

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

Web site: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***August / September 2015***

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon

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

- August 16 (Sun.) 2:00 pm District 8 Cuttings Exchange and Auction at Wayne Guymon's  
August 22 (Sat.) Propagation workday at Kristoph Nursery. See P4M, page 3.  
September 13, (Sun.) Plants For Members sale – rooted cuttings, 2-year-old grafts. Morris Arboretum, Widener Center. 1:30 p.m. (nonmembers admitted at 2:30).  
October 15 (Thu.) 7:30 pm Liz Schumacher, "Gardening On Hillsides"  
October 16-18 ARS Fall Conference, Long Island, N.Y. See page 7 for details.  
November 15 (Sun.) 2:00 pm Annual Banquet at St. Davids, Speaker is Charles Cresson on "Camellias for the Rhododendron Garden" (Social hour starts at 1:00 pm)  
April 20-24, 2016 ARS Convention, Williamsburg, Va. See page 9 for details.

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

Our picnic outing to Chanticleer was a great success. Even the rains parted for our annual event. Everyone enjoyed the gardens, food and camaraderie. The officers and board members were duly elected/re-elected as proposed. My only disappointment was no one volunteered for my job. I love you guys, but at some point you have to tire of me and throw me out.

Don't forget the District 8 fundraiser on Aug 16 at the gardens of Doris and Wayne Guymon. Bring cuttings of your favorite plants so other members can replicate them over the winter. Also, bring adult plants to be sold at auction. All proceeds benefit the Endowment Fund and Research Foundation. Details appear nearby. Bring friends and family.

As we discussed at the picnic and elsewhere in this newsletter, the Valley Forge and Greater Philadelphia chapters will be combining forces on more events. Our September meeting will be at the GP meeting place at Morris Arboretum on Sunday Sept 13 where their P4M Sale will be open to all.

Our next meeting will be back at Jenkins 7:30pm Thursday Oct 15 featuring Liz Schumacher. Charles Cresson will be our November 15<sup>th</sup> banquet speaker. The GP chapter's November meeting will effectively be held at our banquet thereby ensuring a bigger audience. This coordination of more meetings and events should make both chapters stronger.

See you in August,

Bob Smetana

(610) 688-5249, [vfarsmetana@yahoo.com](mailto:vfarsmetana@yahoo.com)

Visit the Chapter's web site: [www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

Members of ALL area chapters are invited to the  
**RHODODENDRON & AZALEA CUTTINGS  
EXCHANGE AND PLANT AUCTION**

(Auctioneer: Karel Bernady)  
at Doris and Wayne Guymon's  
10 Lafayette Place, Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
(610) 459-0477



**Sunday, Aug. 16, starting at 2:00 p.m., rain or shine**

Proceeds benefit ARS Endowment Fund and Research Foundation

**Arrive early with cuttings.**

Cut 3 or 4 large-leaf (elepidote) or 4-6 small-leaf (lepidote) cuttings, preferably early in the morning and low on the plants. Place in a plastic bag with a few drops of water. Named varieties only, please! Please label the bags with a waterproof marker or pencil and add, if possible, info about characteristics or parentage.

**2:00 pm: Cuttings exchange/sale.**

Cuttings are 25 cents a bag for everyone and are an easy and inexpensive way to increase one's collection of azaleas and rhododendrons.

**2:30 pm: Plant Auction: Karel Bernady**

Please **donate rhodies and azaleas**, as well as other garden-worthy plants that you feel others would like.

**Important: It will help the auctioneer and the bidder if you write a description of plants that you donate for auction. Having such info will make for lively bidding, especially for one-of-a-kind or special plants.**

**3:00 pm: Propagation.**

Frank Brouse will expertly demonstrate how to propagate from cuttings.

**About 3:30 pm: Dessert.**

Please bring a dessert to share. (You also may bring a box lunch and eat it any time.)

**Beverages will be provided.**

Please bring your own chair(s).

If possible, **RSVP to Ellin Hlebik by August 9** or contact her for questions at 610/584-9764 or [leftwall@yahoo.com](mailto:leftwall@yahoo.com)

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**Here are the directions to the Guymons:**

**Going south of West Chester on US 322/202.**

From PA 926, go south 1 mi. to Stillman Volvo. Turn right on Old Wilmington Pike.

At 0.6 miles, name changes to Oakland Road. Continue another 0.6 miles to Webb Road. Turn right on Webb Road. Go 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Lafayette Place. Go 0.2 miles. Guymons are on cul-de-sac at end.

