

EUGENE CHAPTER

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Newsletter

March 2011

R. degronianum ssp. *heptamerum*
var. *Kyomaruense*, 'Silver Frost'



Registered 2010 by Harold Greer

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARCH 10 PROGRAM

Our March meeting is the annual business meeting at which elections for leadership positions are held, so I want to thank the Nominations Committee consisting of Harold and Frances for taking care of the important task of finding a slate of candidates for continuing the leadership of the Eugene Chapter. The slate consists of:

Treasurer: Ali Sarlak-2011-2013

Secretary: JoAnn Napier 2011-2013

Board Position: Nancy Burns 2011-2014

Board Position: Frances Burns 2011-2012
(remainder of JoAnn's position)

Ali brings experience from his leadership with the ARS Corvallis Chapter in the past and enthusiastic participation as a member of the Eugene Chapter in the last year. JoAnn has served on the Board of Directors for the past two years bringing new ideas and willingness to take charge of investigating the details for carrying out some of our ideas. She also has very ably handled the job of coordinating the Hospitality for our meetings so that we can all enjoy goodies while we visit and has done the mailing of the hard-copy newsletters. After a year of active membership in the chapter, Nancy will bring more fresh ideas and activism to the Board. Since JoAnn already has a seat on the Board of Directors, Frances Burns has agreed to fill the remaining year of this term. *Continued page 7*

You and your friends are invited to coffee and cookies provided by Helen Baxter and Gary Parent at 7 PM for our March 10 meeting at Celeste Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street in Eugene. And that's just the beginning!

Annual elections will be held briefly before the program at 7 p.m. See column 1 for nominated slate; additional nominations are welcome from the floor.

A panel discussion on *Preparing Rhododendron Trusses for Showing* and a discussion on *Judging* will be held. Bring your questions! Members of the panel are Jack Olson, Rick Reed, Terry Henderson, Frances Burns, and Gordon Wylie.

Prior to the meeting, you are invited to join us for a no-host speaker's dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Oregon Electric Station Restaurant, the main part of which is the original depot built in 1912. We will be dining in one of the delightful old railway cars. www.oesrestaurant.com is their website.

If you are coming, please RSVP to Paula or Ted Hewitt at 541-687-8119 or ted.hewitt@comcast.net by Tuesday, March 8, so that the restaurant knows how many to expect.

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OFFICERS

President:	Ted Hewitt
Vice President:	Douglas Furr
Treasurer:	Rick Reed
Secretary:	Paula Hewitt
Past President:	Helen Baxter
Membership Chair:	Rick Reed

BOARD MEMBERS	
Frances Burns	2008 - 2011
JoAnn Napier	2009 - 2012
Leonard Frojen	2009 - 2012
Gordon Wylie	2010 - 2013
Terry Henderson	2010 - 2013

STANDING COMMITTEES		
Nominations	Harold Greer	686-1540
Hospitality	JoAnn Napier	746-0828
Welfare	Nancy Greer	686-1540
Honors	Rich Aaring	485-6013

NEWSLETTER	
Frances Burns, Editor	541-896-3216
Electronic mailing	
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Postal Mailing	
JoAnn Napier	541-746-0828

WEBMASTER	
Ted Hewitt	541-687-8119

VISIT THE EUGENE CHAPTER WEB SITE www.eugene-chapter-ars.org



Harry Ronken with Barry's plants

HUNDREDS OF HANGING POTS Photo by F. Burns



Harry Ronken's genetic testing project

JARS OF PLANT LIFE Photo by F. Burns



TLC BY RONKEN Photo by F. Burns



RONKEN'S GARDEN Photo by F. Burns



Terrestrial Orchid Photo by F. Burns

Hobart, Tasmania, the state capital of Australia's smallest state, is almost identical in latitude (42.54° south of the equator as Grants Pass, Oregon is north, 42.44°. Almost half of Tasmania's 500,000 plus population resides in the greater Hobart area, including many gardeners, one of whom is Barry Davidson, a high school biology teacher. Barry hybridizes cypripediums, sarcochilus, pleiones and bletillas, and cares for his large garden of rhododendrons, Japanese maples and much more.

