

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

October / November 2017

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- Oct. 19 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Bob Stamper, "Contrast in the Garden" at Jenkins Arboretum
Oct. 25 (Wed.) 7:00 pm, Jenkins program on Stoneleigh garden (featured at ARS 2019 Convention)
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, "Tyler's Rhododendron Garden"
Feb. 18 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, Ron Rabideau at Uwchlan, "Species for the Mid-Atlantic Region"

President's Message

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time we were coming off a very dry summer. This year has been much different and it's been a great year for planting; hope everyone got some new Rhododendrons in the ground to show off in the years to come.

On August 13th, we had a very successful Cutting Exchange and Auction. Jenkins did a wonderful job hosting the event and once again Karel Bernady was a masterful auctioneer (Thanks Karel!!). The District 8 chapters came through on the donation side with \$1,121.00 being split between the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Well Done!!

On Sept 10th, the GP Chapter's Plants for Members sale was another successful event. The selection of seedlings and graftings were outstanding. I was able to pick up some interesting Dexter hybrids, which I will be planting in the Wister Rhododendron Garden this fall.

Our 7:30 Thursday October 19th meeting at Jenkins will feature Bob Stamper speaking on "Contrast in the Garden." To most of us, Bob is well-known for his great presentations on gardening and this lecture will be a good one. Bob will look at ways to add interest to your garden through plant textures, forms and color.

Our 50th Anniversary Banquet will be held on Sunday, November 12th, at St. Davids Golf Club. Our speaker will be Barbara Bullock, Horticulturist and Curator of the Azalea collection at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Her talk will focus on "The National Arboretum Azaleas: The Last 10 Years."

So, it looks like a great Fall Schedule. It's definitely on my "**Can't Miss**" List! I hope everyone feels the same way and when you come, please bring a friend or two or three. Also, a quick reminder, fall is also the time to renew your ARS membership.

Everyone have a great fall season and I'll see you at our October meeting.

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

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

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

Bob Stamper:

“Contrast in the Garden”

Bob has been gardening for over 50 years and recently moved from his four-acre garden in Zionsville, PA. He has been a teacher for almost 60 years and recently retired from Muhlenberg College. He has been president of the Valley Forge Rhododendron Society and an active member of the Rock Garden Society and Emmaus Garden Club for many years. He is also active in the Lehigh Valley ARS Chapter.

This lecture will explore the use of texture, form and color in the garden to make a garden more interesting. It examines plant attributes and what should be considered when adding a new plant to the garden or in redoing a garden. Included are discussions of blooming times, flower forms, plant growth habits, garden balance, symmetry, scale and proportion, background plantings, repetition, variety, and basics of color and its use.



On Nov. 12, 2017 (Sunday) at 1:00 pm:

50th Anniversary Banquet at St. Davids GC

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

Speaker: Barbara Bullock:

Program: “*The National Arboretum Azaleas: The Last 10 Years*”

Barbara Bullock has been the curator of the renowned azalea collection at the National Arboretum since January 1990. 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 that US Dept. of Agriculture Horticulturist Benjamin Y. Morrison worked for over 25 years to create.



The Glenn Dale Azaleas on Mt. Hamilton are the result of an extensive 25-year evergreen azalea hybridizing program by Ben Morrison of the USDA to produce superior plants for the DC area. The best 1,200 varieties were selected from approximately 70,000 seedlings tested by Morrison at the USDA Glenn Dale

Research Station. Morrison moved these selections to the hillside of Mt. Hamilton in 1946 and 1947. Then in 1949, the National Arboretum opened to the public, revealing the amazing hillside of blooming azaleas.

In her over 25 years maintaining the Glenn Dale hillside, Barbara Bullock has discovered the labels of 190 different crosses including the original plantings of the 43 Glenn Dale azaleas that were selected to be introduced. In 2010, the Glenn Dale azalea collections was at a crossroads. Some voices were saying, National Arboretum should “*be deaccessioning ... the Glenn Dale Hillside portion of the Azalea Collection.*” This caused an outcry from voices from around the country and resulted in a very generous donor

providing the Friends of the National Arboretum with \$1 million to support staffing needed to address routine maintenance of the legacy collection of azaleas growing on the south slope of Mt. Hamilton. The azaleas were saved! The Glenn Dale azaleas would be preserved for the benefit of the public and for the historical significance of their role in Ben

Morrison's hybridizing program.

In 2013, the USDA provided funds to rejuvenate the 67-year old planting and to remove excess saplings and invasive weeds. Barbara's talk will describe the strategies, the efforts and the successes that she, her colleagues, and her volunteers have had in this effort and their plans for the future.

*The Valley Forge Chapter of the
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY*
cordially invites ARS Members and Friends to the
50th Anniversary Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

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

Barbara Bullock, National Arboretum Horticulturist
“The National Arboretum Azaleas: The Last 10 Years”

RSVP: Please Return Reservation Form • Proper Attire

On Jan. 21st (Sun.) at Jenkins at 2:00 PM.

