

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

NEWSLETTER *June 2022*

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

June 19, 2022 (Sun.) **2 PM, Joint VF/GP Annual Chapter Meetings & Picnic at Michael Mills'**
TBA **District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction**
Sep. 26-28, 2022 **Gathering in Gettysburg, the ARS Fall Meeting (Tue.-Thu.)**

Editor's Message

I just received information for the joint Valley Forge and Greater Philadelphia Picnic and Annual Business Meetings, I will give Jerry O'Dell a vacation from the usual President's Message.

I would like to thank Jerry for his valiant effort throughout the pandemic to keep the Chapter together. One of the biggest challenges was working around Jenkins Arboretum being closed to the public much of the time. Jerry is always looking for new ways to bring the chapter together

The Joint Picnic and Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 18 at Michael Martin Mills beautiful garden in the West Mount Airy section of Philadelphia. Weather permitting, this will be an outdoor event where we can catch up with many of our friends in both chapters and those visiting.

Gathering at Gettysburg, the ARS Fall Meeting, September 27-29

This is the ARS Fall Meeting which is being hosted by the Mason-Dixon Chapter in Gettysburg, PA, from Tues., Sept. 26, through Thur., Sept.28. Hopefully most of us can attend this Fall.

Tuesday will feature an open house at John Bartlett's Gettysburg Gardens. John always treats us to some of his very special plants in August at our plant auction. Now we can visit his greenhouse. In the evening will be the opening program featuring Don Hyatt.

Wednesday will feature a tour of Hershey Gardens which now features a tropical Butterfly Atrium. This will be followed by a bus tour of Gettysburg Battlefield. The evening program will feature Wayne Mezitt from Weston Nurseries. Wayne's father Edmund Mezitt introduced the PJM Rhododendron in 1945 and named it after his father, Peter J. Mezitt. Both evening will feature a spectacular plant sale with plants from a number of nurseries and hybridizers.

Thursday's breeders roundtable will feature plants likely to be nominated for the new ARS/Tyler Test Garden. Gettysburg has a lot to do including wineries, harvest season, and great friends.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Michaels and in Gettysburg.

Your editor.

VF ARS website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Joint Picnic and Chapter Annual Meetings

Greater Philadelphia & Valley Forge Chapters, ARS

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Home of **Michael Martin Mills**
632 Burnham Road
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Arrive as early as 1 p.m. for garden strolling and conviviality (swimmers may take a dip in the pool if desired).

Deadheading is welcome.

Feasting will commence around 2 p.m. An entree and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish, hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share.

Presentation of Truss Show trophies, Annual Meetings and chapter elections will precede dessert.

(In the event of rain, we'll squeeze into the house, porch and garage. Consider bringing a mask.)

Simplified directions:

Michael's home is in the West Mount Airy section of Philadelphia:

632 Burnham Road, Philadelphia 19119

GPS usually works, but if it says you can turn from Wissahickon Avenue onto Burnham, it is flat wrong. Burnham can be accessed only from the 6900 block of Wayne Avenue.

Following are routes from major highways. For other options, email Michael at mmm19119@gmail.com.

The closest highway connection is I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway), Exit 340-A, Lincoln Drive. On Lincoln, go about 2 miles to the FOURTH traffic light, Cliveden Street, and turn RIGHT. Then immediately turn left onto Wayne Avenue, cross Lincoln, and take the third

street to the left, Burnham Road. 632 is the fifth house on the left.

If using the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take EITHER Exit 333 (Norristown) and follow Germantown Pike/Avenue for about 6 miles through the Chestnut Hill business district to Carpenter Lane (fire house on the right), and turn right; go 1 mile on Carpenter and turn left onto Wayne Avenue. Burnham is the third street to the right.

OR take Turnpike Exit 339 for Route 309. Take 309 south until it becomes a surface road; at the second light, turn right onto Limekiln Pike; go 2 long blocks to a 5-way intersection and make a soft right onto Upsal Street. Take Upsal till it dead ends into Greene Street, turn right. After going under the train tracks, turn left at the light onto Hortter St. Go two blocks to the four-way stop at Wayne Avenue, turn right. Burnham Road is the first left off Wayne. 632 is the fifth house on the left.

From the Blue Route, I-476, take the Ridge Pike exit, Exit 18-A (Conshohocken). Follow Ridge into Philadelphia. Just after Cathedral Road, take the left fork onto Henry Avenue. Follow Henry Ave. to Walnut Lane (Sunoco station on the right) and turn left. Follow Walnut to a traffic circle, go three-quarters around it and curve right onto Cliveden St. When Cliveden dead ends into Wayne Ave., turn left. Cross Lincoln Drive (traffic light), go straight at the four-way stop (Hortter). Burnham Road is the next left off Wayne. 632 is the fifth house on the left.

