

Tuesday—March 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>

MARCH—RHODODENDRONS 101—BILL STIPE

This program will be great for newer members and a good refresher for the rest of us. Bill Stipe owns Glynneden Gardens on Whidbey Island and also has a beautiful display garden will be presenting a program about all aspects of growing rhododendrons. The presentation will cover:

- o Introduction to the Species
- o Overview
- o Pictures Of Some Species And Hybrids
- o Soils
- o Planting
- o Mulch
- o Fertilizer
- o Pruning
- o Irrigation
- o Cultural Problems
- o Pests
- o Diseases
- o Attributes
- o Recommendations for Your Garden

This is a program no rhododendron enthusiast should miss. Bring your gardening friends and neighbors for this one. Remember, if you bring a visitor you will receive a free plant, too.

Editor

LAST MONTH—A NURSERYMAN’S NIRVANA—DENNIS BOTTEMILLER

Isn't Dennis great to hear. He is so excited about new plants that he gets to try at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, he just can't help but share.

I hope you caught some of his excitement and are planning to add some of these new introductions to your garden. Thank you Dennis.

Editor

DON'T FROGET DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING

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, March 8th. Thanks.

Editor

FROM PRESIDENT RANDY: WINTER—WHAT WINTER?

This has been an unusual winter so far; actually 2010 has proved to a year of many firsts. On the east coast it has been a brutally cold snowy winter and in the Pacific Northwest we have been blessed with almost spring like weather. On numerous days

*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.*

previous record highs were shattered. The warm sunny days have pushed several early blooming plants to show since the beginning of February. I noticed several bumble bees visiting the early blooming plants on Feb 7; I had never seen bees active this early in the year.



R. neriiflorum ssp neriiflorum 'Rosevallon' - Randy Jones

Monday morning I was weeding and noticed a red blossom shining as the early morning sun filtered through the plant foliage. Upon closer inspection almost every bud was bursting on the *R. neriiflorum ssp neriiflorum 'Rosevallon'*. This rhododendron is blooming more than a month early.

'Rosevallon' is a very stunning plant as it has dark green foliage with the underside of the leaves coated with a reddish maroon indumentum. The flowers are tubular-campanulate bright red, fleshy almost waxy, with a conspicuous calyx. The Truss is somewhat lax made up of 5-12 flowers. There a question as to whether or not this is a true species; some people say it does come true from seed. At 10 years the plant will grow to 4' with a fairly open habit and hardy to about 5 degrees Fahrenheit. *R. neriiflorum ssp neriiflorum 'Rosevallon'* is a plant that we grow for the magnificent unusual foliage, but every late winter I am reminded what a joy it is in bloom.

Randy Jones, President

TREAT TIME!

We have two hostesses in March, so bring your appetites. Thanks to Diane Timmons and Beverly Seers for volunteering to bring treats.

Coleen George, The Sunshine Lady

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Today, I went to Well's Medina to see what they were getting in. Seems Peggie Roberts will be available in containers and field grown this Spring. The parentage is

([Fancy x *R. yakushimanum*] x Coronation Day). It was the very first plant name I ever registered in 1996. Peggie Roberts was a rhododendron customer at Well's Medina for quite a few years and I asked her over to our garden. She was quite excited. I told her to pick out any flowering plant and I would name it after her. This was her choice. Last Spring, two women came into Well's Medina to buy a plant of Peggie Roberts. It was for Peggie's neighbor. She told the salesperson that her name was Peggie Roberts, surprised them. It is rare to meet the person a plant is named after. Peggie is 86 years old and hopes to visit our garden this spring.



Peggie Roberts—Jim Barlup

Peggie Roberts is a good foliage plant, rather compact. If it had a fault, it would be that it does not flower easily, especially at a young age and perhaps needs a bit of sun for flowering.

