



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Fall Newsletter: September 2018

Chapter Officers

President: Ginny Mohr

rngmohr@msn.com

Secretary: Diane Reinke

Isabelle49@aol.com

Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman

prittman@erols.com

Potomac Valley Chapter Calendar - 2018

- **September 23** – Potomac Valley Chapter Picnic, Seneca Creek State Park
- **October 19-20** – ARS Regional Meeting, Chattanooga, TN
- **October 27** – PVC Fall Banquet, Normandie Farm, Potomac, MD
- **May 16-19, 2019** – ARS Convention, Philadelphia, PA

Potomac Valley Chapter Picnic

Where: Seneca Creek State Park

11950 Clopper Rd

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: Sunday, September 23, 2018

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

We will be holding our chapter picnic again at Seneca Creek State Park near Gaithersburg. The date is Sunday, September 23, from 1 – 5 PM.

Look for us at the Fawn Pavilion, a large covered picnic facility we have used for many years. It is located on the south side of Clopper Lake. Follow the signs, or ask for directions at the gate. The park does charge a nominal entry fee per person that they will collect at the gate.

The chapter will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments and drinks. The rest of us are asked to bring a side to supplement a typical picnic meal such as salads, chips, other sides, or desserts. I have been asked to bring my Calico Baked Bean recipe which seems to be popular.

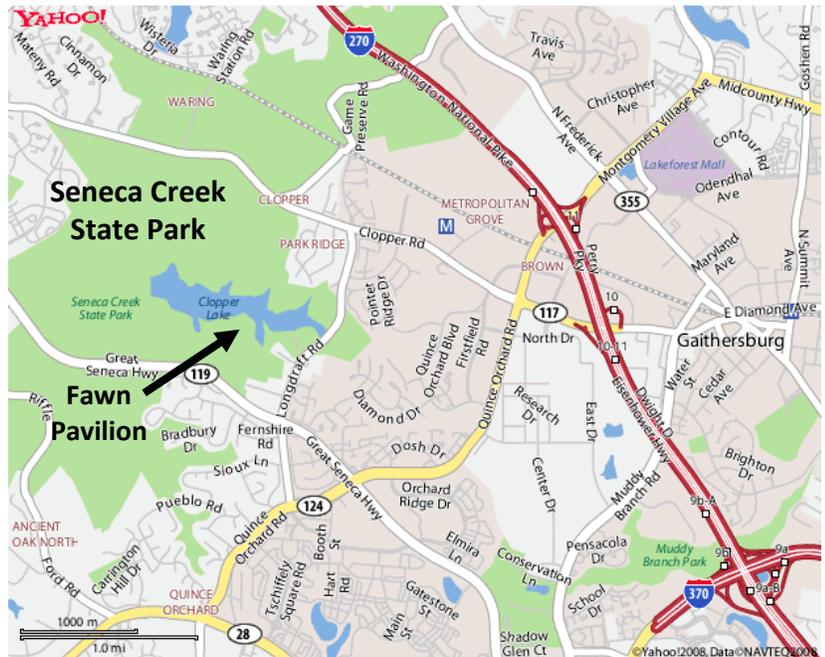
Alcoholic beverages are not allowed. There are no trash cans so we must remove our own trash.

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

Email Addresses!

Please make sure Don Hyatt has your proper email address. If you did not get a digital copy of this newsletter, you missed lots of color pictures. Let Don know: donaldhyatt@verizon.net
don@donaldhyatt.com



Fall Banquet, October 27: Tony Dove

We will be sending out the registration form for the fall banquet soon. The dinner will be back at the Normandie Farm restaurant. Our speaker will be Tony Dove.

Many of us remember Tony when he took on a tangled ravine overgrown with honeysuckle and briars to design the beautiful Londontowne Gardens. He left there and was director of several other botanical gardens on the East Coast before becoming the horticulturist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD.

Tony has raised rhododendrons and azaleas at his family home for over 50 years. He has created a lovely landscape that includes many Dexters and Gables as well as companion plants.

He just authored a new book titled "Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States." We will try to arrange a book signing, too.

Dues Are Due!

