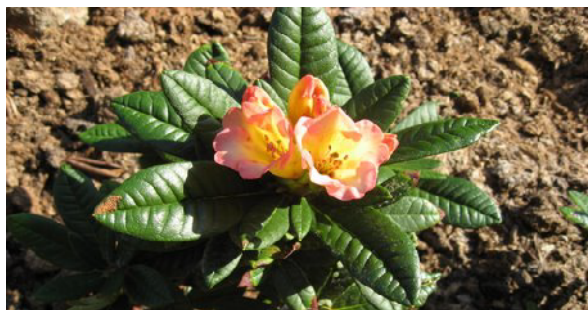


OCTOBER 2009

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Carl Adam Lehman Hybrid and Photo

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is soon upon us, with garden work to do, but few blooms. At this time of year we look at pictures of gardens and rhodies and get ideas for projects next spring. The September meeting had just such a program: beautiful gardens, interesting plants and garden art with lots of ideas on improving parts of our gardens, even small ones.

Now some thoughts on our May shows. Our thanks to Leonard Frojen for chairing the 2009 show, to Harold Greer for getting judges, and all those who helped with set-up, take-down, manning information tables and plant sales. Without this effort we wouldn't have a show, but the key ingredient is rhododendron trusses. That's why we do all the work--to show people the beauty and diversity of rhododendrons.

There were 284 entries in 2009 and I want to thank the people who brought trusses to show. But why so few entries? Comments heard include "the difficulty of taking trusses and preparing them for entry" and "mine wouldn't get a ribbon so why bother?" Note this: Best in Show at the 2009 Siuslaw Chapter show was won by Galen Baxter with a truss of 'Midnight' that he almost didn't take!

Continued on page 5

OCTOBER 8 PROGRAM

On Thursday, October 8, we have **Bill Hicks** from the Puget Sound area giving a presentation on "**Lepidote Rhododendrons**" at our October Meeting. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for cookies, coffee, and conversation before the program at 7:30. Bill is bringing a number of plants that will be used as door prizes as well as a silent auction. You might also like to join us for a no-host speaker's dinner at the North Bank Restaurant on Country Club Road at 5:15. Please let Paula or Ted know if you are coming by Tuesday, October 6, so that we may contact the restaurant.

DUES ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 20

ARS dues have increased to \$40 for individuals.

Family memberships remain at \$40.

Associate member dues have increased to \$10.

Individual Life memberships are \$1,000,

Family Life membership \$1,500.

Dues notices were mailed to all members of Eugene Chapter. Anyone wishing to join the chapter please contact Treasurer Richard Reed, PO Box 7704. Eugene 97401

Officers

President	Helen Baxter	461-6082
Vice President	Ted Hewitt	687-8119
Past President	Jack Olson	988-9133
Secretary	Paula Hewitt	687-8119
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Hospitality	JoAnn Napier	746-0828
Welfare	Nancy Greer	686-1540
Honors	Vacant	
ShowChair	Leonard Frojen	485-0560

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HENRY ADAM SCHANNEN JR.

Many Society members will remember and miss Hank Schannen of Trenton, New Jersey, who passed quite suddenly September 16. He was a founding partner of Hase-Schannen Research Associates and owner of RareFind Nursery. Active nationally and as a member of the Princeton Chapter of the ARS, he also served on the board of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Condolences to his wife and their three daughters and families. A memorial gathering was held Wednesday, September 23. Hank was an avid animal lover, so memorial donations may be made in his name to:

Humane Society of the United States
Dept. GAIT04, 2100 L St., NW
Washington, DC 20037

EDITOR'S BYTE

Frances Burns

Nocturnal visitors may come and go, but to our consternation and surprise this morning, one had moved in with the intent of spending the winter--a mama Douglas Squirrel, one of our native Oregon species endowed with great cunning and an aptitude for home and hearth, had birthed her babies in a shoe box in the sewing room! There she lay, fiercely surrounding her babies with her tail and body, protecting them from any bad intent on our part, though I cannot imagine anything as chaotic as a family of young Douglas squirrels romping about the house at night. The box was placed outside and she moved them one by one to a tree. Life goes on!

