



R. clementinae



R. basilicum



R. roxianum var. oreonastes

Photos by Frances Burns



R. fulvum

American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter

2011 November Newsletter

Coming November 10

SPECIES RHODODENDRONS IN YOUR GARDEN

It's been exactly four years since our November speaker, Patrick Osborn, participated in a program for our chapter describing the history of the three-generations of the well known Thompson's Nursery in Waldport. In 2001, just two years after graduating with a degree in Horticultural Science from Oregon State University, Patrick, with his wife Michele, became the third generation owner/operators of the nursery. They are the proud parents of two future fourth generation owners.

On his return visit, November 10, Patrick will discuss *Species Rhododendrons in Your Garden*. Species are, of course the original plants from which all hybrids were developed. Thompson's Nursery specializes in both species and their well-known hybrids.

Patrick will unwind for us some of the mystique of the successful rearing and culture of rhododendron species, often considered "difficult". In all sizes and shapes, they are where beautiful foliage truly begins.

The meeting opens at 7 P.M. with coffee, cookies and friendly conversation, followed by the program at 7:30 at the Campbell Center, 155 High Street, Eugene. Plenty of parking is available.

All those who enjoy good food and good conversation, are welcome to join us at the pre-meeting dinner with Patrick Osborn at 5:30 p.m. at the North Bank Restaurant, 22 Club Road, Eugene. Please contact Ted Hewitt 541-687-8119 if you are coming; he will let the restaurant know the size of the group. See you Thursday, November 10!

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

- E**ncourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons.
- U**se our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships.
- G**row both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens.
- E**ducate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons.
- N**urture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons.
- E**xhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community.



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Vice President: Vacant
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<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

A MULTIPLE CHOICE METHOD, FOR SECOND-TIME-AROUND BULB PLANTERS (fool-proof) or (fool-hardy), Planting Daffodils / Narcissus

Pick through the five smelly bags of daffodil bulbs you forgot to plant last year (or, God forbid, the year before.) Choose all bulbs with the *teensiest* sign of the Life Force remaining. Plant them in a sunny, dry area receiving little shade and no irrigation – they will love you! – reappearing every spring for years to come, assuming, that is, that you have chosen well and they come up *at all!*

(Note: Omit bonemeal; it takes eons to break down and we “haven’t time for a waiting game!”)

Daffodil design requires chaos, i.e., random planting. Seek *freshly dug* mole hills – keep in mind that *nothing* eats daffodil bulbs! Using a Japanese Hori knife, with a *light* touch, make one to three holes in each mole hill, drop a bulb in each hole, cover with the loose soil and pat well. Toss the remaining unsavory bulbs in the compost.

“Welcome, sweet springtime!” FB

As I sit looking out on the garden on a lovely late October day, the leaves on the large California Black Oak tree (*Quercus kelloggii*) are fluttering down in a gentle breeze and the hazelnuts are plopping to the orchard floor at their own convenience. The *Stewartia koreana* is a blaze of orange and the *Parrotia persica* tree is following suit with tinges of red and yellow. Sun shining through golden vine maple and large leaved Oregon maples on the riverbank and creates a cathedral of color when combined with an added surprise among them, the *Vitis coignetiae* with its large heart-shaped leaves turning scarlet as it climbs higher into a fir tree. This ornamental grape is from Korea and Japan; its dark fruits are unpalatable, but it is growing well after several ho hum years of indecision in a lot of shade until it broke through into more light.

Another grape adorning the garage is the smaller *Vitis vinifera* ‘Purpurea’ with its more subtle dark purple leaves (and unpalatable fruit, as well.) They add to the delightful color symphony of fall in the garden. Perhaps not the timpani, but at least the strum of a harp.

Dropping its purple red leaves as it went into the ground, a more columnar and less tall Katsura joined the garden this fall – *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* var. ‘Red Fox’. Learning from experience, I planted the graft well above the ground to prevent suckering. Suckering from ornamental trees has been an achilles heel for me.

So many rhododendrons have put on some fall bloom this year – ‘Bambii’ x *proteoides* for an extended period, ‘Rosevallon’ always does, but the queen of them all has been ‘Whispering Rose’; an offspring of *williamsianum* x ‘Elizabeth’, (Greer, 1982.) It has been in generous bloom for at least a month and despite our first frost this past week, shows no sign of stopping. From across the garden it resembles a camellia in bloom – a gift for a gardener weary of well-doing by fall.

Let me think . . . there must be something nice to say about November . . . Let’s start with thankfulness, cranberries, pumpkin pie, and preparing for the winter holiday!