.Jim Barlup and Editor

THIS MONTHS DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE PLANTS

Here is this month's door prize and raffle plants:

R. BLUE BIRD: 3', 0 degrees, small dense leaves with blue flowers, April-May.

R. BOW BELLS: 3', -5, mid season, has blooms that are pink.

R. CABBAGE HEAD: What a name? Color is white.

R. CUNNINGHAM'S BLUSH: 6', -10 degrees, pink, blooms late mid season. Has reddish-brown blotch.

R. DOROTHY AMATEIS: 5', -15 degrees, America x Purple Splendour, very hardy with olive green leaves. Purple blooms.

R. HOTEI: Real nice yellow, 3', 5 degrees, blooms mid season.

R. HANDSWORTH SCARLET: *R. Caucasicum* hybrid. Color is a dark pink- light red, Early bloomer.

R. TONDALAYA

R. WILLIAMSONIANUM: Early ideas, -5 degrees, 2', comes from China. low spreading, dwarf, blooms various shades of pink.

R. UNIQUE: Classic, known for it's foliage, 4', -5 degrees, older plants tend to cover the whole plant in blooms, cream colored flowers.

We have some very early blooming plants and some very cold tolerant plants you could add to your collection. Don't miss the chance to get some great plants and learn a lot about rhododendron culture. You don't want to miss the March meeting! Hope to see you there.

David Doherty, Vice President

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE - APRIL 9-11, 2010

With about a month to go, the conference is already 75% filled and instructors Ron Knight and Douglas Justice are delighted with the response. Good news: there are still spaces left at both level 1 and level 2! Level 1 classes, with Ron, are all about rhododendron gardening and provide an excellent opportunity to more deeply involve potential and newer rhododendron club members in the wonderful world of rhododendrons. Level 2 classes, with Douglas, are for veteran collectors who want to know more about classification, identification, culture and care of species rhododendrons. Friday April 9th is the garden tour day. Douglas Justice (Curator of UBC Botanical Garden) and Todd Major (former Director of the Park and Tilford Gardens) will be conducting morning tours of Canada's premier rhododendron garden, UBC Botanical Garden. In the afternoon, Gerry Gibbens (Head Gardener for the Sino-Himalayan Garden) and Roy Forster (original designer of the Rhododendron Walk) will be leading tours at the world class VanDusen Botanical Garden. A large selection of species and hybrid rhododendrons will be offered for sale on Saturday and Sunday. If you wish to register, please visit www.rhodos.ca to print a registration form. Mail it as soon as possible. For further information, email Ron Knight at: rcknight@telus.net

Ron Knight, ARS District 1 Director

CASCADE CHAPTER—HELP WANTED

The chapter needs a new secretary. 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

SO WHAT'S BLOOMING IN YOUR GARDEN?

As Randy mentioned in his article, winter has been a "non-event". I really feel for the Vancouver Winter Olympics organizers that after all of that planning it had to be an "El Nino" winter. As I write this the news is saying that another snow storm is ready to hit the Pennsylvania and New York area adding to their record breaking winter snowfall. But this picture is from Vancouver, BC during the Olympics.

So, there must be lots of things blooming in your gar-



den, too. Why don't you bring in a few to share at our March meeting? We could have a blaze of color.

Along with Randy's "Rosevallon", here are a couple others that have been shared with me so far.



R. rirei—Bob George



R. sutchuenense—David Hughes
Thanks for sharing. *Editor*

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

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Happy St. Patrick's Day

***** **DOLLAR TABLE** *****

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

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President: Randy Jones
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Secretary: **Vacant**
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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	March 9	Cascade Meeting—Rhododendrons 101—Bill Stipe
2010	March 20-21	Meerkerk Opening Spring Sale—Whidbey Island
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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ALL OF THE PICTURES IN THIS ISSUE IN LIVING COLOR?

You can if you subscribe to the electronic version of the newsletter sent via e-mail. You'll also get it several days earlier than by US Mail or "Snail Mail". Just send me an email at donolyn@comcast.net and ask to change your newsletter version.

OK, you can also view the color version on our web site at <http://www.arscascade.org>.