



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

NEWSLETTER ***May/June 2023***

Calendar at a Glance

- 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**
- June 18 (Sun.)** **2 PM, Joint VF/GP Annual Chapter Meetings & Picnic at Perc Moser's**

President's Message

The 2023 Plant Sale is less than a week away and the Plant Sale Committee is again working hard to make this year's sale another successful one. This year the Chapter has decided to focus exclusively on Rhododendrons and woody companion plants. Once again, we are asking Chapter Members to please lend a hand in our biggest fund raiser of the year. We always need help unloading trucks and getting plants organized and ready for sale; if you can fit it into your schedule, please do. We will also need volunteers to help during the sale. Our Opening Night Party/Preview Sale will be Friday, May 5th from 5:30-8 pm and the Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th (page 3), so please come by to lend a hand.

The Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Chapter Flower/Truss Show will be held at Jenkins Arboretum on Saturday May 13th (page 4), always a wonderful way to show off our favorite Rhododendron blossoms.

And speaking of beautiful Rhododendron blossoms, on Sunday June 18th Perc and Sally Moser will once again host the Joint GP/VF Annual Business Meetings and picnic at their beautiful home in Bryn Mawr (page 9). However, before we relax and enjoy Perc's beautiful Rhododendron Garden, each Chapter will hold its business meeting. This year is especially important given that we will be voting on merging the two Chapters (page 2).

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

Hope everyone enjoys the Rhododendron bloom season and don't forget Rich Ziadie's Garden Viewing on May 20th (page 8).

Hope to see everyone at the Plant Show.

Sincerely,

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

Announcement of Merger of Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters

April 14, 2023

Dear members of the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters of the ARS,

Before this balmy spring has run its full course, there will be a new Rhododendron Society chapter in our area. Your chapter.

Without a dissenting vote, the boards of the Valley Forge Chapter and of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter have agreed to merge the two chapters into the new Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. The new chapter will come into being on June 18, 2023. All members of the two merging chapters will be members of the **Delaware Valley Chapter**.

The process that led to this point began in 2020, when the chapters' boards each appointed three individuals to serve as a joint committee to explore the chapters' future(s) and make recommendations to the boards. The pandemic put a crimp in the committee's work, but early this spring it resumed work in earnest. The committee members are Perc Moser, Bob Smetana and Steve Wright from Valley Forge and Gary Ammon, Karel Bernady and Maris Ogg from Greater Philadelphia. (In the earliest meetings, Michael Martin Mills participated as a proxy for Karel Bernady when he was unable to take part.)

The committee and the two chapter boards believe there are numerous advantages to merging, at a time when membership rolls have been declining and the average age of members has been rising. Having a larger pool of people to share the work and business of a single chapter should strengthen the leadership, particularly with an enhanced committee structure. Each of our chapters has a reservoir of rhododendron knowledge and a true camaraderie among fellow enthusiasts. To pass that on to the next generations of rhododendron devotees is important and is far more likely to succeed with a robust single chapter, rather than leaving two separate chapters straining on their own to continue the current level of activities. Already we have combined the truss show, the annual picnic and the annual February joint meeting, and have together met the challenge of hosting national and regional ARS conferences. The committee and the boards believe that full merger is the best way forward and that now is the time to accomplish it.

The annual picnic will be June 18, 2023, at the Bryn Mawr home of Perc and Sally Moser, and we hope for a big turnout, for the membership to inaugurate the Delaware Valley Chapter, to adopt a new set of bylaws, and to elect officers and directors. The joint committee has proposed that the slate of officers be Karel Bernady for president, Gerald (Jerry) O'Dell for vice president, Linda Hartnett for secretary, and Bob Smetana for treasurer, and that all other current board members be elected to serve as an enlarged Board of Directors for the first year. Pursuant to the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge bylaws, members will receive a copy of the proposed new bylaws in May.

It should be noted that the Valley Forge and Greater Philadelphia bylaws are silent on the concept of merger, and the national ARS has a distinctly hands-off approach. Thus, the terms and details of the merger have been formed in the context of what the bylaws do contain, the powers and duties of the boards, and the laws of Pennsylvania. We are particularly indebted to committee member Gary Ammon for his legal knowledge of these processes. Any member may request from either of us a copy of the "term sheet" for the merger.

With the new officers and expanded board, the Delaware Valley Chapter must undertake a year of transition. The two chapters' bank accounts will be combined, and among the decisions ahead are a meeting schedule, committee duties, plant sale(s), grants, and the like. It goes without saying that your input is solicited!