September is the start of our dues renewal season. We will be sending your 2018 renewal notice shortly as well as a return envelope for you to mail back to our treasurer, Phyllis Rittman. That mailing will include the registration form for the Fall Banquet. If you wish, you will be able to send us one check to renew your membership and register for the banquet at same time.

Online Dues Renewals

For many years, the ARS has accepted credit card payments for new members but renewals had to be done by local chapters. The ARS has approved online renewal of memberships so people can use credit card payments even if the local chapter does not have that option. Our chapter is not equipped to handle credit card payments so if you prefer to pay your dues by credit card or personal Pay Pal account, check out the ARS Office and click on Membership Services:

<https://www.arsoffice.org/>

You will need your “membership number” to continue which is on your Journal mailing label.

The Philadelphia Story

The 2019 ARS Convention: May 15-19, 2019

You won't want to miss next year's convention hosted near Philadelphia by District 8. They will be visiting an outstanding mix of world class gardens.



Longwood Gardens

There will be a pre-tour to the gardens of Chanticleer and Winterthur on Wednesday, May 15. Thursday's tour will begin with Tyler Arboretum and end with a Wine & Dine Garden Party at the Jenkins Arboretum.

On Friday, they will visit Mt. Cuba Center with its wonderful wildflower display, the world renowned Longwood Gardens, and a private garden known as WynEden. Dinner will be at the Helicopter Museum.

On Saturday, they will tour the historic Stoneleigh Estate, the private gardens of Perc Moser as well as the garden of Richard and Alice Farley, and also the Morris Arboretum. The banquet and keynote address that night will be back at the Desmond Hotel. For more details and images, check out their convention website:

www.ars2019.org

Sad News

The ARS has lost three icons late this summer. They were wonderful stewards of our society and they will be greatly missed. We send our thoughts and prayers to family and friends as we reflect on their contributions.



Gray Carter



Bob MacIntyre



Werner Brack

Gray Carter – On July 17, our chapter lost one of our most beloved members, Henry “Gray” Carter. He was 97. Gray served as our chapter treasurer for many years and was a master propagator who provided countless rhododendrons and azaleas for plant sales and auctions. For additional thoughts on him, refer to Carol Segree's article, “Remembering Gray,” in this newsletter.

Bob MacIntyre – Past ARS President Bob MacIntyre passed away suddenly on August 11 while shopping with his wife, Marjene. He was 78. The couple retired to Bandon, Oregon in 2002. Bob became president of the ARS in 2014 and served until 2017. He helped our society through a very difficult restructuring period so it could become financially solvent.

Werner Brack – Werner Brack died on August 12 at the age of 87. Werner lived on Long Island and was one of the New York Chapter's most noted hybridizers. He left a legacy of excellent rhododendrons for our gardens and shared his wisdom on the Yahoo “rhodo” group. He donated seed of many crossed he made to the ARS Seed Exchange.

Spartan Mosquito Eradicators!

Many of us have been besieged by the aggressive Asian Tiger Mosquitoes. In addition to the annoyance and discomfort of their bites, they pose a serious health concern since they carry West Nile Virus. That disease can be deadly, especially to the elderly. I am elderly.

With all the moisture this summer, the mosquito population has exploded. I have doused myself with DEET insect repellent but they bite me anyway. I have tried mosquito bombs and foggers and only succeeded in damaging plant. I have been bitten multiple times every day. They even get inside and attack me there.

Carol Segree mentioned a new control used in her area called **Spartan Mosquito Eradicators**. It consists of a tube you fill with water and packet containing yeast and some benign chemicals. The yeast produces carbon dioxide which attracts the pests. When they feed, they don't reproduce but eventually die. They last 90 days.

