



# Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

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

Fall Newsletter: October 2025

## Potomac Valley Chapter ARS Calendar – Fall 2025

- Saturday, Oct 4: Membership Table, London Town Gardens Fall Sale
- Thursday, Oct 9: PVC Chapter Picnic, Seneca Creek State Park
- November 1 – 2: MAC Fall Meeting, Fredericksburg – Brent Heath
- November 2: NV-ASA Meeting, Springfield, VA – Kathy Jentz
- December 3: PVC Fall Banquet, Hidden View Farm, Annapolis, MD

### Chapter Officers

**President:** Carol Segree  
[csegree17@outlook.com](mailto:csegree17@outlook.com)  
**Treasurer:** Phyllis Rittman  
[rittwoman@gmail.com](mailto:rittwoman@gmail.com)  
**Membership:** Norm Beaudry  
[beaunorm@gmail.com](mailto:beaunorm@gmail.com)

## Potomac Valley Chapter Picnic

Where: Seneca Creek State Park

11950 Clopper Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM

We are returning to Seneca Creek State Park for our fall picnic. We are trying an afternoon luncheon on Thursday, October 9, from 11 AM – 2:30 PM. Please join us.

The Fawn Pavilion is the large covered picnic facility we have used for many years and is located on the south side of Clopper Lake. Follow the signs, or ask for directions at the gate. We intend to eat promptly at noon so people can head home before rush hour traffic. The park does charge a nominal entry fee per person collected at the gate.

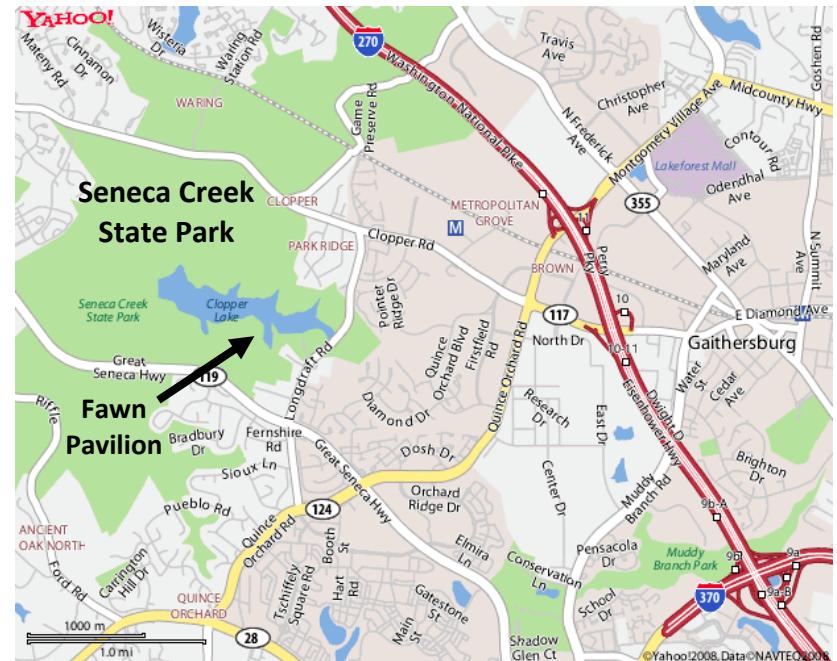
The chapter will provide fried chicken and eating utensils, but we ask attendees to bring something to supplement a typical picnic. We need someone to bring drinks such as sodas, iced tea, or bottled water. We ask others to bring sides such as a salad, veggies, casseroles, chips, desserts, or some dish you would like to try out on our group. Reminder: Alcoholic beverages are **not allowed** in the park.

**RSVP by Friday, October 3.** Please let **Carol Segree** know if you are planning to come and what you intend to bring. We need numbers in advance so we can order enough chicken for our picnic.