We look forward to seeing you at the picnic and Annual Meeting on June 18.

R. Rabideau, Pres, Greater Philadelphia & Gerald J. O'Dell Jr., Pres., Valley Forge Chapters

[See information on the June 18, 2023 Picnic and Annual Meeting at Perc Moser's on Page 9.](#)



'Valley Forge'

2023

Co-Hosted by Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens
and The Valley Forge Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

Plant Sale Weekend

Opening Night Party & Pre-Sale

Friday, May 5 from 5:30 – 8 PM

Tickets required. Purchase pre-sale tickets online at
jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale or
by calling 610-647-8870 ext. 114

Public Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7
from 9 AM – 4 PM

Join us at Jenkins for a special one-weekend only sale to shop
for **rare and unusual rhododendrons and azaleas**,
plus native trees, perennials, and shrubs.

Open to the public; tickets are not required. Rain or shine.

Learn more: jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale

Can't make it to the Plant Sale Weekend?

*Shop for native plants throughout the season at
The Garden Shop at Jenkins, open daily from April through October.*



JENKINS
ARBORETUM
& GARDENS



631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon, PA 19333

610-647-8870

jenkinsarboretum.org

[Click Here For Printable Copy of The Plant Sale Flyer](#)

Cut-Flower Competition, Saturday, May 13, 2023

American Rhododendron Society

Greater Philadelphia
and Valley Forge Chapters

Cut-Flower Competition

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Jenkins Arboretum
631 Berwyn-Baptist Road,
Devon, Pennsylvania

Entry Rules & Essential Information on Next Pages

**Deadline for entries:
9:30 am. sharp!**

Open to the public: 12:30-4:00 p.m.

[Catalogue of Previous Entries](#)

<http://rhodyman.net/VFARS/CompetitionCatalog2023.pdf>

Cut-Flower Competition, Saturday, May 13, 2023

Entry Rules

1. Competition is open to all gardeners, whether or not a member of the American Rhododendron Society. Entries by institutions are eligible only for Honorable Mention. There is no fee. Perpetual trophies won by nonmembers will be retained by the chapters at their discretion.
2. All entries shall be from plants grown in the exhibitor's garden for six months. All buds need not be open.
3. Entries of unregistered, unnamed and unknown cultivars are permitted providing other criteria are met. All unknown cultivars will be regarded as hybrids. Azaleodendrons will be entered in the class of the seed parent of the hybrid.
4. Only one entry of a variety or species may be made by any individual. Any number of varieties may be entered in a section.
5. Elepidote (nonscaly series, large leaf) rhododendron entries shall be a single-bud truss.
6. Azalea, azaleodendron and lepidote (scaly series, little leaf) rhododendron and all entries in Class 10 shall be either a single-stemmed spray or a single or multiple truss not measuring more than 14 inches in width or height above vase (a single whorl of elepidote foliage in Class 10 may exceed 14 inches).
7. Each specimen plant (garden grown) may be displayed in a pot, tub or burlap.
8. All entries must be received at the site of the show before 9:30 a.m. on the day of the show. Entries offered after that time will be assigned to the conversation table and will NOT be eligible for judging.
9. Exhibitors must complete an entry tag for each entry before 9:30 a.m. Tags will be available at the show; the classification committee will provide assistance; vases will be furnished.
10. All entries should be properly groomed and conditioned. No artificial shine may be used on foliage. Leaf margins may not be trimmed.
11. Cotton or other shim material may be used to support a truss or spray in the vase provided that it does not extend above the top of the vase.
12. Placement will be by the committee. The committee may rule an entry ineligible based on these rules, and it reserves the right to reclassify any entry and to subdivide any class or section.
13. Judging will start soon after 9:30 a.m. No exhibitors or spectators, other than working committee members, will be permitted in the area during judging. All judges' decisions are final.
14. Judges, at their discretion, will award ribbons for first, second and third place in each section. Only one first-place ribbon may be awarded in each section, and, using the point schedule below, no more than 6 points may be awarded in each section. Honorable mention may be awarded when deemed appropriate.
15. Points are awarded on the following basis: Best in Show: 7 points
16. Other Trophy Winners: 5 points
17. Best in Class (except Classes 7,9,10): 4 points
Blue Ribbon (First Place): 3 points
18. Red Ribbon (Second Place): 2 points
Yellow Ribbon (Third Place): 1 point
19. The show will be open to the public 15 minutes after completion of judging until 4:00 p.m.
20. Exhibitors may remove entries and ribbons then. Exhibits not claimed will be disposed of.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact co-chairs Perc Moser
(percmoser@gmail.com; 610-635-8290) or
Michael Martin Mills (mmm19119@gmail.com;
215-844-6253) for more information and to
obtain entry tags for advance completion.

