



Charles Herbert's Hybrid

American Rhododendron Society

VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER

Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2009

Calendar of Events

- **September 17** (Thursday), **7:30 p.m.**: Harold Sweetman, Jenkins Arboretum, "Vireyas"
- **October 15:** (Thursday), **7:30 p.m.**: Norman Beaudry on "Sandwich Club of Cape Cod"
- **October 23-25** (Thursday-Sunday): ARS Eastern Regional Conference "Rhododendrons in Penn's Woods", Lionville, PA
- **November 15** (Sunday): Annual Banquet and Awards at St. Davids Golf Club, Wayne, PA,
Speaker: Rick Darke, "Appreciating Native Azaleas in the Wild and in Gardens"
- **December:** NO meeting— **Happy Holidays!**

Unless specified otherwise, regular meetings will be held at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

President's Message

First, welcome to our newest members: Dean Diehl, Linda Hartnett, and Jane Moore. Second, a big thank you to Bob Smetana for very capably serving as chapter president for 4 years; Bob has agreed to serve as vice president, since Darlene and I will be away occasionally traveling. Third, a big thank you to Bill Dennis for heading up 3 very successful plant sales, despite major challenges from the economy and the weather. Welcome to Chris Smetana, our new plant sale chairperson, who is already ordering plants for next spring's plant sale. Fourth, thanks to Joan and Reid Warren for hosting the District 8 Cutting Exchange and Auction, to Ellin Hlebk for again organizing this very successful event, and to Karel Bernady for auctioneering. The proceeds (about \$750) benefit the ARS Research Foundation and the ARS Endowment Fund.

I encourage you to come to the ARS Eastern Regional Fall Meeting at the Inn at Chester Springs from October 23 to 25. If you haven't registered yet, full information is in the Summer issue of the ARS Journal, on the website <http://arsfall2009.org>, and in newsletter insert. The Inn is on Rt. 100 south of the Downingtown Exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike near the Uwchlan Meeting House. We have an exciting lineup of speakers and over 250 varieties of reasonably priced Pennsylvania rhododendrons for sale. We will need volunteers for the plant sale on setup Friday morning, during sale hours, and to dismantle the sale Sunday noon. If you can help, please contact Karel Bernady (bernadk@earthlink.net, 610-827-0113), Joan or Reid Warren (srwjmw@dejazzd.com, 610/913-0005), or me (rhodyman@earthlink.net, 610-987-6184).

This summer with its ample rain and moderate temperatures has been great for our gardens. Our September 17 meeting will be in Jenkins Arboretum's new Education Center at 7:30 p.m. Harold Sweetman, the Arboretum's director, will give a program on Vireya rhododendrons. We have a great year planned for you, continuing with the second meeting on Thursday, October 15 at 7.30 p.m. and the Annual Banquet, on Sunday, November 15.

I look forward to seeing all of you and encourage you to visit the chapter's website at <http://valleyforgears.org>

September 17 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.

Harold Sweetman:

“Vivacious Vireyas and Companion Plants in Hawaiian Paradise”

The ability to grow and bloom rhododendrons all year long lured a very dedicated and lively group of Rhodie lovers, including Harold, to the 2008 Fall ARS Convention in Hilo, Hawaii. Vireyas can be successfully grown as conservatory and house plants here, and in the ground in the warmer areas of Florida, California, and, of course, Hawaii.

Harold toured amazingly colorful rhododendron gardens and the rich tropical flora from all over the world that can be part of what we might call simply - companion plantings. It is a little-known fact that approximately half of the 1000 rhododendron species in the world are tropical Vireyas. If you love rhododendrons and all plants in general, do not miss this program. Come broaden your rhododendron horizons and enjoy a beautiful Hawaiian sunset.

Refreshments: Members whose names start with the letters **A to J** are asked to bring some tasty fingerfood desserts. **Hope you will win a door prize.**

October 15 (Thursday), 7:30 p.m.

Norman Beaudry:

“The Sandwich Club and Dexter”

Norman Beaudry, from Bethesda, MD, will present a photo review of the Sandwich Club (SC) program. The Sandwich Club is an ARS-sanctioned group that meets yearly at Sandwich, MA on Cape Cod. It was formed in the late 1980s to study, select and register the better of two thousand plus rhododendrons developed by Jack Cowles during his stay as horticulturist at the Charles Dexter Estate. The SC program propagates, distributes and evaluates the adaptability of the Cowles hybrids in eastern gardens. We plan to show a few photos from the Pilkington and Furman gardens, local Cape Cod hybridizers who have used or are using Dexter, Consolini or Cowles rhododendron introductions as parents in their breeding program.

