

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

Web site: www.ValleyForgeARS.org

NEWSLETTER ***January / February 2017***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

Calendar at a Glance

- Jan. 8 (Sun.) GP monthly meeting at Morris Arboretum
- Jan. 15 (Sun.) 2:00 pm, Bob & Rosa McWhorter, "Gardens of Germany & Denmark"**
- Feb. 19 (Sun.) 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Meeting House, Ron Rabideau, "Growing Species"**
- March 11-18 Philadelphia Flower Show (Fri to Sun)
- March 16 (Thu.) 7:30 pm, Steve Wright, "Evergreen Azaleas"**
- April 27-30 ARS 2017 Convention, Eureka, California (Thu to Sun)
- May 5-7 Valley Forge Chapter's Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum (Fri to Sun.)**
- May 14 (Sun.) Joint Greater Philadelphia/Valley Forge Flower Show at Jenkins**
- June 25 (Sun.) Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic, location TBA**
- August 20 (Sun.) District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction, location TBA

President's Message

One good thing about the recent cold weather is it kills a lot of harmful insects. We had very dry conditions up until a few weeks ago, but the recent rains will give the plants needed moisture heading into winter.

Our annual banquet at St David's was a great success. We had so many register early that they opened up the entire ballroom for our group. Bruce Feller transported us to his beautiful property on Long Island where he emphasizes woody companion plants for rhododendrons. I did neglect to recognize two of our great friends who passed away early in 2016. Please turn your thoughts to all that Win Howe and Randy Dalton did for the ARS and their inspiration to all of us. Also, sadly, past ARS President and our friend, Ted Stecki passed away this past month.

Congratulations to Charlie Odenweller on his Bronze Medal and all his years of managing the plant sale checkout among other contributions.

Sunday, January 15 at 2 pm we will gather for a chapter meeting at Jenkins. Bob and Rosa McWhorter will show pictures of the Gardens of Germany. Our joint meeting with the GP chapter at Uwchlan is set for 2 pm Feb. 19 with Ron Rabideau, formerly from Rare Find Nursery. Please join us for both these programs and bring friends!

All the best in 2017,

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

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

On January 15th (Sunday), at Jenkins Arboretum at 2:00 PM.

Bob and Rosa McWhorter: Gardens of Germany and Denmark



In May of 2014, Bob and Rosa McWhorter joined a small group of other ARS members who took a remarkable trip to see public and private gardens in Northern Germany and Denmark, some of the finest rhododendron gardens in the world. That region is a center for rhododendron hybridizing, also. The

McWhorters went through their images, selecting the best to put in a PowerPoint show so they can share some of that wonderful trip with us. Our January meeting will be a chance to enjoy images of their trip including lovely landscapes and gorgeous flowers.



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

On February 21 (Sunday), 2:00 pm at Uwchlan Meeting House:

Ron Rabideau: “Rhododendron Species for the Mid-Atlantic”



Ron crossing the 600-foot-long Tuting Bridge suspended 300 feet over Siang river in India.

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

Ron grew up in Massachusetts loving plants from his early childhood. He now considers himself a "plant fiend". His grandmother taught him to grow vegetables when he was about eight and his father taught him to deadhead rhodies not long after that. Before coming to Rare Find in 1997, Ron received his BS in Plant and Soil Science from the U. Mass. He has been a rhododendron and

daylily hybridizer since 1987, and member of the American Rhododendron Society since the early 1980's. Ron puts his passion for new plants to work seeking new and noteworthy plants. He has participated in four plant and seed collection expeditions: China (2000), Tibet (2002), Arunachal Pradesh, India (2005), and the Altai Mountains, Siberia (2007).

At Rare Find, Ron developed stock plant collections of rare and unusual rhododendrons

and other genera. He is a propagator, hybridizer, finder of rare plants and experienced photographer. He researched and wrote detailed and interesting plant descriptions for their mail order catalog and website. This work which is still online is one of the few good online references on rhododendrons and other plants. We couldn't ask for a more qualified speaker on rhododendron species for our area.