A package with two tubes is only \$20 which should protect my acre. I got four tubes. They do take 15 days to make a difference on an established population but they seem to work! **www.spartanmosquito.com**

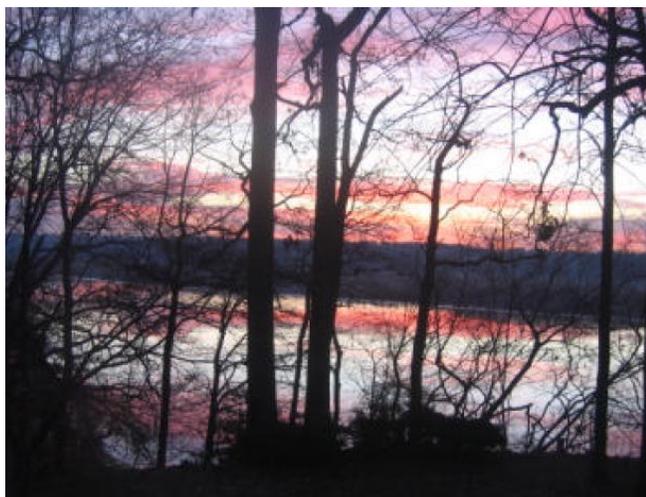
Remembering Gray *by Carol Segree*

My mother often said that she only knew a couple of people, about whom no one ever said anything bad. I am adding Gray Carter to that list.

I joined the ARS in the early 1990s and was anxious to acquire as many rhododendrons as possible. Soon I found myself bidding against this man Gary Carter for cuttings and plants. Instead of seeing me as a competitor, he sought me out and teased me about outbidding him. Soon I got to know him and his wife, Delores. It wasn't long before we both belonged to all three District 9 Chapters of ARS and the Ben Morrison chapter of ASA and would see each other frequently at the meetings. To my good fortune I became friends with Gray and Delores.

After being invited to the Carter home, which he and Delores designed and built overlooking the Choptank River in Easton, I began to see what an incredible man he was. His passion was for carving wood pieces, painting, doing needlepoint pieces, making furniture and many other artistic expressions. Professionally he was an engineer, who used engineering mindset in everything he did. Once I visited him and he wanted me to take a back-roads route going home. He sketched for me a map with a footnote: "Drawn to scale."

After joining the ARS, he was fascinated by growing cuttings. He soon designed and built a Rooting Bench, made from PVC pipe. His plans were published in the Potomac Valley Chapter's newsletter and many members purchased the benches from Gray or made their own. His cuttings grew into beautiful, well-shaped plants. However,



"Choptank Sunrise" by Gray Carter

Gray took this photo of the inspiring view from his window. It won "Best in Show" in our 2007 PPVC Photography Contest



Carol Segree and Barbara Bullock with Gray Carter

only a few of his plants were planted in his garden, most of his plants were given away. He almost never went to a meeting that he didn't take a tray or two of plants for the auction.

His favorite plant was *R. alabamense*, which reminded him of his southern roots and his time at Auburn University. At first attempts, he found them difficult to root. Growing them from seed was a better method for him and he was always looking to acquire seed. I treasure a couple of large, lovely *alabamense* plants in my garden that Gray grew and I think of him every time I look at them.

Gray was born in Macon, Ga., and had degrees from Auburn University and the University of Georgia. He served the country during World War II. After marrying Delores, they lived in Savannah, Ga., for a few years before moving to Severna Park, Md., in 1953 to begin a long career at Westinghouse. After his retirement they moved to their dream home in Easton. He loved the water, the eagles, the birds and other animals he watched from his living room window. He celebrated his 97th birthday in March.

As much as I miss him, I find peace in the fact that I believe he did everything he ever wanted to do and had the happiest of marriages with Delores for more than 60 years. In his last years when he spent most of his time sitting in his living room, he said to me numerous times that he was the luckiest person because he has pretty girls to take care of him and he enjoyed the lovely view from his window. And I guess I am very lucky also to have the privilege of calling such an incredible man my friend.

Use the ARS Store! If you purchase items online, please begin your search at the ARS Store. Our society will get a small commission from many major retailers including Amazon, Target, BestBuy, and Walmart. Check it out!

www.arstore.org

Gray Gallery

Some Remembrances of our dear friend, Gray Carter



Carol Segree, Gray Carter, and Wil Smith admire rhododendron 'Eveline Pilkington' while on a field trip to Cape Cod – 2005



R. alabamense – Gray's favorite native azalea. It has a wonderful lemon-spice fragrance



Our Chapter helps Gray celebrate his 90th Birthday – 2011



Gray joins the chapter hike to Roan Mountain - 2002



Joe Miller, Jon Wallenmeyer, Gray, and David Goodkind come down off of Gregory Bald - 2002



