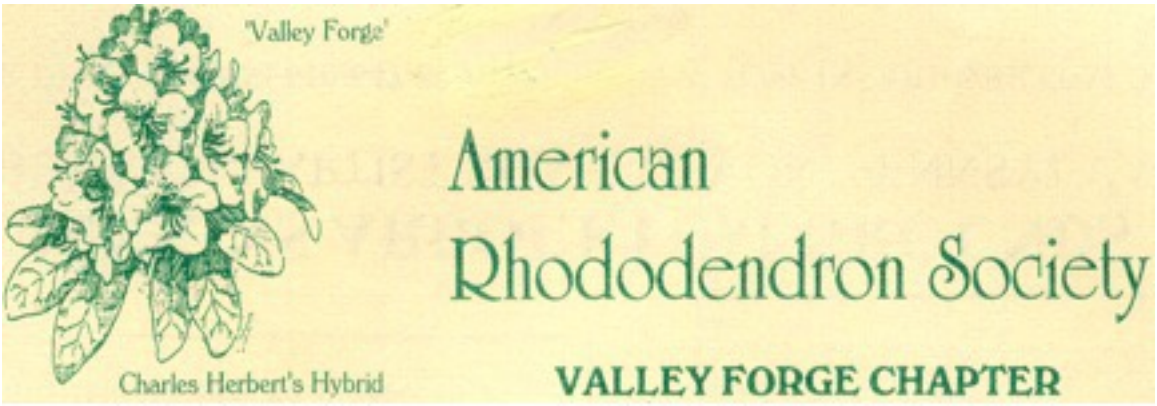


P.O. Box 715 Southeastern, PA 19399-0715

***Web site:*** ***www.ValleyForgeARS.org***

# *NEWSLETTER* *January/February 2015*

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

## *Calendar at a Glance*

| | |
|---|---|
| January 18 (Sun.) | 2:00 pm, Janet Novak "Plants of Greece and Sardinia" |
| February 15 (Sun.) | 2:00 pm @ Uwchlan, George Woodard "Hybridizing, Endless Disappointment" |
| March 19 (Thu.) | 7:30 pm, TBA |
| April 16 (Thu.) | 7:30 pm, Michael Martin Mills, ARS Plant Registrar |
| May 1-3 (Fri-Sun.) | Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum |
| May 6-10 (Th-Su) | American Rhododendron Society's Annual Convention in Sydney, BC |
| May 10 (Sun.) | Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Jenkins Arboretum |
| June 28 (Sun.) | Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic (at Chanticleer) |
| August 16 (Sun.) | District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction at Wayne Guyman's |

## *President's Message*

The November annual banquet was a great success. Don Hyatt made a wonderful presentation. I hope you all enjoyed it!

Janet Novak will transport us from a cold January in PA to the warm climes and plants of Greece and Sardinia. You will find details nearby of this and the other fine programs we have lined up for the next few months. Then for our annual joint meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, George Woodard will delight both chapters with his presentation on rhododendrons. Be sure to bring friends to any of these meetings.

The chapter will be gearing up for our annual plant sale fundraiser soon. Anyone interested in helping should contact chairwoman Chris Smetana or any other board member. In the meantime enjoy your holidays and I look forward to seeing all of you at our January 18, 2014 meeting at 2pm at Jenkins arboretum.

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

***Chapter's web site:*** **www.ValleyForgeARS.org**

**On January 18 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm at Jenkins Arboretum:**

## Janet Novak: "*Plants of Greece and Sardinia*"

Janet Novak is a molecular biologist by training and a scientific editor by trade, but it's plants that are her passion. She participates in the Native Orchid Conference and various other botanical societies. She is Past President & member of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Botanical Club and a board member for the North American Rock Garden Society. She gardens on a city lot of 1/8 acre, where she has found room for over 700 plant varieties.

**Refreshments: Those whose names start with letters R to Z are asked to please bring fingerfood treats.**

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**On February 15 (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Quaker Meeting House:**

## George Woodard "Hybridizing: Endless Disappointment"

George Woodard graduated from Cornell in 1982 with a degree in Horticulture and Design. He is in his 31st year as Superintendant of the Howard Phipps Jr. He is responsible for planting and maintaining large flower borders on 62 acres of intensely planted gardens which has been turned into an arboretum with a very good Rhododendron collection. In addition, he is responsible for growing cut flowers and potted plants and flowers year round. The estate was surveyed and put onto computer maps. George has a nine man full time crew and is responsible for everything on the 100 acre estate, including seven families, barns, grounds, and equipment. They make their own compost and compost tea.

