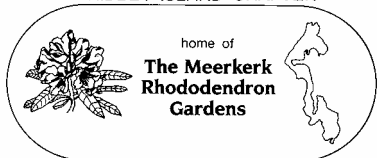


WHIDBEY ISLAND CHAPTER



A R S - DISTRICT 2

# ARS Whidbey Island Chapter NEWSLETTER

Website: [www2.whidbey.net/dapont/ARS](http://www2.whidbey.net/dapont/ARS)

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

March 2007

## Chapter Garden Tour *Stephen Schwarzmann*

Before you read another word, mark **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** on your calendars for our members Garden Tour! We are pleased to have five distinct and lovely gardens opened to us for this day, two in Coupeville and one in each of Greenbank, Freeland and Clinton. We need volunteers to assist with parking/tours. Volunteers can select a garden of their choice to assist (not all need assistance). The gardens will be open at various times throughout the day which will give volunteers an opportunity to view other gardens. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at this month's meeting.

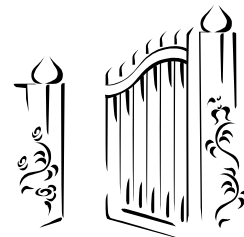
1. **Doug Kirk**  
(lovely terraced gardens)  
3830 Goldfinch Lane  
Clinton  
360-341-1361  
Open: 9:30AM-Noon

2. **Frank Fujioka**  
4636 Rhodie Lane  
Freeland  
(Frank is a world renowned hybridizer)  
360-331-4179  
Open: 9:30AM-Noon

3. **Bill and Mary Stipe**  
2970 S Smugglers Cove Rd  
Greenbank  
(Glynneden Gardens featuring rare and unusual rhododendrons)  
360-678-8740  
Open: 9:30AM-noon 1:00PM-3:30PM

4. **Kate and David Dickerson**  
270 Kineth Point Place  
Coupeville  
(An abundance of Hardscape with over 400 Rhodies and 75 Japanese maples)  
360-678-2085  
Open: 1:00PM-3:30PM

5. **Marjorie and John Bachert** (John, a master gardener, volunteers at Meerkerk)  
15 N. Fawn Run Drive  
Coupeville  
(Kettle Garden, featured in March 10th Spring 2007 Home and Garden supplement to the S. Whidbey Record and The Whidbey News-Times.)  
Phone:360-678-1948  
Open: 2:30PM-4:30PM



### Next Meeting: Wed, March 28

#### Program: Rhodie Workshop

Individual presenters will give short lectures followed by a Q&A period exploring the different aspects of growing and the care of rhododendrons in your garden.

This will be an educational program for beginners as well as veterans who need a refresher.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 28 .....	Chapter Meeting
April 12-15 .....	ARS Annual Convention San Francisco, CA
April 21 .....	Chapter Garden Tour
April 25 .....	Meeting/Potluck/Show/Auction Richie Steffen, Species Rhododendrons
May 23 .....	Chapter Meeting
August .....	Chapter Picnic
Sept 26 .....	Chapter Meeting
Oct 12-14 .....	ARS Regional Conference Cleveland, OH
Nov 14 .....	Pie Social/Annual Meeting
Dec 8 .....	Chapter Holiday Dinner



**Cookie reminder:**  
Kathy Floyd & Jan Allen

## From the Prez

Bill Stipe

Mother Nature is still beating up my garden, probably yours too. Anyway, spring is just around the corner, I can tell by how many rhodies are blooming. This is a good time to assess how well your garden made it through the wind, snow, and cold. Many of our rhodies took a beating and will need to be removed and discarded. No use to keep ratty looking plants around. Take a look at our chapter "Proven Performers" and buy replacements from that list.



Our plant sale at Coupeville included some excellent rhododendrons, mostly new introductions from Jim Barlup and Frank Fujioka. However, we had a lot left over. As a consequence those plants will be available to Chapter members for \$5.00 off retail price. They are at my Garden, if you are interested in buying some, let me know soon, because I intend to plant all that do not sell, and then the price will go up.

We have lots of things planned for this spring and summer, the convention in San Francisco, the members' garden tour, and the tour of the Vancouver Island Gardens. We will have more info at the meeting, come and bring a friend or neighbor.

## You're Invited

Chip Mueller

*"Rowallane: a special garden in the North of Ireland"*

The Seattle Rhododendron Society invites you to attend a slide lecture, **Wednesday, April 4 at 7:30**, by Mike Snowden, recently retired head gardener of Rowallane, in Northern Ireland (Saintfield, Ballynahinch, County Down). It is a National Trust Garden.

Mike's talk is entitled "Rowallane: a special garden in the North of Ireland". He will illustrate this with slides, and focus on rhododendrons as well as other plants. For example, the walled garden includes National Collection of penstemons, and there is a natural woodland rock garden filled with primulas and meconopsis. The 52-acre garden is, however, famous for its rhododendrons and azaleas. It was started in 1860 by the Rev. John Moore.

