

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

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

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***March/April 2017***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

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

- March 16 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Steve Wright, "Evergreen Azaleas"**  
**April 8 (Sat.) 6:00 pm GP Banquet/VF Meeting at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club.**  
April 27-30 ARS 2017 Convention, Eureka, California (Thu to Sun)  
**May 5-7 Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum (Fri to Sun.)**  
**May 14 (Sun.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Jenkins**  
**June 25 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic**  
August 20 (Sun.) District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

### **President's Message**

What a great turnout we had for our joint meeting with the GP chapter at the Uwchlan Meeting House. In years past we had to shovel our way into the building, but definitely not this year. With February days like that, I'm beginning to hope global warming is real. Over 40 people came to hear Karel Bernady cover rhododendron pollinators, nature's rock gardens, native azaleas in recent forest fires, and the Eureka meeting. Lots of socializing with food and beverage followed. Thank you Anne and Betty and everyone else who made this possible.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Steve Wright's presentation on evergreen azaleas March 16. See details in this newsletter. Our next meeting will be the GP banquet on April 8 at Whitemarsh CC.

The biggest event of the year is our plant sale May 5, 6, and 7. Everyone can do something to make this a success and you will be receiving a phone call soon. But don't wait call anyone on the board and we will direct you to the organizers.

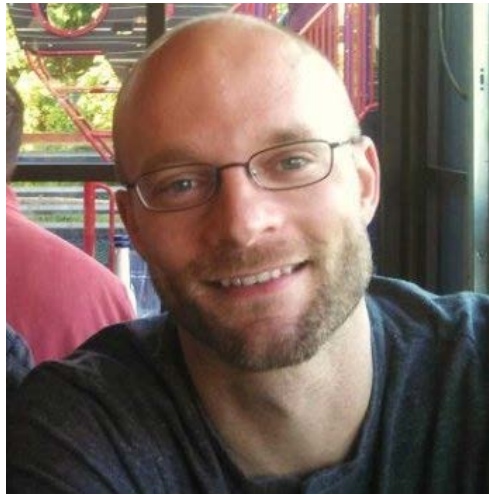
Bob Smetana, (610) 688-5249, [vfarssmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:vfarssmetana@yahoo.com)

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

**On March 16 (Thursday), at 7:30 pm: at Jenkins Arboretum:**

**Steve Wright: “My Favorite Evergreen Azaleas”**

Steve Wright is the Director of Horticulture and Curator of Plant Collections at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. He received his BS in education from Delaware Valley College and an MAgr in forestry and entomology from Louisiana State University.



Steve Wright has had the privilege to oversee this collection for the past five years and has walked the trails with camera in-hand hoping to catch these plants in their full glory. Join Steve on this photographic tour of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens as he discusses his personal favorite evergreen

Perhaps the showiest collection at Jenkins Arboretum is the Asian evergreen azaleas that reside on Azalea Hill, a south-facing slope with high open shade.

azaleas, as well as a wish list of other beauties.

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

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**On April 8 (Sat.): 6:00 pm, GP Banquet/VF Meeting @ Whitmarsh Valley Country Club**

**Janet Novak, “Wildflowers of Our Region.”**

Each year, the VF Chapter foregoes its April meeting and attends the GP ARS Banquet. This year’s speaker is Janet Novak. Janet is a molecular biologist by training and a scientific editor by trade, but plants 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.

In the past she has dazzled us with her remarkable photographs of wild flowers in places from Newfoundland to Sardinia.. Her programs are always highlights of year. Don’t miss this chance to see Janet’s latest program.

**Whitmarsh 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

May 5 to 7, 2017

**May 5 (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)  
**May 6 (Saturday):** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale -- free admission  
**May 7 (Sunday):** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Public Sale -- free admission

**Chair:** Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249 [cpsmetana@yahoo.com](mailto: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 27**. 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 not instructed). Also bring educational plants for a children’s table. Wire for attaching a label to the plant is **not** provided.

## 2017 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 2017. 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.

