

Tuesday—February 9th—7 PM

******* First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue *******

******* 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, 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

Newsletter Editor - Publisher: Don Smart

Assistant Editor: Carolyn Smart

Vice Pres: David Doherty

Secretary: **Vacant**—Charlene Jones—Acting

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

<http://www.rhododendron.org>

FEBRUARY PROGRAM—A NURSERY-MAN’S NIRVANA—DENNIS BOTTEMILLER

The nursery at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is where bliss resides! You have seen the programs of wild and crazy plant collecting trips to the far reaches of the globe, now see which of these amazing plants survive after their seeds have traveled for 6 weeks in a sweaty backpack through rain, sleet and dark of night.

The RSBG nursery manager Dennis Bottemiller has been growing plants from these expeditions for over fourteen years and he will show some of the new and intriguing plants that are now being offered or will be in the near future. He has been working hard to tame the wild Agapetes and calm the wandering Gaultheria and get them ready to show in a garden near you!

Hey, there are some Rhododendrons too!

You all have seen Dennis’ programs before and know how enthusiastic he is about the RSBG and the plants that they make available to all of us, so you won’t want to miss this one.

Dennis Bottemiller and Don Smart

JANUARY MEETING— RHODODENDRONS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR GARDEN

Those of you who missed the January program missed a great presentation. We were taken through Stuart Imrie’s beautiful nurs-

ery and display garden in a musical tour. What made it so great is that all of the plants were labeled so we could jot down our “I NEED THIS” list.

Thanks so much to David Doherty for getting this DVD program from Stu for us.

Now we can look forward to a spring buying trip.

One thing you may not know is that there is a completely new—well, about 2 years old—rhododendron area at the Bellevue Botanical Garden and most of the plants came from Stu’s Lake Tapps Rhododendron Nursery. If you want to see more of his photographs and nursery selections, go to www.rhodies.com and enjoy!

Don Smart

JOIN YOUR CASCADE FRIENDS FOR DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING

As a new tradition, we will be getting together for dinner before the regular meeting. It’s been fun and there’s been a good group of us. Come join us—the more the merrier.

We gather at the **Red Robin** restaurant at Bellevue Square at 5PM. There is parking at the SE corner of the square (Bellevue Way and NE 4th). 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 by Monday, February 8th. 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: 2010 vs. 2009

What a difference a year can make! In 2009 the months of January and February were awful with the cold and snow. I was out in the garden this morning and I noticed how mild the winter has been so far. Then I spied that one of my favorite plants was fully budded and beginning to bloom. There it was, one of the surest signs that



Olive - Feb 26 2009—Photo Charlene Jones

winter's austere grip is loosening - the warm purple glow of Olive. This morning the cool winter sun rays penetrating the shrubs, there shines Olive. What a welcome sight, an indication of approaching spring. Olive appears regal with frost clutching its branches and a few of the glowing purple trusses wearing a crown of fresh snow. Every year I look forward this wonderful plant blooming, it is truly one of my favorite plants. The rest of the year it is a humble somewhat upright leggy plant with an open habit that blends into the garden. When February arrives she becomes royalty, it blooms magnificently for almost 3 weeks, when only a few early crocuses dare poke up from the frigid earth.

Olive is hardy due to the parentage a *R. moupinense* x *R. dauricum* cross, hardy to -15 F (-26C). The plant has an open, upright leggy habit reaching 4' at 10 years. The leaves are elliptic, about 1" long, and dark green, with no fragrance when crushed. The flowers have no fragrance and are broadly funnel-shaped, about 1½" across, a vivid pinkish - light purple with darker spots scattered over the base of the upper lobe. Truss has 1-2 flowers.

This is a wonderful plant that I would recommend to anyone; I consider this to be my personal harbinger of

Spring.

Randy Jones, President

TREAT TIME!

Refreshments in February will be provided by Beverly Seers. Thanks, Bev. (Editor's note: Coleen failed to thank the wonderful person who fed us in January.

Thanks for the wonderful treats Coleen!)

Coleen George, The Sunshine Lady

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This month we are starting a new column due to an idea of our VP, **David Doherty** and help from **Jim Barlup**. We will be featuring a newer plant from a local hybridizer each month. And to make it even better, it will be something that you can actually buy locally. Well, you may have to go as far as Whitney Gardens in Brinnon on the Hood Canal, but who doesn't like to make a pilgrimage there each spring anyway?

This month's selection is (drum roll, please) **DUANE JOHNSON**. Wait, Duane's not a plant, he's a member of our chapter. Well, take a look at the new registrations in the ARS Winter Journal—and there you will find **DUANE JOHNSON** on page 50.



R. Duane Johnson—Photo Jim Barlup

Here are some notes and comments from Jim:

The story of the naming is interesting. It is a cross of 'Butter Brickle' x 'September Song'. **John Winberg** is the hybridizer. He gave cuttings to Hazelwood Gardens (**Bonnie and Duane Johnson**). Duane, in time, gave cuttings to **Ellie Sather** at Whitney Gardens. Ellie lost the tag of the parentage, but remembered it came from Duane Johnson so she just put a name on the plant 'Duane Johnson' to remember to ask about the parentage. Time passed by and she bloomed the plant—it was very good. Somehow communications never happened and I believe she started selling the plant as 'Duane Johnson'.

I had never seen the plant bloom, but heard about it. Since Duane had plants, I asked if I could have one to take home and I would send in the name registration.