George was chair of the ARS Seed Exchange for six years and has been hybridizing rhododendrons for 30 years. George has been designing gardens for 25 years. He is a member of the Hortus Group which is comprised of horticulturists in the NY metropolitan area including the directors of Planting Fields Arboretum, Hofstra Arboretum, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Wave Hill Gardens, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Battery Park, High Line, several large nurseries and some garden designers. They constantly tour other gardens all over the East Coast and discuss the plants and designs, and share information and inspirations with each other.

**Refreshments** will be provided by the two chapters

**See next page for directions to Uwchlan Meeting House.**

## Directions to Uwchlan Meeting House, 5 N. Village Ave., Exton, PA 19341

**From the Exton Mall** at Rt. 100 and Lincoln Highway (Bus. US 30): Go north on Rt. 100 for 2.9 miles, turn left on Rt. 113, Uwchlan Ave. and go 0.4 miles, turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (at 2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (2nd light from Rte. 113), and come in to the Meeting House.

**From the Pennsylvania Turnpike:** Take Exit 312 at Rt. 100: Go south on Rt. 100 for 1 mile, turn right onto Rt. 113, Uwchlan Ave. and go for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto Eagleview Blvd. (2nd light from Rte. 100), make a right and then another right at Dowlin Forge Rd. (the 2nd light from Rte. 113, and come in to the Meeting House.

## Plant Labels are available for Chapter Members

In cooperation with Jenkins Arboretum, plant labels are made for VF ARS members from January through March. If you have any questions, please contact Eva Jackson (**noelevajackson@comcast.net**). Labels will be made **only** for members and only for their **own use**. The sequence of orders processed will give priority to active members.

**Quantity**: 96 labels maximum per order/member.

**Cost**: **$20.00 for 1 to 96 labels**, with check made out to Valley Forge Chapter, ARS, and money passed on to Jenkins.

**Writing the information for labels**:
Each line of a WP document becomes one plant label of one or two lines (your choice, depending also on how much info you want to have listed). If you want two lines, the lines must be separated by a semicolon (;) and no spaces. The lines must be single-spaced (for a total of 96 lines maximum).

**Examples**:
P.J.M.;(Weston) = 2 lines on plant label, no spaces before or after semicolon
Girard's Pleasant White = 1 line on plant label

**Notes**:
1) No line on the plant label can be longer than 26 characters (including spaces). If you have 2 lines, neither line can be longer than 26 characters (including spaces).
2) The format is yours, i.e., it may be 'P.J.M.' or just P.J.M. Plant names should not be abbreviated.
3) Species names cannot be italicized by the engraving machine.

**Checking label information**: After you have prepared your list (as outlined above) and thoroughly check and recheck using your own resources. Have someone else give your list a check. If you need help you may e-mail Eva Jackson (**noelevajackson@comcast.net**) for a final check of spelling and other errors (yes they do creep in!). She will get back to you promptly, with suggestions, if necessary, but you have the final say. However, it cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to check the labels for accuracy. They cannot be corrected once engraved and that may pass on false information on numerous occasions (plant sales, flower/truss shows, cuttings exchanges, garden tours).

**Engraving label information**: The final plant list should be emailed to Harold Sweetman at: **Harold@jenkinsarboretum.org**, with 'metal plant labels' in the subject line. Labels are machine-engraved by a Jenkins Arboretum staff member onto large sheets.

**Finishing labels**: The engraved label sheets must be cut into individual labels, their corners rounded, and a hole punched for wiring. **This job needs to be done by you** at Jenkins Arboretum (with tools provided and as instructed). Wire for attaching label to plant is **not** provided.

## Spotted Lanternfly
### Parts of Berks County are Quarantined

**Discovery:** The Spotted Lanternfly was never known to be in the US or even in North America until September 22, 2014, when the PA Department of Agriculture and Game Commission confirmed its presence in Berks county. Further study indicates it has been in Pennsylvania for about 2 years. Its spread has been relatively slow due to its poor mobility. The biggest threat is that it will be innocently spread on vehicles, farm equipment, camping equipment, lawn furniture, nursery stock, farm crops, lumber, items stored outside, etc.

**Description:** The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a planthopper from Asia, specifically found in China, Korea, India, Vietnam, and parts of eastern Asia. It is an invasive insect in South Korea where it was introduced in 2006 and since has attacked 25 plant species that also grow in Pennsylvania. In the U.S. it has the potential to greatly impact the grape, fruit tree and logging industries. This pest attacks many hosts including grapes, apples, pines, stone fruits and more than 70 additional species.