Carol Segree, Gray Carter, and Joe Miller at the 2016 ARS/ASA Convention we hosted in Williamsburg. photo by Mary Ricucci



Gray receives the ARS Distinguished Service Award - 2010 He had previously received the ARS Bronze Medal

ARS District 9 Director's Report by Bill Meyers

My wife Peggy and I, and Alternate District Director, Dick Mohr and his wife Ginny, were four of the almost 200 fortunate attendees from 20 countries at the recent Joint Convention of the American Rhododendron Society and the German Rhododendron Society. Though we didn't attend the pre or post-convention tours, those who did were completely impressed. The talks and tours in Bremen were fantastic. Rhodies everywhere were in full bloom, the weather was perfect, though unusually warm, and the attendees were wonderful and knowledgeable. For highlights and photos, see the latest ARS Summer 2018 Journal.

As you'll note several well-deserved Gold Medals were awarded including one to our own Dave Banks who is a legend in the Society and a huge part of the re-organization of the ARS and an organizer of this Convention. Others went to Dr. Hartwig Schepker of the German Rhododendron Society, Director of the incredibly beautiful and huge Rhododendron-Park Bremen who had done a magnificent job in arranging the festivities and tours, one went to June Walsh, former ARS Secretary, now Chair of the ARS Membership Committee and one to Hans Rudolph Lytchoff Elberg, founder of the Danish Rhododendron Society. A Silver Medal was awarded to Christian Theqvist who, among many other attributes, chaired the Finnish Post tour. A special, ARS Pioneer Achievement Award was given to Jim Barlup for his many years as a skilled hybridizer, contributor of his vast knowledge and creator of many, truly special crosses and for his donation of his creations to the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

During the Board Meeting held Monday of the week in Bremen, one significant piece of business was the agreed rescue and operation by the Portland Chapter, of the Van Veen Nursery subsequent to the untimely death of Kathy Van Veen. This effort was put together by past president Mike Stewart, his wife Maria and Brenda Ziegler, both of the Portland Chapter which was bequeathed the Nursery and its land under the Will of Kathy Van Veen subject to a Conservation Easement. The ARS Board unanimously agreed the ARS would be the Grantee of the Easement at no cost to the ARS. This assures the Nursery will remain open for business.

It was announced the Guide to Planting and Care is being updated and a grant from the ARS Endowment of \$2,929 was awarded to The Hinsdale Garden near Reedsport, OR.

Financially, the ARS continues to be on a sound footing however, membership continues to slip in some chapters due to attrition, aging and unfortunate deaths. June Walsh as Chair of the Membership Committee continues to look for suggestions to attract, and retain, new members. For our District, Mason-Dixon has recently added 5 new members, PVC has added 1 and MAC has added none. However, some chapters are doing much better attracting new folks. As examples, Eureka added 7, Sislaw added 9, Noyo added 11, the Azalea Chapter added 14 and Mt. Suislaw added 15. It can be done.

Lastly, Ken Webb, current Western V.P., will become ARS President at the 2019 Spring Convention when our own Ann Mangels "retires". Replacing Ken as the new Western V.P. will be John Stephens of the Portland Chapter.

Remind all members that if ordering anything on-line through Amazon, go first to:

amazon.ARSStore.org

The ARS will get a percentage of the amount of your order at no cost to you. This past month the ARS made an extra \$3,000 this way !!!

If any questions, feel free to give me a call or send an e-mail: **bpmeayers@aol.com**

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Meyers, July 23, 2018

Some Forthcoming ARS Events

Oct 19-21: Eastern Regional, Chattanooga, TN

May 15-19, 2019: ARS Convention, Philadelphia

Sep 27-29, 2019: Fall Conference, Parksville, BC

Apr 30 – May 3, 2020: ARS 75th Anniversary

Convention, Portland, OR

Spring 2021: ARS Convention, Montreal, Canada

Summary of Some Regional Activities

Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS

Oct 6: Fall Meeting, Richmond, VA

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS

Sep 23: Picnic, Seneca Creek State Park, MD

Oct 27: Fall Banquet, Potomac, MD

Mason-Dixon Chapter ARS

Sep 29: Fall Picnic, Jefferson, MD

Oct 14: Meeting, Westminster, MD

Nov 4: Meeting, Westminster, MD

NV Chapter ASA

Sep 29: Plant Sale/Auction, Springfield, VA

Oct 28: Meeting, Springfield, VA

Incredible German Gardens: Part 1

by Don Hyatt

Hachmann Nursery

The Hachmann Nursery was one of the gardens featured on a pre-tour during the 2018 Convention in Bremen, Germany. On that tour, the bus would stop at the nursery on its way from the Netherlands to the tours in Denmark and Sweden.