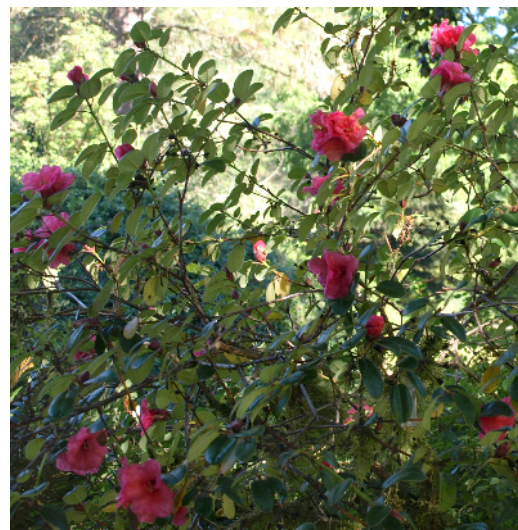
A gardener must not feel sorry for himself, even in winter, and no matter how great the cause.
 Henry Mitchell

Think positively – not even Jane Austin could “endure a cabbage bed in October!”

Or perhaps, “Yes! a frost, the dahlias are dead.”

The latter by R. Surtrees

R. ‘Whispering Rose’, October 2011





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our October meeting was very well attended and I am sure that others enjoyed the program on propagation as much as I did. Certainly the questions and comments from the audience were thoughtful and lead to very informative answers from the speaker, Dennis Bottemiller. Several of our members are experienced propagators, at least on some level, but that provided some very good questions from which some of us less experienced members could learn. Dennis generously donated three plants from the RSBG, two of which were auctioned off with great fun and enthusiasm and the third, the much coveted *R. yuefengense*, went home with Jack as a door prize. It was really nice to welcome several of our new members as well as to catch up with Joyce and Rick Reed to award them the Bronze Medals for their long-time service to the chapter. Gene's donation of a R. 'The Pink Ribbons' was also auctioned raising another \$22 for the chapter to donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research.

At the meeting, it was obvious that we all enjoy the social time of the meetings as well as the coffee and cookies, but now we need to find a new Hospitality Chair to make the coffee and organize the cookies. Please notify JoAnn or me if you can help with this job so that we can continue to have the treats. We have offers of cookies for the November and January meetings but are looking for contributors for February and March. Please let us know if you can help. Thanks.

With the recent rains and cooler weather, the garden does not need to be watered so there is more time to take care of other projects in the garden such as relocating some plants where they will be more effective in the garden design or where to plant some of those special rhododendrons that are getting too large to be in pots. Of course, it is also time to take cuttings of fuchsias and other plants that we want to propagate in the greenhouse. This year I had to replace the heating cable on my rooting box but now that is done and the box is filled with 122 two-inch pots each with a cutting of an interesting rhododendron from a friend's garden. As autumn continues, I like to see how different plants become the focal points of the garden.

One of our favorites for the woodland garden is the Japanese Forest Grass, *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' which sports beautiful yellow leaves edged with green that stand out when placed in front of a rhododendron. In the fall, the colors are especially vibrant though throughout the summer these plants light up the shade when placed along a path and also offer different texture and shape. Many of the hardy fuchsias are still in bloom but now also sport their deep purple seed pods for added interest. Among my favorites at this time is Fuchsia 'Mephisto' which is a 4' tall upright grower with dainty, single flowers with scarlet sepals, crimson corolla, pink stamens, and a white tipped stigma that looks nice in a mixed border as it stands above many of the shorter plants.

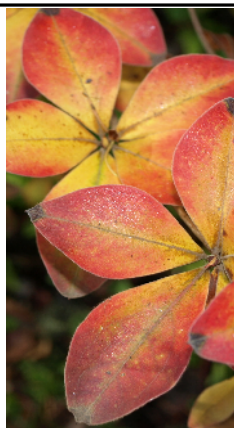
It won't be long until November arrives so take the time to get out in the garden or go for a walk in Hendricks Park now.

Ted

GET WELL MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT

The board meeting scheduled for Friday, October 21 was canceled due to a bad case of bronchitis for Ted Hewitt, who did not want to donate his virus to the cause. Thank you, Ted! We wish you a speedy recovery.

He is reportedly much better each day, thanks in part to the beautiful weather.



R. amagianum foliage

POINTS OF VIEW

Cabbage. A familiar garden vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head.

Ambrose Bierce 1906

**I want death to find me
planting my cabbages.**

Michel De Montaigne 1533-1592

PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Vanessa Gardner Nagel, November 8 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Her presentation, *Locating Your Garden's Bones: Structural Plant Placement*, should be of great interest to most gardeners.

