

>>> Tuesday, April 14th at 7PM <<<
******* First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue *******
Room UC-105 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA
FREE DOOR PRIZE and raffle of Rhododendrons.

Join us for dinner at the Bellevue Square Red Robin at 5:15

Chapter Officers:

President: Dianna Davis

Vice Pres: Paul Safstrom

Treasurer: Don Smart 425-333-6178

Secretary: David Sherbrooke

Directors: Warren Timmons III (2017), Alan Sears (2016)

Past President: Doug Crane 425-455-2896

Websites: [http:// www.arscascade.org](http://www.arscascade.org)

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Don Smart

[http:// www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

Assistant Editor: Carolyn Smart

**APRIL PROGRAM—MEERKERK
GARDENS UPDATE—SUSIE REYN-
OLDS**



Meerkerk Entry Gatehouse

This month **Susie Reynolds** will give us an update on what has been happening over the past couple of years at the garden. There have been many changes since Christi O'Donnell left several years ago. Susie is now the Garden and Nursery Manager. The Board of Directors has been reorganized and volunteer efforts have picked up.

Come and see what else has been done to make this a wonderful spring ... and summer ... destination.

Susie is a fun person and full of enthusiasm for the Garden's future. On

Meerkerk's opening day sale in March, they made \$7800. For a catalog of their nursery stock, go to:

www.meerkerkgardens.org/%20Catalog_12.pdf

Please join us for this great program. Enjoy refreshments, some special plants for the door prize and raffle, and getting together with friends.

Also, for more fun, come meet us for dinner at the Bellevue Square Red Robin at 5:15.

Editor

**MARCH PROGRAM— ELEMENTS OF
JAPANESE GARDENS—RICHARD
FAIRFIELD**

Last month Richard Fairfield, our District 2 Director, gave us a very educational talk on traditional and elements of different types of Japanese garden. It was interesting to understand what the elements were and then see examples in the slides that Richard showed. Thanks for the tour.

Editor

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

YEAH...it's officially SPRING! Hope you have at least THREE rhodies blooming! Send us your photos and we'll put

*To become a member of the Cascade Chapter of the ARS, send dues to:
Don Smart, 1618-290th Ave. N. E., Carnation, Wa., 98014 - 425-333-6178
\$40.00 Annual Membership fee or \$10.00 for Associate Membership if already a member of another ARS Chapter.*

them in the Newsletter (I mean DON will put them in the Newsletter...thanks Don!).

Anyway, we had a fun offering in February when Richard Fairfield did a presentation on Japanese gardens...lovely!

Hold April 25 open to do our "RHODE TRIP"... more details to come, but we'll be visiting 2 gardens from our Pilchuck friends and maybe, if we have time, drop in on RHODY RIDGE!

As I previously mentioned, Bellevue Botanical Garden has undergone a huge renovation and their May dates are already booked, SO, we're NOT doing a Truss & Sale show this year...but we're getting our dibs in for 2016! We will, though, have our June potluck and annual meeting at the BBG on Wednesday, June 10th.

At our last Board meeting, I did a quick count of members and here's how it looks over time:

2015 = 39 members

2014 = 47 members

2013 = 58 members

Yes, I KNOW some of our members have passed on or moved to non rhododendron growing areas, BUT NOT 19 PEOPLE! Seriously, that is a 33% decrease in our membership in two years...OMG!!! Come on people...Please do what I asked you to do two years ago...drag somebody, your mother, your neighbor, a co-worker, the dog groomer, , to our meetings ...**ANYBODY** I'm sure once they come , they'll come again...maybe not right away, but they WILL be back! Who can resist us?!

We also want to remind folks to hold May 6-10 for the **70th** ARS Annual convention in Sidney, BC, Canada; it looks like it is going to be truly awesome!

Our next meeting will be April 14th with our speaker, **Susie Reynolds** (Nursery Manager), from Meerkerk Gardens!

All my best to you AND Rhodys Rock!

Dianna Davis, President

c2nd2@yahoo.com (home)

dldavis@evergreenhealth.org (work)

TREAT TIME

Thanks to **Coleen George** and **Carolyn Smart** for last month's treats.

This month we'll be hosted by the **Dianna Davis** and **Millie English** (our April birthday girl. No one

has signed up for May as yet. Any takers? It is much appreciated.

Editor



Tabitha—Photo: Don Smart

PLANT SALES OPPORTUNITIES

Don't forget about Greer Gardens in Eugene, owned by Harold and Nancy, will be closing this summer. You can still order plants from them on their web site and they have arranged with another local nursery to do the shipping. Go to their website at <http://www.greergardens.com/> and order something special.

And consider a trip to Waldport, OR the weekend after Mother's Day, to take in the Thompson Rhododendron Nursery's annual spring sale. You won't be disappointed!

As mentioned earlier, there is the nursery at Meerkerk, too

Don Smart, Editor

2015 ARS SPRING CONVENTION—MAY 6-10TH—SIDNEY, BC—UPDATE

The convention planners have extended the "early bird" registration until April 15th. Visit their website at <http://2015rhodo.ca/>. If you want to avoid the credit card fees that are added in on their on-line registration form, just write a check in US funds after checking the current exchange rate available at:

<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/exchange/daily-converter>. This will tell you how much to pay in US dollars.

