

# Eugene Chapter

March 2010 Newsletter

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*Such a deal!*

*Bring a truss to the*

*Early Spring Show and  
your name will be entered in  
a drawing for one free  
banquet dinner!*

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## PLANT EXPLORING IN CHINA WITH KEITH WHITE

On Thursday, March 11, we get to go traveling and plant exploring again -- this time to the Himalayas in China with Keith White, a member of the ARS Willamette Chapter and a Board member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. As usual we hope you will join us at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street in Eugene, at 7:00 p.m. for cookies, coffee, and conversation before Keith's talk on his 2009 travels to China at 7:30. This will also be the annual ARS Eugene Chapter business meeting with the election of two Board members and the offices of President and Vice-President. Prior to the meeting you are invited to the no-host speaker's dinner at 5:30 p.m. at China Sun Buffet, 53260 Gateway ,Springfield.

In Keith White's words, this is how this particular trip came about:

In '02 I made friends with Ian Sinclair in Scotland. In '03 I invited and hosted Ian to give lectures to ARS chapters up and down the West Coast. Ian donned his kilt and Scots' gear for his banquet program at the ARS Western Regional in Seaside. In 2004 my wife said, "You ought to take advantage of those rhody expedition invitations before you're too old and arthritic to go.".....Thereby releasing me from my 24/7/365 parenting/husbandly obligation. Wendy's head spun with my immediate answer that Steve Hootman had invited me to go to Yunnan in '05. Back to Yunnan and Sichuan with Steve in '06.

This year Ian invited me to bring a few friends with me to join him and other members of the Scottish Chapter of the ARS in Sichuan. It was this year's great trip that I will be presenting at the March 11 meeting.

By profession, I am a Family Medicine specialist physician. My favorite medical activity is delivering babies. I am on the volunteer faculty at OHSU in both the Medical School and the Physician Assistant training program. I was appointed to the Oregon Medical Board by Governor Kulongoski this year.

Now the important stuff: I gradually acquired my love of gardening from my garden loving mother. I was forced labor in her garden from an early age. When I was in medical school in Portland, I discovered Crystal Springs. It was a great beautiful place to escape to. By frequent visits I got to know and love many of the individual plants. After my residency training in Family Medicine (also in Portland) I spent three years in Alaska with the US Public Health Service.

## Editor's Byte ~ and away we went! Frances Burns

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Hopefully this will prove as interesting to you as it did to me. Click on: <http://www.hirsutum.info/hybridizers/index.php>

This list, begun in June 2009 by Herman van Ree of Holland will eventually include 100% of all registered hybrids. Some one-third of them are listed so far. Thanks to Herman van Ree for his project and dedication!

Jack Olson, Galen and Helen Baxter, and myself visited the February 16 Siuslaw Chapter meeting in Florence. I had never attended one of their lively meetings and was eager to see what I'd been missing. I also was very interested in the program Jack was putting on for them.

Sandie Olson loaned husband Jack her brand new Toyota Vespa for the trip (his Lexus sports car was not roomy enough) and away we sailed over the coast range on a sunny afternoon to a pre-meeting dinner with Siuslaw chapter members at a restaurant festooned from floor to rooftop with sporty cars from the 50's and 60's. Convertibles equipped with tables were available for those wanting extra ambiance. Starved to death, as Eugene chapter members usually are, we were served from a huge menu of huge club sandwiches, hot roast beef sandwiches with mashed potatoes and gravy, fish and chips, burgers of all kinds, and big thick old fashioned milkshakes to die for. Doggy bags accompanied attendees out the door!

Later at the Siuslaw meeting, we were warmly welcomed by President Mike Bones. Jack presented a well prepared program full of beautiful slides on the business of selecting and training rhododendron hybrids with huge winning trusses – those with at least 9-leaf “dresses” surrounding their statuesque beauty. His enthusiasm was catching – and a meeting at Siuslaw is pretty enthusiastic, anyway! Jack had a mini drawing for some special plants he brought to the meeting. Siuslaw members paid a dollar ticket for a chance at a great line-up of their early rhododendron door prizes. Gene Cockeram brought a good selection of blooms to exhibit from some 30 rhododendrons already blooming in his garden.