Author Vanessa Gardner Nagel is an award-winning, sustainability-conscious garden designer, author, and the owner of Seasons Garden Design LLC. Vanessa became infatuated with plants as a youngster at her grandfather's side in Minnesota and subsequently learned the art of weeding in her mother's garden in California. As a certified member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, she was the 2009 Oregon Chapter president, and served her community as a design review committee member for the City of Vancouver for 6 years. Vanessa has over 30 years design experience, including more than 22 years of commercial interior design projects from the west coast, in the U.S.A. and around the world, as well as Pacific Northwest landscape design projects. She also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Marylhurst University and Portland Community College. Vanessa continues weeding her own garden, Dragonfly Hollow, which she opens on occasion to the public to benefit local organizations.

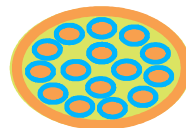
Doors open at 6:30 for book sales and viewing botanical samples. Admission is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Membership in the Hardy Plant Group is \$20 annually. There is ample parking in the parking lot at the corner of 2nd Ave. and High Street. For more information about the group or this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

HINSDALE GARDEN, from Gordon Wylie:

On Wednesday October 26, I met at the garden with Steve Samuels and other BLM staff. We planted a half dozen or so evergreen azaleas and a *R. cinnabarinum* hybrid which have been growing on at my place, disconnecting the drip water system installed this summer for plants put in over the last couple of years, and generally 'buttoning up' the garden for winter. Unfortunately there was only time to notify members with e-mail.

The planting and irrigation work was short and quite simple and did not justify organizing a work party as we have done at times in the past; however, any ARS members were welcome to participate in the work and/or have a last look at the garden before winter. Some were specially interested in seeing how the new plants are doing and wanted to take a look at the drip irrigation system, which I understand is the latest design and quite convenient--some may wish to consider use in their own gardens.

This garden is being restored in a joint effort between the BLM and all Oregon chapters of the ARS. As always, **our members are welcome at any of the garden activities.**



Please thank the cookie suppliers for November: **Gary Parent** and **Sherlyn Hilton**. January cookie volunteers are **Sandie Olson** and **Steve & Barbara Wallace**. And further down the list are **Mary and Doug Furr** for February--leaving only March to volunteer. Perhaps it could be YOU? Call Ted at 541-687-8119--it will cheer him greatly!

As some of you know, our great NW hybridizer, Jim Barlup, suffered a stroke September 22 shortly after returning from a trip to northern Europe. His wife, Judy, reports that he is undergoing speech therapy, and with that, "We expect him to return to a state close to normal...he remembers his rhodies and can speak clearly and answer questions about them. He is able to do light work in the garden, so some of his hybridizing will continue."

Judy is holding up well despite the strain of "doctor appointments, phone calls, emails, visitors and the daily business of living to take care of. We are fortunate to have many friends and good neighbors who are eager to help, so our needs are met." We wish them a winter of peace and recovery, and that spring will find Jim back doing with vigor what he does best!

A ROCK GARDEN IN THE DANDENONG RANGE OF SE AUSTRALIA

A TRAGEDY REVERSED!

Frances Burns

There is a large rock garden in the Dandenongs that is organized to a “T”. Upon receiving an invitation to tour Otto Fausen’s unique and lovely alpine garden – including lunch prepared by our host, an award winning artistic baker and knowledgeable creator of the garden – we jumped on it. Upon arrival I was eager to take pictures here, there and *everywhere*, only to find that my camera battery was dead. Angst upon angst, I was disappointed and utterly depressed! My dear friend, Neilma Wallace, bless her heart, volunteered to take pictures with her small digital camera if I’d point out which plants. So as we clambered gingerly down the steep slope, viewing a very complex grouping of plants in parallel rocky tiers – evidence of untold physical labor. I’d wave at a plant and she’d take the picture. And that’s the last either of us ever thought of it – we were in a tail spin of visiting visiting gardens daily.

Out of the blue last week I received e-mail pictures, minus labels, from her that she’d found in her camera. Hoping for divine intervention, I asked her to e-mail them to Otto for plant identifications. Miraculously Otto e-mailed them to me post haste, and here are the results, a small sample of what was there.



