

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eugene Chapter

August/September 2012 Newsletter

A Rare Ericaceae

Photo by Paula Brooks

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Kalmiopsis fragrans

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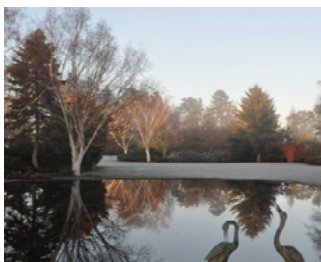


Photo by Alan Troff in his garden

Autumn arrives in
the early morning,
but spring at the
close of a winter day.

FALL PICNIC SEPTEMBER 9 – DISTRICT 4 CHAPTERS INVITED

Celebrating the beginning of a new Chapter year with food, fun
and cuttings/plant exchanges....Rhododendrons!

Where: Dunroamin, home of Frances Burns, Mary & Doug Furr
46436 McKenzie Hwy, Vida 541-896-3731

About 2.4 miles east of the Goodpasture Covered Bridge on Hwy 126 East.
1.8 miles past Vida on south side of hwy. Car pooling may be advantageous for some.

Time 12:00 noon Meal served at 1

THE CHAPTER WILL PROVIDE A HAM AND A BAKED SALMON - SCRUMPTIOUS!

Bring beverages of your own choice. Water & ice will be provided.

PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT, WITH SERVING TOOL, TO SERVE 10.

This is a second-helping crowd of HEAVY DUTY gardeners!

(The food ran out last time the picnic was held here....

Some folks got sorta lean and mean....were they happy?

Not particularly, had to call 911 for backup until decorum was restored!)

Bring plates, silverware and something to serve your side dish with
(excuse the dangling preposition—what should one DO with **them?**)

If convenient, stick a folding chair or two in the trunk...some chairs and
benches are available--some harder than others.

THE TRADITIONAL Rhododendron Cutting EXCHANGE Rules:

**Bring 2 cuttings with a spritz of water in each plastic bag. No limit -
but puh-leez label them! Bring baggies - take baggies home.**

**Some had so much fun at the picnic plant exchange at Greers, they
want another one. If you fancy, bring a rhody - take a rhody home.**

Cuttings fans may demand a "replay" in October - no plant exchange.
(Just fresh green cuttings from trophy winners, if possible).

we're talkin' REAL SERIOUS fun here!

PLEASE RSVP 541-896-3731.

**Chance of rain? Lawn wet? Bring umbrellas (safety glasses advised),
rain gear, galoshes or flip flops (permit needed to remove shoes & sox).**



In Dappled Shade

A California Black Oak planted in 1952 suddenly became the Leaning Tree, and the hosta bed began rising on the left. The wet winter and strong winds had tilted the oak tree from a refuge to a danger tree.

The arborist climbed the tree sawing off the huge limbs on day 1. On day 2 by noon it lay conquered and the mossy lawn and dappled shade were no more.



The Arborist Begins



Good idea: mobile potting wagon!



A Monumental Task

When the logs had been sawed into fireplace length, split, and hauled off to be stacked, the once crisp hostas were miserable in a pile of sawdust.. Plans evolved for a quick remedy to the carnage. At a nursery sale I found half price beauties: a potted 'Japanese maple Sangu Kaka', and potted coral dahlias. Variegated iris were a friend's gift. Wheels began to turn for establishing a permanent sunny bed to contrast with the surrounding woodland garden.



Trauma Station



Everyone needs a plant ambulance



Birds & the Bees Class

HAVE YOU ENJOYED THESE?

Henry Mitchell on Gardening - Henry Mitchell, late Washington Post columnist

The Virago Book of Women Gardeners - Deborah Kellaway, English Garden Writer

SUMMER OF 2012 - CHAPTER FAREWELLS



GALEN BAXTER 1925 - 2012

His father was 63 years old when Galen was born in Oklahoma's Choctaw Indian country; he died when Galen was 11. As the youngest and only child still at home, Galen lived with his mother until he finished high school, doing farm work for others as well as at home to help out. He joined the Navy in 1943, the day after graduating from high school. Trained as a signalman, Galen served in the South Pacific until the war ended in 1945.