Jack invited Siuslaw Chapter to the Eugene Chapter picnic on Sunday, June 27, to be held in his and Sandie's beautiful Fall Creek garden. Come at noon and potluck with us at 1 p.m. More later in the May newsletter.

Folks are already making reservations at the Three Rivers Casino and Hotel for the October 7-10 Western Regional Conference. Rooms are \$79 plus 10% tax. All rooms are non-smoking and no pets are allowed. (Sizable fines are levied for violations. The management will help guests find other arrangements for pets, if desired.) There are smoking and non-smoking areas in the casino itself. Online room reservations may be made at: [reservations@threeriverscasino.com](mailto:reservations@threeriverscasino.com) Conference program information and registration forms will be in the Spring JARS. Don't miss this one!

**A DOCTOR CAN BURY HIS MISTAKES BUT AN ARCHITECT CAN ONLY ADVISE HIS CLIENT TO PLANT VINES. FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**

### May 1-2 Flower Show

The Show Committee has announced that the show will be held this year at the Oakway Mall. We will have a room to ourselves.

Our Plant Sale will be held May 8 at the Lane County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the big Hardy Plant Group Sale, which was a very successful venture for us last year. More later.

# Yakkin' at the Old Tool Shed Douglas Furr

*"To be overcome by the fragrance of flowers is a delectable form of defeat."  
~Beverly Nichols~*

There is nothing like the visual effects of the southern portion of America when the dogwoods and azaleas start to bloom. Beginning in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas in January they shake the drab of winter and spread a carpet of color that unrolls northward to the Mason/Dixon line. Take a drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway and try not to stop at the many scenic viewpoints provided along this national treasure of a highway. Technically there are three color groups of the azaleas--white, pink, and orange--and the dogwoods range from white through pink to reds. But to see entire hillsides covered in several different shades and variations of both is breathtaking. Many of the southern states hold various festivals in celebration of the wonderful blossoms, but the grandest by far is held in Hampton Roads on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay in Norfolk, Virginia.

While serving in the Navy I had many opportunities to participate in the Norfolk Azalea Festival in Tidewater Virginia (now known as the Norfolk NATO Festival, [www.azaleafestival.org](http://www.azaleafestival.org)). The festival is relatively young (started in 1953) compared to Florence, Oregon's 102 year old Rhododendron Festival. However, they have the benefit of the participation all 28 countries of NATO as well as many local schools and universities. Along with the pageantry and parades there are usually at least twenty naval vessels from many different nations attending, and visitors are requested to tour them at the discretion of their Captains.\* Every type of ship--from graceful wooden tall ships to behemoth aircraft carriers--sit at anchor or are docked and open to the public.

It's great to celebrate the coming of spring. Reminiscing about last year makes me itch to prepare the garden for this year's crop. We all look forward to our gardens and sharing them through festivals and shows. Here's to another great year!

**Questions? Comments? E-mail me, Douglas Furr, at [garden.projects@hotmail.com](mailto:garden.projects@hotmail.com)**

**Tips from the old tool shed:** A very handy tool carrier can be obtained from garage/yard sales, or, from many second hand stores for only a few dollars. Not only do they make great organizers, some have multiple pockets and even a clip board for your note pad. Two-wheeled golf caddies are plentiful and inexpensive. Your loppers, rakes, shovels, dandelion pullers can take the place of those old nine irons and sand wedges. They are designed to be pulled across rugged terrain, and the cart will remain upright as you work.

\*Every U.S. Navy Ship has a Captain, but, did you know they also have a King? All U. S. Navy ships have one person who is responsible for all of the inventory, storage, transfer, testing, and treatment of all of the oil and water on the ship. That person is the Oil and Water King! There is also a "Jack O' the Dust!", but that is for another time.

## MARCH 11 REFRESHMENTS



WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS:



☒ John & Janie Fry

☒ Pepper Berkeley

AND MANY THANKS TO JOHN & JANIE FRY & LINDA WYLIE FOR WONDERFUL FEBRUARY GOODIES!



