

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

May/June/July 2014

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- May 2-4 (Fri-Sun) **Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum**
May 10 (Sat.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Morris Arboretum
May 15-18 (Th-Su) American Rhododendron Society's Annual Convention in Painesville, OH
May 20-31 Post Convention Tour of "ARS Gardens in Northern Germany and Denmark"
June 29 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic, Joan & Reid Warren's
August 17 (Sun.) Valley Forge-organized District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction

President's Message

Our annual plant sale is less than a month away (May 2-4) and the plant sale committee is in full force to get it organized and overcome obstacles. Last month the main supplier of azaleas told them the harsh winter wiped out his supply so the committee found new suppliers not affected and locked in a supply. This is our large fund-raising event that allows us to support all things rhododendron for the year. Volunteers are welcome and there is plenty of work to do especially on Saturday morning. Contact Chris Smetana or any board member to volunteer.

It's spring, it's May, and it's the 2014 Flower/Truss Show hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter on Saturday, May 10 at the Morris Arboretum. Refer to other articles in this newsletter or go to www.ValleyForgeARS.org for details. It's an early call as all entries must be in by 8:30 am Saturday. Everyone can bring in trusses including friends and neighbors. It is a great way to introduce new people to our organization.

Trophies and ribbons will be presented at the annual meeting and picnic at Reid and Joan Warren's garden on Sunday June 29.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our last chapter meeting of the year on April 17 at 7:30pm. Alice has lined up a speaker with a very interesting topic: SODS and boxwood blight.

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

Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

2014
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
Jenkins Arboretum

631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333

Opening-Night Party and Preview Plant Sale (see below)

Friday May 2 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Public Plant Sale

Saturday May 3 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday May 4 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Cash and Checks accepted (no credit cards)

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 rhododendrons, azaleas, and “companion plants”, such as other shrubs, small trees, including Japanese Maple, and choice perennials.

Publicity. You should receive in the mail this year’s plant sale flyer. 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, such as a local library or stores. Any publicity is appreciated.

Help is needed and appreciated. Expert or novice, please commit yourself when called, or just show up on workdays (Monday to Thursday preceding sale) or on public sale days (May 3 and 4). There are all kinds of chores to be done. Snacks/food and beverages will be provided.

Plant donations are also 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 May 1.** Many customers head first to the donations, which can add tremendously to the success of the sale, the proceeds of which benefit a number of horticultural, conservation, and educational efforts.

**Opening-Night Party and Preview Plant Sale*

FRIDAY, May 2 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Deadline for Party Reservations: April 30

_____persons \$30.00/person Total: \$_____

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

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

Reservations will be used in the drawing of door prizes Friday evening

Joint VF & GP Flower Show at Morris Arboretum

100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia (Chestnut Hill)
Widener Visitor Center (use main entrance to public garden)

Saturday, May 10 (the day before Mother's Day)

We're looking forward to our 6th year of the joint Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters combined flower/truss show. To make this the stunning and highly educational juried display that it has been in previous years, members of all area chapters are again encouraged to bring entries. We will begin accepting entries at 7:00 am in Morris Arboretum's Weidner Education Center. Entries

must be in by 8:45 am. The show will be open to the public from 1-4 pm that day.

Help will be available, especially to those who haven't entered before—so don't be hesitant. Classification lists will be available on the GPARS website <http://www.gpchapterars.org>.

