



14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087-

Web site: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***January / February 2018***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

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

- Jan. 21 (Sun.)** 2:00 pm, Jerry O'Dell, "Tyler's Rhododendron Garden"  
**Feb. 18 (Sun.)** 2:00 pm, Ron Rabideau at Uwchlan, "Species for the Mid-Atlantic Region"  
**March 3-11** Philadelphia Flower Show (Sat to Sun)  
**March 15 (Thu.)** 7:30 pm, Scott Guiser, "Herbicides: The Good, Bad and The Ugly"  
**April 14 (Sat.)** 6:00 pm, Greater Philadelphia Chapter Banquet  
**May 4-6** Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum (Fri to Sun.)  
**May 12 (Sat.)** Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Morris  
**May 20-27** ARS 2018 European Convention  
**June 24 (Sun.)** Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic  
**August 19 (Sun.)** District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

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

We finished 2017 with two entertaining and enlightening presentations. At our Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at Jenkins, Bob Stamper gave a wonderful and informative presentation on how to add garden interest through plant textures, forms and color; his mastery of PowerPoint was also quite impressive.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday at St. David's Golf Club was also a wonderful and well-attended event. Once again Kathy Woehl did a great job arranging and organizing our banquet - **Thanks Very Much Kathy!!!** Our speaker, Barbara Bullock, the Curator of the Azalea collection at the National Arboretum, gave an excellent presentation on the ongoing historic Glenn Dale Azalea collection restoration project and how the plants are progressing after 10 years.

On a sad note, I would like to recognize Doris Guymon, a truly wonderful friend and inspiration to all of us. Doris passed away on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>; she will be missed.

Our first meeting for 2018 will be at 2 PM on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at Jenkins. I am honored that I was asked to speak and I will talk about Tyler Arboretum's Wister Rhododendron Garden. On Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM, at Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, Lionville, we join with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter to hear Ron Rabideau talk about the best Rhododendron species for the Mid-Atlantic area. We return to Jenkins on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> to hear Scott Guiser, former Penn State Extension Educator, discuss the positives and negatives of working with herbicides. Hope you can join us for these talks and please bring a friend or two along as well.

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2018.

**Jerry O'Dell (610) 608-2018, [westdell@verizon.net](mailto:westdell@verizon.net)**

**Visit the Chapter's web site: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)**

**On January 21, 2017, (Sunday), at 2:00 pm:**

**Speaker: Jerry O'Dell**

**“Tyler’s Rhododendron Garden”**

Jerry O'Dell is Tyler's Wister Rhododendron Gardener. Jerry will talk about the history of the collection and his time working on the Wister Rhododendron Garden. As Tyler Arboretum slowly transitions the Collection to a garden design with major focal points, Jerry has developed a deep appreciation for the Rhododendron Collection that Dr. John Wister created. As the garden design slowly moves forward, maintaining the integrity of these magnificent specimens will always be a major goal.

This garden, John Wister's legacy, is one of the largest and most significant collections of the genus Rhododendron in the country. Jerry oversees the 13 acres of azaleas and rhododendrons. This heritage collection contains hundreds of varieties with a bloom season that lasts from spring through to the early part of the summer (a few varieties of rhododendron even bloom into October and November). As spring moves into the early part of the summer between late April and throughout May, each week offers new



blossoms, new colors, and new sights as each plant comes into bloom.

Jerry O'Dell is the part-time seasonal gardener at Tyler Arboretum responsible for the Wister Rhododendron Garden and our chapter president. He spent over thirty years in corporate landscape design and maintenance. Moving from commercial landscaping to Public Horticulture has been an exciting “Second Act” and has made for a wonderful retirement.

