

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

August / September 2017

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

Aug. 13 (Sun.)	1:00 pm, District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction at Jenkins Arboretum
Sep. 10 (Sun.)	1:00 pm, Plants for Members with Greater Philadelphia at Morris Arboretum
Oct. 19 (Thu.)	7:30 pm, Bob Stamper, "Contrast in the Garden" at Jenkins Arboretum
Nov. 12 (Sun.)	2:00 pm, VF Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club, Speaker: Barbara Bullock
Jan. 21 (Sun.)	2:00 pm, Jerry O'Dell, "Evolution of the Tyler Rhododendron Collection"

President's Message

The last six years Bob Smetana was the President of the Valley Forge Chapter. I want to sincerely thank Bob, on behalf of the entire membership, for his dedication and fine work in maintaining and enhancing the long and storied history of Valley Forge Chapter. **Thank You Bob!!**

I also would like to thank Chris Smetana for her many years of serving as Treasurer. Chris has done a superb job managing the Chapter finances. **Thank You Chris!!**

Lastly, I would like to thank John Ryan for his many years of dedicated service as Director of the Valley Forge Chapter. John decided to step down this year and we wish him well. **Thank You John!!**

On June 25th, everyone had a wonderful time at our annual picnic hosted by Barbara Winters at her home "Company Farm". The fellowship was great, the food was delicious and Barbara and her family were gracious hosts. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy Barbara's beautiful garden; what a treasure!

As always, we also used the occasion to elect/reelect the officers and directors. Bob stepped down as President and moved into the Treasurer position, Chris moved from Treasurer to Director, Debby and Joan remain Vice President and Secretary respectively. Michelle, Alice, Darlene, Ellin, and Kathy remain Directors and I moved in as President.

Our next event will be the annual District 8 Cutting Exchange and Auction on August 13th at Jenkins Arboretum. Details are on page 2. Proceeds from the day's event will benefit the ARS Research Foundation and ARS Endowment Fund. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

In closing I want to thank everyone for your confidence in choosing me as President. I'm fortunate to have such a capable and knowledgeable board, indeed the entire Chapter, to assist me as I begin my tenure as President. I promise I will do everything I can to follow the mission of the ARS and "encourage interest in and disseminate knowledge about Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

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

Visit the Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Rhododendron & Azalea Cuttings Exchange And Plant Auction

(Auctioneer: Karel Bernady)

at Jenkins Arboretum.



Sunday, Aug. 13, starting at 1:00 p.m., rain or shine

Proceeds benefit ARS Endowment Fund and Research Foundation

1:00 pm: Bring Cuttings: If donating cuttings, please arrive around 1 p.m. Use plastic bags for each cultivar, clearly labeled. Cut 3 or 4 large-leaf (elepidote) or 4-6 small-leaf (lepidote) cuttings. Best to take cuttings early in the day, ideally from the lower portions of the shrub; if there has been a dry spell, water the night before. Place in a plastic bag with a few drops of water. Named varieties only, please! Please label the bags with a waterproof marker or pencil and add, if possible, info about characteristics or parentage. Transporting the bags in a cooler is also a good idea.

2:00 pm: Cuttings exchange/sale. Cuttings are sold for 25 cents a bag for everyone and are an easy and inexpensive way to increase one's collection of azaleas and rhododendrons.

2:30 pm: Plant Auction: Karel Bernady auctioneer. Please donate rhodies and azaleas, as well as other garden-worthy plants that you feel others would like.

Some plants are donated by chapters, some by individual members. Most years, John Bartlett of Gettysburg Garden brings an assortment of very special plants.

Important: It will help the auctioneer and the bidder if you write a description of plants that you donate for auction. Having such info will make for lively bidding, especially for one-of-a-kind or special plants.

Proceeds of the sales go to ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Prices tend to be reasonable, though sometimes a bidding frenzy results for choice items.