Those selected for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2017 are:

### Elepidote Rcv.: ‘Gilbert Myers’



Among the larger-leaf rhododendrons, the selection is a seedling from Rev. "Blue Peter" raised by Helen Myers. It won the Judges' Special Award at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter flower show in 2006. Leaves are retained 2 years. It has a dense growth habit. The height reaches 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant is bud-hardy to -10°F (-23°C).

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**Lepidote Rev.: 'Blaney's Blue'**



Here is an improvement on the smaller-leaf-type "blue" rhododendrons. It is a vigorous grower, producing masses of misty blue flowers which seem to float in a sea of green. When in full flower, the color is almost electric! It is a hybrid produced by Dr. L. T. Blaney of Oregon State University and introduced after extensive testing by Dr. Robert Ticknor of the North Willamette Experiment Station. The foliage is dense and attractive, forest green in summer and takes on a bronze tone in winter.

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**Evergreen Azalea: 'Ben Morrison'**

This was Hank Schannen's favorite evergreen azalea and he had them all to choose from. It is an attention-getting bicolor blooming in the early mid-season, 'Ben Morrison' features white margined petals with bright splashes of orange pink flames deepening to a darker pink flare in the center.



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**Deciduous Azalea: *R. canescens***



Deciduous shrub with medium-sized foliage that is oblong in shape, either completely smooth or very slightly pubescent on top, and normally densely pubescent underneath. Flowers are very fragrant, tubular, and funnel-shaped, to 2" wide, opening either before or with the leaves, into trusses of 6-15. Color ranges from pure white to white blushed pink to pink or purplish, with pink or reddish corolla tube. Blooms late May into early June.

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The above 4 rhododendrons were selected for their adaptability and awarded the ROY, Rhododendron of the Year, Award for 2017.

For more photos and descriptions look up: [2017](#), [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 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the JARS each year.

### Previous Mid-Atlantic ROY Winners

<b>Elepidote Rhod.:</b>	<b>Lepidote Rhod.:</b>	<b>Evergreen Azaleas:</b>	<b>Deciduous Azaleas:</b>
2016: <i>R. hyperythrum</i>	2016: <i>R. minus</i> var. <i>minus</i>	2016: 'Inch'	2016: <i>R. atlanticum</i>
2015: 'John C. White'	2015: 'Southland'	2015: 'Ashley Ruth'	2015: 'My Mary'
2014: 'Nestucca'	2014: 'Kehr's White Ruffles'	2014: 'Caitlin Marie'	2014: <i>R. calendulaceum</i>
2013: 'Taurus'	2013: 'Cornell Pink'	2013: 'Rose Greeley'	2013: <i>R. schlippenbachii</i>
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: <i>R. prunifolium</i>
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'



# The Philadelphia Story 2019

## 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. May of 2019 seems far off, but District 8 ARS members are definitely at work on the national convention to be held here then.

Karel Bernady and Steve Henning are Co-Chairs for the convention. The committee chose The Desmond as 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.

Tour itineraries are being contemplated, with a mix of outstanding public gardens including Chanticleer, Jenkins Arboretum, Longwood, Morris Arboretum, Mount Cuba, and Tyler Arboretum, 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)). We have openings for the following committees:

- Bus Captains
- Breeders Roundtable
- Corporate Sponsors
- Flower Show
- Hospitality
- Photography Show
- Raffle
- Silent Auction

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.

## 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)). 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](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 label to plant is **not** provided.

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**2017 ARS Convention: Eureka!**  
**“Rhododendrons in the Redwoods”**  
**April 27–30, 2017**

Planning to attend the ARS Convention this year? You should have received your Winter Journal by now which has details about the meeting. It is an exciting program! It features world class speakers like Steve Hootman and Mike Stewart.



Redwoods in Founders Grove

The South Tour will visit the Humboldt Botanical Garden, the Founder’s Grove which is a magnificent stand of old redwoods, and two private gardens.

