

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Newsletter September 2011



SUNNY DAY SMILES

SEPTEMBER PICNIC & CUTTING EXCHANGE RAIN OR SHINE!

SEPT. 11, AT LARRY & SANDI JENSENS' GARDEN

20419 HWY. 126, NOTI, OR. PHONE 541-935-2482



Approximately 20 miles west of Eugene

Come at noon – eat at 1:00 p.m.



Sandi Jensen will cook a ham provided by the chapter.

Water and pop also provided.

PLEASE BRING:

- A dish to serve 10
- Plates, silverware and napkins,
- A chair if you have one
- Cuttings for cutting exchange if you want to “grow your own”!



DIRECTIONS FROM EUGENE

- Take Hwy 126 West through Veneta and past the Noti turn-off.
- Continue to Jensens' garden 1/2 mile past Lake's Trout Farm.
- Jensens' garden is on the right side of the road. Watch for signs and balloons.



DIRECTIONS FROM THE COAST

- Take Hwy 126 from Florence.
- Jensens' garden is on the left side of the road 4 miles east of Walton at the eastern foot of Badger Mountain.
- There will be signs and balloons. Turn into the driveway and follow the directions to {park}.

CUTTINGS:

- Procure cuttings with stems that snap like a fresh green bean
- Write with black Sharpie pen on back of a leaf on each cutting the name of the plant to avoid Anonymous Cuttings
- Place cuttings in a plastic baggies; spritz with water to keep fresh.
- You may want to place them in your ice chest.

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OFFICERS & BOARD

President:	Ted Hewitt
Vice President:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Ali Sarlak
Secretary:	JoAnn Napier
Past President:	Helen Baxter
Membership Chair:	Ali Sarlak

BOARD MEMBERS	2010 - 2011
Frances Burns	2009 - 2012
Leonard Frojen	2009 - 2012
Gordon Wylie	2010 - 2013
Terry Henderson	2011 - 2014
Nancy Burns	

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominations	Harold Greer	541-686-1540
Hospitality	JoAnn Napier	541-746-0828
Welfare	Nancy Greer	541-686-1540
Honors	Rich Aaring	541-485-6013

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Postal Mailing

JoAnn Napier	541-746-0828
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WEBMASTER

Ted Hewitt	541-687-8119
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<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

Editor's Byte Frances Burns

Until late June it seemed we'd been engulfed by outlast "Water World" – the long dark, cold and very wet spring. An old song trills, "Spring will be a little late this year" – and it was. Rhododendron bloom began a month late, then as summer arrived in July, the rhodies played "catch up", producing a circus of bloom lasting into July and August when *auriculatum* filled the air with its beauty and fragrance. Pictures taken throughout the season, when reviewed all at once, reveal what a breathtaking bloom season. But all was not idyllic; frustration reigned in July (latest ever! getting the underground irrigation system up and running for the summer. What was the source of the problems – the computerized control box, the electric panel on the fir tree, or something in the pump computer? Each required a "medical specialist" each accompanied by an invoice with similar pay scale. ⚡⚡

Our usual dry Mediterranean weather prevailed in July – it hasn't rained since – daytime temperatures soared into the 90 and 100 degree range for a few days, but have remained in the 80's ever since, while nighttime temperatures hovered around 50...for the first time in years we have abundant ripe tomatoes, not to mention higher humidity than usual. Canning apples, freezing green beans and greens from the garden – the kitchen is off limits during Mary's preparation and processing. Using brute force, Douglas uprooted a half dozen huge deer ferns (*blechnum spicant*), carting them off with the tractor. Planted in the 90's they were never divided. NOW there is ready cultural advice at www.thegardenhelper.com/deerfern.htm if you like this really lovely fern. *But divide* before you are *conquered!*

Quiet reigns—most of the birds flew off to the mountains for huckleberries, after gobbling our first ripe blueberries. Chickadees, stellar jays and crows remain, silent for the most part until I'm working in the garden; they hop around in the rhodies, preaching in raucous chatter or charming "dee dee dees". Periodically Rooster Cogbird lets out a lusty cock-a-doodle-doo, gathering his hens for tidbits, fun and frolic. Running *en masse* across the lawn, they resemble plump matrons running to catch a bus. (It doesn't take much to tickle our rizzibles!) 🐔

Silence is relevant, of course. To escape present day noise pollution and experiencereal silence, drive Hwy 242 to the Dee Wright Observatory at the summit of the Cascades. Your ears will be amazed! Be thoughtful clambering through the lava beds; The hard, jagged rocks are unforgiving. If you should trip and fall, your knees will be amazed!.

