

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

## ***NEWSLETTER***                      ***January/February 2023***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

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

- Jan 29 (Sun) 2 pm, Tara Spears “Southern Appalachians Native Azalea Exploration”**
- Feb. 19 (Sun) 1 pm, Peter Zale, “Behind the Scenes at Longwood”, at Uwclan Meeting House**
- Mar. 16 (Thu) 7:30 pm, program TBA**
- April 15 (Sat) GP Chapter Annual Banquet at Sunnybrook Golf Club, Plymouth Meeting, PA**
- April 19-23 National Joint ARS & Azaleas Society of American Convention in Atlanta**
- May 5-7 VF Chapter Plant Sale (Fri., Sat., & Sun.)**
- May 14 (Sun) Joint GP and VF Truss Show at Jenkins**

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

As we welcome in 2023, we closed the 2022 season with our November Banquet at St. David's Golf Club. A special thanks to Bob Smetana for arranging/reserving the ballroom and to Kathy Woehl for managing the registrations. We also heard an excellent presentation by VF ARS Board member Perc Moser, who talked about the new Hybridizers Garden being developed in Tyler.

Our November Banquet also provided the opportunity to honor two outstanding and well deserving VF ARS Chapter members. Perc Moser and Karel Bernady were both presented with the VF ARS Bronze Medal (see page 4). **Congratulations to both Perc and Karl!!!**

Our first meeting of the year will be at Jenkins Arboretum on Sunday afternoon January 29<sup>th</sup>. Tara Spears, Jenkins Arboretum Curatorial Assistant and the first VF ARS Chapter Travel Grant recipient (page 6), will talk about her June 2022 exploratory trip to the Southern Appalachians searching for native azaleas (see page 2). And on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>, our annual joint meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter will be held at the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House. Our speaker will be Dr. Peter Zale of Longwood Gardens, (see page 2). Hope everyone can join us for these talks and please bring a friend or two and introduce them to the world of Rhododendrons.

If you have not renewed your ARS membership, please put it on your New Year's Resolution list.

To long time Chapter member Frank Brouse, we are thinking of you and wishing you well.

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2023.

*Sincerely,*

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

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

**On January 29, 2023 (Sunday) LIVE! at 2:00 pm, at Jenkins.**

**Speaker: Tara Spears**

### **“Southern Appalachians Native Azalea Plant Exploration**

**Description:** An overview of the June 2022 southern Appalachians native azalea plant exploration trip and opportunities provided by the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society Travel Grant and Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. Tara will highlight interesting native azaleas locations and unique specimens of *Rhododendron calendulaceum* and other species that were seen in the southern Appalachians.

**Bio:** Tara Spears is the Curatorial Assistant at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens as well as a Masters of Environmental Studies student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her career and academic interests involve native rhododendrons and azaleas, and she intends to pursue a career in plant physiology and conservation biology.



**On February 19, 1:00 pm at Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House**

**Speaker: Dr. Peter Zale:**

**“Behind the Scenes at the Longwood Gardens”**



**Bio:** Peter Zale, PhD earned his doctoral degree from The Ohio State University where he studied plant germplasm collection development, breeding and genetics. As Associate Director, Conservation, Plant Breeding and Collections, at Longwood Gardens he is responsible for curatorial activities, the plant breeding program, the plant exploration program, and the recently initiated plant conservation program focused on propagating and conserving rare native orchids. He has published over 20 articles in trade, specialist, and peer-reviewed journals and designed and participated in over 20 plant exploration expeditions throughout the United States, Japan, Vietnam, Myanmar, the Republic of Georgia and Azerbaijan. He is an avid home gardener and plant collector with an interest in a wide variety of rare geophytes, hardy herbaceous and woody plants, including Rhododendron and a variety of unusual Ericaceous taxa.

**Description:** Many are familiar with the world-famous horticulture displays at Longwood Gardens, but might not be aware of the work happening behind the scenes that supports horticultural displays, plant collections, and more recently, plant conservation in the public gardens. I will discuss the efforts of the Research and Conservation division at Longwood Gardens through plant exploration, plant breeding, plant conservation, and plant collections curation and development, with special reference to the genus rhododendron.

I will close with an overview of the development of a new species rhododendron trial in the Research Nursery and discuss the acquisition of old new, tried, and true rhododendrons to support a renewed interest in developing collections and “rhododendron rooms” in some of the public garden areas showcased as new plantings at the west end of Peirce’s Allee.



**Directions to Uwchlan Meeting House:** 5 N. Village Avenue, Exton, PA 19341:

From Exton Mall go north on PA 100 or from PA Turnpike go south on PA 100. At PA 113, Uwchlan Ave. go west 0.4 miles, and turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (at 2nd light from Rte. 100) and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (2nd light from Rte. 113), and come in to the Meeting House.