The North tour will visit Singing Tree Gardens, the nursery and landscape of past ARS President, Don Wallace, Stagecoach Hills which is a native azalea reserve where the lovely West Coast species, *occidentale*, grows, and two private gardens. Look for huge fragrant but tender *Rhododendron maddenii* which we cannot grow outdoors.

There is also an alternative tour of Victorian homes in the Eureka area on Saturday.



*Rhododendron occidentale*

For more details including travel suggestions, check out the convention website:

<http://eurekarhody.org/convention.php>



**Look Ahead to 2018: Germany!**  
**“North America Meets Europe”**

It is not too early to start planning for the ARS meeting next May in Northern Europe. This will be one of the most extensive rhododendron meetings ever offered, if you are able make time to see everything. The Pre-and Post-Tours are optional and hosted by our European friends. The actual Convention will be hosted in Bremen Germany. Here are some of the activities currently planned.

**May 6–12: Pre-Tour 1, Holland**

Visit many public and private gardens including the famous bulb display at Keukenhof.

**May 13–14: Pre-Tour 2, Germany**

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

**May 15–20: Pre-Tour 3, Denmark/Sweden**  
 Tour south Sweden and Denmark visiting private gardens, public gardens, and a castle.

**May 21–26: ARS Convention, Germany**  
 This is the main part of the convention with several days of tours to spectacular public gardens or nurseries during the day and banquets and speakers in the evenings.

**May 27–31: Post-Tour, Finland**

Fly to Helsinki from Bremen and tour Finnish gardens for 3 days before flying home. For more information and pictures, check out the proposed program at the ARS 2018 website:

<http://ARS2018/>

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

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**



**NEWSLETTER**  
*March / April 2017*

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2017 Rhododendron of the Year Awards	Secretary: Joan Warren (610) 913-0005
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ARS 2018 Convention in Germany "North America meets Europe"	Ellin Hlebik ('15-'18) (610) 584-9764
<b>ARS websites:</b>	Kathy Woehl ('15-'18) (610) 688-9173
<a href="http://rhododendron.org">rhododendron.org</a>	Michele Hawk ('15-'18) (610) 687-9120
<a href="http://ARSStore.org">ARSStore.org</a>	Darlene Henning ('16-'19) (610) 987-6184
<a href="http://ARSOoffice.org">ARSOoffice.org</a>	Jerry O'Dell ('16-'19) (610) 608-2018
	Membership: Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184
	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	Plant Sale: Chris Smetana (610) 688-5249
	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter
	Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	<b>VF Chapter's web site: <a href="http://ValleyForgeARS.org">ValleyForgeARS.org</a></b>
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> ).	





