



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Fall: October 2021

Chapter Officers

President: Carol Segree
csegree17@outlook.com
Secretary: Diane Reinke
Isabelle49@aol.com
Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman
rittwoman@gmail.com

Potomac Valley Chapter Calendar – 2021-2022

- **October 23-24, 2021** – ARS Fall Symposium, Online Meeting, FREE
- **November 7, 2021** – PVC Meeting, Potomac Com. Cntr., Karel Bernady
- **May 4-8, 2022** – ARS Convention, Portland, OR

Next Meeting: Karel Bernady “Rhododendron Eclectic”

Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Where: Potomac Community Center

This will be our first indoor meeting since January 2020! The date is Sunday, November 7, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We will meet at the Potomac Community Center but remember that Daylight Saving time ends that day so we will be turning the clocks back. An extra hour of sleep!

Our speaker will be Karel Bernady who will give his entertaining talk titled “Rhododendron Eclectic.” He will present a few brief topics with an uncommon thread including Rhododendrons in Nature’s Rock Garden, Pollinators Caught Unaware, and Rhododendrons Going Wild. The talk will highlight some of the observations he has made about the genus over many years.

Even though we hope all of you are fully vaccinated, Montgomery County still mandates that attendees at indoor meetings must wear masks regardless of status. Exceptions include when eating or drinking, or addressing a group.

Refreshment Duty: We ask members whose last names begin with (A – H) to bring a snack for the refreshment table.

Directions: Potomac Community Center

11315 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD

From I-270 North, stay in the Local lanes

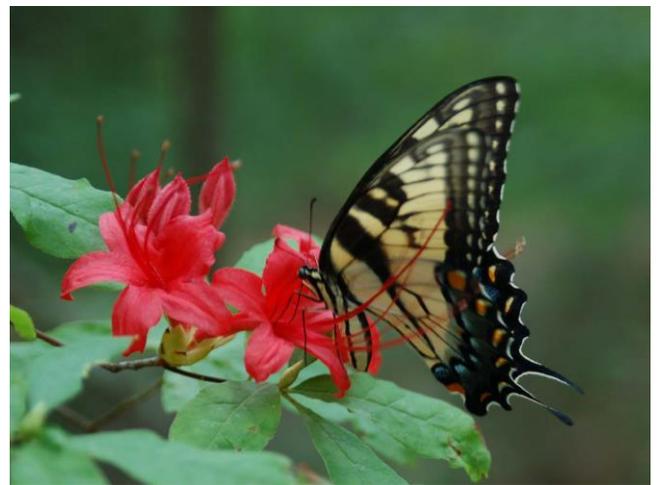
Take exit #4B/ MONTROSE RD WEST

Continue west on Montrose Rd. for 1.7 miles

Turn LEFT on FALLS RD (MD-189)

Continue 1.4 miles to the Center (on the left)

11315 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD 20854



Swallowtail Butterfly Pollinator on *R. prunifolium*



R. smokianum growing on a rock cliff

Reminder: Dues are Due!

It is that time of year to renew your membership in the ARS. Please consider adding a little extra to support some of our charitable causes, too.

About Our Speaker: Karel Bernady

Karel Bernady joined the American Rhododendron Society in 1977 as a member of the Princeton Chapter through the interests of a co-worker Frank Furman. After a series of corporate relocations, he served committee and officer duties for the Princeton, Tappan Zee and Greater Philadelphia Chapters. He is a past president of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and a member of its Board of Directors. His current Chapter activities include its Plants for Members Program, the Annual Plant Sale, and the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Karel is a member of the ARS Research Committee and he chairs the Research Foundation. Karel co-chaired the 59th ARS Convention in 2004 at King of Prussia, PA, the Eastern Regional Meeting in 2009 at Lionsville, PA and the 74th ARS Convention in 2019 at Malvern, PA.

He is a frequent attendee of annual and regional Society Conventions, and tours local gardens with camera and tripod in hand. In the company of fellow members, he has visited gardens on both coasts and in Germany and Scotland. He values immensely the friendship and generosity of the gardeners he has encountered and appreciates their sharing of knowledge and plant materials.