Harry Ronken of Evansdale has a huge interest in tertiary botany (65 to 1.64 million years ago, as opposed to the jurassic period 208-145 MYA) and plant science, picked up tissue culture skills and maintains a stunning small garden. He partners with Barry on a scientific project which posits that one of their species' pollen fertilizes another species parent plant without an interchange of genes. (Ronken's endeavors and garden are shown on the left, Davidson's on the right.)

Pleione is a genus of miniature orchids with about 20 species, grown from bulbs or seed, often expensive and difficult to find; named after a sea nymph in Greek mythology, the wife of Atlas and mother of the Pleiades.

Sarcochilus is very small epiphytic or lithophytic orchid grown in Australia and Polynesia to SE Asia with clumped short-stemmed foliage and arching racemes of colorful flowers. The orange-blossom orchid, *Sarcochilus falcatus* "is a small Australian orchid with loose racemes of fragrant white flowers with purple and orange markings on the lip."

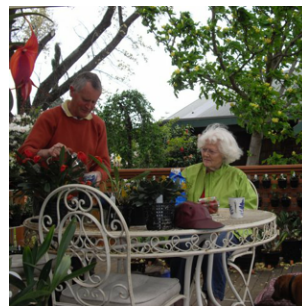
Bletilla, sometimes referred to as a Chinese orchid, is a small genus of 9 or 10 deciduous terrestrial orchids from east Asia, often prized for their beauty. Parts of the plant are also used in alternative medicine, including Chinese medicine.

Cypripedium (Lady's slipper orchid) is a genus of 47 species with a long history of use, dating back 2500 years to the Far East, where some were used medicinally. 'Cyps' are native to temperate and colder regions of the Northern Hemisphere; most have become rare and close to extinction in the wild due to shrinking habitat and overcollection. In the late 20th century, only a single plant of *Cypripedium calceolus* survived in Britain.

Ed note: For further illumination on the above genera, please consult Dick Cavender – he can shed a 1,000 points of light – my life expectancy won't do it justice! Alas, I was unable to contact either Ronken or Davidson by press time for identification of certain pictures.



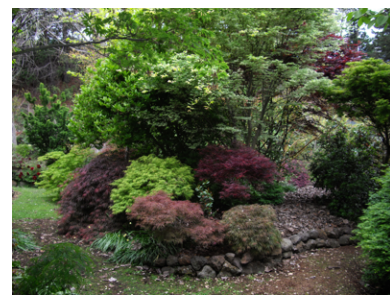
A WALL OF PLANTS Photo by F. Burns



Enjoying a cuppa Photo by H. Ronken



A GARDEN VIEW Photo by H. Ronken



COLOR IN THE GARDEN Photo by H. Ronken



Terrestrial Orchid Photo by H. Ronken

Yakkin' at the Old Tool Shed Douglas Furr

"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

Aldo Leopold

While mulling over adding another bench to MIL's garden I thought about different benches and people. One particular person came to mind: Aldo Leopold. According to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, "Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is considered the father of wildlife ecology and a true Wisconsin hero. He was a renowned scientist and scholar, exceptional teacher, philosopher, and gifted writer. It is for his book, *A Sand County Almanac*, that Leopold is best known by millions of people around the globe. *The Almanac*, often acclaimed as the century's literary landmark in conservation, melds exceptional poetic prose with keen observations of the natural world. The *Almanac* reflects an evolution of a lifetime of love, observation, and thought. It led to a philosophy that has guided many to discovering what it means to live in harmony with the land and with one another."

In addition to all of that Aldo Leopold designed a simple garden bench that you can build using just two 10 foot boards. Most people who use the design use 2 x 10's, but any board will do. The basic design is available on an EPA website, www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones/handbk/wo27bench.html

I built one using cedar and redwood. I had some 2 x 6 cedar and 2 x 12 redwood. After some thought I modified the basic design and made five diagonal cuts and two cross cuts. I drilled all of the holes and counter-sunk the screws. Then, to waterproof the screw holes, I plugged them with hardwood. A little age and sunlight is all it needs.