If you haven't been to a Convention, or haven't been for a while, this should be a must on your calendar.

Editor

WORD OF THE MONTH

Bruce Palmer from the Eureka Chapter has a column "Word of the Month" in their newsletter every month. You've probably seen some of them reprinted in the ARS Journal, too. The following was very interesting to me and is used with permission.

"This month our talk will be on *Rhododendron maddenii* and its relatives this month, so it seems like a good time to discuss what some of those endings for scientific names mean. The species name in this case is *Rhododendron maddenii*. *Rhododendron* is the genus (Greek, *genos*, race) designation. The *maddenii* part is called the specific epithet (from the Greek epitheton, that which is added). The epithet is supposed to distinguish each species in a genus from all others in the genus and the name sets a plant apart from all other plants. This system of naming plants was a simplification of previous descriptive systems and was first used widely by Linnaeus in the eighteenth century. At that time Latin was still being used in as the common language among clergy and scholars in Europe. To facilitate understanding among biologists, Latin names and descriptions for organisms were required. That practice developed into a set of agreed-upon practices revised and published periodically as the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

Epithets are supposed to be descriptive, calling attention to certain obvious visible characteristics, but botanists have never been able to resist naming newly discovered plants after friends, acquaintances or sponsors. In this case the famous plant collector J. D. Hooker named the plant in 1851 (that's what the Hook after the species name means). According to H. H. Davidian in his four volume *The Rhododendron Species*, Lt. Col. E. Madden was a traveler in India. We don't know what his relationship to J. D. Hooker was. Davidian is the best source for the meanings of specific epithets.

So, why does the epithet end in -ii? The ending -ii (or -i, depending on how the person's name ends) was supposed to indicate that the person named was the discoverer of the plant, but it was never used consistently that way. The first code in 1867 required this, but the rule was never enforced and was later discarded. Thus we have species epithets ending in -ii (*Rhododendron maddenii*), indicating possession in Latin, literally Madden's *Rhododendron*. If the name was strictly honorary, it was supposed

to end in -anum as in *Rhododendron macabeanum*, named after Mr. McCabe, a deputy district administrator in the Naga Hills in Northwest India where the plant was discovered. With this ending it's an adjective, the McCabe *Rhododendron*. *Macabeanum* is spelled differently from the man's name because the code requires that Irish or Scottish names starting with M, Mc or Mac are to be spelled mac. To confuse all of this even further, Latin is highly gender-sensitive. Thus the ending -ae and the name *Rhododendron dalhousiae*, named by J.D. Hooker after Lady Dalhousie, wife of the Governor General of India. The original idea of distinguishing whether a plant was named after its discoverer or was an honorary epithet was still being debated when I took taxonomy courses in the 1950s, but nobody pays attention anymore and you can use either form to designate the new *rhododendron* species you discover when you take that trip to the Himalaya next year. After all this, if you think everything is settled, guess again. The code that governs naming is revised every few years and is no longer called the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

The latest code, adopted in Melbourne in 2011 is titled the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants. What appear to be typos in the title (with algae, fungi and plants not capitalized) are not. Advances in microscopy and biochemistry have led us to realize that differences among groups of organisms are not as distinct as we once thought. We are no longer sure that algae, fungi, plants and animals are sufficiently distinct from each other to be placed in separate kingdoms. A good example at the family level is in Oriental cuisine. Next time you go to an Oriental restaurant note that the lotus root, from a plant we thought was in a family with water lilies, isn't even remotely related and is no longer put in the same family. Instead the lotus is much more closely related to the proteas, those plants from Southwest Australia and South Africa that give us the exotic blossoms and Macadamia nuts."

Bruce Palmer with Permission

Don't Forget the Sidney Convention!

Please don't forget about the ARS Store when ordering just about anything on-line.



ARSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society

American Rhododendron Society
 Cascade Chapter
 Donald Smart
 1618 290th Ave NE
 Carnation, WA 98014

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Send pictures of your spring flowers for the next NEWSLETTER!
 Please?*

Chapter Meeting Attendance?

There is an alarming trend in our chapter meetings. The attendance many times has been only the Board members and their spouses ... and Millie, bless her heart.

Why?

Even our attempt at afternoon meetings during the winter has not really improved attendance.

Your Board really needs your input. **Please!**

Board Meetings

The March Board meeting will be held at on April 15th at 6:30PM at David and Elaine Sherbrooke's home. If you have subjects or suggestions you'd like discussed, please let one of us know. Or, better yet, come and join us as Board meetings are open to all members.

Yuck, Tax Day!

CASCADE CHAPTER 2013—2014 CALENDAR

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT
2015	April	14	Cascade Chapter meeting at 7PM—Meerkerk Gardens—Susie Reynolds
2015	April	25	Road Trip to Richard Fairfield's and Doug and Donna Keogh's Gardens—Time TBA
2015	May	6-10	ARS Convention—Sidney, BC, Canada
2015	May	12	Cascade Chapter meeting at 7PM—Bring pictures and trusses—"Show and Tell"
2015	May	15-17	Thompson Nursery Sale—Waldport, Oregon
2015	June	10	Annual meeting and Potluck—6 PM—Bellevue Botanical Garden—Classroom 3