



NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2008

Calendar of Events

- **September 18 (Thursday), 6:30 p.m.:** Plants-for-Members Sale
 - **October 16: (Thursday), 7.30 p.m.:** Joel C. Fry, The Bartram Family of Philadelphia
 - **November 9 (Sunday):** Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club, Wayne, PA
 - **December: NO meeting**—Wishing you Happy Holidays!
- Unless specified otherwise, regular meetings will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon, PA (see inside for more information)**

President's Message

After our summer break from regular chapter meetings, we're ready to get the 2009 ARS year started. As you know, Jenkins Arboretum is undergoing upgrades and expansion, so we have contracted with St Luke Lutheran Church, 208 N. Valley Forge Rd, Devon, PA 19333 for five of our meetings (Sept., Oct., January, March, April). The church is at the intersection of Conestoga Road and N Valley Forge Road, just 1-1/2 mi south and a little east from Jenkins,

Please thank Ellin Hlebig for a great job organizing the District 8 CutX & Auction held at the Doppels' in August. We had a record auction and great attendance.

Our **September 18** meeting will begin early at 6:30 pm, so we will have daylight to select and purchase newly rooted plants selected by Jim Willhite for this event. This is a buying opportunity you won't want to miss as all these plants are offered to members at cost. Many hard-to-find plants will be featured, and fall is a great time to plant.

The **October 16** meeting will also be held at St Luke, but at our usual meeting time of 7:30 pm. Joel Fry, curator of Bartram Gardens, will be our featured speaker.

Since everyone enjoyed the setting, service and food so much last year, we will again hold our annual banquet at St. Davids Golf Club, on **November 9**. John and Sally Perkins will be coming from the Boston Chapter as our speakers.

More details for all the above events can always be found on our website www.ValleyForgeARS.org and elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you in a few weeks,

Bob Smetana

Temporary Change in Meeting Location

Please note that, because of construction at Jenkins Arboretum, our meetings in September and October 2008 and in January, March, and April 2009 will be held at **St. Luke Lutheran Church, 208 N. Valley Forge Road, Devon, PA 19333**. The church is located at the intersection of Conestoga Road and N. Valley Forge Road. **Directions:** Take Devon State Road, as if you were to go to Jenkins Arboretum. However, after you have gone over the bridge, turn **left** into N. Valley Forge Road to the intersection with Conestoga Road (traffic light). Continue across the intersection and turn **left** into the church's parking lot.

Summer Activities

Before we embark on our fall program, let's not forget to thank **Barbara and Fred Winter** for hosting the annual meeting and picnic, which was held on the lawn and in the barn of their beautiful property, and **Holly and John Doppel** for hosting the cuttings exchange and plant auction, which was well attended by members of all neighboring chapters for the benefit of the Research Foundation and the ARS Endowment Fund. Thanks to all who came and especially to Hank Schannen, our popular auctioneer.

September 18 (Thursday), 6:30 p.m. St. Luke Lutheran Church Annual Plants-for-Members (P4M) Sale

organized by Jim Willhite

September and October are great months for planting new rhododendrons and azaleas! With Fall 2008 in mind, last fall the P4M Committee collected approx. 500 cuttings of choice plants and had them rooted for the membership by Van Veen Nursery. Assuming typical yield levels, we should have approx. 300 newly rooted plants to distribute to our members at the September meeting. Prices have not yet been determined, but the goal is to make them available at our cost, which should mean approx. \$4 or \$5 per rhodie, and perhaps half that for azaleas. Check the website (www.valleyforgears.org) for a link to a list of the cultivars and species we selected for distribution. This event is open to **members only**, so join us and take advantage of this great opportunity to acquire unusual, harder-to-find rhodies and azaleas for your gardens.

October 16 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.

Flowers on the Frontier—The Bartram Family Plant Collectors and Naturalists in 18th Century North America

Joel T. Fry, Curator, Bartram Gardens, Philadelphia

John Bartram and his son William were unique in 18th century America, homegrown natural scientists and practical gardeners. Ultimately, from 1728 to 1850, four generations of Bartrams lived and worked at the family farmstead from 1728-1850, and made their livelihood by the exchange of plants and natural history specimens with the world. Bartram Gardens became a gathering point for scientists, artists, gardeners, and the curious.

This talk will trace the careers of John Bartram and his son William, their travels in North America, and their impact on international science. It will also look specifically at some of the Rhododendron species that the Bartram family discovered and introduced to gardens in North America and Europe.

Refreshments: Members whose last name starts with the letters P to Z are asked to bring fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.

Vacancies: We are still looking for a person who is in charge of beverage supplies and set-up. **We have other vacancies to fill.** If you are willing to pitch in, please contact Bob Smetana.

Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

**Please reserve November 9 for the
Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club**
(1 p.m.: Reception, 2 p.m.: Dinner)
Speakers: John and Sally Perkins, Boston
You will receive a special invitation

Membership Dues for 2008-09

The **renewal** notices will go to members who have not prepaid, are not life members, or have not joined recently and, therefore, are automatically a member for the coming membership year. We hope that all of you who are up for renewal will renew your membership. **A current membership directory is attached.**

Please send check, payable to Valley Forge ARS, to our Treasurer, Chris Smetana. Please pay ASAP or at least by **December 1**, to save us reminder notices and you a late fee in order to receive the winter issue of the *ARS Journal*. Payment by credit card is an option intended for international members.

Also remember, memberships make excellent gifts for any occasion (\$35/individual, \$40/family). **Gift memberships** may be submitted with your renewal forms. So why not give a membership to a friend or relative?

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 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 site www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org for the latest update.

In Memoriam

We lost a kind and loyal friend when Francis 'Fran' Raughley, Jr. died on July 5, 2008 at the age of 86. Fran joined the Valley Forge chapter in 1977 and remained an active member until his death.

A life-long resident of Delaware, he was a project engineer at DuPont until he retired in 1985. He spent his retirement years pursuing his passion for gardening, attending the Barnes Foundation Arboretum School, volunteering as a garden guide at Winterthur, and being an active member not only of several ARS chapters but also of the Day Lily and Holly societies. In 1986, he received the ARS Bronze Medal after serving as Valley Forge Chapter Librarian and Director for many years and as Chapter President from 1984-1986. In 2002, Fran was honored by the University of Delaware's Goodstay Gardens for his work on its Horticultural Advisory and Education Committees. He was proud of his beautiful garden and shared it with others on numerous occasions. Fran also will be gratefully remembered for procuring for us at almost every meeting a fine selection of gardening books that satisfied every need and interest. We will greatly miss him, and our thoughts are with his wife Pauline and his family.

Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

Board members:

President: Bob Smetana ('09)
First Vice President Steve Henning ('09)
Second Vice President/Membership: **Vacancy**
Treasurer: Chris Smetana ('09)
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Directors (6): Randell Jessup ('11)
Vacancy
Mimi Favre ('10)
Darlene Henning ('10)
Joan Warren ('09)
Win Howe ('09)

Contributions to the Newsletter, published for 3 months each September, January, and April, with also a summer issue and special notices, as needed, should be directed at least 2 weeks earlier to Eva Jackson.

ARS Web Site <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>

Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

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Valley Forge Chapter
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