

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER ***October/November 2014***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon
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Calendar at a Glance

- October 16 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Bob Stamper “*Shade Gardening*”
November 9 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, Annual Banquet at St. Davids, Speaker is Bruce Feller, ARS President
(social hour starts at 1:00 pm) “*Conifers for the Rhododendron Garden*”
January 18 (Sun) 2:00 pm, Janet Novak (program TBA)
February 15 (Sun) 2:00 pm, at **Uwchlan**, George Woodard “*Hybridizing: Endless Disappointment*”

President's Message

The District 8 fundraiser on Aug 17 at the gardens of Debby and John Schmidt was a big success. It was a gorgeous day and our hosts even dug a unique hosta for special auction. Karel Bernady entertained us as auctioneer and chief plant officer. All proceeds went to the Endowment Fund and Species Foundation.

Again I'll emphasize that we all need to recruit new members to join our chapters. Bring family members, friends, and neighbors to any of our meetings. Your board would welcome ideas from you that can help us connect to new and younger audiences.

We have great speakers lined up for the October meeting and November Banquet. Details appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Be sure to sign up early for the \$5 beverage chit at the banquet. Friends and family are welcome.

See you at the October 16 chapter meeting and November 9 chapter banquet.

Regards,

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

Chapter's web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

On Oct. 16 (Thursday) at 7:30 pm:

Bob Stamper: “Shade Gardening”

Dr. Robert Stamper is a Lecturer in the Biology Department at Muhlenberg College and a member of the Valley Forge and Lehigh Valley Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society. Bob & Christa Stamper have a lovely five-acre garden near Zionsville, PA. The Stamper garden is a multi-seasonal garden filled with beds of Rhododendrons, perennials, woodland plants and artistically decorated with unique garden art.



Dr. Robert Stamper will discuss the opportunities and challenges of shade gardening. Shade gardens need not be boring. Where sunny borders use vivid colors to add interest to the landscape, the shade gardener uses a palette of textures, leaf shapes and subtle colors to invite the visitor to explore further. Planning a shade garden requires understanding the impact of shade on plant selection, plant disease and insects. There will be a section on shade and its effects on rhododendrons.

Refreshments: Those whose names start with letters H to Q are asked to please bring finger-food treats.

On Nov. 9 (Sunday) at 1:00 pm:

Annual Banquet at St. Davids Golf Club

Social Hour and Cash Bar at 1:00 p.m., Dinner at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Bruce Feller, ARS President

Program: “Conifers for the Rhododendron Garden”

Bruce Feller has been a member of the New York Chapter for 25 years. During this time, Bruce has served in nearly every office in this chapter and in the ARS national organization. Bruce ran the 2010 ARS National Convention. He is in the second year of his term as American Rhododendron Society President.

When Bruce retired from business in 1998, he and his wife, Marianne, began work on the landscape around their home in Old Field on Long Island. Their 26-years-and-counting labor of love has taken on the dimensions of a full-time job. Over the years they have designed and maintained their landscape to provide, as they describe it, “a tapestry of color, texture and form.” Many of



us were fortunate enough to visit Bruce and Marianne's showcase garden at the 2010 Long Island Convention. Their garden features an outstanding collection of Japanese maples, conifers and rhododendrons as well as a broad selection of other plants, all of which are very well-sited and grown.

As their landscape has evolved over the last 25 years, they have had many opportunities to experiment with plant groups that taken in combination, provide an ongoing display of color, form and texture throughout the year. They've learned much along the way through a series of successes and failures. Bruce's presentation will focus on those.

See enclosed flier with registration form. RSVP today!

The Valley Forge Chapter of the
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

cordially invites Members and Friends to the

Annual Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014

1:00 p.m.

ST. DAVIDS GOLF CLUB

845 RADNOR STREET ROAD • WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA

610-688-2010 • www.stdavidsgc.com

Social Hour and Cash Bar at 1:00 p.m.

Dinner at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker

Bruce Feller, ARS President

“Conifers for the Rhododendron Garden”

RSVP: Please Return Reservation • Proper Attire

**District 8 Cuttings Exchange &
Auction**

District 8 held its Annual Cutting Exchange and Plant Auction on August 17th at the home of Debby and John Schmidt in Chadds Ford, PA.

The weather was beautiful and the event raised \$732. The event organizer, Valley Forge Chapter, will donate the proceeds equally to the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. This continues to be an enjoyable event.