[csegree17@outlook.com](mailto:csegree17@outlook.com)

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Take I-495 to I-270N toward Frederick
2. Merge onto I-270 Local N
3. Take the Exit #10 West, toward MD Rt. 124
4. Turn RIGHT onto MD 117 (Clopper Rd)
5. Turn LEFT into the Park: 11950 Clopper Rd



## Save the Date! PVC Fall Banquet

Where: Richard Bradshaw's "Hidden View Farm"

702 Defense Hwy, Crownsville, MD 21032

<https://hiddenviewfarm.org/>

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Speaker: Joe Bruso – Rhododendron Hybridizing

Richard Bradshaw has once again offered the use of his pavilion for our fall banquet. Our speaker will be Joe Bruso from Massachusetts who will show some of his exciting new hybrids. Registration materials and details will be sent later. **Save the date: 12/03/2025**

## **Reminder – Dues are Due!**

Dues notices for 2026 should be arriving in the mail soon. A copy of the new dues structure can be found on the last page of this email but in general, if you want to receive a hard copy of the ARS Journal, the price of regular membership will increase to \$50 a year. You will also have access to the new digital version of the Journal. For those who wish to get only the digital version of the Journal, regular membership will remain at \$40 per year.

We appreciate our many Associate members, those who are already a member of another chapter and want to belong to our chapter as well. That way they will receive our newsletters and can attend our activities. The Associate Membership fee is \$10 per year.

Payments must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Make checks payable to **Potomac Valley Chapter ARS** and mail to our membership chair:

**Norman Beaudry**  
**PVC-ARS Membership Chair**

Questions: **Beaunorm@gmail.com**

If your membership is current, you can renew online and pay by credit card at the ARS website:

**[www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)**

Any regular members who have already paid several years ahead will need pay an additional \$10 per year to receive the printed copy of the Journal. Otherwise, their memberships will automatically be converted to the Digital only category. Life members will receive Print and Digital but should contact the chapter annually to verify personal details.

Associate membership payments to other chapters may be more difficult to pay online so those fees are probably best paid by check to the chapter of interest.

We need a valid email address for every member. Please make sure you **print** your preferred email address **very clearly** on your renewal form.

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## **London Town and Gardens Plant Sale**

**Information Table: October 4 - 8 AM to 1 PM**

Our chapter will be hosting an information table at the plant sale being held at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, MD, on October 4. We are not selling plants but will have a table next to the Master Gardeners so we can answer questions about azaleas and rhododendrons. We will be looking for potential members, too. Care to help out for a while?

**<https://www.historiclondontown.org/plantsale>**

## **MAC Fall Meeting: *Fredericksburg***

**November 1-2, 2025**

The Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS has invited us to join them for their fall meeting in Fredericksburg. With membership numbers dwindling in most plant societies, it is becoming more important that we join forces whenever possible to be able to offer exciting programs for our members. The event will be staged at the Hilton Garden Inn Fredericksburg.

The weekend meeting will begin on Saturday afternoon with registration from 4 to 6 PM. That is a great time to socialize with other plant people. The buffet dinner will start at 6 PM followed by keynote speaker, Brent Heath from Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, VA. Brent is a world-renowned bulb expert and daffodil hybridizer. The family business is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> year in the horticulture industry and Brent will be speaking on "Bulbs as Companion Plants". He is very entertaining!



Brent Heath



'Fellows Favorite'

On Sunday morning, Don Hyatt will lead off the program at 9 AM with a few humorous anecdotes of his experiences. He titles the talk, "Rhododendron Potpourri". That will be followed by a brief MAC business meeting, a sale of unusual companion plants, and then an auction. The meeting should conclude by noon. That will give people time to make the meeting of the Northern VA Chapter ASA in Springfield on Sunday afternoon.

The registration fee for the meeting is \$40 plus \$35 for the buffet meal. Make checks payable to MAC-ARS and send by **October 10** to:

**Debby Sauer, Treasurer**  
**[ddsauer@gmail.com](mailto:ddsauer@gmail.com)**

Make room reservations with the hotel by **Oct 2** and give the **group code 912** to get the rate of \$129.