*Michael Martin Mills, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania*



Propagating Your Own Azalea Hill

Saturday, June 18 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

Members: \$30; Non-Members: \$40



Learn how to propagate evergreen azaleas from cuttings.

Propagating Your Own Azalea Hill

Saturday, June 18, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Presented by Helen Standen, Greenhouse & Nursery Manager, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens
Every spring, the beauty of Azalea Hill at peak bloom draws flocks of visitors to Jenkins. Have you ever wished you could create a similar spectacle at home? Join Helen Standen for this hands-on program that will teach the techniques required to propagate evergreen azaleas from cuttings. Participants will leave with their own propagation bin with azalea cuttings straight from our collection and the knowledge to care for them until they are large enough to be planted in the garden.

Members: \$30; Non-Members: \$40

Nominations sought for ARS/Tyler Hybridizers Test Garden

Cultivar selection committee will decide what's to be planted

Actualization of the new rhododendron test garden at Tyler Arboretum, first reported in the last newsletter, is proceeding at such a pace that the Founding Task Force is seeking nominations of plants to be included. Do you know of an excellent, relatively new cultivar from the mid- Atlantic region that ought to be more widely grown?

A Memorandum of Understanding between the parties was executed in January, tree removal has taken place in the designated plot, and a selection committee has been assembled. With a goal of propagating cultivars for the garden in the coming fall, the selection committee will be making decisions over the summer on what to include in the first planting of the test garden.

As reported in the last issue, the concept of the garden is to select and evaluate rhododendrons (principally elepidotes) hybridized and grown in the mid-Atlantic region, with a long-term goal of broadening the choices (commercial and otherwise) that gardeners have when choosing rhododendrons for their homes. Preventing extinction of superior new hybrids is another goal.

The selection committee consists of Ron Rabideau, Greater Philadelphia president and ARS Eastern vice president; Carol Segree, ARS Potomac Valley Chapter; Steve Wright, director of horticulture, Jenkins Arboretum; Peter Zale, associate director, Longwood Gardens; the members of the Founding Task Force (Tom Ahern, Karel Bernady, Michael Martin Mills, Perc Moser); and a representative of Tyler Arboretum.

To make selections, the committee needs nominations. As Tom Ahern recently wrote, "Here is where you come in. We know that there are many hybrids out there that have been hybridized by ARS members over the years that have had little or no chance to be propagated and distributed to chapter members and the general public.

"We are seeking nominations from the hybridizers themselves, from anyone growing the plant or a clone, or even if you have a neighbor who is



Site at Tyler Arboretum after tree removal

growing one. If the plant is worth propagating and you would like to nominate it, please download our application form and submit it. You can submit as many as you wish but we are limiting the number of plants in the garden by a single hybridizer to three."

In addition to background data on the cultivar, the nominations need to be accompanied by photographs (truss and full plant out of bloom). Plants need to be from this region, specifically within 150 miles of Tyler in Media, Pa. As well, a nominated plant must have bloomed at least three seasons and by the end of this coming summer it must have at least six stems of current year's growth (2 inches or longer) available for cuttings.

The nomination process is entirely digital, structured with the help of Steve Henning. Click on <http://arsstore.org/TylerTestGarden/Documents/HybridizerGardenFillableForm.pdf> for the form, which has instructions, including how to submit photos.

If you have questions about the garden or the nomination process, please correspond with the Founding Task Force via email at arstylergarden@gmail.com.

You may read more about the concept and plans for the garden (with photographs) at <http://arsstore.org/TylerTestGarden> and <http://arspvc.org/RA-News/V17.1/TestGarden-02.pdf>.

Steve Henning, editor



ARS Fall Meeting, Gettysburg, PA , September 27-29, 2022

<http://arsstore.org/Fall2022>

Tuesday, Sept. 27 - Gettysburg Gardens Open House & Opening Session



Anyone who knows John Bartlett knows that when he comes to a chapter meeting he brings along some plants, some very unusual native plants. You may have never heard of them, but after talking to John you realize that they are very special plants. Since 1986, Gettysburg Gardens

has been propagating an extensive inventory of plants native to the Mid-Atlantic region.

John has invited everyone to come, visit and shop at Gettysburg Gardens Tuesday afternoon. He has a great selection of trees and shrubs including Magnolia, Stewartia, and Rhododendron, especially native azaleas. He has an extensive selection of native wild flowers including many primulas and hardy cyclamen. They have culinary herbs, Salvias, geophytes (bulbs, corms, tubers etc.) both hardy and tender.



