



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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2016

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

March 4-13	Philadelphia Flower Show (Fri to Sun)
March 17 (Thu.)	7:30 pm, Bob Stamper, "Rhododendrons & Azaleas: Diversity & Care"
March 31 (Thu.)	7:00 pm, 2019 Convention Committee at Jenkins (teleconferencing available)
April 16 (Sat.)	6:00 pm, GP Banquet/VF Meeting @ Whitmarsh 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

Once again we had a full house for Janet Novak's January lecture on the plants of Newfoundland. The joint meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter at the Uwchlan Meeting House on Feb 21 was punctuated by the deaths of two long-time ARS members. Win Howe and Randy Dalton were recognized for their contributions to the Society.

The March meeting will revert to the third Thursday 7:30 PM time at Jenkins. See details on Bob Stamper's upcoming lecture elsewhere in this newsletter. Our April meeting will move to Whitmarsh Country Club with Kirk Brown portraying Frederick Law Olmsted as the speaker at the GP chapter banquet. Save the date of Saturday, April 16.

April 29, 30 and May 1 are our plant sale dates. We'll need volunteers during the week leading up to the sale to help unload, categorize, and price plants. Contact Chris Smetana cpsmetana@yahoo.com if you wish to help. The proceeds from this event fund our donations for the entire year so we need all of your support.

The flower show will be held at Morris Arboretum this year. Entries must be in by early-morning Saturday May 7. Look for details in this newsletter and our website www.ValleyForgeARS.org.

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

On March 17 (Thursday), at 7:30 pm: at Jenkins Arboretum:

Bob Stamper: “Rhododendrons & Azaleas: Diversity & Care”

Rhododendrons are beloved plants for many gardeners, but few really know how diverse the Genus Rhododendron is. On a very basic level this program will discuss with colorful examples the many different groups of rhododendrons, including azaleas, lepidote, and elepidote forms, deciduous and evergreen varieties flower forms, colors, leaves, plant forms, native American varieties, new hybrids, and the beautiful new forms produced by local hybridizers. Also included are directions for selecting the right plant for a particular site, planting rhododendrons, their maintenance and pruning and some common problems.



Dr. Robert Stamper has been gardening with his wife, Christa, for over 50 years. He has been president of the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society as well as active in the Delaware Valley Rock Garden Society. Dr. Stamper is now retired

after 20 years of teaching in the Biology Department at Muhlenberg College. Come join others and learn from a professor of not just biology but as a professed rhodoholic of azaleas and rhododendrons.

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

**On April 16 (Sat.): 6:00 pm, GP Banquet/VF Meeting @ Whitemarsh Valley Country Club
Kirk Brown as Frederick Law Olmsted: 1822 - 1903**

Rather than have a meeting in April, Valley Forge Chapter is joining the Greater Philadelphia Chapter at their banquet. The program is actor Kirk Brown who is famous for his one-man shows portraying legendary botanical figures.

At the banquet, he will be portraying Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. Olmsted was born in 1822. After visiting public grounds in Europe, it seemed obvious to Olmsted that there were great psychological and societal benefits to nature and parks.

Young architect Calvert Vaux



asked Olmsted to join forces with him to enter the Central Park Design competition. Among 33 entries, their entry won. Olmsted and Vaux took on the job of overseeing the construction of the first landscaped public park in the United States. Olmsted and Vaux designed much more than plantings; they created streams, bridges, and winding paths within a natural, picturesque landscape.

During the Civil War he ran the U.S. Sanitary Commission, a precursor to the Red Cross. His contribution to Civil War hospital care were enough to

earn him a place in history.

Later, he moved to California, which inspired him to be involved in the conservation movement and the creation of the National Park System. Later he returned to the City of New York as their landscape architect.