Karel Bernady auctioned off the donated plants. We thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this annual event, especially those who brought any of the wide variety of plants there were to choose from.

Membership Dues for 2014-2015

Renewal notices were mailed to members who have not prepaid, are not life members, or have not joined recently and thus become automatically a member for the coming membership year.

Your check, payable to Valley Forge ARS should be sent to

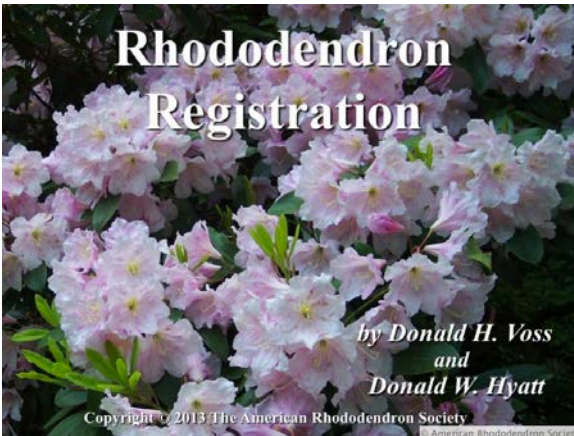
American Rhododendron Society
Valley Forge Chapter
P.O. Box 715
Southeastern, PA 19399-0715

by December 1, to save us reminder notices and you a late fee for receiving the Winter issue of the ARS Journal.

With Christmas approaching, why not include a gift membership to a friend or relative with your renewal forms?

From the ARSStore.org Program Library

ARSStore.org has a new section for online and downloadable programs. They can be viewed online with your browser or downloaded and opened on your computer. Two of the programs are:



Rhododendron Registration By Don Voss & Don Hyatt

For the past several years, ARS stars Don Hyatt and Don Voss have been developing a PowerPoint how-to program on registering rhododendron and azalea names. Now they've "published" it so you can access it for free.

Michael Martin Mills, the Greater Philadelphia member who became the North American Regional Registrar for rhododendrons in 2013, considers the Hyatt-Voss program excellent. There are sections on choosing a name (more complication-prone than one would expect), measuring flowers (the step with the most errors, according to Michael), and determining color with an approved color chart (tip no. 1: don't even think of using an online chart).

Michael recommends that anyone with notions of registering a name go through the program—not just neophytes, but also past registrants who will almost certainly learn a thing or two.

The presentation – with occasional instances of classic Hyatt drollness – can be downloaded from <http://arsstore.org/programs.php>. It is available in .PPT, .PDF, and also as an online program that can be viewed with a browser. There is a free PowerPoint viewer available for Windows users that allows it to be viewed with Don's transitions. When viewed as a PDF or using a browser, these transitions are lost.



Rhododendron & Azalea Basics By Steve Henning

Steve was asked to give a program on Rhododendrons and Azalea for the Kutztown Garden Club. He was a little embarrassed that after creating and maintaining the website, Henning's Rhododendron and Azalea Pages for many years, that he didn't have a general program for groups with a wide range of interests like Garden Clubs. So he sat down and tried to figure out how to cover everything in less than an hour. This program is the result of that effort. Some of the topics are:

- Elepidote/Lepidote & Deciduous/Evergreen
- Culture: soil, planting, shade, mulching
- Good varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas
- Hybrids, species, natives and unusual forms
- Plant habit including low, tall, spreading, etc.
- Indumentum and tomentum
- R. yakushmanum and its hybrids
- Soil: acidity, drainage, raised beds, chlorosis
- Planting both B&B and containerized
- Partial shade versus full sun
- Mulching, protection and companion plants.
- Trimming, pruning and deadheading
- Other topics include fragrance, toxicity, strange relatives, and common problems

The presentation can be downloaded from <http://arsstore.org/programs.php>. It is available in .PPT, .KEY, .PDF, and also as an online program that can be viewed in a browser.



Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina

The first in an occasional series by Ellin Hlebik.

Outdoor museums have proved on our bucket list of travels to be fascinating and worthwhile stops. Two years ago in September on our way to Hilton Head Island with friends we stopped for a half day at Brookgreen Gardens near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Located on Route 17 north of Charleston, Brookgreen reflects the vision of its creators, New Yorkers Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington, an artist, who established it in 1931.



Reflect, renew, and restore yourself in this expansive and cathedral like oasis. It is ranked as one of the top ten gardens in the US. Paths, lawns, and majestic oaks abound.