3:00 pm: Propagation. Frank Brouse will expertly demonstrate how to propagate from cuttings.

About 3:30 pm: Dessert. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share.

Beverages will be provided.

If possible, **RSVP to Ellin Hlebik by August 6** or contact her for questions at 610/584-9764 or leftwall@yahoo.com

On September 10, 2017, (Sun.), P4M at 1:00 pm at Morris Arboretum, Weidner Center.

Plants for Members (P4M):

On Sunday, Sept. 10, the Valley Forge (VF) Chapter will join the Greater Philadelphia (GP) Chapter for our joint Plants For Members. This will be held in the Weidner Center, at Morris Arboretum, 100 E Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. At the gate, just say you are with the Rhododendron Society and admission is gratis. Rooted cuttings and 2-year grafts will be available. As part of this joint effort VF members are invited to join GP members for their propagation workshops:

For more details on this and other GP ARS hosted events, visit their website at https://sites.google.com/a/gpchapterars.org/gpc_ars/home

On October 19, 2017, (Thursday), at 7:30 pm:

Bob Stamper:

“Contrast in the Garden”

Robert Stamper, Ph.D. is a biologist and has lectured frequently at Jenkins as an active member of the Valley Forge ARS. Bob is one of the gardening experts at the

annual chapter Plant Sale held each spring at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. He is also active in the Lehigh Valley ARS Chapter.



On Nov. 12, 2017 (Sunday), Banquet at St. Davids GC at 2:00 pm, Social Hour at 1:00 pm:

Barbara Bullock:

**“The National Arboretum Azaleas,
The Last 10 Years”**

Barbara Bullock is the long-time curator of the renowned azalea collection at the National Arboretum. 7 years ago, the National Arboretum placed a new emphasis on improving one of the National Arboretum's most popular plantings, the Glenn Dale Azaleas. They draw thousands for annual spring viewing. Barbara will bring us up to date on conservation efforts to preserve the azaleas Horticulturist Benjamin Y. Morrison worked for over 25 years to create.



The Philadelphia Story 19 **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. Karel Bernady and Steve Henning are Co-Chairs for the convention. The Desmond in Malvern is 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, Winterthur, Tyler Arboretum Jenkins Arboretum, Longwood,

Morris Arboretum, and Mount Cuba, 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).

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.

The Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Continues to Grow

The Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine now covers parts of 6 counties in SE Pennsylvania, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton. The general quarantine of the infested areas regulates the movement of any material or object that can spread the pest.

