

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2016

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- January 17 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, Janet Novak, “*Wildflowers of S. Europe, Greece & Sardinia*”
February 21 (Sun.) 2:00 pm @ Uwchlan Meeting House, Steve Kristoph, “*Native Azaleas*”
March 4-13 Philadelphia Flower Show (Fri to Sun)
March 17 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Bob Stamper, “*Rhododendrons & Azaleas: Diversity & Care*”
April 16 (Sat.) 6:00 pm, GP Banquet/VF Meeting @ Whitemarsh CC, Kirk Brown “*Olmsted*”
April 20-24 Joint ARS/ASA 2016 Convention, Williamsburg, Va. (Wed to Sun)
Apr. 29-May 1 Valley Forge Chapter’s Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum (Fri to Sun.)
May 7 (Sat.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Morris Arboretum
June 26 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic
August 21 (Sun.) District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

President’s Message

What a wild few months we’ve had. The weather was nice enough to keep doing things in the garden right up to Christmas. Many rhodies think it’s spring and have gone into bloom. I’m sure that will diminish the spring flowers, but it’s been fun to have trusses in December.

We had a great turnout for Liz Schumacher’s very entertaining presentation of her trials and tribulations with her hillside garden. Charles Cresson gave a superb presentation on camellias to a crowd exceeding 50 at our banquet at St David’s golf course. Between the plants John Bartlett donated and the extra plants we had delivered, we had a mini-fund raiser for the Research Foundation.

Please join me in welcoming back a great lecturer, Janet Novak, at our Sunday, January 17th meeting. Details found below in this newsletter. Don’t miss Steve Kristoph, the food, and the wine at the Uwchlan GP and VF chapter joint meeting on Sunday, February 21st.

All the best in 2016,

Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249, vfarssmetana@yahoo.com

Chapter’s web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

On January 17 (Sunday), at 2:00 pm: at Jenkins Arboretum:

Janet Novak: “Plants of Greece and Sardinia”

Janet Novak is a molecular biologist by training and a scientific editor by trade, but it's plants that are her passion. She is a member of the American Rhododendron Society and 11 other plant societies ranging from the Philadelphia Botanical Club to the Eriogonum Society. She is also a passionate gardener who loves trying new plants, especially little-known native plants.

(*Eriogonum allenii*, anyone?)

As a result, her garden has over 700 different plant species and cultivars packed into a small city lot. Her garden has been on the Garden Conservancy tour and several local tours; it has also been photographed for a gardening magazine.



Sardinia and Greece are rich in human history as well as natural history, and the two are intertwined in number of ways. Some of the region's wildflowers are familiar because they are the ancestors of cultivated herbs such as thyme and crops such as peas. Some meadows that are rich in wildflowers remain as meadows because goatherds practice traditional low-intensity grazing. And in a particularly intimate intertwining of human and natural history, an endemic bellflower has colonized the

ancient stone walls of temples at Delphi. This talk will span the range from ancient sites to mountain wilderness, with many stops at meadows dotted with orchids.

Refreshments: Those whose names start with letters A to G are asked to please bring fingerfood treats.

On February 21 (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Meeting House:

Steve Kristoph “Native Azaleas”

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 a member of the ARS 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.

Refreshments will be provided by the two chapters

Directions to Uwchlan Meeting House, 5 N. Village Ave., Exton, PA 19341

From the Exton Mall at Rt. 100 and Lincoln Highway (Bus. US 30): Go north on Rt. 100 for 2.9 miles, turn left on Rt. 113, Uwchlan Ave. and go 0.4 miles, turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (at 2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (2nd light from Rte. 113), and come in to the Meeting House.

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike: Take Exit 312 at Rt. 100: Go south on Rt. 100 for 1 mile, turn right onto Rt. 113, Uwchlan Ave. and go for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (the 2nd light from Rte. 113, and come in to the Meeting House.

Plant Labels are available for Chapter Members

In cooperation with Jenkins Arboretum, plant labels are made for VF ARS members from January through March. If you have any questions, please contact Eva Jackson (noelevajackson@comcast.net). Labels will be made **only** for members and only for their **own use**. The sequence of orders processed will give priority to active members.

Quantity: 96 labels maximum per order/member.

Cost: \$20.00 for 1 to 96 labels, with check made out to Valley Forge Chapter, ARS, and money passed on to Jenkins.

Writing the information for labels:

Each line of a WP document becomes one plant label of one or two lines (your choice, depending also on how much info you want to have listed). If you want two lines, the lines must be separated by a semicolon (;) and no spaces. The lines must be single-spaced (for a total of 96 lines maximum).