The show chair is Michael Martin Mills, 215-844-6253; mmm19119@gmail.com

ENTRY RULES

1. There is no registration fee.
2. All entries must be received at the show passing table between 7:00 and 8:45 a.m. on Saturday. Entries offered after 8:45 a.m. will be assigned to the conversation table and are not eligible for judging.
3. All entries must be from plants grown outdoors in the garden for no less than 6 months.
4. Only one entry of a variety may be made in each section by any member or family. However, any number of different varieties may be entered in a section.
5. Elepidote rhododendron entries shall be a single bud truss with preferably no more than 3 unopened flowers.
6. Azalea, azaleodendron and lepidote rhododendron entries shall be either a single stemmed spray or a single or multiple truss measuring not more than 14 inches in width and height above the container.
7. Classes 1 through 8 and 10 are for cut bloom entries only. Wedges may be used for staging entries. Display containers will be provided.
8. A specimen plant may be one that is grown in a container or one that is garden grown and is dug and placed in a container, to be supplied by exhibitor. Size limit: 30" in width and 48" in height above soil.
9. Exhibitors must complete an entry tag for each entry. Tags will be available at the show; the

Show committee will assist as needed. Use a pencil or a waterproof pen to fill out your tag, both top and bottom parts. Enter your name (address labels appropriate) and other information ahead of time. For plants grown from ARS Seed Exchange seed, lot number, year listed and name of seed contributor must be stated.

10. Any hybrid that is named, though not necessarily registered, and is not on the current classification lists may be entered in Class 7 but should have an appropriate permanent classification number. If necessary, confer with classification committee.

11. All entries should be properly groomed and conditioned. Artificial shine cannot be used on foliage. Leaf margins cannot be trimmed

12. Classification and placement will be by the Show Committee. A class or section may be subdivided when deemed appropriate.

13. Judging will start at 10:45 a.m. Only the show and clerk's chairmen and judges and clerks are allowed in the exhibit area during judging.

14. Judges, at their discretion, may award ribbons for first, second and third places in each section. Honorable Mention will be awarded when appropriate. Any award can be omitted. Two or more of second or lower awards may be awarded.

15. The show will be open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. Exhibits, but not trophies and ribbons, may be claimed at the close of the show on Sunday. The Committee will dispose of exhibits not claimed.

SHOW CLASSES

Class 1.0 Rhododendron Species

- Section 1.1 Elepidotes
- Section 1.2 Lepidotes

Class 2.0 Rhododendron Hybrids

Elepidotes

- Section 2.1 White
- Section 2.2 White, prominent blotch
- Section 2.3 Pink, light
- Section 2.4 Pink, deep
- Section 2.5 Pink, prominent blotch
- Section 2.6 Red, scarlet (orange red)
- Section 2.7 Red, rose red or crimson
- Section 2.8 Red, dark or blackish
- Section 2.9 Red, prominent blotch
- Section 2.10 Blue-purple, lavender pink
- Section 2.11 Blue-purple, strong purple
- Section 2.12 Blue-purple, prominent blotch
- Section 2.13 Yellow, light shades
- Section 2.14 Yellow, deep shades
- Section 2.15 Yellow-orange, any shade
- Section 2.16 Lax truss, any color
- Section 2.17 Yakushmanum hybrids (at least ½ yak)

Class 3.0 Rhododendron Hybrids Lepidote

- Section 3.1 White
- Section 3.2 Pink
- Section 3.3 Salmon
- Section 3.4 Lavender shades
- Section 3.5 Yellow-cream
- Section 3.6 Red
- Section 3.7 Multi-color

Class 4.0 Azalea Species

- Section 4.1 Deciduous
- Section 4.2 Evergreen

Class 5.0 Azalea Hybrids-Deciduous

- Section 5.1 White
- Section 5.2 Cream or off-white
- Section 5.3 Yellow
- Section 5.4 Orange
- Section 5.5 Salmon or orange-pink
- Section 5.6 Pink
- Section 5.7 Red
- Section 5.8 Multi-color

Class 6.0

- Section 6.1 White, single
- Section 6.2 White, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.3 White, colored blotch, stripe or border
- Section 6.4 Pink-clear, single
- Section 6.5 Pink-clear, hose-in-hose, or double
- Section 6.6 Pink-clear, prominent blotch
- Section 6.7 Pink orange, single
- Section 6.8 Pink orange, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.9 Pink orange, prominent blotch
- Section 6.10 Pink lavender, single
- Section 6.11 Pink lavender, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.12 Pink lavender, prominent blotch
- Section 6.13 Rose red, single
- Section 6.14 Rose red, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.15 Orange-red, single
- Section 6.16 Orange-red hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.17 Salmon
- Section 6.18 Lavender-purple, single
- Section 6.19 Lavender-purple, hose-in-hose or double
- Section 6.20 Multi-color
- Section 6.21 Strap Petal, all colors