**Going north from US 1 on US 322/202.**

From US 1, go north 0.5 mi. to Oakland Rd. Turn left onto Oakland Road. Go 0.7 miles.

Turn left onto Webb Road. Go 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Lafayette Place. Go 0.2 miles. Guymons are on cul-de-sac at end.

**From Chadds Ford Post Office.**

Go east on US 1 0.4 miles to Webb Rd. Turn left onto Webb Rd. Go 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Lafayette Place. Go 0.2 miles. Guymons are on cul-de-sac at end.

**Lots of on-street parking.**

Also see our website:

[www.ValleyForgeARS.org](http://www.ValleyForgeARS.org)

**On September 13 (Sun.), P4M at 1:30 pm at Morris Arboretum, Widener Center.**

### **Plants for Members (P4M):**

On Sunday, Sept. 13, the Valley Forge (VF) Chapter will join the Greater Philadelphia (GP) Chapter for our first joint Plants For Members. This will be held in the Widener Center, at Morris Arboretum, 100 E Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. At the gate, just say you are with the Rhododendron Society and admission is gratis. Rooted cuttings and 2-year grafts will be available. This year we will be guests of the GP Chapter, but we will be joining GP in future years for a true joint P4M. As part of this effort VF members are invited to join GP members for their next propagation workshop:

#### **Propagation Workshop: Aug. 22 (Sat.)**

Propagation workday at Kristoph Nursery, 9 Roberts Rd, Millstone, NJ 08535, in central New Jersey. Cuttings will be stuck for rooting over the winter. Work will start at 9 a.m. and continue in the early afternoon. Bring your own lunch. Contact Karel Bernady 610-827-0113 or [bernadk@verizon.net](mailto:bernadk@verizon.net) for directions and more information.

For more details on this and other GP ARS hosted events, visit their website at [https://sites.google.com/a/gpchapterars.org/gpc\\_ars/home](https://sites.google.com/a/gpchapterars.org/gpc_ars/home)

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**On October 15 (Thursday), at 7:30 pm:**

### **Liz Schumacher: “Gardening On Hillsides”**

In 1967, Liz and her world renowned rheumatologist husband, Ralph, bought a house at the bottom of a very steep, barren hill. Necessity forced them into education.

Liz began studying horticulture at the Barnes Foundation and together they began collecting specimen plants. As the years passed and the terraced hill developed into an award winning garden, Liz and Ralph began the search for appropriate ornaments to incorporate in the garden design. As they traveled the world for Ralph’s lectures, they began to accumulate unique artifacts from many countries and cultures. In 1979 with encouragement from family and friends, Liz founded Garden Accents!



Liz now writes articles and lectures at universities, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and garden clubs around the country on garden design and the use of garden ornaments. Her pieces have enhanced many award winning exhibits at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show as well as the Vassar Design House and other local events. In 1996, Garden Accents won the blue ribbon for their first commercial booth at the Philadelphia Flower Show and again received a First Prize in 1999 and 2000. Philadelphia Magazine rated Garden Accents “Best of Philly” in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2006. Besides gardening, Liz enjoys antiques, folk art, tennis, paddle tennis, traveling, reading and her three wonderful grandchildren.

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**On November 15 (Sunday), Banquet at St. Davids GC at 2:00 , Social Hour at 1:00 pm:**

### **Charles Cresson: “Camelias in the Rhododendron Garden”**

## 2015 Joint Rhododendron & Azalea Flower Show Results from Sunday, May 10

| Number of Ribbons Awarded    | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jenkins, Harold Sweetman     | 9               | 11              | 2               |
| Bob Stamper                  | 4               | 14              | 4               |
| Michael Mills & Randy Dalton | 6               | 3               | 7               |
| Sue & Marc Thomson           | 9               | 6               | 5               |
| Joe Minahan                  | 1               | 3               | 2               |
| Perc Moser                   | 3               | 2               |                 |
| Kathy Woehl                  | 1               | 1               | 1               |
| Bob Smetana                  | 1               | 3               | 0               |
| Michele Hawk                 | 1               |                 |                 |
| Joan Warren                  |                 | 1               |                 |
| Mimi Hafer                   |                 |                 | 1               |
| George Elser                 |                 |                 | 1               |
| Randell Jesup                |                 |                 | 1               |



Debby Schmidt chaired the 2015 Joint VF and GP Flower Show. The show was the best in recent years. Mother nature finally cooperated.

Joseph Minahan of Camp Hill, Pa., took Best in Show with his entry of ‘Cape White’, which also won the trophy for Best Elepidote Rhododendron.

