



NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Seattle Rhododendronland

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April 2008

April Meeting

April 15, 2008 Center for Urban Horticulture, beginning at 7:00PM. Note special day.

Mike Robinson, author, writer, and Chairman of the RHS Rhododendron, Camellia, and Magnolia Group presents "Ancient and Modern, Noteworthy and New, Cultivars in the UK."

President's message

At last, spring is finally here! And thankfully, we've had some nice balmy days to get out in the garden. As I write this in mid March, *Rhododendron sutchense*, *R. calophyllum*, *R. 'Cilpenense'*, *R. 'Tessa'*, *R. 'Tessa Bianca'*, *R. dauricum*, *R. 'Bo-Peep'*, *R. 'Bodega Crystal Pink'*, *R. neriflorum* 'Rosevallon', and *R. 'Maxine Childers'* are in full bloom. Barring a late frost, the bloom this time of year lasts fairly long. I am especially excited that several of my *R. macabeaenum* are budded and some are opening now. I grew these plants from seed many years ago and one (the best foliage) is blooming for the first time!

When visitors come to the garden, they are surprised to find that my rhododendrons are flowering so much earlier than theirs. I have to explain to them that it is what they are programmed to do genetically and that they should visit their nurseries earlier in the spring to expand their blooming season. Educating the public about early-blooming rhodies is the main reason that we have decided to have an Early Show again this year. Many of the species and some hybrids are early bloomers, so they are never seen in our traditional May Show. We are putting on this show with the Cascade Chapter at the Wells Medina Nursery on the second weekend of April. Set-up of tables and risers and acceptance of trusses will start Friday, April 11, at 4PM and end at 6PM (when the nursery closes). On Saturday morning, April 12, trusses will be accepted from 8AM to 10AM. Then the show will be arranged by classification for an educational display. We have decided not to judge this first show, so if that has been a source of anxiety, I hope you'll participate by bringing what you have in bloom in your garden in the spirit of sharing with others. That in turn, will relieve the anxiety of the show's organizers about whether there will be adequate entries to have an abundant and colorful display! Although we won't be judging, please do clean up your entries, selecting specimens with good leaves and flowers in good condition and removing loose bud scales. Remember that we have a category for foliage only, as well as container specimens (flowering and non-flowering). We are not planning to have a plant sale this year, but will have one at the May Show, which is on Mother's Day weekend at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. We are grateful to Wells Medina for hosting this show and continuing to carry a wonderful selection of rhododendrons at their nursery. It's always a treat to browse this nursery when you come to participate in the Early Show. This show will go until about 4PM on Sunday, April 13. Please bring trusses!

Also, please remember to note on your calendar that our April meeting is on a special date to accommodate a special overseas speaker, Mike Robinson, from England. The meeting is on the third Tuesday, April 15, at CUH.

Inside

Gordon Heyduck—loss of old time Member.....	2
April program.....	2
April treats.....	2
May show news	2
From the Book Lady	2
Rhododendron of the Year selection.....	3

Gordon Heyduck—loss of old time Member

We are sad to announce the loss of one of our old time members, Gordon Heyduck. Gordon Heyduck was born on March 4, 1916 in Elgin, Oregon and passed away quietly on February 9, 2008. He joined the us Navy in 1937 and was discharged just prior to the us entry into World War II. He went to work for Puget Sound Power & Light using the training he received as an Electrician's Mate. He also worked part time at the Weyerhaeuser Mill in Snoqualmie. He re-enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and ended the war in Okinawa in 1945. After the war, he returned to PSPL where he worked until he retired. In 1941, Gordon married Mildred Bell Maxwell and they remained happily married until her death in 1997. They are survived by two of their sons and three grandchildren.

Over the years, Gordon created several hundred rhododendron hybrids. He had several hybrids that were not only beautiful, but fragrant. Several of us are growing on his plants. He never registered any of his plants, but one—Gordon's Trophy, named by Clint Smith—can be found at some nurseries. He freely shared his plants with friends and members of the ARS. Gordon and Millie were long time members of the SRS and a charter member of the Cascade Chapter. He was very active and served on the boards of both chapters. He was a good friend and will be missed.

April program

On April 15, The Seattle Rhododendron Society presents Mike Robinson, author, writer, and Chairman of the Rhododendron, Camellia, and Magnolia Group of the Royal Horticulture Society. The RHS is the United Kingdom's leading gardening charity dedicated to advancing horticulture and promoting gardening. Mike's talk is about the "Ancient and Modern, Noteworthy and New, Cultivars in the UK." Mike Robinson is visiting North America sponsored by both the Seattle Rhododendron Society and the Vancouver Rhododendron Society.

Mike is well published throughout the horticulture press and the co-author of a forthcoming pocket-size book on the identification of rhododendron species. On his four-acre garden in East Sussex, UK, Mike has collected over 200 magnolias, camellias, and many rhododendrons both species and hybrids. For more than twenty-seven years Mike has been growing, studying, and propagating rhododendrons specializing in late blooming, color, and fragrance.

April treats

The volunteers to satisfy our sweet teeth for this meeting are: Hattie Kempes, Lil Martyn, and Stan Hungerford.

May show news May 9, 10, and 11 2008

It's not too early to start planning for our May Show coming up sooner than you think.

As we did last year, our show will be held at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in the courtyard. It was a great site for us with lots of people going through on Mother's Day weekend.

We will set-up on Friday, May 9, in the AM and be ready for entries at noon to 4PM. On Saturday, May 10, entries will be accepted from 8 to 9:30AM, judging from 10AM, and the show will be open around noon for the public. Sunday, May 11, the show will be open from 9 to 4PM. Take-down after 4PM. We are planning that Jeanine will give a Sunday PM talk to the public!

