

14 Northwoods Road, Radnor, PA 19087  
Chapter's Website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

## **NEWSLETTER**                      **October/November 2022**

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

### ***Calendar at a Glance***

***Oct. 20 Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Dir. "Forest Pests & Firewood Connection" online***

***Nov. 6 VF ARS Banquet @ St. Davids Golf Club, Perc Moser "ARS/Tyler Hybridizer's Garden"***

### ***President's Message***

We finally received much needed rain and I hope everyone can now get out and enjoy the fall season. We finished the summer on a high note, with our two annual fun events. The District 8 Cutting Exchange/Plant Auction was held at Jenkins Arboretum. Karel Bernady once again did great job as the auctioneer. Although our earnings were down a bit this year, the District Chapters still managed to raise \$564.00, which we equally divided and donated to the ARS Endowment Fund and the ARS Research Foundation. A big thanks to everyone for your plant donations, contributions and auction bids that always make this a successful event.

On Sept 11<sup>th</sup> the Greater Philadelphia Chapter held its Plants-for-Members sale at Morris Arboretum with an excellent selection of seedlings and graftings.

We will not be holding a live October meeting this year but on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> everyone is invited to virtually attend the Jenkins Arboretum "Third Thursday" lecture by Leigh Greenwood on "Forest Pests & Firewood Connection" (see page 2). It's free but registration is required.

I am delighted to tell everyone that our annual Banquet is back on the schedule this year, our first since 2019. It will be held on Sunday Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at St. David's Golf Club (see page 3). I am also delighted to tell you that VF ARS Board member Perc Moser will be our speaker and he will talk about the exciting new Hybridizers Garden that he and the other District 8 Hybridizers are developing in Tyler Arboretum's Wister Rhododendron Garden. By the way, in case you missed it, this important ARS project was also the cover story of the spring 2022 ARS Journal issue.

I want to remind ARS members this is also the time to renew your membership for the upcoming 2023 year. And I look forward to working with all of the Chapter members in 2023 as we continue to "encourage interest in and disseminate knowledge about Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

I would like to close by wishing long time Chapter member and Rhododendron enthusiast Frank Brouse, who has been in the hospital and under-the-weather for some time, a speedy recovery. Frank, we are thinking of you and wishing you well.

Everyone, enjoy the fall season.

*Sincerely,*

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

**VF ARS website: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)**

**Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM on line:**

**Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Program Director, The Nature Conservancy  
“The Forest Pests and Firewood Connection”**

**This Jenkins Third-Thursday Program is free but You Must Register at:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-forest-pests-and-firewood-connection-tickets-371859621137?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>



*Explore how invasive insects and diseases are affecting our forests*

Leigh Greenwood is the Forest Health Program Director for North America at The Nature Conservancy. Armed with a biology degree from Williams College, Leigh worked as a field researcher for several years before enrolling in the renowned Masters of Wildlife Biology program at the University of Montana. Leigh now works in policy and gets to think about things you perhaps never considered – like why it’s bad to move firewood and the complicated dynamics of wood pallet inspection. She makes these topics interesting and you’ll definitely learn a thing or two in this program.



Forests across all of North America are increasingly impacted by invasive insects and diseases like emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly. Forest health expert Leigh Greenwood will take a global approach to describing what can (and maybe already has!) become a problem in your own backyard. Learn how new infestations expand – often through seemingly unrelated issues like firewood transport and holiday floral arrangements – and how you can advocate and act to protect your own favorite places.

The program is free of charge but registration is required.

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-forest-pests-and-firewood-connection-tickets-371859621137?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

**On Nov. 6, 2022 (Sunday), Banquet at St. Davids GC at 12:00 p.m.**

*Guests are invited to bring 1-gallon size or large plants to auction off.*

*The Valley Forge Chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society  
cordially invites ARS Members and Friends to the*

## **Annual Banquet**

**Sunday, November 6, 2022**

**12:00 p.m. Social Hour**

**St. Davids Golf Club**

845 Radnor Street Road • Wayne, Pennsylvania

**610-688-2010 • www.stdavidsgc.com**

**Social Hour, Ice Tea, Lemonade, and Cash Bar at 12:00 p.m.**

**Lunch at 1:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Perc Moser**

**“The ARS/Tyler Rhododendron Hybridizer’s Test Garden”**

RSVP: Please Return Reservation Form Below • Proper Attire

### **Valley Forge ARS Banquet Reservation Form**

*(Must be received by November 2, 2022)*

*Please Indicate The Number Of Persons*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hot Buffet Lunches @ \$45 per Person**