Something else of beauty and form besides rhododendrons was developed centuries ago in China--Tai Chi! Morning visitors to my garden might see, heaven forbid--someone attempting to float like a cloud, flow with the morning breeze, and get some exercise. That would be me *practicing* Tai Chi. Taken from the 24-form Yang style Tai Chi, eight sequential forms have been standardized, after years of research and study, into a program of weight-bearing and non-weight-bearing stances with correct body alignment into a continuous, circular, and flowing routine synchronized with natural breathing to promote better balance, mobility and a sense of well-being for mind and body. Wellness organizations here and around the world are promoting Tai Chi as an exercise that people of all ages can do anywhere, anytime without buying expensive equipment or clothing, needing no arenas, and do alone or with thousands (as in the Beijing Olympic opening ceremony). The art was a closely guarded "family" secret for centuries and survived the sweep of the new order in China. Neither as mindless as walking on a treadmill or pumping a stationary bicycle, nor at all difficult, it does require thought and continued practice--use it or lose it. In Riverbend Hospital's Cardiovascular Wellness & Rehabilitation Center, our class spent 6 weeks learning the basic 8 forms with inscrutable names like "Part the Wild Horses's Mane", "Repulse Monkey", "Fair Lady Works at Shuttle", and "Grasp the Peacock's Tail", each form is a set of steps and hand motions. The following 10-week course concentrates on incorporating deep breathing and increased precision of foot and hand movements. The entire 8 steps can be performed in 3 minutes when one "gets it"! I do the routine 3 times once or twice a day either in the garden or the house. I can honestly say my arthritic knees no longer ache at night, my arms, legs and shoulders are stronger and I have a sense that my mind and body heartily approve of this effort.

For more information on this program contact: Fuzhong Li, Ph.D of Oregon Research Institute, www.ori.org or Suman Barkhas, Tai Chi Master by e-mail at info@holistichealinginstitute.org or visit the website: www.holistichealinginstitute.org

And Happy Tai Chi to you in your garden!

Yakkin' at the Old Tool Shop

“Don't be silly, Toto,” Dorothy said, “Scarecrows don't talk!”

Fall is upon us, and that means winter planting. We are planting peas, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and some lettuce. This year we may need a scarecrow to help ward off garden thieves, so I looked for some ideas and was surprised at the history of the scarecrow.

The first users of man-made objects to protect crops were the ancient Egyptians. They used wooden boxes covered with cloth to protect wheat fields from flocks of quails and crows. Men would chase the birds into the cloth nets (and then take the quail home for dinner). Five hundred years later, Greeks used objects that resembled Priapus, their God of fertility, to protect their crops. The Romans then used representations of their God of fertility, Mutinus Mutunus. As the Romans conquered France, Germany, and England, they naturally introduced the locals to Mutinus Mutunus.

Throughout Europe and the world, man-made objects to protect crops came to have many different names and features, but they still functioned to scare away the crows. In medieval England, children were used until the plague in the 14th century killed about half of the population, then they made “scarecrows” using rags stuffed with straw. Different regions of England have different names for them, such as, mommet, murmet, mammet, hodmedod, tattie bogies, tattie bouie, and mawhini. One of Shakespeare's characters in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is a scarecrow called “Jack a Lent.”

In the United States, native Americans had several versions of scarecrows, and when the Pilgrims were taught how to plant corn, they quickly found out the scarecrows had to scare away both the crows and the wolves that came to dig up the fish they had planted with the corn! Almost every house had a scarecrow in the United States until the World War II, when many people quit their farms for manufacturing jobs and the farms began to use pesticides.

Questions? Comments? E-mail me at garden.projects@hotmail.com

TIPS FROM THE OLD TOOL SHED:

I figured a scarecrow that moved might keep away the Elk and deer. There are several easy methods to add movement to a scarecrow. You could attach a spinner like a pinwheel, or glue two CD's together and hang them with string so they rotate in the wind. Another good way is to attach the arms with springs so they move easily. The more you can have hanging from it that will rustle in the wind the better.

QUESTION: What is a scarecrows favorite fruit? Answer: “Straw” berries!



PLACES TO GO ~ PEOPLE TO SEE ~ CUTTINGS TO CUT

WHAT: HINSDALE PLANTING PARTY ~ a chance to participate in one of the best aspects of the 'fun factor' in gardening.

WHEN: November 9, 2009 ~ Begin 9 – 10am until ? (Later arrivals welcome!)

WHERE: Meet at the Parking lot east of the garden.