Although Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. is considered 'the Father of Landscape Architecture', his sons were instrumental in creating the profession as founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Subsequent Olmsted projects included public parks such as Boston's Emerald Necklace and Niagara Falls Reservation, created to make nature and beauty available to everyone. He made estates, public buildings and college campuses such as Biltmore, The U.S. Capitol, and Duke University functional landscapes that respected their site's magnificent architecture. Olmsted projects also included community planning, such as Palos Verdes, CA and Druid Hills in Atlanta, and the utopian World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, 815 Thomas Road, Lafayette Hill, PA
Banquet details including the menu, price and directions will be sent out soon.

Valley Forge Chapter Annual Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum

April 29 to May 1, 2016

April 29 (Friday): 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Party and Presale
(by reservation, \$30/person. Check to Chris Smetana or
ARS, P.O. Box 715, Southeastern, PA 19399-715)
April 30 (Saturday): 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale -- free admission
May 1 (Sunday): 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale -- free admission

Chair: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249 cpsmetana@yahoo.com

This is the big event of the year! As always, we will have a fine selection of plants including rhododendrons, azaleas, and "companion plants", such as other shrubs, small trees, including Japanese Maple, and choice perennials.

Publicity. You should receive this year's plant sale flyer in the mail. Using this flyer or copies of it, please inform your gardening friends, neighbors, and colleagues and post a flyer, if possible, at your workplace or other locations, in your community such as a local library or stores. Any publicity is appreciated.

Help is needed and appreciated. Expert or novice, please sign up at the March meeting or commit yourself when called, or just show up

on workdays (Monday to Thursday preceding sale) or on public sale days (April 30 and May 1). There are all kinds of chores to be done. Snacks/food and beverages will be provided.

Plant donations are welcome. Please pot up your surplus garden gems as soon as possible, so they look good at the time of the sale, label them with their Latin or common names, if possible, and bring them by **Thursday April 28**. Many customers head first to the donations table, which can add tremendously to the success of the sale, the proceeds of which benefit a number of horticultural, conservation, and educational efforts. (If you are instructed). Also bring educational plants for a children's table. Wire for attaching a label to the plant is **not** provided.

Obituary: Win Howe



Winfield "Win" Howe, a member of the Valley Forge Chapter of the ARS since 1986, died in February 2016 following a long illness. Win and his wife Anne were both very active members of the Chapter, involved with coordinating the annual plant sale, plants for members sale, and the annual flower show. They were judges of flower shows held by other nearby chapters. They were also involved in setting up the annual Chapter banquets.

Win served on the Chapter board of directors and was the Chapter President from 1994-96. He attended and prepared a program about the ARS 1996 Convention in Oban, Scotland. In 1997 Win and Anne were awarded the Valley Forge Chapter Bronze Medal.

He was the Chapter newsletter editor for several years. He was Associate District Director from 2000 to 2003. Indefatigable as he always was, he was also Chair of the 2004 International Rhododendron Convention held in Chester County, PA. Their garden was on the 2004 Convention garden tours.

He also waged constant warfare against critters that he was sure were put on God's green earth to fight and annoy him and

hinder his propagation efforts – voles, chipmunks and squirrels - to say nothing about white-tailed deer. Oh, the expletives!

Win donated many hours of volunteer service to area gardens including Longwood Gardens, Jenkins Arboretum and the Green Valleys Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania at Welkinweir, where he also donated many azaleas. The Howe garden was also open several years for tours as a fund raiser for the Owen J. Roberts School District Parent Teachers Association. They were also members of the Elverson, PA., Garden Club.

In his spare time, Win enjoyed woodworking and hiking. He and Anne hiked the highest mountains in Maine and in the Presidential Range in the New Hampshire National Forest. Always inquisitive, he obtained a permit to collect native plant seeds in the Presidential Range. He collected, struck, and grew on thousands of rhododendrons, azaleas, and native plants in their garden in Upper Uwchlan Township in Chester County and sold and donated many of these plants to Chapter members and friends. He named one of the deciduous azaleas after their daughter, Rebecca Anne.