A little off subject—last summer we went rock hounding over in eastern Oregon and found some good ones. Then last fall MIL traveled to Australia and brought some rocks back for me. I can't imagine with all of the fuss she put up with in airports to lug around rocks! Thanks MIL! I now have a small box of rocks to start a rock garden for me! Now I'll have to figure out where to put it.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? E-MAIL ME, DOUGLAS FURR, AT garden.projects@hotmail.com

TIPS FROM THE OLD TOOL SHED:

Before you throw out that old leaky garden hose, think about the many uses it can fulfill. If you drag a hose around watering, hammer in some re-bar to protect plants and slip a section of old hose over the re-bar to protect you. Run wire through it to tie up a limb, cover saw teeth with it – there are many, many uses.

**All mankind is divided into three classes ~
those that are immovable,
those that are moveable,
and those that move. (Arabic proverb)**

THE SPRING SHOW

The Spring Rhododendron Show, on the calendar for April 16, is the time when we enjoy sharing the rhododendrons from our gardens with each other. This year the venue has been changed to Mookie's Northwest Grill in northwest Springfield; the space in their banquet room is larger, well lit, and offers the opportunity to expand what we do at the show.

As in the past, we want you to bring trusses and sprays of what is in bloom but, this year, we also want you to bring samples of the interesting foliage that is on your plants - be it the kind with nice indumentum, extra large leaves, new foliage with special color, or foliage with interesting texture. A number of chapter members also enjoy creating bonsai with their rhododendrons, so we invite you to bring your "small trees in a pot" to display with the ones that members of the ARS Siuslaw Chapter will be bringing. Other ARS chapters are invited to celebrate with us.

The event includes entry of your sprays and trusses, a foliage display, and a bonsai display from mid- to late-afternoon, followed by judging of the best in different categories members' by members at 5:00 p.m. At the 6:00 p.m. dinner, choose one of four entrees that will be served with salad, vegetables, starch, and dessert, plus water, tea, or coffee. The cost of dinner is \$22 per person after the chapter picks up part of the cost – a reward for the work that you have done during the year to make the Eugene chapter a special organization. After dinner, chapter awards will be presented, there will be a plant auction, and a keynote speaker. Look for the details in the April Newsletter.

A Show Committee of JoAnn Napier, Terry Henderson, Leonard Frojen, Jack Olson, and Ted Hewitt has been meeting to plan the Spring Rhododendron Show. People will be needed to set up; help with entries, classification and placement; decorate tables; count the votes; help with the silent auction; and take down, so please offer your help when asked or, better yet, tell us how you would like to help. TH

FLOWER SHOWS & JUDGING Gordon Wylie

Rhododendron flower shows are fun and exciting. The myriad forms and colors of nearly endless variety on display arouse pleasurable reactions as our eyes sweep the show boards and then move in for closer views of classes and then individual specimens. There's always at least one more find we'd like to add to our collection, and perhaps another award awaits in the form of a ribbon or trophy for the entries so carefully chosen to represent your very own garden.

Don't forget, either, the important function of many shows in providing a public demonstration that rhododendrons are much more than simply a truss of pink or red flowers. For the moment, though, let's focus on the task of choosing winners as we are, after all, competitors as well.

The nearly endless array of variety in rhododendrons, from small creeping mats with tiny leaves and flowers, across a spectrum to those with leaves worthy of umbrella status and huge trusses of large flowers, throw in multiple flower colors, at times stunningly beautiful foliage and so on and on, can be overwhelming. It's no wonder taxonomists need summon a large glossary of technical terms in describing all the variations found in our favorite genus. What then are the standards for judging, are they objective, and how are they applied?

Eugene's Show Schedule contains a point scale: Size according to variety—10, Color—20, Form—20, Foliage—15, Substance—10, Condition—15 and Distinction—10. A truss or spray perfect in all of these respects totals 100, with the stated factors presenting a comprehensive, and sometimes overlapping, description of that required for an ideal entry. (Most ARS chapters offer the same or similar point scale.) In theory, judges could determine and then add the point values of each criterion for every entry, though that method is decidedly impractical in terms of the time required. Instead, judges must keep the relative importance of each aspect in mind as they proceed in the not at all easy task of identifying winners.

