

14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087-  
 Chapter's Website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

## **NEWSLETTER**                      **October / November 2019**

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

### ***Calendar at a Glance***

- Oct. 17, 2019 (Thu.)**      **7:30 pm, Ken LeRoy, "Thomas Meehan, Father of Philadelphia Parks"**  
**Nov. 10, 2019 (Sun.)**    **11:30 am, Jenny Rose Carey at VF ARS Banquet, St. David's Golf Club**  
**Jan. 19, 2020 (Sun.)**    **2:00 pm, Linda Ehrhardt, "Azaleas & Rhododendrons at Winterthur"**  
**Feb. 16, 2020 (Sun.)**    **2:00 pm, Steve Kristoph at Uwchlan, "Game of Rhododendron Jeopardy"**

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

We finished up the summer season with two enjoyable events.

Our annual Cutting Exchange and Plant Auction was held on August 18th at Jenkins Arboretum. For many of us it was our first opportunity to meet Tom Smarr, the new Executive Director of Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens. Tom was very engaging and excited about his role at Jenkins and said he was looking forward to working with the Chapter. Likewise we are also very much looking forward to working with him.

Once again, our Cutting Exchange and Plant Auction was popular and Karel Bernady did another great job as the auctioneer. The event raised over \$900.00 which we always equally donate to the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Thanks to everyone who helped make this another successful event.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter's Plants for Members sale was held at Morris Arboretum on Sept 8th with an excellent selection of cuttings and graftings. I picked up very nice cuttings of two vigorous plants:

Rhododendron 'Lady of Vernon' and Rhododendron 'July Hope' both of which are pleasantly growing in the Wister Rhododendron Garden.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 17th at 7:30 at Jenkins Arboretum. Our speaker will be Ken LeRoy, a Certified Arborist with the John B. Ward & Co, whose knowledge and love of Philadelphia's

historic trees you will quickly realize when he talks about Thomas Meehan, widely recognized as the Father of Philadelphia Parks.

Our annual Banquet will be held on Sun. Nov. 10th at St. Davids Golf Club. This year, Jenny Rose Carey, Senior Director of PA Horticulture Society's Meadowbrook Farm, will be our guest speaker. I'm sure everyone remembers Jenny's wonderful presentation on Philadelphia's Garden History at the 2019 ARS Saturday Banquet. She will talk about shade gardening and I will also ask her to bring along some copies of her book "Glorious Shade" which is a go-to resource for shade gardening information. Last year we moved our banquet starting time up a tad earlier, 11:30 rather than 1:00. Everyone seemed very happy with that so we will keep that same schedule again this year.

So it looks like another great Fall Schedule. Please put our meeting/banquet dates on your schedule and bring a friend or two and introduced them to world of Rhododendrons.

In closing I want to remind everyone this is the time of year for everyone to renew their ARS membership for the 2020 season.

Wishing all a great fall season.  
 Jerry O'Dell

(610) 608-2018                      [westdell@verizon.net](mailto:westdell@verizon.net)

**VF ARS website:** [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

On October 17, 2019, (Thursday), at 7:30 pm:

**Speaker: Ken LeRoy**

***“Thomas Meehan:  
Father of Philadelphia Parks”***

Ken LeRoy will talk about **Thomas Meehan** who was born in 1826 and was a noted British-born nurseryman, botanist, and author. He worked at Kew Gardens before moving to Germantown where he started a nursery. Meehan is considered to be the father of the urban park movement in Philadelphia. He campaigned to establish and preserve parks including Historic Bartram’s Garden.

**Ken LeRoy** is an ISA certified arborist dedicated to integrating trees and plants into urban and suburban environments. Ken has cared for many trees, some of which have been trees of age on historic sites with stories to tell. He pursued his interest at Temple University’s School of Horticulture and is currently an arborist representative with John B. Ward & Co. Arborists. Arboretum Philadelphia is a community Facebook page that



Ken founded where one can photograph, document, and post impressive trees and shrubs in the Philadelphia area.