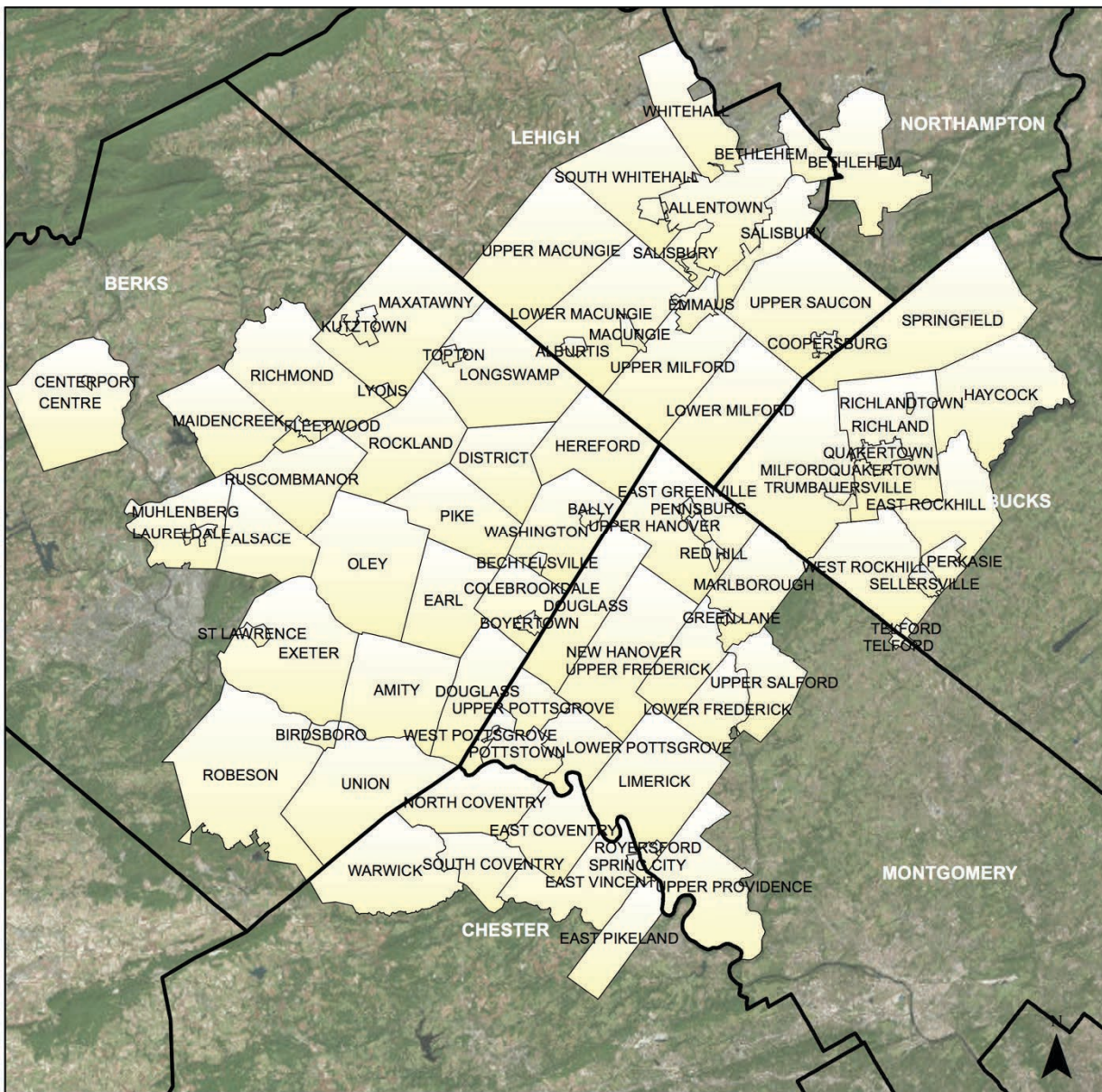
The materials include firewood or wood products; brush or yard waste; remodeling or construction materials and waste; packing

material such as boxes, grapevines for decorative purposes or as nursery stock; and any outdoor household articles, including tarps, grills, lawn mowers and other equipment.

Visit www.agriculture.pa.gov to access the "Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Checklist" or contact a local municipality or extension office.

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Map

Municipalities Under Quarantine as of June 24, 2017



2017 Joint Rhododendron & Azalea Cut Flower Show Results from Sunday, May 14, at JENKINS Arboretum

An as-yet-unnamed hybrid created by Howard Kline won three trophies, including Best in Show, at the joint Valley Forge- Greater Philadelphia truss show (cut-flower competition) in May. It was entered by Jenkins Arboretum and also took trophies for Best New Hybrid and Best Azalea.



Best Azalea: *Unnamed Howard Kline Cross*

Azaleas dominated the trophy bench, with only one elepidote winning. It was 'Olin O. Dobbs', a fully hardy West Coast purple from the 1950s, entered by Michael Martin Mills.

A total of 91 trusses and sprays were entered, and once the judging was complete the Mother's Day throng of Jenkins visitors was able to ogle the display.

Debbie Schmidt served as chair of the show, with judging and clerical assistance from Karel Bernady, Frank Brouse, Mimi Favre, Linda Hartnett, Darlene Henning, Steve Henning, Anne Howe, Eva Jackson, Christa Stamper, W. Robert Stamper, Susan Thomson, Joan Warren and Barbara Winter.