**Refreshments: Those whose names start with letters R to Z are asked to please bring finger-food treats.**

**On February 18 (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Meeting House:**

**Speaker: Ron Rabideau**

**“Rhododendron Species for the Middle Atlantic Region”**

Ronald Rabideau, an authority in his field, will talk about the best new and old rhododendrons species for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Most of us know Ron from his numerous programs and the super plants he had for us at Rare Find Nursery. After 18 years at Rare Find Nursery., Ron is now at Mercer County Community College as Horticulture lab instructor and greenhouse and teaching/display garden manager. He is currently a director of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter.



Ron crossing the 600-foot-long Tuting Bridge suspended 300 feet over Siang river in India.

Ron grew up in Massachusetts loving plants from his early childhood. He now considers himself a "plant fiend". His grandmother taught him to grow vegetables when he was about eight and his father taught him to deadhead rhodies not long after that. Before coming to Rare Find in 1997, Ron received his BS in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has been a rhododendron and daylily hybridizer since 1987, and member of the American Rhododendron Society since the early 1980's.

Ron puts his passion for new plants to work seeking out new noteworthy plants. He has participated in four plant and seed collection expeditions to Asia: China (2000), Tibet

(2002), Arunachal Pradesh, India (2005), and the Altai Mountains, Siberia (2007).

Hybridizing since the mid-1980s, he has one introduction to date: 'Absolute Citron'. Ron has a broad interest in many plants including Magnolia, Clethra and Hydrangea and a strong passion for propagation.

Ron will discuss mostly exotic species rhododendrons that perform well in the Middle Atlantic Region. He is a propagator, hybridizer, finder of rare plants and experienced photographer. We couldn't ask for a more qualified speaker on selecting and growing rhododendrons species for the Middle Atlantic Region.

**Refreshments** will be provided by the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge 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.

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**On March 15 (Thu.) at Jenkins at 7:30 PM.**

**Speaker: Scott Guiser**

#### ***“Herbicides: The Good, Bad and The Ugly”***

Scott Guiser was a Penn State extension educator and coordinated their Master Gardening program in Bucks County. He received his BS and MS in Horticulture from Penn State. He is currently on the faculty at the Barnes Foundation and an instructor in the Rutgers Continuing Education Program. He keeps honeybees, gardens and cooks for fun.

Herbicides are useful tools in the production and maintenance of landscape plants. In his presentation, he will explore how herbicides can be used safely. Also, he will identify herbicides that have the greatest potential to do harm and how to avoid plant injury. Special attention will be paid to rhododendrons, with respect to herbicide safety.





## Kathy Van Veen 1947-2017, The Van Veen Spirit Lives On

Kathy may have lived and worked on the West Coast, but she was a very important person to ARS chapters on the East Coast. She was a third-generation rhododendron lover and propagator, raised working in her grandfather's nursery. Van Veen Nursery was founded in 1926 by Kathy's grandfather, Ted Van Veen Sr., and specialized in rhododendrons. Kathy's father, Ted Jr., took over the nursery in 1961 after Ted Sr. passed away.



specialty was rooting cuttings. It was often said that she could even root a pencil. We sent her batches of cuttings for our Plants for Members program. She always returned well-rooted plants bare root which we planted up for our members.

Kathy Van Veen passed away last April, 36 weeks after she was told she had an inoperable brain tumor and 8 weeks left to live. During those 36 weeks, while confined in her home, she made sure that Van Veen Nursery would not die with her.

Not long after that, Kathy started working at the nursery while still in high school. She went away to college at the University of Portland and then the University of Washington, where she graduated with a doctorate. Post-college, she returned to the nursery, taking over in 2003 when her father passed away. With her work and innovation in rhododendron propagation, she soon became a respected leader in the international rhododendron community, as was her father and grandfather before her. Through the years she became a good friend to so many. Her

Van Veen Nursery is open for business. One of its main operations is propagation for ARS Chapter plant sales. The nursery is now under the umbrella of the Van Veen Heritage Trust. Title was passed on to the Portland Chapter ARS. Mike Stewart and Brenda Ziegler are co-managers of the Van Veen Heritage Trust. In addition to the for-profit nursery, the property will be developed into a rhododendron display garden, open to the public. It will also be a wedding venue. The Van Veen spirit lives on.