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On Nov. 10, 2019 (Sunday), Banquet at St. Davids GC at 11: 30 am:

**Annual Banquet at St. Davids GC**

**Social Hour & Cash Bar at 11:30 am (note change), Lunch at 12:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Jenny Rose Carey**

**Program: “Glorious Shade, The Art of Shade Gardening”**

*Note the early time.*

Jenny Rose Carey is a renowned gardener, educator, historian, and author, and the senior director at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm in Jenkintown. Previously, while at Temple University for over a decade, she was an adjunct professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture and director of the Ambler Arboretum. Jenny Rose has lectured nationally and internationally for many years. She is an avid, hands-on gardener who gardens in both England



and the United States. Her Victorian property, Northview, contains diverse garden spaces, including a shade garden, moss garden, and a stumpery. Jenny Rose and her gardens have been featured on the PBS series The Victory Garden, in the Wall Street Journal, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Green Scene magazine, and the Pennsylvania Gardener.

She is the author of *Glorious Shade* Timber Press 2017. Bill Thomas, executive director of Chanticleer and author of *The Art of Gardening* wrote: "Jenny Rose Carey simplifies the complexities of shade. Her beautifully illustrated talk glorifies the

picturesqueness of green, while giving practical advice on bringing color to dark areas.

*The Valley Forge Chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society  
cordially invites ARS Members and Friends to the*

# **Annual Banquet**

**Sunday, November 10, 2019**

**11:30 a.m. - *Note Early Time***

**St. Davids Golf Club**

845 Radnor Street Road • Wayne, Pennsylvania

**610-688-2010 • [www.stdavidsgc.com](http://www.stdavidsgc.com)**

***Social Hour and Cash Bar at 11:30 a.m.***

***Lunch at 12:30 p.m.***

***Speaker: Jenny Rose Carey***

***Director of PHS's Meadowbrook Farm***

***“Glorious Shade, The Art of Shade Gardening”***

**RSVP: Please Return Reservation Form Below • Proper Attire**

## ***Valley Forge ARS Banquet Reservation Form***

***(Must be received by November 8, 2019)***

***Please Indicate The Number Of Persons***

***\_\_\_\_\_ Hot Lunch Buffet -- \$35 per Person***

***If received before November 1, you will receive a \$5 drink chit for each person***

***Appetizer: Chicken & Corn Chowder to be served to table.***

***Chicken Francaise***

***Atlantic Broiled Salmon***

***Flank Steak with Wild Mushroom Demi Glace***

***Seasonal Vegetable Medley***

***House Salad, Caesar Salad, and Potato Salad***

***Iced Tea, Lemonade, Tea and Coffee***

***Dessert: Ice Cream served to table after buffet.***

***Please send check, made payable to Valley Forge ARS***

***In the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to:***

***Kathy Woehl***

***143 Old State Road***

***Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312***

***610-688-9173***

***Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_***

**On January 19, 2020, (Sunday.) at Jenkins at 2:00 pm:**

**Speaker: Linda Eirhart:**

**“Azaleas and  
Rhododendrons at  
Winterthur”**

Linda Eirhart is the Director of Horticulture/Senior Curator of Plants at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library.

H. F. du Pont corresponded with many of the rhododendron and azalea hybridizers of his time. Come see the hybrids in bloom and hear about the men who created these garden treasures.

Linda Eirhart will share some of the delightful correspondence between du Pont and these pioneer plantsmen.



There are thousands of azalea cultivars available today for the home gardener. That would not have been the case a hundred years ago when H. F. du Pont was just starting his “Wild Garden”. In the early 20th century, H.F. du Pont began collecting and trying “just about every new evergreen azalea that became available.”

For instance our Kurume azaleas that make up the main display in Azalea Woods were

first displayed in this country in 1915; two years later Mr. du Pont purchased several from Cottage Garden Nursery.

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**On February 16, 2020, (Sunday.) at Uwchlan at 2:00 pm:**

**Speaker: Steven Kristoph:**

**“Game of Rhododendron Jeopardy”**

Our very entertaining speaker will be Steve Kristoph who teaches landscape design at Rutgers University, and also runs a nursery in New Jersey. He has been an adjunct instructor at Rutgers University for over 25 years. He also owns and operates the Steven Kristoph Nursery in Millstone Township of Monmouth County NJ where he grows many types of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials.