Examples:

P.J.M.:(Weston) = 2 lines on plant label, no spaces before or after semicolon

Girard's Pleasant White = 1 line on plant label

Notes:

1) No line on the plant label can be longer than 26 characters (including spaces). If you have 2 lines, neither line can be longer than 26 characters (including spaces).

2) The format is yours, i.e., it may be 'P.J.M.' or just P.J.M. Plant names should not be

abbreviated.

3) Species names cannot be italicized by the engraving machine.

Checking label information: After you have prepared your list (as outlined above) and thoroughly check and recheck using your own resources. Have someone else give your list a check. If you need help you may e-mail Eva Jackson (noelevajackson@comcast.net) for a final check of spelling and other errors (yes they do creep in!). She will get back to you promptly, with suggestions, if necessary, but you have the final say. However, it cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to check the labels for accuracy. They cannot be corrected once engraved and that may pass on false information on numerous occasions (plant sales, flower/truss shows, cuttings exchanges, garden tours).

Engraving label information: The final plant list should be emailed to Harold Sweetman at: Harold@jenkinsarboretum.org, with 'metal plant labels' in the subject line. Labels are machine-engraved by a Jenkins Arboretum staff member onto large sheets.

Finishing labels: The engraved label sheets must be cut into individual labels, their corners rounded, and a hole punched for wiring. **This job needs to be done by you** at Jenkins Arboretum (with tools provided and as instructed). Wire for attaching label to plant is **not** provided.

Virginia Is For Rhododendron Lovers, At Least In 2016

ASA-ARS Joint Convention in Williamsburg by Michael Martin Mills

Nobody knows what the coming spring will bring in the garden, but it is a safe bet that you can get a rich preview of May in Philadelphia by heading south to the big joint convention of the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America in Williamsburg, Va., in April.

Spring obviously starts earlier to the south, but add the maritime influence of the Atlantic, Chesapeake and several broad rivers, and the floral show should be ravishing. Indeed, the convention will coincide with Virginia's Historic Garden Week.

If the Philadelphia region has a rival for knockout historic gardens – if – it is the Tidewater country of Virginia. For those who can never get enough of such horticultural achievement, there will be a nonstop schedule of tours, starting Wednesday, April 20, and continuing daily through Sunday. The options include history as well as horticulture, with jaunts to Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg available.



Benjamin Waller Garden in Historic Williamsburg



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond

The gardens on tour are a feast, from the vast Norfolk Botanical Garden and Richmond's Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden to plantations dating from the 17th century and notable private gardens in the area, including a fine collection of azaleas created by Virginia hybridizers. Among them are plants of Sandra McDonald, Joe Klimavicz and Eugene Aromi.

The lineup of speakers is impressive, with presentations by Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Rick Lewandowski, former director at the Mount Cuba Center in Delaware.

And don't miss the plant sale, featuring hard-to-find offerings of plants hybridized by Virginia noteworthies. Given that this is a joint azalea-rhododendron extravaganza, the selection of azaleas on sale will be much more generous than a typical ARS convention sale. (The Greater Philadelphia chapter has supported the sale by propagating a large number of the plants to be sold.)

It all takes place April 20-24, only 300 miles away. For full information, registration form and hotel information, go to www.arsasaconvention2016.org.

The Philadelphia Flower Show wants you

By Michael Martin Mills



America loves its national parks, and the Rhododendron Society loves Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is the focus of the chapter's exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show. The overall theme of the show is the national parks, and each exhibitor got to choose a park to invoke. With its abundant species azaleas and other rhododendrons, this park was the obvious choice for an ARS exhibit.

ARS members are needed to set up the exhibit and to serve as docents during the show, which runs March 4-13.

Set-up will take place Tuesday, March 1. There's minimal heavy lifting, and it's great fun to be able to wander the floor of the convention center to see the other exhibits being installed. (Tip: the set-up badge will get you into the center through Thursday afternoon, by which point most exhibits will be close to complete.)

Docents staff the exhibit for a four-hour morning, afternoon or evening shift, and are welcome to spend the rest of the day taking in the show. Translate: it's free admission (rather than \$27 and up per person). What do the docents do? Answer questions and tout rhododendrons (as we do all the time already).

While the Greater Philadelphia Chapter takes the lead on creating the exhibit, all ARS members in the area are welcome and invited to join set-up and/or take a docent shift.

For set-up, contact Linda Hartnett (lindahartnett@gmail.com; 215-287-0731). For docent scheduling, contact Michael Mills (mmm19119@gmail.com; 215-527-7145).