Azalea Hybrids-Evergreen

Class 7.0

- Section 7.1 Azalea-evergreen
- Section 7.2 Azalea-deciduous
- Section 7.3 Rhododendron-epidote
- Section 7.4 Rhododendron-lepidote

New Azalea and Rhododendron Hybrids (see Rule #10)

Class 8.0

- Section 8.1 Azalea-evergreen or deciduous, species or hybrid
- Section 8.2 Rhododendron-lepidote or epidote, species or hybrid

ARS Seed Exchange (see Rule #9)

Class 9.0

- Section 9.1 Azalea-evergreen
- Section 9.2 Azalea-deciduous
- Section 9.3 Rhododendron-lepidote
- Section 9.4 Rhododendron-epidote

Specimen Plants (see Rule #8)

Class 10.0

Azaleodendron

Class 11.0

Bonsai (not eligible for Best in Show)

Picnic and Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 29, starting at 2 p.m.

At Reid & Joan Warren's, 46 Briarwood Drive, Elverson, PA 19520, 610-913-0005

Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert serving 4 – 6 and your own eating utensils and chairs. Meat and beverages will be provided. We encourage new members or members who have never attended before simply to join in the fun and bring along their families or gardening friends. There will be only a very short business meeting.

There will be a brief business meeting (election of officers) and time to tour the gardens.

Directions: From Turnpike south of Reading or From PA-23 in Morgantown:

Take the Morgantown Exit 289 to I-176 north. In 0.4 miles take exit 1A for PA-10 north. In ½ mile take 3rd right onto Joanna Rd. In 0.9 miles take right on Elverson Road. In 0.6 miles take a slight left on Hopewell Rd. In 0.3 miles turn 1st left onto Red Hill Road. In 0.6 miles take 2nd left onto Briarwood Blvd. The Warrens are on the left in 0.1 miles.

Members of ALL area chapters are invited to the

Rhododendron & Azalea Cuttings Exchange and Plant Auction

Sunday, August 17, starting at 1:30 p.m., rain or shine

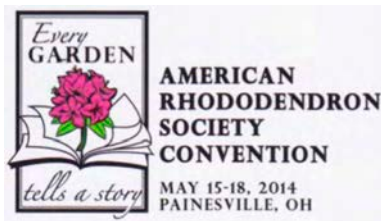
Location is to be announced in next newsletter.

The annual ARS District 8 cuttings exchange and plant auction is hosted by Valley Forge Chapter. It consists of an exchange of cuttings members bring, an auction of plants members donate and a demonstration on how to root cuttings followed

by desserts which members bring. All of the proceeds benefit the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Directions will be posted on line and in the next newsletter.

2014 Annual ARS Convention

May 15-18, 2014, Cleveland, OH



www.greatlakesrhodies.org

The American Rhododendron Society invites you to attend, Annual International Convention May 15-18,

- Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden
- Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
- Cleveland Botanic Garden
- Lake View Cemetery
- Mimi Gale Garden, A Private "Gem"
- 3 more private gardens on Sunday

2014, Greater Cleveland area, situated along the scenic shores of Lake Erie - *WHERE EVERY GARDEN TELLS A STORY*. Welcome to the "City of Trees," experience the special beauty and variety of a Midwestern spring. Visit carefully chosen tours - in our woods, along our shores in private and public gardens in the Greater Cleveland area.

Visit:

- David G. Leach Research Station,
- Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH

Speakers will include Ian Adams, Clem Hamilton, Enjoy speakers with fresh perspective and interesting garden themes that will entertain and inform. Plant Sale will be overflowing with plants from W.W. Nurseries.