## VF ARS Awards Bronze Medals to Perc Moser & Karel Bernady



**Congratulations to Perc Moser who received of the Bronze Medal at the VF ARS Banquet. The inscription reads:**

*Since joining the chapter in 1996, you have been active in various capacities both in the Valley Forge Chapter and in the American Rhododendron Society as a whole. You have served as Treasurer of the ARS Research Foundation since 2013. You are serving your third term on the Valley Forge Chapter Board of Directors. You opened our beautiful garden for a tour at the 2019 ARS Convention in Malvern and for a joint Valley Forge and Greater Philadelphia Chapter meetings and picnic in 2019. You are the Valley Forge Chapter Truss Show Chair which has become a joint Valley Forge and Greater Philadelphia Chapter Truss Show. You are an active hybridizer having created great hybrids such as Sugaree and Madeline Winter. You added Deadhead as a noun to the rhododendron lexicon by using names of Grateful Dead songs to name your plants. Most recently you were one of the founders of the ARS/Tyler Arboretum Rhododendron Test & Display Garden at Tyler. You were instrumental in obtaining a Memorandum of Understanding with Tyler Arboretum to create the garden. You worked with regional chapters to obtain the necessary funding. You and the Test Garden committee have searched for the best rhododendron hybrids recently hybridized in the Mid-Atlantic region.*



**Congratulations to Karel Bernady who received of the Bronze Medal at the VF ARS Banquet. The inscription reads:**

*Since joining the Greater Philadelphia Chapter in 1977, you have served the ARS admirably and received the ARS Gold Medal in 2015. However, you have also been an associate member and friend of the Valley Forge Chapter. You served as our District 8 Director to the ARS Board of Directors for 10 years. When the Valley Forge Chapter hosts the District 8 Cutting Exchange and Auction, you volunteer to be the auctioneer. You have made available many hard-to-find rhododendron varieties by grafting plants which don't readily root. You invited the Valley Forge Chapter to participate in the Greater Philadelphia Chapter's Plants For Members Program. You have always brought out the best in both the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and the Valley Forge Chapter. Most recently you were one of the founders of the ARS/Tyler Arboretum Rhododendron Test & Display Garden at Tyler. You visited regional ARS chapters to solicit support for the Test Garden. You and the Test Garden committee have searched for the best rhododendron hybrids recently hybridized in the Mid-Atlantic region. Your propagation program has been key in propagating the selected varieties for the Test Garden.*

Therefore it is with great pleasure that Valley Forge Chapter awarded the ARS Bronze Medals on November 6, 2022.

## Valley Forge Bronze Medal Recipients

The Valley Forge Chapter's first Bronze Medal recipient was Charley Herbert, the founder of the Valley Forge Chapter. It was from the Philadelphia Chapter.

The chapter has a total of 39 members, who have made outstanding contribution to the American Rhododendron Society, who have received the Bronze Medal.

The Bronze Medal was authorized by the American Rhododendron Society in 1967, the same year the Valley Forge Chapter was welcomed into the American Rhododendron Society. The Bronze Medal Award was created to recognize Society members who make outstanding contributions to a Chapter, which may include accomplishments of the recipient outside the Chapter consistent with the goals of the Society. It is the

highest award an American Rhododendron Society Chapter can bestow on one of its members. The award consists of an engraved medal and a certificate citing the recipient's accomplishments. A committee of Bronze Medal recipients is responsible for nominating award recipients. Congratulations to the following members of the Valley Forge chapter who received the American Rhododendron Society's Bronze Medal:



1972	Charles Herbert (by Philadelphia Chapter)	1997	Frank Brouse
1978	Ethel Herbert	1997	Nancy Greenwood
1979	Dr. Carol High	1997	Ann & Winfield Howe
1980	Clarence & Evelyn Rahn	1997	Ruth & William Miller
1981	Al & Edna Curley	2000	Bonie Marcus Bennett
1982	Ross Davis, Jr.	2000	Margaret Fawcett
1983	Lloyd E. Partain (by Philadelphia Chapter)	2000	William D. Perry
1984	Fred S. Winter MD, & Barbara	2000	W. Robert Stamper
1986	Francis H. Raughley, Jr.	2001	Sylvia Green
1987	Robert & Helene Huber	2006	William Dennis
1987	S. Reid Warren III & Joan	2006	Tony & Penny D'Alessandro
1991	James D. Gears	2006	Mary Alice Snyder
1991	Howard R. Kline	2007	Mimi Favre
1992	John & Bette Gross	2007	Darlene & Steve Henning
1992	Donald H. Mannion	2010	Chris & Bob Smetana
1992	Pauline Raughley	2016	Charlie Odenweller
1992	William & Ellen Steele	2019	Alice & Bob Horton
1994	Eva & Noel Jackson	2022	Karel Bernady
1995	Barbara Ludwig	2022	Perc Moser
1995	Harold Sweetman, Ph. D.		

