

WHIDBEY ISLAND CHAPTER



A R S - DISTRICT 2

ARS Whidbey Island Chapter NEWSLETTER

Website: www2.whidbey.net/dapont/ARS

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

October 2006

Next Meeting: Wed, Oct 25

**Program: Frank Fujioka:
Hybridizings; the growing and
selection process**

Frank Fujioka will present a two part program of his recent trip to Europe. First he will give us a look some of the highlights of his trip; the Breton, France rhododendron show, Hachmann's Nursery in Hamburg and rhodies in Denmark. The second part of his presentation will take us through his garden with a look at his hybrids, the growing and selection process, and some of his new hybrid seedlings, contrasting their parentage, as it was presented at the French rhododendron show. This program is rated R-16 due to the unusual language usage (it's in French!) Handouts in English will be provided.

This sounds like a very entertaining program, don't be the one to miss it!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct 25	Chapter Meeting Frank Fujioka
Nov 15	Annual Chapter Meeting Election of Officers Pie Social/Steve Hootman
Dec 9	Holiday Dinner/Gift Exchange @ Christopher's in Coupeville



Dues Reminder

Please get your ARS membership renewals to **Marilynn Wright** before November 1st. Bring them to the October meeting or drop them in the mail to her. Marilynn will be gone mid-November so anything that comes to the mail box while she is gone will just have to wait until she gets back on the 7th of December. Remember, if your membership is not renewed by December 1st you may miss the January issue of the ARS Journal.

Election of Officers

Time is drawing near for us to elect new Officers (Annual meeting, November). If you have been looking for an opportunity to support and inspire the Whidbey Island ARS Chapter, here's your chance. You do not have to be a rhododendron expert to hold office, just a willingness to guide us. Please contact Don Allen, 678-4329, if this is the job for you.

Chapter Bylaws

Your copy of the current Whidbey Chapter ARS Bylaws, voted and passed in March, are inserted in this newsletter for you records.

Old Farmer's Advice

- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.



Cookie reminder!
Pat Sasson and
Kate Dickerson

From the (acting) Prez *John Marshall*



Last month I wrote asking everyone to pray for or do a rain dance for some much needed rain and *WE GOT IT!* I've read in the evening paper that we will have a strengthening El Niño event this winter. This will bring above normal temperatures, though perhaps not as warm as last year's, and some drought is anticipated in parts of the Pacific Northwest... in other words, warmer and drier than normal for this area. So you'll have to keep those prayers and dances coming as we still need lots more moisture for our Rhododendrons and companion plants.

Nomination of Officers will be held at the October meeting. We still need *you* to be an Officer or Director. If you are so inclined, please call **Don Allen** at 678-4329.

Reminder... **Dues are due!** Our Treasurer, **Marilynn Wright** needs to receive your money by November 1st so she can get your renewal in the works before she leaves on vacation. Guarantee receipt of your January ARS Journal by bringing your renewal envelope and monies to this month's meeting.

We have two great speakers scheduled for the next few months. **Frank Fujioka** will present the program he did for the French Rhododendron Society at the October meeting and **Steve Hootman** from the Rhododendron Species Foundation, will be with us in November. Both of these programs should prove to be very informative. Come, bring a friend, enjoy the fellowship and hear what's new with Frank and Steve.

See you there!

Meerkerk Magic *Kristi O'Donnell*

Autumn's Inspiration

Swirling leaves confetti the air

Floating to earth with ease

A colorful carpet slowly takes shape

At the foot of September's trees.

Gilded Katsura, ruby red Acer

Sweet Gum, a galaxy of stars:

burgundy, lime green, lemon and scarlet,

This kaleidoscope holds me in awe.

Remember to look and see the beauty of autumns' inspirations.

Hold these images in your mind to balance irritations.

Swirling leaves confetti the air

Floating to earth with ease.



Meerkerk Gardens Annual Autumn Sale

Saturday October 21, 9am to 1pm

Beautify the World! Hundreds of species and hybrid rhodies, from starter sizes to mature landscape specimens, will be on sale. Tried and true rhodies and new, unnamed hybrids are part of this Autumn Fund Raiser for the Gardens. Cool soil temperatures and the return of rain are perfect for transplanting now.

Bring your neighbor and your truck. Parking is in the main parking lot. Sales are by check or cash. Meerkerk Gardens is a private not for profit organization. Proceeds go directly to caring for this 10 acre display and educational woodland garden and arboretum. There is no admission charge for entry on Sale day, however, donations are gratefully accepted.

