

14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087
 Chapter's Website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER ***March/April 2023***

Calendar at a Glance

- Mar. 16 (Thu) 7:00 PM, "A Forest Grows In Chester County," a Zoom program (must register)**
- April 15 (Sat) 6:00 PM GP Chapter Annual Banquet at Sunnybrook GC, Plymouth Meeting**
- April 19-23 National Joint ARS & Azaleas Society of American Convention in Atlanta**
- May 5-7 VF Chapter Plant Sale (Fri., Sat., & Sun.)**
- May 13 (Sat) Joint GP and VF Truss Show at Jenkins.** Entries accepted 7:30-9:30 a.m. Brochure and entry tags will be available at the GP Banquet/VF April meeting, April 15, or contact truss show co-chairs Perc Moser or Michael Martin Mills. Catalogue of previous entries will be posted on both chapters' websites in May.
- May 20 (Sat) 12:30 PM, Rich Ziadie's Pot Luck lunch and Garden Open House, Belvidere, NJ**

President's Message

We began the 2023 season with three very exceptional presentations. On Sunday, January 29th, we heard member Tara Spears give a fabulous live talk on her June 2022 exploratory trip to the Southern Appalachians searching for native azaleas. In addition, earlier the same afternoon, we were able to connect via Zoom with the Potomac Valley ARS Chapter to hear Dr. Ralf Bauer from Offenburg, Germany, give a fabulous talk on the Rhododendron minus.

On Sun. Feb. 19th our annual joint meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter was held at Uwchlan Friends Meeting House. Our speaker, Dr. Peter Zale of Longwood Gardens, gave an excellent presentation on the behind-the-scenes research work being done by the Research and Conservation Division.

Although not a VF Chapter ARS sponsored event, on March 16th, Jenkins Arboretum's excellent virtual "Third Thursday Lecture Series" will present an important virtual program, "A Forest Grows in Chester County," (see page 2). This

presentation is free but registration is required. On April 15th the GP ARS Chapter will hold their annual banquet and Tony Aiello of Longwood Gardens will be the speaker (page 2). And don't miss Rich Ziadie's invitation to visit his beautiful garden (page3).

The Plant Sale Committee is working closely with Jenkins on making plans for our joint Plant Sale for May 5-7 and they will definitely need volunteers. The ARS/Tyler Mid-Atlantic Hybridizer Test Garden project is moving forward. Again this year, the Chapter will also be hosting the VF/GP Chapters Truss Show on Sat., May 13th. More information will follow later as we get closer to these events.

In closing, once again I would like to take a moment to reach out to Frank Brouse to let you know we are thinking of you & wish you well.

Wishing everyone a very happy spring season.

Sincerely,
 Jerry O'Dell, (610) 608-2018,
westdell@verizon.net

On March 16, 7:00 pm (Thursday) A virtual program from Jenkins Arboretum
Speaker: Rachael Griffith, Sustainability Director, Chester County
“A Forest Grows in Chester County”



In 2021, the Chester County Commissioners adopted a Climate Action Plan which sets bold targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by both county government and the greater community. Strategies like reforesting our landscapes are featured prominently in the Plan. Hear an overview of the Climate Action Plan; how trees fit into this plan; new tree cover mapping and analysis; and current efforts to promote woodland stewardship and address urban heat islands. Discover tree planting and other resources available for homeowners maintaining their own backyard forest.

The program is free but you must register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/third-thursday-lectures-64969> to receive an invitation.

On April 15, 6:00 pm. (Saturday) GP Banquet & Plant Exchange
Sunnybrook Golf Club, 398 Stenton Ave., Plymouth Meeting, PA
Speaker: Tony Aiello, Longwood Gardens:
“The Role of Botanic Gardens in Tree Conservation”



From his range of experiences, Tony will show examples of how public gardens are involved in conserving rare and endangered species. Drawing on his domestic and international plant exploration travels, he will present some familiar and some uncommon tree species “hiding in plain sight” in botanic and private gardens. Tony will describe the role that plant exploration and conservation practices play in helping to preserve these rare species.