**Hilton Garden Inn Fredericksburg**  
**1060 Hospitality LA, Fredericksburg, VA 22401**  
**Phone: 1-540-548-8822**

For more information or questions, contact MAC president, Doug Jolley:

**[aplectrumwv@yahoo.com](mailto:aplectrumwv@yahoo.com)**

## Favorite Plants – “BFBY”



‘Bob Furman’s Big Yellow’ a.k.a “BFBY”

One of the most sought-after plants on the East Coast has been ‘Bob Furman’s Big Yellow’ developed by the late Bob Furman on Cape Cod. The plant was difficult to propagate but is finally getting out due to grafting.

Well, it appears that “BFBY” is also a favorite of the deer in suburban Maryland. Norm Beaudry has had his 3-acre garden fenced for many years but recently, the critters managed to break through and even learned how to jump over the 7-foot fence. No Fair!!!



Vindictive Garden Pest



Norm with Furman’s “BFBY”

Deer always seem to know which plants are your favorites and devour those first. Pictured to the right are two photos in Norm’s garden showing what happened to “BFBY” and an unnamed Furman hybrid after an attack. They were growing together with branches intertwined. The deer ate almost every leaf off of “BFBY” but didn’t bother the leaves on the other hybrid.

The deer didn’t eat the flower buds on either plant so at least Norm could use pollen from “BFBY” to cross onto something else. Both Norm and Carol Segree will be trying a new, long-lasting deer repellent called **Trico Pro**. It is expensive, \$248 for 2.5 gal., but the deer are destroying some valuable plants. Keep us posted!



“Bob Furman (center) with “BFBY” in the Furman Garden



Unnamed Furman hybrid and “BFBY” in Norm’s garden



Notice that deer just stripped foliage of Norm’s “BFBY”



REPELLENT FOR PREVENTING BROWSING DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEER, RABBITS, ELK, AND MOOSE IN RETAIL FOREST AND CONIFER NURSERIES, PLANTATIONS, RETAIL OUTDOOR NURSERIES (INCLUDING CONTAINER, BENCH, FLAT, PLUG, BED-GROWN AND FIELD-GROWN ORNAMENTALS, AND FRUIT TREES), COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPES, FORESTS, AND AGRICULTURAL SITES

Trico Pro from SunspotSupply.com

## ‘Holden’s™ Pink Flare’ Phytophthora Resistant Rhododendrons



‘Holden’s™ Pink Flare’

Steve Krebs of the Holden Arboretum released some of his new “Worry Free” rhododendrons this spring. They have gone through rigorous testing to make sure they are resistant to root rot, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. I was very impressed with ‘Holden’s™ Pink Flare’. It has large, ruffled pink flowers that have a prominent red flare. As the flowers age, they become blush pink.



The foliage is glossy dark green and the plant habit is compact. It seems to be a heavy bloomer that buds up at an early age. ‘The buds are hardy to -15° F.

Steve Krebs made the original cross in 2000 and selected this clone from the seedling lot in 2007. The seed parent was ‘Ingrid Mehlquist’ (below) which has similar coloration but has smaller trusses. It is one of the most Phytophthora resistant hybrids yet known.



‘Ingrid Mehlquist’ – Photo by D. Hyatt

The pollen parent was David Leach’s ‘Rio’ which is a warm pink hybrid derived from two Dexters.



‘Rio’ – Photo by Sally and John Perkins

Steve officially named the plant ‘HoldenRhodo201’ and patented it. Plant patents last only 20 years but can be expensive, costing as much as \$20,000 to \$60,000 for the full 20 years. As is the case for most patented plants, the originator usually trademarks a name that will be used during distribution. Trademarks last only 10 years but have no expiration date since they can be renewed indefinitely. The cost to renew is only \$350. ‘Holden’s™ Pink Flare’ is thus the trademark name for ‘HoldenRhodo201’. Here is a link to his plant patent:

<https://patents.justia.com/patent/PP33594>

## Looking Ahead!

It will be a busy spring next year. The 2026 ASA Convention will return to Athens, GA, and when that meeting is through, the 2026 ARS Convention will begin on the West Coast. That meeting will be hosted on Vancouver Island at Qualicum Beach near Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. Both of those places have hosted fantastic meetings. Consider attending one, or both, next year. I also recommend organizing side tours on your own. Details are not finalized yet and we'll provide more information when that becomes available. However, now is the time to plan for a grand excursion.

