



Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

## **NEWSLETTER**

*September/October/November 2010*

---

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

- **September 16** (Thursday), **7:00 p.m.**: **Plants for Members (P4M) Sale,**
- **October 21:** (Thursday), **7.30 p.m.:**
- **November 14** (Sunday): Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club, Wayne, PA,  
**Speaker:**
- **December:** NO meeting— *Happy Holidays!*
- **2011**
- **April 29-30, May 1**      **2011 PLANT SALE at Jenkins Arboretum**
- **May 8**                      **Flower/Truss Show at Jenkins Arboretum (Phila./VF Chapters)**
- **May 11-15**                **ARS National Convention, Vancouver, Washington**

**Unless specified otherwise, meetings and events will be held at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon**

---

### ***President's Message***

**First**, welcome to Amy O'Leary of Phoenixville, Julia Leisenring of Berwyn, and Linda Ratsep of West Chester, our newest members. **Second**, a big thank you to the officers who served this past year and welcome to our newest director, Alice Horton. Special thanks to Eva Jackson, who works hard as our Newsletter Editor. **Third**, a big thank you to Chris Smetana for heading up a very successful plant sale. We sold out! Also, thanks to Jim Willhite, who coordinated the Flower Show with the Philadelphia Chapter. **Fourth**, thanks to Frank Brouse for hosting the District 8 Auction & Sale, and to Ellin Hlebik for again a great job organizing this very successful district event. The proceeds benefit the ARS Research Foundation and the ARS Endowment.

Our September 16 meeting is our "Plants For Members" night. Jim Willhite collected cuttings of some of the most desirable plants for our area. The cuttings were rooted this summer, so they require extra attention in the first year. We will start the sale at 7:00 PM, to have enough light to read the labels.

This has been a horrible summer for our gardens, with very little rain in many areas and record- high temperatures. I have several new beds that required frequent attention. Fortunately, partial shade and careful mulching served my older plants well. All seem to be surviving.

We have a great year planned for you, continuing with the second meeting on Thursday, October 21 at 7.30 p.m. and the Annual Banquet at St. Davids, on Sunday, November 14.

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

<http://valleyforgears.org>

**Steve Henning**

**September 16 (Thursday), 7 p.m. (please note starting time)**

***Plants for Members Sale***

Organized by Jim Willhite

In addition to giving individual members an opportunity to sell plants from their gardens and retain the proceeds, the Chapter will sell **plants-for-members rooted by Van Veen from cuttings** taken from members' gardens, including the late Joe Becales, and from Jenkins, Scott, and Tyler arboretums. A list of these plants will be at our web site and made available at the meeting. Most plants are special, specially priced, and not readily available. To name just a few, they include R. hybrids 'Luna', 'Blue Ridge', 'Eastern Sappho'; the superb and hardy R. augustinii 'Fair Sky'; relatively unknown John Wister treasures ('Sparkling Jewel', 'Snow Shimmer', Sw. 70 R.3 'Tohican', 'Dr. John'); little-known greats from Charles Dexter and Joe Gable (Sw. 12505-5, 'Lady Decora', Sw. 12506-10, 'Isabel Gable', 'WH Ebaugh', 'Dupont Apricot', and 'Mary Dalton'). Joe Becales hybrids include R. fortunei x 'Scott pink', R. fortunei 'Charles Butler' (both stunningly fragrant), and such lepidotes as 'Fair Sky', '24 Karat' (a nice yellow), and R. carolinianum, Biltmore Form (white flowers in spring and year-round great foliage). Also included is Azalea 'Gloria Still', which was "Best in Show" at the 2009 Flower/Truss Show.

Since fall is considered by many to be the ideal time to plant rhododendrons and azaleas, don't miss this great opportunity. We encourage our newest members "to get into the swing of things" and encourage all members to bring a potential member-friend.

**Refreshments:** Members whose names start with the letters **A to J** are asked to bring some tasty fingerfood desserts.

**October 21 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.**

***All you want to know about  
Witch Hazels (Hamamelis)—Harbingers of Spring***

Speaker: Randy Kobetich

Join **Randy**, a certified Master Gardener, for an exploration of these fascinating early-blooming shrubs. Randy has been studying, growing, showing, and propagating witch-hazels for many years and recently gave programs at Rarefind and Tyler on the subject. Some of you remember Randy from his exciting program on cold-hardy camellias at our April 2009 meeting.