Declining opportunities to go to college, Galen worked at a variety of jobs as he explored around the Western states. In 1952, after two years in Eureka, CA, he met and married Helen March at the California/Oregon state line where she was living with her parents and working in a resort. They spent three years in Grant's Pass, where Galen was employed in the lumber industry, then moved to Florence Oregon with their two sons, Donald and Roger.

Galen worked five days a week for 34 years at the Long-Bell Mill, which was sold to International Paper not long after Galen was hired. In the 1950s, O. Howard Hinsdale, who owned Umpqua Navigation Company and was deeply involved in banking and associated Oregon businesses, began developing with great care, an eight-acre English style woodland garden on Spruce Reach Island between Hwy 38 and the Umpqua River near Reedsport. He traveled the world over, buying rare plants - size and price were of no consequence.

In 1952, Galen began working weekends at the garden, soaking up rhododendron knowledge from Hinsdale as he helped plant the garden. It was there Galen developed his life-long love of rhododendrons. Later in 2005, because of both his planting experience at Spruce Reach, his plant identification skills, and his impeccable memory, he was invaluable in the ongoing restoration of the garden.*

Galen and wife Helen started a small nursery; though he had many "nuggets" and ordered seeds from England, he prevailed in keeping it small and enjoyable to operate. He planted rhododendron gardens for others many times in his life. His ultimate interest in genus focused on new hybrids as long as he lived. Even in his 80's, his polite requests for cuttings were irresistible, and his grafting skills produced quick bloomings to enter in shows. Joining the ARS as "at-large members" years ago, Galen and Helen later became founding members of the Siuslaw Chapter in Florence, dedicating themselves to the success of this then fledgling organization by serving as various officers multiple times, and they were always very involved in the truss shows. Galen was recipient of a bronze medal in 1984, Helen a decade later.

In the 1990's, they traveled extensively in South America, Mexico, Asia, Spain, and the United States. In 1997 they joined Steve Hootman's trek to Sikkim. As Galen's health began to fail, they moved to Eugene where they became actively involved as associate members of the Eugene Chapter.

Galen was buried with military honors in the Veteran's Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon. A memorial service attended by many of his rhododendron friends was held July 15 in Eugene. His humor, gentlemanly laid back demeanor and the twinkle in his eyes will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

*Note: Further information on the history of the Hinsdale Spruce Reach Garden may be found in three articles by John Hammond and Gordon Wylie in JARS 61 (4) Fall 2007, 62 (1) Winter 2008, and 62 (2) Spring 2008..

SUMMER OF 2012 - CHAPTER FAREWELLS

STANLEY "STAN" HALL JUNE 6, 1925 - JULY 23, 2012

Stanley was born in London, England to parents Charles and Nora Walbridge Hall. At some point in time the family moved to the United States. After serving in the Army Air Force in WWII, and graduating from Grinnell College in 1949, he married Doty (Doris) Hall. Like many veterans, he continued his education with a master's degree in education from the University of Oregon in 1953 and a master of science degree in biology from Oregon State University in 1957. His life work for 28 years was as a popular Biology teacher at Junction City High School. Doty taught as well, and they were notably trim and slim avid golfers. One of the Hall's old golf carts ended up as one of Harold Greer's first methods of transport for customer's and plants around Greer Gardens nursery.

The Halls joined the Eugene Chapter in 1971. They were a congenial couple, and Stan had a big smile for everyone. He served as chapter President 1981-83. In 1988, he received the chapter's highest honor, the Bronze Medal. The Halls owned their own rhododendron mail order business, Hall Nursery, in Junction City, where they grew many species and did some hybridizing. Eventually they sold the nursery to Jan Kelley of Drain, Oregon, who later changed its name to Kelley Green. One of his hybrids is 'June Pink' which I bought from Kelley Green in the early 90's and each year I look forward to its late blooms. Another of their hybrids is "Bluenique", which is still available today in some nurseries.

Stan always used a Nearing frame, and never had a greenhouse. He started his seedlings in the house. Gordon Wylie remembers Doty complaining that she could not get out of bed in the middle of the night without stepping in one of Stan's flats of seedlings!. He bought an old concrete mixing truck he used to conjure up his cutting and growing mixes, Their plants were sold in black non-rigid poly containers. The Halls also had an electric furnace for smelting and casting aluminum plant labels, which they sold in boxes of 1000. Some chapter members still have a lifetime supply of some very good labels.!

