



'Valley Forge'

The American Rhododendron Society

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 715 Southeastern, PA 19399-0715

NEWSLETTER

June 2006

June 25 (Sunday), 2 p.m.:

Picnic and Annual Meeting/Election

At Joan and Reid Warren's

Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert for 4-6 persons and your own eating utensils and chairs. We encourage new members or members who have never attended before simply to join in the fun and bring along their families or gardening friends. There will be only a very short business meeting.

Slate of officers/Board of Directors:

President:	Bob Smetana	'07
Vice President:	Steve Henning	'07
Treasurer:	Chris Smetana	'07
Secretary:	Bill Dennis	'07
Newsletter	Eva Jackson	'07
Directors:	Mimi Favre (serving out S. Henning's term)	'07
	Darlene Henning	'07
	James Willhite	'08
	John Edinger	'08
	Joan Warren	'09
	Win Howe	'09

June 23-25 (Friday to Sunday)

**Annual Meeting (“June Jamboree”) of
The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Corpening Training Center at Gill State Forest
Crossnore, North Carolina**

The Chapter is a life member and supporter of the Conservancy, and over the years, many members have attended and immensely enjoyed these annual meetings. The program includes hikes of varying degrees of difficulty around Roan Mountain with its abundance of native rhododendrons. Accommodations are dormitory-style, and the food is simple but delicious and plentiful. A great opportunity to relax and to socialize! For details and the special weekend package, go to the SAHC’s web site: www.appalachian.org. Jim Gears is among those who plan to go.

**August 20 (Sunday Afternoon)--Directions and details will follow later
Annual Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction**

at the new address of **Dallas and Sylvia Green**
Stone Lea Farm Nursery
846 Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD 21918, 410/378-4016,

This event is organized by the Valley Forge Chapter but attended by members from all near-by chapters. We hope this year that some members of the Mason Dixon, Middle-Atlantic, and Potomac Valley chapters will attend as well. The presidents of these chapters will be notified.

2006 Plant Sale Wrap-Up

The weather was perfect and the buying crowd was large, so we couldn’t have asked for better conditions. As a result, the plant sale was a big success. I sincerely thank those members who helped during set-up the week before and at the sale itself and those who dug and donated plants out of their gardens; the proceeds from these plants are pure profit and netted us a total of \$528. Special thanks go also to Harold Sweetman, Director of Jenkins Arboretum, and his staff and volunteers, who worked very hard to make the sale go well.

In as much as the plant sale was a success, I wish we had seen more chapter members show up, to ease the load on the regulars who turned out for the occasion. Reid and I will not be able to chair the Plant Sale next year, and other sale-related vacancies offer plenty of volunteer opportunities. **Therefore, I urge members to take next year’s calendar now and block out and reserve for the plant sale some time during the first weekend in May and the week ahead.** My successor will need everyone’s cooperation.

Joan Warren, 2006 Plant Sale Chair

Raffle Winner at Plant Sale:

The lucky winner was Mindy Taylor of King of Prussia, who was delighted when she picked up the plants at Jenkins Arboretum. We congratulate Mindy and wish her great success and enjoyment with the plants. Thanks for selling most of the raffle tickets go to Ruth Butterfield and Sally Novello.

Eva Jackson, Raffle Coordinator

Please welcome our newest member:**Linda Ratsep**

If anyone lives near Linda, please give her a call and offer a ride to the next function.

Recipes

“A Guide for the Hungry Gardener,” a collection of favorite recipes and gardening hints published by the Chapter in 1984, is out of print and out of stock. The project was an effort to which men and women of area chapters contributed. Here are a few examples:

Gardening hints for June:

- Acidifying may be done with ferrous sulfate at the rate of 1 pint per 100 sq. ft, or 1 tablespoon per gallon of water.
- Any newly rooted or acquired plants may be planted. (Some members prefer fall for planting of plants purchased in spring but keep them well watered—Ed.)
- Spray for borers now. One month later than previous spraying
- Make or buy flats for rooting cuttings. Be generous with a 4” height. Use cedar or treat other lumber with nontoxic Cuprinol (2% copper naphthenate). Most other preservatives are toxic to plants. (Cuttings will be plentiful at **the August Cuttings Exchange**—Ed.)

Bourban Slush

2 teabags, 1 cup boiling water, ½ cup sugar, 1 6-ounce can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed; 3-1/2 cups cold water; ½ cup bourbon; ½ 6-ounce can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed.

Steep teabags in boiling water for 2-3 minutes and then remove. Add sugar to dissolve and then remaining ingredients. Pour into freezer containers. When firm, spoon into cocktail glasses. Can be stored in freezer. Makes 1-1/2 quarts.

(This slush, served by Barbara Winter at one of the annual meetings, was the inspiration for the Guide—Ed.)

Nut Torte

3 egg whites; 1 cup sugar; 20 Ritz crackers, crushed; 1 cup walnuts or pecans, broken; 1 teaspoon baking powder; 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract; heavy cream.

Make meringue of egg whites and sugar. Add other ingredients, except heavy cream, and bake in a 9-inch buttered (pie) pan in pre-heated 350-degree oven for 30 min. When cold, cover with slightly sweetened whipped cream and refrigerate overnight.

(The recipe for this versatile cake--it can be decorated in many different ways--was by the late Laura Suggs; Laura and her husband were long-time ARS members—Ed.)

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

The weather gods and Joan Warren's expert guidance produced a record sale. We thank all for their time and energy to make the sale successful.

Harold Sweetman wrapped up the 2006 speaker series with a fine verbal-visual tour of his rhododendron safari into northeast India. Sally Novello won the informal truss show at that meeting with a large and beautiful rhododendron truss of 'Andrew Patton.'

A number of members from the Valley Forge chapter attended the annual convention in Maryland, and our own Howard Kline took many honors in the convention truss show.

We will hold the election of chapter officers at the June 25 picnic. Please contact me or any Board member if you wish to serve on a committee.

The August 20 cuttings exchange/rare plant auction, with auctioneer extraordinaire Hank Schannen, will be held at Sylvia and Dallas Green's Conowingo, MD, garden. Details for this fun event will be published in early August.

We are putting the finishing touches on the 2007 program year, which will start with our September 21, 2006 meeting. Details will be announced in early September.

Please remember that you can also go to the VFARS website www.ValleyForgeARS.org for program information, locations, maps, newsletter, and more.

Bob Smetana vfarssmetana@yahoo.com