Win's hard work and investment in the Chapter will be sorely missed.



Obituary: Randy Dalton



Randall “Randy” L. Dalton passed away on February 5, two days after suffering a stroke. Michael Martin Mills, Randy’s partner of 34 years, was at his side.

Randy was an enthusiastic member of the ARS for more than 25 years. He received the ARS Bronze Medal in 1999 from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. He was an organizer and participant in the ARS Philadelphia Flower Show display and Rhododendron Truss Shows. He was an artist and an advocate for the arts. Randy was an avid gardener who loved rhododendrons.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 9, 4 p.m., at the Germantown Friends Meeting House, 47 W. Coulter St., Philadelphia 19144. Michael Martin Mills’ address is 632 Burnham Road, Philadelphia, 19119.

http://www.philly.com/philly/obituaries/20160207_Randy_Dalton__67___quot_the_Blue_Man_quot_.html

Labels 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 checked/rechecked your own resources, you are encouraged, but not required, to send or e-mail your copy to Eva Jackson

(noelevajackson@comcast.net) for a final check of spelling and other errors (yes they do creep in!). The copy will be returned 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 for accuracy of labels that 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.

Volunteers wanted for 2019 ARS Convention Committee

**First Convention Committee Meeting is March 31 at 7 PM at Jenkins Arb.
Teleconferencing is available**

District 8 will host the 2019 annual conference of the American Rhododendron Society. Each spring, the ARS holds a convention during the peak of rhododendron bloom. The schedule of coming conventions is:

- 2016 Williamsburg, VA
- 2017 Eureka, CA
- 2018 Bremen, Germany
- 2019 Philadelphia, PA

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.

On Thursday, March 31, 2016, members of all 4 chapters of District 8 (Greater Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, Susquehanna Valley, and Valley Forge) will be stepping up to organize the structure that will start putting together the

convention. Teleconferencing information will be sent to all committee members.

Elements of an ARS Conventions include:

- ARS Board of Directors Meeting
- Garden Tours
- Programs and Banquets
- ARS International Flower Show
- Plant Sale
- Photo & Art Contest
- Hybridizer's Roundtable
- ARS Annual Meeting
- ARS Registrar's Forum

Volunteers are being sought to work on committees that will be organized to address the selection of the convention hotel and planning all of the above events. To volunteer send your name and phone number to Steve Henning at rhodyman@earthlink.net.

2016 Rhododendrons of the Year Mid-Atlantic Region

Twenty-nine rhododendrons selected for their adaptability in eight regions of the United States have been awarded Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) honors for 2016. The purpose of the awards is to educate the public about the wide range of rhododendrons that can be grown successfully in gardens. To be selected for a ROY award a plant must have excellent foliage and flowers, have an attractive plant habit, prove itself hardy for the specific region and be pest and disease resistant.

Three of the four Rhododendrons of the Year for the Mid-Atlantic region of the USA are species. This is the first time in 13 years that more than one selection has been a species.

Those selected for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2016 are:

Elepidote Rhod.: *R. hyperythrum*



The elepidote species *R. hyperythrum* is found in the mountains of Taiwan, but it and its

hybrids are appearing more and more on the East Coast of the US since it imparts both cold and heat resistance and is resistant to root rot. It is one of a select group of elepidotes that will grow in the southeastern United States. It is a compact shrub with white flowers with reddish flecks.

Lepidote Rh.: *R. minus* var. *minus*



The lepidote species *R. minus* var. *minus* is native to the East Coast of the US. It was previously called *R. carolinianum* and has sometimes been grouped with *R. chapmanii*. In mid-spring it is covered with 3-inch clusters of rose-pink flowers. There is also a variety with pure white flowers and lighter green leaves, *R. carolinianum* 'Album'. It wants bright shade or dappled sunlight, but by no means deep shade.

