

Whidbey Rhodies News

whidbeyrhodies.org

April 2010

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month ❖ Race Road Firehouse, 1164 Race Rd, Coupeville WA
7pm Refreshments, 7:20 Meeting & Program

Potluck 6:00pm @ Greenbank Progressive Hall

Potluck: Bring your favorite entrée, salad or dessert to share. Plates, cups, utensils, coffee and tea will be provided. Come a little early, 5:30ish, to help setup tables and chairs and unfurl the table cloths! The Komo Kulshan chapter has again been invited to join us.



Auction: Rhododendrons and companion plants will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Bring a plant for the auction table and a wallet full of loot! You may get that one of a kind rhodie that *can only be acquired* at these chapter auctions.

Great home cooking, good friends, rhodies for the garden and a look at Gardens of Japan! What better way to spend an evening?

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 28th @ Greenbank Progressive Hall

**Program: Richard & Jennifer Fairfield
Japanese Gardens of Japan**

Richard and Jennifer Fairfield will share their visit to Japanese gardens they toured while on their cruise to the Islands of Japan. I'm sure we'll be entertained by the knowledgeable travelogue these two have put together.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 28.....	Chapter Meeting/Potluck @ Greenbank Progressive Hall
May 14-17.....	ARS Annual Convention Long Island, NY
May 26.....	Chapter Meeting Shirley Rock: All About Hardy Fuchsias
August.....	Annual Picnic
Sept 22	Chapter Meeting Judith Jones: Ferns as Companion Plants
Oct 27	Chapter Meeting Dennis Bottemiller: Big Leaf Propagation
Nov 17.....	Pie Social/Annual Meeting Election of Officers
Dec 5 (Sunday)	Holiday Party

Big Leaf Valley Work Party

The March 13th Big Leaf Valley work party started off with a some unscheduled lumberjacking. With chainsaw and muscle **Paul Loudon**, **Mark Walljasper** and his son **Mike** made short work of clearing the path of a fallen tree. Next, and in keeping with the plan of the day, **Keith** picked up 3 yards of cedar mulch which **Don Lee**, **Stephen Schwarzmann**, **Don Allen** and **Frank Fujioka** spread over 2/3 of the Valley plantings making it look quite handsome. Lunch included chili, cornbread, potato salad and cookies, yum... see what you missed!

The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday May 8th, 9-noon**. The 'to do' list includes completing the last of the mulching then on to the next challenge, the irrigation system.

Bring a potluck dish to share at noon.

From The Prez

Pat Sasson



Dear Rhodie Friends,

Starlight Champagne, Glowing Gold, Pink Prelude, Miss Frances, Frank's Fidors and many others are all in glorious color in my yard!

Even the very large rhodie I bought from Jake and Don Allen moved to my property with his truck and lots of help is filled with blooms this year. What a season for rhododendrons! They bloomed early and will stay in bloom longer this year. My yard has never looked more colorful and I hope yours does also.

I will have to miss the pot luck this year and the chance to get more wonderful rhodies at bargain prices. Stephen has it all organized but I know he would like your help, especially with cleaning up. The pot luck is always a fun event and I am sorry not to be there.

It seems that when one is retired one is busier than ever and I am certainly finding that to be true. I had to miss the April 10th work party in the Big Leaf Valley also. Thank you to those who came and worked. That day was the final Pelican Fleet 3 race up in Oak Harbor and I crew on one of the Pelicans (boats, not birds). For the third straight year in a row the boat I crew on came in 2nd place in the B fleet. It was a beautiful day with lots of wind and thankfully we did not capsize!

But back to rhodies. I want to thank **Stephen** for putting together the panel for last month's meeting and thank the panel members **Don**, **Frank** and **Bill** for doing such a stellar job. We had mostly chapter members present with a few visitors but I don't think anyone was bored at all. I, for one, learned new things and it is always nice to hear about rhododendrons.

Happy Spring!

Pat

Oregon Coast Gardening & Landscaping Expo



Saturday, June 26 – 9:00am - 5:00pm

Newport Intermediate School

825 NE 7th Street, Newport, OR

www.oregoncoastgardeningexpo.com

Landscaping Expo features over fifty Northwest plant sellers offering a wide variety of great plants, trees and shrubs including the unusual and rare. Plus the extremely popular gardening and landscaping seminars return with top guest speakers including the legendary Ed Hume, Kym Pokorny of The Oregonian, famed landscape designer Lucy Hardiman, Frances Hopkins, founder & owner of Stepables ground covers and many more! The Lincoln County Master Gardeners again be operating their Master Gardener Help Center

featuring soil testing and readily available to answer your questions. Lunch is available and will again feature Mo's Famous Clam Chowder.

Admission is only \$5.00 and includes the seminars! *This will be an terrific time to visit the ocean beach and attend one of the top Northwest gardening shows of the season.*

For updated information visit our website. For more information contact **Jim Myers**: 541-270-0892 or orgardenexpo@oregoncoastgardeningexpo.com

Plant ID

Those of you who bought these plants off the dollar table last month, and wanted to know a bit about them: *Saxifraga paniculata*, is also known as encrusted saxifrage for the lime-encrusted pores that edge the leaves. Needs average water, gritty soil, stalks of white flowers in early summer.



