



14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087

Chapter's Website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER

October / November 2021

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

October 23: Fall Conference Saturday Zoom Programs: 12 Noon to 4:00 PM

October 24: Fall Conference Sunday Zoom Programs: 12 Noon to 4:00 PM

President's Message

As the fall season begins, I hope everyone is doing well and had an enjoyable summer. This summer we were able to hold the District 8 Cutting Exchange/Plant Auction at Jenkins Arboretum. It was held on August 22nd and was well attended, with everyone keeping safe distancing. And once again Karel Bernady did another great job as the auctioneer. The District Chapters raised over \$800.00, which we always equally donate to the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. Thanks to everyone for your plant donations, contributions and auction bids that always make this a successful event.

On September 19th, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter's Plants for Members sale closed out the summer. This was held at Morris Arboretum and the selection of seedlings and graftings was excellent as always.

We will not be holding a live meeting this October but, as you will see on page 2, the Mount Arrowsmith and Nanaimo ARS Chapters, along with the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association will be hosting the 2021 ARS Fall Conference via Zoom on Saturday and Sunday, Oct 23-24. It's free and it looks like a fabulous and not-to-be-missed program.

This is also the time when we remind members that it is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Even with all the setbacks, I truly hope you are looking forward to another year as a Valley Forge Chapter ARS member. Hopefully in 2022 we can slowly begin to schedule regular meetings and events without being so guarded about socializing. And I look forward to continue working with all of the Chapter members as we continue to "encourage interest in and disseminate knowledge about Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

Enjoy the fall season.

Sincerely,

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

VF ARS website: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

Our Program for October is:

The Zoom Programs of the 2021 ARS Fall Conference:



“Fall into Gardening”

This is an open conference – free to all.

You must register!

Registration is free!

Register at: <http://rhodyman.net/Fall2021.html>

Those registered will received the Zoom invitation by email.

Special thanks to our hosts:

Mount Arrowsmith Chapter ARS

Nanaimo Chapter ARS

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association

Saturday and Sunday, Oct 23-24

Four presentations each day:

12 PM-4 PM Eastern Time

Saturday, October 23, Speakers and Topics

- Hartwig Schepker, Germany..... A Plantsman’s Paradise: Sichuan, China
- Shannon Berch, BC..... Your Living Soil
- David Sellars, BC From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening
- Don Hyatt, VA A Walk in the Woods

Sunday, October 24, Speakers and Topics

- David Millais, UK Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons
- Linda Chalker-Scott, WA Landscape Mulches-The Good, Bad, & Ugly.
- Richard Dionne, QC Rhododendrons in Québec’s Harsh Winters
- Don Wallace, CA..... Fragrant Rhododendrons

Free to all participants! Open to everyone! You must register!

Register at: <http://rhodyman.net/Fall2021.html>

Download flyer at: <http://rhodyman.net/Fall2021.pdf>

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 12:10 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: Dr. Hartwig Schepker:
Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise, 2019**



Many of our garden plants were originally introduced from the Western Chinese province of Sichuan. Ernest “Chinese” Wilson is claimed to having introduced more than 1000 garden worthy plants—many of them rhododendrons. Sichuan’s landscape and flora is overwhelming—especially in the spring when

rhododendrons and many perennials like yellow and blue poppies or primulas turn the mountain sides into a botanical paradise. Six Germans, a Scotsman and a Chinese companion followed in June 2019 the routes taken by Ernest Wilson and the Austrian plant hunter Handel-Mazetti and were blessed with good weather, great plants and lots of stories.

Dr. Hartwig Schepker obtained his PhD in plant ecology at the University of Hanover. Since 2006, he has been the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, Germany, which has the world’s second largest rhododendron collection. In addition, he is a board member of the German Rhododendron Society and as an intrepid rhododendron explorer, has made numerous trips over 30 years to North America, Europe and especially Asia.

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 1:05 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: Dr. Shannon Berch:
Your living soil.**



Our most important natural resource is the soil. Soil is a physical matrix, a chemical brewhouse. Roots of garden plants grow in association with

a vast diversity of other organisms such as bacteria, fungi and fauna, some of which are detrimental (e.g., root diseases) and others beneficial (e.g., mycorrhizas). In this talk, I will discuss this huge array of soil biota, how they interact with garden plants, and how garden management affects them.

Shannon Berch retired in 2019 and is now Emerita Researcher with the BC Ministry of Environment and Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, UBC. She is a founding member of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society and the Truffle Association of BC. Shannon was born and raised in southern Ontario, did graduate work at the University of Waterloo and Laval University in Quebec City, and a post-doc in Corvallis, OR.