There are snowdrops in the garden  
 There is chatter in the trees,  
 And a lion-headed fountain  
 With its water running free.  
 I've been waiting for the springtime  
 Since I saw the falling leaves  
 Enduring days of darkness  
 And nights of long unease.

There are bright'ning buds on hawthorn  
 With its winter blackness still,  
 And clustered, waiting daffodils  
 Standing straight and still.  
 I've been longing for the springtime  
 Since I saw the falling leaves  
 Enduring days of darkness  
 And nights of long unease.

There is movement all around me,  
 Encounters in this pond,  
 And murmuring expectation  
 Of hours warm and long.  
 I've been yearning for the springtime  
 Since I saw the falling leaves  
 Enduring days of darkness  
 And nights of long unease.

Author Don Robinson  
 from *The Rostrum*, the magazine of the  
 Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bury, Lancashire.  
 Originally published in the Scottish Chapter  
 Newsletter in 2006.  
 Sent to Eugene Chapter Newsletter courtesy of John  
 Hammond, one of our Hinsdale Garden friends.  
 Thank you, John.

WHAT WORKS FOR ME

The majority of rhodies will be blooming shortly and there are some things that need to be taken care of if you are to continue having beautiful plants and flowers year after year.

Deadheading, the removal of flowers when they are finished blooming, will not only make plants look more pleasing to the eye but will insure a better bud set. The plant won't have to put forth strength for setting buds as well as producing seeds. Those bees are always working and pollinating your flowers, resulting generally in many seed pods on the rhodies, unless they are deadheaded.

Fertilizing is also important, not only for the health of the plant but for a good bud set also. Most growers use a high nitrogen, slow release fertilizer in May or early June. Don't wait too long because the plant may be pushing new growth into the fall and an early frost could kill that new growth. Don't fertilize too heavily. The old saying, if a little will do a little good, a lot will do a lot of good, doesn't apply to fertilizing rhododendrons, because too much fertilizer will cause the leaves on the plant to burn. Remember, too, that the more fertilizer used, the more water is necessary, so use just enough, but not too much. Ask around your area for the amount to use. If your soil is sandy, more fertilizer can be applied because the water tends to carry the fertilizer away from the plants. If it is heavy clay soil, like mine, less is needed as it doesn't drain away as fast.

Water may be expensive where you live, but water your plants enough to keep them healthy. If you added lots of mulch to your soil when you planted your rhododendrons, you generally won't need as much water because of the water retention ability of the mulch. If in doubt about the amount of water the plant is receiving, check around the root area down to about 4 to 6 inches. It should be reasonably moist down to that depth, and your plant will love you for it by making a nice show each year.

Some people have a problem with root weevils, noticeable by the fact that the leaves of their rhodies have little notches along the edges. If you have this problem, spraying 4 or 5 times during the summer months with Orthene will help. Spray the leaves top and bottom thoroughly using a 'sticker' in the spray so that it will cling to the leaves longer and be more effective. Spraying in the late evening is better for the environment. Check the weather and spray only if rain is not expected for at least the next 12 hours. A mask and long-sleeved shirt should be worn to protect lungs and skin.

Follow these few directions and you will have rhodies to be proud of, not only this year, but in years to come. And if you have other questions on rhododendron culture, attend chapter meetings on the second Thursdays of the month for all sorts of expert advice from experienced rhododendron gardeners.

*Reprinted from the April 1995 Eugene Chapter Newsletter.*



Waiting  
 is for me  
 strictly  
 for the  
 Birds!



# PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO MEET, SIGHTS TO SEE

## THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE: VANCOUVER BC April 9-11, 2010

The registration fee of \$155 is all-inclusive for activities at UBC Botanical Gardens: Six ninety-minute learning sessions taught by professional teachers in high-tech classrooms, a folder of notes, Saturday and Sunday lunches and coffee breaks. Free admission to the Asian and Alpine Gardens. Complimentary parking.

