



RHODODENDRON SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN

Executive Director's Report

Steve Hootman, Executive Director/Curator

One of the most beneficial and enjoyable aspects of my job is the occasional crossing of paths with my fellow plant collectors and botanical garden managers. A goldmine of an opportunity presented itself recently at the "Plant Exploration and Importation Symposium" hosted by Quarryhill Botanical Garden in association with the American Public Garden Association. Lectures were provided by curators and horticulturists from Windsor, Kew, Beijing, the Arnold Arboretum and the University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens among many others. Dennis Bottemiller and I flew to San Francisco in late August to attend the three day series of tours and lectures in the lovely Sonoma Valley (tough work if you can get it). We spent the first day touring the Quarryhill garden itself in company with our great friends and plant-hunting partners Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken of Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend, WA. Some of you may remember Kelly from his years as RSBG propagator under the late Ken Gambriell. Far Reaches Farm is easily one of the finest small, specialty nurseries in the country, featuring an astonishing array of fantastic plants collected from around the world.

We had an educational, if rather hot, day exploring the diverse collection of woody plants collected from the mountains and forests of Asia, all growing gloriously in the Mediterranean climate of coastal California. Rhododendrons and other cool,

temperate species were few in number due to the hot and dry climate but newer plantings were beginning to make their appearance beneath the now maturing canopies of the rapidly growing

magnolias, maples and oaks. This garden, serving as a genetic storehouse for some of the disappearing flora of Asia, is similar in many ways to the RSBG, at least functionally. It is well worth a visit, especially if you are, like me, a "tree-person".

On August 12th, RSBG members and guests enjoyed another of our annual "Evening in the Garden" celebrations. This year's theme was "Under the Tuscan Moon" and, beneath a rising full moon, we enjoyed what was the finest evening weather we had experienced up to that point in the summer along with great Italian food and wonderful company. This was the first year we were able to have our party on the Terrace (very apropos for the Mediterranean theme) of the Rutherford Conservatory which worked out perfectly considering the unusually cool weather we had experienced up until that point. Remember to keep the Conservatory Terrace in mind if a beautiful setting for a meeting or celebration is needed. The forested setting,

(Text continued on next page.)

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Katie Swickard

RSF President Chip Muller takes on the job of auctioneer at the "Evening in the Garden" event on the Rutherford Conservatory Terrace in August.

An Update on a RSF Volunteer Effort, Part I

Clarice Clark, Project Manager

The Western North American Rhododendron Species project is entering its sixteenth year and this article will attempt to update Rhododendron Species Foundation members and newsletter readers with our progress and a look into the future of the Project.

Begun as a group of volunteers affiliated with the Rhododendron Species Foundation (RSF), the project drew on several years of work by Hank Helm and Dr. George Ryan who attempted to contact agencies, herbariums and well known *Rhododendron* hunters such as Frank Mossman and Britt Smith for information. The data was fragmented as each source had its own procedures and methods of identifying the location of plants. The advent of Global Positioning (GPS) technology and computerized databases opened up to citizen scientists like ourselves the opportunity to organize and catalog the knowledge of the location of *Rhododendron* species in our region. Although we have published several articles about the Project in the *Journal American Rhododendron Society* and the RSF newsletter, it has been almost ten years since our last *JARS*

article. I thought a quick look back to the beginnings of the Project should precede the report of our current status, and what place our undertaking can and should go in the future.

The Past

One of the first matters at hand was to beg, borrow or steal a computer, software, and a GPS receiver. I had to laugh going through files of minutes, invoices and notes of our first meetings in 1995—we actually attempted to build our first computer with used spare parts donated by project members! Thankfully, the unfinished “Frankenputer” was stolen during a break in at the Foundation office, saving many hours of frustration. Insurance money allowed us to purchase a functioning computer, and by the fall of 1996, with donations and grants from many sources, we had not only a computer, but workspace, software, a GPS unit, and a mission statement:

To create an archive of all available information on western North American Rhododendron species, encourage new research of these plants, and distribute this information to all interested persons.

Executive Director's Report continued from page 1.

surrounding landscaping and tropical flowers in the conservatory itself provide a breathtaking backdrop at any time of year. You should also consider reserving a Conservatory Paver Stone with your family or business name engraved upon it. We will be carving the latest set of custom paver stones on the terrace in a few weeks and you still have time to submit your request. Be a permanent part of the Conservatory and remember that this is a wonderful way to help support the RSBG. Contact the office for more information or visit our website.