Deciduous Azalea: *R. atlanticum*



The third species, the deciduous azalea *R. atlanticum* is native to parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Its range extends south to Georgia. It is a common understory plant along the southeastern coastal plains of the United States. It is more appreciated in England than in the US.

Evergreen Azalea: 'Inch'



Finally, is the Bowie Mill evergreen azalea, Inch, hybridized by William 'Buck' Clarett of Durwood, Maryland. It exhibits a great deal of variation from flower to flower and from year to year. It blooms abundantly late in the season from late June into July. It has narrow, light green leaves. It grows to 3 to 4 foot tall and is hardy to at least -15 F.

It is a hybrid of 'Alexander' and *R. indicum*. It is available from White's Nursery (<http://www.whites-nursery.com>).

The above 4 rhododendrons were selected for their adaptability and awarded the ROY, Rhododendron of the Year, Award for 2016.

For more photos and descriptions look up: [2016](#), [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#), [2010](#), [2009](#), [2008](#), [2007](#), [2006](#), [2005](#), [2004](#).

The Rhododendrons of the Year for all 8 regions can be found in the corresponding 1st issue of the JARS each year.

Previous Mid-Atlantic ROY Winners

Elepidote Rhod.:	Lepidote Rhod.:	Evergreen Azaleas:	Deciduous Azaleas:
2015: 'John C. White'	2015: 'Southland'	2015: 'Ashley Ruth'	2015: 'My Mary'
2014: 'Nestucca'	2014: 'Kehr's White Ruffles'	2014: 'Caitlin Marie'	2014: R. calendulaceum
2013: 'Taurus'	2013: 'Cornell Pink'	2013: 'Rose Greeley'	2013: R. schlippenbachii
2012: 'Janet Blair'	2012: 'Windbeam'	2012: 'Sandra's Green Ice'	2012: 'Aromi Sunny-side-up'
2011: 'Brown Eyes'	2011: 'Molly Fordham'	2011: 'Tina's Whorled'	2011: R. prunifolium
2010: 'Scintillation'	2010: 'Mary Fleming'	2010: 'Carrie Amamda'	2010: 'Klondyke'
2009: 'Wheatley'	2009: 'Landmark'	2009: 'Koromo-shikibu'	2009: 'Old Gold'
2008: 'Mist Maiden'	2008: 'Weston's Aglo'	2008: 'Dream'	2008: 'White Lightning'
2007: 'Caroline'	2007: 'Olga Mezitt'	2007: 'Fairfax'	2007: (none)
2006: 'Bellringer'	2006: 'PJM Elite'	2006: 'Elsie Lee'	2006: 'Homebush'
2005: 'Calsap'	2005: 'Dora Amateis'	2005: 'Nancy of Robin Hill'	2005: 'Gibraltar'
2004: 'Gigi'	2004: 'April Pink'	2004: 'Girard's Fuchsia'	2004: 'Crimson Tide'

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:

Sweet-Sour Ham Over Rice

- 1 ½ lb. fully-cooked ham cut in strips
- 1 16-oz can apricot halves
- 2 green peppers, cut in 1-inch strips
- 1/3 cup sugar
- ¼ cup vinegar
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 tablespoons corn starch
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- rice (enough for 6)

Cook rice. Meanwhile, drain apricot, saving the syrup. In large saucepan combine apricot syrup, ham, green pepper, ¾ cup of chicken broth, sugar, vinegar, butter, and soy sauce. Bring to boil; cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Blend corn starch and remaining ¼

cup cold chicken broth. Add to ham mixture. Cook and stir until boiling; boil 2 minutes more. Add apricots and remove from heat. Spoon over rice. Serves 6

[from VF ARS 1984 cook book]

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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Guide for the Hungry Gardener	Ellin Hlebik ('15-'18) (610) 584-9764
Sources on the VF ARS Website	Kathy Woehl ('15-'18) (610) 644-6249
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	Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	VF Chapter's web site: ValleyForgeARS.org
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).	