All roads and airways (Hopkins International Airport), lead to Quail Hollow Resort Hotel in Painesville, OH, where the Convention will be held. Put this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.

For further details visit the [conference website](#).

ARS Proven Performer List for ARS District 8 – Part II, Azaleas

Below are plants with good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases for District 8. The listed plants have proven their ability to perform well in members' gardens and are recommended to others.

Selected by the Susquehanna Valley Chapter.

Deciduous Azaleas



'Gibraltar'



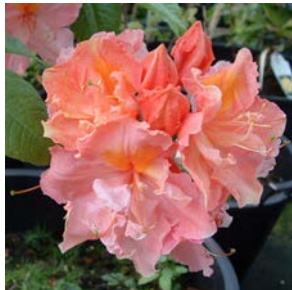
'Golden Lights'



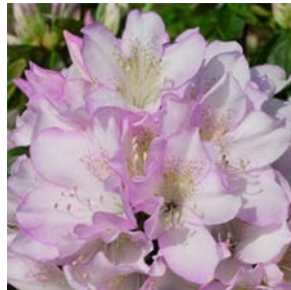
'Homebush'



'Herbert'



'Strawberry Ice'



'Madame Butterfly'



'R. cumberlandense'



'Rosebud'



'Dayspring'



'Delaware Valley White'



'Elsie Lee'



'Hardy Gardenia'



'Hershey's Bright Red'



'Louise Gable'



'Martha Hitchcock'



'Pleasant White'

