The Philadelphia Story Rhododendrons in America’s Garden Capital

Annual ARS Convention – Philadelphia, May 16-19

Grand gardens and seminal events in American rhododendron culture have been part of Philadelphia for almost 300 years. Storied estates transformed into sumptuous public gardens – Longwood, Winterthur, Morris Arboretum and many more – have consistently relied on rhododendrons, going back to John Bartram’s colonial discoveries. With so many alluring gardens to visit, the region takes pride in its status as America’s Garden Capital. Come discover the Philadelphia story, rhododendron version.

More information: ars2019.org or email registrar@ars2019.org

Note: To participate in any convention activities, you must register.

The Desmond Hotel, Malvern, Pa.
The convention is based at the Desmond in Malvern, Pa., a Double Tree by Hilton hotel. This beautiful hotel is nestled in historic Chester County and features deluxe four-poster king-size beds (or opt for a room with two queen beds).

Until May 1, 2019, we have 80 rooms blocked out for four nights, Wednesday through Saturday night, and 15 rooms blocked out for Tuesday night at the convention rate of $149. To get the convention rate use the group code RHO.

Garden Tours
To ensure a space on tours, you must register by April 10, after which a waiting list applies.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, Pre-convention tour Chanticleer Garden
We start the day with coffee served at Chanticleer Garden, where horticulture is practiced as theater. Begun by the Rosengarten family in the first decades of the 20th century, it was bequeathed as a public garden, opening in 1993. Adolph Rosengarten Jr., a Merck pharmaceutical heir, substantially endowed Chanticleer, allowing dramatic redesign, lavish use of tropica and frequent lush replantings. Garden Design magazine dubbed it “American’s most inspiring garden.”

Winterthur Gardens and Lunch
Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969) transformed his family’s estate into one of America’s grandest old-style gardens and collections of American decorative arts. The cultivated garden is 60 acres, the house-turned-museum has 175 rooms. Our tour includes a tram ride through the garden, time in the galleries and lunch at Winterthur's cafe. Du Pont was intimately involved in the creation of his grandiose garden, personally acquiring new rhododendrons from Charles O. Dexter and Joseph B. Gable. Currently on view in the garden is a set of new architectural follies.
Thursday, May 16, Two Gardens and a Party
Tyler Arboretum and Lunch
Tyler Arboretum has the oldest pedigree of any of our tour sites, from 1681, when the tract was purchased from William Penn. In 1825, the Quaker brothers who had inherited the property, Minshall and Jacob Painter, started planting more than a thousand trees and shrubs for systematic study. Tyler has been a 650-acre public garden since 1944 and has significant collections of rhododendrons, lilacs, crabapples, cherries and magnolias, planted under the leadership of John C. Wister. This midday tour includes lunch at the 1833 stone barn.

Wine & Dine at Jenkins Arboretum
Do not miss our early evening garden soiree at Jenkins Arboretum, where you may stroll the 20-acre rhododendron and azalea collection, with wine and buffet stations strategically placed. Take your time – sunset is late. Jenkins was established in 1976 and is a showcase for our favorite genus. This botanically rich and diverse setting is a beautiful example of a largely native woodland garden in the naturalistic style. It is home to the ARS Valley Forge Chapter.

Friday, May 17, 2019, Southern Gardens Tour
Mt. Cuba Center
Here is a wonderland of native plants. It was begun in the 1930s by Pamela and Lammot du Pont Copeland, he a CEO of Du Pont company. Mt. Cuba is most noted for its charming woodland gardens featuring native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, including what may be the most comprehensive trillium collection in the world. After Mrs. Copeland’s death in 2001, it became an endowed public garden, with significant research and educational programs.

Longwood Gardens and Picnic Lunch
Nothing can compare with Longwood. In 1906, Pierre S. du Pont purchased a deteriorated arboretum known as Peirce’s Park and embarked on a monumental development odyssey. It boasts stunning formal gardens, a vast meadow garden, water gardens, woodlands, soaring conservatories, and a breathtaking fountain display. Participants have the choice of a guided rhodo-centric tour or independent exploration. Lunch will be al fresco.

Guymon’s WynEden
Amazing private gardens abound in the region, notably WynEden, home of Wayne Guymon. Once featured in Martha Stewart Living magazine, WynEden is a 9.5-acre site with more than 7,000 rhododendrons and azaleas, 15,000 hostas, plus thousands of other species and cultivars. Three ponds and streams and an edited woodland are tucked between two ranges of low hills and surrounded by mature, native woodlands.