Remember that you can enter your trusses, plants, photos, foliage, and educational exhibits. We will also have our plant sale, including companion plants. If you have plants to donate, please let me know. I will be contacting other chapters to invite them to participate with us this year. It would be wonderful if we could make a really big show at the RSF in conjunction with the RSF's Mother's Day Open Garden and plant sale.

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From the Book Lady

Laura says April will bring the books back to the meeting—she promises. Come and visit the table and see what you might have missed.

SRS Officers and Board Members

President	Jeanine Smith	425.483.8272
Vice President	Jeff Bell	206.363.1417
Secretary	Karen Swenson	425.775.0863
Treasurer	Deena Henkins	206.284.6978
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Board Member (06-08)	Open position	
Board Member (05-09)	Prudence Holliger	425.837.8760
Board Member (05-09)	Open position	
Book Chairperson	Laura Kentala	425.822.6269
Membership	Loretta Goetsch	206.525.4714
Honors	Gwen Bell	206.932.6016
Programs	Jeff Bell	
Nominations	Open position	
SRS Webmaster	Jeff Bell	206.363.1417
District 2 Director	Don Smart	425.333.6178
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Rhododendron of the Year selection

We need your vote for the ARS Rhododendron of the Year 2011.

The ROY program was set up to establish the best rhododendron performers in each of the geographical regions. It has become obvious that rhododendrons do not perform equally well in different regions. Climates, soil conditions, even insect populations affect how rhododendrons perform. The reason for establishing the ROY three years in advance is to allow growers and nurseries to propagate and have the winning candidate rhododendrons available when they are announced as “Rhododendrons of the Year.”

Each Chapter has Proven Performer rhododendrons in their area. Members should select the *best* performer in each of the categories, (elepidote, lepidote, deciduous azalea, and evergreen azalea.) It is best to have all members vote for his or her choice. The votes will then be meshed with results from the other Chapters to determine the ROY for our region. (If you are interested in the lists, check the ARS website). You must select candidates that have not been the ROY in previous years. Following is a list of previous winners:

Year	Elepidote	Lepidote	Deciduous azalea	Evergreen azalea
2002	‘Ken Janeck’	‘Ginny Gee’	<i>R. schlippenbachii</i>	‘Hino Crimson’
2003	‘Taurus’	‘PJM’	‘Homebush’	‘Purple Splendour’
2004	‘Percy Wiseman’	‘Dora Amateis’	‘Arneson’s Gem’	‘Fascination’
2005	‘Horizon Monarch’	‘Ramapo’	‘Nifty Fifty’	‘Hilda Niblett’
2006	‘Pt. Defiance’	‘Wee Bee’	‘Washington Centennial’	‘Silver Sword’
2007	‘Nancy Evans’	‘Blaney’s Blue’	‘Cecile’	‘Mitsuki’
2008	‘Marie Starks’	‘Vibrant Violet’	‘Yukon’	‘Girard’s Fuchsia’
2009	‘Fantastica’	<i>R. augustinii</i>	<i>R. occidentale</i>	‘Komo Kulshan’
2010	‘Seaview Sunset’	‘Too Bee’	‘Gibraltar’	‘Balsaminiflorum’

I will need your results by April 15, 2008 to compile them and submit them to District Director Bill Stipe. The votes will be combined with those from the other Chapters to make the final selection for ROY 2011. Please e-mail them to me at: rexjeanine@aol.com or bring them to the April meeting. Following is the current list of Seattle Rhododendron Society Proven Performers. Please make your selection from these lists:

Elepidotes: ‘Canadian Sunset,’ ‘Ebony Pearl,’ ‘Golden Gate,’ ‘Lem’s Monarch,’ ‘Looking Glass,’ ‘Moonstone,’ ‘Noble Mountain,’ ‘Noyo Brave,’ ‘One Thousand Butterflies,’ ‘Pink Prelude,’ ‘Rubicon,’ ‘Starbright Champagne,’ ‘Teddy Bear,’ ‘The H. Jean Marie de Montague,’ ‘Too Bee,’ ‘Vincent Van Gogh,’ ‘Wanna Bee,’ *R. auriculatum*, *R. bureavii*, *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum*, *R. macabeanum*, *R. pachysanthum*, *R. pseudochrysanthum*, *R. sanctum*

Lepidotes: Bob’s Blue, Cilpinense, Crater’s Edge, Egret, Ernie Dee, Patty Bee, PJM Group, Seta, Vibrant Violet, *R. augustinii* subsp. *augustinii*, *R. campylogynum*, *R. oreotrephes*, *R. seingkuense*

Deciduous Azaleas: ‘Cannon’s Double’ ‘Golden Comet,’ ‘Jack A. Sand,’ ‘White Lights,’ *R. nakaharai*, *R. occidentale*, *R. quinquefolium*

Evergreen Azaleas: ‘Balsaminiflorum,’ ‘Everest,’ ‘Komo Kulshan,’ ‘Linda Jean,’ ‘Nikko,’ ‘Rosebud,’ ‘Uki Funei,’ ‘Vuyk’s Scarlet’

Happy Voting!

—Jeanine Smith

The Seattle Rhododendron Society

Seattle Rhododendron Society
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ADDRESS CORRECTION AND FORWARDING REQUESTED

Coming Up

Early Show April 12, 2008

SRS show (see President's Message)

**April 15, 2008, 7:00PM (note special
day) Monthly Meeting at the Center for
Urban Horticulture (see story inside)**

**May Show (May 9, 10, and 11)
(see story inside)**

**Meerkerk Work Party
second Saturday of every month**