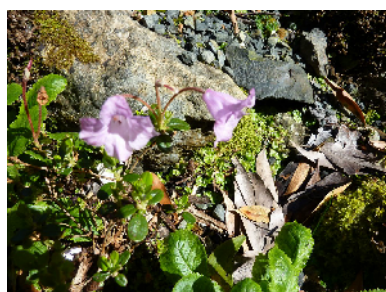
R. *augustinii*, top left, seedlings below



No moss in this glass house



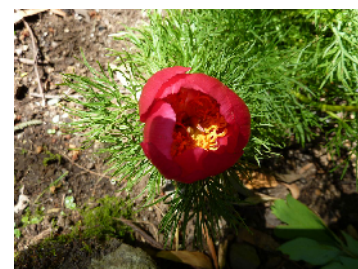
Outside potted treasures



R. *pumilum*



Cyclamen repandum album



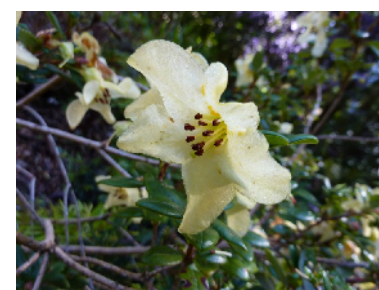
Paeonia tenuifolia



Epimedium grandiflorum nana

Otto’s family migrated soon after WWII from war torn Germany to Australia. When asked about his record keeping on such a large assortment of plants, he replied, “I keep it all in my head!” And he has no difficulty recalling them – all in botanical terms; amazing.

And the lunch of quiche, asparagus and an apple dessert baked to perfection is a memory I’ll have no difficulty keeping in my head!



R. *megeratum*

OF BOOK AND BLOG

Seeds of Adventure by Peter Cox and Peter Hutchison
Garden Art Press, The Antique Collectors' Club, Suffolk, England, copyright 2008. \$53.98 Cdn 415 pages, approx. 700 colour photos, and our pages of coloured maps outlining the various trips of the adventurers. The appendix of place names, glossary, and bibliography is followed first by a plant index and then by a very good general index. Hardbound, ISBN 978-1-870673-58-7

Peter Cox, VMH, was brought up with plant hunting in his blood and with its influences all around him. He is a world authority on rhododendrons, has run the famous Glendoick Nursery near Perth, Scotland, and with his son has written more books on rhododendrons than anyone else. These include *Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species* and *Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons*. For his achievements in horticulture, Peter Cox has been awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour, the Gold Medal of the American Rhododendron Society, The Nurseryman and Garden Centre Lifetime achievement award, and awards from the Institute of Horticulture and Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. In June 2005 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Science from St Andrews University.

Peter Cox's early life was much influenced by his father, Euan H.M. Cox, a prominent botanist and famous plant collector in the early 1900s. Among his father's colleagues were such famous names as Joseph Rock, Frank Kingdon Ward and Reginald Farrer. Peter was also fortunate to have friends such as H.H. Davidian and Dr. John Cowan at the Royal Botanic Garden.

Sir Peter Hutchison is a keen gardener and plantsman who became the first Chairman of Trustees at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and was later Chairman of the Forestry Commission. His particular enthusiasms are rare trees and primulas. Both Peters come from the East of Scotland but share a wild garden, Baravalla, in Argyll on the mild western coast where they grow plants they have collected. Peter Hutchison claims that although he did not grow up surrounded by the famous names of Peter Cox's background, the main influence in his path to a love of gardening and plant collecting came from growing up with a Victorian walled garden. The head gardener was a kindly man who was not in the least disturbed by having a small child tag along after him, watching him do everything in the greenhouses or the vast gardens. Also, his mother was a keen gardener who passed on this enthusiasm to her son. She had a wide knowledge of plants and an instinctive eye for putting

them together. *Seeds of Adventure* tells the story of the extensive travels made by Peter Cox and Peter Hutchison in search of hardy plants. They describe sixteen journeys – often arduous, sometimes dangerous, and occasionally funny - that resulted in the collection of seeds from plants high in the peaks of the Himalaya, western China, and Turkey. On many of these trips they travelled to places so remote and rough that no western explorers had ever been before to botanize the plants. The two Peters, as a result of their work, introduced many plants, especially rhododendrons, new or lost to cultivation, often saving them from extinction by growing seeds on in the temperate climate of Scotland following their trips, and introducing their finds to Europe, New Zealand, Australia and Temperate zones of North America.