Registration limited to 100 rhodophiles. Please register now to ensure that you get the learning level you want. If you need hotel accommodations, make your reservation soon; no blocks of rooms have been pre-booked in the three recommended hotels. Conference details and a printable registration form may be obtained from the ARS District 1 website: <http://www.rhodos.ca> (click on *Registration Form and Information* halfway down the page, under April 9/11). Questions? Contact Ron Knight at: [cknight@telus.net](mailto:cknight@telus.net)

## Smith Garden

**Spring Work Day will be Saturday March 20th.** For more information call Karen Cavender at 503-625-6331 or call Ginny Mapes 503-647-2896. Mark your calendars!

**Open Garden Days** on Saturdays and Sundays start two weeks later on Saturday **April 3 through May 23, 2010 from 11 AM—4 PM**

Group tours of more than 10 may be scheduled; call Karen Cavender at 503-625-6331. Mark your new 2010 Calendars with dates you want to visit this lovely woodland garden.

\$3 admission charge is asked for the benefit of the garden. ARS members are admitted free. **For general questions call Ginny Mapes 503-647-2896.**

See map on Smith Garden Website  
[www.rhodies.org/smith/directions.htm](http://www.rhodies.org/smith/directions.htm)  
OR  
MapQuest directions:  
5055 Ray Bell Road  
St. Paul, OR 97137

## News Flash from Don King of Seattle Chapter

In April we hope to have Ken Cox speak to us at our monthly meeting while he and his family visit the Puget Sound area. Some of you know Ken but for those of us who have not had the pleasure of meeting him or visiting Glendoick, Ken Cox is a multigenerational owner of Glendoick Rhododendron and Azalea Nursery in Perth Scotland. He has led numerous plant hunting expeditions, authored numerous books and is a world renowned hybridizer. We are inviting all the chapters in the Puget Sound area including Oregon and British Columbia so I'm trying to find a large enough space for the window of time he is available. So mark your calendars for the week of May 5-8. (Probably Wednesday the 7th at the Graham Visitor Center, but note that it could change.)



## Bon Appetit, Bon Ami

Well, we don't know for sure what we will be dining on at our early banquet, but it's a done deal what our famed Eugene Chapter member, Harold Greer, president of Greer Gardens in Eugene, Oregon – Gold Medal winner, best-selling author, photographer and other accolades – will be dining on before he presents a program at Princeton Chapter Annual Spring Banquet on a Sunday afternoon in March:

### Appetizer

*Fresh Seasonal Fruit Plate with Mango Vanilla Syrup*

### Salad

*Mesclun Greens with Red Wine Vinaigrette*

### Entrée Selection (choice of one)

*Roast Prime Beef Au Jus*

*Breast of Chicken Rollatini stuffed with*

*Spinach and Mozzarella Cheese*

*Broiled Atlantic Salmon with Citrus Beurre Blanc*

### Dessert

*Chocolate Layer Cake with Raspberry Coulis*

*All entrees served with Chef's selection of accompaniments. Fresh baked rolls. Freshly brewed coffee and tea. Cash bar. Cost \$40 per person.*

**THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HARDY PLANT GROUP** will present an illustrated talk by Fran Sharp of Iseli Nursery on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the University of Oregon, Agate Hall, Agate Street at 18th Avenue, Eugene.

After graduating from the Ohio State University, Fran began her career on the retail side of the horticulture industry. In the early nineties, she relocated to the west coast. Fran now works at world renowned Iseli Nursery, in Boring, Oregon.

The Iseli Plant Palette includes exciting dwarf conifers and an outstanding collection of Japanese Maples. Ms. Sharp is associated with many horticultural organizations and is a charter member of the Great Plant Picks Selection Committee. Drawing on her extensive experience working with these plants, Fran will show us how Japanese maples and a rich variety of conifers, large and small, can enliven our landscapes and provide design accents.

Following the talk Karen Giese will present a mini clinic on especially useful garden tools and how to use them.

Doors open at 6:30 for book sales and botanical samples. Admission is \$6 for non-members and \$3 for members. Membership in the Hardy Plant Group is \$20 annually. Ample parking available by Agate Hall.