Evening Program by Don Hyatt

The Opening Session Tuesday evening will feature a program by Don Hyatt. Besides being well known for his entertaining programs, Don is the editor for the ARS's Rhododendron & Azalea news, has received the ARS Gold Medal, ARS Silver Medal and ARS Bronze Medals. Don is recognized as an international authority on both rhododendrons and azaleas and has served on the national boards of both the Azalea Society of America and the ARS.

Don's talk will emphasize the achievements of our newer East Coast hybridizers such as Ed

Reiley, John Doppel, Tom Ahern, Joe Minahan and many others. These hybridizers will likely be featured in the new ARS/Tyler Arboretum Test & Display Garden. Don't be surprised if Don inserts some amusing tidbits we always enjoy.

Even though he had a 33-year teaching career at Fairfax County Schools, with a specialty in computer science, Don claims to be a "plant person" at heart. He started his first garden at the family home in Northern Virginia when he was only three.

Don has focused on the preservation of hard-to-find native azalea species and natural azalea hybrids in the wild. He has long been associated with plant society sales and garden clubs.

Don also has great artistic talent as is illustrated by his watercolor illustrations of native azaleas. He offers limited edition prints of these and many other botanical drawings for sale. You can find them, along with more information about him, on his website: www.donhyatt.com.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 - Tours & Banquet



Overlooking the town of Hershey, Hershey Gardens features a breathtaking assortment of flowers and shrubs, a stately collection of rare, signature trees. Indulge your senses in the color and variety of brilliant displays and gardens, including the indoor, tropical Butterfly Atrium

Open year 'round! The new Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory features hundreds of tropical butterflies and horticultural displays in the indoor Butterfly Atrium. Hershey Gardens is 23 acres of magnificent gardens, more than 3,500 rose bushes and a whimsical Children's Garden. This botanical gem is a garden for all seasons!

Hershey Gardens opened in 1937 with Milton Hershey's request to "create a nice garden of roses." 85 years later, the small rose garden has blossomed into 23 acres of botanical beauty providing visitors with unique experiences and enriching opportunities.

Gettysburg Battlefield Tour



The ultimate Gettysburg battlefield bus tour experience puts you on the famous Gettysburg Battlefield with a professional licensed guide. We will relive the Battle of Gettysburg as told by the most knowledgeable historic storytellers in the area. Ironically, besides being historic, the battlefield is a beautiful, typically Pennsylvania area in the Fall.

The Gettysburg National Military Park tour guide covers all three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Your tour will feature at least one scenic stop as well as a restroom stop.

Banquet Program: Wayne Mezitt



The Banquet Wednesday evening will feature a program by Wayne Mezitt. Wayne Mezitt is a 3rd generation nurseryman.

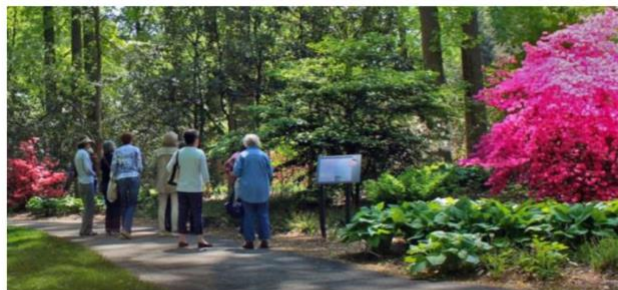
Since 1923 the Mezitt family has owned and operated Weston Nurseries. Peter and his wife Olga purchased 80 acres in Weston, MA. One

of the most pivotal events in the early history of Weston Nurseries was the introduction of the PJM Rhododendron in 1945. Peter's son, Edmund, developed the hardy hybrid and named it in honor of his father. The PJM is now known worldwide as one of the most beautiful and resilient rhododendrons, and graces many gardens in New England.

In the 1960's, Peter's grandsons Wayne and Roger joined the family business and continued to expand and innovate, purchasing adjoining land in Hopkinton until the nursery encompassed over 900 acres by the end of the 80's. In 2006, Wayne's son Peter became President, and began the transition to a new business model more appropriate for the changing environment in the surrounding area.

Thursday, Sept 29 – Hybridizers’ Roundtable

ARS/Tyler Arb. Hybrid Test Garden



Hybridizers’ Roundtable will start with a review by Karel Bernady about the ARS/Tyler Arboretum Rhododendron Test and Display Garden. This exciting new project is to be established at Tyler Arboretum. It is in the planning stages now, but has commitments from the ARS, Tyler Arboretum, and the three chapters in ARS District 8.

The Founding Task Force consists of Perc Moser, Karel Bernady, Tom Ahern and Michael Martin Mills. These four Task Force members and a representative of Tyler with the approval of the national ARS organization, and Tyler Arboretum are planning a test and display garden in Tyler Arboretum for cultivars recently hybridized in the mid-Atlantic region. Work has started with preparation of the sight under way.