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## Why Are Brown Leaves On Some Deciduous Trees & Shrubs?

Many plants, especially Maples, didn't develop the normal impressive fall foliage colors. The leaves went from a muddled green to brown. What's even worse, the brown leaves didn't drop. Now, in December, we have trees and shrubs covered with brown leaves. They are not deciduous this year, but ever-brown trees. Some trees do this every year such as oaks, beech, and hornbeam. Many trees weren't affected and had a fairly normal progress of fall color and leaf drop. My ginkgo tree was totally yellow one day and

the next day the ground under the ginkgo was totally yellow. The leaves all fell in one day. But that is normal for ginkgo.

To understand the lack of leaf-drop, we need to understand why leaves drop in the fall on deciduous plants. These plants have an abscission layer (separation zone) that forms between the stem of the plant and the petiole (leaf stem) of the leaf. During the growing season, this layer transports water to the leaf and carbohydrates from the leaf. In the fall,

this layer forms cork cells and a waxy barrier (suberin) to prevent moisture loss during the winter. This stops the production of chlorophyll and the leaves lose their green color, revealing shades of red, orange and yellow that were in the leaf all along. Then the abscission layer vanishes and a protective scar forms, to heal the leaf scar that will form when the leaf drops. As the abscission layer weakens the leaf falls, leaving the protective leaf scar. Hence, autumn becomes fall. In the normal sequence, plants have lost their leaves and formed protective leaf scars.

This happens in a good year when things happen normally. So, what happened this year. First, in my area (Berks County) we didn't get much rain after mid-October. Then, in November, we had a hard frost. The dry fall slowed development of the abscission layer. Then, the frost stopped all processes. The leaves were still firmly attached. In many cases the chlorophyll was still present and then

when the leaves froze, the leaves suddenly turned brown, without going through the fall foliage stage. The abscission layer hadn't formed, or formed but didn't reach the weakened stage and the leaves, the brown leaves, are still attached. They will eventually fall, but, perhaps not until spring. What I find is scary is that when we get wet snows or ice storms, the leaves may hold sufficient weight to cause limbs to break.

Another, problem is that when the leaves do fall, there is no protective leaf scar. This can enable moisture loss and make the plants susceptible to infections. What can we do? Not much. If there are dry spells this winter, we should soak the ground to make up for the plants lack of leaf scars and susceptibility to desiccation. In the spring, we can be alert to signs of fungal infections and remove diseased portions of the plants. However, in the grand scheme of things, this is a normal aberration, and "this too shall pass."

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## The Philadelphia Flower Show wants you



By Michael Martin Mills

"*Wonders of Water*" is the theme of the 2018 Philadelphia Flower Show. ARS members are needed to set up the exhibit and to serve as docents during the show, which runs from Saturday, March 3, through Sunday, March 11.

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 \$30 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).



## The Spotted Lanternfly Population Exploded in 2017

Since the bug's first appearance in the United States in Berks County in 2014, the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) population has grown. This year it was found in 3 states: Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York. The one-inch planthopper loves to eat grapes, hops, apples, stone fruits, willows and other hardwoods. A quarantine for the spotted lanternfly, which is native to China, India and Vietnam, expanded from 6 counties in 2016 to 13 counties in 2017— Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill – in Pennsylvania.