There are many steps to a name registration, but it all fit into place. I needed when it was hybridized, first year it bloomed, size and many more blanks to fill in. You can check the name registration in the Winter ARS Journal to learn more details. John Winberg was very helpful. Information needed was the hybridizer: John Winberg. First introduced by: Hazelwood Gardens. Named by: Ellie Sather. Name registered by: Jim Barlup.

I made about 20 crosses onto it, most took. The plant has sterile pollen.

Jim Barlup and Editor

(Note: Jim will be sharing the process of registering a new rhododendron hybrid with us later this spring.)

THIS MONTHS DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE PLANTS

Here are the plants that will be available for door prizes and raffle this month.

AESTHETICA: (smirnowii x bureavii) 5', -10°F, a Ben Lancaster cross well worth having. 3" flowers with wavy edges that are pink in bud, opening to a light blue pink and aging to white are held in ball trusses of 10 to 15.

R. arboreum: Very early bloomer, 6', 10 degrees, usually red but some forms are pink or white, from India.

HANDSWORTH SCARLET: R. caucasicum hybrid.

Color : dark pink—light red. Early bloomer. Picture:

<http://www.esveld.nl/htmlidiaen/r/rhhsca.htm>

(Editor's note: I have one that has an open truss right now.)

HORIZON MONARCH: Very nice yellow, 6', 5 degrees, Dr Brockenbrough hybrid.

HOTEI: Very good yellow, 3', 5 degrees. Blooms mid season. Real nice.

STEVE'S BICOLOR: This is a multicolor that buds very early.

SOLIDARITY: This is a pink that grows 4' and is hardy to -15 degrees. It blooms mid season.

TOTALLY AWESOME: Vivid Yellow, Orange & Red, is awesome, May

WINDSONG: 4', Early-Mid season bloomer, hardy to about 0 degrees. This is a beautiful hybrid from Jim Barlup. You will admire this plant's blooms and they demand your attention. Very Nice!!!

You may want to check out the web site for Lake Tapps Nursery at www.rhodies.com. Stu Imre has some great pictures and has a great section for diagnosing rhododendron problems under the FAQ section. It might be helpful to bookmark it as one of your favorites. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting. Don't miss it!

David Doherty, Vice President

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

April 9-11, 2010 - University of BC Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BC. There is still room.

I have put both the Conference details and the Registra-

tion form on our web site at www.arscascade.org.

Editor

CASCADE CHAPTER—HELP WANTED

The chapter needs a new secretary. Our secretary, Dianna Davis, has had to resign. If you are interested in filling this job, please let Randy know. The job mainly consists of taking minutes at our monthly board meeting.

Editor

UPDATE - RAISING RHODODENDRONS IN A RETIREMENT APARTMENT?

We had a great response from several people about Tom's growing box in his apartment. I send the newsletter to a number of other chapter newsletter editors and also to our ARS Journal editor. He wants to reprint it in the next Journal! Congratulations Tom.

While working with Tom and Glen for additional information, I want to pass on some clarifications about Tom's methods. The question came up about how many seedlings were in each pot and how he thinned or transplanted the seedlings. I know from experience that trying to transplant the very small seedlings is difficult and also that your space requirements grow exponentially. Well, Tom doesn't have the space for that, so here is what he did based on this season:

1. On 9-8-09 each packet of seed was sowed in its own 1 1/4' square in a 1/2 size plastic flat 21" x 6", 36 squares per flat. I received 27 packets of seed from the ARS Seed Exchange, so one flat was sufficient for germination.
2. On 11-5-09 the first transplant was made (with tweezers) into similar flats with four plants to a square. I limited the transplant to nine 1/2 size flats, the amount that would fit into my green box, leaving some room for working, etc. The excess seedlings were discarded.
3. On 12-14-09 the squares were thinned from four to two seedlings with their average heights varying from 1" to 2", depending on the species. This thinning was a bit earlier than necessary, because of my planned three week absence. They received no care in my absence and looked great.
4. I expect to thin to 1 per square the 1st or 2nd week of February. After that, I shall have to face the inevitable result of an arithmetic expansion: 1, 2, 4, 8 etc, and move to Plan B, whatever that will be!

Tom also mentioned in the information passed to the JARS editor, Glen Jamieson, that he uses Potassium Permanganate as a soil sterilizer.

Editor and Tom Thomas

American Rhododendron Society
 Cascade Chapter
 Donald Smart
 1618 290th Ave NE
 Carnation, WA 98014

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



♥ HAPPY ♥
 VALENTINE'S DAY

***** ***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
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 | February 9 | Cascade Meeting—Dennis Bottemiller—RSBG—Nurseryman's Nirvana |
| 2010 | February 27 | Meerkerk Dreams of Spring— http://arscascade.org/newsletters/Meerkerkdreamsofspring.pdf |
| 2010 | March 9 | Cascade Meeting—TBA |
| 2010 | April 9-11 | The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference, UBC Botanical Garden, Vancouver |
| 2010 | April 13 | Cascade Meeting—TBA |
| 2010 | May 8-9 | Cascade Chapter Rhododendron Show and Sale—Kenmore Rhody Park |
| 2010 | May 14-17 | ARS Annual Convention, Long Island, NY—Registration in the Winter Journal |
| 2010 | October 8-10 | ARS Western Regional Conference, Florence, OR |

BRING A GUEST AND GET A FREE PLANT

Your board in an effort to attract more people to our meeting has decided that if a member brings a guest, the member gets a free rhododendron. These will be special plants that are not part of the door prize or raffle plants. Of course, if your guest joins, they get a free plant, too. So BRING 'EM ON!