Steven Kristoph has been an ARS member for over 30 years. His interaction with the Society



has led him to many new, exciting, and unique plants, and not just rhododendrons! Every one of his new finds has a story associated with it.

Steven is passionate about plants and likes to share his passion with others.

Taking time to smell all the roses is important to him and you can bet if there’s an indumented rhododendron leaf close by it is likely to get a gentle caress.

Are you fascinated by native azaleas but aren’t sure how to grow them? Steven Kristoph examines several species and cultivars of these attractive yet underappreciated shrubs and discusses the basic elements of successfully growing them.

Discover azaleas that have intoxicating fragrance and extraordinarily colorful flowers, and learn the best ways to integrate these captivating plants into your garden.

## ARS Membership Renewals Are Due December 1st

Our membership chair, Darlene Henning, mailed out membership renewal forms to all regular and associate members. Details are on the forms, but the dues are the same as last year: \$40 for regular members and \$10 for associate members whose primary membership is with a different chapter.

## Early-Bird Membership Renewal Raffle

If you renew before November 1st, you will be eligible to be in a raffle at the banquet for a special plant.

If you didn't receive or misplaced Darlene's mailing or you want to be a new member, use the form on the next page. If you have any questions, contact Darlene at 610-987-6184 or [mdhenning@earthlink.net](mailto:mdhenning@earthlink.net).

<b>AUTUMN IS RENEWAL TIME! RENEW TODAY</b>	
Would you like to make a gift to the General Fund?	Amount \$ _____
Remember someone with a gift to the Endowment Fund	Amount \$ _____
Who would you like to remember? _____	
Would you like to make a gift to Research Foundation?	Amount \$ _____
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City/State: _____	
Zip/Country: _____	
Phone*: _____	Email*: _____
<p>Check here only if you do not wish to have your phone, fax, and e-mail address printed in our membership rosters</p> <p><b>PLEASE REMIT DUES BEFORE DECEMBER 1</b></p>	
Student (St).....\$10	
Regular (R) .....\$40	
Commercial (C).....\$90	
Sustaining (SU).....\$75	
Sponsoring (SP)..\$150	
Commit for Life (L), payable over 3 years (1-\$400 & 2-\$350) \$1000 (Individual)	
Commit for Life (L), payable of 3 years in increments of \$500 \$1500 (Family)	
Mem. type _____ x no. yrs. _____ = Total US Funds Enclosed \$ _____	
Check here if you do not wish to receive the Journal ARS	
Make Checks Payable to: <b>Valley Forge ARS</b>	
Mail to:	<b>Valley Forge ARS</b> <b>14 Northwoods Road</b> <b>Rathor PA 19087</b>

## If you have skin in the game of gardening, protect your skin

We think of gardening and being outdoors as among the healthiest things we do. However, we need to be aware of some of the dangers. We know about bees and ticks, and about toxic chemicals and poison ivy, but they are only a few of the hazards we face.

Injuries in the garden are more common than you may think. By taking a few precautions, you can prevent many injuries due to gardening or yardwork.

### 9 ways to protect your skin while gardening

Dermatologists recommend the following while gardening:

1. **Cover up.** When working with plants, everything from the plant's sap to its thorns or spines can injure your skin. Touching certain plants can cause an allergic skin reaction. The best way to protect yourself is to cover your skin.

When working with plants, dermatologists recommend wearing:

- Gloves
- Shirt with long sleeves
- Pants
- Socks
- Shoes that cover your feet, such as running shoes

Dermatologists also recommend wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses while outdoors. This helps to protect you from the sun and the risk of skin cancer.

2. **Use sunscreen.** To protect your skin from the sun, you'll also want to apply sunscreen that offers:
  - Broad-spectrum protection
  - SPF 30 or higher
  - Water-resistance

Be sure to generously apply the sunscreen to all bare skin, including your face, neck, and ears. To protect your lips from the sun, use a lip balm with SPF 30 or higher. You can stay protected by re-applying sunscreen every 2 hours.