After their first trips in 1962 to Turkey and 1965 to India, they suffered a long gap before their next trip in 1981 to China because of many setbacks to their plans caused by political difficulties in so many countries during the intervening years. In 1967 they tried to get back into North-East India without success, and in 1973, they had no success in planning a trip to Bhutan. They received discouraging reports against going into Chile during the 1970s, and nothing came of their attempts to get into Burma (Myanmar). But they never stopped planning, and, turning their focus towards China in 1978 a trip finally came to fruition in 1981. From the year 1981, the trips quickly multiplied and they managed a total of sixteen trips, finally getting to Bhutan in 1988, Tibet in 1998 and Arunachal Pradesh in 2001. The last trip described is to Subansiri, India, in 2002. The organization of the book basically follows one chapter to one trip. It is a very interesting book to read and the pictures are superior.

Margaret Hodgson of PARS Chapter in Canada

Many thanks Canadian chapter newsletters for this superb book report. The book is available online.

SOMETHING NEW TO TRY

The ARS has a new blog of great interest entitled "All About Rhododendrons". Check their web site www.rhododendron.org/blog/default.asp There you will find a variety of viewpoints with different levels of information on a wide range of subjects concerning rhododendron culture.

Subsection Taliensia

R. clementinae

Discovered by Forrest 1915

Hardy to -5 to -10° F.

Lovely thick glaucous (bluish) foliage with thick spongy white to pale fawn indumentum

Flowers 6-lobed, white flushed with rose, 10 to 15 to a truss

Slow to flower, but well worth growing for foliage

3 feet in 10 years

R. roxianum var. oreonastes

Introduced 1915

Particularly fine dwarf alpine of species; related to proteoides

Hardy -10° F.

Very narrow dark shiny green leaves, 8 to 15 times as long as wide

Flowers 2-4 cm long, white or creamy, sometimes flushed rose with pink, 6 to 15 to a truss

Very slow to flower, but well worth growing for foliage

Dense fawn to rufous indumentum

3 feet in 10 years

Subsection Falconera

R. basilicum

Introduced 1913 -32

Hardy to 5° F.

Very large rugulose dark green foliage with dense rusty indumentum

Flowers 8-lobed, white to creamy yellow, often flushed pink/purple, with blotch, 15 to 25 to a truss

Blooms March to May

Wooly greyish cream to rusty indumentum

Winged tapered petioles typical

Handsome specimen plant

6 feet in 10 years

INFORMATION ON THE SPECIES PICTURED ON PAGE 1
gleaned from *Greer's Guidebook to Available
Rhododendrons* and Peter and Kenneth Cox's *The
Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species*.

Planted in the mid-90s, all but *R. fulvum* have
yet to bloom. It has graciously bloomed for
three years, with more blooms each year. FB

Subsection Fulva

R. fulvum ssp. fulvum

Introduced 1912

Hardy to 0° F.

Dark shiny green foliage with exceptionally fine fawn to bright cinnamon indumentum

Flowers 8-lobed, white to rose, sometimes blotched or spotted crimson; 8 to 20 to a truss

Blooms March to April

Leaves curl up during heat or frost

An excellent plant, free-flowering when mature

4 feet in 10 years

***WHO SAYS WE DON'T GROW**

www.rhododendron.org

After Nov. 18 full information on Southeastern Chapter's **2012 ARS Convention** in Asheville, NC will be available by clicking on the **2012 convention**.

The hotel reservation link and registration form are available now.



REAL RHODOS IN NORTH CAROLINA ?

Charles Dexter Owen, Jr.'s garden is on the tour list for the Convention.
Picture courtesy of Mr. Owens secretary.

This 3 1/2 acre property is a collection of over 40 varieties of Rhodo-dendrons, one of the largest collections of Dexter hybrids in the south. Many are original plants from his great grandfather's nephew, Charles Owen Dexter. The house is situated on the back third of the property with a full wall of rhododendrons cascading over a 50 foot long brick wall on the parking area. The front terrace of the house looks out onto a huge outdoor "room" surrounded by a five foot holly hedge. Perennial beds in each corner soften the view. Beyond the hedge are newer plantings of native azaleas, a recent interest of the current owner, 'Charlie' Owen. Total privacy is maintained in the garden by 60 foot trees around three sides of the property. On the street side, scattered trees remain with rhododendrons throughout.

 **CHAPTER CALENDAR** 

- Nov 10 Patrick Osborn - *Species Rhododendrons in Your Garden*, see page 1
- Dec 8 Holiday Potluck Dinner and Member Slide Show
- Jan 12 2012 Pat Patterson - *Beneficial Insects in the Garden*
- Feb 9 Mike Stewart - *Plant Hunting in China*
- Mar 8 Panel Discussion - *Hybridizing Rhododendrons*, 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>

**Last Call! Dues Must be Paid by December 1 to
Receive ARS Winter Journal & besides, we'd miss you!**

SEND DUES TO
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Eugene, OR 97401