## Athens, GA

### ASA Convention: April 12 – 15, 2026

The 2013 ASA Convention in Athens was a superb meeting. I don't know what is planned for 2026 but I am sure it will be great. In 2013, we saw Transplant Nursery, private gardens like the lakeside garden of the late Willis Harden, and public gardens including the State Botanical Garden as well as the Trial Garden of the University of GA. Native azaleas were everywhere.



Transplant Nursery (above) was propagating their own "Maid in the Shade" native azaleas and many of the new Southern Living rhododendrons like Southgate® "Brandi". They have a lovely display garden, too.



The garden of the late Willis Harden (above) had a picturesque lake surrounded by native azaleas like *R. austrinum* and *canescens* (below left). One branch on a huge 'Koromo Shikibu' had a sport (below right) which is now getting into the trade as 'Speckled Spider'.



Gibbs Garden (below) is flawless, and will be a **must see** when many of us head to Athens in 2026! Join us?



It is a long way to Georgia and many will consider flying. However, several of us from the Potomac Valley and Mid Atlantic Chapters will choose to drive. It is lots of fun when we coordinate our travel plans and visit some other horticulture attractions along the way.

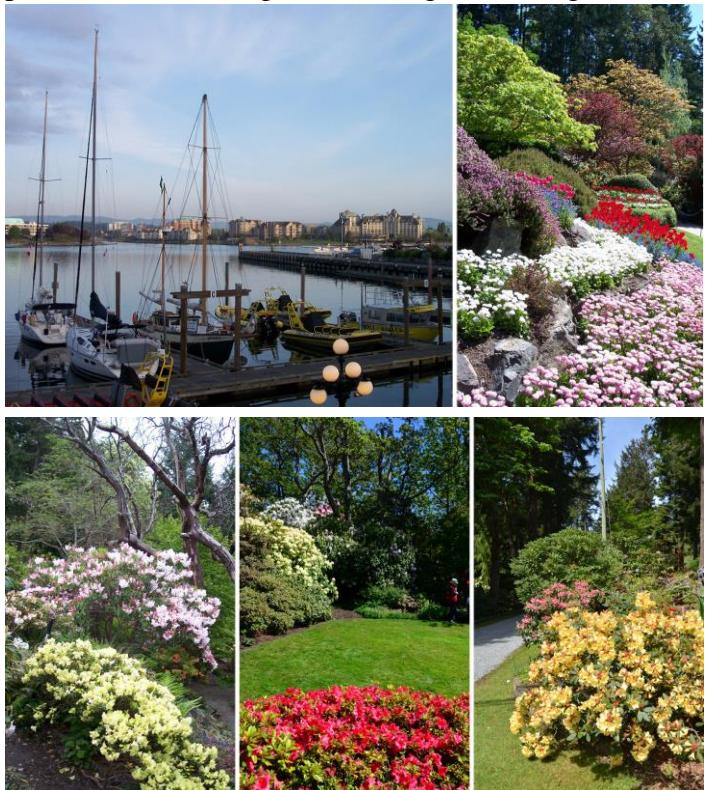
In 2013, on the way to Athens we stayed one night in North Georgia and spent a full day at Gibbs Garden. I consider that place as one of the best gardens on the East Coast. The next day we went to Athens. At the 2023 Atlanta Convention, Gibbs Garden was on the tour but we only had a few hours there. Not enough time!

On the way home from Athens, we got an invitation to see woody plant expert Michael Dirr's research and testing nursery. That was exciting. On the way back from Atlanta in 2023, some of us took a side trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway which was just starting to wake up.