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: David Sellers:
From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening: A Rewarding Journey.**



David and his wife Wendy have been developing an extensive alpine and woodland garden in coastal British Columbia. It has been said that all serious gardeners eventually become rock gardeners. This talk describes their initial focus on rhododendrons and later interest

in other woodland plants and rock gardening. Their garden won the 2012 Millstream Garden Award from the North American Rock Garden Society.

David Sellers is an award winning photographer and is a past-president of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia. He is an avid mountain hiker and maintains the website mountainflora.ca. David's particular interests are rock garden design and construction, alpine plant photography and using video to illustrate mountain landscapes and alpine plant habitats. David has given talks on rock gardening and alpine plants across North America and in the UK. He has written articles on rock garden design and alpine plant explorations and a selection of his photographs were published in the recent book "Alpine Plants of British Columbia, Alberta and Northwest North America" and a new edition of Arthur Kruckeberg's "Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest".

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: Don Hyatt:
A Walk in the Woods**



Don is both entertaining and informative. Don has spoken frequently on the Southern Appalachians but this will be an update on some of his favorite native azalea and rhododendron populations that he visits frequently. Expect to see some stunning photography and as well as humorous anecdotes about recent treks along the Appalachian Trail and his visits to other locations. He will update the progress on trying to preserve rare plants such as the 'Red Max', a solitary red form of *R. maximum* he discussed in the Summer 2020 ARS Journal. He will also provide background on a new lepidote species found in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, *Rhododendron smokianum*, that was just described in March of 2021.

Don Hyatt is a retired public school teacher who had a very successful 33-year career teaching mathematics and computer science at the secondary school level in Northern Virginia. Retiring in 2002, he has spent most of his time since then pursuing his life-long interests in horticulture. Don's favorite areas of study have been the American native azaleas, rhododendrons, and wildflowers of the Southern

Appalachians. A popular speaker at local, national, and international conferences, Don can entertain the novice as well as the expert as he combines his humorous storytelling ability with beautiful photographs in a multimedia presentation. Don has received a numerous honors for his work including both the ARS Gold and Silver Medals.

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 12:10 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: David Millais:
Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons**



The talk reviews the ex situ conservation of species and hybrid rhododendrons in garden collections. Habitat loss and climate change require many plants to be saved away from their place of origin. Challenges of conservation include plant identification, labelling, record keeping, data protection, the Nagoya protocol, conservation policies instigated by botanic gardens and collections, and phytosanitary restrictions imposed by plant health authorities on imported plant material. Rhododendron societies around the world have a leading role in

coordinating and saving valuable plants from extinction by identifying “at risk” plants, arranging propagation of them, and distributing them to collections and gardens for safe-keeping.

David studied Commercial Horticulture and then worked for a large hardy plant nursery in Dorset for six years, rising to Nursery Manager, before taking short internships at Briggs Nursery and the RSF. In 1990 he took over as Specialist Rhododendron grower, Millais Nurseries, from his parents. His great uncle was J.G. Millais who wrote the two volume series on Rhododendrons in 1917 and 1924, and David's parent's Ted and Romy Millais trekked extensively in the Himalayas and China during the 1980's and 1990's, introducing several new rhododendron species. David is Vice Chairman, and past Chairman of the RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group and a member of the RHS Woody Plant Committee. Millais Nurseries is a leading specialist rhododendron nursery, growing about 900 different varieties of rhododendron which are supplied throughout the UK from the specialist plant center and gardens at Crosswater Farm.

<https://www.rhododendrons.co.uk>

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 1:05 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott:
Landscape Mulches – The Good, The Bad, and The Just Plain Ugly**



Mulches are an ideal alternative to chemical weed control. If correctly chosen and applied, mulches can not only reduce weed invasions, but also reduce management costs by improving water and air movement, moderating soil temperatures, improving soil structure and nutrition, and enhancing beneficial microbes and insects. How can you decide which mulch is

best for your landscape? This talk will teach you how to make these decisions.

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Oregon State University and is an ISA certified arborist and an ASCA consulting arborist. She is WSU's Extension Urban Horticulturist and a Professor in the Department of Horticulture, and holds two affiliate associate professor positions at University of Washington. She conducts research in applied plant and soil sciences, publishing the results in scientific articles and university Extension fact sheets. In 2020, she was named the new editor for the Western Arborist magazine. Linda also is the award-winning author of five books: the horticultural myth-busting *The Informed Gardener* (2008), *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again* (2010), *Sustain-able Landscapes and Gardens: Good Science – Practical Application* (2009), *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do* (2015) and an up-date of Art Kruckeberg's *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* from UW Press (2019).

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 2:00 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: Richard Dionne:
Growing Rhododendrons in Québec's Harsh Winters**



This educational presentation will focus on plant hardiness along with specific cultivation

requirements associated with our climate rather than on rarity.

