



NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

# Seattle Rhododendronland

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September 2009

## September Meeting

**September 13, 2009**

Potluck, member's plant sale, and planning meeting.

**Notice special date, location, and time.**

Jeff Bell's house (directions inside).

## President's message

It was a challenging year for rhododendrons and *Rhododendron* growers, starting out with the lowest temperatures in decades, a recorded 14 degrees Fahrenheit on December 20, 2008. Many of our members opened up their gardens to visitors during the ARS Conference in late April/early May after losing many plants and suffering much leaf damage for the Rhododendrons that usually love our mild winters and cool summers.

Then, on July 29, the Puget Sound area recorded the highest temperature ever of 103° Fahrenheit. Many of us are looking at extremely high water bills in the near future also! We will certainly see which rhododendrons and *Rhododendron* collectors are the hardiest for these extreme temperatures!

For those who were lucky enough to attend the summer picnic in July held at Dennis and Marie Hendrickson's we thank them for letting us roam through the lovely gardens of their waterside home. The views of Vashon and Blake Island from their front deck are breathtaking. Everyone enjoyed visiting with old friends and making some new friends as well. The salads and desserts were delicious and we appreciate everyone who brought a dish and helped make it run smoothly. I truly felt like I was on vacation, for a day at least. Special thanks to Kathy Thompson who picked up and prepared the ham even though she had a family event to attend that day.

The fall program schedule will be discussed during a pot-luck in September. Instead of a program at the CUH, everyone is invited to come to my house for a pot-luck dinner on the deck Sunday, September 13. Please read Bill's article for details. Our house is wheelchair accessible with ramps to the deck around back. We will have plants to sell from previous SRS events and companion plants. So, pot up your extras and bring them to donate the sales to the SRS.

The Western Regional Conference is September 18-20 at the Best Western Evergreen Inn in Federal Way. If anyone would like to carpool on Friday or Saturday, let me know.

The 2009 board members are: Jeff Bell, President; Bill Heller, VP/Programming; Kathy Thompson, Secretary; Deena Henkins is our treasurer. Prudence Holliger is our Editor of the newsletter, Loretta Goetsch is Membership chairperson, Laura Kentala is our Books chairperson and Diane Thompson is our general board mem-

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ber. And, I believe Stan Hungerford is still going to coordinate our snack volunteers—thanks Stan! I think we have a great year planned and I encourage everyone to get involved and help run our society.

Thanks to Garratt Richardson and Jeanine Smith who donated plants to Whidbey Island Nourishes fund raising event on August 8. Mary Fisher of Cultus Bay Nursery, who helped organize the auction, asked me for a few unique species rhododendrons for an auction that would help raise money for w.i.n., an organization that provides lunches for Whidbey school children while school is out for the summer. So, being a foster parent for a Rhododendron *can* help others in fund raiser and auctions, such as this! I'll let you know the results as soon as I hear them.

See you in September!

—Jeff Bell



## What did you miss?

**(Subtitle: Stan lost his notes)**

Early this morning, I figured to get off my early morning notes on last June's meeting and the picnic at Dennis Hendrickson's Yukon Harbor beachside home. But, despite having written my notes on the back of the bright yellow hand-out from Dennis Bottemiller, I can't find them!

I wanted to start with "New members xxx and yyy enjoyed a cheerful meeting and interesting program, and their enthusiasm added to the festivity of our final meeting of 2008-2009." Dennis presented a beautiful and fascinating look at the Ericaceous products of his propagating program at the Rhododendron Species Foundation." I was going to describe some of the more fantastic images he showed us! I was also going to construct a small table of images of some of the same plants he has been sprouting and nurturing to bloom as examples for those who were unable to enjoy his pictures first-hand. Then, I was going to comment on how the cooling breezes of Yukon Harbor and, the large *Fuchsia* shrubs surrounding the garden and the intriguing display of cactus plants soothed us on one of the area's warmest days. And of course comment that the dishes brought by our members were delicious as always. But, since I can't find my notes, I am bereft of commentary!

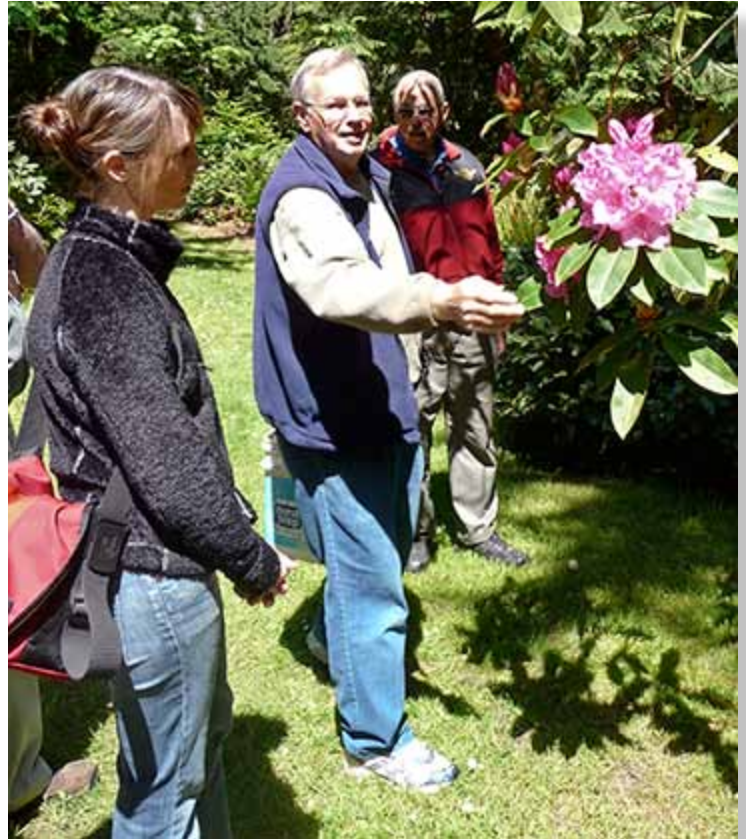
I will do better next time.