The goal is to seek out rhododendron hybrids of outstanding merit and hope wholesale propagators will take notice and retail garden centers will offer more interesting choices.

Among the hybridizers whose creations will be considered for inclusion in the garden are hybridizers whose works have been within a 150-mile radius of Tyler Arboretum.

The Wyndham Hotel - Gettysburg, PA



The Wyndham Hotel - Gettysburg, PA will host our meeting. Hotel Reservations should be made separately and directly with the
Wyndham Hotel - Gettysburg
95 Presidential Circle
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone 717-339-0020.

Mention "American Rhododendron Society" to receive our \$136.00 conference rate.

The hotel has agreed to honor this rate for a few days either side of our conference if you would like to stay a little while and partake of the many activities available in the fall in Gettysburg. There is a lot to do if you have a little spare time.

ARS 2022 Fall Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, September 27:

Open house at Gettysburg Gardens in pm
Evening buffet dinner
Opening speaker: Don Hyatt

Wednesday, September 28

Breakfast buffet
Bus Tour:
Visit Hershey Gardens
Lunch
Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
Evening banquet dinner
Banquet speaker: Wayne Mezitt

Thursday, September 29

Meet the President
Hybridizers’ Roundtable:
ARS/Tyler Hybrid Test Garden
Sightseeing on your own



This is the perfect time of year to stay longer on the battlefield or on the deck at the local winery. With many options, you’ll want to plan an extra day to make time for a traditional experience to be enhanced with more fun and food.

**REGISTRATION FORM - FALL ARS CONFERENCE
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, SEPT. 27-29, 2022**

Early Registration is \$239.00 through August 31st. After August 31st, registration is \$249.00. Space is somewhat limited, so early registration is advised.

Hotel Reservations should be made separately and directly with the Wyndham Hotel - Gettysburg at 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325, phone 717-339-0020. Mention "American Rhododendron Society" to receive our \$136.00 conference rate. This rate will also be available to ARS members for a day or so before and after the meeting.

First Registration

Name: _____
 Chapter: _____
 Mailing Address: _____

 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Second Registration

Name: _____
 Chapter: _____
 Mailing Address: (If Different from above) _____

 Email: _____

Special diet and/or handicap needs or concerns:

Reg 1 Reg 2

Wednesday Banquet		
Chicken Parm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chicken Marsala	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Salmon Filet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Check one for each registrant

This form can be filled out electronically and printed, or printed and then filled out.

Please make your check out to: Mason Dixon Chapter.

Please mail registration form and payment to:

**Kelly Bollinger
 324 Clear Ridge Road
 Union Bridge, MD 21791-9010**

Email: doit2day@comcast.net

Website: <http://arsstore.org/Fall2022>

You will receive a confirmation of your registration and some information by email on things we think you may be interested in seeing or doing while in the Gettysburg area.

Email questions to John Kaylor, john_kaylor@comcast.net, or Harry Reid, reidhj@aol.com

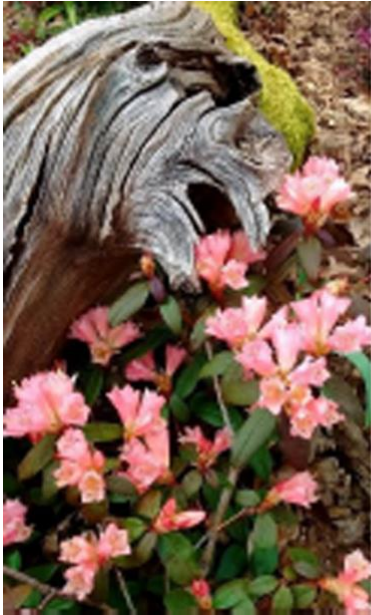
A fillable PDF of this form can be downloaded at:

<http://arsstore.org/Fall2022/Documents/RegistrationFillableFormPDF.pdf>

**ARS 2022 Convention
Portland, Oregon
People's Choice
Photo Contest**



TRUSS
1st Place
Dave Eckerdt
R. strigillosum



**People, Insects,
Animals**
1ST Place
Floyd Hutchins
Rhododactylus



Landscape
1st place
Jackson McCarter
Charleston Magnolia Gardens

103 Acer Place
Lancaster, PA 17601



NEWSLETTER

June 2022



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rhododendron.org ARSStore.org	Erin Van Yahres ('20-'23) (610) 644-2806
ARSOoffice.org Fall2022	Steve Wright ('19-'22) (267) 481-0175
	Darlene Henning ('19-'22) (717) 735-7116
	Perc Moser ('21-'24) (610) 525-3651
	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).