Norman, a retired biochemist, and his wife, Jean, have gardened in Reston, VA and Bethesda, MD for 35 years. Their garden contains over 1,000 rhododendrons and azaleas.

Refreshments: Members whose last name starts with the letters **K to O** are asked to bring tasty fingerfood desserts. Beverages will be provided.

**October 22-25 At The Inn at Chester Spring, Lionville, PA
ARS Eastern Regional Conference “Rhododendrons in Penn’s Woods”**

Sponsored by the ARS Chapters of District 8:

Greater Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, Pine Barrens, Susquehanna Valley, Valley Forge

For details (Conference Schedule, Registration Form, Directions, etc.), see the **Summer** issue (Vol. 63, Number 3) of the *Journal, American Rhododendron Society*, which members should have received some time ago; the event website www.arsfall2009.org; or the insert to this newsletter.

Again, if you can help with the sale, please contact Karel Bernady (bernadk@earthlink.net, 610-827-0113), Joan or Reid Warren (srwjmw@dejazzd.com, 610/913-0005), or Steve Henning (rhodyman@earthlink.net, 610-987-6184).

Valley Forge Chapter Web Site: <http://ValleyForgeARS.org>

“Rhododendrons in Penn’s Woods”

ARS Eastern Regional Conference October 22-25, 2009

Sponsored by the American Rhododendron Society Chapters of District 8
Greater Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, Pine Barrens, Susquehanna Valley and Valley Forge

All activities will be held at The Inn at Chester Springs in Lionville, Pennsylvania.

The conference committee has reserved a block of rooms at a special rate from Thursday, October 22, through Sunday, October 25. The conference rate is \$109 per day plus tax. You must contact the Inn directly. Be sure to ask for the ARS special rate. To be guaranteed the ARS conference rate, the Inn must receive your reservation by September 22. Free parking is available. **Note:** make your reservations as early as possible. Find complete updated information at our website: www.arsfall2009.org.

Hotel Accommodations and Reservations

The Inn at Chester Springs
815 North Pottstown Pike (Route 100)
Lionville, PA 19341
Phone: 610 363 1100 Fax: 610 524 2329 Internet: www.innatchestersprings.com

Inspiring Talks: The theme is Rhododendrons in Penn’s Woods, otherwise known as Pennsylvania

Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region – Adam Levine and Robert Cardillo will present on the Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region about which they have written an acclaimed book.

Rhododendrons on the Frontier – Joel Fry will speak about The John Bartram Garden and the legacy of the Bartram family’s founding of America’s first arboretum.

The Legacy of Joseph B. Gable, Pennsylvania Hybridizer – Don Hyatt, well known to most of us, will give us a background of the parentage and subsequent generations of many of the Gable rhododendrons that we know and love.

Rhododendrons of John C. Wister: Our Legacy at Tyler Arboretum – Robert Herald, who has been working on restoring the Wister collection at Tyler Arboretum, will talk about the Wister-Tyler heritage.

Hybridizers of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country – Tom Ahern, a local hybridizer, will tell us about hybrids and hybridizers in the Lehigh Valley and will show pictures of many of their blooms.

Companion Plants for the Woodland Garden – Sally and John Perkins, from the Massachusetts chapter, will present a lively show of companion plants for the woodland garden.

Plant Sale

A spectacular plant sale is on the agenda. The sale will feature an extensive collection of rhododendrons hybridized and grown in Pennsylvania. Many of the varieties are hard to find and are not available from other sources. A list of rhododendrons propagated for the plant sale will be published on the conference website prior to the conference. Companion plants will also be offered.

Live Auction

The conference committee has planned a live auction at Saturday’s Banquet. Several items will be offered including a rare plant or two.

Rhododendrons in Penn's Woods

Registration Form

1. To attend any conference activity you must be registered.
2. Your registration form must be postmarked prior to September 15, 2009, to qualify for the early fee. Forms postmarked after September 15, 2009, must pay the late registration fee.
3. Make your checks payable to "ARS 2009, Eastern Regional Conference." All checks must be made in US Dollars drawn against a US Bank.
4. Confirmation will be sent by e-mail or US mail, if no e-mail address is provided.
5. Send check with completed form to:

Linda Hartnett – Registrar
831 Foxwood Circle
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1646
215 233 0458

6. If you have any questions, you may contact the Registrar by phone or by e-mail at lindahartnett@gmail.com. If you communicate by e-mail, please use the words "ARS 2009, Eastern Regional Conference" in the subject line.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

CHAPTER _____ E-MAIL _____

(Please circle your name and title if you are an ARS Board Member, District Director or Chapter President)

1. In the spaces below, enter the names of your party, as they should appear on the name badges.
2. Use the corresponding name columns on the left side of the form to make your selections.
3. Multiply the number of checks by the price per person for each line and enter the result in the last column.
4. Add the amounts in the last column and enter the result as the Amount Enclosed/Total.