Speaker: Jerry O'Dell

“Tyler's Rhododendron Garden”

Jerry O'Dell is Tyler's Wister Rhododendron Gardener. He oversees the 13 acres of azaleas and rhododendrons. This garden is John Wister's legacy. This heritage collection contains hundreds of varieties with a bloom season that lasts from spring through to the early part of the summer (a few varieties of rhododendron even bloom into October and November).

On Feb. 18th (Sun.) at Uwchlan at 2:00 PM.

Speaker: Ron Rabideau

“Species for the Mid-Atlantic Region”

Ronald Rabideau, an authority in his field, will talk about the best species rhododendrons and azaleas for the Mid-Atlantic Region other than natives. Most of us know Ron from his numerous programs and the super plants he had for us at Rare Find Nursery. Last year he left Rare Find and is teaching at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor Township in New Jersey.

Charlie Herbert Started Valley Forge Chapter 50 Years Ago

It all started one day when Charlie Herbert saw a child with some beautiful flowers he didn't recognize. Never one to wonder about things without asking, he soon discovered the source of the blossoms. They turned out to be rhododendrons, and the love affair was on.

In the ensuing years, Charlie searched the meager information available on rhododendrons. He sought out fellow enthusiasts, located sources of plant

material and started gathering plants. The collection grew slowly at first. The Depression interfered, and there really was little available other than the Eastern species and a few English hybrids. In 1945, his activities brought him into contact with Joe Gable. The two men became lasting friends and through this association Charlie's interests were expanded to include raising of plants from seed and hybridizing. In 1961, he and his wife Ethel moved, what was by now, an extensive collection to "Stony Acres", a wooded hillside at the edge of Valley Forge. There, through Charlie's untiring efforts and loving care, the garden developed to eventually include more than 7,000 plants represent perhaps the most comprehensive collection of rhododendrons suitable for growing on the East Coast.

Charlie and Ethel joined the ARS in 1952. In 1952, there were no local chapters. Charlie was a founder and charter member of the 12th chapter, the Philadelphia Chapter, in 1957. He became their second president.

In 1967, The Philadelphia members living in the Valley Forge area didn't want to travel to meetings in Philadelphia at the Penn Hort Bldg. So, on March 1, 1967, Charlie Herbert and 15 friends the Valley Forge Chapter. At the May, 1967 ARS Annual Meeting in



Asheville, NC, ARS President Edward B. Dunn welcomed the Valley Forge Chapter. It was the 25th chapter. The Valley Forge chapter came in with 16 members and 10 associate members. The officers were: Pres. Charles W. Herbert, Phoenixville Pa.; Vice Pres. Oscar F. Krebs, Norristown, Pa., and Sec.-Treas.; Mrs. Ruth Amenda, Perkiomenville, Pa.

There was some disappointment in the Philadelphia chapter because many of the Philadelphia members went

with Charlie to Valley Forge. But this was soon overlooked and the Philadelphia Chapter recognized Charlie with the Bronze Medal on May 14, 1971. The two chapters work together on many things still to this day.

The first meetings were held at Charlie Herbert's home where Charlie's wife, Ethel hosted everyone. Eventually the meetings grew so large, it moved to the Valley Forge Methodist Church where it met until September 21, 1989, when it had its first regular meeting at Jenkins Arboretum

Until his death in 1978, Charlie was the cornerstone of the Valley Forge Chapter. Charlie made things happen — plant sales, banquets, a local seed exchange, picnics, bus trips, cutting exchange, test gardens, truss shows, and study groups. Among his many hybrid creations are over twenty registered clones including Schuylkill, French Creek, Ethel M., Beechwood Pink, Pikeland, Powder Mill Run, Aldham, Antigua, Leon Rind and others

The first annual VF ARS Banquet was held Nov 5, 1971: Having an enthusiastic membership and a healthy treasury as the result of several successful spring plant sales, the officers, and directors concluded that the chapter should hold its first annual banquet



'Valley Forge'

Charles Herbert's Hybrid

and program. The colonial era Seven Stars Inn was chosen as the site. At seven o'clock president Bob Huber welcomed the members and the guests. The invocation was read by Mr. Herbert. After an excellent dinner, Dr. West introduced the principal speaker of the evening, Mr. Robert D. McDonald, the director of the John J. Tyler Arboretum. Mr. McDonald was also the director of the Plant Records center of the American Horticultural Society. Lew Bagoly presented Mr. Charles Herbert the Bronze Medal. Table decorations were chrysanthemums, and several hundred rhododendrons were distributed as door prizes. An informal decision to return next year was

met with approval and this tradition continued for many years until the room was too small.

In 1988, the chapter held its plant sale at Jenkins Arboretum for the first time. Previously it had been held at Tyler Arboretum and later at Valley Forge Methodist Church.

In 1991, the chapter held its first Flower Show on the Conservatory Fern Floor of Longwood Gardens (previously held jointly with Philadelphia Chapter at Tyler Arboretum) on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. This fabulous exhibit, with over 400 entries and educational posters, was seen and photographed by thousands on Longwood's busiest day of the year. The winner of "Best in Show" was first-time exhibitor Sally Novello with 'Narcissiflora', a beautifully groomed deciduous yellow azalea, for which she received a watercolor painted by Helene Huber especially for this occasion.