Best Rhododendron: *Olin O. Dobbs*

Next year's competition will be at Morris Arboretum on Saturday, May 12, under the auspices of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. An effort is being launched to integrate the two chapters' lists of prior entries to reduce confusion and instill a higher degree of consistency for future shows.

The trophy winners are:

Best in Show: *VF Chapter Trophy*, Jenkins Arboretum, Howard Kline Cross, unnamed

Best Rhododendron Hybrid: *James & Sally Sorber Trophy*, Michael Martin Mills, Olin O. Dobbs

Best Evergreen Azalea: *Lloyd Partain Trophy*, Marc S & Susan Thomson, Hardy Gardenia

Best Deciduous Azalea: *Francis & Pauline Raughley Trophy*, Mimi Favre, Mount St. Helens

Best Species: *Howard & Catherine Kline Trophy*, Bob Smetana, R. flammeum

Best Azalea: *Joseph B. Gable Trophy*, Jenkins Arboretum, Howard Kline Cross, unnamed

Best New Hybrid: *Charles Herbert Trophy*, Jenkins Arboretum, Howard Kline Cross, unnamed

Most Show Points: *Sweepstakes Trophy*, Jenkins Arboretum

Most Show Points by an individual: Michael Martin Mills



ARS 2018
Denmark Finland Germany Netherlands Sweden

The ARS 2018 Convention!
“North America Meets Europe”

Registration will be opening soon for the ARS convention next May in Northern Europe. Registration is limited to ARS members until November 15, 2017. The Pre-and Post-Tours are optional and hosted by the European ARS chapters. The actual Convention will be in Bremen Germany. Here are some of the activities currently planned.

May 7–12: Pre-Tour 1, Netherlands
 For 5 days, visit many of the Netherlands finest public and private gardens including the famous bulb display at Keukenhof and the Palace Garden at Het Loo.

May 12–14: Pre-Tour 2, Germany
 Visit the RHODO 2018 Exposition in Westerstede as well as the Hobbie and Hachmann Nurseries.

May 13–20: Pre-Tour 3, Denmark/Sweden
 For 7 days, tour south Sweden and Denmark visiting private gardens, public gardens, and a castle.

May 20-27: ARS Convention, Germany
 This is the main part of the convention with three days of tours to spectacular public gardens or nurseries and banquets and 2 days of program with speakers from around the world. Special dinners are scheduled each evening.

May 27–31: Post-Tour, Finland
 Fly to Helsinki from Bremen and tour Finnish gardens for 3 days before flying home.

Each of the tours is optional. For more information and pictures, check out the ARS 2018 website: <http://ars2018.org/>

Hopefully registration will start very soon.

When registration begins, the prices will be very close to the following:

	Dutch Pre-Tour 1	German Pre-Tour 2	Danish-Swedish Pre-Tour 3	Convention in Bremen	Finnish Post-Tour
Dates	May 7-12	May 12-14	May13*-20	May 20-27	May 27-30
Cost (Euros)	1,018 € double 1,325 € single†	292 € double 398 € single†	1,236* € double 1,730* € single†	1,855 € double 2,279 € single†	1,325 € double 1,547 € single†

* Those on the German Pre-Tour 2 receive a 70 € credit double, 140 € credit single for the night of May 13 when they sign up for the Danish-Swedish Pre-Tour 3. Early Bird Registration extends to November 15th and is limited to ARS members.



Roland and Bremen Town Musicians



Bremen Rhododendron-Park

Itching to Know More about Poison Ivy and Poison Oak?

Knowing what to look for and protecting yourself are the best ways to prevent contracting a poison ivy rash. If you do suspect you have a poison ivy rash, here is the information you are itching to know.