# Valley Forge Chapter ARS Travel Grant

## Introduction:

The mission of the American Rhododendron Society is to encourage interest in, and disseminate information about, the genus Rhododendron. To help fulfil this mission on a local level, the Valley Forge chapter of the ARS awards one \$500 travel grant annually to support a university student, budding plant enthusiast, or emerging horticultural professional in Southeastern Pennsylvania who would like to learn more about the genus and/or connect with leaders in the field.

Grant funds may be used in any way that helps develop the recipient's understanding of, and interest in rhododendrons and azaleas. These experiences might include visiting specialty nurseries or botanical institutions, participating in national conventions, regional conferences, plant exploration expeditions, and so on.

## Application Instructions and Information:

To apply, please submit the following to [VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com](mailto:VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com):

- A short essay that includes the following:
  - An introduction about yourself
  - A description of the experience in which you hope to participate
  - An explanation of how this funding would help further your interest in the genus Rhododendron
  - A breakdown of how the funds will be spent
- Two letters of recommendation

**The grant period opens November 1, 2022 and closes April 1, 2023.**

All applicants will be notified of their status by April 15, 2023. Successful applicant must complete their experience before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year funds were granted.

NOTE: Awardees may not apply in consecutive years.

## Grant Report:

At the completion of the experience, a brief written report must be submitted to [VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com](mailto:VFARStravelgrant@gmail.com). This must include a spending report as well as photographs that may be used in newsletter and/or other promotions. Though not a requirement, grantees may be asked to deliver a program to the chapter members about their experience.

## About Last Year's Winner:

The most recent recipient of this grant used the funding to join a group of rhododendron experts to explore natural populations of roselhell and flame azaleas in the Monangahela National Forest and sweet and flame azaleas in the southern Appalachians. In their words, "The Travel Grant allowed me to deepen my understanding of azaleas, curation, and exploration. It was truly a highlight of my career."

## Plant Labels are available for Chapter Members

In cooperation with Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, plant labels are made for VF ARS members from January through March. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Wright ([steve@jenkinsarboretum.org](mailto:steve@jenkinsarboretum.org)).

**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:** The product is a permanent, laser-engraved, black anodized aluminum plant label. Each will measure  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide by 3 inches long and will come with rounded corners and a pre-punched hole for hanging. Hanging wire is the responsibility of the member (small diameter bell wire is recommended).

**Quantity:** 120 labels maximum per order/member.

**Cost: \$30.00 for 1 to 40 labels, \$50 for 41 to 80 labels, and \$70 for 81 to 120 labels.**

Checks should be made out to “Valley Forge Chapter, ARS”, and the money will be passed on to Jenkins.

### Instructions for submitting:

Create a document, preferably in Microsoft Word or similar program, that lists all plant tags to be made. Be sure to write the names *exactly* as you would like them to appear on the label – capitalization, spelling, quotes, etc. must be carefully reviewed before submission. Jenkins staff will review the document, recommend edits, and confirm those edits before any label-making will take place. For single-line labels, the list is simple. If double-

line labels are desired, simply put the second line in parentheses.

Single Line Examples:

- R. mucronulatum
- R. x ‘Hershey’s Red’
- ‘Koromo Shikibu’

Double Line Examples:

- R. fortunei (‘Lushan’)
- R. x ‘PJM’ (Weston Hybrid)
- ‘Anna Kehr’ (Kehr Hybrid)

### Notes:

- 1) No line on a plant label 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.

**Checking label information:** After you have prepared your list (as outlined above), thoroughly check and recheck using your own resources. As mentioned earlier, the Jenkins staff will thoroughly review and offer suggested modifications, but it would be very helpful to have someone else give your list a check ahead of time. It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to check the labels for accuracy as they cannot be corrected once engraved. Inaccuracies 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 Steve Wright at: [steve@jenkinsarboretum.org](mailto:steve@jenkinsarboretum.org), with ‘metal plant labels’ in the subject line.