QUESTIONS/DETAILS: Call Gordon Wylie, 541 895-2864, email lgwone@gmail.com, or 307 Ironwood Loop, Creswell, OR 97426

The impressive O. Howard Hinsdale woodland garden on the lower Umpqua River near Reedsport, with rhododendrons dating back perhaps a century, is well on its way to reclaiming the glory and public attention experienced for two to three decades beginning in the 1950s. This has come about through joint efforts of ARS District 4 members, the ARS Endowment Fund, and the garden's owner, the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

A dozen historically correct hybrids will be planted on Monday, November 9, 2009. Member expertise and a little muscle are needed to complete the work. The BLM has already done much of the heavy lifting by staging soil amendments and mulch in the planting area, locations for each plant are staked, and the replacement plants will be at or near their final location. Our task is to dig planting holes, to settle and mulch the plants in place...and then stand back to contemplate their display in the months and years ahead.

A hot meal is planned as part of the work party and, of course, the always great camaraderie of fellow rhododendron enthusiasts. With many willing hands, time will be left over to stroll around the garden to see first hand the impressive effort going into its creation. Wheelbarrows and all other tools will be furnished by the BLM, but feel free to bring a favorite shovel.

HINSDALE CUTTINGS

Do you own or have access to any of the rhododendrons named below? If so, your help is needed in restoring the historic O. Howard Hinsdale Garden by taking cuttings from them this fall.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canary | <input type="checkbox"/> Goldsworth Yellow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Countess of Athlone | <input type="checkbox"/> Jade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Dream, Biscuit Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Karkov |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erebus | <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Rosebury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabia Tower Court | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. W. C. Slocock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glory of Littleworth | <input type="checkbox"/> Naomi A.M. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden West | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosy Morn |

We hope to obtain at least three to as many as six or eight cuttings of each plant, and have arranged for propagation by Kathy Van Veen. Cuttings should be taken and packaged in the usual manner and mailed directly to her at Van Veen Nursery, PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-0424. To avoid an oversupply of any given cultivar, please check first with Gordon Wylie, lgwone@gmail.com, 541 895-2864 or 307 Ironwood Loop, Creswell, OR 97426.

The ARS is supporting plant replacement at Hinsdale through an Endowment Fund Grant approved by its Board of Directors. Many thanks for everyone's added support. Gordon Wylie



The board would like to hear from chapter members with ideas on questions they have:

- Is a small show acceptable?
- Shall we continue a judged show?
- Shall we have a display exhibit only?
- What do you want this event to be?

The Plant Sale can continue separately, as in 2009. If you have ideas, comments or feedback, call me, Helen at 461-6082 or you can e-mail vice-president-Ted Hewitt at ted.hewitt@comcast.net

All members are invited to join us at our no-host pre-meeting dinner for the the speaker at the North Bank Restaurant on October 8 at 5:15 p.m. Please call me if you plan to come so that a group reservation can be made. It's a great opportunity to meet the speaker and enjoy visiting with others about our favorite subject -- rhododendrons!

EUGENE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The chapter Board of Directors is again compiling a membership roster for distribution to the chapter members. It will include each member's address, telephone number, and e-mail address or at least what we have. If you would prefer that we not list your address, telephone number or e-mail address, please notify Ted Hewitt at (541) 687-8119 or ted.hewitt@comcast.net by November 1. Thanks.

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden Committee would like to add the following list of early to mid blooming plants to update the Smith Garden. Please contact Ginny Mapes ginny@coho.net if you have any of these plants. Thanks!

Abe Arnott	Olin O. Dobbs
Blue Lagoon	Orange Cameo
Cherry Cheesecake	Pacific Sunset
Ebony Pearl	Peach Charm
Elsie Watson	Perfume
Eruption	Peter Allan
Frank Mossman	Peter Bee
Honey Butter	Point Defiance
Horizon Lakeside	Red Gold
Horizon Monarch	Rubicon
Horizon Wildfire	Rusty Nails
Johnathan Shaw	Seaview Sunset
Laramie	Starbright
Mango Tango	Champagne
Many Moons	Teacher's Pet
Nancy Evans	Wee Bee
Nelda Peach	Wings of Gold

SOMETHING NEW ~ A 'RED DRAGON' IN THE GARDEN

The something "old" was 'Harry Lauder's Walking Stick', *Cornus avellano* 'Contorta', found in a hedgerow in the United Kingdom in 1863. A popular ornamental, it is highly susceptible to eastern filbert light *Anisogramma anomala* which is devastating hazelnut orchards in the Pacific Northwest and abroad. Scientists at Oregon State University have come up with a 'Red Dragon' cultivar, touted as more vigorous than 'Contorta', with somewhat curled medium-size red leaves, desirable growth habit, spreading rather than pendulous and with desirable moderate branching and contortion. Its natural growth habit should make it possible to maintain a desirable tree form with minimal pruning. Catkins, leaf buds and young leaves are dark purple. The pollen is yellow--altogether colorful!