November will be a busy and momentous month as I carry out those aspects of my job that require me to be away from the office and garden. On the first weekend of the month, I will be flying to Washington D.C. to lecture at the Annual Fall Banquet of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. That evening I will catch a flight north to Boston for a lecture Sunday afternoon with the Massachusetts Chapter for their Founder's Day Banquet. The next morning I fly from Boston to Hong Kong to catch a connecting flight to Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea for a two-week expedition. This expedition is designed specifically to find vireya rhododendrons in the wild and will be my first to that remote and amazing island. Assuming even partial success (and any remaining sanity following that much time on an airplane), I look forward to sharing the results with you upon my return home.

Be sure to check out our newly expanded and updated website (rhodygarden.org). Our Outreach Coordinator, Katie Swickard, has been working with a small group of dedicated volunteers to “refurbish” our website and to make it even more user friendly. A tremendous thank you to webmaster Bill Spohn, Vicky Costakis (did all of the reformatting), Bob Dunning and Clarice Clark!

As I commented upon in the last edition of this newsletter, this past spring produced the poorest showing of flowers that I have seen in my almost twenty years at the RSBG. This was probably caused primarily by the cool moist conditions so prevalent through much of last summer when flower buds should have been forming. This summer, we experienced an even more unusually cool and rainy season that lasted well into August. However, contrary to what we observed from last year's unusual weather, this year's flower bud initiation has been tremendous. As I had guessed and hoped, the “rest” most of the plants in the garden enjoyed this past spring by not having to produce flowers outweighed the influence of the unusual weather (sorry to go all “scientific” on you here) and so have set massive amounts of flower buds (at least that's my theory and I am sticking with it). Next spring should be an exceptional one in the garden. I hope you are experiencing a similar phenomenon in your own garden.

Thank you for your continued support.

We prudently limited our scope to the five species and two subspecies of *Rhododendron* found in the Pacific Northwest—*Rhododendron albiflorum*, *R. camtschaticum*, *R. lapponicum*, *R. macrophyllum* and *R. occidentale*. By hiring an intern and a database consultant, we fashioned a user-friendly ACCESS database, and began entering data. We were able to import hundreds of imprecise but valid locations from US Forest Service data, which are reports from rangers as to the general existence of rhododendrons within a ½ mile radius. Custom software tweaking enabled the import of our data into a GIS program to make maps. These maps were useful not only to assist project members in planning field trips, but to researchers gathering DNA and preparing educational materials for symposiums, slide shows, and articles.

Within five years, continuing support from grant monies enabled the Project and the RSF Photography Committee to join forces to obtain a more powerful computer and high definition monitors, and to hire interns to scan photos that could be linked to locations. Our species list grew by four when the re-classification of *Ledum* into *Rhododendron* added *R. x columbianum*, *R. groenlandicum*, *R. neoglandulosum*, and *R. subarcticum*. (1, 2). We continued to enter and refine data, conduct numerous field trips, and produce updated maps for outreach programs. Other plant explorers such as Dick Cavender and Mike McCullough shared valuable location details and photographs from years of investigations into the wilds of Oregon and California.

Having survived the Y2K scare, we created our website (wnarsp.org) to reach a wider audience. The subsequent

explosion of the internet brought us new leads for information and new challenges. Many herbariums and state specific websites are now at our fingertips and we have brought hundreds of vetted herbarium records and observations into our database. These websites are constantly updated and corrected, creating the challenge to do the same with our data.

The Present

The Project continues, but our methods have changed. The internet, along with the dispersal of original members, have brought a decrease in on-site gatherings, with email replacing the monthly meetings of the past. We continue to update and refine our website, with links to other valuable resources, such as the Smith-Mossman garden at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum. We strive to keep up with the latest in DNA classification, and it appears that we now have two new rhododendrons to consider—both from the former genus *Menziesia*—*Rhododendron menziesii* and *R. menziesii* ssp. *glabellum* (3). The Project is reluctant to delete *R. camtschaticum*, but recent DNA work puts it outside the grouping of all other *Rhododendron* species (4, 5), and some authorities have reverted to the genus *Therorhodion* (6). Its classification is still unclear. The RSF will probably continue to propagate and offer it as a companion plant at the very least.