In addition to a written classification schedule, the judges are often briefed about special considerations. These might, for example, include suggesting allowances for recent harsh weather or a severe winter adversely effecting quality. Or perhaps a chapter wishes to recommend multiple ribbons be given within classes as a means of encouraging entrants.

Close examination and judging of individual cut trusses or sprays is a far different exercise than visiting a well-kept rhododendron garden. With the latter, though we surely look up close, we are for the most part evaluating the overall display. And think too about how long a time period an individual truss or spray merits a rating of 100. Even with dozens of plants in flower, the chance of finding even one entry attaining that epitome just as a judge is looking is remote indeed. Do not be discouraged by this comment; it's the same for all, nor would it be much of a show if everybody brought only their 'perfect' trusses and sprays.

In my experience, factors drawing the most attention in choosing winners are large size for the particular cultivar, trusses on a straight stem, an even collar of healthy leaves, good flower color (not washed out) and cleanliness; the last is quite frequently the only reason one of two close or essentially equal examples wins. All flowers should be open in a truss, though exceptions are sometimes granted, particularly for high flower count trusses and where the last one or two have just begun to open. With a spray, flowers need not all be open; indeed, if they are flowers at the bottom will be drooping or gone. Artistry (admittedly somewhat subjective) in overall appearance and healthy foliage are important considerations for sprays. Lax trusses should be viewed on equal footing with upright ones; the issue is whether that being displayed is consistent to the name.

Teams of two or three individuals do the judging, and discussions of different choices between team members help assure awards are primarily objective rather than reflective of individual bias. Combining several teams for the same reason often make final trophy decisions. The most difficult questions are "Best in Show" choices, where competing entries may be quite dissimilar expressions of the nearly endless variety mentioned earlier in these remarks. While I haven't always agreed with every result, my experience at shows in North America and Great Britain has been that judges diligently strive for and usually achieve granting awards primarily based on objective criteria.

CORRECTION NOTE: The photo of on page 1 of the February Newsletter should have been captioned 'Rose Tango' not 'Tina'. Sincere apologies to Jim Barlup.

~ PLACES TO GO & OTHER HAPPENINGS ~

GORDON WYLIE was hospitalized in Cottage Grove with symptoms of pneumonia, which apparently developed into Bird Flu. Happily, he is home again to recuperate. One of our board members, he has served as National ARS President and on many national committees, and was awarded the ARS Gold Medal. Gordon has served our chapter as President and in many other ways – most memorably as auctioneer, making our auctions full of laughter. Those wishing to send him a card, (humorous, of course!) can do so by sending them to Gordon Wylie, 307 Ironwood Loop, Creswell, OR 97426

Frances Burns received the following reply from ALAN TROTT, one of our chapter members in NZ, regarding the earthquake:

Greetings, we were at the Christchurch airport on our way to Auckland, just getting into the terminal when it hit. It was a massive jolt! SO frightening. We hope to get to Auckland today at 11 a.m. Central Christchurch is really just a massive mess and lots of folks killed. The noise and rumble was incredible. I had to grab onto a wire fence – you never want to experience one. The airport closed as they had to check the runways. Next day: Flight canceled; had to rebook. The damage is incredible: 75 dead, 300 missing. Whole inner city & outlining areas flattened. Water, sewage, power are problems. We were so lucky when it happened; we were just beside, almost under, the big new car park building; some new buildings seem to have survived. If it had crumbled we'd be history – the cars above that we could see were dancing backwards & forwards. In the airport we spoke to two tourists who had been in central Christchurch in the cathedral 5 minutes before the earthquake hit. About 20 bodies are still in the cathedral under the tower. They said pipes burst water every where; the ground bumped up a metre in places and the shock threw them to the ground; they could not run or move. We were the same – we could not walk! Another plane to catch today. Cheers, Alan.