**Threat:** The Spotted Lanternfly is known to be a threat to vineyards, Japanese maples, Salix (willows) and especially the Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus alitissima), also called stinking sumac. Ironically, Ailanthus, which is from China, is also alien and invasive. Pennsylvania's wine industry is a $2 billion industry. The Spotted Lanternfly can cause wilting and dying on grape vines. This insect has the potential to destroy vineyards and jeopardize the livelihood of people who depend on shipping items or crops out of the quarantine area. Early detection is vital to the effective control of this pest and the protection of PA businesses and agriculture.

**Quarantine:** As a result of this threat, on Nov. 1, 2014, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania announced a quarantine intended to restrict the movement of this pest. The quarantine prohibits the moving of any outdoor items out of the quarantine area unless they have been self-certified, or have a phytosanitary certificate or compliance agreement. These items include cars, trucks, trailers, farm equipment, campers, firewood, outdoor furniture, plants, crops, shipping pallets, etc. The quarantine area is an area north and west of Boyertown that includes District, Earl, Hereford, Pike, Rockland, and Washington Townships, plus Bally and Bechtelsville. As the quarantine area grows, so does the impact. It also impacts businesses in other areas of Pennsylvania whose customers may be intimidated by the quarantine.

***Egg masses*** that are laid the previous summer and fall each year start the life cycle of the Spotted Lanternfly. Those egg masses are usually laid near Ailanthus trees, but may appear on any object from tree bark and rocks to man made objects nearby. Since Ailanthus trees prefer the edge of the forest, it is advised to avoid placing any object that needs to be moved out of the quarantine area near the edge of a forest or near any Ailanthus tree. The egg masses have a shiny grayish pitch like covering and are about the size of your thumb. They are usually laid where they will blend in so they are very hard to find.

***Nymphs*** will hatch from the eggs in late April or early May. The nymphs are the crawling stage and feeding stage. They are small and look like spotted spiders at first. Then they develop into a form much like the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, which also infests this same area. However the nymphs start out black with white spots and slowly develop red markings. The nymphs prefer to feed on Vitis (grape), Ailanthus, Salix (willow) and Japanese maple, but will travel and feed on just about anything including Cornus and Birch.

Adults develop from the nymphs as early as July. They are 1" long and ½" wide and much different. Typically the adults have a black head and tanish to grayish wings with black spots. The tips of the wings have very small black rectangles with grey outlines. When startled or flying, the Spotted Lanternfly will display hind wings that have black tips, a white band, and a red band with black spots. The abdomen is also a yellowish white with broad bands of black on the top and bottom. The hind wings are not normally visible. Although a poor flyer, it is a very strong and quick jumper. In the fall the adults switch hosts to focus on Ailanthus.

Egg laying begins in late September and continues up through the first hard frost. Eggs are usually laid on Ailanthus or nearby on any relatively smooth surface including trees, vehicles, campers, yard furniture, farm equipment or any other item stored outside. The adults may die soon after they lay the egg masses, but will definitely be killed by heavy frosts.

**Signs and Symptoms:** In the fall and winter, the egg masses can be found and can be scraped off and destroyed.

In the spring, nymphs will appear on small plants and vines. They feed high up in plants but fall to the ground occasionally, especially when young. Hence, a sticky collar or Tanglefoot will keep them from crawling back up to feed.

As they grow larger, they transition to trees. Afflicted trees start weeping sap from feeding wounds caused by the Spotted Lanternfly. Feeding causes wounds that weep sap that leaves a black streak down the bark. Heavy populations excrete a honey dew that builds up at the base of the tree trunks. These produce large fungal mats at the base of the tree that may start out white but become a sooty black. Increased activity by yellow jackets, wasps, hornets, bees, and ants feeding on the sugary secretions will be noticed. In fact it was this activity that cause the Spotted Lanternfly to be first detected.

**Control:** The Spotted Lanternfly is so new that no pesticides have been labeled for its

control. Birds avoid it when the red markings appear and are made sick if they eat it. Mechanical removal and destruction of the egg masses will prevent broods in the spring. By spring, control measures such as dormant oil may be recommended during the nymphal stage. As mentioned before a sticky collar or Tanglefoot will provide control during the feeding stage. Hopefully native parasitoids such as wasps will be found. If we are lucky, they will work on Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs also.

**What to do if you:**

**See eggs:** scrape them off and place them in a plastic bag with alcohol or hand sanitizer and throw in the garbage.

**Collect a specimen:** Use the Sample Submission Form to submit the adult specimen or egg mass to the PA DoA Entomology Lab for verification. First double bag in plastic zip-lock bags with alcohol or hand sanitizer.