## ASA/ARS 2023 Convention “Georgia With Azaleas On My Mind”

Dunwoody, GA • April 19-23, 2023  
Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center

**Convention hotel price (\$134 king or 2 doubles, \$199 suite, plus taxes) also applies for contiguous stay up to 3 days before and 3 days after convention dates.**

**Convention Co-Chairs: Rick Bauer - Yorktown, VA and Charlie Andrews - Ballground, GA**

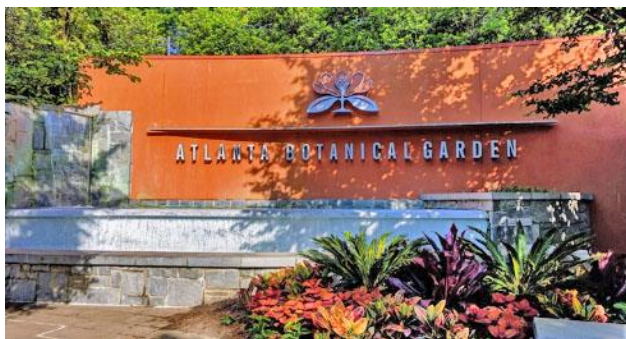
Convention details are being finalized at: <https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2023/>

The 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention is being held in Atlanta, Georgia Wednesday, 19 April to Sunday, 23 April. It is a city of parks. We love flowers here. The native azalea is our state wildflower, and Georgia is proud to have 12 species of azaleas growing naturally within the state, more than any other state.



*R. prunifolium, Georgia's state wildflower*

Thursday's tour centers on the Atlanta Botanical Gardens featuring 30 acres of gardens, displays, and exhibits. These include the Rock Garden, Flower Walk, Conifer Garden, Fragrance & Sensory Garden, Skyline Garden, and the Conservation Garden.



The Atlanta History Center has a rhododendron and azalea dell originally developed by the Azalea Chapter ARS. Piedmont Park began as a fairground for expositions in 1887.



*Swan House in the Atlanta History Center*

Friday's tour centers on the Gibbs Gardens, a 300-acre residential estate garden in the foothills north of Atlanta. The property boasts a spring-fed stream surrounded by ferns, native azaleas, dogwoods, and mountain laurels to which have been added Japanese maples, oaks, hollies, rhododendrons, and 16 gardens including the Japanese and Waterlily Gardens, Manor House Gardens, Inspiration Gardens (azaleas and conifers), Rose Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, and Wildflower Meadow.



*The Monet Bridge is in Gibbs Garden*



# ARS Membership Renewals Were 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.

If you haven't already, please send in your dues. In addition to our meetings, picnics, plant sales and auctions, we hope you enjoy the ARS Journal and our chapter newsletters. We appreciate the many Associate Members from other chapters, too.

Members must renew by December 1 to avoid Journal disruption, so try to renew early.

The ARS now accepts online renewals for those who prefer to pay by credit card or their personal Pay Pal account. If you wish to avoid dealing with the mail, check out the ARS online membership renewal at:

<https://www.arsoffice.org/renewal/renew.asp>

To complete the renewal process you will need your "membership number" which is on your Journal mailing label.

If you didn't receive or misplaced Darlene's mailing or you want to be a new member, use the form on this page for regular members. If you have any questions, contact Darlene at 717-735-7116 or [mdhenning@earthlink.net](mailto:mdhenning@earthlink.net).

## AUTUMN IS RENEWAL TIME! RENEW TODAY

Would you like to make a gift to 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 donation to the Research Foundation? Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Check here only if you do not wish to have your phone, fax, and e-mail address printed in our membership rosters.

### DUES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1

Student (St) .....\$10  
 Regular (R) .....\$40  
 Commercial (C) .....\$90  
 Sustaining (SU) .....\$75  
 Sponsoring (SP) ...\$150

The power of the internet should encourage commercial membership for our "grower" members, your free full-page ad will be visited by thousands of people each week during our busy rhododendron season

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)

Membership type \_\_\_\_\_ x no. yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ = Total US Funds Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not wish to receive the Journal ARS

**THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**  
 Valley Forge Chapter  
 14 Northwoods Road  
 Radnor, PA 19087

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NEWSLETTER

**January/February 2023**



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<b>ARS websites:</b>	Darlene Henning (‘22-‘25) (717) 735-7116
<b><u><a href="http://rhododendron.org">rhododendron.org</a></u> <b><u><a href="http://ARSStore.org">ARSStore.org</a></u></b></b>	Perc Moser (‘21-‘24) (610) 525-3651
<b><u><a href="http://ARSOoffice.org">ARSOoffice.org</a></u></b>	Kathy Woehl (‘21-‘24) (610) 688 9173
	Membership: Darlene Henning (717) 735-7116
	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116
	Plant Sale: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter
	Truss Show (VF): Perc Moser (610) 525-3651
	Webmaster: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116
	<b>VF Chapter’s web site: <u><a href="http://ValleyForgeARS.org">ValleyForgeARS.org</a></u></b>
<b>Please contact us with email changes or if you receive this newsletter by email rather than letter carrier. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (<u><a href="mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net">rhodyman@earthlink.net</a></u>).</b>	