Covering up and using sunscreen can also help to reduce your risk of getting sunburn, skin cancer, and early signs of skin aging, including age spots and wrinkles.

3. **Avoid the sun when it's strongest.** The sun's rays are strongest between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. When possible, dermatologists recommend staying indoors during these hours.

If you must garden during these hours, try to stay in the shade. This will also reduce your risk of heat stroke, heat rash, and skin cancer.

4. **Take precautions to avoid bug bites.** You can prevent many injuries and illnesses due to bugs by:
  - Spraying insect repellent with DEET on your clothing once you're outdoors
  - Avoiding gardening and yardwork during dawn and dusk, which is when bugs are most active
  - Flicking a bug off rather than killing it, which can prevent the bug from biting or stinging
  - Checking your skin from head to toe for ticks when you finish gardening, being

sure to check the skin between your toes, hairline, and underarms

5. **Read labels on pest control products, plant foods, and fertilizers *before* using them.** Many gardening products that we use

from insecticides to weed killers can cause injuries ranging from a mild rash to severe burns. In rare cases, people have developed life-threatening injuries.

Following all precautions on the label can help prevent these injuries. For example, when the label calls for a respirator, use one or don't use the product.

When using fertilizer, wear gloves. After using a fertilizer, immediately and thoroughly wash your hands.

6. **Avoid touching your face while gardening.** You could get plant sap or something else on your face, which might injure you.

If you need to wipe away sweat, keep a clean washcloth handy. Use it to blot your face dry.

7. **Treat wounds right away.** If you have a minor injury, such as a puncture wound from a thorn, it can be tempting to ignore it and keep working. Don't. Even a minor wound can become infected.

To prevent an infection, immediately treat your wound as follows:

- Wash the wound with soap and water.
- Apply an antibiotic ointment.
- Cover the wound with a bandage.
- Keep the wound clean by changing into clean gloves and clothing before you continue.
- Clean the wound and change the bandage every day until the wound heals.

8. **Skip foods and drinks that contain citrus — or follow this precaution.** When citrus juice gets on your skin, it can react with sunlight and can cause a blistering rash or painful swelling. Foods that contain citrus include lemons, limes, grapefruit, and oranges.

9. **Shower when you finish gardening and change into clean clothes.** Sap, pollen, and other parts of plants can get on your clothes and skin. To protect your skin, shower and

put on clean clothes immediately after gardening.

Make sure you also machine wash the clothes that you wore while gardening before wearing them again.

### **When to see a board-certified dermatologist**

While many skin problems caused by gardening can be prevented, an injury can still occur. You can treat most skin injuries at home by:

- Cleaning and caring for wounds right away.
- Treating itchy or irritated skin with a cortisone cream.
- Alleviating allergy symptoms, such as itchy eyes and sneezing, by taking an antihistamine.

If an injury doesn't heal or worsens, a board-certified dermatologist can help.

[Courtesy of the American Academy of Dermatology](#)

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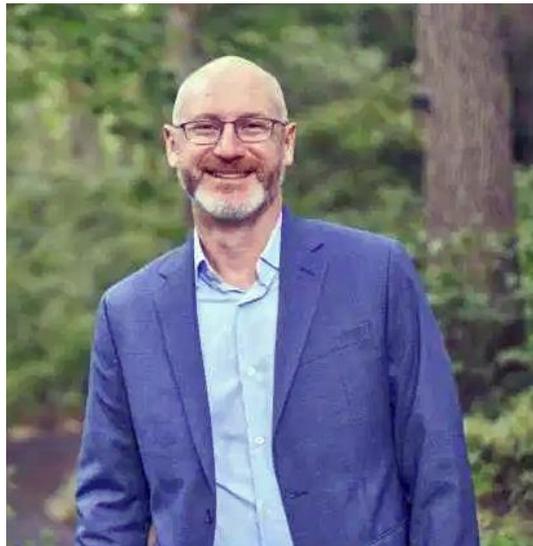
## **Welcome to Tom Smarr, Jenkins Arboretum New Executive Director**

In May the Board of Directors at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens announced the appointment of Tom Smarr as its new Executive Director. Tom succeeds Dr. Harold Sweetman, who grew the garden from the ground up as Jenkins' Executive Director for 33 years.