The World in Your Garden~Rhododendrons 2011~May 11-15

Registrations are coming in well for the 65th Annual Convention of the American Rhododendron Society to be held May 11-15, 2011 at the new Heathman Lodge 888-475-3100. Register first at the hotel if you have not, as hotel registration are coming in fast. Second, register for the convention as some tours are selling out fast and I am quite sure while there are openings for the Saturday night dinner – there may not be space for people to attend the Saturday night lecture even if they do not want to come to the dinner. The committee is planning ways to televise the program to other meeting rooms in the hotel if there is not space in the banquet room for everyone. That point yet has not been reached, but all options are being considered. Wednesday night Harold Greer will set the theme, *The World in Your Garden*, with one of his dazzling slide shows and the answers to many questions about the origins of rhododendrons. Thursday through Saturday mornings will be filled with workshops, clinics and speakers of note. Afternoons through Saturday include several repeating bus tours with box lunches and/or barbecues to beautiful gardens and scenic spots. Sunday includes a breeder's workshop and a Brunch with Frank Fujioka, a breeder of note from the Puget Sound area. For detailed information or go to Convention web site <http://www.ars2011convention.com>

For a virtual tour go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/greergardens#p/a/u/0/mcQOPvmeGo8>

Hardy Plant Society January 11 Program

GREAT GARDENS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Dave Eckerdt on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the University of Oregon, Agate Hall, Agate Street at 18th Avenue, Eugene, OR. Doors open at 6:30 for book sales and viewing botanical samples. Admission is \$6 for non-members and \$3 for members. There is ample parking next to Agate Hall.

Dave's illustrated talk will tour us through the gardens, plants and garden art of some twenty northwest gardens, including those of Oregonian writer Dulcy Mahar, "In The Garden" host Mike Darcy, Garden Personality Lucy Hardiman, Plantsman Dan Hinkley, as well as his own garden. Following his talk, Tamara and Greg Clift of McKenzie River Nursery will give a demonstration of how to plant a gorgeous hanging basket.

Dave and Pat Eckerdt live in Salem in a 117 year old home surrounded by a two acre "collector's garden". The twenty year old garden, known as Deerly Missed, has been featured on television and in newspapers. While Dave claims rhododendrons as his favorite plant, the Eckerdts are not genus loyal, being members of many national and Oregon plant groups. Dave is a past president and the current president of the Salem Hardy Plant Society.

Membership in the Hardy Plant Group is \$20 annually. For more information about the group or this event, visit the website at www.thehardyplantgroup.org or call Pam Perryman, Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group, 541-344-0896.

SIR JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Doing “a little something” on J. D. Hooker turned out to be like filling a large bathtub with cold water and bathing a tom cat! Somehow he had been in the back of my mind as a “biggie” in rhododendron history, but the full impact hadn’t hit the *thalamus* yet. Puttering on the web produced huge amounts of information all tied in copyrights. After hours of absorbing the interesting but voluminous information on one of the world’s great botanists – a “lumper” not a “splitter” in the realm of plant identification – who lived to contribute to the age 94 and traveled the high seas in the 19th century directing his teams of plant observers here, there and everywhere from the Antarctic, Tasmania, Sikkim, India and beyond – and because I would surely leave a “somewhere” unaccounted for, I shall stop there. A pared down version of his life story totaled a mere four pages of small print. No way would it work in a newsletter. There’s lots to learn about a fascinating, often controversial man, who was a good friend of the ever controversial Darwin – birds of a feather? So I will hit a few high spots, and leave you with a web site or two to do your own explorations on Hooker.

Frances Burns

Born July 6, 1817 in Halesworth, Suffolk, England, Hooker was the son of another famous botanist soon to be director of Kew Botanical Gardens. Hooker died at the age of 94 on 1911-12-10 in Sunningdale, Berkshire, England. Between those “book ends” a spectacular career developed, not least of which to our group is the 30 rhododendrons or more introduced by Hooker after his 1848-1850 Expedition to Sikkim – for which we are most grateful!

Dr. Hooker, with a British grant for a trip to central and eastern Himalaya, and accompanied by British government agent, Dr. Archibald Campbell, set sail for small impoverished Sikkim, where they made history in 1849 in a country that heretofore lacked much history. Unannounced and unauthorized, they embarked on a well equipped jaunt into the mountains of Sikkim where they were soon detained by the ruling Chogyal. The British in turn sought to punish *his* authority with an expedition against Sikkim that eventually led to the annexation of the Darjeeling district and Morang in 1861.