In the last few years Karel can be found exploring the native azaleas of the east coast. You may find him still lugging his heavy camera equipment up some steep slopes of the Appalachians. Identification of outstanding forms of our native beauties is his goal. He enjoys sharing his experiences and is a contributor of seeds to the ARS Seed Exchange.



Karel Bernady on the Trail Toting His Camera Equipment

Reminder: “Fall into Gardening” ARS Symposium / Virtual Conference Date: October 23-24

The ARS Chapters and Master Gardeners on Vancouver Island have put together two half-days of speakers from around the world for a virtual meeting. This webinar is in lieu of our usual fall ARS conference and is **FREE** to any interested persons. As of 10/19, we already have over 560 people signed up from around the world. You must, however, register advance. Although managed by Zoom, it is not like a typical session and nobody can see you. Just log on and watch the presentations that interest you.

The program will start at 9:00 AM Pacific Daylight Time but due to the three-hour time difference, it will begin at noon in our region. Our approximate starting times should be:

Saturday, October 23:

12:00 Noon – Welcome

12:05 PM – Hartwig Schepker (*Germany*)

Sichuan, China: A Plantsman’s Paradise

1:05 PM – Shannon Berch (*British Columbia*)

Your Living Soil

2:05 PM – David Sellars (*British Columbia*)

From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening

3:05 PM – Don Hyatt (*Virginia*)

A Walk in the Woods: Some Scenic Spots in the Southern Appalachians

Sunday, October 24:

12:00 Noon – Welcome Back

12:05 PM – David Millais (*England*)

Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons

1:10 PM – Linda Chalker-Scott (*Washington*)

Landscape Mulches – The Good, The Bad, and The Just Plain Ugly

2:10 PM – Richard Gionne (*Québec*)

Growing Rhododendrons in Québec’s Harsh Winters

3:20 PM – Don Wallace (*California*)

Fragrant Rhododendrons

Check out the ARS website for more info:

https://rhododendron.org/Fall_2021_Conference.pdf

Here is the URL where you can register. All they request is your email address so they can send you the link to join and avoid random disruptors.

<https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021>

Chapter Picnic

The September 12 picnic at Seneca Creek State Park was a grand success as shown below. It was so nice to see good friends after being isolated for so long. We dined on delicious fried chicken provided by the chapter and attendees brought a superb assortment of tasty side dishes. What a wonderful afternoon!

We elected Carol Segree as our new President and thanked Ginny Mohr for serving in that role since 2017. Thank you so much, Ginny! We really appreciate all you and Richard have done. Carol, we are here to help!

Carolyn and Paul Beck brought a trailer full of rhododendrons and azaleas that they donated to the chapter for our plant sale. Their generous contribution raised \$500 for the chapter. Wow! Thank you so much!



Carol Segree



Ginny Mohr



River Farm Plantation Saved!

We were really pleased to learn that River Farm Plantation, the historic childhood home of George Washington, will not go the way of real estate developers. The property has been the home for the American Horticultural Society for many years but was about to be sold due to financial problems. Fortunately, additional funds have become available so the property will not have to be sold and can remain the home for the AHS. This is the 100th anniversary of the AHS. What a nice present!

Holly Shinazu, TV personality and co-chair of the AHS Board, says that the AHS is now looking for someone to hire as Head of Horticulture for River Farm. If you know someone who might like to apply for the position, contact her:

hollyshimizu579@gmail.com

ARS Archives

The University of Virginia has housed the archives of the ARS for quite some time. They keep collections of documents and notes of past leaders in our society. We just learned that they have reposted a website built by Sandra McDonald that was so valuable for native azalea researchers. It contains descriptions and field notes of Henry Skinner during his 25,000-mile trek in 1951 in search of native azaleas. We still use them to find azalea populations.