We invite you to take time to enjoy the fall colors throughout the Gardens now, illuminating the azaleas, maples, magnolias and enkianthus.

And more . . .

After the sale, from 1:00 to 3:30, please join us in wishing our horticulturist, **Oriana**, bon voyage! She will be heading south this autumn to return to college, pursuing horticulture and healing. We will host a potluck in the volunteer cottage: please bring appetizers or a dish to share. While visiting, check out the great improvements our teams have completed this summer: the new outdoor education room/patio, living wall, propagation house and paths to the Volunteer Cottage.

You will see the new Gatehouse construction underway, the additional irrigation pumps and booster tank and tree work at the Hybridizer's Garden Site. These projects are all possible through the support of Friends of Meerkerk members and grants, for which Meerkerk is grateful.

We hope to see you October 21!

Kristi O'Donnell

Free to Good Home

Joan Bell is offering her 3-4 year collection of ARS Journals to anyone interested. Please contact her: jbz3@earthlink.net or 678-4634.

BRAIN TEASER

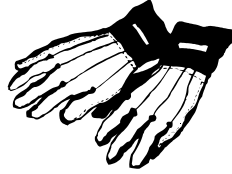
Take the letters **ERGRO**. Put three letters in front of it, and the same three letters behind to form a common English word.

Answer page 3

In the Garden

October Rhododendron tips: (Bill Stipe)

Now that the days are getting short, the rhodies will start going dormant. Do not prune or fertilize now. Check the flower buds which should now be formed and remove any more than one bud per terminal; this will assure a better flower truss next spring. Check the leaves for symptoms of root weevil; if they are present they leave notches along the edge of the leaves. Several insecticides are approved for control, I use Talstar™ (generic name is bifenthrin). Apply it at the base of the rhodie, which is where the weevil hangs out during the day. You can also hand pick the adults by going out with a flashlight at night and squashing them. Fall is a good time to add or renew the mulch in your rhodie beds. Add 2 to 3 inches of bark or compost. Fall is also a good time to plant or transplant rhododendrons. Watch the nursery adds for fall clearance sales!



General gardening tips:

(Mary Robson, author of "Month by Month Gardening in Oregon and Washington" (Cool Springs Press, 2006), and Sandy Dunham, Seattle Times desk editor)

- Move woody plants, and transplant or install new trees and shrubs.
- Plant, plant, plant through February, whenever the ground is frost-free.
- Revive your tired lawn by overseeding through mid-Oct. Sod can go in nearly any time all winter, but be sure the soil drains well.

District Director Report Fall 2006

Another ARS Chapter "season" has started. I hope to see all of you at some of your meeting throughout the year. Those of you who didn't make it to the Fall Regional in Harrison Hot Springs missed a very good conference – and beautiful weather for a boat trip on Harrison Lake.

Of course I was there also for the ARS Board meeting and I have few things to report from that. First of all, I was nominated for the position of Western Vice President, replacing Fred Whitney, who will become the ARS President at the end of the spring annual meeting in San Francisco. That means, too, that we need to find a new District 2 Director and Alternate. Please consider your involvement in the ARS and if you would like to have a greater say in operations of the Society, let your chapter president know of your wishes. I can tell you from my limited experience, you will meet new friends and see get to travel to exotic locations – Cleveland, Ohio for next falls' board meeting and Tulsa, Oklahoma in the spring of 2008.

If you have not renewed your ARS membership, be advised that the date for renewals to be received by the ARS office has been moved up to November 15th in order to have them processed so the Journal printer has mailing labels for members by December 1st. If you renew late, you will not get a winter edition of the Journal.

As you can probably understand, quite a bit of the board's discussion is around the budget and financial standing of the ARS. The ARS is currently in pretty good shape, but the biggest income item is memberships. And membership is continuing to decline and will continue to as the average age of members gets older. Think of a gardening friend or a family member who might be interested in a membership. Consider giving a membership as a gift. Sure, we are the Rhododendron Society, but we are gardeners and grow other plants too. I would like you to talk about the social aspects of the Society. I have met so many new friends in my 12 years and when we get together we talk about lots of things other than rhodies – we just have a good time.

