

EUGENE CHAPTER

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

OCTOBER, 2011 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the delightful parts of September and October in this part of Oregon is the shortening of the days with cooler temperatures and softer light. The plants in the garden seem to enjoy this as much as I do with better color and renewed vigor. Of course, fall also brings the bounty at the farmers' markets, the football season, gardening programs, and the chance to find some interesting rhododendrons and other plants to propagate.

When Paula and I were first married, we had a small apartment with a balcony for which I built a couple of flower boxes. At a picnic with friends, I admired the Martha Washington Geraniums that the host was growing and, of course, he offered me some cuttings from which I could grow my own plants. He said that all I needed to do was to stick them in the dirt of the flower box and they would grow, which, sure enough, they did. Years later, I began to propagate fuchsias by cuttings from friends' plants and found that this was also quite easy to do, so our collection of hardy fuchsias has continued to grow. One year Paula gave me a heating cable to help with propagation, so I built a rooting box from scrap wood and researched

OCTOBER 13 MEETING



The Eugene Chapter is fortunate to have for our speaker this month Dennis Bottemiller, Propagator and Nursery Manager for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA

Members will enjoy a wonderful learning opportunity: Dennis will be sharing with us his decade-long knowledge and experience with rooting cuttings and growing seedlings from North America's largest collection of Species Rhododendrons. The Foundation has a prolific collection of Magnolia, Japanese Maples, Primula, and Liliaceae from around the world, plus many Northwest native plants. ,



Boo!



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EDITOR'S BYTE

When No.1 son called September 25 and asked I'd like to join him and his wife on a climb up Wildcat Mountain to where we scattered the Head Gardener's ashes five years ago, I knew it was the last opportunity this year weather wise and I had not been back since the 2006 farewell. So off we went, walking sticks, camera, canteens, blueberry muffins in tow for the mile hike up the mountain from parking the car on a Forest Service road at 4,000 feet elevation.

It was a rocky, scree filled, "once-in-a-while" path up to the 5,000 ft.level just below the 5,200 ft. summit.of Wildcat Mountain with its bunch grass, bear grass, fading wildflowers and tortured old trees. Younger trees were loaded with the beautiful cones of Noble Fir

To the south were the Three Sisters. in smoky air from forest fires still burning in the region, Sadly, we later learned that at that

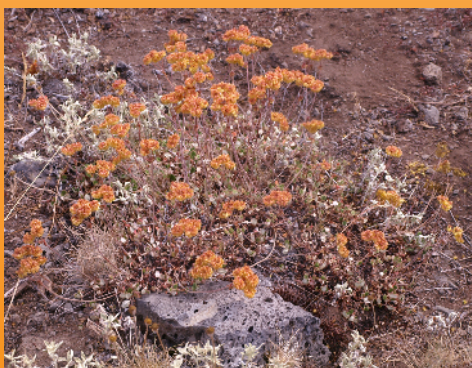
same moment in time, a man climbing the North Sister slipped and fell to his death as a winter snow storm blew across the Sisters

We saw the clouds gathering and headed down the mountain. That elevation is not the place to be when Old Man Winter makes his first blast of the season in the high Cascades.

I particularly enjoyed the last remains of summer on the mountain and brought some pictures back to share.



Wolf Rock, Oregon's Largest
Monolith lies due west of our location on Wildcat Mountain.



Wildflower Seed Heads in "Rock Garden"



Mt. Washington and Mountain Ash



A dried arrangement of Bear Grass Blooms Arranged by Mother Nature



Heading down as storm approaches Three Sisters Mtns



A POEM BY JOHN FRY

COLORED SKIES (Looking up)

Oh sky

where do your colors lie?

Your brilliant glowing orange

sweeps across the blue sky

unmatched by other sunsets

of pink, red or cloudy blues,

Where do you get such hues,

and how far afield do they choose?