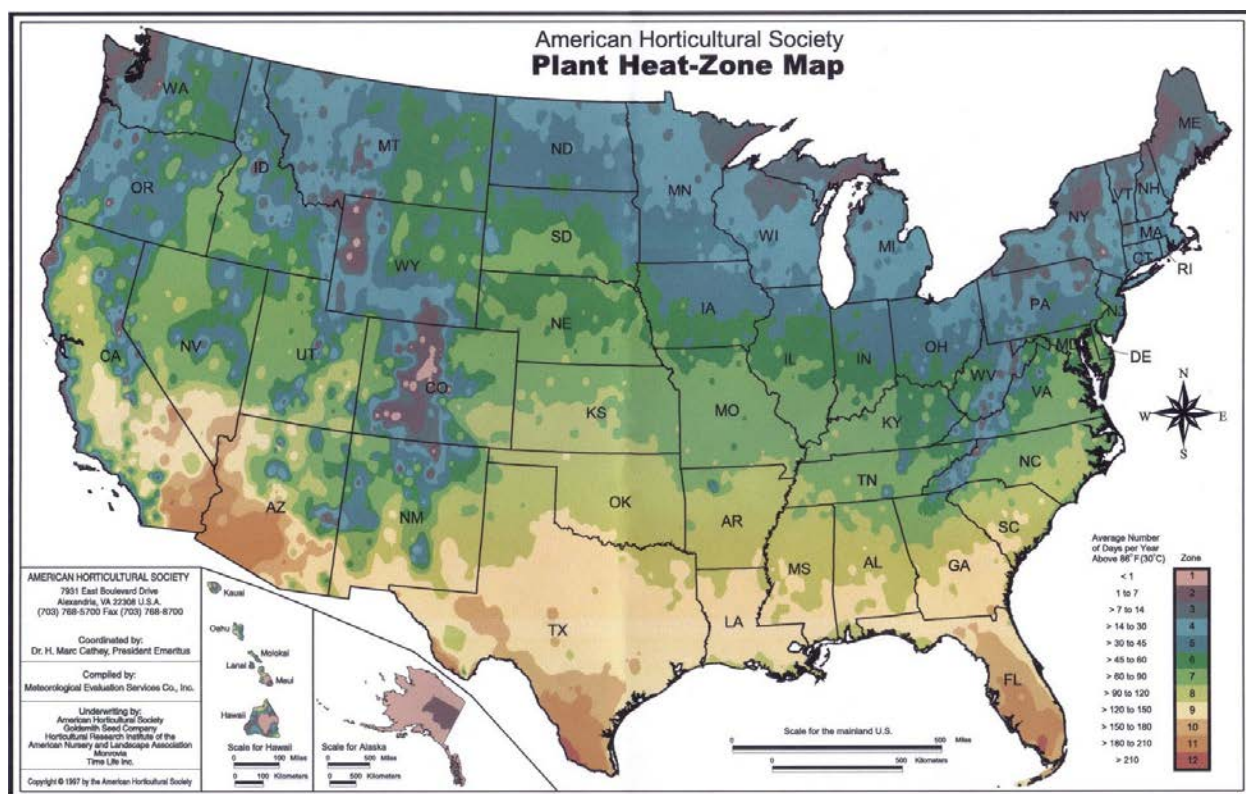


'Sandra Ann'



'Treasure'

American Horticultural Society Plant Heat Zone Map



[from <http://www.ahs.org/gardening-resources/gardening-maps/heat-zone-map>]

What are Heat Zones?

During seasons of drought, we are all aware of the impact that heat has on our plants. The effects of heat damage are subtler than those of extreme cold, which will kill a plant instantly. Heat damage can first appear in many different parts of the plant: Flower buds may wither, leaves may droop or become more attractive to insects, chlorophyll may disappear so that leaves appear white or brown, or roots may cease growing. Plant death from heat is slow and lingering. The plant may survive in a stunted or chlorotic state for several years. When desiccation reaches a high enough level, the enzymes that control growth are deactivated and the plant dies.

The Heat Zone Map

The 12 zones of the map indicate the average number of days each year that a given region

experiences "heat days"-temperatures over 86 degrees (30 degrees Celsius). That is the point at which plants begin suffering physiological damage from heat. The zones range from Zone 1 (less than one heat day) to Zone 12 (more than 210 heat days).

Heat zone designations are joining hardiness zone designations in some garden centers, references books, and catalogs. On each plant, there will be four numbers. For example, a plant may have the designation 3-8, 8-1. This means it is considered hardy USDA Hardiness Zones 3 to 8 and AHS Heat Zones 8 to 1.

Unusual seasons-fewer or more hot days than normal-will invariably affect results in your garden. And even more than with the hardiness zones, the AHS expects that many plants will survive outside their designated

heat zone. This is because so many other factors complicate a plant's reaction to heat.

Most important, the AHS Plant Heat-Zone ratings assume that adequate water is supplied to the roots of the plant at all times. The accuracy of the zone coding can be substantially distorted by a lack of water, even for a brief period in the life of the plant.

Although some plants are naturally more drought tolerant than others, horticulture by definition means growing plants in a protected, artificial environment where stresses are different than in nature. No plant can survive becoming completely desiccated. Heat damage is always linked to an insufficient amount of water being available to the plant. Herbaceous plants are 80 to 90 percent water, and woody plants are about 50 percent water. Plant tissues must contain enough water to keep their cells turgid and to sustain the plant's processes of chemical and energy transport.

Watering directly at the roots of a plant-through drip irrigation for instance-conserves water that would be lost to evaporation or runoff during overhead watering. In addition, plants take in water more efficiently when it is applied to their roots rather than their leaves. Mulching will also help conserve water.

There are other factors that can cause stress to plants and skew the heat-zone rating. Some of them are more controllable than others.

Purchase a copy of the map

Order color posters of the AHS Heat-Zone Map for \$10.00 each at: gardenshop@ahs.org or <https://americanhort.ahs.org/heatzonemap>, or call (800) 777-7931 ext. 133.

East Coast vs West Coast

Our area of SE PA and nearby NJ is primarily in AHS Heat Zones 5 to 6. The rhododendron growing region on the West Coast from Seattle, WA to Eugene, OR is in Zones 3 to 4 or lower. Hence, you can see why many of their plants struggle when planted in our area.