Karel Bernady and I were traveling together but we were not able to take the extra tours. We had visited Hachmann's Nursery in 2010 and we knew it was a "must see." We added a couple of days prior to the convention so we could rent a car and visit places on our own. Hachmann's is about two hours from Bremen so we spent a whole day there. Late that afternoon, someone peered over a wall of rhododendrons and said, "Hi stranger!" It was Dick and Ginny Mohr who were doing the same thing.

The nursery layout is similar to Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery that we often visit on our March field trip. Around the home and nursery center is a beautiful landscape. The garden features a nearly 600 rhododendron and azalea varieties, half of which are their own hybrids or new introductions on the way. We were proud to see a large plant of Joe Minehan's 'John Paul II'. The retail sales area is behind the display garden and beyond that is a complex of greenhouses and growing areas where they get plants to restock the sales.



Ginny and Dick Mohr say "hello" in the Hachmann Garden



Hachmann's 'Picobello'



Karel Bernady in the Hachmann Garden

The Hachmann hybridizing program is truly monumental. It was started in 1951 by the late Hans Hachmann and has been continued by his son and current owner, Holger. The scale of what they have done is amazing since the plants they carefully selected have reportedly come from six million seedlings! Holger has been breeding evergreen azaleas as well. In Europe, they call them "Japanese azaleas" due to the origin of the original species. Japanese azaleas are gaining in popularity due to their smaller stature where space is limited. Azaleas can be difficult for them due to their cool summers. Most azaleas need heat to harden off and set buds so they keep growing and become prone to winter kill.

To say that the Hachmann hybrids are stunning is an understatement. I guess "perfection" would be a better term. Unfortunately, many of those plants do not grow well in our area because they are not well adapted to our summer heat. In Barmstedt, the average high temperatures during July and August are in the low 70's with lows in the middle 50's.

The nursery sells a full range of other plants, too.

If only we had a nursery like that near us! The prices seemed very reasonable with good sized rhododendrons in full bloom selling for only 25 Euros which is less than \$30 in US funds. I know where I would be spending my retirement funds.



Some of Hachmann's Evergreen Azalea Hybrids

Hachmann Nursery



Some of the larger plants in Hachmann's Sales Area



Hachmann's 'Astrid' in the foreground with 'Nicoletta' beyond



Multicolor hybrids in the Display Garden



Hachmann's 'Herzblut'



'Midnight Magic'



'Finesse'



Another Garden Vista



'Orakel'



Joe Minehan's 'John Paul II'



Karel Bernady photographing 'Yellow Pom Pom'

Incredible German Gardens (cont.)

Bruns Nursery



Hartwig Schepker walks among mature rhododendrons at Bruns.

The Bruns Nursery dates back to 1876 and there is no doubt that it is the largest wholesale nursery in Germany, if not the world. The scale of what they do is amazing. Considering that the business has been in operation for over 140 years and extends to more than 1200 acres, I suppose they do have some advantages over other firms. They sell 50-year old specimen plants, mature trees and conifers, decades-old finely groomed topiaries of many different designs, and woody plants of all kinds including rhododendrons. They carry some perennials, too. Their color wholesale catalog has over 1200 pages and even though it is in German, it is interesting to look at the offerings that can run from a couple of dollars to prices that can exceed \$30,000 for a groomed bonsai specimen of *Pinus contorta*.