Happy 50th Birthday Valley Forge Chapter!



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.

ARS 2018
Denmark Finland Germany Netherlands Sweden

The ARS 2018 Convention!

Tour Slots Are Filling Up

Registration is open 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 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/>

Tours are filling up, so don't wait too long.

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.

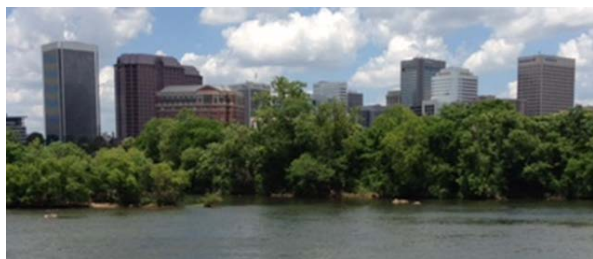


Roland and Bremen Town Musicians



Bremen Rhododendron-Park

ARS 2017 Fall Regional Meeting, Richmond, VA, October 20 – 22
Fall at the James River Fall Line In central Virginia



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.

Your Valley Forge Chapter ARS 2018 Dues Are Due Dec. 1st

This is dues time so send a check for \$40 for regular members and \$10 for associate member made out to “Valley Forge ARS” to:

**American Rhododendron Society
 Valley Forge Chapter
 14 Northwoods Roads
 Radnor, PA 19087**

Use the attached form or the regular dues notices that will be mailed out to all members, both regular and associate. If you have any questions, contact Darlene Henning, mdhenning@earthlink.net or 610-987-6184.

ARS Classes of Membership are:

- Regular \$ 40
- Associate (from another chapter) \$ 10
- Commercial / Corporate: \$ 90
- Sustaining: \$ 75
- Sponsoring: \$ 150
- Student: (under age 25) Access to online Journal only \$ 10
- Life Member – Single: \$1,000
- Life Member – Family: \$1,500

ARSStore.org has earned \$2,600 for the ARS. Thank You!

Amazon pays a referral fee to the ARS on sales made after entering Amazon from the ARSStore.org. These referral fees are typically 5.5% and go entirely to the ARS.

ARSStore.org uses MailChimp to send email reminders to all ARS members with



ARSStore.org

known email addresses to use ARSStore.org when placing orders on Amazon.

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.

**American Rhododendron Society
Valley Forge Chapter
14 Northwoods Rd
Radnor, PA 19087**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



NEWSLETTER

October / November 2017

*Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society*

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Page 4 Herbert Started VF ARS in 1967	Treasurer: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249
Page 5 ARS 2019 Convention in Malvern	Secretary: Joan Warren (610) 913-0005
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Page 7 ARS 2017 Fall Meeting in Richmond	Ellin Hlebik ('15-'18) (610) 584-9764
VF ARS Dues Are Due Dec. 1 ARSStore.org earns \$2,600	Kathy Woehl ('15-'18) (610) 688 9173
Attachments: Membership Renewal Application VF ARS Banquet Reservation Form	Vacant ('16-'19)
ARS websites: rhododendron.org ARSStore.org ARS2018.org ARSOoffice.org ARS2019.org	Darlene Henning ('16-'19) (610) 987-6184
	Alice Horton ('17-'20) (610) 430-0196
	Michele Hawk ('17-'20) (610) 687-9120
	Membership: Darlene Henning (610) 987-6184
	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	Plant Sale: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter
	Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184
	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).	



AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip/Country _____

Telephone* _____

E-mail* _____

*** Note: Confidentiality** - Checking "No" will prevent the ARS showing your phone and E-mail address on membership lists.

Confidentiality? (See note above)

Circle one: YES NO

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FROM NOV. TO NOV.
ARS Membership (includes chapter membership)

Individual/Family.....	\$ 40.00
Associate (specify home chapter*)	\$10.00
Student (under 25)	\$10.00
Commercial/Corporate.....	\$ 90.00
Sustaining.....	\$ 75.00
Sponsoring.....	\$ 150.00
Life, single.....	\$ 1,000.00
Life, family.....	\$ 1,500.00

Membership Category: (from list above)

* _____
Fill out this form and mail along with a check made out to

Valley Forge, ARS:

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
Valley Forge Chapter
14 Northwoods Road
Radnor, PA 19087

Darlene Henning, membership:

Phone (610)-987-6184

Email: mdhenning@earthlink.net



Valley Forge ARS Banquet Reservation Form

(Must be received by November 9, 2017)

Please Indicate The Number Of Persons

_____ *Hot Lunch Buffet -- \$35 per Person*

If received before November 1, you will receive a \$5 drink chit for each person

Appetizer: Chicken & Corn Chowder to be served to table.

Chicken Francaise

Atlantic Broiled Salmon

Flank Steak with Wild Mushroom Demi Glace

Seasonal Vegetable Medley

House Salad, Caesar Salad, and Potato Salad

Iced Tea, Lemonade, Tea and Coffee

Dessert: Ice Cream served to table after buffet.

Please send check, made payable to Valley Forge ARS

In the amount of \$ _____ to:

Kathy Woehl

143 Old State Road

Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312

610-688-9173

Name(s): _____