First, it is important to know that poison ivy rash is an allergic reaction caused by coming into contact with urushiol, a toxin in poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac plants. There are several ways you can contract the rash: directly touching the plant, touching something else that has made contact with the plant (a pet or garden tool, for example), and through airborne exposure from burning plants.

You should be careful not to scratch excessively, because bacteria from dirty hands can still cause infection.

Just because a poison ivy plant is dead does not mean it is no longer toxic. In wet climates, urushiol can remain active for up to five years, and even longer in dry areas. Your sensitivity to urushiol changes over time, and can even vary from season to season. Sensitivity typically declines as you age and your immune system slows down.

There are ways to prevent contracting a poison ivy rash such as wearing clothing that covers your skin and frequently washing things that may have been exposed. Do not burn items that have been exposed, or the plants themselves. Burning them and inhaling the smoke can cause a deadly systemic reaction.

If you do suspect you have been exposed to poison ivy, immediately wash the area with plain soap and water. Doing so removes urushiol before it can bind with the skin, and should prevent a reaction.



POISON IVY



POISON OAK

Eradicating

Poison ivy grows fairly quickly and propagates itself by underground rhizomes and seeds. Seeds are quickly spread by birds and other animals that eat the small fruits. Poison ivy can get started in the

landscape from a seed dropped by a bird and may quickly become a widespread problem. It often grows in shrubs and groundcovers making it difficult to control.

For light infestations, dig up small plants. You can also repeatedly cut back the plants to ground level. Eventually they starve to death. Start cutting early in the spring, about the time leaves unfold. When new growth appears, cut again. Inspect the plants every week or two. Whenever you see green growth, cut the shoots back to the ground.

To eradicate poison oak and poison ivy chemically, use an herbicide that contains glyphosate, triclopyr, or a 3-way herbicide that contains 2,4-D amine, dicamba and mecoprop. These herbicides can also kill desirable plants, so be careful. If the poison ivy or poison oak is growing among plants you want to save, you can cut back the poison ivy or poison oak and spray or paint the herbicide only on the freshly cut stems or stump. If there are no desirable plants nearby, you can spray or paint poison ivy and poison oak without cutting them back first.

The herbicides glyphosate, 2,4-D amine, dicamba, mecoprop and triclopyr are translocated from the leaves and cut stems to the rest of the plant, eventually killing the shoots and roots. Repeated applications may be necessary. Depending on weather and other factors, it may take one to several weeks before you discover whether you have successfully eradicated the plant, so be patient.

Poison ivy and poison oak are most sensitive to treatments in late spring or early summer when the plants are actively growing rapidly.

ARS 2017 Fall Regional Meeting, Richmond, VA, October 20 - 22

The Middle Atlantic Chapter (MAC) will be hosting the ARS Fall Conference October 20-22, 2017 in Richmond, VA. See the summer JARS issue for a registration form.

Speakers for the fall meeting are Steve Krebs, Eastern VP, who will talk about Leach hybrids and the Holden Arboretum generally and its blue bird study; and Ken Webb, Western VP, who will speak in an interactive, informal talk about his beautiful garden in Sydney, BC and propagation. Ken

will also preview the 2018 Convention.

The Hilton Garden Inn at Richmond Airport will be the location for lodging and activities. Room rates will be \$119/night. Shuttle buses will be available directly to the hotel from the airport. For those driving, there is no charge for parking. The hotel is located right off I-64.

Dinners and speakers will provide entertainment on both Friday and Saturday nights. Book and plant sales will be offered during the conference.

Rhododendrons International The 'Rhododendron' Reader's Digest

Rhododendrons International is a new on-line rhododendron journal not associated with any existing rhododendron organization (but supported by all existing organizations) that will bring forward articles in



English on any aspect of rhododendrons that are perceived to be of wide interest to rhododendron enthusiasts world-wide.

It is being made available at no cost on the websites of most, if not all, of the world's rhododendron societies and organizations.