## 2017 Valley Forge ARS Roster

Member (s)		Year	Chapter	Phone
Tom & Barbara Ahern		2017	LV	610-868-5840
Kathryn S. & Marvin Andersen		2017	VF	610 933-1855
Laura Axel		2017	VF	
Fredrick Ray & Liz Ball		2017	GP	610-328-6181
John P Bartlett		2017	SV	717-359-9474
Karel F Bernady		2017	GP	610-827-0113
Brad & Sue Blackburn		2017	VF	
Bruce Braverman		2017	VF	610-647-7969
Frank W Brouse	Brouse Nursery & Gdn Ctr	2017	VF	610-539-4620
C John Bryer		2017	VF	717-442-4404
Edward H Buchanan		2017	VF	215-539-1491
Victoria Buckley	Royal Furer	2017	LV	610-682-0895
Samuel & Virginia Burd		2017	PV	703-242-8387
Susan & Kent Cadwalader		2017	VF	610-687-2592
Peter Choma		2017	VF	
Robert Day		2017	VF	610-525-9673
Austin Deputy	Welkinweir Arboretum	2017	VF	610-451-2527
Frank & Regina Duff		2017	MD	410-472-2349
George H Elser		2017	VF	610-688-2988
Bev Evans		2017	VF	741-282-1494
Mimi Favre	Gary Hunter	2017	VF	610-296-5569
Frederick Fletcher		2017	VF	610-293-1864
Irma & John Garaguso		2017	VF	610-647-2012
James D Gears		2017	VF	610-793-2313
Evelyn Gondek	Sherwood Forest Nursery	2017	VF	484-995-6017
Dallas & Sylvia Green		2017	VF	410-378-4016
Nancy H Greenwood		2017	VF	610-687-5063
Marshall 'Bud' & Mar Gressman		2017	GP	609-247-8711
Wayne & Doris Guymon		2017	VF	610-459-0477
Linda Hartnett		2017	GP	610 940-4978
Michele Hawk		2017	VF	610-687-9120
Steve & Darlene Henning		2017	VF	610-987-6184
Lynn & Tony Hitschler		2017	VF	610 687-8464
Ellin Hlebik		2017	VF	610-584 9764
Alice & Robert Horton		2017	VF	610-430-0196
Anne Howe		2017	VF	610-458-5291
J Dale & Ita J Howe		2017	LV	610-866-5740
Eva Jackson		2017	VF	215 402-8649
Dr Raymond P Jefferis III	Dr Sibylle Jefferis	2017	GP	610-687-4336
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens		2017	VF	610-647-8870
Randell Jesup		2017	VF	610-889-9525
Cathy Keim		2017	GP	215-576-6494
Marjorie & Edward Kennedy		2017	VF	610 254-0275
Howard Kline		2017	VF	610-589-4116

February 28, 2017



## 2017 Valley Forge ARS Roster

Member (s)	Year	Chapter	Phone
Julie Leisenring	2017	VF	610-644-0715
Karl Malessa	2017	VF	610-296-5608
Lester & Melinda Martin	2017	PR	732-332-0085
Frances Miller	LIFE	VF	610-459-1693
Michael Martin Mills	2017	GP	215-844-6253
Ruth R Montgomery	LIFE	VF	
Perc & Sally Moser	2017	VF	610-525-3651
Michael Mudry	2017	VF	
Myo & Thein Myint	2017	GP	610-525-0599
Gerald J. O'Dell	2017	VF	610 415-9429
Anne & Charles Odenweller	2017	VF	610-647-1760
Frances Pane	2017	VF	610-647-3606
Ted Patterson	2017	VF	610-688-4895
David & Eileen Peters	2017	VF	
Pauline Raughley	Forward Manor, Ind. Rm	2017	VF 302-475-4396
Joan Roberts		2017	GP 610-525-4731
Margaret Rue		2017	VF
Frances Sack	Paoli Library	2017	VF
Debby Schmidt		2017	VF 610 388-8573
Tom & Fran Schuetz		2017	SV 717-766-0374
Donna Smaniotto		2017	VF 609-704-1356
Chris & Bob Smetana		2017	VF 610-688-5249
Linda Smith	Chester County Library	2017	VF
Raymond & Linda Smith		2017	MD 410-489-4256
W Robert & Christa Stamper	Stone Croft #3407	2017	VF 484-796-4373
Ellen M. Steele		2017	GP 610-696-5042
Elizabeth & George Swain		2017	VF 610-388-6993
Harold E & Christine Sweetman		2017	VF 610-647-8870
H Robert & Barbara Tiffany		2017	VF 215-297-0550
Tredyffrin Library		2017	VF 610-688-7093
Peg Van Patton		2017	PR 609-466-2320
Erin Anne Van Yahres		2017	VF 610-644-2806
Joan & Reid Warren		2017	VF 610-913-0005
James A Willhite		2017	VF 610-662-9364
Barbara Winter		2017	VF 610-326-7354
Kathy Woehl		2017	VF 610 688-9173
Steven Wright	Jenkins Arboretum &	2017	VF 267-481-0175

GP = Greater Philadelphia Chapter  
 LV = Lehigh Valley Chapter  
 MD = Mason Dixon Chapter  
 PR = Princeton Chapter

PV = Potomac Valley Chapter  
 SV = Susquehanna Valley Chapter  
 VF = Valley Forge Chapter