Meerkerk Notes

Meerkerk Gardens is cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers. Friends from the American Rhododendron Society, local garden clubs, Island County Master Gardeners and our community assist throughout the year. There are many ways you can volunteer to help at the Gardens:

- **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 as needed in the Gardens, 9-noon. Add your name to the call list 678-1912.
- **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 Kristi: meerkerk@whidbey.net.



Meerkerk Gardens 2010 Events

Gardens in peak bloom now!

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| May 9 | Mother's Day Concert on the Lawn |
| May 15 | Purple Passion Rhododendron Sale |
| August 28 | Bluegrass Festival |
| October | Autumn Rhododendron Sale |

Visit www.meerkerkgardens.org for event updates.

➤ Big Leaf Valley work party May 8th ◀

Proven Performer Update

This list of 'Proven Performers' are plants that have proven their ability to perform well, have good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases.

In an effort to update the proven performers for our area, please review the following list and select your proven performers or bring along a list of the plants that you'd like to recommend. For a plant to make the list at least two people need to recommend it and they should have grown it in their garden for a minimum of two years. The list should also be reviewed to eliminate plants. Again, at least two people need to suggest a plant's removal. Bill Stipe will ask for your feedback at this month's meeting.

Elepidotes (E):

'Alice'
'Amibblue'
'Avalanche'
'Blue Boy'
'Bow Bells'
'Canadian Sunset'
'Cynthia'
'Dreamland'
'Elsie Watson'
'Fantastica'
'Fire Rim'
'Golden Gate'
'Halfdan Lem'
'Hallelujah'
'Horizon Monarch'
'Invitation'
'Jean Marie de Montague'
'Lemon Dream'
'Lem's Cameo'
'Lem's Monarch'
'Marie Starks'
'Mrs. Furnivall'
'Nancy Evans'
'Naselle'
'Noyo Brave'
'Noyo Dream'
'One Thousand Butterflies'
'Percy Wiseman'
'Point Defiance'
'President Roosevelt'
'Rosalie Hall'
'Sea-Tac'
'Seaview Sunset'
'Senator Henry Jackson'
'Senorita Chere'
'Starbright Champagne'
'Taurus'
'Thalia'
'Trude Webster'
'Viennese Waltz'
R. *bureavii*
R. *macabeanum*
R. *pachysanthum*
R. *pseudochrysanthum*
R. *yakushmanum*

Proposed (E) Additions:

'Saffron Silk'
'Tabitha'
'Wind River'

Lepidotes (L):

'Blaney's Blue'
'Bob's Blue'
'Cilpinense'
'Cream Crest'
'Dora Amateis'
'Ginny Gee'
'Patty Bee'
'Peter Bee'
'PJM Group'
'Ramapo'
'Saint Merryn'
'Sapphire'
'Seta'
'Shamrock'
'Too Bee'
'Vibrant Violet'
'Wee Bee'
'Weston's Pink Diamond'
R. *augustinii*
R. *campylogynum*
R. *oreotrephes*

Proposed (L) Additions:

'Blue Baron'

Deciduous Azaleas:

'Buttons and Bows'
'Cecile'
'Gibraltar'
'Golden Chariot'
'Homebush'
'Mount Saint Helen'
'Nifty Fifty'
'Oxydol'
'Rosey Light'
'Washington State Centennial'
R. *kiusianum*
R. *luteum*
R. *occidentale*

Evergreen Azaleas:

'Balsaminiflorum'
'Girards Fuchsia'
'Hino-crimson'
'Komo Kulshan'
'Purple Splendor'



A Visit to Glynneden

Gail DaPont

I've just spent a morning walking through **Bill Stipe's Glynneden Garden** and nursery where he has slowly and methodically expanded the gardens to include an impressive collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons. Some of the species have actually been grown from seed Bill collected in the wilds of China some 20 years ago. A *R. kensangiae*, blooming for the first time this year, is sporting deep rosy pink trusses.

Bill has set aside a display plot for the hybridizers of the Northwest. In this area you will find the hybrids of Barlup, Berg, Fujioka, Newcomb, Watson, Whitney and more, represented. The Stipe hybrids have a place of their own where they are tested for several years before the decision is made to name them or scrap them from his hybridizing program.

My tour would not have been complete without a critical look at *R. 'Whidbey Island'*. I had one for a while and was unimpressed with it as a young plant, rather open and gawky. I had to eat my words on that when I saw these as 10 foot+ mature plants. They were well proportioned and beautifully shaped. If you have the room for one, they grow into a very nice specimen plant.

The nursery at Glynneden is geared towards the sale of larger plants. Landscapers come here to 'buy time', large mature plants that provide instant gratification. The general public is welcome to shop here as well. Large healthy plants await anyone who just can't wait for those one gallon rhodies to get to specimen size! In any case if you're going to be in Bill's neck of the woods, are shopping for large rhododendrons or just want to talk 'shop', give Bill a call. He'll be glad to show you what he's been up to.

Hirsutum Project

The Hirsutum project website is a very user friendly and comprehensive listing of known Rhododendron species and hybrids, complete with photos and information about the plants and their history. All photos and information have been donated by users, and everyone is encouraged to submit their own photos. There is a provision for every user to set up a personal garden site to keep track of their plants. The site was initiated by a group of enthusiasts in the Netherlands and is headed by Herman Van Ree from Nunspeet. A most welcome and informative site:

www.hirsutum.info

Please submit articles of interest for May Newsletter by 5/14/10

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