Saturday, May 18, 2019, Northern Gardens Tour
Stoneleigh
This is the newest old garden in America, having opened to the public in spring of 2018. Home of the Haas family (of Rohm & Haas), its grounds were designed by the Olmstead Brothers, the sons of Frederick Law Olmstead. Now held by Natural Lands, it is in the early stages of transition from a home to a conservancy emphasizing native species.

Moser garden
For many years, Perc Moser balanced a challenging career in banking with his love of gardening and rhododendrons. His home garden features many of his own hybrids and the best of the other rhododendrons grown along Philadelphia’s Main Line. He is treasurer of the ARS Research Foundation and former president of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens.

Morris Arboretum
Lunch will be at Morris Arboretum, part of the University of Pennsylvania and the official state arboretum of Pennsylvania. Once the home of horticulturists and civic leaders John T. Morris and his sister Lydia, Morris showcases several state champion trees on its 92 acres. The garden was begun in 1889 and became a public garden in 1933. One of its early directors was Henry T. Skinner, specialist in native American azaleas, and plants he collected still flourish at Morris. It is home to the ARS Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

Farley garden
On a relatively small plot with a steep slope, Richard and Alice Farley have created an intensely planted garden intended to be at one with the natural surroundings, even as it features many unusual and rare specimens. Richard is an architect and a professor at the University of Pennsylvania; Alice is a landscape architect and avid gardener. Her special fondness is Ericaceae, and natural leaf compost is used to acidify the soil.

Sunday, May 19, 2019
Self-guided visits to private and public gardens
Experience America’s Garden Capital on your own. Several members and friends of the ARS will open their gardens for conventioneers, and you will receive a list of public gardens as well. GPS recommended! If you have no car, please team up with someone who does.

Dinners
Friday evening’s buffet dinner will be in the American Helicopter Museum. The AHM celebrates Philadelphia as home of America’s helicopter industry and has over 40 autogyros, convertiplanes, and helicopters. We will auction off some very special items. The speaker will be Dick Murcott, “Philadelphia: Adopted Home of America’s First Hybrid Rhododendrons.” Murcott became interested in rhododendrons in 1962 and started to hybridize in 1964. He grows in a perfect rhododendron location about three miles from Long Island Sound. He has created one of the most beautiful rhododendron gardens on Long Island.

To ensure a space on tours, you must register by April 10, after which a waiting list applies.
The Saturday banquet will be a seated dinner with open bar at the Desmond Hotel. The event will include the presentation of awards and honors. The keynote speaker will be Jenny Rose Carey, “Philadelphia: America’s Garden City.” Carey is a renowned gardener, educator, historian, and author, and the senior director at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Meadowbrook estate garden in Jenkintown. Previously, while at Temple University for over a decade, she was an adjunct professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture and director of the Ambler Arboretum. She is an avid, hands-on gardener who gardens in both England and the United States. Carey and her gardens have been featured on the PBS series The Victory Garden and in many articles.

Plant Sale
The convention will feature a spectacular sale with more than 1,500 plants. Most of the rhododendron and azalea cultivars are not available in the trade or outside our area. They have been grown in Pennsylvania and New Jersey especially for this convention. A variety of companion plants will also be on sale. A catalog will be posted at ars2019.org. The sale opens Thursday night after the Jenkins Arboretum party.

Photo Show and Flower Show
Both of these will be in the “people’s choice” style, with attendees voting on the entries. Entries will be accepted Thursday (see Convention Schedule; to make an appointment for a different time, email vfarssmetana@yahoo.com). Both shows will open for viewing Friday and Saturday. Entry rules and other details may be found at ars2019.org/photoshow and ars2019.org/flowershow.

Sunday, May 19, 2019
The morning will start with “Coffee With the President,” an informal conversation on the state of the society. Next is the customary Hybridizers’ Roundtable, led by Ron Rabideau, formerly of RareFind Nursery, now at Mercer County (N.J.) Community College.

