

Tuesday—December 9th—7 PM

*** EASTGATE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ***

15005 SE 38TH ST
BELLEVUE, WA

FREE DOOR PRIZE and raffle of Rhododendrons.

Chapter Officers:

President: Don Smart 425-333-6178

Vice Pres: Randy Jones

Treasurer: Bob George 425-391-2366

Secretary: Dianna Davis

Directors: Charlene Jones (2009), David Sherbrook (2010), Bob McKinney (2010), David Doherty (2011)

Past President: Warren Timmons III

Newsletter Editor - Publisher: Don Smart

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

Assistant Editor: Carolyn Smart

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

LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED! IS THAT YOU?

If you have not renewed your ARS membership, this will be your last Cascade newsletter. So far 52 members and associate members have renewed compared to 66 last year. We sure hate to lose you, so please renew now. For those of you that have renewed—
THANK YOU!

Editor

DECEMBER PROGRAM—THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII AND THE ARS FALL REGIONAL



Photo by Don Smart

This month's program will be a photo journey around the island of Hawaii from

Kona on the west, to South Point (the southern most point of the US), and on to Hilo. You will see beautiful scenery, the power of an active volcano, and colorful gardens with, of course, some vireya rhododendrons. Carolyn and I had a wonderful trip and I will share this with all of you.

Don Smart

NOVEMBER—WOW—NICE TRIP TO YUNAN WITH PRUDENCE HOLLIGER

Last month we had wonderful and colorful slide show of Prudence Holliger's trip to China's Yunnan Province. Her pictures and music described the incredible beauty and diversity that she was able to capture of Yunnan through her camera's lens. Thanks for a wonderful evening. It's too bad so many of you missed it.

Editor

TREAT TIME!

Bonnie Campbell has provided refreshments for the last two meetings, and we thank her very much. Charlene Jones has volunteered for the December meeting.

Any volunteers for future meetings would be much appreciated.

Coleen George—The Sunshine Lady

To become a member of the Cascade Chapter of the ARS, send dues to:
Bob George, 3030 E Beaver LK DR SE; SAMMAMISH, WA 98075 - 425-391-2366
\$35.00 Annual Membership fee or \$8.00 for Associate Membership if already a member of another ARS Chapter.

WE ARE ALL INVITED TO A PARTY

We have been invited to Seattle's Holiday Potluck. Here is all of the information.

We would like to invite the Seattle Rhododendron Society and friends (this means everyone in District 2) to attend the annual Holiday Potluck. We will be back at the Center for Urban Horticulture on **Sunday, December 7, 2008, from 3pm-6pm.**

We suggest that you prepare a dish for about ten people. (See below for suggested items to bring.) Please bring your own dinnerware and eating utensils, your own beverages and glasses. The SRS may provide hot coffee and tea, but you can bring a beverage of choice including wine or beer. There are facilities to wash your dishes afterwards, if you wish.

Ever wanted to travel around the world in 45 days? Now's your chance. No, wait... It's around the world in 45 minutes!

After stuffing ourselves at the potluck, we'll be able to kick back and enjoy three, 15-minute slide presentations by some of our traveling members!

Bill Heller will present images from his year-long stay in Italy. Since not many rhododendrons grow in southern Italy I bet we'll see some plants from the northern part of Europe, as well. Katherine Thompson's husband, Long Nguyen, will show images of their trip to Vietnam, and Loretta Goetsch plans to show images of her trip to Borneo. Whew! We'll be exhausted by the end of this tour.

What to bring:

As Matthew 2:11 recounts the story of the three Wise Men from the east brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the newborn infant, we have three groups of wise members who are scheduled to arrive from various points of the compass to bestow far more palatable culinary gifts on us befitting a royal feast: Surnames beginning with r-z will bring the salads, a-j will bring the main courses, and those beginning with k-q will satisfy our sweet tooth with desserts. You are free to bring your own wine or beer to partake with dinner.

Come early for appetizers provided by the SRS Board. The Center for Urban Horticulture is located at 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98105.

Excerpts from the SS Newsletter by your Editor

FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE LITTLE GARDEN

Bob has been under the weather this past month, but is on the mend. His exploits and adventures in The Little Garden will return next month.

Editor

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Thanks to Randy Jones and David Doherty for providing new content this month. So I hope we can keep up the submission of articles from the rest of you. I'd really like to put your name in lights and include your news and articles. It does not have to be original material, either, as long as credit is given.

Editor

PLANTS FOR DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE FOR DECEMBER

Our friend and Board member David Doherty is on a mission to get plants for our meetings—varieties that we have not seen very often, if at all. Here is this month's selection from Griswold's Nursery:

LONNIE FOLEY—this is named for Bill Griswold's great grandson and it is a cross of Lem's Cameo x Scintillation. This is not in the market. Traits of Lem's Cameo. Very nice blooms.

HALLELUJAH—Harold Greer hybrid—The ladies say when Harold got married they used these flowers for the wedding and gave them out to people.

DON HOLM—Oreen Griswold's husband, grows 6-7 feet tall named in 1969.

ENDRE OSTO—The City of Bellevue bought his property and made a park out of it. Endre hybridized, Edward Dunn, Helen Johnson and others.

ELLA CARPENTER—Griswold hybrid not in market. Named after a lady who worked for them. Beautiful Yellow.

ANNA HOLM—This is first one in the market and named after Oreen Griswold's mother-in-law. White

R. macabeanum—Yellow-Early blooming-Flowers are large! big leaves!

R. cilicalyx—Jon Kinsee used this species plant in a display at the NW Flower show and won a Gold Medal for the display. White, FRAGRANT!

