

WHIDBEY ISLAND CHAPTER



ARS Whidbey Island Chapter NEWSLETTER

Website: whidbeyrhodies.org

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each Month
Fire District 5 Headquarters Station
1164 Race Road, Coupeville, WA
Refreshments: 7:00 Meeting: 7:20

May 2009

Next Meeting: Wed, May 27

Program: *Frank Fujioka; Scotland*

This month *Frank Fujioka* will share the program he presented at the Scottish Rhododendron Silver Jubilee at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh last May. Entitled "*Rhododendrons in the Landscape, or What's Under the Kilt*" is Frank's version of a very casual use of a variety of plants together with rhododendrons to create pleasant collages of color, texture and shapes.

Frank will also show us pictures of the various gardens and plants of interest from his trip.

We can expect Frank's presentation to be informative and laced with some sly humor.

Please join us for this fun evening!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 27	Chapter Meeting
	Fujioka: A Visit to Scotland
August 2	Chapter Picnic
Sept 18-20....	Western Regional Conference
	Federal Way, WA
Sept 23	Chapter Meeting
	Program: TBA
Oct 28.....	Chapter Meeting
	Program: TBA
Nov 18	Annual Mtg/Election of Officers
	Program: TBA
Dec 9 (Wed)	Holiday Dinner
	@ Christopher's in Coupeville

Recap: Everett Conference Truss Show

Katherine Thompson

There was a beautiful display of trusses, over 150 entries despite the unusually cold spring. It was a room full of color that everyone enjoyed. It was non-judged, voted by the attendees as a people's choice for best truss. Thank you to everyone who brought in trusses, volunteers Jeff Bell, Karen Swensen, Dave Kentala (and anyone else I missed!). Thanks also to Rex Smith & Paul Thompson for hauling the risers, bottles and usual stuff to make this display happen!

- 1st Place Rosalie Hall (cross by Eddie Newcomb) submitted by George & Irene Neiswanger
- 2nd Place Kesangiae submitted by Bill Stipe
- 3rd Place Canadian Sunset submitted by Paul & Diane Thompson

ARS Regional Convention. Tacoma. WA

The ARS Regional Convention, "*Collecting Rhododendrons Around the World*" is being held September 18-20 at the Best Western Evergreen Inn & Suites, 32124 25th Ave South, Federal Way, WA 98023 Telephone: (253) 529-4000 or 1-800-937-8376. Ask for the Rhododendron Convention Rate of \$109 per night. If you are AAA or AARP or government employee you might try to swing a better deal. Convention space is limited to 160 people so be sure to register as early as possible. For registration details and program information contact **Bill Miller**, Western Regional chair: 806 S Proctor, Tacoma, WA 98405; smile4bill@hotmail.com.

Trivia Quiz!

Can you match the descriptive Latin species names to their English equivalents.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| Globe shaped | arborea |
| Dwarf | pendula |
| Golden | fastigiata |
| Weeping | aurea |
| Upright | globosa |
| Tree-like | nana |
| Silvery | argentea |

Answers on page 2, but you probably know all this stuff!



Cookie reminder:
Mary Wyman & Norma Lounsberry

From the Prez

Pat Sasson

Hi All,

It is with great pleasure that I report the success of the ARS Conference in Everett, surpassing our greatest hopes with 320 in attendance. Break-even was 230 so we (WIARS) will gain a nice share in the profits after all bills are paid.

The weather cooperated and we actually had spring sunny days for our tours. The Friday tour to Whidbey Island with 4 buses and 200 people could not have gone better! The buses got right on the ferry at 9:30, with half going to Frank's and then Bill's while the other half went to Meerkerk. The groups then switched. Maggie from Ovations served a wonderful buffet lunch at Meerkerk to all. After a wonderful day and tours of the gardens we rode right on the ferry going back to Everett. Amazing!

The positive comments abounded with people saying this was the best conference ever. One could feel the positive energy throughout the conference. People came as far away as New Zealand, England, Denmark, Canada and the East Coast. I guess I have been here on the West Coast long enough so that I had trouble understanding the Long Island ladies. New Zealand was easier!

I want to thank all the people from our chapter who volunteered to make the conference such a success. **Bill Stipe** organized the tours - no small job. He also had to get his own garden ready while Mary baked many batches of cookies. **Frank with Greg's** help had his garden the envy of all. **Kristi** and staff were there to greet us at Meerkerk with rhodies blooming galore. WIARS members helping at the gardens were the **Marshalls, Valarie Pedlar, Donna Lee and Greg, Gail DaPont, the Allens, Keith Bowers, Susie Reynolds, the Wrights, Don Lee, Don Kohlenberger, Stephanie Rodden** and **John Cienki**. Stephanie put together a fabulous basket for auction. **Suzanne Ramsey** donated a weaving of a rhodie. **Dick Pedlar** organized the buses. **Steve Schwarzmann** was bus captain for tours. And, baptism by fire, **Suzanne Dobrin** who just joined our chapter was with me from Wednesday until Sunday morning. She was bus captain on tours both Thursday and Friday and helped with anything else needed. Thank you all and forgive me if I skipped anyone.