*Appetizer: Wild Mushroom Bisque, Rolls & Butter to be served to table.*

*Buffet: 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and mail to:**

**Kathy Woehl**

**143 Old State Road**

**Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312**

**610-688-9173**

**Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

## ARS/Tyler Rhododendron Hybridizer's Test Garden Update

- The plot for the garden was selected and preparations has begun by removing trees and brush.
- Selection Committee Members are:
  - Founders – Tom Ahern, Karel Bernady, Michael Martin Mills, Perc Moser
  - Peter Zale – Longwood Gardens; Steve Wright – Jenkins Arboretum; Ron Rabideau – Greater Phila. Chapter of ARS; Carol Segree – Potomac Valley Chapter; Mike Kakowski – Tyler; Christian Stoltz – Tyler.
- Plant nominations are requested. When they are received, they are posted at: <http://arsstore.org/TylerTestGarden/Restricted/index3.html #anchorRESTRICTED>
- They are also in a PDF that can be downloaded at: <http://arsstore.org/TylerTestGarden/Restricted/Book.pdf>
- Selection committee first rated the nominations and then selected 40 cultivars. Note: the committee limited the number of cultivars per hybridizer to three;
  - Fundraising continues - \$29,000 had been raised as of 9/22/2022;
  - Taking of cuttings of the selected cultivars for propagation has begun;
  - Presentations were made to the Chapters and at the Eastern Regional Conference in Gettysburg in September;
  - Below is a poster with these cultivar/hybridizer names:

### Row 1

- 1- Bisque (Ahern)
- 2- Sun Dust (Anderson)
- 3- Angelina Dee (Doppel)
- 4- Beatrice Hyde (Murcott)
- 5- Austin's Firecracker (Doppel)
- 6- Bob's Peach (Bondira)

### Row 2

- 1- Cosmic Candy (Moser)
- 2- Mike O'hara (Minahan)
- 3- Yellow Eyes (Fitzburgh)
- 4- Willa Jane (Ahern)
- 5- White Elegans (Brack)
- 6- TT220 (Murcott)

### Row 3

- 1- Diane's Delight (Doppel)
- 2- Speckled Honey (MacMullen)
- 3- Winsome Winnie (MacMullen)
- 4- Tiered Yellow (Minahan)
- 5- Sidney V. Burns (Murcott)
- 6- Sugaree (Moser)

### Row 4

- 1- Great Gatsby (Brack)
- 2- Sea Gold (Anderson)
- 3- Scintillation x Apritan (Hyatt-McWorther)
- 4- Ruth's Showstopper (Doppel)
- 5- Rhein's Luna (Rhein)

- 6- Purple Elf (Schannen)

### Row 5

- 1- Hannah Grace (Ahern)
- 2- Madeline Winter (Moser)
- 3- Kenny Mac (McDonald)
- 4- Lavender Ice (Schannen)
- 5- Love Child (Schannen)
- 6- Gilbert Myers (Myers op)

### Row 6

- 1- Cynosure (Shapiro)
- 2- Garnet Thomas (Ahern)
- 3- Dream of Kings (Frederick)
- 4- Norm Beaudry (Minahan)
- 5- Cause of our Joy (Minahan)
- 6- April Rhapsody (Anderson)

### Row 7

- 1- Cyclops (Rabideau)
- 2- Anita Gehrlich (Waldman)
- 3- John C. White (Ring-Goodrich)
- 4- Catherine Josephine (Kline)
- 5- Christian's Art (Murcott)
- 6- Elmer's Gift (Morris)

### Row 8

- 1- Kayla Joy (Ahern)
- 2- Lumos (Ahern)
- 3- September Song x Fashion Plate (Roberts)
- 4- Rhein's Picotee (Rhein)

# TYLER RHODODENDRON TEST GARDEN



## ASA/ARS 2023 Convention

### “Georgia With Azaleas On My Mind”

Dunwoody, GA • April 19-23, 2023

Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center

Convention hotel price (\$134 king or 2 doubles, \$199 suite, plus taxes) also applies for contiguous stay up to 3 days before and 3 days after convention dates.