There is a backlog of un-entered data and photo links. We maintain hard copies of articles and reports, and file related materials in the Lawrence Pierce Library at the RSBG—including information on reports of plants we have decided *not* to map due to hybrid origin or possible human introduction. (To be continued in the Winter Newsletter.)

RSBG NEWS & NOTES

Arts in the Garden

Music filled the air the afternoon of September 17th as the Federal Way Arts Commission and the RSBG joined together to bring the public the first annual Arts in the Garden.

The Rutherford Conservatory Terrace provided a charming setting for the event which was offered free to the public. Folks lingered and listened to the award-winning Jet Cities Chorus, Harmony Kings Barbershop Chorus, and the Federal Way Chorale. The Aria Dance Company performed five dances in a variety of genre including ballet, jazz, and lyrical. Watercolor and colored pencil artist, Frances Tanner, provided an art display inside the Conservatory.

It was on honor to have Laird Thornton directing the Federal Way Chorale. Laird has maintained an active performance career in the Seattle area, singing with Seattle Opera and Tacoma Opera. He has also appeared in musi-

cal theater productions and as a soloist with the Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra and others.



Katie Swickard

The Aria Dance Company performs on the Rutherford Conservatory Terrace.

From the Nursery

Dennis Bottemiller, Nursery Manager/Propagator



Dennis Bottemiller



Dennis Bottemiller



Dennis Bottemiller

In summer, we water. At times, it seems like all we do. But this summer was different. Here in the Northwest we expect rain in the spring; then in early June we usually begin to dry out with just the occasional shower before really drying out until late September, and during that time we water. March came and went, rain. April-rain. May—rain. June—warmer rain. July, my feet were rotting! August finally dried out a bit but we still had significant rain—in August! I love it and I want to complain about it all in the same breath. For the nursery and garden our wet summer was a real time saver and the plants grew so well. The cuttings were luxuriant, and bud set in the garden is great. Next year’s bloom should be

outstanding provided we avoid another early November arctic blast like last year.

Another benefit of fewer watering days is that we got to work on other things. Certainly there were enough other things to work on. One of the most problematic was the fog system in the conservatory. Several problems arose with this system right out of the box and it took diligent work from Paul Thompson to sort things out with the manufacturer and suppliers of valves. Finally in early August, just in time for the Garden Party, the fog was working properly and within days many of the plants were responding to it, especially the tree ferns. As soon as it was working we began bringing epiphytic orchids in, the first of which was a beautiful purple Vanda ‘Mendumae’ in full bloom donated by Don King. Thanks, Don, it was a big hit for the party. Watch the Conservatory for many new orchids to come! In fact if you have not seen the Rutherford Conservatory in a month or two, you should visit because it changes and new

things are blooming all the time.

By this writing you should all have received your Fall Distribution Catalog. In fact I am writing this the night before allocation day so I hope your orders are in! There are some exciting rhododendrons to be had as well as some great companions. One which we have never offered before is *Meconopsis integrifolia* which is an amazing little plant. The chartreuse foliage is furry as a rabbit and the flowers are legendary. We installed a planting of *M. integrifolia* in the garden this year which should be spectacular next spring.

A couple of other plants that I think are fun are two of the vireyas, *R. densifolium* and *R. rubineiflorum*, both low creeping plants which have been performing marvelously in the Rutherford Conservatory. *R. densifolium* is a new collection which might be hardy enough to grow outdoors in some areas of the Puget Sound region. The bright yellow flowers are small but very interesting up close and it is a strong grower. The other little vireya is one I have been growing as a terrarium plant for several years and is performing very well there as well as in the conservatory. It has whorls of narrow pointed leaves and sends out runners of growth rooting along the stems. If grown in a mesh basket it will grow through the sides and bottom and completely cover the basket and when it blooms you will be amazed! The flowers are very large compared to the plant itself and they stand proudly above the foliage making a handsome display.

The fall catalog is packed with new plants and old favorites ready for your garden. Come and see them all at the Fall Foliage Festival!

Evening in the Garden - “Under the Tuscan Moon”

It was a “La Dolce Vita” evening! (The Sweet Life). The soft rays of the setting sun gave way to the rising of the full moon as RSBG members and guests indulged in a mouth-watering Italian dinner on August 12th. Italian music filled the air, good conversation and wine flowed and delectable desserts were enjoyed.

