

## Wednesday—April 7th—7 PM

\*\*\*\*\* **UW Center for Urban Horticulture** \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA** \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **Note the location change this year.** \*\*\*\*

*FREE DOOR PRIZE and raffle of Rhododendrons.*

### **Chapter Officers:**

**President:** Randy Jones

**Treasurer:** Bob George 425-391-2366

**Directors:** David Sherbrook (2010), Charlene Jones (2011), Warren Timmons III (2012)

**Past President:** Don Smart 425-333-6178

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**Websites:** <http://www.arscascade.org>

<http://www.rhododendron.org>

### **APRIL—KENNETH COX—WOODLAND GARDENS \*\*\*JOINT MEETING WITH SEATTLE CHAPTER**

**Please note the change in the date, the day, and the location for our April meeting. We are joining with the Seattle Chapter for a special speaker.**

**Kenneth Cox**, one of the foremost Rhododendron experts in the world from the famous Glendoick Gardens and Nursery in Scotland, will be speaking on woodland gardening on Wednesday April 7 at Seattle's meeting place—the Center for Urban Horticulture at 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle near University Village.

Ken is a well-known and engaging speaker, world traveler, plant hunter, rhododendron hybridizer, and author of numerous books. He heralds from three generations of Rhododendron people. Glendoick is located in Perth, Scotland and was acquired in 1899. Our speaker's family has been plant hunting since 1919 and he is continuing the tradition.

Ken has traveled the world starting with the Sino Scottish Expedition to NW Yunnan, China in 1992, with 11 other expeditions to Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh and other Himalayan areas hunting for rhododendrons and other plants. One article calls him the "Indiana Jones" of the plant world. Our speaker will take all his knowledge and understanding of rhododendrons and relate it to woodland gardening. Please help us welcome Ken Cox for this special treat.

*Editor*

### **MARCH—RHODODENDRONS 101—BILL STIPE**

This was a great educational program and we had the largest chapter turn-out of the year. Although this program was geared for the beginning rhododendron gardener, there were many of us that learned something new about our favorite genus. Bill's program covered everything from the basic taxonomy of rhododendrons, through selecting, planting, and then maintaining your plants.

Thanks, Bill, for a great presentation!

*Editor*

### **DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING**

We thought that we could still get together for dinner before the meeting and then some of could car-pool to the meeting in Seattle to allow us to use the 3 person carpool lanes on 520. We probably should meet a little earlier to allow us time to eat and then get to Seattle—about **4:45 PM** and don't be late.

We gather at the Red Robin restaurant at Bellevue Square. There is parking at the SE corner of the square (Bellevue Way and NE 4<sup>th</sup>). It's just a short walk to the Red Robin.

If you can join us, please RSVP to Don or Carolyn Smart at 425-333-6178 or [donolyn@comcast.net](mailto:donolyn@comcast.net) by Monday, April 5th. Thanks.

*Editor*

*To become a member of the Cascade Chapter of the ARS, send dues to:  
Bob George, 3030 E Beaver LK DR SE; SAMMAMISH, WA 98075 - 425-391-2366  
\$40.00 Annual Membership fee or \$10.00 for Associate Membership if already a member of another ARS Chapter.*

**FROM PRESIDENT RANDY: WINTER—SPRING!**

Spring has officially arrived though by some accounts the beginning of February could have served as the unofficial beginning as we have had so many



*Saffron Silk—Photo Randy Jones*

plants in bloom for the past six weeks. The winter was brief, mild and dry for the Puget Sound region; I am expecting the real impact of an El Nino winter will be felt towards the end of June and through next autumn. During this period water restrictions will likely be implemented with surcharges for over usage of water. A significant below average snow pack in the Cascade Mountains will have a direct effect on every gardener in the region.

It is never too early to start planning for summer, with the expectation of mandatory water conservation being frugal while watering becomes imperative. Growing rhododendrons with soaring water rates can force even the most devout rhodophile to rethink about the cost associated with keeping a yard full of plants.