—Stan Hungerford

## From the Book Lady

The Book Lady has some fine books, but we won't be able to see them until October. She is afraid we may spill food or drink on them at the September potluck/plant sale.

—Laura



Erin Gayton, Bill Hicks, and Bill Steil at the Pt. Defiance Rhododendron Garden

### SRS Officers and Board Members

|                      |                    |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President            | Jeff Bell          | 206.363.1417             |
| Vice President       | Bill Heller        | 360.825.5185             |
| Secretary            | Katherine Thompson | 206.932.4518             |
| Treasurer            | Deena Henkins      | 206.284.6978             |
| Past President       | Jeanine Smith      | 425.483.8272             |
| Board Member (08-10) | Loretta Goetsch    | 206.525.4714             |
| Board Member (08-10) | Open position      |                          |
| Board Member (09-11) | Prudence Holliger  | 425.837.8760             |
| Board Member (09-11) | Katherine Thompson | 206.932.4518             |
| Book Chairperson     | Laura Kentala      | 425.822.6269             |
| Membership           | Loretta Goetsch    | 206.525.4714             |
| Honors               | Gwen Bell          | 206.932.6016             |
| Programs             | Bill Heller        | 360.825.5185             |
| Nominations          | Open position      |                          |
| SRS Webmaster        |                    |                          |
| District 2 Director  | Bill Stipe         | 360.222.3096             |
| Newsletter           | Prudence Holliger  | prudenceholliger@mac.com |

## September Meeting

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### Note special time and special place for September meeting!

The Seattle Rhododendron Society September meeting will be on Sunday September 13 at 3:00PM at the home of SRS President, Jeff Bell, instead of our usual meeting time and place. We are having a potluck dinner and plant sale to start off the new season of 2009 meetings. (See below for driving directions to Jeff Bell's house.) The chapter will provide ham as the main course, so bring a special dish of your choice, eating utensils and what ever you want to drink. As part of the meeting/potluck we will have a plant sale, so bring plants (they don't have to be rhododendrons) or some item that you think might sell to help us raise funds to pay for our regular meeting place and operating expenses. Now, if you don't have any plants (rhododendrons or otherwise) to donate to the sale, you can go to the RSF plant sale Saturday September 12 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at SeaTac Mall in Federal Way and pick up some plants for our sale (or your garden).

Come and enjoy a start to the 2009 chapter meetings with our big potluck and plant sale at Jeff Bell's home.

### Directions to Jeff Bell's house

3844 NE 185th Street  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155  
206.363.1417

### Driving from the South

I-5 N to Exit 177 bear Right to Lake Forest Park. (Not left to Edmonds).

Merge right on 205th/WA 104 then it turns into Ballinger Way NE.

Go through a total of four traffic lights.

Street curves right, you turn a sharp left on 40th Street. If you pass Third Place Commons on your right, turn around and go back to 40th.

Go up the hill on 40th and turn left on the first street. 185th is a dead end street. We are the last house on the right—No. 3844, Pear green with white garage doors. Park anywhere in front of the house.

### Driving from the North

From I-5 North, exit Lake Forest Park. At the light turn left on 205th/WA 104, goes through four traffic lights and as the road curves right, turn a sharp left on 40th Street. Turn left at the first street. 185th is a dead end street. We are the last house on the right—No. 3844, Pear green with white garage doors. Park anywhere in front of the house.

From Bothel Way (522) turn right on Ballinger Way and bear right on 40th. Turn left at the first street. 185th is a dead end street. We are the last house on the right—No. 3844, Pear green with white garage doors. Park anywhere in front of the house.

From Lake City Way (522) head north. Lake City Way turns into Bothel Way. Turn left after Town Center Mall on Ballinger Way. Bear right on 40th Street. Turn left at the first street. 185th is a dead end street. We are the last house on the right—No. 3844, Pear green with white garage doors. Park anywhere in front of the house.

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### May meeting at Pt. Defiance Park

In May, Bill and Carole Hicks led us on a tour of their "other garden," the Pt. Defiance Rhododendron Garden. From what they told us about their watering duties and general lack of volunteers, this summer has probably been particularly trying for them.

The garden is located in a woodland (what garden isn't around here?) and contains mature rhododendrons, many of which were in bloom. We easily occupied ourselves for several hours meandering on the paths and enjoying the rhododendrons and other plants. I'd have to say that the highlight of the tour was the opportunity to dig up many seedlings of R. 'Pt. Defiance.' As you can see, Diane Thompson was especially gleeful with her prize in hand..

Pt. Defiance Rhododendron Garden is worth a visit in the spring and if you have time on your hands, Bill and Carole could use a volunteer or two for general maintenance and watering. (Thanks to Jeanine S. for the photos.)



# The Seattle Rhododendron Society

Seattle Rhododendron Society  
Loretta Goetsch  
6209 30th NE  
Seattle WA 98115  
ADDRESS CORRECTION AND FORWARDING REQUESTED

## Coming Up

September 12, RSF Fall Plant Sale. Sea-Tac Mall (or Commons Mall) 9 to 2PM on 320th in Federal Way.

September 13, 2009, 3:00PM  
Monthly Meeting. Start of season potluck at Jeff Bell's house (see story inside).

Meerkerk Work Party  
second Saturday of every month