The Holiday Inn in Everett could not have been more accommodating. Breakfast buffets each morning were actually free and amazing. The hotel was so pleased with us that we are invited back next year. (**Don Smart** said "thanks, but no thanks" ...he is done!)

So with the conference behind me I now turn to my garden. My Rhodies are amazing this year. I hope all yours are too!

Slowing down sudden oak death

GardenGate Magazine June '09

Sudden oak death, caused by the bacterial fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*, is a big problem affecting many plant species. Spores are spread by wind and rainwater, and symptoms vary depending on the plant. Not all those infected die - some just carry the disease. This has resulted in reports of infected plants in more than 20 states and a few nurseries in Canada.

Scientists with the Agricultural Research Station in Colorado, the USDA Forest Service and Oregon State University have taken a big step towards preventing the spread of sudden oak death. Working with compounds made from heartwood, the oldest wood found at the center of a

tree, researchers have created a fungicide. It limits the growth and reproduction of *P. ramorum* in the lab. Though further study is needed, the heartwood of western red cedar and incense cedar has shown promise.

Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens Purple Passion Rhodie Sale

May 23rd 9am-4pm

Wear purple and receive free admission to the sale and special discounts on our 'Purple Passion' Rhodies!

We have a rainbow of colorful rhodies available in our nursery as well: Seaview Sunset, Orange Marmalade, Primary Pink, Bob's Blue, Violet Ice, Glowing Gold and more!



Meerkerk Notes

Thursday: Hands-on-Horticulture

Work with our professional horticulture staff and other garden enthusiasts on projects throughout the Gardens. We meet in the volunteer cottage for hot coffee and tea at 8:45. Then we're into the Gardens to prune, plant, pot, and beautify.

Thursday in Spring: Grateful Deadheaders

Join the Meerkerk Gardens' Grateful Deadheaders every Thursday morning in spring, 9am to Noon and receive a handmade tie-dyed T-shirt! Bring your favorite pruners and gloves and team up with us for fun in the Gardens as we deadhead the rhododendrons and beautify the world.

2nd Saturday: Work Party

Join us in the Gardens to plan and prepare for each new season. Park in the volunteer's parking lot and meet in the volunteer cottage for hot coffee and tea at 8:45. Embark on projects throughout the Gardens at 9 then return to the cottage at noon for a potluck lunch.

Upcoming Meerkerk Events

Sunday, August 23rd, 1-3pm: Outdoor concert on the green featuring Billet-Deux and their masterful melding of the gypsy jazz, modern jazz, ethnic, and classical genres.

Saturday, September 12th, 10am-4pm: Whidbey Island Bluegrass Festival, featuring an open mic, jammin' on the lawn and 5 regional bluegrass bands.

Cost of the concerts is \$10 per adult. Children 16 and under are admitted free!



Please submit articles of interest for **Sept** Newsletter by **9/07/09**

Gail DaPont, editor
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Rhododendron Proven Performers for Whidbey Island

Don't go to the nursery without this list for the 'Proven Performers' and Rhododendron of Year that do well in this area. Compiled by the American Rhododendron Society, these are plants with good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases. The listed plants have proven their ability to perform well in members' gardens and are recommended to others on Whidbey Island and the Northwest.

Elepidotes:

'Alice'
 'Avalanche'
 'Blue Boy'
 'Bow Bells'
 'Canadian Sunset'
 'Cynthia'
 'Dreamland'
 'Elsie Watson'
 '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'
 'Teddy Bear'
 'Trude Webster'
 'Viennese Waltz'
R. bureavii
R. degronianum ssp. *yakushmanum*
R. macabeaenum
R. pachysanthum
R. pseudochrysanthum

Lepidotes:

'Blaney's Blue'
 'Bob's Blue'
 'Cilipinense'
 '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 ssp. *augustinii*
R. campylogynum
R. oreotrephes

Deciduous Azaleas:

'Cecile'
 'Nifty Fifty'
 'Oxydol'
 'Washington State Centennial'
R. occidentale

Evergreen Azaleas:

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



'Fantastica'



R. augustinii



'Balsaminiflorum'



R. occidentale

Rhododendron of the Year (NW)

Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Fantastica'

Lepidote Rhododendron: *R. augustinii*

Evergreen Azalea: 'Balsaminiflorum'

Deciduous Azalea: *R. occidentale*