There are many ways to conserve water while maintaining healthy plants. My personal preference is bark mulch with either drip irrigation or micro-spray head sprinklers. I realize for some individuals who have acres to try to maintain this is a major undertaking and maybe impractical. Mulching with fir bark about 3 inches deep around the plant (not touching the trunks of the plants) not only helps maintain pleasing aesthetics but controls weeds, maintains an even ground temperature, and most importantly this summer will lessen the need for frequent irrigation.

The advantage of the drip irrigation and/or micro-spray systems is that it allows water to be applied where it is needed, and should eliminate watering the pathways and weeds. I know that the installation of drip tubing for drip

heads or micro-spray heads can be time consuming but the rewards will be there for years to come. The maintenance of drip and micro-spray systems is minimal and should only require an occasional or periodic visual inspection. Given the choice of not being able to afford to water my beloved plants or spending some time installing a drip system I know the choice I made will pay for itself this year as it did last year.

*Randy Jones, President*

**TREAT TIME!**

Chocolate chip cookies - - everyone's favorite! Thanks to Beverly Seers and Diane Timmons, we had two different kinds of chocolate chip cookies at the last meeting. Both were delicious (I had to try everything).

Since our next meeting will be a joint meeting with Seattle Chapter, Millie English will be our hostess and will contribute some treats to whatever they normally have.

*Coleen George, The Sunshine Lady*

**PLANT OF THE MONTH—WIND RIVER**



*Wind River—Photo Jim Barlup*

Wind River is a medium growing plant, very good foliage. It has a soft yellow full truss. It will bloom at a very young age, even a rooted cutting can set a bud. It appears to be available in various sizes at a number of nurseries in the Seattle area. It was named for a scenic area in Wyoming.

Wind River is one of Jim's very complicated crosses. As he develops new hybrid's, he finds traits that he likes and then goes on to cross those with other traits to create completely new and gorgeous hybrids. Are you ready? Here is the parentage of Wind River: (Mindy's Love x [(Lem's Goal x Loderi group) x Lem's Cameo] x [(Lem's Goal x Loderi group) x Brandt's Tropicana]). Whew! Thank you Jim for your perseverance!

*Jim Barlup and Editor*

**CASCADE CHAPTER—OFFICERS NEEDED FOR THE 2010-2011 SEASON**

It is fast approaching that time of year when we elect our officers for the next year. If you would like to join your Cascade Board of Directors or be one of the officers, we would love to hear from you. If we get some new faces, we will also get new ideas for the direction of our Chapter. Some of you must be tired of seeing the same board year after year re-cycling the positions like a round-robin. Please contact one of us if you would like to help us.

*Don Smart—Past President*

**MAY SHOW AND SALE—CHANGE IN DATE AND LOCATION**

Due to a number of factors, the Board has decided to move our May Show and Sale back to the Bellevue Botanical Garden. The dates will be May 15th and 16th. Please note this on your calendars.

*Editor*

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING—APRIL 13**

Since we are having our regular meeting a week earlier and at a different location, we will have a special Chapter Board meeting the following Tuesday, April 13th, at our regular meeting room at the First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue.

As always, any member of the chapter is always welcome at any Board meeting. But the 2 main topics for this meeting will be the May Show and Sale and Office/Director nominations.

If you are interested helping in any way with the Show and Sale, you are especially invited to this meeting to help in the planning.

And, if you are interested in the workings of the Board and are considering volunteering for any of the positions on next year's Cascade Board, **you are especially invited** to attend this meeting.

**GREAT PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR THE DIGGING**

Our member and dear friend, Bonnie Campbell, is going to be putting her house up for sale. Many of you have visited "Mountain Garden" and know the love that she has put into it and the all of the rhododendrons she has added and cared for over the years. She knows that not everyone will have the same love and give the same care to her garden when she leaves—especially areas that are not covered by her automated irrigation system. She would like to share many of these plants with us.