Write on your hearts  
that every day is the best  
day of the year.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Early Rhododendron Show & Banquet

Plans for the Early Truss Show are well underway and we hope that members are able to participate in an evening of fun and camaraderie on Saturday, April 10, at the Oregon Electric Station, 5th and Willamette in Eugene. The price of dinner is \$26 of which the chapter will pay \$6 so that cost to members will be just \$20. Watch for details in the April Newsletter.

We will need some help setting up a few truss racks at 3:30 p.m. Then we would like to see a large number of trusses brought in so that everyone can see the beauty of the early rhododendrons growing in your gardens. You will receive one ticket for each truss you bring in, to be entered in a drawing for a free dinner that evening. Please bring your trusses between 3:30 and 5:00 in the afternoon. Experienced members will be available to place the trusses in the correct categories.

Between 5:00 and 5:45 everyone will have a chance to view and discuss the trusses before voting on their favorite – you get to be a judge! Votes will be tallied at 5:45 and the winner of the free dinner will be announced at 6:00.

There will be nine entry categories with colors combined:

*Hybrid & Species Deciduous Azalea,*  
*Hybrid & Species Evergreen Azalea,*  
*Hybrid & Species Lepidote,*  
*Hybrid & Species Elepidote,* and  
*Other.*

**Please fill out an entry tag for each truss with the name of the rhododendron and your name on it. These will be available at the March 11 meeting as well as at the show. Saves time to do them before one arrives!**

**Four trophies will be awarded: Best Azalea, Best Lepidote, Best Elepidote, and Best Species.**

Dinner will be at 6:00 followed by our speaker and plant auction at 7:00. Mike Stewart, owner of Dover Nursery in Sandy, will be speaking “*Hybrids and Hybridizers of the Pacific Northwest*”, a colorful and interesting program. As many of you know, Mike has been actively involved in the ARS with the Portland Chapter for many years and is a past ARS President as well as a Gold Medal winner. Leonard will have a great selection of plants available for the auction as well as a drawing and silent auction. (Now is a good time to start a kitty with your spare change and add some special plants to your garden.) Finally we will need a few people to dismantle the truss racks and load in the trailer. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March 11 meeting. Until then, enjoy your garden as Spring returns with her bounty of blossoms; and remember to take a walk through Hendricks Park!

## A Brief Glossary for Showing Rhododendrons:

Lepidote- scaly leaves, usually small-leafed rhododendrons, scales can be viewed with a magnifying glass

Elepidote - non-scaly leaves. Usually the larger-leafed rhododendrons, though some have quite small leaves.

Species - populations of plants that have a high level of genetic similarity, differing from closest neighbors in at least two characteristics, differing in geographical distribution, and differing in ecological distribution, such as sun, shade, wind, etc. Always species, never specie, *whether singular or plural*.

Hybrid - the offspring of two plants of different species or varieties.

Azaleas: all azaleas are lepidotes – they never have scales. All azaleas have 5 lobes to a flower.

Deciduous Azalea - a rhododendron belonging to subgenus Pentanthera (deciduous).

Evergreen Azalea - a rhododendron belonging to the subgenus Tsustusti (mostly evergreen)

Classification is the task of placing rhododendrons within their own particular grouping.

The groupings are: **Sub-genus/Section/Sub-section/Cultivar**

Editor's note: This information from *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, and *Webster's New World Dictionary* is a “bare bones” listing. It is suggested that you avail yourself of the opportunity to read further the many books on the Genus Rhododendron. Their extraordinary history, and nomenclature, plus how to grow them, show them, and know them will provide one a lifetime of pleasure.

Australian Rhododendron Society Plans are well in hand for our Golden Jubilee Conference to be held from Sunday 17th October to Wednesday 20th . Not only is it 50 years since the Australian Rhododendron Society was formed but it is also 50 years since the National Rhododendron Gardens were officially started.

Two mornings of speakers will be followed by garden visits and local attractions. The ARS National Council is generously funding Kenneth Cox from Scotland and other international, local and interstate speakers have been invited. Ken Cox is well known as an author of Rhododendron reference books, owner of Glendoick Nursery and plant hunter. He is a lively and entertaining speaker with a broad knowledge of rhododendrons and other species.