Sikkim was pretty well surrounded by Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and British India. The latter’s Rajah was cautious about ticking off any of his neighbors. He and the Dewan, his chief minister, were very wary of travelers who surveyed and made maps during their travels, for good reason. (Hooker’s maps later had both economic and military value to the British.) When Hooker first sought permission to enter Sikkim, the Dewan went to considerable pains to stop him in his tracks, continuing his efforts even after pressure from the British government forced the Dewan to back down. In particular, he warned them not to cross the border into Tibet. Hooker and Campbell, of course, paid no heed to his admonishment. Their border violation was used as due cause for the Dewan to arrest and toss them in prison in November 1849. Immediately (or as immediate as things were in those days) the British government threatened to invade Sikkim; ergo their release came within weeks. The old Rajah was chastised somewhat excessively with loss of his British pension and the annexation of some of his territory. The importance of Hooker’s work is made clear in that he obtained a government grant for the trip and free passage on the ship taking Lord Dalhousie, the newly-appointed Governor General, to India. (Just another tangled tangent of history with many ramifications you may want to explore!)

Once out of the gaol, Hooker traveled to Eastern Bengal in 1850, returning to England in 1851. And there we shall leave him for now. In his lifetime, was awarded a 10-page listing of prestigious awards and honorariums; he also produced publications that take 20-pages to list. Hooker collected about 7,000 species in India and Nepal and on his return to England, managed to secure another government grant while he classified and named them. This is the tip of the iceberg on this biography. The first publication was the *Rhododendrons of the Sikkim-Himalaya* (1849–51), edited by his father and illustrated by Walter Hood Fitch, whose fine drawings enriched many of both Hooker’s publications. Hooker’s and Campbell’s travel added 25 new rhododendron species to the 50 already known and the stunning new species are now illustrious plants in species collections, widely-grown and used for hybridizing. Showy and impressive species such as *thomsonii*, *arboreum*, *niveum*, *maddenii*, *edgeworthii*, *falconeri*, *hodgsonii*, *griffithianum*, *campanulatum*, *barbatum* and *cinnabarinum*. And let us not forget that somewhere along the way he discovered *triflorum*. Thus began a rhododendron craze in Britain and the publishing of Hooker’s *Himalayan Journals* (1854) – dedicated to Darwin. (Another story you might want to pursue is Dame Nellie Melba.)

On the home front, Hooker was close to his seven children and enjoyed playing with them. Dr. Charles Darwin attended their births; Hooker followed Darwin’s suggestion that he also attend their births and anesthetize his wife with chloroform during labor – a course of action, by mutual agreement, they found as to be as calming for both men as for the mother. On that tranquil cliffhanger, we leave Dr. J. D. Hooker to his further often controversial adventures.

The following web sites are helpful: Wikipedia, rhodygarden.org and www.jdhooker.org.uk/biography1.htm

TWO RHODODENDRON PIONEERS

Elsie Watson fell at her group home Sunday February 6 with seemingly minor injury. A repeat fall on February 10 resulted in a lot of pain. Her daughter, Anne, had her transferred to inpatient Hospice to be more comfort-able. She died early the morning of February 14 at the age of 97. Anne was by her side.

The family plans to have a celebration of life at her home sometime in the spring. Else was a founding member of the Seattle Chapter and was “truly passionate about rhododendrons and wanted everyone to be as excited about them as she was.”, according to Karen Swenson. “She treasured her friendships made through the Seattle Chapter, as well as the Cascade and Whidbey Chapters. She was a great friend to many of us.” And she will be missed.

Frank Mossman, whose decades-long work with rhododendrons and primarily native azaleas, earned him the ARS Gold Medal in 1977, passed away on November 2, 2009. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, he attended the University of Nebraska and its medical school, graduating with his M.D. in Ophthalmology in 1940. As a teenager, he met his future wife, Doris Roberts. They were married in 1937, and started a family of three children. In WW II, he joined the Army, serving in several theaters. Discharged in 1945 with the rank of major, Mossman selected a residency with the Kaiser hospitals in Portland, Oregon and worked for them for eight years before setting up a private practice in Vancouver, Washington.

