

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Newsletter January 2012

BENEFICIAL INSECTS IN THE GARDEN

On Thursday, January 12, 2012, Pat Patterson will present a program for us on the beneficial insects in our gardens. Please join us for cookies, coffee, and conversation at 7:00 p.m. before the program at 7:30. As usual the meeting will be at the Celeste Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street in Eugene.

Pat coordinated the OSU Master Gardener program for many years and has been a Master Gardener volunteer since 1976. Currently she is one of the responders on the Ask-An-Expert website through the e-Extension and does the Hatch Patch gardening radio show on KPNW (1120 AM) on Saturday mornings something that she terms a challenge but a lot of fun.

She and her husband, Bob, live and garden on their forested property on the east side of the coast range and love to travel. Their garden includes more than 30 rhododendrons.

Prior to the meeting you are invited to join us and Pat and Bob 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, January 10, so that I may notify the restaurant 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.



R. telmateium

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our chapter ended 2011 with a wonderful Holiday Potluck Dinner at which we enjoyed a beautifully decorated hall and tables, delicious food, good visits with our friends, and photos shared by members. My apologies for the "technical difficulties" - just when we think we have this figured out a new problem appears. Thank you to all who contributed to this special chapter event.

As 2012 begins I look ahead to some of the events that will take place during the year. My two years as President are ending and the March election will be

continued page 2

OFFICERS & BOARD

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Frances Burns, Editor	541-896-3216
Electronic mailing	- rebfeb@gmail.com
Postal Mailing	

JoAnn Napier 541-746-0828

WEBMASTER

Ted Hewitt 541-687-8119

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

for President, Vice-President, and two Board positions. As some of you know, the local Emerald Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society had its final meeting in 2011 not because of a low membership base but because of a lack of people interested in taking on leadership roles. Our chapter member, Bob Whitman, has indicated that this was also the scenario for the local rose society ten years ago. In our chapter, we have a long history of active participation and have accomplished a great deal. The chapter started as a small group of people interested in growing rhododendrons who met at members' houses but grew to an organization that sponsored flower shows, had meetings with interesting speakers, hosted national conventions, and had a large membership. As of now, our 2012 membership includes 48 Regular members and 18 Associate members though each membership often represents a couple. Therefore, we have a strong membership base but we need people to be involved with the leadership.

If you would like to be part of the chapter leadership as a Board member or as an officer or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Harold Greer or Frances Burns soon as they comprise the nominations committee. A Board member attends meetings about once per month to offer ideas on chapter activities and chapter business and volunteers to coordinate an activity such as a picnic. The President runs the chapter meetings and the Board meetings, sees that activities (meetings, Spring Rhododendron Show, plant sale, picnics, field trips) are planned and publicized with the help of others, oversees the business of the chapter, and holds a seat on the ARS District 4 Board of Directors. The Vice-President handles the duties of the President in his or her absence but usually coordinates some of the chapter business such as the program schedule and often succeeds the President in office. In my years as Vice-President and President, I have much enjoyed the opportunity to get to know chapter members better and to also meet ARS members from other chapters both in Oregon and from across the nation. Please be active and let us know who you would like to have as leaders. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself. Thank you.

After a chilly few weeks with a fair amount of fog, it is nice to see the weak winter sunshine and to wander the pathways of the garden. R. 'Yellow Hammer' is sporting a few blooms as is *Viburnum grandiflorum* and a few primulas, but many plants have swelling buds and I enjoy seeing which rhododendrons might be headed for a good bloom in the spring. For a plant with all year interest it is hard to beat R. 'Cilpinense' with its bright green, hairy foliage and the intricately patterned bud scales on the swelling buds.

Happy New Year to All. Drink in the delights of the winter garden. Ted

**Deep in their roots,
All flowers
Keep the light.**

Theodore Roethke,
American Poet



Unnamed hybrid by Ralph Burns

Happy New Year to All!

From Bogie and the Editor



Variegated 'Ditto's Mom' X



(Once Upon a Time!)