**Take a picture:** Submit photographs to Badbug@pa.gov along with date and location of the siting.

**Report a siting:** Call the Bad Bug hotline at 866-253-7189 with details of your siting and your contact information.

**References:**

Plant Quarantine: Dana Rhodes (717) 772-5205, **danrhodes@state.pa.us**

Entomology Manager: Sven Spichiger (717) 772-5229. **sspichiger@state.pa.us**

PA DoA Spotted Lanternfly Website: **http://www.pda.state.pa.us/spottedlanternfly**

This website contains links to the following:

- **Lycorma Inspection Tips**
- **Quarantine Order**
- **Spotted Lantern Fly Pest Alert**
- **Sample Submission Form**

USDA Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus altissima): **http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/tree-of-heaven.pdf**

## Eight Rhododendron Myths

***1) Myth: R. camptchaticum is the only rhododendron to bloom on new wood:***

Actually this may be false since the taxonomists seem to be taking camptchaticum out of the genus Rhododendron. Of course that could change again, and again.

***2) Myth: There are no variegated-leafed azaleas.***

Some variegated-leafed azaleas are: 'Girard Variegated', R. austrinum 'Don's Variegated', kaempferi 'Silver Sword', Girard 'Brianne', Girard 'Hot Shot Variegated', 'Shinnyo No Tsuki'.

***3) Myth: Leaves on evergreen azaleas are persistent.***

Actually evergreen azaleas are dimorphic and have two flushes of leaves. The first flush comes out in the spring with the flowers and is deciduous, dropping in the fall. The second flush comes out in the summer and is persistent by may drop before the new leaves come out in the spring.

***4) Myth: Sawdust will kill a rhododendron***

Sawdust often breaks down very fast and, therefore, requires a lot of nitrogen. Some types tend to hold too much free water and can cause conditions that are too wet. This is particularly true in hot, wet summer areas and probably contributes to the myth that sawdust will kill a rhododendron.

(*Rhododendron Basics* by Harold E. Greer)

**5) Myth: Always dress wounds when pruing rhododendrons.**

Although Shigo debunked the myth of wound dressing decades ago, it still persists, particularly among those with something to sell. More recently, "green" companies have peddled collagen, pectin, hydrogel and aloe gel

as "natural" tree healers. These hucksters claim that "the surface will heal over quickly and insects are repelled by the bitter taste." Not one shred of scientific evidence is ever offered to substantiate these miracles.

(**Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott at Univ. Wash.)**

***6) Myth: Rhododendrons should not be pruned.***

The essential thing in pruning is to decide upon the purpose. Then don't be afraid to apply the saw and pruning shears to achieve the desired result. The rhododendrons will appreciate the attention and respond to it.

*Pruning for compactness.* The compact, profusely budded rhododendrons of the nursery trade are produced by good cultural methods, including disbudding and summer pruning of current growth to induce multiple branching and abundant flowers.

*Pruning to a single trunk.* In some kinds of landscaping, plants are pruned high and trained to a single trunk or a few main stems. This treatment reveals the structure of the plant and texture of the bark, thus improving the year-around interest and beauty of a planting.

*Pruning to rejuvenate.* Spread rehabilitation over 2 or 3 years. Each year cut back some of the heavy branches to latent buds. Let the light in to encourage new shoots to form.

*Pruning to facilitate moving*. For the best results, it should be done in the fall or in early spring before new growth begins. The roots are cut back (pruned) with a sharp shovel, leaving a wide but shallow pad of roots and soil. Hauled or skidded to its new location, the plant should be set high in loose soil. To ease the shock of moving, some foliage should be pruned to compensate for the loss of roots. In part, this is accomplished by cutting off lower branches that hamper the moving and in part by pruning unneeded upper branches.

*Pruning azaleas.* Azaleas require relatively less pruning, but some deciduous ones thrive better if the old shoots are periodically cut back to the ground to give new shoots growing room. Some azaleas that sprout vigorously or send up suckers from the spreading roots need to be thinned occasionally at the ground to prevent excessive bushiness. Azaleas can be made more compact by heading back the new growth a few inches in early summer.

(*Pruning* by Robert L. Furniss, 1979)

**7) *Myth: Uncomposted wood chips can spread pathogenic fungi and bacteria to healthy roots***

Fungal species in decomposing wood chips are generally decomposers, not plant

Pathogens. Healthy soil communities include mycorrhizal species needed for optimum root health. Under healthy (aerobic) soil conditions, beneficial and harmless fungi usually outcompete pathogenic fungi. Healthy plants are not susceptible to opportunistic fungal pathogens. Keep mulch away from trunks of trees and shrubs to prevent opportunistic pathogen infection.

(Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, Wash. State. Univ.)