Best Evergreen Azalea was ‘Coral Bells’ from the garden of Michael Mills and Randy Dalton.

The winning Jenkins entries were ‘Fort Knox’, Best Deciduous Azalea; ‘Pride of Split Rock’, Best Lepidote Rhododendron; and a hybrid of unknown parentage for Best Unnamed Hybrid. Jenkins also won the Sweepstakes Trophy for most points.

Judges this year were Frank Brouse, Mimi Favre, Linda Hartnett, Ann Howe, Win Howe, Bob Smetana, Chris Smetana, Will Smith, Bob Stamper, Christa Stamper, Ellen Steele and Barbara Winter. The trophies were presented at the chapter picnics at Chanticleer in Wayne, Pa.

As always when the show is at Jenkins on Mothers Day, many arboretum visitors passed through the exhibit and witnessed how diverse the genus is. Next year’s truss show will be hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

**Best in Show**, VF Chapter Trophy: ‘Cape White’, Joe Minahan

**Most Points**, Sweepstakes Trophy: Jenkins

**Best Rhododendron**, James & Sally Sorber Trophy: ‘Cape White’, Joe Minahan

**Best Evergreen Azalea**, ‘Coral Bells’, Michael Mills and Randy Dalton.

**Best Deciduous Azalea**, Francis & Pauline Raughley Trophy: ‘Fort Knox’, Jenkins

## Karel Bernady awarded ARS Gold Medal



*Karel Bernady, flanked by Steve Henning and Donald Hyatt, upon receiving the ARS Gold Medal in Sidney, British Columbia, at the ARS national conference in May.*

*By Michael Martin Mills*

There's no doubting the appropriateness of an honor when the award committee elevates the honoree to a level higher than the nominators were thinking. That's the back-story to the news that Karel F. Bernady, former president of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and indispensable man-about-the-genus, was awarded the American Rhododendron Society's Gold Medal.

The award was presented on May 9, 2015, at the society's annual conference in Sidney, British Columbia. It took some coaxing, but Karel was there to receive the award in person.

The Gold Medal is the highest award given by the society, and its recipients through the years include some exalted individuals, such as Joseph Gable, David Leach, Fred Galle, Peter Cox, and Hans Hachmann.

Karel is the fifth Greater Philadelphia Chapter member to receive the Gold Medal. The first four were John Wister (1962), Alfred Martin (1976), Gertrude Wister (1982) and Polly Hill (1990).

Peg Van Patton was the driving force in organizing nominating letters for Karel to receive the Silver Medal. Well into the process, word was passed to Peg that the nominators might think more grandly. Various letters touting Karel's award-worthiness were amended to recommend the gold. The Honors Committee of the society, chaired by Dee Daneri, receives nominations and determines whether an award is to be granted.

At the [Greater Philadelphia] chapter picnic in June, Ann Mangels, Eastern Vice President of the society, did a reprise presentation of the Gold Medal, reading the citation for all to hear.

Ann, who is next in line to become national ARS president, also explained the differences in the three medals the society bestows. Chapters award bronze Medals to individuals who have made a significant mark on chapters affairs. Both the Silver and Gold are awarded at the national level. The Silver, Ann explained, is not a “junior gold medal,” but is intended to recognize exemplary work at a regional level. Someone receiving the Gold Medal has offered noteworthy service to the society on a national level.

Here’s are excerpts from nominators’ letters: “Karel is a facilitator, one of those behind-the-scenes persons who is a catalyst that causes many other wonderful things to happen in our organization. He is extremely generous with his time and resources, and yet he never seeks praise for his efforts. ... Karel is both a leader and a team player. ... Few people in the ARS realize that Karel has a Ph.D. in chemistry because he never boasts of his accomplishments. His strong background in science has served our society well, since he has ably chaired the ARS Research Foundation for a number of years.” – Donald Hyatt“

If you're curious about propagation, this Mr. Rhododendron is a one-stop-shopping font of expertise. The number of plants he has propagated for the Greater Philadelphia Chapter is flabbergasting – but not uncountable, because he keeps immaculate and copious records..” – Michael Martin Mills

“Dr. Karel Bemady has lived up to the term amateur in the true sense of the word, which is derived from the French word meaning ‘lover

of.’ This is the fundamental motivation for all of his dedicated efforts. He loves this work and the genus rhododendron, from the bogs of Sandwich to his efforts on Roan Mountain to conserve the native deciduous azaleas. Driven by Karel’s search for knowledge, this body of work represents a true labor of love.” – Peter Norris

And here’s the text of the citation presented to Gold Medalist Bernady in May:

“Over the course of more than three decades you have distinguished yourself in countless ways as a member of the American Rhododendron Society contributing time, talent, and boundless energy to scores of projects which have educated and informed others.