Scions from 'Red Dragon' and other contorted cultivars were propagated. were grafted to rooted layers of *C Avellano*; the shoot tips were inoculated with a spore suspension of *A anomala* and trees were kept in a greenhouse with high-humidity. All three inoculated 'Red Dragon' cultivars remained free of the cankers evident in EFB. Further testing of 'Red Dragon' with other isolates of EFB remain to be done. Nurserymen gave overwhelmingly positive comments on the cultivar. It is being released as an ornamental, though it sets a few small nuts. 'Red Dragon' is being patented; nurseries interested in propagating it should enter a licensing agreement with OSU. Contact S.A. Mehlenbacher, Dept of Horticulture, OSU, 4017 Agricultural and Life Sciences Bldg., Corvallis, OR 97331.

Recently introduced *C avellano* 'Red Majestic' (Plant Patent 1640) combines red leaf color and contorted growth, but resistance to EFB is not mentioned in the Plant Patent.

<u><i>Corylus avellano</i> 'Contorta'</u>
OSU 487.055 dominant for complete resistance to EFB
<u>'Riccica de Talanica' from Italy</u>
VR6-28, dominant for complete resistance
<u>'Gasaway' (complete resistance)</u>
'RED DRAGON'
<u><i>Corylus avellano</i> 'Contorta'</u>
OSU367.039
<u>Open-pollinated 'Rode Zeller'</u>

Article by Frances Burns based on information by S A Mehlenbacher & David Smith of OSU in *HortScience* June 2009.

The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference ~ UBC Botanical Garden, Vancouver BC ~ April 9-11

The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference is scheduled for April 9 - 11 at UBC Botanical Garden in Vancouver, BC. Registration is limited to 100 delegates. Register in 2009 for \$130. In 2010, registration fee increases to \$155.

TEACHERS

Douglas Justice is the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at UBC Botanical Garden (www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org) and is an instructor at UBC, teaching horticulture and plant identification courses. Prior to joining the Botanical Garden, Douglas taught plant identification, integrated pest management, and nursery production courses at Kwantlen University College in Langley. He is a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and, with his wife Karen, edited the VRS newsletter "Indumentum" for a number of years. Douglas holds a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture and a Masters in Botany, both from UBC. Douglas will be teaching all Level 2 conference sessions which will include lecture/slide presentations, laboratory experiences, and field studies in the garden. (Limited to 70 students)

Ron Knight is a past president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and the current Director for the American Rhododendron Society's BC Division. He and his wife Carla have created Caron Gardens, at Pender Harbour, where they display 400 different hybrid rhododendrons and 100 species (www3.telus.net/rcknight). Caron Gardens welcomes hundreds of visitors each year and has been featured in Gardens West magazine and on television. Prior to retirement, Ron was a biology teacher and secondary school administrator. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Science from Concordia University in Montreal and a Masters Degree in Education from UBC. Ron will be teaching all Level 1 conference sessions which will include lecture/slide presentations, hands-on activities, and field studies in the garden.

WHAT THIS CONFERENCE DOES NOT OFFER:

There are no banquets, raffles, keynote speeches, contests, truss shows, bus tours, business meetings, or entertainment events. The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference is ultimately concerned with relevant learning about rhododendrons and rhododendron gardening. You will be very busy all day long but will have evenings free to relax and enjoy Vancouver and the UBC campus. Your registration package will contain maps and brochures about optional tourist attractions and entertainment events on Friday and Saturday evenings.

CHOOSE FROM 2 LEARNING LEVELS:

Level 1 is aimed at newer rhododendron collectors and at general perennial gardeners who want to learn to grow the most spectacular rhododendrons on their block.