Refreshments will be provided by the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge chapters

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.

Congratulations to Bronze Medal Recipient, Charles Odenweller

At the recent Valley Forge Chapter banquet, Charles Odenweller was presented the Valley Forge Chapter's highest award, the Bronze Medal.



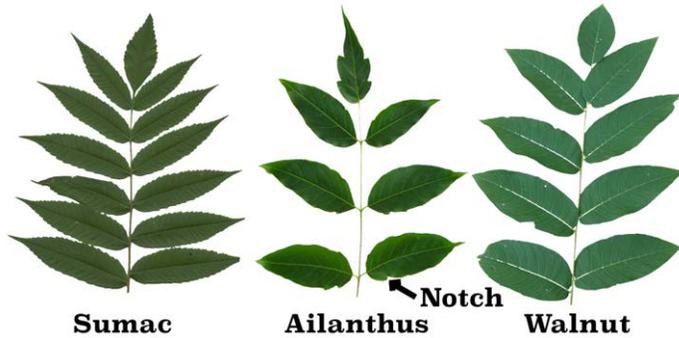
As a token of our esteem and with our sincerest appreciation, the Valley Forge Chapter is pleased to present you, Charlie, with our highest award, the Bronze Medal.

For many years, you have been an active member and loyal supporter of the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. You have been a key member of the Annual Plant Sale Committee for 15 years and have been indefatigable in maintaining the plant sale customer database.

You and your granddaughters have been a mainstay as cashiers for the plant sale, handling hundreds of customers over the three-day sale. You always made time though, to look around the plant sale and to buy more plants for your own garden.

It is therefore with great pleasure that the Bronze Medal is awarded to you this 13th day of November 2016.

aggressively. Orchards and vineyards in our area are finding the commonly used pesticides are also controlling the Spotted Lanternfly.



Sumac **Ailanthus** **Walnut**
Sumac and walnut leaves are not truly opposite and don't have a significant petiole. Ailanthus leaves have pronounced notches near the base.

The best advice that I can give is to remove as many of the exotic invasive Ailanthus trees in your community as possible. The state is hiring crews to try to remove Ailanthus trees in areas surrounding the infestation. They intentionally leave a few trees to attract any Spotted Lanternfly in the area so they can be trapped or killed. They have sticky traps they place around the tree near the base since they are constantly falling off the trees and climbing back up. Ailanthus are not shade tolerant so they usually grow along fence rows, roads, and on the south side of a forest. Ailanthus produces an allelopathic chemical called ailanthone, which inhibits the growth of many types of plants nearby. After Ailanthus are removed in an infested area, the Spotted Lanternfly will go to any tree but is especially attracted to willows, maples, poplars, tulip poplars, birch, ash, and others.

Important links:

<http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly/news/2016/what-to-do-if-you-find-spotted-lanternfly>

<http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly>

http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/protect/plantindustry/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx

Being a type of leaf hopper, they don't fly away as you would expect, but instead jump like a grasshopper when disturbed. In mid jump, they spread their wings and fly to a spot usually lower than where they started. They can't move very far by themselves. The thing they can do is leave many egg masses containing 30 to 50 eggs. The egg masses are the only stage that survives our cold winters. Hence, there is an effort to remove and destroy egg masses from trees in the infested area. Since the egg masses are well disguised, they are seldom found unless it is known that adults were in the area.



Once you identify a female Ailanthus tree they are easy to spot with large clusters of winged reddish seeds that helicopter as they fall.

Since egg masses are laid on any object left outside, Spotted Lanternflies are frequently spread when objects with egg masses such as firewood, recreational vehicles, toys, and lawn furniture are moved to another place. The quarantine areas make sure that items in commerce are inspected before being moved, and that homeowners self-inspect items before they move them.

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.