District 8 to Host the 2019 ARS Convention in the Delaware Valley

District 8 will host the 2019 annual conference of the American Rhododendron Society. The ARS board approved the designation at its fall meeting on Long Island. District 8 ARS leaders – the district director, Steve Henning, alternate director, Linda Hartnett, and chapter presidents and boards – will soon be figuring out how to pull it off. Members will be hearing much more in coming months.

Philadelphia last hosted the national conference in 2004. With 12 North American districts in the society, it means we're slightly overdue to be host.

Coming ARS National Meetings

2016 ARS/ASA Annual Convention,

April 20-24, 2016

Williamsburg, VA

Website: <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>

2016 ARS Fall Regional Conference

Newport, Oregon

2017 ARS Annual Convention

Eureka, California

2018 ARS Annual Convention

Bremen, Germany

2019 ARS Annual Convention

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2020 ARS Annual Convention

Portland, Oregon

Combating Rhododendron Borer In Azaleas & Rhododendrons

From the Washington Gardener by Carol Allen

The native rhododendron season begins with the Pinxterbloom (*R. periclymenoides*). Its graceful pink flowers dominate the local woods in late April and the early emerging Swallowtail butterflies find them just as lovely as we do. The season continues with *R. viscosum* and its fragrant white blossoms in mid-May.

The warm-colored (yellow, orange, and red shades) native azaleas continue the show through June and July with *R. calendulaceum* and *R. cumberlandense*, and finishes with *R. prunifolium* in August. Rhododendron *arborescens* and its hybrids add a white, sweet-smelling counterpoint by blooming from mid-June to mid-August.

There are many hybrids of these species as well. With this concentration of the same kinds of plants in the yard, we have to be vigilant in scouting for their particular pests.

The most worrisome for many is the Rhododendron Borer (*Synanthedon rhododendri*).

The Rhododendron Borer is a native pest that can be a problem for evergreen rhododendrons, deciduous azaleas, and Mountain Laurel. *S. rhododendri* is a type of clearwing borer. Clearwing borers are members of the order Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) and the family Sesiidae (clearwing moths), and include some other nasty pests such as peachtree borer and dogwood borer. These day-flying insects look like wasps, so they are difficult to identify as moths to the casual observer.

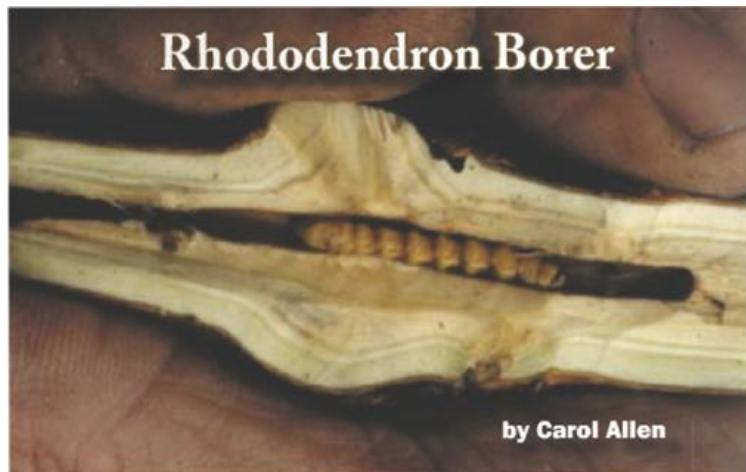
The Rhododendron Borer is the smallest of the group, being only about ½" long. Their bodies are a metallic blue-black with three yellow bands on the abdomen and coppery scales on the clear wings. The abdomen sports either a fan (male) or tufted (female) end. The moths emerge fully mature in mid-May and females usually mate on the first day. The adults only live for a couple of days. Once inseminated, the female seeks a disturbed area on a rhododendron or azalea stem. Usual sites include old borer-damaged areas, old pruning scars, or where the plant was recently deadheaded.

After hatching, the borer chews an entrance

into the heartwood of a stem where it will tunnel and feed until the onset of cold weather. In December, the not-quite-mature larva ceases feeding and spins a cocoon deep inside the rhododendron

branch or trunk. Sometime in March, it will resume feeding. In late April to early May, the larva pupates, then emerges as an adult later in May.

The Rhododendron Borer is almost fully protected during its life-cycle by being enclosed in the plant's stem. This enclosed environment makes bio-rational controls difficult. Nurserymen, landscapers, and rhododendron hobbyists can obtain pheromone traps to attract the male moths as they emerge. These traps emit a chemical scent similar enough to the scent of a female moth that the males are fooled and caught. Since the adults



have only a few days to mate and lay eggs, these traps pinpoint moth emergence, so pesticide sprays (usually permethrin) can be applied to the stems and trunks of vulnerable plants.

