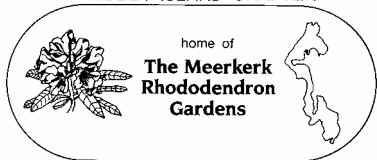


WHIDBEY ISLAND CHAPTER



A R S - DISTRICT 2

ARS Whidbey Island Chapter NEWSLETTER

Website: whidbeyrhodies.org

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each Month
Fire District 5 Headquarters Station
215 East Race Road, Coupeville, WA
Refreshments: 7:00 Meeting: 7:20

April 2008

Next 'Meeting': April 22, 23

Canadian Visitors & Garden Tour

*Our friends from Canada will be joining us for fellowship and fun on April 22, 23 & 24. **Bill Stipe** and **Frank Fujioka** have put together a variety of garden gatherings and tours for all to enjoy. We start on the 22nd at **Lounsberry Park** for a potluck BBQ, tour several gardens on the 23rd, lunch at **Meerkerk** and end with another potluck dinner at **Barry & Kathy Rix**. Maybe we should call this our Food & Garden Tour!*

Visit all the gardens or just a few, then dine with friends. What better way to spend the day... Details on page 3.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 16-20 ARS Annual Convention
Tulsa, OK
- April 22 Canadian Visitors/BBQ
@ Lounsberry Park, Oak Harbor
- April 23 Canadian Visitors/Potluck
@ Barry & Kathy Rix, Coupeville
- May 7-11 International Convention
Edinburgh, Scotland
- May 17-18 Oregon Overnight Bus Tour
- May 28 Chapter Meeting
Bill Heller
- August Chapter Picnic
- Sept 24 Chapter Meeting
- Sept 25-28 ... Western Regional Conference
Hilo, HI

Truss Show

The Chapter is having a Truss Show in conjunction with the Greenbank Garden Club's Spring Plant Sale, April 19th from 10am-2pm.

Stephen Schwarzmann is coordinating this effort to make the general public aware of Rhododendrons and our chapter of the ARS. You are encouraged to bring trusses from your garden for the display. *Setup will be on Friday April 18th at 11am.* Bring your trusses to the Greenbank Farm (the largest barn building) **labeled with the rhodie name and in disposable vessels** (soda bottle or some such) if possible. If you bring a vase, plan to pick it up at 1:30 on Saturday or we will return it to you at our May meeting. **Put your name on your vase** so we can get it back to you.



Greenbank Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, April 19th 10am – 2 pm
at the Greenbank Farm

Plants, Raffle, Bake Sale and garden related flea market!

This sale is a great way to get your garden plants at a reasonable price. Get there *early* so you don't miss out!

A great variety and selection of plants from the Greenbank Garden Club members' gardens will be available. In addition, there will be a raffle, bake sale and garden related flea market. Future gardeners under the age of 12 will also be awarded a free plant! All proceeds from the sale benefit the beautification of Greenbank and surrounding communities.



Bus Tour Reminder

May 17-18, Overnight 'American/Asian' Bus

Tour: An overnight bus trip to the Portland, OR area. The Dover Nursery (Sandy, OR) and Lloyd Baron

Rhodo Garden (Hillsboro, OR) are on the agenda for the 17th and on the 18th visit the Classical Chinese Garden and Japanese Garden in Portland. The bus will pick up passengers, 7am, at the Casino (above Marysville) parking lot. \$25 for the bus, meals and Motel cost on your own. Call Dave Hammond 360-435-9206 for Motel reservations and bus seat.

From the Prez

Bill Stipe



Spring is supposed to be here, but old man winter hangs on. Several early species rhododendrons followed their internal clock and bloomed on schedule only to be hit by the late frost. I expected Jack Frost to be gone by March 15, but this year we had hard frost as late as April 4, and it may not be over yet! I was surprised to find some rhododendron were damaged and others were not. So I think I will be propagating the ones that came through the frost without damage.

One of the trusses I brought to the last chapter meeting was a plant I got from Ted Mallais in England, Lady Linlithgow. It was not frost damaged. I have had this plant for over 10 years and had not really noticed it until this year. It is funny how many rhododendrons have to be mature before the show their best performance. In fact, most of the species will not bloom until they are 10 years or older. My *R. hodgsonii* 'affinity' is finally blooming after 15 years.

Trading tours with the North Island Rhododendron Society (Vancouver Island) has proven to be very rewarding. This chapter has a lot of enthusiasm and is anxious to see our gardens. Our chapter members that ventured to their gardens last year were treated royally, and we are going to try to equal their hospitality. I believe we can keep this going and perhaps adopt their chapter as a "Sister Chapter". Our Chapter meeting this month will be a "Pot Luck" dinner at Barry and Kathy Rix house. This should be a lot of fun with 26 of the Canadians attending.

See you there.

All Together Now...



To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP.

One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favorite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music'. Here are the lyrics she used: (If you sing it out loud, it's especially hilarious)

* * *

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, and hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,

These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

* * *

(Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores.)

Meerkerk Magic

Kristi O'Donnell

*Oh my Radiant Springtime Goddess,
whose verdant cedar mantle,
sewn with crystalline droplets
of late nights squall,
reflect the newborn sunbeams.*

*Early morning soft breeze
sends a gentle quiver to her cape
cascading to the mossy floor
nourishing orbs of liquid elixir*

Alighted, her gossamer threads of silky webs

Sway

*Transporting messenger to nearby branch
and imagination to the field of life.*

Botany Adventure wants you!

Meerkerk is getting ready to welcome 3rd through 5th grade students to the garden in May for our springtime Botany Adventure field trip program Plants, Pollinators and YOU! Hands-on, child-centered activities will introduce plant reproduction and the interdependence of plants, insects and people.