District 2 will be the host for the 2009 Annual Spring ARS Conference. We need help! The conference will be held at the Everett Holiday Inn, April 30 – May 3, 2009. Help is needed for working out the contract with the hotel. Help is needed to determine a theme for the conference – your ideas are wanted. Once we get a theme, we will want to get a pin designed – are you artistic? As we get closer, we will need committees for Tours, Speakers, Catering, Public Relations and Publicity, and for Gifts and Silent Auctions. Where can you help? Don King and Prudence Holliger have volunteered to be registrar and treasurer. Dave and Joan Hammond will be the plant sale chairs, but will need lots of help. Diane Thompson and Laura Kentala will be handling book and souvenir sales. Bill Heller will be in charge of Audio Visual arrangements. If you expertise in any of these areas, these people can use your help.

I've rambled on long enough but you'll be hearing more from me later. Get involved and make the Society a strong and vibrant organization. If you have any questions or want to contact me, my email is donolyn@comcast.net or call me at 425-333-6178.

Don Smart, District 2 Director

Trick or treat,
Smell my feet,
Give me something
good to eat.



Happy Halloween

Please submit articles of interest for Nov Newsletter by 11/3/06

Gail DaPont, editor
PO Box 1399, Freeland, WA 98249
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BRAIN TEASER answer: UND

BYLAWS
of
THE WHIDBEY ISLAND CHAPTER
of the AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

ARTICLE I – AFFILIATION

This organization shall be affiliated with The American Rhododendron Society as a Chapter thereof, and shall be known officially as the Whidbey Island Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purposes of the Chapter are:

- A) To encouragement of the culture of rhododendrons, including azaleas.
- B) To educate and increase the general understanding of and interest in all aspects of these plants.
- C) To support The American Rhododendron Society by allocation of a portion of the dues as provided in the Bylaws of the Society.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Chapter shall be open to all persons interested in rhododendrons and azaleas. All members of the Chapter shall be deemed to be the members of The American Rhododendron Society and entitled to all privileges thereof. Membership classes shall be as provided in the Bylaws of The American Rhododendron Society. All members of the Chapter shall be entitled to participate in all meetings and other activities of the Chapter, including shows and exhibitions. A single membership in any class entitles the holder or holders thereof to one vote at meetings of the membership and to one copy of the periodic publications or notices of the Chapter.

ARTICLE IV-DUES

Dues shall be as fixed by The American Rhododendron Society. The Secretary-Treasurer shall remit to The American Rhododendron Society an amount for each member as prescribed by The American Rhododendron Society. One who is already a member in good standing of The American Rhododendron Society, and who belongs to another Chapter thereof, may, by application, become an Associate Member of this Chapter by payment of the annual Associate Member Chapter dues.

ARTICLE V - GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president, three directors, and the editor of the Chapter newsletter. Each director shall serve for three years; the terms of office shall rotate so that one director shall retire and one new director shall be elected each year. The first series of rotations shall be determined by lot. The Governing Body shall be vested with the authority to carry on the business of the Chapter and the management of its affairs. It shall meet on call from the President or, in his absence, the Vice-President, but at least twice each year. Two-thirds of the membership of the Governing Body shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Each officer shall serve for two years. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Governing Body, and shall perform the recognized functions of the President.

The Vice-president shall preside in the absence of the President and shall perform the recognized functions of that office in the absence of the President or upon the request of the President.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting the dues and handling all funds of the Chapter, shall make a financial report at the annual meeting, and shall keep appropriate records or minutes of the activities of the Chapter. The official address of the Chapter shall be Post Office Box 228, Greenbank, Washington 98253.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter in November with the time and place thereof to be determined by the Governing Body. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or by the Governing Body. There shall be not less than four meetings of the membership held each year, including the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

Prior to the annual meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of no more than three members of the Chapter, who shall present the names of nominees for the officers and director at the October meeting of the membership. Further nominations may be made by any member present at the October meeting. The nominees shall be voted on and elected at the annual meeting. Only members attending the annual meeting shall be entitled to vote, and proxies shall not be recognized. The new officers and director shall take office on January 1st of the following year.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Chapter, provided that notice of the proposed amendment is set forth in a notice mailed to each member not less than twenty-one days prior to the holding of such meeting. Proposed amendments to chapter bylaws shall not conflict with current bylaws of The American Rhododendron Society.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

Committees shall be appointed by the President to the extent that he deems such committees desirable.

ARTICLE XI - BUDGET

An annual budget shall be prepared and reviewed by the Governing Body at the first Board meeting of each year.

ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL AUDIT

There shall be an annual audit of this Chapter by a committee appointed by the President.