The first afternoon of the conference will be a 'Members Day' which will be open to all ARS members and delegates and will follow a combined Azalea and Rhododendron Show. Registration forms and more detailed information about the programme will be published, soon, in a newsletter.

The committee is hoping many members and friends are planning to visit the Dandenong Ranges for the Conference and a list of convenient accommodation will be included in the information. Local members who would be happy to provide "Home Stay" accommodation for interstate or overseas visitors or speakers would be greatly appreciated and could register with Michael Hare 9844 2232 or Marcia Begg 9751 1610.

Already there is a group from the New Zealand Rhododendron Association planning to attend and interest has been shown from a tour group in USA. Members from South Australia and Tasmania are also coming to celebrate this exciting event. We hope to see you all there in October 2010!

[Ed note: The conference will be held in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges just east of Melbourne and the location of a one of the large and beautiful National Rhododendron Garden. I suggest that, if you are travelling from Vancouver to Melbourne, you consider travelling on Quantas or one of its partners because Quantas allows three free flights in Australia which allows an opportunity to explore.]

{Many thanks to the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Newsletter for this information. Eugene NL Editor}

Continued from page 1

On return, starting my practice in Monmouth, my bro and sis-in-law got me an ARS membership and it has been all down hill from there. We bought a house. My wife bought me my first rhododendron to add to the collection already there. I met Herb Spady at the Willamette Chapter. Herb became president of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. He asked me if I would like to be on the Foundation Board. I was honored and accepted and ended up as chairman of the Photography Committee...A position I still hold.

At the RSF and ARS I met Britt Smith – off to Sikkim in '92. Then RSF Director Scott Vergara and board members Warren Berg, June Sinclair, Ben Hall, Rollo Adams et al – off to Tibet in '95. Ken Cox was our expedition leader. Back to Tibet with Ken and company in '97. This was all "B.C." (Before Children). A.C. I worked in my garden and reminisced about Tibet and Sikkim.

Next stop, Borneo!

**SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CHAPTER** of the American Rhododendron Society will present its annual rhododendron truss show on April 17 and April 18 at Pony Village Mall in North Bend, Oregon. We welcome your presence and entries. All entries must be brought to the mall between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sat. April 17. The show will open as soon as the judging is completed and remain open until 5:00 p.m. On April 18 the show will open at 12:00 noon and remain open until 4:00 p.m. The show will also include a large plant sale. For further information please contact **Pete Baumer** at 541-396-3528 or e-mail [cbaumer@harborside.com](mailto:cbaumer@harborside.com) or **Ann Drake** 541-396-2718 or e-mail to: [rhodyduck@yahoo.com](mailto:rhodyduck@yahoo.com)

Making compost is rather like living.

If you wait until you can do a perfect job,  
you'll never get started.

Better to make a start and learn as you go.

Ann Mendenhall



March 2010

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### 2010 CHAPTER CALENDAR

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 11    | Keith White on "PLANT HUNTING IN SICHUAN"<br>Annual Meeting & Election, Campbell Center<br>Pre-meeting dinner at the China Sun Buffet, 3260 Gateway, Springfield. Please phone Helen at 541-461-6082 or e-mail <a href="mailto:galen.baxter@comcast.net">galen.baxter@comcast.net</a> by Tuesday, March 9 to give us an idea of space needed. Details page 1. |
| Apr 10    | Early Spring Show and Honors Banquet<br>The Electric Station, 5th & Willamette, Eugene<br>Program: "HYBRIDS & HYBRIDIZERS OF THE PNW,<br>Speaker Mike Stewart, Dover Nursery, Sandy, OR (see pg 4)  |
| May 1 & 2 | May Rhododendron Show, <b>OAKWAY MALL</b> , details in progress   |
| May 8     | Plant Sale, Fairgrounds   |
| Jun 27    | Picnic Jack and Sandie Olson's house and garden.  |
| Aug ?     | Picnic More later   |

Bring trusses to to  
the  
Early Spring Show  
and your name will  
be entered for  
each truss  
in a drawing for  
A free banquet  
dinner!!