Name 1						
	Name 2					
		Item	Day	Event	Price	Total
		Registration before September 15			\$45	
		Registration after September 15			\$60	
		Lunch	Friday	Board Luncheon	\$23	
		Dinner	Friday	Dinner Buffet	\$33	
		Lunch	Saturday	Lunch Buffet	\$23	
		Banquet	Saturday	Dinner Buffet	\$46	
				Amount Enclosed	Total	

We will try to accommodate special diet needs. _____

Please reserve **Sunday, November 15** and look out for your *special invitation to the Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club*

(1 p.m.: Reception, 2 p.m.: Dinner)

Speaker: Rick Darke on

“Appreciating Azaleas in the Wild and in Gardens”

Eastern North America's native azaleas encompass a vast array of colors, forms, scents, flowering seasons and fall color, and can be among the most memorable parts of any garden. Rick Darke will explore the appeal of this unique group in natural habitats and in designed landscapes.

Rick Darke, who lives and gardens in Landenberg, Pennsylvania, is a well-known landscape designer and widely published author and photographer. Among his publications are *The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*; *The American Woodland Garden*; and *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*, which has best coverage of native azaleas and rhododendrons.

Membership Dues for 2009-10

The **renewal** notices will go to members who have **not** prepaid, are **not** life members, or have **not** joined at or since the plant sale and become automatically a member for the coming membership year. We hope that members who are up for renewal will renew their membership.

Please send check, payable to Valley Forge ARS, to our Treasurer, Chris Smetana, 14 Northwoods Rd, Radnor, PA 19087 (tel. 610/688-5249, VFARSmetana@yahoo.com). Please pay ASAP or by **December 1**, to save us reminder notices and you a late fee in order to receive the Winter issue of the *ARS Journal*. Payment by credit card is **only** for international members.

Why not give a membership to a friend or relative ?

Gift memberships may be submitted with your renewal forms.

We welcome the following **new members**:

Dean Diehl, 813 Halverson Drive, West Chester, Pa 19382 610-527-3637 (W)

dean@shreinertreecare.com

Linda Hartnett, 831 Foxwood Circle, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 215-233-0458

(Associate Member)

lindahartnett@gmail.com

Jane Moore, 1248 Gulph Creek Dr., Radnor, PA 19087 610 688-1016

uvaunc@gmail.com

Plants for new members may be claimed at the September meeting.

In Memoriam

We are sorry to announce that Joe Becales died on March 23 after a long illness. Joe was a primary member of the Philadelphia chapter and an associate member of the Valley Forge chapter for over 35 years. He lived alone, having been predeceased for some years by his wife Doris. Joe was an avid grower of rhododendrons and a hybridizer. His crosses include 'Antigua', 'Fashion Plate' and many others. We were fortunate to get cuttings from Joe before he died, and some of these will be for sale at our conference plant sale in October. Reid Warren

Organizations that we support financially

The **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC)**, one of the organizations that the chapter supports financially, is a land trust that was founded in 1974 to protect some of the oldest mountains from development, including the Highlands of Roan in North Carolina, home to Catawba rhododendron (*R. catawbiense*) and native azaleas such as the Flame Azalea (*R. calendulaceum*). The SAHC has protected so far more than 40,000 acres throughout the mountain region. Over the years, various Chapter members have attended the annual weekend meeting of the SAHC in June, when rhododendrons should be, but not always are, at the height of bloom. Frank Brouse and Jim Gears, in particular, have generously contributed plants to an auction held at that time for the benefit of the SAHC.

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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2009

Board members:

President	Steve Henning	610/987-6184
Vice President:	Bob Smetana	610/688-5249
Second Vice President/Membership:	Vacancy	
Treasurer:	Chris Smetana	610/688-5249
Record./		
Corresp. Secretary	Joan Warren	610/610-0005
NL Editor	Eva Jackson	215/402-8649
Directors (6):	Bill Dennis (2012)	610/255-3785
	Mimi Favre ('10)	610/296-5569
	Darlene Henning ('10)	610/987-6184
	Randell Jesup ('11)	610/889-9525
	John Ryan ('11)	610/971-2368
	Kathy Woehl ('12)	610/644-1337

Contributions to the Newsletter, published for 3-month periods in September, January, and April; in the summer; and as needed, should be directed to Eva Jackson (NoelEvaJackson@comcast.net).