<https://azaleas.lib.virginia.edu/>

Another university, Virginia Tech, is the home for electronic copies of past ARS Journals. We recently learned that the ARS e-journals are the most popular on the site. An article I wrote about our chapter field trip to Roan Mountain and Gregory Bald was the most requested, 14,000 downloads! (Vol. 59, No. 4)

<https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS>

75th ARS Anniversary Convention, Portland, Oregon: *May 4-8, 2022*



Cecil and Molly Smith Garden



Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden



Columbia River Gorge

The 2022 ARS Convention is a “Go”

The 75th Anniversary ARS Convention was planned for May of 2020 in Portland, OR, and adjacent Vancouver, WA, but was postponed due to the pandemic. All things seemed to be on schedule for holding it in 2022 but there have been some other complications including a resurgence of the Delta Variant of Covid-19.

Another problem has been the weather. As you may recall, the entire Pacific Northwest region was besieged by record high temperatures in the summer of 2021. It was the hottest in the past 120 years and was actually hotter there than in the Mojave Desert. A heat dome settled in over the region and seemed relentless. The high in Portland reached 116° F on Monday, June 28, setting the highest temperature ever recorded in the city for the third day in a row. Salem, OR, reached an incredible 117° which matched the highest temperature ever recorded in Las Vegas, NV. Needless to say, many rhododendrons suffered in the heat. Gardeners have been trying to minimize the damage to their plants.

The Portland Chapter and indeed the entire rhododendron world then suffered a tragic loss on August 10 with the untimely death of Harold Greer. Harold has been a motivating force in the ARS for many decades and was co-chair of the Convention. Fortunately, Steve McCormick has stepped up to assist the other co-chair, Mike

Stewart. They have had to make some changes to the program but the convention is on. Registration was supposed to open November 1 but has been delayed until December 1. Check out the convention website for details and any future updates. It looks like it will still be a great event!

<https://ars2022.org/>

Charitable Contributions

At the end of the year, we often think about making some charitable contributions. The ARS website has a page devoted to donations:

- 1) The ARS Endowment Fund – Proceeds from the fund are used to support many worthwhile projects and activities.
- 2) The ARS Research Foundation – This fund is used to support scientific research projects related to rhododendrons.

Here is a link to the ARS website which has forms and contact points for these two funds:

<https://www.rhododendron.org/donations.htm>

Remember the ARS Store!

When you purchase items online, please start at the ARS Store before linking to Target or Amazon. The rest of your transactions will be no different but the ARS gets a small commission!

<http://arsstore.org/>

Dazzled by Daffodils

By Don Hyatt

Every fall, I try to plant a few daffodil bulbs as companion plants for my rhododendrons and azaleas. Sometimes I will plant a broad sweep of one variety, maybe 50 to 100 daffodil bulbs to make a big statement. Other times I may have a cluster of a few bulbs that will serve as an accent. Deer don't eat daffodils! It is hard to beat that!!



'Fellow's Favorite'



'Fellow's Favorite' at Brent and Becky's Bulbs

For mass plantings, one of my favorites is 'Fellows Favorite', a variety developed by daffodil expert Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, VA. The flowers are not large, but the color is a clear, light yellow, slightly lighter in the center. It really stands out and seems to glow. It is a good perennializer and each year the bulbs multiply and produce even more flowers than the year before. The blossoms last much longer than many other varieties, too.



Masses of Daffodils at Brent and Becky's Bulbs



Hyatt Garden: Repeat Plantings for Balance and Unity

My garden is too small to plant masses the size of the display garden at Brent and Becky's Bulbs. My mass plantings are in front of shrub borders but I do like to repeat a smaller cluster of the same variety across the garden to provide asymmetrical balance and unity.

Another good variety for mass plantings is the dwarf 'Tete-a-Tete' which is very tough and multiplies year after year. I have planted them around hostas to discourage voles. The narcissus 'Ice Follies' also multiplies rapidly but the white flowers with cream colored cups don't seem to last as long for me, especially if we get a stretch of warm weather while they are in bloom.



Dwarf Daffodil 'Tete-a-Tete'

I like to use small clusters of bulbs as accent plants. Since I have wildflowers in many parts of my garden, I am partial to the more delicately colored daffodils that fit in better with a wild garden. One of my all-time favorites is 'Thalia' with its reflexed blooms of pure white. A few of them tucked beside a rhododendron species or in front of a native azalea seem perfectly at home.