# Vancouver Island, BC

## ARS Convention: April 21 – 26, 2026

The ARS Convention next spring promises to be a world class event. It will be held in British Columbia on Vancouver Island with tours to Qualicum Beach, Parksville, and Naniamo during the conference. They will offer pre-tours of public and private gardens in Victoria and the Cowichan Valley. This area has been one of most popular venues for past ARS conventions due to the magnificent gardens. Victoria harbor is pictured below along with some garden images.



This meeting is organized by the ARS Chapters on Vancouver Island, and they will be partnering with the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The RSBG (Species Foundation) will be holding their annual meeting in conjunction with the ARS Convention so expect many additional world-class speakers. Below is RSBG Director Steve Hootman and his bed of Himalayan Blue Poppies.



I don't know if Butchart Gardens (above) will be on tour but I will try to arrange a day there as part of my trip. It is always spectacular! The staff change the color schemes from season to season and year to year.

Whenever I attend a meeting on the West Coast, I try to add several days to a week to my itinerary so I can see additional sights on my own. I have been to Vancouver and Vancouver Island a number of times and rather than flying to an airport in Canada, I prefer to fly non-stop from Washington D.C. to Seattle. Then I will rent a car and drive up the coast to British Columbia. I will have to take the ferry to get to Vancouver Island.

I often start or stop my tour with a trip to the RSBG which has one of the best species collections in the world. Meerkirk Gardens on Whidbey Island is a good stop but attractions in Vancouver itself are the UBC Botanical Garden and the VanDusen Botanical Garden.



*R. wardii*

*R. augustinii*



Above are images from the VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver. Below, Bill Bedwell inspects the huge leaves of *R. sinogrande* at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden. Lower right is a vista in the Nitobe Memorial Japanese Garden at the UBC.



To get back to Seattle from Victoria, it will be necessary to take a ferry back to Vancouver or else a ferry directly to the U.S. I have taken the ferry to Port Townsend, WA, on the Olympic Peninsula and visited the National Park. Then I drove south around Puget Sound to see Whitney's Nursery (below) to Tacoma before returning to Seattle so I could fly home.



There are so many options to explore in the Pacific Northwest off the U.S. Below is the new hybrids test garden in Meerkirk Gardens on Whidbey Island. Bill Bedwell is photographing one of Frank Fujioka's best yellow hybrids, 'Saffron Silk'.



To the east of Seattle are the snow-capped Cascade Mountains including Mount Rainier, Mount Baker, and Mount Shuksan. Some roads will remain closed until June due to heavy winter snows that have yet to melt. However, there are usually some roads that will be open so that get you close enough to appreciate the scenery. Below, Bill Bedwell is relaxing along Artist's Ridge Trail in the North Cascades National Park with Mount Shuksan in the background. Majestic scenery!



#### ***Sad News – Bill Bedwell***

Bill Bedwell, a good friend for over 50 years and frequent attendee at ARS and ASA conferences, passed away on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 87. He is pictured in several images on this page. One of his great legacies was in the initial fight to help establish Lewis Ginter as a Botanical Garden in his home town, Richmond.

**Potomac Valley Chapter ARS**  
**Donald W. Hyatt, Newsletter 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 of our 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

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](http://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 (3 issues) of their outstanding **Journal** in printed or digital form. It is 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 \$50 per year for both printed and digital form, or \$40 for just digital. It 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. Please identify your home chapter.

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

[www.rhododendron.org](http://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 (Print & Digital).....	\$50.00
Individual (Digital Only) .....	40.00
Student (proof of age required).....	10.00
Commercial/Corporate.....	90.00
Sustaining .....	75.00
Sponsoring.....	150.00
Life, single .....	1,000.00
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, send this form with payment to:

**POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER ARS  
PVC-ARS Membership Chair  
7921 Deepwell Drive, Potomac, MD 20817  
Beaunorm@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

**More ARS National Contact Points:**

Phone (631) 533-0375