Another old timer recalled that even then, a few years after they closed the nursery operation, you could see evidence throughout their garden of very bushy plants because of all the cuttings taken from them.

Sometime in the early 2000's they moved to Cascade Manor, a comfortable independent living apartment complex in Eugene. Stan died July 23 of Alzheimer's disease. Doty continues to live at Cascade Manor. A celebration of life and open house was held from July 26, at Cascade Manor Solarium. He was 87.

His wife and three children survive Stanley: a son, Chip, of Manzanita; two daughters, Leslie Hall of Eugene and Darcy Hall of Singer Island, Florida. Heartfelt condolences are extended to the family..



If you wonder what it's like to be an old member, sit at a convention banquet table during dinner and listen to the lively hum of chatter from hundreds of "rhodo nuts". Quite warm and fuzzy, and so many good stories floating about - and possibly some ghosts rejudging the flower display.

FB

HAROLD & NANCY GREER ENTER RETIREMENT PHASE

A front page article in the August 25 Eugene Register Guard newspaper, from which the following excerpts and actual quotes are taken, states that the Greers, owners of the venerable Greer Gardens nursery, with no children to carry on the business his father, Edgar, started on River Road in the 50's, are getting ready to retire and are looking for an exit strategy. Both 67, they are collaborating with developers on a plan to build housing on the on 14 acres of land – one of the largest undeveloped parcels of property in north Eugene – perhaps within a few years.

The present concept would use 6 acres for an assisted living center, with the remaining 8 acres dedicated to single family homes on small lots. “It could be developed in a pleasing way,” Harold said. Developers will be working with city officials, testing the concerns of whether the demand is there for an assisted living center and how many housing units the city will allow on the land. “It takes a while . . . to go from concept to reality,” according to Clayton Walker, a developer and principal broker of C.W. Walker Associates.

Thus the question often asked by friends and chapter members, “What are Harold and Nancy going to do?” has been revealed. Harold was twice elected national ARS president and Gold Medal winner. We wish them well.

A garden is a place for shaping a little world of your own according to your heart's desire.

Beverly Nichols

Beverly Nichols That is the reason
And Marion Cran I'm bound to confess
Hadn't been born The Garden of Eden
When the world began, Was not a success,

Reginald Arkin

One of the many reasons why gardens are increasingly precious to us in this day and age is that they help us to escape from the tyranny of speed. Our skies are streaked with jets, our roads have turned to race-tracks, and in the cities the crowds rush to and fro as though the devil were at their heels. But as soon as we open the garden gate, Time seems almost to stand still, slowing down to the gentle ticking of the Clock of the Universe.

Beverly Nichols

It may sound affected to describe the 'Lady Chamberlain' rhododendron as a carillon in coral, but I can think of no other metaphor, for the branches are thickly hung with coral bells which seem, when the wind touches them to be making music.

Beverly Nichols

A Garden Workshop for Every Type of Gardener

Led by Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne, Northwest Garden Nursery

A benefit for Western Environmental Law Center

Date: Saturday: Saturday, Sept. 8

Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

Place: Northwest Garden Nursery

86813 Central Road

Eugene, OR

Cost: \$50 (includes picnic lunch)

Space is limited. To register contact

Jackie Marlette at 541-359-3240

marlette@westernlaw.org

*Participants may stay afterward to explore the garden at their leisure.

You will begin this small, unique workshop by exploring the 1.5 acre nationally recognized garden on a tour led by the owners, Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne.

After the tour Ernie and Marietta will lead a seminar driven by your questions. Bring any gardening questions or problems you have, and they will answer them!

Sample topics include pruning, maintenance, design, culture of herbaceous plants, alpines, and bulbs to flowering perennials, plus vegetables, fruits, shrubs, and trees.



Northwest Garden Nursery owners, Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne, are passionate gardeners with a combined gardening experience of 102 years! Their mature, 40-year old display garden has been feature in national magazines, such as *Horticulture*, *Sunset*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and *Fine Gardening*.

All proceeds benefit Western Environmental Center, a non-profit public interest law firm that works to protect and restore western willdlands and advocates for a healthy environment on behalf of communities throughout the West. Learn more at westernlaw.org .