**Refreshments:** Members whose last name starts with the letters **K to O** are asked to bring tasty fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.

**Please reserve Sunday, November 14,  
for our Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club and look out for your special invitation  
(Reception 1 p.m., Dinner 2 p.m.)**

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

## Membership Dues for 2010-11

**Renewal** notices will be mailed to members who have **not** prepaid, are **not** life members, or have **not** joined recently and become automatically members for the coming membership year.

Your check payable to Valley Forge ARS (credit card payment is only for the convenience of international members), should be sent to Treasurer Chris Smetana, 14 Northwoods Rd, Radnor, PA 19087 by **December 1**, to save us reminder notices and you a **late fee** for receiving the Winter issue of the *ARS Journal*. Why not include a gift membership to a friend or relative with your renewal forms?

We welcome our **newest members**:

**Linda Ratsep** (renewal), 211 Lockwood Lane, West Chester, Pa 19380, 610/430-1273,

**Amy O'Leary**, 352 Washington Ave., Phoenixville, PA 19460,

**Julia Leisenring**, 300 Leopard Road, Berwyn, PA 19312, 610/644-0715

**Plants for new members may be claimed at the September meeting.**

If you receive the **newsletter** through the U.S. P.S. but do have an email address, we may not have the correct one, so please inform Steve Henning ([rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)) or Eva Jackson. We email to keep our expenses down.

## In Memoriam

**Ruth Butterfield**, a faithful member for many years, died July 3 at age 91. Ruth rarely missed a meeting or event and contributed cheerfully in many ways, including with truss/flower show entries and as truss show recording clerk, as recording secretary, and whenever help was needed, such as at our annual plant sale at Jenkins. For 37 years, Ruth was an executive secretary at Rohm & Haas. We have very fond memories of her. Ruth is survived by her sister Alvin Nagle, brother-in-law, and their sons. Our sincere condolences go to Ruth's sister and brother-in-law, Dr. and Mr. Frank Nagle, 1531 Monticello Drive, Gladwyn, PA 19035, and their family

**Brian Keim**, a primary member and former president of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Philadelphia, died suddenly on August 26 at age 67. A graduate of U of P Law School, Brian was a well-respected lawyer who shared his expertise with a number of non-profit organizations. As Counsel to the Lutheran Church of America, he facilitated the merger that formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1987. Brian was passionate about the genus *Rhododendron* and submitted with his wife Cathy many winning entries to the annual truss/flower shows and had their garden included in garden tours. He was a lifelong model train and railroad collector and, in recent years, spent much time with his four grandchildren. Brian will be sorely missed, and our sincere condolences go to Cathy and her family. Cathy's address is 1189 Sewell Lane, Rydal, PA 19046.

**Bob Wilkinson**, an active member of the Philadelphia Chapter until illness took him to family and treatment in California in 2003, died on August 12. Bob grew up in Philadelphia and was for many years an engineer with the Philadelphia Water Department. With his wife, the late Judi Meade, he gardened in Roxborough and had many varieties of rhododendrons but was known for valuing especially those with colorful leaf indumentum or tomentum—a true connoisseur.

We sadly report their passing.

\*\*\*

The **new slate of officers**, voted in at the June 27 Annual Meeting and Picnic, consists of Steve Henning (President), Bob Smetana (Vice President), Chris Smetana (Treasurer), Joan Warren (Secretary), and Bill Dennis, Darlene Henning, John Ryan, Randell Jesup, Cathy Woehl, and, new, Alice Horton (Directors).

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

The **Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction** on August 15 was organized by Ellin Hlebik at Frank Brouse's and was well-attended despite the inclement weather. Auctioneer was Karel Bernady. The net proceeds of almost \$500 will be shared by the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Thanks to all who contributed to this effort!

### **Jenkins Arboretum Gift Shop**

Consider shopping here for gardening friends. The shop in the new building has some very clever gifts, such as the expandable flower vase in different patterns that is easy to mail or to pack into a suitcase for a distant friend or hostess.

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

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



***NEWSLETTER***

***September/October/November 2010***