Here is a partial list of what is available:

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| R. auriculatum         | Chat            |
| Babylon                | Coral Mist      |
| Bellsong               | Daphnoides (2)  |
| R. decorum or Caroline | R. degonianum ? |

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Denali                       | R. oreotrephes           |
| R. discolor ?                | Oudijk's Sensation (2)   |
| Dreamland (3)                | R. pseudochrysanthum     |
| Elsie Watson                 | R.pachysanthum           |
| R. fortunei                  | Patty Bee                |
| Graf Zeppelin (2)            | Peeping Tom (2)          |
| Grandma's Hat                | PJM—numerous             |
| Hallelujah (2)               | R. ponticum—variegated   |
| R. insigne                   | Queen Anne               |
| Isabel Pierce                | Rocket                   |
| Lavender Princess or Queen ? | Sappho                   |
| Leonardslee Giles            | Silver Skies             |
| Midnight (3)                 | Starbright Champagne (2) |
| Midnight Mystique            | Sugar Pink               |
| Mt. Clearview                | Susan                    |
| Olga Mezitt (2)              | R. sutchuenense          |
| R. williamsianum             | Virgo (2)                |
| R. yakushmanum—various forms | White Lights             |

So where are you going find some of these plants that are no longer (or never were) available on the retail market? If you are interested in getting some of these plants, give Bonnie a call at 425-391-1319 or email her at [BCMTGarden@aol.com](mailto:BCMTGarden@aol.com).

*Editor*

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND IS BLOOMING!**

Some of you have sent me photos of what's blooming in your gardens that I have added extra pages to this month's newsletter. Thanks so much for sharing. Remember that you can see all of these photos in beautiful



*R. irroratum "Polka Dot" - David Hughes*

color by subscribing to the email version of this newsletter that I send to everyone on my email list in PDF format each month. Color copying is just too expensive. Also, you can view the newsletter on our web site at [www.ARSCascade.org](http://www.ARSCascade.org).

*Editor*



*Un-named Gordon Heyduck hybrid in Bonnie's garden. Blooms for a month Feb—March. Photo: Don Smart*



*Calstocker—Photo: BobGeorge*



*Mundai—Photo: Bob George*



*R. siderphyllum Photo: Mike Bones*



*R. morii—Photo: David Hughes*



*Muncaster Mist—Photo: Bob George*

*I sn't it a beautiful time of year?*

**ANOTHER PROPAGATION METHOD**

We have seen Jim Barlup’s presentation on planting rhododendron seed. We also saw the article and photos of Tom Thomas’ growing box in his apartment. Years ago, Gordon Heyduck told me that everyone reinvents the wheel and figures out what works best for them selves as far as growing seed or growing cuttings.

Well, I just thought I would give you my current method which seems to be working for me, anyway.

I like Arby’s roast beef sandwiches, and I like the LARGE one. When I ordered one of these last year, it came in a plastic sandwich box instead of wrapped in foil as the smaller sizes do. I saw that box and immediately decided it looked like a perfect size for growing seeds. So I have eaten a number of large Arby’s sandwiches over the past year and saved the boxes.

To start the process, you need seed. I have ordered seed from the ARS seed exchange, I have been given some seed while working down at the RSBG. And best of all, I tried making some crosses this year and 1 (yeah, only 1) actually set seed!

To start the process, I filled the bottom half of the containers with a mixture of half regular peat moss and Perlite. This gives the mixture some organic material, and the Perlite allows some space for air which the seedlings also need. I filled the container to about 1/4 of the rim. I then added a good amount of water to the containers and set them aside to allow the mixture to become saturated. After they had sat a while I drained as much excess water from the containers as I could.



*First Coarse Mix*

The next step was to add just a shallow layer—about 1/8 inch—on top of the mixture and gave it little fine mist spray to hold it in place.



*Fine Mix and Sowed Seed*

Then sowed the seed on top of that. If I had a lot of seed, I used the whole container. Where I just had a small amount of seed I divided the container into 2, 3 or 4 sections using plastic plant markers on edge. After I sowed the seed, I misted the containers again and closed them up.

I placed the containers into my propagation box. This is a wooden box on legs that was constructed by Ken Bates and passed to me (with much thanks) when he “retired”

from doing propagation. It has a lower section that has a thermostat controlled heater, a shelf with “egg-crate” type plastic to allow the heat to come up, and a 2 tube fluorescent light at the top. There is a hinged wood and glass door that closes over the front. I also grow my cuttings in this box and I use a soil thermometer to keep the temperature at about 70 degrees. The light is on a timer and I keep it on 16 hours a day.