“You have served as president Greater Philadelphia ARS Chapter; Chairman "Plants For Members"; District 8 Director; Co-Chaired the 2004 ARS International Convention; Chaired the 2009 Eastern Regional Conference; Chaired the Board of ARS Research Foundation; served on ARS Native Azalea Committee; on ARS Endowment Committee; and, ARS *Journal* Editorial Board

“In 2006 you received the Greater Philadelphia Bronze Award. Now teaching members grafting techniques, you have created a valuable electronic rooting/grafting database as a resource tool for ARS.

“For outstanding work and tireless efforts, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to award Karel F. Bernady, Ph.D. the Gold Medal.”



*Where every purchase benefits the  
American Rhododendron Society*

## A Meeting of Two Chapters



On June 2, the Valley Forge (VF) and Greater Philadelphia (GP) ARS Chapters had a joint board of director meeting after their regular individual board meetings.

The meeting discussed the strengths of each of the two chapters. GP has an outstanding propagation program and, hence, a great Plants for Members (P4M) program. GP also leads the efforts to have an ARS booth at the Philadelphia Flower Show every year. On the other hand, VF hosts the Joint Meeting at the Uwchlan Meeting House each February and the District 8 CutX and Auction each August. The Chapters already share responsibility for the Joint Meeting at Uwchlan and alternate sponsorship of the annual spring Flower Show with GP hosting it at Morris Arboretum and VF hosting it at Jenkins Arboretum.

Since VF has had some propagation snafus recently and GP has a very strong propagation program, GP agreed to make its propagation program a joint program with VF members invited to participate. Also, the P4M program would be hosted by GP and open to VF members.

In the spirit of mutual cooperation, the two chapters agreed to not have a chapter meeting during the month the other chapter has its banquet. That means that in November, VF would host both chapters at its banquet, and in April, GP would host both chapters at its banquet.

At no time was there any mention of a merger. The point was to build on the strengths of the two chapters. Hopefully this will initiate a new period of cooperation and create two stronger chapters.

## ARS Fall Meeting on Long Island



*Islandia Marriot, Long Island, NY*

The Fall ARS Conference will be held on Long Island on October 16-17. The event will start Friday afternoon when the Plant Sale and Book Sale open for the first time. Then from 6 to 8 PM will be a Welcome Reception with “hearty hors d’oeuvres”.

The program starts Saturday morning with Richard Murcott being featured as the opening speaker with the program, “Long Island Legacy”.

Following Richard Murcott will be Karel Bernady with a program on how he has used “Grafting Rhododendrons for Problem Solving.” His meticulous attention to detail and impeccable record keeping show how rooted cutting and grafted plants compare and what are the advantages of each method.

In the afternoon, Bud Gehrich will lead the Hybridizer’s Roundtable.

Don Hyatt will be the Banquet Speaker in the evening with a program, “Things I Tried That Died.”

The plant sale will include many plants not previously available due to rooting or disease problems. Most will be one-year grafts made by George Woodard and other Long Island hybridizers. The plants have been grown-on in Dick Murcott’s nursery, so they may be transported throughout the US without phytosanitary documentation.

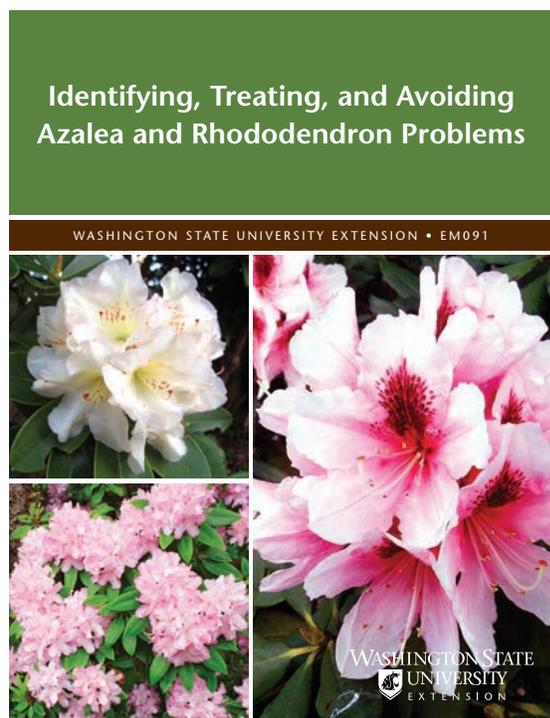
Details are at:

[http://www.rhododendron.org/2015\\_FallConference.htm](http://www.rhododendron.org/2015_FallConference.htm)

## Review of new WSU Extension booklet EM091:

# Identifying, Treating, and Avoiding Azalea and Rhododendron Problems

By Linda Chalker-Scott, M. Elliott, Sharon Collman, and Art Antonelli



This new 40-page booklet replaces the venerable 28-page WSU Extension booklet (EB1229) *How To Identify Rhododendron and Azalea Problems* which was released in 1984 and slightly updated in 1993.