The main nursery and display garden is located in Bad Zwischenahn which is not far from Bremen. It was featured on one of the regular tours planned near the end of the convention, but Karel and I had a treat of seeing the garden twice, a week apart. Hartwig Schepker, the convention chair, asked if I could give a talk on native azaleas since the owner, Jan-Dieter Bruns Nursery was having a symposium for his wholesale clients the day after we arrived. I was happy to comply. It seems that everyone spoke English very well, especially Jan-Dieter who interned at Behnke Nursery when he was young.



Jan-Dieter Bruns walks past topiary plants ready for shipment

Karel and I spent much of that morning at Bruns and walked slowly through their magnificent display gardens. In the older section, there were huge rhododendrons in full bloom towering overhead. In the newer area, there were modern hybrids and introductions by their main hybridizer, Gerd Eiting.

We had a wonderful chance to talk at length with Gerd about his hybridizing program at Bruns. He showed us a large bed of mixed rhododendron hybrids that were cuttings of several plants they intended to introduce but the people who did the grafting didn't keep the varieties separate so they didn't know which was which until they bloomed.

I was very impressed with some of his deciduous azalea crosses. He had used 'Washington State Centennial' as a pollen parent on several crosses. It is a large flowered *R. occidentale* hybrid that has frilled yellow blossoms brushed with pink. A cross onto double yellow 'Narcissiflora' produced lovely double yellows, creams, and whites. A cross onto 'Cannon's Double' produced a gorgeous array of pastel shades in white, pink, and soft yellow. The results seem to support our contention there are no bad deciduous azaleas. They are all beautiful!

When we returned to the nursery for the regular tour, the season had changed. We took a hay ride to get a nursery overview and ate a delicious dinner.



'Washington State Centennial' is a good parent



Seedlings from ('Cannon's Double' x 'Wash. State Centennial')

Bruns Nursery



Trail through the Bruns Display Garden



Lake Vista



Band entertainment during Dinner

Delicious Amerland meal



New Hybrid under evaluation



'Effie Briest'



'Goldstruck'



More Trails through the Display Garden



Gerd Eiting checks 'Narcissiflora' Hybrids



'Charmant' in the Display Garden



Japanese maples and topiary plants in containers



Boarding time for the Hay Ride Tour

Leaf Castings Revisited

Those who attended Rachel Yungman's workshop at our July 14 meeting were certainly impressed. Thank you, Rachel! As your editor, I did take photos and will try to illustrate the process she shared with us. I know that I plan to try this myself as soon as I have some spare time and can find some plants with big leaves that the deer haven't eaten.

The materials you need include Portland cement, all-purpose sand, play sand, a plastic drop cloth, a mixing tray, rubber gloves, and a file. You will need a large leaf, of course, but Rachel suggests starting with something smaller.

For more information, check out Rachel's website:
www.falconersfield.com/concrete_creations/



Rachel Yungman explains how to do leaf castings in cement.



Moisten some all-purpose sand and arrange in a mound to support the leaf. The mound should be slightly larger than the size of the leaf.



Cover the sand with plastic and lay the leaf on top. This will keep the sand from getting on the back of the leaf and it can be reused.



Place the leaf on top of the plastic and carefully adjust the sand to conform to its shape. This is the time to capture wavy leaf margins.



Mix two parts fine sand with one part Portland cement. Add enough water to make it the consistency of stiff cookie dough. Starting at the center and working to the edge, start adding small handfuls of the cement pressing them onto the back of the leaf. Be careful to work it into the veins of the leaves. The cement should be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick in the center tapering to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch at the edge. Add an extra flat area in the center to serve as a base if desired.



Cover the leaf with plastic and allow the cement to set up for 48 hours. Then carefully remove the casting, turn it over, and peel off the leaf and try to avoid damaging the veins. Lift the piece from the center rather than the edges since it is still fragile. Use a file to remove any rough edges on the leaves. Then recover with plastic and allow it to cure for at least a week.



At this point, the cement should be fully hardened and the casting will be much more durable. If there were any leaf pieces that were too difficult to remove at the prior stage, they should be fully dry and easier to pick off the casting without damaging the leaf veins. If desired, the casting may now be painted and sealed.



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
- 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, contact our treasurer:

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER ARS
prittman@erols.com

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

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 214
Great River, NY 11739

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, Fax (866) 883-8019

Email: member@arsoffice.org