[Catalogue of Previous Entries](#)

<http://rhodyman.net/VFARS/CompetitionCatalog2023.pdf>

Cut-Flower Competition, Saturday, May 13, 2023

Classes and Sections

Class 1

Rhododendron Species

- 1.1 Elepidote(nonscaly)
- 1.2 Lepidote(scaly)

Class 2

Rhododendron Hybrids, Elepidote(large leaf)

- 2.1 White
- 2.2 White, prominent blotch
- 2.3 Pink, light
- 2.4 Pink, deep
- 2.5 Pink, prominent blotch
- 2.6 Red, scarlet(orange red)
- 2.7 Red, rose red or crimson
- 2.8 Red, dark or blackish
- 2.9 Red, prominent blotch
- 2.10 Blue-purple, lavender blue
- 2.11 Blue-purple, strong purple
- 2.12 Blue-purple, prominent blotch
- 2.13 Cream and pale yellow
- 2.14 Deeper yellow
- 2.15 Orange and peach shades, including multicolor
- 2.16 Picotee, any colors
- 2.17 Yakushimanum hybrids (at least 50 percent yak)
- 2.18 Lax truss, any colors

Class 3

Rhododendron Hybrids, Lepidote(little leaf)

- 3.1 White
- 3.2 Pink
- 3.3 Salmon
- 3.4 Lavender and blue shades
- 3.5 Yellow-cream
- 3.6 Red
- 3.7 Multicolor

Class4 Azalea Species

- 4.1 Deciduous
- 4.2 Evergreen

Class 5

Azalea Hybrids, Deciduous

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

Class 6

Azalea Hybrids, Evergreen

- 6.1 White, single
- 6.2 White, hose-in-hose/double
- 6.3 White, colored blotch, stripe or border
- 6.4 Pink, clear, single
- 6.5 Pink, clear, H.I.H. or double
- 6.6 Pink, clear, prominent blotch
- 6.7 Pink orange, single
- 6.8 Pink orange, H.I.H. or double
- 6.9 Pink orange, prominent blotch
- 6.10 Pink lavender, single
- 6.11 Pink lavender, H.I.H. or double
- 6.12 Pink lavender, prominent blotch
- 6.13 Rose red, single
- 6.14 Rose red, H.I.H. or double
- 6.15 Orange-red, single
- 6.16 Orange-red, H.I.H. or double
- 6.17 Salmon
- 6.18 Lavender-purple, single
- 6.19 Lavender-purple, H.I.H. or double
- 6.20 Multicolor
- 6.21 Strap-petal, any color

Class 7

Hybridizers Class

(hybridized by the exhibitor; not previously exhibited at this show)

- 7.1 Azalea, evergreen
- 7.2 Azalea, deciduous
- 7.3 Rhododendron, elepidote
- 7.4 Rhododendron, lepidote

Class 8

Other New Hybrids

(not previously exhibited at this show, including open-pollinated, those hybridized by someone other than the exhibitor, Seed Exchange plants)

- 8.1 Azalea, evergreen
- 8.2 Azalea, deciduous
- 8.3 Rhododendron, elepidote
- 8.4 Rhododendron, lepidote

Class 9

Specimen Plants

(garden- or container-grown)

- 9.1 Garden-grown evergreen azalea
- 9.2 Garden-grown deciduous azalea
- 9.3 Garden-grown elepidote rhododendron
- 9.4 Garden-grown lepidote rhododendron
- 9.5 Container-grown garden varieties, including bonsai
- 9.6 Vireyas

Class 10

Foliage

(no open flowers)

- 10.1 Elepidotes
- 10.2 Elepidotes, indumented
- 10.3 Lepidotes
- 10.4 Azaleas

Novice Classes

(for first-time exhibitors)

Rhododendrons

Azaleas

[Catalogue of Previous Entries](#)

<http://rhodyman.net/VFARS/CompetitionCatalog2023.pdf>

Cut-Flower Competition, Saturday, May 13, 2023

Tips for Competition

Ideally, a truss should be fully open or have no more than two unopened florets without blemishes on the petals or leaves. It should definitely not be past its prime. If necessary, some leaves may be removed, but the truss should end up with a fair rosette of green, undamaged foliage. A straight stem is best.