Tom Smarr comes to Jenkins with over two decades of experience in horticulture, conservation, botanic gardens, public parks and organic landscaping. He holds a master's degree in urban horticulture from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA, and has worked for established institutions such as the University of Washington Botanic Gardens in Seattle, WA; New England Wild Flower Society's "Garden in the Woods" in Framingham, MA; the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway in downtown Boston, MA; and the High Line, a public park in New York City along unused elevated train rails. Most recently, he led garden and natural areas design for The Parklands of Floyds Fork, a nearly 4,000-acre ribbon of parks in Louisville, KY opened in 2016 by 21st Century Parks, Inc.

Tom arrives at Jenkins during an important time of planning and growth: Jenkins is nearing

an Endowment Campaign goal of \$20 million, is in the process of developing a new site master plan and continues to develop the botanical collections and educational offerings. Tom assumes his new role on June 24, 2019.



A native of Pennsylvania, Tom stated: "It's a great honor to return home to lead this beautiful and important garden so expertly advanced by Dr. Harold Sweetman. I am excited to expand on the many initiatives already taking place at Jenkins: a well-documented plant collection, educational

experiences focused on environmental horticulture and a free visitor experience for the community. Alongside a terrific and dedicated staff, I look forward to utilizing the resources that Jenkins can provide to further the mission and to connect people with our natural world. Great collaborative support will bring forth great achievements as we further the Jenkins legacy."

The 48-acres Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens which opened in 1976 showcases a world class collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. Jenkins is open daily and is always free of admission.

## Thanks to everyone who participated in the ARS 2019 National Convention

### Thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped make the ARS 2019 Convention a HUGE SUCCESS.

After a well-deserved respite, the ARS 2019 Convention committee met in June for its last meeting.

First, the committee wants to thank everyone who helped make the convention a resounding success. Thanks to the committee members for spending the past 3 years making sure that all plans were in place and making sure they happened. Thanks to all volunteers who manned registration, the plant sale, the photo contest, the flower show, the banquets, the auctions, the garden tours, the lunches, and all of the other items necessary to make the convention a success. Thanks to those who opened their gardens and those who acted as docents at the gardens. Thanks to those who made contributions and donations.

The weather couldn't have been better. We received many compliments on the Wine & Dine Garden Party at Jenkins, the evening at the Helicopter Museum, the plant sale, the hotel, the gardens, the lunches, the open bar, the banquet, the speakers, the items in the auctions, the phytosanitary inspections, shipping plants for people, and most of all, the friendly volunteers that made sure everyone had a good time.

Michael Martin Mills is finalizing the last jots and tittles of the convention finances, but basically the event broke even -- within less than \$100 of expenses = revenue. All four chapters have received reimbursement of the seed money supplied in 2017, \$1,500 per chapter.

Linda Hartnett did a masterful job handling registration, especially a number of last-minute changes in registration. A total of 235 registered. Of these, 212 were advance registrations, 13 were late registrations and an additional 10 registered but had to cancel because of family emergencies. The late registrations slightly exceeded the cancellations. Here is the final count on the various events:

Board of Directors' Box Supper:	27
Wednesday's Tour to Chanticleer & Winterthur	110
Thursday's Garden Tour & Lunch at Tyler	150
Thursday Evening's Garden Party at Jenkins	170
Friday's Tours to Mt. Cuba, Longwood & Guymon	161
Friday Evening's Dinner at the Helicopter Mus.	166
Saturday's Tour to Morris, Stoneleigh, Moser & Farley	157
Saturday Banquet, Annual Meeting & Program	142

Thank you to everyone for a great convention.