The Rutherford Conservatory Terrace provided a picturesque setting for this year’s Evening in the Garden, “Under the Tuscan Moon.” Steve and Dennis led tours focusing on the “backstory” of our diverse collection. The rare plant auction brought in \$770, designated for Steve’s next plant hunting expedition to Papua New Guinea.

Many volunteers helped to make the evening a delightful success. Grazie mille! You won’t want to miss next year’s Evening in the Garden—be sure to watch your newsletter for the date.

From the Gift Shop

Cathi DuBose, Gift Shop Manager

Autumn is my favorite time of year. Not only is it the start of football season, but it's a time to enjoy the array of fall colors. I remember how vivid the colors were at the RSBG last year and I eagerly await the hues of red, orange and yellow on the property this year. So when you start to see the colors change in your neighborhood, take time for a walk through the Garden to soak in the crisp fall air and the beauty of the fall foliage.

Remember, the garden and gift shop are open from 10 am to 4 pm every Tuesday through Sunday.

Volunteer Focus

Katie Swickard
Program Manager and Outreach Coordinator



Katie Swickard

Deena Henkins.

Hardworking. Diligent. Multi-talented. Organized. Generous. So many powerful adjectives describe Deena Henkins!

Deena can be found at the nursery potting bench every Monday and Friday, carefully potting up hundreds of plants each week. When our catalog distribution time rolls around twice a year, she is hard at

work taking inventory and organizing plants from the nursery. Deena also prepares the plants for shipping. In between distributions, she helps with planting, watering, and weeding in the nursery and garden. Like the Energizer bunny, she just keeps going ... Deena jumps right in to help with events, and anything else asked of her.

And all of this is accomplished on top of her Board duties on the Executive and Finance Committees. Deena began volunteering with us in 2007 after retiring from her position as a supervisor for an Alaskan environmental agency, where she utilized her B.S. in Chemical Engineering.

The staff is so very grateful for the numerous hours that Deena has donated over the years as a loyal, dedicated volunteer. Thanks so much, Deena, for all that you do!

Volunteer Opportunity

Atsuko Gibson
Horticultural Assistant

In our garden, volunteers play an essential role in assisting our staff team. Volunteers can be found working in many parts of the garden, inside and outside, allowing this non-profit foundation to bloom.

We are currently looking for weeding volunteers who would enjoy working in this beautiful 22 acre woodland garden. Come singly or you are more than welcome to bring your friends and work as a group! Garden clubs and ARS Chapters are encouraged to plan work parties. Scheduling is flexible; just let us know when you are coming. You can stay as little, or as long as you like.

There is nothing more satisfying than when visitors tell you, "The garden is beautiful, thank you for all your work." If you are interested, please contact Atsuko Gibson at atsuko@rhodygarden.org.

Whether volunteering in the garden, office or from home, our volunteers are a vital resource in helping us fulfill our mission!



Katie Swickard

Volunteer Slavic Rubashka, a Running Start high school senior, has worked over 60 hours in just one month's time!



Katie Swickard

Volunteer Ruth Enticknap has worked from home to update more than 5,000 advertising rack cards that we use in the airport and at other local tourist rack card sites.

Please Join Us

For **Annual Volunteer Holiday Party**

When **December 9th, Noon to 2 p.m.**

Where **RSBG Office
2525 S. 336th St., Federal Way, WA**

RSOP **Cathi at 253-661-9377**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (5/1/2011 to 8/31/2011)

(5/1/2011 to 8/31/2011)

Thanks to a successful GroupOn marketing push, we have more than four and a half times the usual number of new members this quarter!

Jacqui Austin & Don Westfall

Arlene Becker
Deborah Birrane
Ross Brown & Shannan Owings
Catherine Bryant
Mathew Cady
Tim Caruthers
Jon Chamberlain and Rene Young
Lee Cheshire
Tom Church
Barbara Cisler
Lesli & Rich Cohan
Paul Dambrosi
Thaddeus Dancer
Patsy Day
Brenda Deacon
Patricia Demarest
Geoffrey Dickerson