Leaving their significant others (Dave Taplan and Steve Wallace) home to water their gardens, Nancy Beck and Barbara Wallace were captured on camera making friends with a docile grizzly bear sculpture at the *Art in the High Desert*, a juried fine art and craft festival in Bend recently.

Both couples recently joined our Rhododendron Chapter with enthusiasm. In the final stages of *plant lust*, they are eager to enter the world of Rhododendron history and culture. Welcome to the fold! You are entitled to a free rhododendron!

The Wallaces have attended some of our meetings – winning door prizes regularly with a smidgin of guilt! Steve and Barbara hail from Nebraska, where Steve grew Hostas. They garden diligently on a big scale in Marcola.

Nancy and Dave are native Oregonians, though Nancy lived many years in northern Alaska. Dave grew up on a family dairy farm on the coast. Their Creswell garden is a work in progress-- after erecting a generous sized greenhouse with dreams of filling it with gorgeous plants. Dave is fond of delphiniums, the bigger the better! Nancy and Barbara are both retired nurses



Nancy Beck, left; Barbara Wallace, right. Bronze bear sculpture in center by artist Kim Chavez. Cast by Chavez Bronzeworks, Terrebonne, Oregon

All photos by Frances Burns unless otherwise noted

FROM THE PRESIDENT TED HEWITT

After taking a while to get started, the summer seems to be passing rapidly and, with the softer light of late summer, my thoughts turn to fall and ARS activities. In August, Paula and I spent a week at a family celebration in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina, not far from Asheville where the 2012 ARS Convention will be.

Though it will be difficult to surpass the Vancouver convention, we plan to return to NC to see some of the native rhododendrons that Don Hyatt so eloquently showed us in May and I urge you to try to fit this convention into your plans as well. I had not realized that these southern Appalachian Mountains were so high but many of the ridges are well above the 5,000' elevation of Willamette Pass with Clingmans Dome reaching over 6,600'. Look for more information in the Fall and Winter ARS Journals.

For the coming year, the Board has put together a fine series of programs that deal with many facets of growing rhododendrons and their use in the garden. We all look forward to the monthly meetings and the friendships that we have established.

However, to be a successful chapter, we also need to have members step into leadership roles to help plan and put on our other activities. Helen Baxter and Nancy Burns have teamed up to plan the September 11 picnic at the home of Sandi and Larry Jensen, but I would like to urge others of you to volunteer as coordinators for the Holiday Dinner in December or the June 2012 picnic or to be on the planning committee for the Spring Rhododendron Show on April 21.

In March, there will be two Board positions open for election and this would be a good opportunity to take part in the leadership of the chapter. Also, the positions of President and Vice-President will be elected in March. It is always nice to have people help at the activities but we need people to become the leaders or coordinators of these activities that so many of our members enjoy attending. Please contact me or any of the Board Members or Harold Greer, the Nominations Chair, to offer your leadership help.

I have been doing a little propagation of rhododendrons from stem cuttings for three years now and find that one of the fun aspects of it is being able to watch how different rhododendrons develop and grow, all in a small space. Even with a fairly large garden, I don't have the space to

plant many of these new plants in the ground, but I find that watching them in a 4" or 6" or gallon container is really enjoyable. One of my first cuttings was from a rather unusual plant, R. 'Mossman's Freckles', and it is now in a gallon pot, is about 8" tall and 10" wide, has nice white indumentum on the stems, the new leaf growth, and the undersides of the mature leaves. With its rather long, pointed leaves, it is taking on a character of its own now.

From 2009, I have two cuttings of a *R. pseudchrysanthum* that are still only about 3" tall and 3" wide but are nice, compact plants with a pleasant white indumentum. From 2008, one of my favorite plants is a *R. Lepidostylum* that has grown into a bushy, compact little plant with hairy foliage that has a definite blue tinge. Even from just last fall, I have a tiny, compact version of a *R. Calostrotum* 'Gigha' with its bluish-gray small leaves.

In October, Dennis Bottemiller, the Nursery Manager and chief propagator for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, will speak to us on propagation. This will be just in time for you to start making cuttings or you can get started earlier with the cutting exchange at the September picnic. Of course, you need to be careful or soon you will have a collection of 100 rooted cuttings taking over your shady spots.