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE MASTER GARDENER™ PROGRAM IN LANE COUNTY

Now is the time to apply for the daytime option of the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program in Lane County, one of the most popular volunteer programs in Oregon. Orientation will be held December 5, 2012 and classes will meet Wednesdays, January 9-13, 2013 from 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. The Master Gardener curriculum provides volunteers with information and references on subjects such as plant botany, tree identification, native plants, ornamental and edible gardening, soil management, lawns, weed identification, and pest and disease management.

Upon completion of the course, Master Gardener volunteers serve their community as Extension educators, in coordination with plans developed by Extension faculty or horticulture assistants. Community needs, as well as the capabilities of individual Master Gardeners, determine how this is best accomplished. Master Gardeners conduct garden clinics, teach basic gardening classes, and answer phone calls about all aspects of home gardening.

Commercial growers are invited to apply for the program to earn a Certificate of Horticulture Proficiency. There will be an additional cost to students should they choose not to complete the volunteer hours. Applications are available at the OSU Extension Service office 783 Grant Street, Eugene or on the website extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens. Volunteers receive 66 hours of intensive gardening education in exchange for 66 hours of volunteer time. Participants that plan to volunteer pay a \$200 class fee plus \$35 for the textbook.

For more information, contact the OSU Extension Service office at 541-344-5859, or stop by the Extension office at 783 Grant Street (between Garfield & Chambers) in Eugene, to pick up an application. Pre-registration is required. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. There will be an evening option starting in January and an online option through OSU ecampus.

We will endeavor to provide public accessibility to services, programs, and activities for people with disabilities. If accommodation is needed to participate at any meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the Lane County office of OSU Extension Service at 541-344-5859 at least two-weeks prior to the scheduled meeting time

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Linda Renslow
Oregon State University Extension Service

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FOURTH OF JULY HIKE – FROM President Ali Sarlak

HIKING IN THE KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS

My friend, alpine enthusiast Loren Russell, and I went hiking Douglas County in southwestern Oregon. We were interested in seeing the Kalmiopsis *fragrans*, known as the South Umpqua kalmiopsis, which is located somewhere in the Horseshoe Bend area of Douglas County.

The plant we were pursuing is endemic only to Douglas County, Oregon, and was found in 1950. It grows in general where Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) grows, in tuff outcrops, bare rocks, cliffs and rock scree. There are only two species in the genus, which, like heath, in the Ericaceae family. The other species is *K. leachiana* (sometimes labeled Le Piniec), which is found further south in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area of Josephine County, the most southwestern are of Oregon. Both are in the Ericaceae family, but *K. fragrans* is different in size, shape and flowers, and comes with scented flowers, as indicated by its name . Both species have pink to purple blooms.

It is a very rare plant and grows in the most harsh conditions in almost non-existing soil, on rocky, serpentine outcrops which are heavy on metals high in iron, magnesium, that are restrictive to plant growth. It is important to add that serpentine rocks are porous, and store enough water for plants to survive . When I visited the site I noticed *K. fragrans* growing in a mound, trailing on the Serpentine rock outcrops. Some of them were trailing almost 5 feet from the edges of cliffs. It is a plant that will also work well for rock gardeners .

On the same hike, I saw for the first time, Indian paintings in a cave at one of the sites. It was so interesting. In conclusion, I was so intrigued to see such a rare, endemic, attractive, and tough plant – related to a fellow member of the Ericaceae family, *Rhododendron macrophyllum* that provides a good show in the in the Pacific Northwest

This was very enjoyable trip along the Umpqua River in Douglas County, Oregon.



Kalmiopsis *fragrans* habitat. This very attractive low evergreen shrub grows in temperate mixed conifer forest with its relative, madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*). Photo by David McClurg. Permission granted by US Forest Service for use in this article.



Rare Phantom Orchids (*Cephalanthera austrinae* - only species in the genera) grows in similar habitat

Photo by by Ali Sarlak



Single bloom surrounded by lichen.

Photo by Ali Sarlak

Closeup of Kalmiopsis *fragrans* in bloom on Page 1.

A GARDENING LIFE: INTRODUCING TOM BEATTY, OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Rhododendrons were not part of Tom's youth; his mother came from a dairy farming background and working with the soil, while his father's family were mill workers and gardeners. He grew up in western Pennsylvania, where Kalmias (Mountain Laurels) were common. There he gardened with his parents, watched birds, and played sports. While his brother and sister do not garden, his parents, both in their 80's still vegetable garden.