Note: To participate in any events, you must register for the convention

More information: ars2019.org or email registrar@ars2019.org

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
7:00 pm ARS Executive Committee
4:00 pm-9:00 pm Registration Desk open

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
7:30 am-10:00 am Registration Desk open
8:30 am-4:30 pm* Tour, with lunch: Chanticleer, Winterthur
3:00 pm-9:00 pm Registration Desk open
5:00pm-9:00 pm ARS Board of Directors

Thursday, May 16, 2019
8:30 am-9:00 pm Registration Desk open
10:15 am Tour, with lunch: Tyler Arboretum
2:00 pm-4:00 pm Photo and Flower Show entries accepted
4:15 pm Tour and Wine & Dine Party at Jenkins Arboretum
8:00 pm-10:00 pm Plant sale opens
8:00 pm-9:00 pm Photo and Flower Show entries accepted (final deadline)

Friday, May 17, 2019
7:30 am-5:30 pm Registration Desk open
8:30 am-4:30 pm* Tour, with lunch: Mt. Cuba Center, Longwood Gardens, Guymon’s WynEden
4:00 pm-5:00 pm Photo Show and Flower Show open
4:00 pm-5:00 pm Plant sale
5:15 pm Buses leave for program at American Helicopter Museum
9:00 pm-10:30 pm Plant sale
9:00 pm-10:30 pm Photo Show and Flower Show open
9:00 pm-10:00 pm Registration Desk open

Saturday, May 18, 2019
7:30 am-5:30 pm Registration Desk open
8:30 am-4:30 pm* Tour, with lunch: Morris Arboretum, Stoneleigh, Farley & Moser gardens
10:00 am-5:00 pm Public plant sale
5:30 pm Social hour at the Desmond
6:30 pm Banquet at the Desmond
9:00 pm Plant sale opens after banquet

Sunday, May 19, 2019
9:00 am-noon Public plant sale
9:00 am Coffee With the President
10:00 am Hybridizers’ Roundtable
1:00 pm Self-guided visits to private and public gardens

* Planned return of bus to hotel.
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Registration Deadlines: Tours and standard rate, April 10, 2019; final deadline, May 7, 2019

Go to ars2019.org to download this form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1 Name on Badge</th>
<th>#2 Name on Badge</th>
<th>Dietary Restrictions</th>
<th>Primary ARS Chapter:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>EACH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Register</td>
<td>Standard registration (deadline April 10, 2019)</td>
<td>x $50 =</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Register</td>
<td>Late Registration (April 11- May 7, 2019)</td>
<td>x $60 =</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 15</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>ARS Board of Directors Meeting Supper</td>
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<td>Wed., May 15</td>
<td>Pre-Conv. tour</td>
<td>Chanticleer and Winterthur Gardens. Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur., May 16</td>
<td>Midday tour</td>
<td>Tyler Arboretum Tour. Lunch included. (Use this line ONLY if you are not going on the Jenkins tour.)</td>
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<td>Thur., May 16</td>
<td>Evening tour &amp; garden party</td>
<td>Jenkins Arboretum, Wine and Dine. (Use this line ONLY if you are not going on the Tyler tour.)</td>
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<td>Thur., May 16</td>
<td>Thursday combo</td>
<td>Both Tyler and Jenkins tours. Lunch and evening Wine and Dine included. ($10 discount for both)</td>
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<td>Fri., May 17</td>
<td>Southern tour</td>
<td>Mt. Cuba Center, Longwood Gardens, Guymon’s WynEden. Lunch included.</td>
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<td>Fri., May 17</td>
<td>Buffet dinner</td>
<td>American Helicopter Museum Buffet dinner, Dick Murcott presentation.</td>
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<td>Sat., May 18</td>
<td>Northern tour</td>
<td>Morris Arboretum, Stoneleigh, Farley and Moser gardens. Lunch included.</td>
<td>x $60 =</td>
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<td>Sat., May 18</td>
<td>Banquet with open bar</td>
<td>Desmond Hotel, Jenny Rose Carey presentation. Choose: ___Salmon ___Beef ___Vegetarian</td>
<td>x $70 =</td>
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To ensure a space on tours, your registration must be received by April 10, 2019. After April 10, Waiting List applies.

TOTAL $ 

❑ Check enclosed (U.S. funds only), payable to “Greater Philadelphia ARS”.
❑ Visa, MC # __________________________ Expiration date ______ / ______ Security code ____________

Name as appears on credit card: __________________________ Signature __________________________

Please make hotel reservations directly with

The Desmond: Double Tree by Hilton
1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355
http://www.desmondv.com/
610-296-9800 or 800-575-1776
Convention rate is $149 per night, plus tax.
Use group code: RHO

Mail this form to:
Linda Hartnett, ARS 2019 Registrar
1070 Beech Hollow Rd.
Ambler, PA 19002
610-940-4978
registrar@ars2019.org