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:

Helen's Eggplant Amandine

2 lb. eggplant; if young, do not peel
2 cups lightly packed bread cubes
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2/3 cup sliced green onion
1 ½ tsp. thyme
1 ½ tsp. basil
2 eggs, lightly beaten
¾ cup diced chicken
¼ cup chopped parsley
¾ cup chopped almonds
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Slice eggplant (or cube) and sauté. Saute bread cubes and garlic. Combine eggplant and bread cubes. Add seasonings, ½ cup almonds, chicken and eggs. Put in buttered baking dish. Top with cheese, ¼ cup almonds and parsley. At this point it can be frozen. Bake 375° for 30 min. with baking dish placed in pan of hot water.

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

[ARS Online Store: ARSStore ...](#)

... where every purchase benefits the ARS at no extra cost. ARSStore.org features **ARS logo** caps, visors, shirts, jackets, & computer bags; **Amazon.com**; & **nationally known merchants'** online stores. To shop in stores, get a **gift card** online first. Also, **chapter programs** can be downloaded.

Philadelphia Flower Show



The ARS exhibit was a perfectly circular floral confection amid the other plant societies.

Photo by Karel Bernady



Tall Blue Lepidote Species: *Rhododendron augustinii*

Lepidote Rhododendrons

By Don Hyatt

To finish up this newsletter, I thought it might be good to mention the lepidote rhododendrons since they are often the first to bloom each spring. Over the years, I have really come to admire these charming plants.

Lepidote rhododendrons are the large leaf plants like the Dexters and Gables most people associate with the genus. Lepidotes are typically smaller in plant habit and flower size, and often have aromatic foliage. Except for the bright purple 'PJM', I rarely see them in our area.

I have many favorites. My first to bloom is usually *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink'. I planted it with yellow corylopsis. I love yellow and have five selections of the dwarf, light yellow species *R.*

keiskei planted with my double hellebores. Haag's '24 Karat' is a slightly taller yellow and seems quite tough. Kehr's blush pink 'Southland' has a compact habit but Weston's 'Landmark' is open and tall but has bright rose red flowers. The double purple Mehlquist hybrid 'April Rose' is lovely. Nearing's apricot 'Mary Fleming' and light pink 'Windbeam' are excellent but forget his 'Ramapo'. It does not take heat.

Lepidotes are not azaleas although I admit they have the same look and feel in the landscape. These plants are distinguished from the other rhododendron groups because they have "scales" on their leaves and stems. These tiny structures appear as waxy dots on the surfaces, and are best viewed with a hand lens. We often call lepidotes "scalies." Most of the lepidotes are more winter hardy than evergreen azaleas, often hardy to Zone 5. They are used as an azalea alternative in New England. Some are not heat tolerant, though. All require excellent drainage. One drawback is they can bloom too early and flowers can get caught by late frosts. Some selections bloom a bit later like the bright pink 'Aglo' and 'Olga Mezitt'. They rarely get frozen in my garden. Our own native *R. minus* var. *carolinianum* from North Carolina blooms early but the southern *R. minus* var. *minus* from the Gulf Coast blooms in late midseason. It is also very heat tolerant.

There are many "blue" lepidote species with colors we don't see in other rhododendrons or azaleas. They don't grow here. On the West Coast, *R. augustinii* can tower 8 ft tall but I've killed it many times. Bob and Rosa McWhorter had success with a hybrid 'Blaney's Blue'. I have plants now but none are budded. I keep buying blues for hybridizing since my goal is a hardy, heat-tolerant blue. Of course, Gable and countless others have been working on the same thing since the 1930's. We can always dream!



Tall Blue Lepidote Species: *Rhododendron augustini*

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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER
May/June/July 2014

ARSStore.org
Where every purchase benefits the American Rhododendron Society

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	Webmaster: Jim Willhite (484) 887-0232
	VF Chapter's web site: ValleyForgeARS.org

Please contact us of any 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).