In his teen years and early twenties, Tom pursued other dreams. In July, 1977 he left Pennsylvania in a hippie van with Sandy, the woman he would marry. Their destination was Oregon and the wonders of the Pacific Northwest. They spent three years in Klamath Falls before moving to Eugene, where Tom, with Sandy's encouragement, attended Lane Community College. She worked to pay the bills while Tom's Botany classes rekindled his love of gardening and his determination for a career in horticulture was launched. From LCC, Tom transferred to Oregon State University, where he received a B.S. Degree in Horticulture and "set to win the world over for plants."

A degree in Horticulture came with no guarantees, but lots of hard work and some hard knocks, too. Tom worked in several local nurseries, and there he discovered "incredible wonder of their diversity and beauty." (The editor first met Tom when he was working at Gray's Nursery and we had many discussions on rhodies.) He attended Eugene chapter meetings in the 90's but never became a member. Several jobs later, and living in Silverton, he was employed with the City of Salem Parks as Horticulturist and Lead Gardener at Bush's Pasture Park.

Fate brought Sandy and Tom back to Eugene to live, just "as fate brought...them to Bush Park to plant a rhododendron Garden." Tom was given the job to procure the plants and to site and plant the garden. Tom joined the Eugene chapter to learn and enjoy even more, as well as to build friendships among other admirers of the genus. He and Sandy have bought a home in Coburg with 1/3 acre, where their own new rhody garden will be planted. Eugene Chapter is proud to be your rhody home as well, Tom and Sandy. FB

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DON'T BUILD A WATER GARDEN BY REGINALD FARRAR*

Advice to those about to build a Water-garden - DON'T. Not that the Water-garden is not a joy and a glory; but that it is cruelly hard to keep in order and control unless you a master of millions of broad ample acres of pool and pone. Water, like fire, is a good servant, perhaps, but is painful liable to develop into a master.... How many little ponds are unguardedly built, only to become mere basins of slime and duckweed? How many larger pools are made, only to fill with *Chara*, *Potamogeton*, and the other noxious growths that make its depths a clogged, waving forest of dull brown verdure? The fact is a pool, not an easy thing to build and set going-is of all things in the garden the hardest of all to keep in decent order. Some of its choice inmates devour and despoil the smaller ones; water weeds increase and multiply at a prodigious rate; dead leaves drift thick upon it in autumn, slime and green horrors make a film across it in summer.

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From *Alpines and Bog Plants*, 1908

*Reginald John Farrer (1880 - 17 October 1920), was a traveler and plant collector. He published a number of books, although is best known for *My Rock Garden*. Farrer traveled to Asia in search of a variety of plants, many of which he brought back to England and planted near his home village of Clapham, North Yorkshire. Check Wikipedia online for further interesting biographical details on Reginald Farrer.

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
PO Box 7704
Springfield, OR 97475

The Eugene chapter has had its post office box at the Gateway Post Office for many years; the US Post Office has now changed our mailing address to a Springfield address with a new zip code. If you have reason to send mail to the chapter, you will need to use the new address..

👉 Please read the small print! 👈

August / September 2012 Newsletter

2012 CHAPTER CALENDAR 2013

- Sept 9 Picnic and Cutting Exchange - Details on page 1.
- Oct 11 Chapter meeting and Panel Discussion - *Growing Rhododendrons Successfully*
- Nov 8 Chapter meeting and Program - Companion Plants for the Rhododendron Garden **Roger Gossler**
- Dec 13 Christmas Potluck
- Jan 10 Chapter meeting and program: Rhododendron Diversity, **Harold Greer**
Showing all of the different types of plants that exist in the Genus Rhododendron -
An amazing diversity that most people do not realize exists in the Genus Rhododendron.
- Feb 14 Chapter meeting and program, Western North American Rhododendron Species Project - **Clarice Clarke**
- Mar 14 Chapter Annual meeting and program, Hydrangeas in Your Garden **Kristen Van Hoose**
- Apr 20 Spring Show and Awards Banquet, Program - Species Azaleas of North America - **Mike Stewart**
- May 11 Plant Sale with the WVHPC
- June Picnic