Emma & Marilyn Donohew
Marilyn Dunstan
Vickie Edwards
Kathryn Ertel & Robert Goddard
Cheryl Estes
Raylene Ewing & Caner Gokeri
Farzad Farshi
Ahmed Fayaz
Penny Fears-Brockob
Gordon Ferguson
Ronald Fonden
Lily Garfield
Sandy Garrett
Ted Gibson
Melita Graus
Theodore Hampton
Teri Hickel
Margot Hightower
Susan Hiles
Hortus Botanicus
Delores Hyden
Guinevere & Barbara Joy
Gursharan Kaur
Jessica Klein
Laurie Krone

Dawn Kropp
Christine D. Langley
Erin Larson
Rick Lee
Dave Livingston & Sylvia Duff
Mark Lyke
Nathaniel Miles
Michael Morganthaler
Georgia Mourikis
Sandy Mullins
Miriam & Jason Nazario
Erika Nelson
Marina Nepom
Kellie Nielsen
Karen Noyes
Shawn O'Day
Kari Olson & Mr. Steve Wilkinson
Bruce Palmer
Samuel Pattison
James Pellicer
Joan Piper
Stan Ratcliff
Kathryn Reid
Jim Rettinger
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Siobhan Rix
Charles E. Sadler
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Christy Schutte
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George Stewart
Amy Stockman
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Andy Tanis
Todd Teich
Phyllis Tellari
Nancy S. Thiel
Jane Thiemens
James Tinlin
Courtney & Anthony Vengarick
Lisa Vik
Kimberly Vuong
Patricia Wall
Elizabeth Ward
John West
Jenny Yartz
Stephen Yee

CONTRIBUTORS - THANK YOU! (5/1/2011 to 8/31/2011)

In Memoriam

In Memory of Prudence Holliger

Rollo and Winnie Adams
Robert A. Dunning
Don King
Harriet & Wade Mahlke
Lisa Schaeftbauer
June Sinclair
Karen Swenson
Diane and Paul Thompson
Dr. Keith A. White

In Memory of Thresa Benjamin

D.C. Jarvis
Les and Nancy Larsen
Anne and Philip McCracken

Contributions

Anderson, Julie
Bartlett, Robert A. Jr.
Beckman, Sten
Butler, Don
Colby, David and Catherine
Currie, Chris
Dambrosi, Paul
Duffy, Bruce W.
Gerhardt, Jon and Roxanne
Harrold, Vanessa J.

Hootman, Steve E.
Large, Jeanne M.
Lockhart, Anita R.
McDougald, Larry
Patrick, T. Keith
The Boeing Company Matching Program
White, Dr. Keith A.

Garden Campaign Contributions

Anonymous, \$1,000
Adams, Margaret
Adams, Rollo and Winnie
Anderson, Dr. Paul W.
Anderson, Allan
Appell, Louis
ARS Cascade Chapter
Ashford, Jason
Barker, Rodney
Beadle, Marlene
Bell, Gwen
Berkeley, Patricia and Noel
Boatwright, Mary
Brady, Dan
Brown, Stanton and Gwen
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Chapen, Carol F.

Christianson, Neil B.
Clark, Susan
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Cummins, Patrick J. and Jean L.
Doi, Yasuyuki
Dougherty, Linda
Duryee, Mrs. Phil "Sylvia"
Enticknap, Ruth
Franz, Robert
Galligan, Patricia J.
Godfrey, Margery
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Hasche-Kluender, Hans
Hayton, Mary
Hertz, Clem
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Keyser, Judi
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Manenica, Alma
Mast, Robert
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Morel, David R.
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Sauter, Hans
Shaver, Robert G.
Stipe, W.A.
Sullivan, Barbara
Swenson, Karen
Thompson, Diane and Paul
Todd, Norman
Van Citters, Robert L.
Voss, Donald H.
Watne, Conrad
Williams, Ann
Wright, Jonathan and Holly
Wright, Ken
Young, Judith

Email Newsletter

Please help us stretch our dollars further! Request to receive your newsletter by email and save the RSF the cost of printing and mailing. This is especially valuable if you are outside the USA. Just email Katie@RhodyGarden.org and ask to receive your newsletter electronically. Thanks for helping us make every dollar count. We promise not to share your address.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships (excluding Associate Level) include:

- Free year-round garden admission for cardholder
- Quarterly RSBG Newsletter
- Priority plant, pollen, and seed offerings (over non-members)
- 10% discount on RSBG Gift Shop and Plant Sales Pavilion purchases
- Spring & Fall Plant Catalogs & Yearbook
- Use of the Lawrence J. Pierce Library during business hours
- Voting privileges at the Annual Membership Meeting