*Containers in the “box”*

I sowed the seed on February 19th. I did not water the containers as long as there was condensation showing in

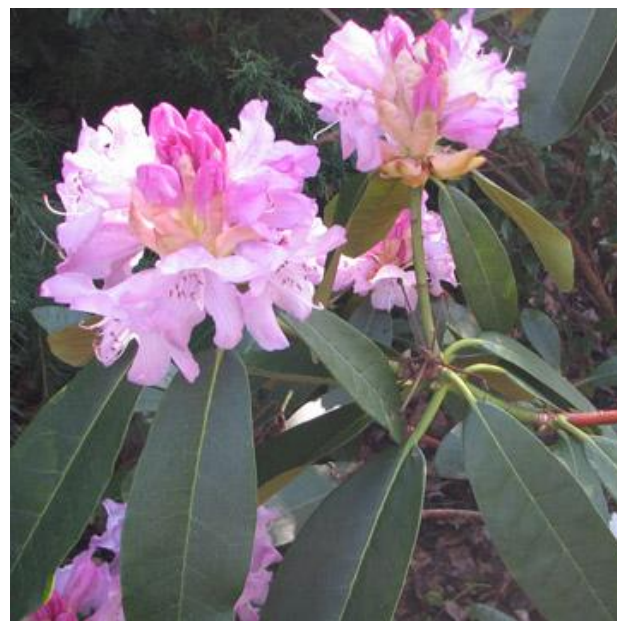


the plastic. On March 13th I noticed some green and I HAD to peek! The photo at the left is the seed of the cross that I had made—

“Raspberries and Custard” x “Plum High”. All of the other containers also had seed that had germinated, too. This was pretty exciting to me. So far, I guess I’ve done something right.

I hope there is another chapter to be written in this saga, so I will keep you posted. If I can get past the transplanting without killing the seedlings, there will be more to the story.

*Don Smart, Past President*



*Another view of an un-named Gordon Heyduck hybrid in Bonnie’s Garden—Photo: Don Smart*

American Rhododendron Society  
Cascade Chapter  
Donald Smart  
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Carnation, WA 98014

**FIRST  
CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Spring Has Sprung!**

\*\*\*\*\* **DOLLAR TABLE** \*\*\*\*\*

**You must have something you can  
share with your fellow members.**

**Chapter Officers:**

President: Randy Jones  
Vice-President: David Doherty  
Treasurer: Bob George 425-391-2366  
Secretary: **Vacant**

**Directors:** Charlene Jones, David Sherbrook, Warren Timmons III,

**Past President:** Don Smart

**Newsletter Editor - Publisher:** Don Smart 425-333-6178 or  
[donolyn@comcast.net](mailto:donolyn@comcast.net)

**Able Assistant:** Carolyn Smart

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

Board Meetings are usually held on the **Monday following our Chapter Meeting** at Bob and Coleen George's house. Any member is welcome at the Board Meeting. If you have an idea or agenda item that you believe the Board should consider, please call Randy Jones. Or just come and see what goes on behind the scenes.

**CASCADE CHAPTER 2009—2010 CALENDAR**

**YEAR MONTH - DAY EVENT**

2010	April 7	Cascade Meeting jointly with Seattle—Ken Cox—Center for Urban Hort.—Seattle
2010	April 9-11	The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference, UBC Botanical Garden, Vancouver
2010	May 11	Cascade Meeting—Denis Hughes—Blue Mountain Nursery—Tapanui, New Zealand
2010	May 15-16	Cascade Chapter Rhododendron Show and Sale—Bellevue Botanical Garden
2010	May 14-17	ARS Annual Convention, Long Island, NY—Registration in the Winter Journal
2010	June 8	Cascade Annual Meeting and Potluck—Bellevue Botanical Garden
2010	October 8-10	ARS Western Regional Conference, Florence, OR

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