I only know of easy and hard days

of work and play,

of unsmiling days

and of resplendent ways

that creep into my life

to bring the good

and sorrowful feelings

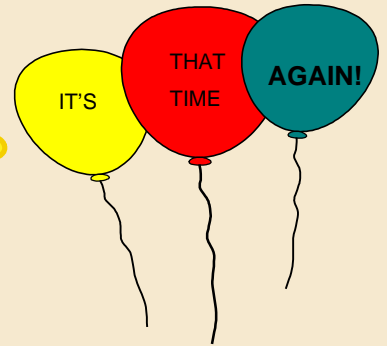
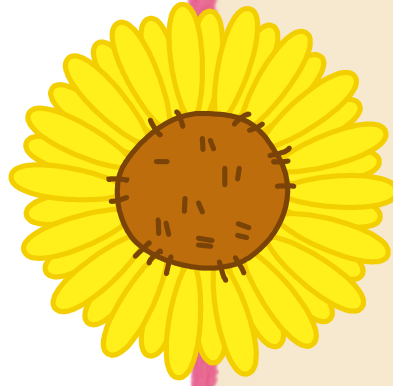
that stay in my times of reminiscing.

Do you know of other parts of our world

where the sky manifests

such unspeakable

awe inspiring views?



Last call to order plants for fall planting

Divide and plant perennials

Rearrange new and extra plants in new designs

Leave seedheads for winter birds

Clean the bird feeders & restock

Some yellow-leafed hostas burn with too much sun – transplant to a shadier location while they are evident.

Plant bulbs now to December

Clean up yard & driveway of sticks and leaves

Mow leaves for composting instead of blowing

Get greenhouse ready for starting cuttings and moving tender plants in

Use newspapers to clean garden tools for winter

Run lawnmower until gas tank is empty

Catch up on new gardening books and review the tried and true



BULBS FOR THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Steve Vininsky of Cherry Creek Daffodils on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Steve's illustrated talk will describe daffodils and other bulbs that do well in our climate and highlight some unusual bulbs that you may not be familiar with. Come with questions about bulb cultivation and care. There will be a variety of unusual bulbs for sale, including some new introductions from Cherry Creek Daffodils.

Steve Vininsky moved to Oregon 21 years ago for the climate, which is conducive to breeding daffodils. He is a specialist grower / plant breeder focusing on modern hybrid daffodils, species narcissus as well as other rare plants and bulbs for the enthusiastic gardener or collector.

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.

DUES:

No time to delay...

**Pay your dues so
you receive the**

**'Winter ARS Journal
in January.**

**Still time to order
plants on line from
theSpecies
Foundation at
rhodygarden.org**

**The Eugene Chapter
has a Foundation
membership;
chapter Members
can order!**



FLYING HIGH ALONG HE MIGHTY COLUMBIA

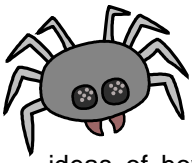
SPRING Rhododendron Show



For some ARS members the spring rhododendron shows are what they look forward to most and why they grow rhododendrons. Certainly, being able to see the great variety of hybrids and species rhododendrons is enjoyable for us all. Though it is just the beginning of fall, this is the time that the planning for our 2012 Spring Rhododendron Show begins.

At the August Eugene Board meeting, it was decided that the chapter would sponsor a single spring show and Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 21. This show will probably be much like the early shows of past years and the 2011 Spring Rhododendron Show of last spring. There were many positive comments about the foliage display, the member judging, and the interesting flowers that were entered in the show.

At this time we need to form a committee of interested members to investigate possible venues, a format for the show and Awards Banquet, and to line up a speaker for the program. Then, in early spring, the committee will need to arrange for volunteers to do the various jobs so that we can all enjoy another special afternoon and evening of camaraderie. If you can participate on this committee, please contact Ted Hewitt at ted.hewitt@comcast.net or at 541-687-8119 by October 15 so that the initial planning can be completed by early November.



FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

ideas of how to propagate rhododendrons as this was the time that we had joined the ARS Eugene Chapter.