Tony Aiello is Associate Director of Conservation, Plant Breeding, and Collections at Longwood Gardens, where he participates in tree conservation, plant exploration and evaluation, and collections development. Previously he served for 22 years as the Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, where he managed the Morris Arboretum’s historic gardens and living collections.

Invitations/reservation forms will soon be emailed to all GP and VF members.

On May 20, 2023 (Saturday) Pot Luck Lunch & Garden Viewing Rich Ziadie's Garden, Belvidere, NJ



Rich Ziadie's Garden is making his garden available for viewing on Saturday, May 20th, 2023 for Greater Philadelphia, Valley Forge, and Lehigh Valley ARS chapter members.

The schedule is:

2:30 pm lunch Pot Luck
Garden Viewing 12:30 pm to
4:00 pm

His address is 24 Free Union Road
Belvidere, New Jersey 07823
Phone 908-343-4131

Directions from where US 22 crosses the Delaware river into New Jersey from Google Maps:

Drive 1 mile East on US 22 E, exit sharp left on Memorial Parkway, across from Manhattan Bagels.

In a 100 yards, veer right on Lincoln Road.

Go 0.3 miles on Lincoln Rd, turn right on Belvidere Rd.

Go 9.9 miles on Belvidere Rd, veer right on County Rd. 519.

Go 3.3 miles on County Rd. 519, turn right on Titman Rd.

Go 0.4 miles on Titman Rd, turn right on US 46 East

Go 1.8 miles on US 46, turn left on Free Union Rd.

Go 0.2 miles on Free Union Rd., just past Beechwood Rd.
turn right into 24 Free Union Rd., Rich's driveway.

From the Delaware River, it is 17 miles and takes about 25 minutes to Rich's place.

The Secret Garden of Rich Ziadie

Rich is a member of the Lehigh Valley Chapter. The following is gleaned from parts of the article published in the Summer 2021 Milford (NJ) Journal entitled "The Secret Garden of Rich Ziadie."

Rich, a former professional commercial baker and candy maker for over forty years, came across an article in Fine Gardening magazine. It was an instant inspiration, and he knew he had to begin gardening with rhododendrons as showpieces.

Rich found his present location situated on 2.2 acres in the hills of rural northern New Jersey and in 1990 built his home there. The landscaping of his dreams would take twenty-one years, with bulldozers and hard manual labor, to generate fifteen-degree angled terraces at nine different levels, all the while fashioning meandering paths through the terraces that created a magical mystery tour.

Today, Rich has a diverse collection of approximately 375 rhododendrons. In addition to his rhododendrons, Rich grows 25 Japanese maples, 20 magnolias, 20 Japanese tree peonies, 20 Korean kousa dogwoods and 350 azaleas.

The garden was started in 1991 and competed in 2011. It's been in maintenance mode for the last 12 or so years, occasionally fertilizing to set new buds for the next growing season, while maintaining a favored PH of 4.5-5.5.

Rich will be selling his home (hopefully to someone who appreciates these wonderful plantings) and will be putting it on the market May 1st.

Rich is making his garden available to ARS members for viewing on Saturday, May 20th. Don't miss this chance to see Rich's Secret Garden. This may be the last chance to see Rich's rhododendrons.

VF ARS website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

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:

- 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 31st 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. 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 roseshell 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).

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, with ‘metal plant labels’ in the subject line.



ARSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendron of the Year Plant Awards: 2023

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 2023. 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 cold and heat hardy for the specific region and be pest and disease resistant.

For each region, the Plant Award Committee has chosen four plants - an elepidote and a lepidote rhododendron, a deciduous azalea and an evergreen azalea. A *vireya* rhododendron has been selected for the Hawaii/Southern California region. The awards for all years are posted at: [2023](#), [2022](#), [2021](#), [2020](#), [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#), [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#), [2010](#), [2009](#), [2008](#), [2007](#), [2006](#), [2005](#), [2004](#).