I was raised in a big family by a loving mother who had a passion for gardening. Living in a small francophone community in New Brunswick, Canada. Mom grew flowers but mostly vegetables for the locals; but I was totally attracted to the ornamental beds. After completing my education in Ornamental Horticulture and Plant Science at McGill University, I worked at the "Jardin Botanique de Montréal" where I was the specialized horticulturist appointed to the enchanting "Leslie Hancock Ericacetum" for nearly 30

years and the impressive Shade Garden collection for 20 years. Recently retired, I am now devoted to my garden in Sutton, Québec.

I'm also one of the co-founders of the "Société des Rhododendrons du Québec" and since 2019, have been vice-president.

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM:

**Zoom Speaker: Don Wallace:
Fragrant & Fancy – Bringing Fragrance into the Showiest
Rhododendron Flowers**



I will discuss what causes fragrance in flowers, and why it is desirable. A discussion of the different fragrant species and who discovered them leads into the idea of producing new hybrids with fragrance and also colorful, showy flowers. Using literature to discover which

cultivars will be the best parents for these new hybrids is shown with several examples. Finally, I will list my favorite fragrant rhododendrons that are also available today.

Don Wallace is the owner of Singing Tree Gardens & Nursery, a small retail nursery located in McKinleyville, California. Over the past 25 years Don has planted, propagated, hybridized, and grown from seed many rhododendrons. He is the past president of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and participated as one of the Show Chairmen at the Western Regional Conference in Eureka back in 1999. Singing Tree Gardens Nursery features a wide range of plants, including some of Don's new rhododendron hybrids, that are shipped nationwide.

WELCOME BACK ASSOCIATE MEMBER

REMEMBER, AUTUMN IS RENEWAL TIME!

Please Mail Your Associate Dues Before December 1st

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____



DUES SHOULD BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1

What is your home chapter? _____

Enclose your Associate Dues Amount \$ 10.00
Extra Endowment Fund Donation Amount \$ _____
Who would you like to remember? _____
Extra Research Foundation Donation? Amount \$ _____
Total Enclosed Amount \$ _____

Thank You For Being A Valley Forge Chapter Associate Member

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

ARS Membership Renewals Are Due December 1st

Our membership chair, Darlene Henning, is mailing out membership renewal forms to all regular and associate members. Details are on the forms, but the dues are the same as last year: \$40 for regular members and \$10 for associate members whose primary membership is with a different chapter.

Please support the ARS and send in your dues. Even if we can't meet face to face right now, we hope you enjoy the ARS Journal and our chapter newsletters. We appreciate the many Associate Members from other chapters, too.

Members must renew by December 1 to avoid Journal disruption, so try to renew early.

The ARS now accepts online renewals for those who prefer to pay by credit card or personal Pay Pal account. To avoid dealing with the mail, check out the ARS Office and click on Membership Services:

<https://www.arsoffice.org/>

You will need your "membership number" to complete the renewal process which is on your Journal mailing label.

If you don't receive or misplaced Darlene's mailing or you want to be a new member, use the form on this page for regular members and on the previous page for associate members from other chapters. If you have any questions, contact Darlene at 717-735-7116 or mdhenning@earthlink.net.

AUTUMN IS RENEWAL TIME! RENEW TODAY

Would you like to make a gift to General Fund? _____ Amount \$ _____
 Remember someone with a gift to the Endowment Fund _____ Amount \$ _____
 Who would you like to remember? _____
 Would you like to make a donation to the Research Foundation? Amount \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____



Check here only if you do not wish to have your phone, fax, and e-mail address printed in our membership rosters.

DUES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1

Student (St)\$10
 Regular (R)\$40
 Commercial (C)\$90
 Sustaining (SU)\$75
 Sponsoring (SP).....\$150
 Commit for Life (L), payable over 3 years (1-\$400 & 2-\$350).....\$1000 (individual)
 Commit for Life (L), payable of 3 years in increments of \$500\$1500 (Family)

The power of the internet should encourage commercial membership for our "grower" members, your free full-page ad will be visited by thousands of people each week during our busy rhododendron season

Membership type _____ x no. yrs. _____ = Total US Funds Enclosed _____

Check here if you do not wish to receive the Journal ARS _____

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

Middle Atlantic Region – 2022 Rhododendron of the Year Award Nominees

We need your input for the 2022 Rhododendron of the Year Awards. Below are last year's Winners:



'Jack Cowles'

'Weston's Pink Diamond'

'Betty Ellen'

R. austrinum

These are all the past ROY Winners by Year for the Middle Atlantic Region:

Year	Elepidote	Lepidote	Evergreen Azalea	Deciduous Azalea
2020	'Jack Cowles'	'Weston's Pink Diamond'	'Betty Ellen'	<i>R. austrinum</i>
2020	'Bea MacDonald'	<i>R. keiskei</i>	'Wagner's White Spider'	<i>R. periclymenoides</i>
2019	'Ken Janek'	'Rhein's Luna'	'Treasure'	<i>R. cumberlandense</i>
2018	'A. Bedford'	'24 Karat'	'Dreamsicle'	<i>R. arborescens</i>
2017	'Gilbert Myers'	'Blaney's Blue'	'Ben Morrison'	<i>R. canescens</i>
2016	<i>R. hyperythrum</i>	<i>R. minus var. minus</i>	'Inch'	<i>R. atlanticum</i>
2015	'John C. White'	'Southland'	'Ashley Ruth'	'My Mary'
2014	'Nestucca'	'Kehr's White Ruffles'	'Caitlin Marie'	<i>R. calendulaceum</i>
2013	'Taurus'	'Cornell Pink'	'Rose Greeley'	<i>R. schlippenbachii</i>
2012	'Janet Blair'	'Windbeam'	'Sandra's Green Ice'	'Sunny-side-up'
2011	'Brown Eyes'	'Molly Fordham'	'Tina's Whorled'	<i>R. prunifolium</i>
2010	'Scintillation'	'Mary Fleming'	'Carrie Amanda'	'Klondyke'
2009	'Wheatley'	'Landmark'	'Koromo-shikibu'	'Old Gold'
2008	'Mist Maiden'	'Weston's Aglo'	'Dream'	'White Lightning'
2007	'Caroline'	'Olga Mezitt'	'Fairfax'	(none)
2006	'Bellringer'	'PJM Elite'	'Elsie Lee'	'Homebush'
2005	'Calsap'	'Dora Amateis'	'Nancy of Robinhill'	'Gibraltar'
2004	'Gigi'	'April Pink'	'Girard's Fuchsia'	'Crimson Tide'

Criteria for selecting a Rhododendron of the Year for the Middle Atlantic Region:

1. We need to select plants that grow in as wide a range as possible. We are not trying to publicize new varieties that are recently released but we want plants that are considered "good doers" or appear on the Proven Performer lists developed by the local chapters in our region.
2. The cultivar should be a superior form. It should have attractive flowers, good foliage, and a plant habit that makes it a desirable landscape specimen when not in bloom. The plant should not be prone to insect damage or disease problems.
3. One of the biggest difficulties we have had in choosing ROY nominees is that the plants must be **officially registered** with the American Rhododendron Society. Many wonderful plants we grow are not registered so they are not eligible for the ROY awards. Rhododendron species can be used as ROY winners without being registered provided the typical form performs well throughout the region.
4. The variety should be available for purchase either through commercial sources or chapter plant sales. Ideally, we should be looking several years ahead to give growers time to build up stock for sale.

To develop a list of potential nominees, please send names of your favorite rhododendrons and azaleas to:

Don Hyatt: donaldhyatt@verizon.net

Steve Henning, editor
103 Acer Place
Lancaster, PA 17601



NEWSLETTER

October/November 2021



In This Issue	Officers and Committees:
Page 2 October 23 & 24: Zoom Meetings	President: Jerry O'Dell (610) 608-2018
Page 3 Hartwig Schepker: A Plantsman's Paradise: Sichuan, China	Vice President: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196
Shannon Berch: Your Living Soil	Treasurer: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249
Page 4 David Sellars: Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening	Secretary: vacant
Don Hyatt: A Walk in the Woods	Directors:
Page 5 David Millais: Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons	Bob Horton ('20-'23) (610) 430-0196
Page 6 Linda Chalker-Scott: Landscape Mulches-The Good, Bad, & Ugly.	Erin Van Yahres ('20-'23) (610) 644-2806
Richard Dionne: Rhododendrons in Québec's Harsh Winters	Steve Wright ('19-'22) (267) 481-0175
Page 7 Don Wallace: Bringing Fragrance to the Showiest Rhododendrons	Darlene Henning ('19-'22) (717) 735-7116
Page 8 Membership Renewals due Dec. 1st	Perc Moser ('21-'24) (610) 525-3651
Page 9 Mid-Atlantic 2022 ROY Nominees	Kathy Woehl ('21-'24) (610) 688 9173
ARS websites:	Membership: Darlene Henning (717) 735-7116
rhododendron.org ARSStore.org	Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116
ARSOoffice.org https://ars75.org/	Plant Sale: Erin Van Yahres (610) 644-2806
	Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter
	Truss Show (VF): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573
	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 letter carrier rather than email, even though you have e-mail. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes (rhodyman@earthlink.net).