TED



Blooming in Sarlak's Garden June 26

JUNE PICNIC REVERIES

Ali & Gloria Sarlak provided generous hospitality in their Corvallis garden June 26 when Eugene chapter celebrated a sunshiny day. The garden was interesting in many ways, with gorgeous hybrid tea roses obviously grown with a passion, clematis and other perennials, and trees with accompanying sculptures, gazebo, shady corners, a rock garden – all demonstrations of Ali’s landscaping artistry.

Summer’s Tentative Arrival

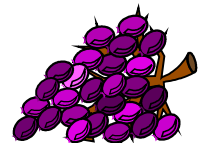


As Usual

After we have parted, the boats
will continue to leave the harbor at dawn.
The salmon will struggle up to the pools,
one month following the other on the wall.

The magnolia will flower,
and the bee, the noble bee—
I saw one earlier on my walk—
will shoulder his way into the bud.

Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate 2001 - 2003,
from his latest book, *horoscopes for the dead*



No costly jewelry, no gift book, no picture serves
so sweet as a living bush or herb to bring an
absent friend to mind, and life without friends
would be more desolate than a garden with
neither flowers or fruit.

Sir Herbert Maxwell, BT.

Flowers, a Garden Notebook, 1923

PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

SUNNY DRY LANDSCAPES Sept. 13, 2011

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present David Mason at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

His presentation will cover planting and design suggestions for dry, sunny locations.

An Englishman by birth, Mason was trained at Wisley and Kew Gardens in London. He has built many gardens and traveled to find plants and write about them. He and his wife, Susie Grimm, ran Hedgerows Nursery in Salem for more than 15 years.

Doors open at 6:30 for book sales and viewing botanical samples. Admission is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Membership in the Hardy Plant Group is \$20 annually. There is ample parking in the parking lot at the corner of 2nd Ave. and High Street. For more information about the group or this event, visit the website at www.thehardyplantgroup.org or call 541-344-0896.



PLANT-FOSSIL PROGRAM JANUARY 31 2012

The University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History is planning an evening plant-fossil event at the Museum for Tuesday, January 31, 2012. UO paleo-botanist Greg Retallack will head the program, the purpose of which is to share a section of the University's collections.

Details, including time and RSVP dates, will follow in a later newsletter.



SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CHAPTER ANNUAL CUTTING PARTY

Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.
Lunch around noon –

Cutting Party

Bring cuttings in plastic bags with the name written on the bag. They should be damp. You can put a damp paper towel in the bag. Bring clippers, extra bags and containers for your cuttings. The planting medium will be provided by the chapter.

Lunch & RSVP

Lunch this year will be a salad and dessert potluck. Coordinate with Marjene what you are bringing—salad or dessert.

In order to plan how much planting medium to have available, please let us know you are coming.

RSVP to Marjene, 541-347-7269 or Marjene@hughes.net

How to get to Ann Drake's

56671 Cougar Rd., Coquille 396-2718

Take the Rink Creek turnoff on Hwy 42 between Coquille and Myrtle Point.

The turnoff is a left turn approx. 1 mile from the only stoplight in Coquille.

Drive 8/10 of a mile.

Take a left turn on Cougar Rd.

There is a redwood sign on a rock base with a duck on the left.



Books to Enjoy

Suggested reading for taking cuttings, preparing them, and propagation thereof, along with concise information on rhododendron culture, the following books would be helpful for all seekers of rhododendron culture: Available in new, used bookstores, and online

SUCCESS WITH RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS, Revised Edition, by H. Edward Reiley,

RHODODENDRONS OF THE WORLD by David G. Leach,

RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS, Second edition by Homer E Salley and Harold E. Greer.

GREER'S GUIDE TO AVAILABLE RHODODENDRONS, by Harold E. Greer

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RHODODENDRON SPECIES, by Peter A Cox and Kenneth N. E. Cox

RHODODENDRONS IN AMERICA, by Ted Van Veen

RHODODENDRONS IN THE LANDSCAPE, by Sonja Nelson

AZALEAS, Revised and Enlarged Edition by Fred C. Galle

TALES OF THE ROSE TREE, Revised by Jane Brown



Hostas come in many sizes, species and varieties, with leaves in many shapes and shades of green, yellow and variegation. The flowers come in white, lavender and purple and begin blooming over a long period of time.. Names are often insouciant: 'Fried Green Tomatoes', 'Sweet Tater Pie', 'Big Daddy', 'Guacamole' and a zillion more – all lovely accents for the rhododendron garden.