Mike is a lively lecturer, and this should be a great evening! We'll start off with the lecture at 7:30, so don't be late. For additional info contact Chip Mueller 206-368-7868, chipmuller@seanet.com.

### Meeting Reminder

#### Bring...

- Early blooming trusses!
- Plants for the dollar table
- A friend
- Your enthusiasm

... and friendship to share!

---

## Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale

---

This year's Annual Spring Plant Sale will take place **Friday, March 30 (2pm-3pm members only) 3pm-6pm everyone welcome and Saturday, March 31 9am to 3pm**. There will be over 20 Northwest vendors featuring thousands of garden favorites as well as unique and rare plants including rhododendrons species and hybrids, perennials, trees, other shrubs, ferns, and bamboo. Parking and admission to the garden is free on these days. For more information visit their web site at [www.rhodygarden.org](http://www.rhodygarden.org)

The Federal Noon Lion's Club will be offering lunch on Friday afternoon then breakfast Saturday morning and lunch Saturday afternoon with all proceeds going back to the community.

*(Editor's note: Whidbey Island ARS is a member of the RSF)*

## Busted Myths

**Myth:** "Bluegrass" seed makes the greatest lawn.

**Fact:** Bluegrass doesn't thrive in Western Washington. Choose perennial rye and tall fescues for sturdier lawn growth here.

**Myth:** Crane flies kill lawns and require pesticide treatment.

**Fact:** Healthy lawns can outgrow average crane fly damage if there are less than about 35 larvae per square foot. (Dig down and count!)

*(Written by Mary Robson and Holly Kennel, Washington State University Cooperative Extension/King, Snohomish and Pierce counties. Seattle Times)*



---

## Meerkerk Gardens 2007 Events

---

April-May	<b>PEAK BLOOM!</b>	Open Daily 9-4
April 21	<b>Meerkerk Magic, A Festival of Flowers</b>	Noon-4
May 13	<b>Mother's Day Harp Concert</b>	Noon-4
August 4	<b>Meerkerk Medley</b>	4:30-9
Oct 13	<b>Autumn Rhododendron Sale</b>	9-1



## Chapter Sale Notes

Many thanks to all of you who helped with the plant sale setup/teardown and sales including: **Nancy Lyon, Don** and **Jan Allen** and **Frank Fujioka**. A special thanks to **Bill Stipe** for driving to Oregon and back with a load of excellent rhodies for the sale and for providing the raffle plant for the Gardening Workshop (required for all exhibitors). Also thanks **Krisiti O'Donnell** at Meerkerk Gardens for the use of signage.

If you were unable to get to the sale, you're in luck as the plants we have left are available for a limited time at \$5 off the sale price. Compare the list of sale plants in last month's newsletter with the Proven Performers list and snap up some great plants at a bargain price! Contact **Bill Stipe** 678-8740/222-3096 for plant purchases.

## Proven Performer Update

You may already be aware of the 'Proven Performers' list that has been compiled by the American Rhododendron Society. The listed plants have proven their ability to perform well, good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases, in members' gardens and are recommended to others.

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.



### Elepidotes:

'Alice'  
'Avalanche'  
'Blue Boy'  
'Bow Bells'  
'Canadian Sunset'  
'Cynthia'  
'Dreamland'  
'Elsie Watson'  
'Fantastica'  
'Golden Gate'  
'Halfdan Lem'  
'Hallelujah'  
'Jean Marie de Montague'  
'Ken Janeck'  
'Lemon Dream'  
'Lem's Cameo'  
'Lem's Monarch'  
'Marie Starks'  
'Mrs. Furnival'  
'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. macabeianum*  
*R. pachysanthum*  
*R. pseudochrysanthum*  
*R. yakushimanum*

### Lepidotes:

'Blaney's Blue'  
'Bob's Blue'  
'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. cilipenense*  
*R. oreotrephe*

### Deciduous Azaleas:

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

### Evergreen Azaleas:

'Amoenum'  
'Balsaminiflorum'  
'Cherry Drops'  
'Girards Fuchsia'  
'Hino-crimson'  
'Komo Kulshan'  
'Purple Splendor'

### Candidates for 2007

Amber Touch  
Blue Baron  
Deep Clover  
Fire Rim  
Glowing Gold  
Home Bush  
Horizon Monarch  
Ice Music  
Invitation  
Love Poem  
Marley Hedges  
Mindy's Love  
Orchid Mist  
*R. radicans*  
Silk Ribbon  
Wee Bee  
Wind River



## What would March be without a wee bit of Irish...

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney.

"Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!"

"Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney. "Where are ye callin' from?"

---

Please submit articles of interest for Mar Newsletter by **4/13/07**

Gail DaPont, editor  
PO Box 1399, Freeland, WA 98249  
gail@whidbey.com

---