith's tent kept the rain off most of us and was instrumental in setting a near-record in sales. Hank Schannen's auctioning skills kept the buying juices going to the benefit of the Research Foundation and Endowment Fund.

We're now heading into the 2008 program year. The first chapter meeting on September 20 will feature Bill Steele, Frank Brouse, and a Jenkins Arboretum staff member discussing and demonstrating propagation methods, even cloning, of rhodies. Howard Kline will have a slide presentation on hybridizing his rhododendrons at the October 18 meeting. I encourage new members to attend these two meetings, especially since it is tradition to give a nice plant to new members when they attend their first meeting, as well as the November 11 annual banquet.

At the Annual Banquet on November 11 at St. Davids Golf Club, we will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the chapter, and speaker Hank Schannen will reflect on the chapter's first 40 years. Please mark your calendar now. Directions to St. Davids are available on the club's web site [www.stdavidsgc.com](http://www.stdavidsgc.com) and on the chapter's web site [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org).

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at these first three events of the VFARS 2008 program year.

Bob Smetana

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

### **The Propagation of Rhododendrons and Azaleas**

Our long-time members **Bill Steele and Frank Brouse** are among the experts who will lead the discussion about various methods of propagation, including cloning. Growing additional plants for your garden is easier than you think!

**October 18 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.**

### **Slide Presentation of His Hybrid Rhododendrons and Azaleas**

Member Howard Kline

A slide presentation is the next-best thing to seeing Howard's garden in the spring. Anybody who has been there will agree that he has magnificent rhododendrons and azaleas, including many deciduous azaleas that *he* has hybridized.

**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 finger food 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 one.

**November 11 (Sunday)**

### **Annual Banquet Celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chapter at St. Davids Golf Club 1 p.m.: reception 2 p.m.: dinner Speaker: Hank Schannen**

In his inimitable fashion, Hank Schannen will entertain and educate us going down memory lane, having witnessed the birth of

our chapter. Hank, a recipient of the ARS Gold Medal, goes back to when meetings were held in a living room. Active here until he moved to New Jersey, he is still a good and reliable friend of the Chapter and will not disappoint us with his presentation. Don't miss it. Details will follow. The banquet is arranged by Mimi Favre and partly underwritten by the chapter.

### **In Memoriam**

It is with great regret and sadness that we report the recent passing of Barbara Ludwig. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family, especially her two sons; Winnie Alcorn, her twin sister; and Winnie's husband, David.

Barbara was a long-time and loyal member, who shared her talents in numerous capacities. She served most notably as Chair of the Truss (Flower) Show Committee. In 1991, when the Chapter decided to hold the show on the Conservatory Fern Floor of Longwood Gardens on Mother's Day, Barbara met the challenges and set up and chaired the show there until 1999. For this alone, she was a deserving recipient of the Chapter's Bronze Medal.

Winnie and David ask that, instead of flowers, contributions be made to a fund set up in Barbara's memory at Jenkins Arboretum for the Education Center. (Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333).

### **Membership Dues for 2007-2008**

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, payable 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 a late fee for the **Winter** issue of the *Journal*. Paying by credit card is for the convenience of **international members only**. 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>).

### **Vacancies**

Anyone interested in serving in any capacity should contact **President Bob Smetana**. He would like to hear from you.

### **Plant Sale 2008**

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The Plant Sale Committee is already placing orders for the Spring Sale and is looking for members who are able to donate, now or later, some of their time, however little it is. The work will broaden your knowledge and lets you meet interesting new gardeners. We need, for example, a volunteer for plant donations.

**Plant Donations:** As you go about your fall chores and find plants of any kind that need to be divided, have layered, or have sprung up in the wrong places, please pot up these garden 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**.

**If you are willing to be on the Plant Sale Committee or need advice or help with plant donations, please contact Bill Dennis**

### **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 2008 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)).

## **Results of Annual Cutting Exchange and Plant Auction**

organized by Ellin Hlebk

About 50 members from various area chapters attended the auction hosted under a tent by Will Smith on a rainy August Sunday. Hank Schannen skillfully auctioned off the member-donated plants, netting close to \$750 for the Rhododendron Research Foundation and the ARS Endowment Fund. The top bid was for a rather small but beautifully grown specimen of *R. arborescens* (Sweet Azalea), a native deciduous azalea. Thanks to everyone who made the event a success.

### **Chapter Library**

**Sally Novello** has maintained the chapter's library for many years and will happily unlock it for anyone interested. It contains a great variety of books, on rhododendrons and azaleas as well as on other plants and related subject matters. Please contact Sally or see her at meetings.

### **Metal Plant Labels**

The plant labeling machine, donated by the Chapter to Jenkins Arboretum a number of years ago, is available in January and February to members in good standing, with priority given, of course, to active members. If you are interested in details, please contact **Wenner Smith**.

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

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



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**Board members:**

President: Bob Smetana  
First Vice President Steve Henning  
Second Vice Presiden/Membership:  
Treasurer: Chris Smetana  
Record./

**Vacancy**

Corresp. Secretary Bill Dennis  
NL Editor Eva Jackson  
**Directors (6):** Mimi Favre ('10)  
Darlene Henning ('10)  
Randell Jesup ('08)  
Steve Cooper ('08)  
Joan Warren ('09)  
Win Howe ('09)

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

## New Members

We welcome the following new members and encourage them to attend meetings and to participate in various Chapter activities. For meetings, we try to select topics or speakers of interest to novices as well as more experienced rhododendron/azalea gardeners. However, we greatly welcome any suggestions from new members as to **their needs and expectations**. **All new members are listed in the Directory sent to you with the last (Summer) newsletter.** The Board of Directors has suggested that members check the Directory for “neighboring” members to contact them and share information.

Kathryn Andersen  
Pierce and Cindy Archer  
Charles Baker  
Maggie Bazzel  
Brad and Sue Blackburn  
Fran Boyle  
Tom Buechle  
K. Cameron  
Jim and Arlene Curley  
June Deboehmler  
Andy Earle  
Anand Ekambaram  
Sally Fairchild  
Wayne and Doris Guymon  
Michael Heaberg  
Louise Herring  
Chris Hummer  
Mary Anne Johnston  
Pamela Jones

Marjorie Kennedy  
Ed Meehan  
Christine Meyer  
Dan and Sue Morris  
Audrey Pann and Dean Simmons  
Katherine Paul  
Gardner and Laura Pearson  
Susan Remick  
George Rayl  
Greg Rowe  
George Sheridan  
Matt Shultz  
Amanda Swope  
Bill Vosburgh  
Paul Weinstein and Michael Rauske  
Kathy Woehl  
Laura York  
David Zopf and Sandra Crow  
Marc Thomson

**New members will receive a plant at the first meeting they attend.**

### **Directory Corrections/Changes:**

Primary Member:  
    Bill Dennis

Associate Member (primary member in Princeton Chapter):

Any changes in Directory information should be reported to Bob Smetana, President, or Chris Smetana, Treasurer, or Eva Jackson, Newsletter Editor.