



'Valley Forge'

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

The American Rhododendron Society

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 715 Southeastern, PA 19399-0715
www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. Cuttings Exchange/Plant Auction

Host: Wil Smith Cochranville, PA

Auctioneer: Hank Schannen

(see inside for details)

Future Dates: unless otherwise specified, all events are at **Jenkins Arboretum**
Thursday, **September 20**, 7:30 p.m.: Propagation of rhododendrons (Bill Steele, Frank Brouse,
Harold Sweetman)
Thursday **October 18**, 7:30 p.m. Howard Kline on His Hybrid Rhododendrons/Azaleas
Sunday, **November 11**, 1 p.m./2 p.m. Annual Banquet/40 years of Valley Forge Chapter
Hank Schannen, Speaker Location TBA

President's Message (July 2007)

The chapter has had a really good three months. In **April**, we had a great indoor pruning demo by Bruce Keyser, who showed many of us new techniques. The very successful plant sale saw two records fall—the highest attendance at the pre-sale party and the largest number of new members signed up at any single event. We gained 32 new members at the plant sale and a few more in the rest of May. I encourage the seasoned members **to go out of their way** to make the new members welcome.

The Flower/Truss Show in **May** had 179 entries and was well attended by the public. I know everyone enjoyed the annual **June** picnic and election of officers at the home and gardens of Sylvia and Dallas Green. Dallas's "Gator" service was an especially nice touch.

We have one event left in the 2007 fiscal year and that is the **Cutting Exchange and Auction** on **August 19** in Wil Smith's gardens. Directions will appear elsewhere in this newsletter as well as on the website www.ValleyForgeARS.org. Please be sure to attend this event, for many rare plants will be auctioned by Hank Schannen of Rare Find Nursery, and cuttings from members' gardens will be exchanged for a nominal fee; the proceeds are split between the ARS Endowment Fund and the Research Foundation.

The first event of the 2008 year will be a discussion led by Bill Steele, Frank Brouse, and Harold Sweetman on the propagation of rhododendrons. Be sure to attend this interesting meeting on **September 20**, 2007 at the Jenkins Education Center.

See you at the Cutting Exchange on August 19.

Bob Smetana

Report on Spring Plant Sale

This year's Spring Plant Sale was another success, with overall receipts just a bit under last year's take, and was accomplished with the help of many hands, including the former chairperson, our dynamic Joan Warren. I cannot thank her enough, nor can I express my amazement about the amount of work she did in previous years.

We tried to offer interesting new plants this year, including hardy teas, camellias, gardenias, and jasmine. Fewer plants were left over than in previous years, which may count as success or may suggest we did not have enough.

We put special efforts into soliciting new members, to whom we offered a 10% discount on all purchased plants, and signed up a total of 33, which may be considered a very good investment, if we keep the interest of these enthusiastic folks!

If our bookkeeping is correct, we sold 280 raffle tickets for the plants in the wheelbarrow, thanks to the remarkable salesmanship of Victoria Dennis, a.k.a. Raffles the Clown, and Charles Odenweller's two granddaughters, Sarah and Kate VanBemmel.

Thanks to all who helped make the plant sale such a resounding success.

Bill Dennis, 2007 Chairperson

2007 Valley Forge Flower Show

There were 179 entries from 12 exhibitors (George Elser, Mimi Favre, Bernadette/Peter Heaton, Win Howe, Eva Jackson, Jenkins Arboretum/Harold Sweetman, Howard Kline, Sally Novello, Bob Smetana, Bob Stamper, Jim Willhite).

.....and the Best in Class and trophy winners were:

Class 1, Rhododendron species:	'Ken Janeck'	Eva Jackson
Howard and Katherine Kline Trophy for Best Species		
Class 2, Large-leaf rhododendron hybrid	'Heman Howard'	Win Howe
James and Sally Sorber Trophy for Best Rhododendron		
Class 3, Small-leaf rhododendron hybrid	'Yellow Eye'	H. Sweetman/Jenkins
Class 4, Azalea species	R. kiusianum 'Komo Kulshan'	" "
Class 5, Deciduous azalea hybrid	'Nevada'	" "
Francis and Pauline Raughley Trophy for Best Deciduous Azalea		
Class 6, Evergreen azalea hybrid	'Eliza Hyatt'	Win Howe
Lloyd Partain Trophy for best Evergreen Azalea		
Joseph B. Gable Memorial Trophy for Best Azalea		
Class 7, New azalea and rhododendron hybrid	'Pink Sparkler'	Win Howe
Charles Herbert Trophy for Best New Hybrid		
Class 8, Specimen plant	one entry	no blue ribbon
No winner for Clarence and Evelyn Rahn Trophy for Best Specimen Plant		
Classes 9, 10, and 11	no entries	

Our sincere thanks to all exhibitors and congratulations to the winners!

Win Howe and Jim Willhite (Co-Chairs)

Please welcome our many new members (see new Membership List, attached). If you live near a new member, please encourage him/her/them to become involved in our many activities and committees, depending on their talents, interests, and available time. Since gardening should be a pleasure rather than a chore, our experienced, and often long-time, gardeners and rhody fans have many tricks up their sleeves.

Membership List

Please examine carefully your entry in the Membership List and let Chris Smetana (Treasurer and Membership) and/or Eva Jackson (Newsletter Ed.) know of any changes/corrections. **Always** advise us of changes in address, especially in email address and telephone number, in order to stay connected. Our Membership List is for the **sole use** of our members and is not published on the web site (ValleyForgeARS.org). We will use increasingly email to communicate, especially last-minute information.

Board members

President:	Bob Smetana	
First Vice President	Steve Henning	
Second Vice President/Membership:		Vacancy
Treasurer:	Chris Smetana	
Record./		
Corresp. Secretary	Bill Dennis	
NL Editor	Eva Jackson	
Directors (6):	Mimi Favre ('10)	
	Darlene Henning ('10)	
	James Willhite ('08)	
	Steve Cooper ('08)	
	Joan Warren ('09)	
	Win Howe ('09)	

Please submit material for publication to Newsletter Editor Eva Jackson.

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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



Summer 2007