Topics will include current best-practice information and practical advice about:

- Rhododendron environmental needs and how to duplicate them in your garden
- Rhododendron and perennial pruning
- Rhododendron culture and care, irrigation; pest and disease management
- Garden design to incorporate rhododendrons and prevent future problems
- How to choose superior rhododendrons for your area
- The best dwarf rhododendrons for rock gardens, containers, and small garden spaces
- A yearly rhododendron maintenance calendar
- Websites with excellent information on rhododendron gardening

Level 2 is designed for confirmed rhodoholics and veteran rhododendron collectors. Topics will include research-based information and practical advice about:

- The best species rhododendrons for Pacific Northwest gardens and how to grow them
- Rhododendron anatomy as seen with a projected dissection microscope
- Using keys to distinguish between closely related and often confused species
- Low tech ways to propagate rhododendrons from seed or cuttings
- The importance of salts, pH and micronutrient testing
- How to solve the 10 worst problems of rhododendron culture and care
- Highly recommended reference books on hybrid and species rhododendrons

Go to www.rhodos.ca for information on accommodations, schedules, and registration form. No blocks of rooms have been pre-booked at any hotel by the conference organizers. Please make your room reservations early, by contacting the hotel directly.

REGISTER NOW

Print a registration form at www.rhodos.ca and mail it with your Canadian or US check (**made out to Ron Knight**) to: Ultimate Rhododendron Conference, 2710 Walpole Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C. V7H 1K8, Canada. (The United States registration fee is for the same dollar amount as the Canadian fee.)

NOLAN BLANSIT'S PLANT SALE OCTOBER 8, 9 AND 10

As many of you know, Nolan and Cindy Blansit have moved to Missouri after quite a number of years of hybridizing rhododendrons at their home near Cottage Grove. Nolan had some specific goals toward which he oriented his hybridizing program including smaller plants that would fit smaller gardens, plants with nice foliage, plants that would bloom within 3 years, and finally interesting flower color. We now have a wonderful chance to purchase some of his beautiful creations as he will be returning to the garden for a few days in October. He has some 1500 three and a half year old plants priced at \$10, 1000 two and a half year old plants priced at \$5, and several hundred cutting grown plants available (not sure of the price). Jack Olson will be assisting Nolan from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 8, 9, and 10.** If you have questions, please contact Jack by phone at (541) 988-9133 or by e-mail at rhodyjack@msn.com. When you come to the garden, please bring a shovel and plastic bags or containers in which to take home your new plants. Cash or check only. Please do not bother the new residents of the house. Here are directions to get to the garden:

1. Drive south from Eugene on I-5 for about 20 miles, taking the second Cottage Grove exit (Exit 172), 6th Street Exit.
2. Turn left onto S. 6th Street which will then become London Road.
3. Stay on London Road for about 10 miles passing Cottage Grove Lake.
4. In the community of London, turn right onto Shoestring Road.
5. In about 100 feet turn right onto the first gravel lane / driveway and go to the end (maybe half a mile).
6. Nolan's house and garden will be on the left. Park off of the circular driveway to allow for other cars. The address is 72794 Shoestring Road, though I am not sure that is marked. TH

RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Eugene Chapter is a member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. This entitles our membership to free admission to this beautiful and educational garden located just off I-5, The chapter will receive one copy of the quarterly newsletter, annual yearbook, plant catalog, seed and pollen offerings. These can be viewed online at www.rhodygarden.org

You may wish to join the Foundation as an individual for \$35 (Family \$60) with the advantage of bringing 1 guest as an individual or 4 guests with a family membership. You will receive your own quarterly newsletters, annual yearbook, plant catalog, seed and pollen offerings, discounts on classes and at the Gift Shop including the plant sales pavilion, voting privileges at annual members meeting, plus use of the Lawrence J. Pierce Library. You may fill in the membership form from the website above and either mail it to: PO Box 3798 Federal Way, WA 98063 or FAX it to: 253-838-4686 .

EUGENE CHAPTER
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
PO Box 7704
EUGENE, OR 97401

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OCTOBER 2009

2009

Chapter Program Schedule

2010

- Oct 8 Bill Hicks on "LEPIDOTE RHODODENDRONS"**
- Nov 12 Rodney Bloom on "COMPOSTING" followed by PLANT AUCTION**
- Dec 10 Holiday Party, Campbell Center**
- Jan 12 Steve Hootman on "PLANT EXPLORATION IN THE HIMALAYAS"**
Tuesday night 7:00 p.m. with Hardy Plant Group at Agate Hall,
18th and Agate Streets, Eugene
- Feb 11 Wilbur Bluhm on "THE KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS"**
- Mar 11 Keith White on "PLANT HUNTING IN SICHUAN", Annual Meeting & Election**
- Apr 10 Early Rhododendron Show; Honors Banquet with speaker**
Mike Stewart on "HYBRIDS AND HYBRIDIZERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
- May 1 & 2 May Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale**
- Jun Picnic ~ Where and When to be announced later**