One of the things that I have found is that gardeners will readily share their knowledge and plants and offer all kinds of encouragement. That first year I soon filled my rooting box with cuttings from friends' gardens and the enjoyment of seeing how these little cuttings develop into plants had started. Some of those cuttings took very little time to die but many eventually rooted and grew. Others stayed green for many months but did not develop roots and eventually died, but that is part of learning. As I took cuttings, I tried to get two or three of each kind and some had only one cutting grow but others had all three cuttings develop roots. In fact, when Leonard was sharing several of his plants with me, he asked me to cut a whole branch off a *R. chamaethompsoni* to help shape the plant. That branch yielded twelve cuttings with all twelve rooting and developing into plants. Each year, I have enjoyed touring friends' gardens learning what kinds of plants they are growing and finding such an array of different kinds of rhododendrons from which to take cuttings. I used to wonder

about where one would find different forms of a particular species or an unusual hybrid as I did not see them in nurseries or even in most catalogs. Often gardening friends have them in their gardens and graciously pass them along as cuttings.

At our October 13 meeting, Dennis Bottemiller will offer many ideas about how to successfully propagate plants from stem cuttings. Whether one is a first-time beginner or an experienced propagator, I think we will all find valuable information in the program. A side benefit of propagating plants is the propagation of friendships and this is, perhaps, the most important thing our chapter can offer. TED

**On Hallowe'en the thing
Aliquam dapibus ipsum
vitae you must do
Is pretend that nothing can
frighten you
And if somethin' scares you
and you want to run
Just let on like it's
Hallowe'en fun.**

19th Century Halloween postcard



OCTOBER 13 MEETING CONT.

Join us at the Campbell Center 155 High St., Eugene, Thursday October 13 for "cookies, coffee, and conversation" at 7 PM followed by the meeting and program beginning at 7:30. A drawing for door prizes will conclude an enjoyable meeting with guests, friends and members.

Prior to the meeting you are invited to join us and Dennis Bottemiller for a no-host dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Bai Khao Thai Restaurant, 541 W. Centennial Blvd in Springfield. Please RSVP to Ted Hewitt at 541-687-8119 or ted.hewitt@comcast.net by Tuesday, October 11, so that the restaurant can be notified as to how many to expect.

Directions to Bai Khao from Eugene: north on Coburg Rd; east on Martin Luther King Blvd. which becomes Centennial Blvd when it crosses I-5 into Springfield; right at the light on Prescott Lane (just past Value Village Center); right into the parking lot. Look for Bai Khao on the left.

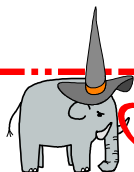
Directions to Bai Khao from Springfield From Pioneer Parkway, turn west onto Centennial Blvd. Turn left at the light on Prescott Lane, right into the Parking lot, then left into a short lane of businesses. Bai Khao is at the end on the right.

Note to weather chairman, Ali Sarlak:
The three days of rain after our summer drought are much appreciated – the plants are ecstatic. Is it possible you could leave the sunshine on just a teensy bit longer, please?

The Associated Lawn Mowers of Lane County.



Dittos's Sister



CALENDAR



- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Oct 13 | Dennis Bottemiller - <i>Propagation at the RSBG</i> |
| Nov 10 | Pat Osborne - <i>Species Rhododendrons in Your Garden</i> |
| Dec 8 | Holiday Potluck Dinner - Members' slide show |
| Jan 12 | Pat Patterson - <i>Beneficial Insects in the Garden</i> |
| Feb 9 | Mike Stewart - <i>Plant Hunting in China</i> |
| Mar 8 | Panel Discussion - <i>Hybridizing Rhododendrons</i> , Annual meeting & election |
| Apr 21 | Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet |
| May 4-7 | 2012 ARS Convention, jointly with Azalea Society, Asheville, NC |
| May 12 | Chapter Plant Sale at Fairgrounds with the HPG Plant Sale |
| Jun | 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>