Convention Co-Chairs: Rick Bauer - Yorktown, VA and Charlie Andrews - Ballground, GA

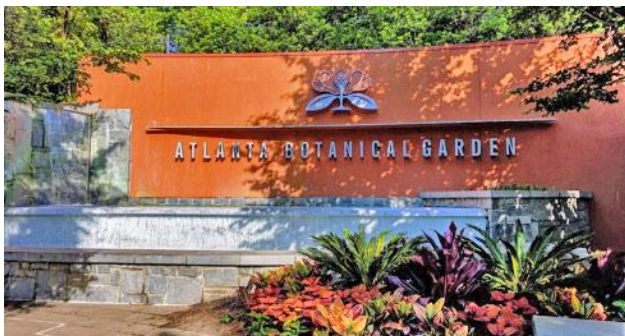
Convention details are being finalized at: <https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2023/>

The 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention is being held in Atlanta, Georgia Wednesday, 19 April to Sunday, 23 April. It is a city of parks. We love flowers here. The native azalea is our state wildflower, and Georgia is proud to have 12 species of azaleas growing naturally within the state, more than any other state.



*R. prunifolium, Georgia's state wildflower*

Thursday's tour centers on the Atlanta Botanical Gardens featuring 30 acres of gardens, displays, and exhibits. These include the Rock Garden, Flower Walk, Conifer Garden, Fragrance & Sensory Garden, Skyline Garden, and the Conservation Garden.



The Atlanta History Center has a rhododendron and azalea dell originally developed by the Azalea Chapter ARS. Piedmont Park began as a fairground for expositions in 1887.



*Swan House in the Atlanta History Center*

Friday's tour centers on the Gibbs Gardens, a 300-acre residential estate garden in the foothills north of Atlanta. The property boasts a spring-fed stream surrounded by ferns, native azaleas, dogwoods, and mountain laurels to which have been added Japanese maples, oaks, hollies, rhododendrons, and 16 gardens including the Japanese and Waterlily Gardens, Manor House Gardens, Inspiration Gardens (azaleas and conifers), Rose Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, and Wildflower Meadow.

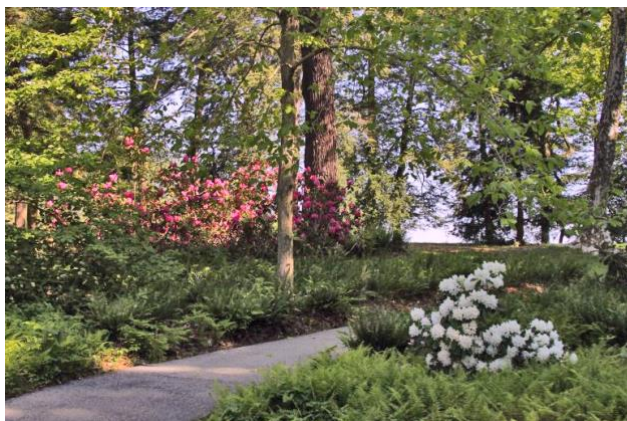


*The Monet Bridge is in Gibbs Garden*

## New Rhododendron Rooms Exhibit at Longwood Gardens

*From an article by Peter Zale, Longwood.*

In May, Longwood Gardens described plans to create a Rhododendron Rooms exhibit in the garden spaces at the interface of Peirce's Park and Peirce's Woods. To build upon the legacy of rhododendron collections at Longwood, in late 2021 the horticulturists worked with local rhododendron expert Jim Gears to obtain and plant 66 new varieties of rhododendrons comprising 123 total new plants, encompassing a wide range of taxonomic and ornamental diversity to instantly enrich the garden spaces at the interface of Peirce's Allee and Peirce's Park.



*Planting at Peirce's Park and Peirce's Allee.*

The breadth of diversity in the developing collection will provide a wider range of flowering times outside the traditional mid-May period for more commonly grown rhododendrons, and a huge diversity of flower colors and foliage textures that showcase the staggering range of diversity for this genus hardy in the region. Featuring prominently among these plantings are many selections from Dexter, widely credited as the first American rhododendron breeder that created exceptionally durable plants for the mid-Atlantic climate and little-known species such as the ruggedly hardy, mid-April flowering *Rhododendron adenopodum*.

Efforts to expand this collection have continued through a generous donation of an incredible collection of cutting-edge rhododendron hybrids from Erchless, a Phipps estate in Old Westbury, New York, where rhododendrons have been an

emphasis of the expansive gardens since the 1920s. The legacy of rhododendron collection is matched by an extensive hybridization program that has resulted in several named cultivars and other selections under evaluation. To enrich the collections in the gardens, 75 plants were donated to Longwood that represent an array of flower and foliage types with particular emphasis on foliar diversity; hardy, yellow flowered rhododendrons; and difficult-to-obtain cultivars such as 'Halfdan Lem', a striking, red-flowered selection commemorating the Alaskan rhododendron breeder of the same name. Some of these new selections will be showcased as new plantings at the west end of Peirce's Allee.