Wow, this is great selection, but you can't them if you don't buy a ticket!

Editor and David Doherty

PLANT OF THE MONTH

The species *Rhododendron degronianum* is a hardy Japanese member of the Ponticum series. *R. degronianum* is now made up of three subspecies: *ssp. degronianum*, *ssp. heptamerum* (including varieties *heptamerum*, *hondoense* and *kyomaruense*) and *ssp. yakushmanum*. The former species *R. metternichii* is now included with *Rhododendron degronianum ssp. Heptamerum*.

The subspecies of *R. degronianum* include some of our favorite indumented plants for gardens in the Pa-

cific Northwest. One of my personal favorites is *R. degronianum ssp. heptamerum*, it has been in cultivation for some time now since being introduced from Tokyo in 1894. This is a beautiful plant that is native to the islands of southern Japan. It can be found growing on hillsides and mountain tops from an elevation of 700 to 4,000 feet. *ssp. heptamerum* has an excellent



R. degronianum ssp. heptamerum

Photo by Randy Jones

plant habit which is densely rounded and compact, forming a mounding evergreen shrub, that is typically wider than tall. In its native state it will often form thickets. The plant can be found growing in a wide variety of habitats, and has proven to be a hardy and heat-tolerant species. For the collector or gardener it has the added bonus of being adaptable from full sun to shade, and another plus is being a relatively slow growing rhododendron. When *R. degronianum ssp. heptamerum* begins blooming in mid-spring (April-May) it has charming campanulate (bell-shaped) seven-lobed flowers that are up to 3" across, colors varying from vivid pink to rose or white. The foliage is extremely attractive; the leaves are oblong-elliptic, usually recurved, with upper surfaces glossy dark green, with thick (though sometimes thin) buff to reddish-brown indumentum on the underside of the leaves; similar to but usually having thicker indumentum, and flatter leaves than *ssp. degronianum*. *R. de-*

gronianum ssp. heptamerum and its three varieties differ from *R. degronianum ssp. degronianum* in its 7 corolla lobes (with some specimens having 6, 8 or 9 lobes), 14 stamens and a 7-8 celled ovary. Interestingly the name 'heptamerum' means 'having 7 parts'.

Dr. Hiroshi Hara, of the University of Tokyo, Japanese rhododendron expert, considered *R. degronianum ssp. heptamerum* to be the paramount form of the Japanese evergreen rhododendrons. Greer rates it hardy to -15°F (-26°C) and at 10 years attaining a height of 4'. I personally consider *ssp. heptamerum* a beautiful plant year round worthy of a place in my garden.

For those of you wishing to learn more about *R. degronianum ssp. heptamerum*, the ARS Journal Summer and Fall 2003 has an article well worth reading. Randy Jones, Cascade VP

FROM THE WEB

Here is link to a great article in the Seattle Post Intelligencer—[Fantastic Four of Seattle Parks](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/getaways/387346_fourparks13.html). It outline a great walk through Boren Park, Interlaken Park, Volunteer Park, and the Washington Park Arboretum.

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/getaways/387346_fourparks13.html

The article includes the statement "Our journey took us more than eight miles ...", so you may want to do it in several visits.

CAN I SEND YOU OUR E-NEWSLETTER?

Many of you now receive this newsletter by email as an Adobe PDF file. The advantage in receiving your newsletter this way is that all photographs are in color—like the beautiful pinks and greens in the picture to the left. The advantage to the Chapter is no copying and mailing. If you would to change, please send me an email: donolyn@comcast.net.

Editor

WOULD YOU PURCHASE AN ARS PRINTED MEMBERSHIP LIST?

One of the items that has been discussed at the past couple of ARS Board meetings is whether the ARS should spend money on printing and distributing a printed ARS Membership Roster. Most of can remember when we got these every couple of years.

The Board has decided that enough members would be willing to pay \$5 to cover printing and mailing, the roster would be printed and made available for ordering.

Please let me know if you would be interested. Email me at donolyn@comcast.net.

Don Smart, President

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

**FIRST
CLASS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Happy Holidays!

***** ***DOLLAR TABLE*** *****

**Support your chapter--buy a plant or
bring a plant or do both!**

Chapter Officers:

President: Don Smart 425-333-6178
Vice-President: Randy Jones
Treasurer: Bob George 425-391-2366
Secretary: Dianna Davis

Directors: Bob McKinney, Charlene Jones, David Sherbrook,
David Doherty, Warren Timmons III (Past President)

Newsletter Editor - Publisher: Don Smart 425-333-6178

Able Assistant: Carolyn Smart

BOARD MEETINGS:

Board Meetings are usually held on the **Monday following our Chapter Meeting** at Bob and Coleen George's house. Any member is welcome at the Board Meeting. If you have an idea or agenda item that you believe the Board should consider, please call Don Smart 425-333-6178 . Or just come and see what goes on behind the scenes.

CASCADE CHAPTER 2007-2008 CALENDAR

YEAR MONTH - DAY EVENT

2008	Dec 7	3-6PM	Seattle's Holiday Potluck and Programs—Seattle Center for Urban Horticulture
2008	Dec 9		Cascade Chapter meeting—Gardens and Views of the Big Island of Hawaii—Don Smart
2009	Jan 13		Cascade Chapter meeting—TBA
2009	Feb 10		Cascade Chapter meeting—TBA
2009	Apr 30—May 3		ARS 2009 Spring Convention—Holiday Inn Downtown—Everett, WA