Rhododendron Research Network

The ARS has taken the lead in forming a new Rhododendron Research Network website (Rhodo-Research.net) This website will promote communication between various members of the Rhododendron research community and the public.



Juliana Medeiros of Holden Arboretum will be the chair. She will be working with Bob Weissman, Glen Jamieson, Steve Krebs and Erik Nilsen.

The network will promote the science of rhododendrons. It will promote the participation of the ARS and associated botanical gardens and their scientists. It will also promote the collaboration between the scientific community and ARS members.

ARSStore.org has earned \$2,500 for the ARS. Thank You!

Last September was the best month ever for Amazon sales in ARSStore.org. ARSStore.org uses MailChimp to send email reminders to all ARS members with known email addresses to use ARSStore.org when placing orders on Amazon. Amazon pays a referral fee to the ARS on sales made when



ARSStore.org

entering Amazon from the ARSStore.org. These referral fees are typically 5.5% and go entirely to the ARS.

Just go to ARSStore.org and from there click on the Amazon logo. Amazon sells just about everything. As long as you go to Amazon from ARSStore.org, the ARS gets a referral fee.

ARS District 8 Director's Report

By Steve Henning

The 2017 Spring ARS Board of Directors' Meeting was held on April 27, in Eureka, California. Here are some happenings:

Sadly, just as the convention started we learned that Kathy Van Veen lost her struggle with cancer. Her wishes were that the Van Veen Nursery be kept operating and that is being done.



Bob McIntyre was unable to be present for his last meeting as President. We all wish Bob well and improving health. Eastern Vice-President and incoming ARS President, Ann Mangels presided at the board of directors' meeting.

Gordon Wylie proposed updates to the Policies and By-Laws to reflect the new structure of the ARS now having an Office Administrator rather than an Executive Director. They now also reflect reduction of our expenses to more closely match our income. Three committees, Ratings, Pollen Bank and Rhododendron Database, no longer functioning or deemed needed, were eliminated.

Bill Mangels reported three Endowment grant applications were received and funds were approved by the Board of Directors to be distributed to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, Planting Fields Arboretum and the Breuckner Hybrid Test Garden.

Dave Banks, Treasurer, reported the financial health of the Society is better than it was two years ago although membership is down.

Rhododendron Research Network. A proposal was made by Juliana Mederios, a scientist and researcher at the Holden Arboretum and Great Lakes Chapter member, to establish a long-term Rhododendron Research Network (RCN) between the ARS and rhododendron researchers worldwide. Goals would be promotion of rhododendron as a model woody system for research, promotion of ARS and botanical garden memberships and creation of opportunities for collaboration between the research community and ARS members. Activities to be included will be hosting of a RHODO-RCN website within the ARS website, publishing in a scientific journal, initiating collaboration between ARS Members and researchers, initiation of science projects to strengthen that collaboration, and seeking of further funding. This was approved by the Board.

Promote Student Memberships. With the addition of the RCN, it is even more important to encourage students of horticulture at nearby Colleges and Universities to join the ARS. Chapters can give student memberships for only \$5 each. The fee is \$10, but \$5 goes back to the Chapter. The student membership only includes access to the electronic version of JARS, not the print version of the Journal.

ARS Conventions & Fall Meetings:

Ann Mangels reminded all of the 2017 ARS Fall Conference that will be held in Richmond, VA, October 20 and 21 at the same time and place of the MAC Chapter bi-annual Meeting. Other forthcoming Conventions and fall meetings that are confirmed are:

Fall 2017 in Richmond, Virginia

Spring 2018 in Bremen, Germany (See ARS2018.org)

Fall 2018 in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Spring 2019 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (See ARS2019.org)

Spring 2020 in Portland, Oregon, for the 75th Anniversary.

American Rhododendron Society
 Valley Forge Chapter
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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

August / September 2017

*Where every purchase benefits the
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	VF Chapter's web site: ValleyForgeARS.org

Please contact us with 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).