***8) Myth: Rhododendrons are allelopathic, preventing other plants from growing.***

Juniper, sun flowers, yews, raspberries, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and black walnut (Juglone) have this allelopathic property. The chemicals in Juniper and Canada thistle seem to be selective pre-emergence herbicides preventing germination or attacking young seedlings, while Juglone seems to be a general herbicide to some plants attacking through the roots.

(James Merryweather, http://www.slef.org.uk/userfiles/file/slef-pdfs/rhododendron_poisons_the_soil.pdf)

ARSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the American Rhododendron Society

**Every purchase benefits the ARS**

**ARSStore.org has no expenses, only earnings.**

At the October 4, 2013, ARS Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized the creation of an online ARS website that would not be selling items but would link to other providers. The online store was authorized to use the ARS logo and name to sell ARS logo merchandise and develop a relationship with Amazon as an affiliate store. Product providers accessed through the ARS online store at ARSStore.org pay referral fees directly to the ARS on sales made from ARSStore.org referrals. These fees from sales referrals go 100% to the ARS.


The store has three divisions:

1. **ARS Logo Merchandise**: featuring knit, woven and denim shirts, jackets, caps, visors, and computer briefcases.
2. **Amazon Merchandise**: featuring Rhododendron & Azalea Books, Garden Books, Garden Tools, and any other item sold on Amazon.
3. **Participating Merchants**: featuring other merchants who agree to give referral fees to the ARS for each purchase when you mention ARSStore.org .

To access each division, go to ARSStore.org and from there select what interests you. If you don't see an item, use the Amazon search feature. Amazon sells just about everything. You get the same low Amazon prices from the ARS store, but by using it the ARS gets a fee for referring you. As long as you go to Amazon from ARSStore.org before making a purchase, the ARS gets a referral fee.


You may wonder if people who are not members of the ARS may use ARSStore.org. Yes, most certainly! The objective of creating the ARSStore website is to raise money for the ARS. The more money we raise, the better it is for the ARS. Invite all of your friends to use it.

The referral rate starts at 4%. If a total of 7 or more items are purchased from Amazon in a month, the rate is 6% or more. Typically it will be between 6% and 6.5%. It is 17% on ARS Logo Merchandise.

At ARSStore.org, every purchase you make results in a contribution to the ARS at no additional cost either to you or to 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.

## 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

## Select ARS Commercial Members

Bovees Nursery, Portland, Oregon (vireyas)
Greer Gardens, Eugene, Oregon
Rarefind Nursery, Jackson, New Jersey
Van Veen Nursery, Portland, Oregon *
* Van Veen Nurseries does custom propagating. This is a member service and not an endorsement.

**From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:**

## Pauline's Special Chicken

2 10-oz. pkgs. frozen or 2 bunches of fresh broccoli
2 cups sliced, cooked chicken or 3 chicken or turkey breasts, cooked & boned
2 cans condensed cream of chicken or cream of celery soup
1 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon curry powder
½ cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
½ cup soft breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon butter or margarine melted

Cook broccoli in boiling, salted water until tender; drain. Arrange broccoli in greased 11 ½ x 7 ½ x 1 1/2 –inch baking dish. Place chicken on top. Combine soup, mayonnaise, lemon juice and curry powder; pour over chicken. Sprinkle with cheese. Combine breadcrumbs and butter; sprinkle over all. Bake in moderate 350° oven for 25 – 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Trim with pimento strips. Makes 6-8 servings.

## 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

## Student Membership

Student membership in the ARS is available to young people under 18 and those over 18 with student ID. The ARS would like to encourage young people to join our Society by making it affordable. With their membership, they will receive an electronic version of the Journal but not a paper copy.

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

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

# *NEWSLETTER*

***January/February 2015***



## In This Issue



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| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| Treasurer: | Chris Smetana | (610) 688-5249 |
| Secretary: | Joan Warren | (610) 913-0005 |
| Directors: | | |
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| Kathy Woehl (‘12-’15) | | (610) 688-9173 |
| Steve Henning (‘13-’16) | | (610) 987-6184 |
| Darlene Henning (‘13-’16) | | (610) 987-6184 |
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| John Ryan (‘14-’17) | | (610) 971-2368 |
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| Newsletter Editor: | Steve Henning | (610) 987-6184 |
| Plant Sale: | Chris Smetana | (610) 688-5249 |
| Plants-for-Members: | Jim Willhite | (484) 887-0232 |
| Programs: | Alice Horton | (610) 430-0196 |
| Truss Show (V.F.): | Debby Schmidt | (610) 388-8573 |
| Webmaster: | Jim Willhite | (484) 887-0232 |

**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**).