Rhododendrons of the Year for all 8 regions are announced in the JARS each year. Those selected for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2023 are:



Evergreen Azalea: 'August to Frost'

Flower white with a pale yellow-green blotch, broadly funnel-shaped, single, 2½" across, wavy edged lobes. Occasionally flowers have strong reddish purple stripes and sectors, or a prominent red/violet blotch, some with strong reddish purple selfs. Blooms continuously but sparingly on current growth from late summer to first hard frost. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 2" long, flat, semi-glossy, moderate yellowish green, with brownish orange hairs above and below. Grows to a typical height of 2 feet in 10 years. Plant hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Selected by Matlack.



Deciduous Azalea: R. colemanii

Flower white or pink, some with yellow blotch on upper lobe, tubular funnel-shaped, 1"-2" across. Inflorescence a shortened raceme of 8-10 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves obovate occasionally oblong, broadly acute apex cuneate base, mucronate, sparse hairs, 1½"-3¼" long, dull or glossy green. Shrub grows to 6-7 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Native species found in the eastern United States in southern Alabama and western Georgia



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Cadis'

Flower light pink, flushed yellow, 3½" to 5" across, wavy-edges, fragrant. Held in flat trusses with 9-11 flowers. Blooms late midseason. Leaves 2¾" long, light green. Dense, spreading habit. Typical height: 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant is hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Gable.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'April Rhapsody'

Flower vivid purple, no markings, openly funnel-shaped, flat-edged lobes, 1⅔" across. Truss holds 3-9 flowers. Blooms early season. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, 1⅞" long, semi-glossy, moderate to light yellow-green, scaly below. Typical height: 2½ feet in 10 years. Dense growth habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -8°F (-22°C). Hybridized by Anderson.

Previous Mid-Atlantic ROY Winners

Elepidote Rhod.:	Lepidote Rhod.:	Evergreen Azaleas:	Deciduous Azaleas:
2022: 'Dexter's Honeydew'	2022: 'Oritani'	2022: 'Quakeress'	2022: 'Aromi Sunstruck'
2021: 'Jack Cowles'	2021: 'Weston's Pink Diamond'	2021: 'Betty Ellen'	2021: <i>R. austinum</i>
2020: 'Bea MacDonald'	2020: <i>R. keiskei</i> var. <i>keiskei</i>	2020: 'Wagner's White Spider'	2020: <i>R. periclymenoides</i>
2019: 'Ken Janeck'	2019: 'Rhein's Luna'	2019: 'Treasure'	2019: <i>R. cumberlandense</i>
2018: 'A. Bedford'	2018: '24-Karat'	2018: 'Dreamsicle'	2018: <i>R. arborescens</i>
2017: 'Gilbert Myers'	2017: 'Blaney's blue'	2017: 'Ben Morrison'	2017: <i>R. canescens</i>
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 Amanda'	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'

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

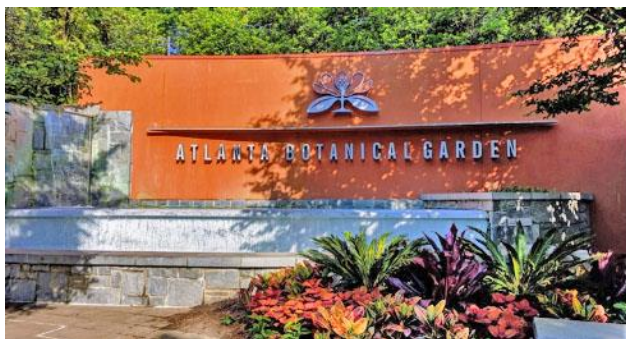
Registration Deadline is March 31!

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.



(<https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2023/>)

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.

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

103 Acer Place
Lancaster, PA 17601



NEWSLETTER
March/April 2023



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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>rhodyman@earthlink.net</u>).	