I also like the pale yellow 'Avalon' with its delicate white cup. It seems to blend into the wild landscape very well. I have had a few scattered among blue and white forms of our native Blue Bells, *Mertensia virginica*.



'Avalon'



'Thalia'



Glenn Dale 'Dream' and Daffodils

Of course, I do have other places in my garden where I grow evergreen azaleas with brilliant colors. Those areas can certainly handle stronger accents and daffodils in brilliant colors. I do try to select late-blooming daffodil varieties that will bloom with my early rhododendrons and azaleas. In areas of the garden where I have later blooming plants, then I use early blooming daffodils in bright colors without worrying about clashes. It is great to have brightly colored daffodils to welcome in the spring. I do try to keep them away from the more subtle harbingers of spring like hellebores and wildflowers. They'd be too dominant!



'Chromacolor'



'Delibes'



'Gentle Giant'



'Pinza'



'Pink Charm'



'Brackenhurst'

Sadly, I didn't get around to ordering any daffodils this year. Although there is plenty of time to plant in November and December before the ground freezes, many of the fancy varieties I wanted to try are already sold out. However, even the old standards are worth growing. Daffodils are great to cut and bring indoors so I can surely find a spot for a few more. We often say there are no bad native azaleas and I think the same is true for daffodils!



'Gigantic Star'



'Mount Hood'



'British Gamble'



'Las Vegas'



'Pineapple Prince'



'Bravoure'



'Sentinel'



'Can Can Girl'



'High Society'

Please note that Katherine Sterner, the Membership Chair of the ARS, has moved. Her new address is:
P.O. Box 43, Craryville, NY 12521

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS - Newsletter
Donald W. Hyatt, Editor
donaldhyatt@verizon.net



**Potomac Valley Chapter
of the
American Rhododendron Society**

The Potomac Valley Chapter ARS is one of three American Rhododendron Society chapters located in District 9 which represents the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. Some chapter activities include:

- Regular Meetings with Speakers
- Annual Chapter Banquet
- Garden Tours
- Field Trips to Nurseries or to Wild Stands of Native Azaleas and Rhododendrons
- Local and National Seed Exchanges
- Plants for Members Program
- Flower Show
- Informative Chapter Newsletters
- Annual Photography Contest
- Access to Chapter Library Books

Our regular chapter meetings are usually held four times a year at the Potomac Community Center in Potomac, MD, on Sunday afternoons. However, we do hold occasional meetings at other locations in nearby Maryland, Virginia, or Washington, DC.

We encourage you to check out our chapter website which includes at least 16 years of previous newsletters that contain interesting articles, more color pictures, and examples of past activities:

www.arspvc.org

As a member of our local chapter you will also become a member at the national level of the American Rhododendron Society. This entitles you to a year's subscription of their outstanding quarterly **Journal** filled with information and many color pictures. You will also be invited to attend national conventions or regional conferences.

The cost of ARS membership is \$40 per year and includes membership in a chapter of your choice, such as our Potomac Valley Chapter. If you are already a member of another ARS Chapter, you may join the Potomac Valley Chapter as an Associate Member for only \$10 per year but you will need to identify your home chapter.

For more information about the American Rhododendron Society, check out their website:

www.rhododendron.org

**Membership Application
*American Rhododendron Society***

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip/Country _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships are on a calendar year basis and include the local chapter membership:

Individual/Family.....	\$40.00
Student (proof of age required).....	10.00
Commercial/Corporate.....	90.00
Sustaining	75.00
Sponsoring.....	150.00
Life, single	1,000.00
Life, family.....	1,500.00
Associate Membership*.....	10.00

**Associate Members must identify home chapter*

I would like my “home” chapter to be the Potomac Valley Chapter

To join our chapter, you may contact our treasurer:

**POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER ARS
PVC-ARS Chapter Treasurer
prittwoman@gmail.com**

You may also send this form with US Funds payable to the national organization:

**AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 43
Craryville, NY 12521**

To pay online by credit card, follow the link to “Membership” on the ARS website:

www.rhododendron.org

More ARS National Contact Points:

Phone (631) 533-0375

Email: member@arsoffice.org