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### *Amazon drops ARSStore.org*



Amazon terminated its agreement with [ARSStore.org](https://www.arsstore.org) and the approximately 5% commission the ARS received. AmazonSmile is still available and pays 0.5% to the ARS. What is even better is the Wal-Mart ARS Store. The online Wal-Mart ARS Store offers virtually the same products with free shipping and pays the ARS approximately 4% on online sales. Use the Wal-Mart ARS Store at:

[Walmart.ARSStore.org](https://www.walmart.com/arsstore)

*You're invited to the celebration!*



### World-renowned Keynote Speakers

Kenneth Cox • Jens Nielsen • Steve Hootman  
Lionel de Rothschild • Steve Krebs • Valerie Sosa

### Tours to the Northwest's Outstanding Gardens & Nurseries

## The 2020 ARS Convention

**April 29 to May 3, 2020**

**April 27 to May 5 with optional tours.**

**Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington**

The chapters of ARS District Four in Oregon welcome everyone to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society at the 2020 ARS Convention in the Pacific Northwest.

The American Rhododendron Society celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a return to Portland, Oregon, where the Society began in 1945, to present a group of world-renowned keynote speakers and tours to the Northwest's outstanding gardens and nurseries.

The 2020 ARS Convention will honor the founding of the ARS in Portland, Oregon, in 1945. The first ARS convention was held in Portland in 1961.

**Hotel:** The **Heathman Lodge** will provide the ultimate in hospitality for your visit to Portland. Conveniently located, airport close, in Vancouver WA. When you make reservations, be sure to request the "American Rhododendron Society Block" to secure your group discount rate. Standard rate level @\$139 or business level rate @\$149.

**Speakers:** During the convention week, you'll have the opportunity to experience talks from some of the world's foremost experts on woodland plants and the genus Rhododendron.,

including the most up-to-date DNA research. as noted above.

**Garden Tours** will visit great gardens including the historic Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden, the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden, the Portland Japanese Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden, and Iseli Wholesale Nursery.

**Pre-Tour:** From April 27 to April 28, a 2-day, 1-night pre-tour will go up to Puget Sound to visit gardens, nurseries, and the Species Foundation.

**Post-Tour:** From May 3 to May 5, a 3-day, 2-night post-tour will go down through the Willamette Valley to Eugene. Then it will go over to the Oregon Coast. Then it will return to Vancouver. The entire tour will be packed with visits to gardens, nurseries, and scenic wonders on the Oregon Coast including Heceta Head Light House, Sea Lion Caves, an aviation museum, and Monrovia nursery.

**Plant Sale:** A massive plant sale with rhododendrons and companion plants will open Wednesday, April 29.

**Important information** will be posted to [ARS75.org](http://ARS75.org), but those changes will go unnoticed unless you are prompted. You can sign up to be on their [email list](#) so you are the first to know about anything new.

**Registration** is expected to open on or about December 1, 2019.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**American Rhododendron Society**

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**20/20  
VISION**



*Looking forward, reflecting back*

**Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020**

**American Rhododendron Society**

**Valley Forge Chapter  
14 Northwoods Rd  
Radnor, PA 19087**

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



**NEWSLETTER**

**October / November 2019**



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ARS websites:  
[rhododendron.org](http://rhododendron.org) [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org)  
[ARSOoffice.org](http://ARSOoffice.org) <https://ars75.org/>

Use [Walmart.ARSStore.org](http://Walmart.ARSStore.org)

**Officers and Committees:**

President: Jerry O'Dell (610) 608-2018  
Vice President: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196  
Treasurer: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249  
Secretary: Joan Warren (484) 369-8103  
Directors:  
Perc Moser ('18-'21) (610) 525-3651  
Kathy Woehl ('18-'21) (610) 688 9173  
Bob Horton ('17-'20) (610) 430-0196  
vacant ('17-'20)  
Steve Wright ('16-'19) (267) 481-0175  
Darlene Henning ('16-'19) (610) 987-6184  
Membership: Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184  
Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184  
Plant Sale: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196  
Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter  
Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573  
Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184  
VF Chapter's web site: [ValleyForgeARS.org](http://ValleyForgeARS.org)

Please contact us with email changes or if you receive this **newsletter** by letter carrier rather than email, even though you have e-mail. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes ([rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).