During the first years in Portland, as his interest in rhododendrons developed, Mossman began growing and propagating them. He obtained cutting material from Halfdan Lem in Tacoma and met his future partner in azalea exploration, Britt Smith, who lived in Portland at the time. In the early 1960's they both became interested in the Western Azalea, *R. occidentale*, and initiated a methodical study of the plants in their southern Oregon and northern California habitats, making several trips a year for over ten years to “occidentale-land” and cataloged the most unusual forms. They then published several articles describing the very large variation in the flowers that they had found. These articles brought Frank into contact with rhododendron experts from around the world. They increased interest in *R. occidentale* by making many contributions of wild collected seed to the ARS Seed Exchange. Britt and Frank were key forces in pushing for the creation of the Azalea Reserve at Stage Coach Hill south of Orick, Calif.

Ed. Note: Permission for this information was obtained from Portland Newsletter. Dick Cavender's article on Frank Mossman will appear in a Journal article in the near future. Mossman was a man of great accomplishment so watch for Dick's "rest of the story" in JARS - it's a great memorial to one of our ARS Society members who made it count!

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

Be sure to attend the March meeting to cast your vote or you may send a written vote (by mail or e-mail) to Ted Hewitt if you cannot attend the meeting. Also, please offer your thanks to these members for taking on the task of chapter leadership.

I also want to offer my sincere thanks to Rick Reed for his many years as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, to Paula Hewitt for her years as Secretary, and to Frances Burns for her three years on the Board. As Treasurer, Rick has had to file forms with the State of Oregon and the IRS in a timely manner for our chapter to be a non-profit group exempt from taxes and has kindly left a list of what needs to be done for the next chapter Treasurer. This, of course, is in addition to keeping track of the money coming and going through the chapter accounts. As Secretary, Paula has taken excellent minutes of the Board meetings that will serve as a record of decisions that have been made. With so much experience in the chapter, Frances has been an indispensable Board member for me, being rather new to the chapter. Again, please express your gratitude to these members for helping with the leadership of the chapter and also think about how you can be an active member in the chapter.

Jack, Rick, Terry, Frances, and Gordon will be offering their help in teaching all of us how to be more successful in presenting rhododendron trusses and sprays in the Spring Rhododendron Show. Please bring your questions for this panel to the March meeting to help us better understand what is done at the flower shows. See if you can help these experts share their incredible knowledge.

Every year at this time, the six large R. ‘Christmas Cheer’ in our garden offer such a display of bright pink that we say they are among our favorite rhododendrons. Though R. ‘Seta’ is also in bloom and *R. erubescens*, R. ‘Pink Snowflakes’ and R. ‘Cilpenense’ will be in bloom soon, they are much younger and smaller plants so are not as impressive from the house windows. However, the pink and white tubular blossoms of R. ‘Seta’ are a delight when viewed up close. This year, the three clumps of *Cyclamen coum* at the front of a bed of dwarf rhododendrons just off the deck have grown large enough that the bright purple-pink color of the blossoms shows well against the rocks edging the bed. And, of course, the hellebores scattered around the garden are coming into their time of glory in a variety of colors. March brings more and more changes in the garden each week.



Foliage variations of 'Silver Frost', a selection from *R. Degronianum*
ssp. Heptamerum var. Kyomaruense
Grown from Koichiro Wada seed under species name
R. Metternianum
Introduced and registered by Harold Greer 2010

2011 Calendar

- Mar. 10 Annual Meeting - Election; Program: Panel Discussion: Prepping Rhodies for Show & Judging
- Apr. 2-3 Portland Early Show, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden; 2 day plant sale !!!
- Apr. 9 -10 Siuslaw Chapter Early Show, Florence
- Apr. 16 Early Show and Banquet at Mookies
- May 7 HPG Plant Sale, (May 6 setup)
- May 11-15 ARS Annual Convention, Vancouver, WA, <http://www.heathmanlodge.com>
- June 26 Picnic at the Sarlaks' garden in Corvallis

Find back issues of the Newsletter on the EUGENE CHAPTER WEBSITE <http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

Many thanks to Nancy Burns & JoAnn Napier for the goodies at the February meeting!
And, thanks to Gary Parent & Helen Baxter, we will enjoy more goodies in March.