A non-chemical control is to closely monitor the new shoots during the summer growing season. As the borer feeds, it causes the young leaves to wilt and the stem to droop or flag." Cut the shoot off below the wilt point and trace the borer's tunnel down until you see the larvae and destroy them.

By reputation, clearwing borers prey on stressed plants. To avoid borers, site rhododendron species and hybrids either where they can get direct morning sun with afternoon shade, or in an area of high dappled shade. They require acid soil with high humus content. They do not do well in compacted,



heavy soils and do not tolerate waterlogged roots. Water during times of drought and keep the root zone cool, moist, and weed-free with 2-3" of organic mulch. Pine shred or pine bark mulch will do dual duty by maintaining the acidity of the soil.

For more by this author, see the original article in the October, Washington Gardener by Carol Allen. She has more than 25 years' experience in the

horticulture industry, with a special interest in plant pests and diseases, and is a Licensed Pesticide Applicator in the state of Maryland. She can be contacted at carolallen@erols.com. Please use pesticides safety! Read and heed all label directions!

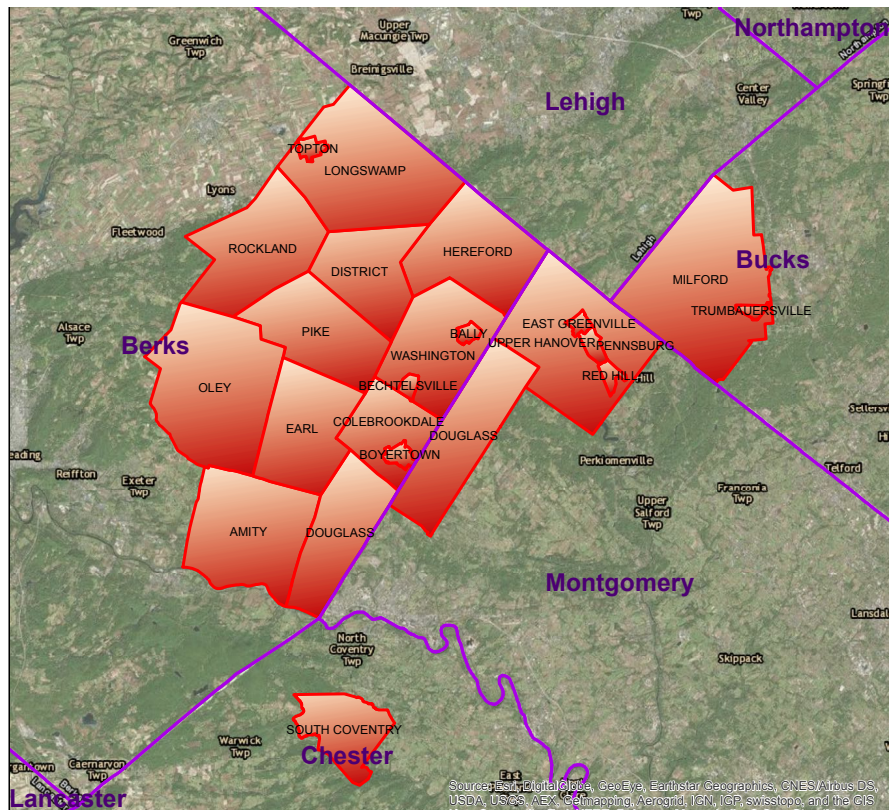
Photos by Jim Baker, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org.

Update on the Spotted Lanternfly

A year ago, we learned about this invasive insect that was spotted in Berks County and was threatening many varieties of woody plants. At that time it was known to be in an area north and west of Boyertown. That area was quarantined. Since then the quarantine area has been expanded to include portions of Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties.

For more information visit the [Pennsylvania Spotted Lanternfly](http://www.pennsylvania-spotted-lanternfly.com) website.

http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/



ARSSore.org's new: ARS Native Rhododendron and Azalea Calendar



This calendar may be ordered anytime since you select the starting month when you order: <http://www.cafepress.com/arsstoreorg.1681756792>

The calendar photos include: *R. vaseyi*, *R. prinophyllum*, *R. periclymenoides*, *R. macrophyllum*, *R. flammum*, *R. catawbiense*, *R. occidentale*, *R. canadense*, *R. austrinum*, *R. calendulaceum*, *R. atlanticum*, *R. occidentale* (shown above).