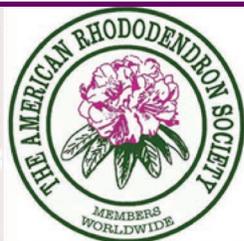
Checking label information: After you have prepared your list (as outlined above), thoroughly check and recheck using your own resources. Have someone else give your list a check. If you need help you may e-mail Eva Jackson (noelevajackson@comcast.net) for a final check of spelling and other errors (yes, 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.

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The Philadelphia Flower Show wants you

By Michael Martin Mills



2016 Smoky Mountains NP Display

Holland is the theme of the 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show. This is fortunate since Holland has given us countless greenhouse azaleas and many Koster rhododendrons including Nova Zembla, America, Lamplighter, and Mrs. G. W. Leak.

ARS members are needed to set up the exhibit and to serve as docents during the show, which runs March 11-17.

There's minimal heavy lifting, and it's great fun to be able to wander the floor of the

convention center to see the other exhibits being installed. (Tip: the set-up badge will get you into the center through Thursday afternoon, by which point most exhibits will be close to complete.)

Docents staff the exhibit for a four-hour morning, afternoon or evening shift, and are welcome to spend the rest of the day taking in

the show. Translate: it's free admission (rather than \$27 and up per person). What do the docents do? Answer questions and tout rhododendrons (as we do all the time already).

While the Greater Philadelphia Chapter takes the lead on creating the exhibit, all ARS members in the area are welcome and invited to join set-up and/or take a docent shift.

For set-up, contact Linda Hartnett (lindahartnett@gmail.com; 215-287-0731). For docent scheduling, contact Michael Mills (mmm19119@gmail.com; 215-527-7145).

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

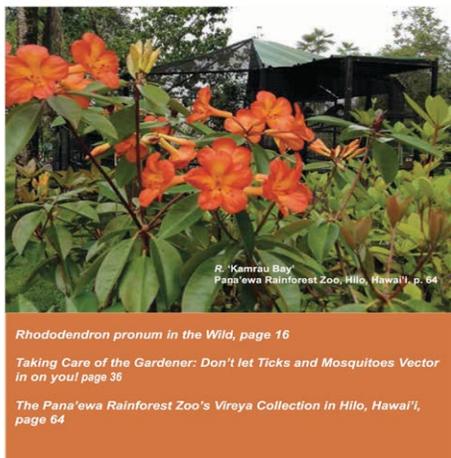
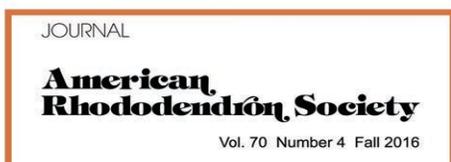
ARSStore.org Financial Report:

During the first 36 months of operation ending November 30, 2016, the store earned \$2,077 on sales of \$38,000. Just for 2016, the store earned \$1,158.

Most all sales are through the ARS Amazon store at <http://ARSStore.org>.

Thanks to everyone who uses ARSStore.org

Journal of the ARS and the new Rhododendrons International are online



This quarterly journal of the ARS is published in both paper and online versions for ARS members. ARS quarterlies older than five years are available free of charge at the Virginia Tech University Digital Library.

Send submissions to: ars.editor@gmail.com
<http://rhododendron.org/journal.htm>

This is a new on-line rhododendron journal not associated with any existing rhododendron organization. It will bring forward articles in English on any aspect of rhododendrons that are perceived to be of general interest to rhododendron enthusiasts world-wide.

<http://www.rhododendron.org/ri-index.htm>

ARS 2017 Spring Convention

April 27-30, 2017 - Eureka, CA
Red Lion Hotel & Conf. Center

The ARS Eureka Chapter will host the 2017 ARS convention in Humboldt County, CA.



The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99 per room per night. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. The new, Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the hotel will be our meeting and program venue. Convention

attendees can walk, drive or take a shuttle between the hotel and the center.