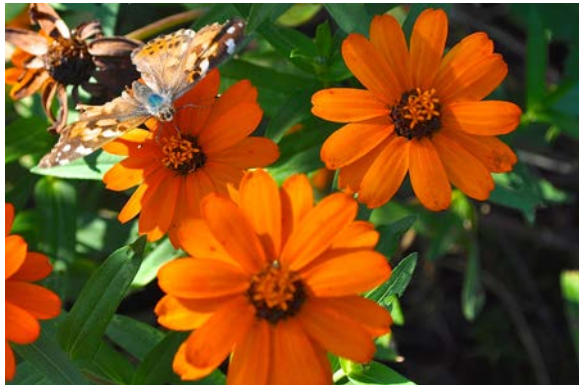


Brookgreen Gardens, the first public sculpture garden in America, has in its collection more than 1,400 works by over 350 sculptors. Exhibited within the gardens is the largest and most comprehensive collection of American figurative sculpture in the country, by sculptors who worked from the early nineteenth century to the present. Brookgreen Gardens is a National Historical Landmark, and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Brookgreen offers [workshops](#) in sculpture by nationally known sculptors throughout the year.

From the outset, Brookgreen has been committed to the collection of American figurative sculpture, particularly those



pieces that could be displayed outdoors in garden settings. Its founders built this collection around Anna Hyatt Huntington's own work and that of her contemporaries. Eventually, the collection was extended back to the early nineteenth century and forward into the twenty-first century. Today this collection contains over 1,200 works by 350 artists. In the words of Wayne Craven, author of the book, *Sculpture in America*, it is "unequaled in its size, focus on figurative works, visibility of the sculpture to the visitor, and integration within a garden setting."



Brookgreen Gardens is responsible for the creation of one of the longest running series of medals in this country. Since 1973, annual medals have been created that memorialize either the natural or the cultural history of the Lowcountry, or the artistic process of the sculptor. Brookgreen's series is in the collections of The British Museum, Smithsonian American History Museum, National Sculpture Society, and the American Numismatic Society.

Our fascinating, half day visit was not nearly long enough. Be aware there is much walking; it is a very large property.



However, there are many shady resting places and at least two cafes for your respite and enjoyment.



Tickets are good for 7 consecutive days and the staff organizes substantial and varied adult and children's programs, exhibits, and special events as well. I highly recommend taking in this gem on your travels down south.



Check out the website for much more information: www.brookgreen.org or telephone 800/849-1931, open 9:30am-5:00pm every day but Christmas.

Pot Bound! By Don Hyatt

Handling overgrown container plants

We found some inexpensive deciduous azaleas earlier this summer. They were “pot bound” rooted cuttings that should have been transplanted two years ago. Some were 30 inches tall and still in a 2-inch pot! Root systems were so dense they looked like compressed coconut fiber, and plants needed watering twice a day!

Such plants need special attention in order to grow and become established in the garden. One of the most common problems with transplanting container plants is that the roots often do not get out of the old potting medium; plants never establish in their new location. With very dense root systems, some actions may seem ruthless but it is necessary for long term success.

The first stage was to remove the plant from the pot and inspect the root system. Look for the larger roots, and try to tease those out with a fork or fingers to separate them from the ball. These will form the new root structure, and it is important to get these roots into the new potting medium. This is not an easy task, and it requires some real care trying to decide which way the roots are growing. There will be some damage to smaller roots, but try to unwind the larger roots and realize new small roots will branch from them later. Be forewarned that some root systems may be so dense that you must use a saw or knife to try to break them apart. It may seem like it will hurt the plant, but to do nothing is usually disaster. If the roots were to stay in that mass, the plant will take much longer to establish and will probably dry out and die before it ever does.

If there is damage to the root system, it is important to cut back some of the top branches to keep the plant in balance. The greater root loss, the more of the top should be removed. The plants needed to be cut back by almost half. Heavy pruning is preferable in early spring rather than summer, but in this case we had little choice.

Plants that have been through such an ordeal will need time to recover. Putting them in open shade and misting the foliage helps, but they shouldn't need such constant watering. Avoid fertilizer at first since it can burn delicate new roots. Light applications are OK after several weeks but don't fertilize too late in the season. Plants need to go into dormancy before fall, and a late flush of growth makes them vulnerable to winter damage. By next year, the plant should be fine.