Training for Botany Adventure guides will be held April 21 and 22 from 9:30 - 12:00 and will cover Meerkerk history, garden interpretation techniques, pollination background material, and the new curriculum. New guides will be given the opportunity to shadow a more experienced guide until they feel comfortable on their own. Please contact Deborah Smith, Deborah@meerkerkgardens.org 360-222-3382 if you're interested in becoming a guide or helping in other ways.

Beautify the World... Volunteer!

♦ *Work Parties:* Join us for monthly work parties the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8:45-12:00. We share a potluck lunch at noon.

♦ *Wednesday Construction Team:* Join our crew in building and repairing structures in the Gardens, 9-noon.

♦ *Thursday Mornings: Hands-on-Horticulture* Enjoy working with gardening volunteers and the Meerkerk staff on horticultural projects in the Gardens.

♦ *Independent Opportunities:* Work on your own schedule on a solo or team project in the Gardens or your home office. Contact: Penny@meerkerkgardens.org



Canadians' Visit and Garden Tour

April 22, 23, 24

Canadian Tour Hosts: Thank you for volunteering to host our Canadian guests on their visit to Whidbey Island on April 22, 23, 24. Your guest will be with you overnight on the 22nd & 23rd, and for breakfast on the 24th. They will arrive on Tuesday and participate in a tour of Lounsberry's park and a barbeque that evening. Plan to bring a potluck item adequate for you and your guests. The Chapter will provide salmon and hamburger.

Some guests may need transportation to the open gardens and the meeting/potluck dinner at the Rix's on Wed. Please also bring a potluck item on Wed. For lunch at Meerkerk, the Chapter is providing soup and a deli plate.

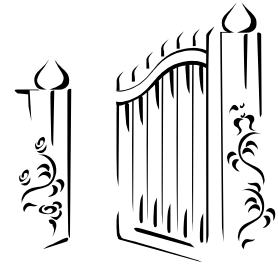
Following are the guests and their hosts:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Dick and Pauline Bonney | John Cienki and Stephanie Rodden |
| Dave and Marleen Crucq | Mel and Marilyn Wright |
| Dany Fortin | Joan and Robert Bell |
| Dave and Noni Godfrey | Barry and Kathy Rix |
| Evelyn Wright and Bernice | Pat Sasson |
| Terry Richmond | Stephan Schwarzmann |
| Brian Staton | Fran and Jack Spicer |
| Harry and Gwen Wright | Bill and Mary Stipe |
| Paul and Lynn Wurz | Bill and Mary Stipe |
| Bernie and Gloria Guyader | John and Felicia Marshall |
| Motel | Nadine Boudreau; Peter and Ann Guertier; |
| | John and Dianna Scott; Bob and Adela Smith; Lois Clyde |

Itinerary - Canadian Visitors & Garden Tour

Tues 4/22 4:00 PM All participants will meet at Lounsberry's park for a potluck barbeque.
All Whidbey members bring a food item, Chapter furnishes fish and hamburger
After dinner all go to assigned homes

Wed 4/23 8:00 AM Breakfast at each hosts home
9:00 AM Tour Dickerson garden: **270 Kineth Point Place, Coupeville**
10:30 AM Tour Schwarzmann garden: **1708 NE Parker Rd., Coupeville**
12:00 AM Tour Meerkerk: **3531 Meerkerk Lane, Greenbank**
Lunch at Meerkerk - Soup and deli snacks
2:00 PM Tour Glynneden Gardens: **2970 Smugglers Cove Rd., Greenbank**
3:30 PM Tour Fujioka's garden: **4638 Rhodie Ln. Freeland**
5:00 PM Tour Rix garden: **26 Fawn Run Place, Coupeville**
6:00 PM Rix home for potluck dinner (*Parking is limited, please consider carpooling*)
All Whidbey members bring a food item.



Please contact Kathy Rix (brix2@netzero.net or 678-1685) to signup to bring a salad, main dish or dessert so she can plan accordingly.

After dinner, return to assigned homes

Thurs 4/24 8:00 AM Breakfast at each hosts home
10:00 AM Plants available for sale (DOA Inspector at Bellingham)

Getting there:

Lounsberry Park: From the South: From Highway 20 - Right on Frostad Rd then left on Dike Rd to Jones Rd. Right on Jones to Sunday Dr (Sunrise Hills), left up the hill to top. Right on Richard Rd to the water tower then right into the "Park".

From the North: From Highway 20 - Left on Troxell Rd then right on Koontz Rd (just past the Holly Farm) to Jones Rd. Right on Jones to Sunday Dr (Sunrise Hills), right up the hill to top. Right on Richard Rd to the water tower then right into the "Park".

Barry and Kathy Rix: Take Highway 20 to Morris Road (about 5 miles south of Coupeville). Go down Morris Road about 1 1/2 miles; you will pass the Morris Farmhouse B&B on the right...keep alert because just about 300 feet to the left is our turn. You will see a wood sign painted green with yellow lettering which says "Pheasant Farm Acres" this is our area...turn to the left and you will be on Pheasant Run (green with white lettering street sign); this is a private gravel dirt road (If you see the fire station on the right, you've gone too far). Go down Pheasant Run about 1/3 mile. 1st road to the right is Fawn Run Place; take a right. 2nd driveway on the right is our place - it's a pretty wide driveway; house is not visible from the road. We are 26 Fawn Run Place; there is a blue with white numbers street sign at the entry of our driveway. There is a doorbell at the front door; when you push the button you can't hear the tone from the outside, but we can hear it inside; takes us awhile to get to the front door.