



Pilchuck

Pollinator

Pilchuck Chapter ARS

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December Meeting

Come join the fun! We will have a gift exchange by the number system. So please bring a nice, wrapped gift not to exceed \$15. Bring hors d'oeuvres or a dessert; beverages will be provided.

December Horticulture

By Jerry Rock

Time for cleanup! Rake up dead leaves around your rhodies. This is where slugs hide and leave eggs. Bad insects like to hide there also. Add mulch if you haven't yet up to four inches from the trunk of a rhody. Time to sit back and enjoy the beauty of winter, your evergreen plants and relax!

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

April 9-11, 2010 - University of BC Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BCA reminder about this great opportunity to increase your rhododendron knowledge and have a great vacation. Registration is on a first-come-first-serve basis and is limited to 100 gardeners. The conference is split into 2 levels of experience—basic and advanced. Register before the end of 2009 and the fee is \$130!

Wreath Workshop

The Arney Farm is offering wreath and swag workshops at their site. This is a nice way to have a beautiful drive into the Cascade foothills, relax with a cup of hot cider, and make a wreath or a swag for the holidays. The greens and hardware are provided. The wreaths cost \$15 and the swags run \$10. Call Cheryl at 360-435-3030 to schedule your workshop.

- Dec. 3, 2009
- First Baptist Church
81st & State Ave
Marysville, WA
- Meet'n Greet: 7:00PM
- Party at 7:30pm

Refreshments

Hors d'oeuvres
&
Desserts

Raffle

None this time.



Pilchuck Chapter ARS Meeting Minutes — November 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Blankenship, and without further ado introduced our speaker for the evening, Michelle Clark CPH. Her topic was “Fall Gardening”, and for the next hour we learned we have a lot to do in our lawns and gardens to prepare for the upcoming seasons of planting and growing. To help us along, Ms Clark distributed an extensive outline of projects we should not put off if we want a worthy garden in the Spring.

During the business portion of the meeting it was recommended we encourage new members by having them pay only that portion of dues retained by the chapter. This amounts to \$10. The chapter would then pay that portion remitted to ARS National. This amounts to \$30. This would apply to first year dues only. A motion to this proposal was made, seconded and passed. Our guests for the evening took advantage of this offer, so please welcome on board, Jim & Wendy Healy of Arlington. Jim got himself in a little hot water by talking about his garage which is extensively used by his wife, Wendy, for storing a myriad of her gardening plants and equipment.

The meeting concluded with a raffle and auction of plants and gardening materials.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Lawson - Secretary

Joe Davis' Legacy

As visits have been made to local and private and public gardens and retail nurseries, the name “Joe Davis” has been mentioned frequently as a former source of rhododendron and azalea plants and information. Along with his wife Mavis, the Davis legacy continues as his hybrids flourish thirteen years after his death. Therefore a short retrospective seems appropriate Joe grew up on the fertile black loam of the Middle Green River Valley. A boyhood memory was catching fish in a nearby spring-fed stream. The home of Joe and Mavis was just west of what now is the Sumner Golf Course. A sign out front read “Joe D's Nursery”. For 32 years Joe worked for J.M. McConkey, horticultural supplier in Sumner.

Practical gardener Joe designed the wire harnesses still used for hanging baskets and also the paper plant sleeves used for live plant shipments. In rhododendron circles Joe was a well-known supporter of various organized activities to promote and enjoy rhodies and azaleas. In addition, he encouraged newcomers and fostered their successes. He and Mavis started the Southern Hybridizers group. They generously shared their plants with serious hybridizers and propagators.

In his hybridizing Joe aimed for a “strong yellow”. His ‘**Diny Dee**’ (named for a daughter) was one of the best early ones but unlikely available now. Other Davis successes believed to be available today are as follow: Cont'd on page 3

Programs for 2009-2010

If you have a topic that you think would interest the members, please let a board member know. We will do our best to meet your request. We have a potential plan for the year, and will always welcome your suggestions. We hope you enjoy the programs and learn something new. We want to have a little fun too!

Dec 3— Holiday party

Jan 7— Travelogue of Temples and Gardens in Japan by Richard & Jennifer Fairfield

Feb 4— Passion for Rhododendrons

Mar 4— program provided by the fuchsia club

April 1—provided by the fuchsia club

May 6— Picnic

May 8— Plant sale at the Master Gardener plant sale in Mt. Vernon

Bring a friend or neighbor to a meeting and share the fun!

Joe Davis' Legacy Cont'd from page 2

'Eunie' – ('Diny Dee' x 'Sierra del Oro') Medium yellow blooms with red blotch on upright plant. 1991

'Mavis Davis'—("Orange Marmalade" x "Lem's Cameo") pale yellow flowers edged with reddish orange on upright plant. 1988

'Mike Davis'- (yak x 'Lem's Cameo') frilly pale mauve blooms speckled with copper, deep green foliage. 1990

'Nelda Peach' – (unnamed hybrid x 'Lem's Cameo') large coral flowers with orange speckling. 1987

'Pretty Woman' – ('Orange Marmalade' x 'Pink Petticoats' huge pink trusses on big upright plant. Joe considered this the best hybrid he produced.

'Ruth Mottley' – (peach hybrid x 'Lem's Cameo') large vigorous upright plant, strong true pink with golden throat. 1989

'Unique Marmalade' – ('Orange Marmalade' x 'Unique') compact, low growing plant, today probably is the most widely sold Davis hybrid. Some sun tolerance. 1991.

Also Davis hybrids but unlikely available except as garden cuttings: **'Claire'**, **'Cranberry Swirl'**, **'Golden Wedding'**, **'Joe's Tequila Sunrise'**, **'Orange Marmalade'**, **'Pink Sherbet'** and **'Rosy Dream'**.

As you enjoy the Davis legacy blooming in your garden, remember Joe, Mavis and "Joe D's Nursery". *Doreen Johnson, Tacoma Chapter*





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Be sure to visit our website....

www.rhododendron.info

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