Overgrown native azalea cuttings



Dense tangle of roots in the pots



Root system teased apart



Repotted plant ready to grow on

***Phytophthora ramorum* detected in shipment to PA**

ATTN: All who deal with woody ornamentals

Phytophthora ramorum, the pathogen involved with Ramorum Blight/Sudden Oak Death was detected in plants (among a total shipment of 52,000 plants) shipped to PA from a nursery in Oregon. A mix of rhododendrons and other plants were sent to 'big box stores'. The PA Dept. of Ag is initiating a trace forward effort to try to find plants that may be infected, immediately starting with the big box stores. It is likely that some of the plants from that shipment have been sold.

Any commercial nurseries, landscaper, etc. concerned with this issue should contact a PDA inspector or the Bureau of Plant Industry directly in Harrisburg and send samples via that route.

Any homeowners concerned with this issue may contact Cooperative Extension and arrange to send a sample to the Plant Disease Clinic. CONCERN ABOUT P. RAMORUM SHOULD BE NOTED ON THE SAMPLE. It is not practical to test every sample for *P. ramorum*. Therefore, give Sara May a 'heads up' on pertinent samples. For detailed info about the Penn State Clinic, see: <http://plantpath.psu.edu/facilities/plant-disease-clinic>

More information will be forthcoming, including fact sheets from PDA. Just be aware that there is a problem and that you may be receiving questions from clientele about this issue.

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News from ARSStore.org

Special Book Offer for ARS

The newest addition to ARSStore.org is the all-new edition of the book, ***Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases and Pests*** published by the **American Phytopathological Society (APS)**.

ARSStore.org negotiated a \$20 discount on sales from ARSStore.org and also a donation to the ARS of 5 percent of the proceeds from sales made using this special ARS promotion. This is a special offer for ARS members on this much-improved second edition of the classic reference. A book review will appear in the Fall 2014 Journal of the ARS

Online Shopping Venues

ARSStore.org earns money for the ARS at no expense to you when you begin your online shopping at ARSStore.org. Not only does it include **Amazon.com**, it also includes:

ARS Books4Members	Microsoft Software
Best Buy	Pendleton
Calendula. Books	Powell's Books
Harbor Freight Tools	Rodale & Rodale's
Harry & David	Sam's Club
HP Computers	Swiss Outpost
iTunes Store	Tractor Supply Co.
IX Webhosting	Wal-Mart
Life is Good	W.W. Nurseries

In Store Shopping Also

If you prefer shopping in stores rather than online, you can also earn money for the ARS by purchasing gift cards online before you go shopping. Gift cards also make great gifts.

ARSStore.org Financial Report

During the first 9 months of operation ending August 31,2014, with online sales of over \$4,000, ARSStore.org has had earnings of over \$200 for the ARS.

**Perfect Place for Holiday Shopping
Every purchase benefits the ARS**

Coming ARS National Meetings

2015 ARS Annual Convention,

70th Anniversary, May 6 -10, 2015

Sidney, BC Canada

Website: <http://www.2015rhodo.ca/>

2015 Fall Regional Conference

New York Chapter

Long Island, NY

2016 ARS/ASA Annual Convention,

April 20-24, 2016

Williamsburg, VA

Website: <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>

Note the 2015 Fall Regional Conference and 2015 ARS Convention are an easy drive away. Sneak a peak at what is being planned for 2016 at <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>. With Don Hyatt involved we know it will be great. Be sure to calendar it now.

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

From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener: Pumpkin Cake

4 eggs
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. nutmeg
2 cups of sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1 can (1 lb.) pumpkin
1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Sift flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg.

At high speed beat eggs with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in oil and pumpkin to blend well. At low speed beat in flour mixture just until combined. Add nuts.

Pour into 9-inch ungreased 2-quart tube pan (bundt or ring). Bake about 1 hour or until surface springs back when gently pressed with finger tips.

Cool cake completely in pan. After cooled, loosen from pan and place on cake plate.

Cream Cheese Frosting

2 3-ounce packages of cream cheese softened
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3 cups confectioners' sugar
In medium size bowl, with electric mixer at medium speed, beat cheeses with vanilla until creamy. Add confectioners' sugar slowly, beat until creamy.

[ARS Online Store: ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org)



ARSStore.org

*Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society*

**American Rhododendron Society
Valley Forge Chapter
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Southeastern, PA 19399-0715**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER
October / December 2014



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ARS website: rhododendron.org	Truss Show (V.F.): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	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).	