ARSSore.org has additional logo merchandise from <http://cafepress.com/arsstoreorg> including: [Aprons](#), [Bags](#), [Banner](#), [Buttons](#), [Calendar](#), [Cards](#), [Clocks](#), [Coasters](#), [Glasses](#), [Golf Balls](#), [Jewelry](#), [Keychain](#), [License Plate Frame](#), [Luggage Tag](#), [Magnets](#), [Mugs](#), [Ornament](#), [Pillows](#), [Stationary](#), [Sweatshirts](#), [T-shirts](#), [Wallet](#), [Watch](#), [Water Bottles](#), and a [Yard Sign](#).

Developments Leading To The New Hardy Camellias

By Charles O. Cresson

Camellia oleifera first attracted attention as a survivor of the cold winters of the '70's with scarcely any damage, a period when the camellia collection at the U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. was killed. Since *C. oleifera* hybridizes easily with *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, and *C. vernalis*, Dr. William Ackerman initiated a breeding program at the Arboretum for hardiness. After retirement, he continued his breeding from his home in Maryland. These hardy hybrids are now available and include pink, white, single, or double flowers.

During the same period, Dr. Clifford Parks was also actively hybridizing hardy camellias at Camellia Forest Nursery near Chapel Hill, NC. He used *C. oleifera* for fall bloom and also the hardiest cultivars of *C. japonica* for spring bloom. Despite this southern location, the nursery site experiences low temperatures and several severe winters have provided good hardiness tests.

During the 1980's, several expeditions visited islands off the north coast of Korea, the coldest climates where *C. japonica* occurs naturally, to collect seed. These plants all have single red flowers and, although variable, have proven to be about a half zone hardier if sheltered from strong winter sun.

Recent expeditions to cold regions of western China have introduced new species with the hope that these will be even hardier. One promising species similar to *C. japonica* is *C. chekiangoleosa*, with red flowers.

Hardy Camellias for the Delaware Valley by Charles Cresson's is posted at:

<http://ARSSore.org/Downloads/camellias0116.pdf>

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:

Pennsylvania Dutch Chicken Pie

- ½ lb. cubed pork
- 1 large stewing chicken
- 2 large boiled potatoes, cubed
- 2 Tablespoons frozen peas
- 1 stalk celery, chopped fine
- 1 onion, chopped fine
- ½ lb. firm German sausage cut in ½ ” rounds or ½ lb. hot dogs cut the same
- flour for thickening
- salt and pepper to taste

Cook pork (in piece) with stewing chicken until tender. Save all of the broth. Cube the pork. Pick chicken from bones. Combine meats and vegetables, salt, pepper, and broth: cook together about 5 minutes. Thicken entire mixture to consistency of mashed potatoes and cook, stir, and fold gently for a few minutes. Place mixture in a large pan (lasagna pan) and cover with crust. Bake until crust is golden, about 25 minutes at 350-400°F.

Crust:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup Crisco (trans-fat free version)
- 6 tablespoons ice water
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- ¼ cup cold butter

Mix flour, shortening and butter until it looks like pea-size bits. Sprinkle with salt and water. Form into a ball. Chill. Roll out on dusted surface and place over filling. Put large hole (size of a nickel) in middle of crust and prick crust with a fork. Serves 10 to 12.

Online Shopping Venues

ARSSStore.org earns money for the ARS at no expense to you when you begin your online shopping at ARSSStore.org. Not only does it include **Amazon.com**, it also includes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Best Buy | Powell’s Books |
| Calendula. Books | Rodale & Rodale’s |
| HP Computers | Sam’s Club |
| iTunes Store | Target |
| Microsoft Software | Wal-Mart |

In Store Shopping Also

If you prefer shopping in stores rather than online, you can also earn money for the ARS by purchasing gift cards online before you go shopping. Gift cards also make great gifts.

ARSSStore.org Financial Report

During 24 months of operation ending November 30, 2015, with online sales of over \$19,000, ARSSStore.org has had earnings of over \$1,000 for the ARS.

Every purchase benefits the ARS

Resources on our website:

<http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

The main sections of our website are:

- **Join Us:** Membership Application
- **Links:** Information, Gardens & Sources
- **Events:** Our Events Calendar
- **News:** Flower Show Results & Newsletters
- **Contact Us:** Our Mailing Address
- **Members Area:** Chapter History Pages
- **Gallery:** Photo Gallery for Members

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NEWSLETTER
January/February 2016

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| <p>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).</p> | |