Immediately after cutting, a flower truss should be placed in water and set in a cool place for about two hours. Use lukewarm water to revive a wilted truss. For best uptake of water, the base of the stem should be slit or crushed for the bottom inch or two.

Groom trusses, using tweezers, stamp tongs, and damp cotton to remove any foreign material on the petals or leaves, including insects. Flower bud scales that are loose inside the truss must be removed, along with any dead pips.

To transport trusses:(1) Use bottles securely positioned in boxes or crates with dividers. (2) Poke stem holes in the lids of plastic refrigerator containers.(3)If trusses have been in water at least 2 hours, lay them in a flat box on top of slightly crumpled tissue paper.

Azalea and little-leaf rhododendron sprays are groomed the same as trusses. Sprays must stay within the size limits of 14 inches maximum height or width above the vase.

For the Catalogue of Previous Entries to aid completion of entry tags, go to <http://rhodyman.net/VFARS/CompetitionCatalog2023.pdf>. To receive tags for advance completion, contact show co-chairs Pere Moser(percmoser@gmail.com; 610-635-8290) or Michael Martin Mills (mmm19119@gmail.com;215-844-6253).

Judges

Cathy Keim

Harold Sweetman

Tom Lloyd

Steve Wright

Karel Bernady

Peter Zale

Trophies

Best in Show	Best Deciduous Azalea
Best Species	Hybridizer's Cup
Best Rhododendron Hybrid	Best Specimen Plant
Best Evergreen Azalea	Best Foliage
Sweepstakes for most points	

[Catalogue of Previous Entries](http://rhodyman.net/VFARS/CompetitionCatalog2023.pdf)

<http://rhodyman.net/VFARS/CompetitionCatalog2023.pdf>

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:

12:30 pm lunch Pot Luck*

Garden Viewing 12:30 to 4 pm

*There was an error previously.

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 past Beechwood Rd. to 24 Free Union Rd., Rich's driveway is on the right

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.

Sun., June 18, Joint GP/VF Annual Business Meetings & Picnic

2:00 PM at Perc & Sally Moser's, 301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr



Perc, who is the Treasurer of the ARS Research Foundation and a VF ARS Chapter Board member, has spent many years developing his beautiful garden during his off hours from a very successful banking career. His 1.2-acre garden highlights many of his

own Rhododendron hybrids as well as some of the best for southeastern Pennsylvania. It was featured on the 2019 ARS Convention Garden Tour and hosted our 2019 Joint GP/VF Picnic & Annual Business Meetings. Each chapter will have its chapter business meeting where the issue of merging the chapters will be voted on by the membership of each chapter.

Then the fun begins with the annual picnic. Perc and Sally will be grilling the burgers and hotdogs but please bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert. Don't miss this opportunity to spend an afternoon in this truly outstanding Main Line Garden and please bring along a friend or two.

Directions: 301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010:

From Jenkins Arboretum:

Turn right on Devon State Road

In .9 mile, turn left onto W. Conestoga Road

After .5 mile, take slight left onto Upper Gulph Rd.

In 2.5 miles, turn right onto King of Prussia Rd

In 100 ft a quick left onto Upper Gulph Rd,
Keep Straight onto Old Gulph Road & then onto New Gulph Road.

In 4.6 miles, turn left onto Caversham Rd.

In 100 feet, on the right is the Moser's
301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr.

From City Avenue (just off Schuylkill Expressway), Bala Cynwyd, PA:

Go east on City Ave toward St. Joe University

App. 1 mile, turn right onto Conshohocken State Rd.

In .5 mile, turn left onto Montgomery Ave.

In 4.3 miles, turn right onto New Gulph Rd.

In .8 miles, turn right onto Caversham Rd

In 100 feet, on the right is the Moser's
301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr.

103 Acer Place
Lancaster, PA 17601



NEWSLETTER
May/June 2023



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ARS websites:	Darlene Henning ('22-'25) (717) 735-7116
rhododendron.org ARSStore.org	Perc Moser ('21-'24) (610) 525-3651
ARSOoffice.org	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
	VF Chapter's web site: ValleyForgeARS.org
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 (rhodyman@earthlink.net).	