This year being the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Fortune, the legendary botanist who sailed the seven seas seeking previously undiscovered plants to send home to England for the burgeoning nursery trade, and to whom we are indebted as the discoverer of many of the choice rhododendrons, this is a book to read and vicariously experience his Victorian age adventures.

FOR ALL THE TEA IN CHINA

HOW ENGLAND STOLE THE WORLD'S FAVORITE DRINK AND CHANGED HISTORY
BY SARAH ROSE

According to the *National Geographic Traveler*, this author “steeps us in the story of Robert Fortune”, who was given the assignment to not only bring home the finest tea plants and seeds in China but to capture the secrets of converting the tea into the finest brew. and to learn how the leaves from these plants were prepared by China.

Following is an excerpt from the book describing just how fine tea must be!

The best quality tea must have
The creases like the leather boots of Tartar horsemen,
Curl like the dewlap of a mighty bullock,
Unfold like a mist rising out of a ravine,
Gleam like a lake touched by a zephyr,
And be wet and soft like
Earth newly swept by rain.

Lu Yu, *Cha Ching*

The treachery and skulduggery of getting into China, where foreigners were enormously unwelcome – the method of dealing with them cruel beyond measure, and with the help of two untrustworthy Chinese servants, he eventually located the highly guarded plants and learned the secrets of Chinese tea growers, absconded with the tea plants packed tidily in glazed Wardian cases, got them to British controlled lands in the Himalayas for transplanting – three years of incredible danger and difficult travel dressed as a Chinese (he was a very tall light complexioned man) – it all boiled down to “the greatest theft of protected trade secrets that the world has ever known” – equating today with the “industrial espionage” of someone stealing the formula for Coca Cola.

Published by Penguin Books, available in soft or hard cover in bookstores and online for \$15.00 or less. Today is not too late!

2011 - 2012 CHAPTER PROGRAM CALENDAR

- Oct 13 Dennis Bottemiller - *Propagation at the RSBG*
- Nov 10 Pat Osborne - *Species Rhododendrons in Your Garden*
- Dec 8 Holiday Potluck Dinner - Members' slide show
- Jan 12 Pat Patterson - *Beneficial Insects in the Garden*
- Feb 9 Mike Stewart - *Plant Hunting in China*
- Mar 8 Panel Discussion *Sex in the Garden or Hybridizing Rhododendrons*
Annual election of officers and board members
- Apr 21 Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet
- May 4-7 2012 ARS Convention, Asheville, NC
- May 12 HPG Plant Sale
- Jun Picnic, date to be arranged.



ORIENTAL POPPY, *Papaver orientalis*



Meconopsis lingholm



The favorite flower of renowned British gardener, Christopher Lloyd, was the poppy – it opens dramatically, popping out of its calyx in a crinkled brilliant colored ball, quickly smoothing out to a shiny satin – like a butterfly breaking out of its chrysalis. The center with its black stamens which open up like the flower to expel their pollen. Pick the poppies with the unopened stamens; they will stay fresh the longest. If left on the stem after the petals fall, the crown head will produce seeds inside itself, that when ripe will be scattered by the wind. Root cuttings, however, are the best way to increase the Oriental poppy, one of the largest flowers in the garden, along with peonies.

There are many kinds of poppies, of which the *Meconopsis lingholm* is one. The lovely blue one so popular in rhododendron growers can be frustrating—it only does well in cool summers.

Eugene Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
PO Box 7704
Eugene, OR 97401



2011-2012 Chapter Calendar

- Sep 11  Picnic hosted by Larry & Sandy Jensen - Details page 1 
- Oct 13 Dennis Bottemiller - *Propagation at the RSBG*
- Nov 10 Pat Osborne - *Species Rhododendrons in Your Garden*
- Dec 8 Holiday Potluck Dinner - Members' slide show
- Jan 12 Pat Patterson - *Beneficial Insects in the Garden*
- Feb 9 Mike Stewart - *Plant Hunting in China*
- Mar 8 Panel Discussion - *Sex in the Garden* or *Hybridizing Rhododendrons*, Annual meeting & election
- Apr 21 Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet - Speaker to be announced
- May 4-7 2012 ARS Convention, jointly with Azalea Society, Asheville, NC
- May 12 HPG Plant Sale
- June Picnic - Date to be arranged
- Sep 21-23 Pacific NW Conference, "Rhodos in Paradise", Nanaimo BC

VISIT OUR EUGENE WEBSITE <http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>