Also available:

- **Associate (group) Memberships**
Please contact the RSBG office for more information (253) 838-4646

PO Box 3798
Federal Way, WA 98063

FAX: 253-838-4686
PHONE: Seattle 253-838-4646

EMAIL: Katie@RhodyGarden.org
Tacoma 253-927-6960

Today's Date _____

- Enroll me as an RSBG member! Extend my RSBG membership another year!
- My company matches contributions.
(I have enclosed the matching form) Gift Membership

____ Mr. ____ Mrs. ____ Ms. ____ Dr. _____ Check here if *new or revised* address

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov./State _____ PC / Zip _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ - _____ - _____ e-mail: _____

Membership dues are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. *Email correspondence saves valuable resources & dollars!*

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- Student** \$25 **International** (including Canadian) Student, Individual & Family members please add \$10.00 US for airmail service. All Funds must be in US currency drawn on a US bank.
- Individual** \$35 **Student** members please enclose photo-copy proof of student status.
- Family** \$50 **Check here** if you do **NOT** want to receive newsletters & other correspondence by e-mail.
- Supporting** \$100 **Check here** if you do **NOT** wish your name, address & contact information published in the annual membership directory.
- Sustaining** \$250
- Patron** \$500
- Benefactor** \$1000
- Life Member** \$2000
- I have enclosed an additional contribution of \$ _____ US to support the collection and garden.
- I would like information regarding gifts to the endowment or estate planning to benefit the RSBG.
- I'd like to volunteer. Please send information.
- Please send information on Associate membership for groups.

Payment Information

- Enclosed is a Check made payable to RSBG. (US funds only, drawn on a US bank.)

Charge to: VISA MASTERCARD Expires _____ V# _____
3 digit #, located above signature

Account # _____ Signature _____

For Office Use Only:

New Member number _____ New Member packet sent _____ Date _____
Entered in computer _____ Membership card sent _____ Promo _____ 2011/06

Be a Part of RSBG History

The Rutherford Conservatory is now home to over 100 engraved stones!

The RSBG Engraved Commemorative Paver Program enables you to make your mark on Garden history. By purchasing a paver stone engraved with your name, family, organization name, or a stone engraved in honor of someone special, you are directly supporting Garden operations and the conservation of *Rhododendron* species.

There are a limited number of paver stones available, so don't wait to be included! See the display of paver examples and designated gift cards at the gift shop. Visit RhodyGarden.org for more information or contact Grace at 253-838-4646.



Sample of engraved stones for the RSBG Engraved Commemorative Paver Program.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The RSBG Newsletter is published quarterly in winter, spring, summer, and fall by the Rhododendron Species Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Submissions are due by the first of the month, 8 weeks before publication. Email submissions to Newsletter Editor Sonja Nelson: sonjan@wavecable.com

rhodygarden.org

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Mike Stewart, 1st VP
Joshua Green, III, 2nd VP
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Jeanine Smith, Secretary
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Deena Henkins
Benjamin Hall
Diane Thompson
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Fax: 253-838-4686
Gift Shop: 253-661-9377

Garden Hours
Tuesday through Sunday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
PO Box 3798
Federal Way, WA 98063

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Dennis Bottmiller

Enjoy the dazzling display of rich autumn colors during our weeklong Fall Foliage Festival & Plant Sale. From Saturday, October 15 to Saturday 22 the RSBG, the Hardy Fern Foundation and the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection will be celebrating the fall season.

The festival features classes, fall color tours and excellent deals on outstanding species rhododendrons, companion plants and ferns. Speakers include Steve Hootman on "The Best Rhodys for the Small Garden," Dave De Groot, Bonsai Curator, on "Bonsai Basics," and Sue Olsen, internationally renowned fern expert, on "Ferns - They don't all look alike?"

For information and schedule details visit rhodygarden.org and click on events or call 253-661-9377.

RSBG CALENDAR 2011

- **Oct. 15-22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Fall Foliage Festival and Plant Sale
- **Oct. 19**
Fall Distribution closes
(no new plant orders taken after this date)
- **Nov. 19, 1 to 3 p.m.**
RSF Board meeting
- **Dec. 9, noon to 2 p.m.**
Volunteer Christmas Party