At first glance, it looks much the same but a closer look reveals new content. The first difference is the new key which uses symptoms to identify problems.

EM091 covers some new problems that weren't covered before. They include Botrytis, Phytophthora Blight, root weevil larvae and witches broom. It is disappointing that it does not cover borers.

It still covers symptoms and causes, but a welcome addition is the discussion of prevention and treatment. However, treatment options always include: "See Hortsense (<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/>) for chemical and nonchemical management options."

Totally new is the section on environmental

problems. They include alkaline soil; cold injury to floral buds, vegetative buds and new leaves; cold response to leaves; drought; hypoxia; sunscald; iron and/or manganese deficiency; nitrogen deficiency; pesticide injury; phosphate fertilizer overuse; physiological leaf spot; planting and management errors; and salt damage.

The one major item that is missed is deer. They are probably a major problem in growing azaleas and rhododendrons

The booklet is available both as an [online PDF for \\$5](#) and in hard copy as a [40-page booklet for \\$10 plus shipping](#), about \$15 total. The images in the hard copy booklet are very small and the color rendition is very poor. The images are much better in the PDF. The color is not only much better, but they are high resolution and can be enlarged to get more detail.

For \$5, the PDF is definitely a best buy. Sadly, the poor picture quality in the hard copy is a real turn-off. If you much prefer a printed copy, then you will have to put up with it or spring for the much more expensive, *Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases and Pests*.

The new 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the comprehensive work, *Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases and Pests*, which came out earlier this year, sells for \$99 ([\\$79 to ARS members](#)).

For the serious amateur or the professional, the *Compendium* is definitely much more complete. However, the WSU booklet is definitely very cost effective. When combined with online sources including the WSU Hortsense website, the WSU booklet will suffice for most people. Again, the PDF version has superior picture quality.

## Coming ARS National Meetings

### 2015 Fall Regional Conference

October 16-17, 2015

Long Island, NY

Website:

[http://rhododendron.org/2015\\_FallConference.htm](http://rhododendron.org/2015_FallConference.htm)

### 2016 ARS/ASA Annual Convention,

April 20-24, 2016

Williamsburg, VA

Website: <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>

Both the 2015 Fall Regional Conference and 2016 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.

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## 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 appeared in the Fall 2014 Journal of the ARS.

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## In 2015, the Valley Forge Chapter of the ARS Supports the following:

- **ARS Endowment Fund**
- **ARS Research Fund**
- **Jenkins Arboretum**
- **Rhododendron Species Foundation**
- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Cons.**
- **Tyler Arboretum.**

## From A Guide for the Hungry Gardener:

### Barbara Winter's Bourbon Slush

2 tea bags

1 cup boiling water

½ cup sugar

1 6-oz. can ( $\frac{2}{3}$  cup) of frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed

3 ½ cup water

½ cup bourbon

½ 6-oz. can ( $\frac{1}{3}$  cup) of frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed.

Steep tea bags in 1 cup boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes. Remove tea bags. Add sugar and dissolve. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into freezer containers; freeze firm. Can be stored in freezer for long periods.

On a hot humid day, this is a great thirst quencher. Take out of freezer ½ hour before serving. It needs time to thaw to a slush consistency. Spoon into cocktail glasses. Makes 1 ½ quarts.

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## 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

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## ARS 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**  
*August / September 2015*



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| <b>ARS website: <a href="http://rhododendron.org">rhododendron.org</a></b>  | Alice Horton ('14-'17) (610) 430-0196  |
|   | John Ryan ('14-'17) (610) 971-2368   |
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|   | Programs: Alice Horton (610) 430-0196  |
|   | Truss Show (V.F.): Debby Schmidt (610) 388-8573  |
|   | Webmaster: Steve Henning (610) 987-6184  |
|   | <b>VF Chapter's web site: <a href="http://ValleyForgeARS.org">ValleyForgeARS.org</a></b> |

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](mailto:rhodyman@earthlink.net)).