*Spotted Lantern Fly Egg Mass*

The pest causes harm by sucking sap from plant stems and leaves. The spotted lanternfly has become a nuisance for local residents — the honeydew secretion they produce as they feed on trees creates a sticky, smelly mess — and is a threat to farms, orchards and wineries. It doesn't move in leaps and bounds itself, but

it's a great hitchhiker. It will lay its eggs on just about any surface, and anyone who's giving away patio furniture, or buying an antique that's been displayed outside, should check those items for eggs. The bugs lay 30 to 50 tiny, jellybean-shaped eggs in tight rows and then cover them in a mud-colored waxy substance. Sometimes they'll miss a few eggs, which stick out from under the covering, and sometimes the waxy substance wears down so the outline of the eggs is visible. The egg masses are the only stage that survives our cold winters. Hence, there is an effort to remove and destroy egg masses from trees in the infested area. Scientists are also trying to create lures for the bug, as well as testing the efficacy of pesticides and herbicides. Some scientists have even traveled to China and Korea to see how the pest is handled there.



*Adult Spotted Lantern Flies*

The adults are approximately 1" long and ½" wide. The forewing is grey with black spots and the wings tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in grey. There are reports they are highly attracted to peppermint and spearmint oils. Lavender oil appears to be the only repellent. The main host plant is the *Ailanthus altissima* tree (Tree of Heaven) which is also invasive. The main current control is tree banding to trap them when they climb trees, especially *Ailanthus* trees, in the nymph and adult stages. Two tree banding kits that are available are the Treekote 300726 available from [Amazon](#) and the Tanglefoot 300000638 from [Walmart](#).

## 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](mailto:noelevajackson@comcast.net)).

**Eligibility:** Labels will be made **only** for members and only for their **own use**. The sequence of orders processed will give priority to active members.

**Description:** permanent engraved aluminum plant labels. 4" L x 1" H, black-surfaced.

**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), 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 labels to plants is **not** provided.



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# *The Philadelphia Story* 19

## Rhododendrons In America's Garden Capital

**The 2019 ARS Convention will be at The Desmond Hotel in Malvern**

The Greater Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, Susquehanna Valley & Valley Forge Chapters of the ARS will host the 2019 Convention Thu. May 16 to Sun. May 19.

Karel Bernady and Steve Henning are Co-Chairs for the convention. The Desmond in Malvern is the convention hotel. The Desmond will host the main banquet and a second banquet will be held off site at the American Helicopter Museum which is about 10 minutes from The Desmond.

The convention hotel is The Desmond, a beautiful hotel nestled in the historic Chester County. The Desmond features deluxe 4-poster King Size beds. But, if you choose, you may have 2 Queen Size beds.

Until May 1, 2019, we have 80 rooms blocked out for 4 nights, Wednesday night through Saturday night, and 15 rooms blocked out for Tuesday night at the

convention rate of \$149. Guests arriving on shoulder nights will be accommodated at the convention rate.

Tour itineraries are being planned, with a mix of outstanding public gardens including Chanticleer, Winterthur, Tyler Arboretum Jenkins Arboretum, Longwood, Morris Arboretum, and Mount Cuba, and fine private gardens of members. In addition, a plant sale, breeders' roundtable, a truss show and photo competition are envisioned.

Anyone interested in working on the planning committee is invited to contact Karel Bernady or Steve Henning ([rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).

Closer to the convention, many more members will be needed to carry out a variety of duties – tour docents, plant sales, goodie-bag stuffing, staffing the registration table and more.

The following is a synopsis of the events planned:

Tuesday, May 14, 2019: ARS Executive Committee meets in the evening

Wednesday, May 15, 2019: ARS Board of Directors meeting all day.

We will have a pre-tour to [Chanticleer](#) and [Winterthur](#). A box lunch at Winterthur is included.

Thursday, May 16, 2019: The convention starts with a bus tour and box lunch at [Tyler Arboretum](#) followed by a bus tour and Wine & Dine Garden Party at [Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens](#). Plant sale opens after we return from Jenkins. No program Thursday night.

Friday, May 17, 2019: A full day of bus tours at [Mt. Cuba Center](#), [Longwood Gardens](#), and [Wayne Guymon's WynEden](#). A box lunch at Longwood is included. Dinner followed by a program will be at the [American Helicopter Museum](#) that evening. There will be a shuttle to and from the hotel and the American Helicopter Museum.