Humboldt County has the greatest concentration of ancient redwood groves. Prairie Creek Redwoods State park contains herds of Roosevelt Elk and Fern Canyon and was one of the sites used in filming "Jurassic Park". Patrick's Point State Park shows off replicas, still in use, of local first-nation buildings and magnificent views of the rugged coastline cliffs and beaches where you can find agates.

Rhododendron macrophyllum can be found in abundance among the redwoods. Many open areas in the county host the Western Azalea, *Rhododendron occidentale*. There are many Victorian buildings in Eureka as well as in the Victorian Village of Ferndale.

For more information visit:

<http://eurekaohody.org/convention.php>



ARS 2018 Convention in Germany, "North America meets Europe"

The 2018 ARS Convention will be in Bremen, Germany. It will start around May 7, 2018, with optional tours before the convention and after the convention. The schedule may and probably will change slightly in the next couple months.

1st Pre-Tour: Optional 5 days visiting Dutch Gardens including Keukenhof Gardens

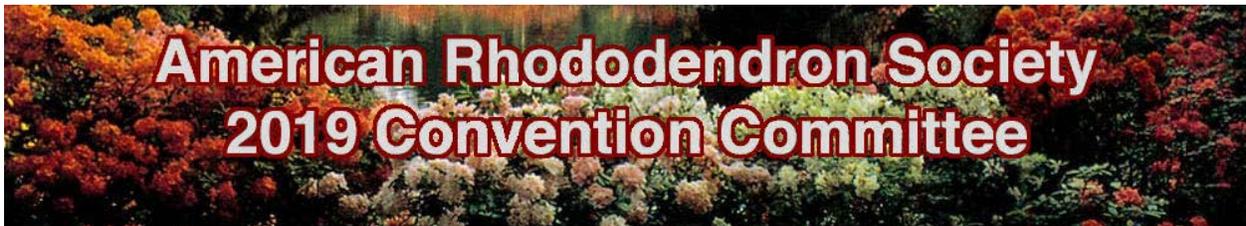
2nd Pre-Tour: Optional 2 days visiting RHODO 2018 Rhododendron Festival and Hachmann's

3rd Pre-Tour: Optional 7 days visiting public and private gardens in Denmark & Sweden

Convention: 6-day convention in Bremen from May 21 to 26 including 3 days of tours

Post-Tour: Optional 4 days visiting gardens in Finland.

Calendar this now! It is a do-not-miss event. You can start in Holland or Germany on one of the 3 pre-tours or at the convention. You can finish in Germany after the convention or in Finland after the post-convention tour. That means there are 8 possible combinations ranging from 6 days & nights for just the convention to 24 days & nights if you do everything: the 3 pre-tours, the convention, and the post-convention tour to Finland.



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.

May of 2019 may seem far off, but District 8 ARS members are definitely at work on the national convention to be held here then.

At a recent meeting, the committee selected Karel Bernady and Steve Henning to be Co-Chairs for the convention. The committee chose The Desmond as the convention hotel. It is planning one banquet 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 (Longwood, Mount Cuba, Chanticleer and others) and fine private gardens of members. Two days of evening speakers are being considered, and, in addition, a plant sale, breeders' roundtable, a

truss show, and a photo competition are envisioned.

Anyone interested in working on the planning committee is invited to contact Steve Henning (rhodyman@earthlink.net). We still have openings for the following committees:

- Bus Captains
- Corporate Sponsors
- Flower Show
- Hospitality
- Photography Show
- Raffle
- Silent Auction:

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 much more.

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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL



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Page 3 Bronze Medal: Charles Odenweller	Alice Horton ('14-'17) (610) 430-0196 John Ryan ('14-'17) (610) 971-2368 Ellin Hlebik ('15-'18) (610) 584-9764 Kathy Woehl ('15-'18) (610) 644-6249 Michele Hawk ('15-'18) (610) 687-9120 Darlene Henning ('16-'19) (610) 987-6184 Jerry O'Dell ('16-'19) (610) 608-2018
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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).