*Rhododendrons from Erchless await planting.*

While some of the new plantings were ready to be viewed this past May, others were installed gradually in the following months. The rhododendrons were at their floral peak in late April and May, with a peak during the second and third weeks of May. These new rhododendron plantings represent a new milestone in the century-long development of rhododendron collections at Longwood. As these collections continue to grow in the coming years, we hope to foster continued interest in rhododendrons while continually elevating and refining the beauty of the Gardens for visitors.

The history of rhododendrons at Longwood is an interesting one. Notably, Longwood founder Pierre S. du Pont chose a variety of rhododen-

drons, azaleas, and camellias as the core plantings of the East Conservatory when it opened in 1928. Longwood’s archives indicate that du Pont imported rhododendrons with great frequency. He focused on tender plants for conservatory use, many new and potentially hardy species, hybrids imported from the great rhododendron nurseries of the time on the Bagshot sands of Surrey, and even several dozen selections sourced from vaunted rhododendron expert and enthusiast Lionel de Rothschild. Records show that du Pont had a continued passion for rhododendrons, and his list of contacts for sourcing plants was a who’s who of early 20th century horticulture. In 1962, his passion for the genus was commemorated when a Southern Indian Hybrid azalea was named in his honor by the Longwood staff.



*Rhododendron ‘Pierre du Pont’ in 1962.*

The early history of rhododendron cultivation in the US also has many other local connections, including Joe Gable, a farmer from Stewartstown, PA who became a pioneering rhododendron breeder, famous for popularizing the genus and for his unusual cultivar names, which were often combinations of the names of the parents used to make the hybrid.



*Belgian Indian azaleas in the East Conservatory.*

Beginning in the 1930s, Gable used seedlings grown from the famous plant explorer Joseph Rock, plants from Charles O. Dexter, and pollen from the collector Edward J.P. Magor—a gardener and rhododendron collector from Cornwall—to create some of the best adapted rhododendrons for the region. By the time Dr. Russell Seibert became director of Longwood in 1955, some of Gable’s most noteworthy hybrids and cultivars were available for purchase and were selected and planted here at Longwood. Many of these, including ‘Caroline’, ‘County of York’, and ‘Atroflo’ can still be seen in Longwood Gardens and they are still among the best rhododendrons for growing in the region, but now seldom encountered in nurseries. The best place to see these rhododendrons at Longwood is in the Hillside Garden, around the Italian Water Garden, and the south side of Peirce’s Allée.



*Rhododendron ‘Atroflo’ in the Hillside Gardens*



## 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.

If you haven't already, please send in your dues. In addition to our meetings, picnics, plant sales and auctions, 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 their personal Pay Pal account. If you wish to avoid dealing with the mail, check out the ARS online membership renewal at:


<https://www.arsoffice.org/renewal/renew.asp>

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

If you didn't receive or misplaced Darlene's mailing or you want to be a new member, use the form on this page for regular members. If you have any questions, contact Darlene at 717-735-7116 or [mdhenning@earthlink.net](mailto: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

103 Acer Place  
Lancaster, PA 17601



NEWSLETTER

**October/November 2022**



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ARS websites:

[rhododendron.org](http://rhododendron.org) [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org)

[ARSOoffice.org](http://ARSOoffice.org) [Fall2022](http://Fall2022)

### **Officers and Committees:**

President: Jerry O'Dell (610) 608-2018

Vice President: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196

Treasurer: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249

Secretary: Bob Smetana (610) 688-5249

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Erin Van Yahres ('20-'23) (610) 644-2806

Steve Wright ('22-'25) (267) 481-0175

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Newsletter Editor: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116

Plant Sale: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196

Plants-for-Members with Greater Philadelphia Chapter

Truss Show (VF): Perc Moser (610) 525-3651

Webmaster: Steve Henning (717) 735-7116

VF Chapter's web site: [ValleyForgeARS.org](http://ValleyForgeARS.org)

**Please contact us with email changes or if you receive this newsletter by email rather than letter carrier. Please inform Steve Henning of any changes ([rhodyman@earthlink.net](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).**