Saturday, May 18, 2019: A full day of bus tours to [Morris Arboretum](#), [Stoneleigh](#), [Michael Martin Mills' Garden](#) and [Perc Moser's Garden](#). A box lunch at Morris is included. Banquet and keynote speech will be at [The Desmond](#) in the evening.

Sunday, May 19, 2019: Breeders roundtable in the morning. We will have open houses at private gardens and a list of more public gardens.



**ARS 2018**  
 Denmark Finland Germany Netherlands Sweden

**The ARS 2018 Convention!**

**Tour Slots Are Filling Up**

Registration opened September 1<sup>st</sup> for the ARS convention next May in Northern Europe. The optional Pre-and Post-Tours, hosted by the European ARS chapters, are **filling** up. The actual Convention will be in Bremen Germany. Here are some of the activities planned.

**May 7–12: Pre-Tour 1, Netherlands**

For 5 days, visit many of the Netherlands finest public and private gardens including the famous bulb display at Keukenhof and the Palace Garden at Het Loo.

**May 12–14: Pre-Tour 2, Germany**

Visit the RHODO 2018 Exposition in Westerstede as well as the Hobbie and Hachmann Nurseries.

**May 13–20: Pre-Tour 3, Denmark/Sweden**

For 7 days, tour south Sweden and Denmark visiting private gardens, public gardens, and a castle.

**May 20-27: ARS Convention, Germany**

This is the main part of the convention with three days of tours to spectacular public gardens or nurseries and banquets and 2 days of program with speakers from around the world. Special dinners are scheduled each evening.

**May 27–31: Post-Tour, Finland**

Fly to Helsinki from Bremen and tour Finnish gardens for 3 days before flying home.

Each of the tours is optional. For more information and pictures, check out the ARS 2018 website: <http://ars2018.org/>

When registration begins, the prices will be very close to the following:

	Dutch Pre-Tour 1	German Pre-Tour 2	Danish-Swedish Pre-Tour 3	Convention in Bremen	Finnish Post-Tour
Dates	May 7-12	May 12-14	May 13*-20	May 20-27	May 27-30
Cost (Euros)	1,018 € double 1,325 € single†	292 € double 398 € single†	1,236* € double 1,730* € single†	1,855 € double 2,279 € single†	1,325 € double 1,547 € single†

\* Those on the German Pre-Tour 2 receive a 70 € credit double, 140 € credit single for the night of May 13 when they sign up for the Danish-Swedish Pre-Tour 3. Early Bird Registration extends to November 15<sup>th</sup> and is limited to ARS members.



Roland and Bremen Town Musicians



Bremen Rhododendron-Park

**American Rhododendron Society  
Valley Forge Chapter  
14 Northwoods Rd  
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**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



**NEWSLETTER**

*January / February 2018*



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<b>Page 3</b> Mar. 15, Scott Guiser, Herbicides	Ellin Hlebik ('15-'18) (610) 584-9764 Kathy Woehl ('15-'18) (610) 688 9173 Vacant ('16-'19)
<b>Page 4</b> Kathy Van Veen, 1947-2017 Why are brown leaves on trees?	Darlene Henning ('16-'19) (610) 987-6184 Alice Horton ('17-'20) (610) 430-0196 Michele Hawk ('17-'20) (610) 687-9120
<b>Page 5</b> Philadelphia Flower Show, 2018	<b>Membership:</b> Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184 <b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Steve Henning (610) 987-6184 <b>Plant Sale:</b> Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
<b>Page 6</b> Spotted Lanternfly Explosion in 2017	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter <b>Truss Show (VF):</b> Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573 <b>Webmaster:</b> Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
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Please contact us with email changes or if you receive this <b>newsletter</b> by letter carrier rather than email, even though you have e-mail. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes ( <a href="mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net">rhodyman@earthlink.net</a> ).	