'Sue Ellen' fragrant, Art Childers, hybridizer



'Butterflies in the Snow'

'Anna' x white *macrophyllum*



White *macrophyllum* x 'Ditto's Mom'

THE LAPPONICA SUBSECTION OF SECTION RHODODENDRON IAN WALLACE & NORM BROWN

(Editor's Note: This article comes to us from two Australian devotees of the genus *Rhododendron*, whose gardens I have visited. They have graciously permitted our newsletter (and some Canadian newsletters) to reprint it. The photo on the front page is of *R. Telmateium*, also in this Subsection.)

The Subsection Lapponicum of the Section Rhododendron contains the largest natural group of truly dwarf alpine rhodo species, rarely exceeding five feet in height. They have aromatic evergreen leaves with dense scales on both surfaces, making them *Lepidotes*. The flowers are mostly in purple or pink shades with the odd yellow displayed in small terminal trusses or in some cases singly. The flowers themselves are generally funnel-shaped or tubular and not of a very thick texture, which can cause them to be easily damaged by windy wet weather. Most have short flower stalks with the calyx and the seed capsule also quite small.

Their normal distribution covers a large area of Western China down to Tibet and the Eastern Himalayas, and reaching high altitudes which generally makes them cold resistant, but all must have good drainage. There are many worthwhile plants garden plants in the series, most of which will do well in the Dandenongs and the foothills, but are very difficult on the lower slopes. One definite plus is that they generally flower as young plants. If they become leggy or misshapen they can be pruned with electric shears after flowering without causing too much harm.

Many of these plants have been used in hybridizing, particularly with the Triflorum Subsection, eg. *R. augustinii*, to create a wide range of almost blue hybrids originally for the Northern Hemisphere. To show the smaller members of the series at their best, and if room permits, it is better to plant them in groups of three or more to achieve the full effect of massed colour.

Some Lapponicum species that are still likely to be available:

R. chryseum. Can be cream to yellow with 4-5 flowers in truss and height to 2 feet. Goes well with purple.

R. fastigiatum. Light to dark purple, 4-5 flowers in truss, height to 3 feet, good glaucous foliage.

R. hippophaeoides. Lavender blue flowers, compact truss, height to 5 feet, likes a moist area, early flowering. 'Haba Shan' is probably the best form.

R. impeditum. Commonly grown, small purple flowers vary in colour, true dwarf.

R. lapponicum. The series type. Flowers purple, 3 to a truss, height to 3 feet. Difficult to grow.

R. intricatum. Lavender to mauve flowers in compact truss, height to 3 feet, one of the best.

R. rupicola. Commonly yellow, but best form plum crimson, outstanding, height to 2 feet, can be leggy.

R. russatum. Flowers reddish to intense violet, 4-6 to a truss, height 2-6 feet, leaves can be up to 2.5 inches long.

R. scintillans. Flowers purple rose to royal blue, 2-3 in a truss, height to 3 feet, tends to be straggly in shade.

R. websterianum. Flowers can be purple, but mostly pale blue in Australia. Height 3 feet, keep moist.

Some hybrids which are likely to be available:

'Blue Tit', nice foliage, pale mauve, average flowers. (*R. impeditum* x *R. augustinii*)

'Ilam Violet', one of the best deep violet flowers, can grow tall in time. (*R. augustinii* x *R. impeditum*).

'Intrifast', good foliage, violet-blue flowers, low compact grower, (*R. intricatum* x *R. fastigiatum*)

'Ocean Lake', deep blue, early, low dense bush. ('Blue Diamond' x 'Sapphire')

Continued on page 5

'Saint Breward', larger truss, good violet blue with low spreading habit, will grow taller in time, so use shears.

(*R. augustinii* x *R. impeditum*)

'Saint Merryn' another good dark violet blue with low spreading habit. ('Saint Tudy' x *R. impeditum*)

'Chikor', yellow flowers, small leaves which seem very dark for a rhodo. (*R. chryseum* x *R. ludlowii*)

'Ramapo', bright violet flowers, good grey young foliage, will take sun. (*R. fastigiatum* x *minus* Carolinianum Group)

'Russautinii', best forms of deep lavender, only buy this one when in flower, taller grower. (*R. russatum* x *R. augustinii*)

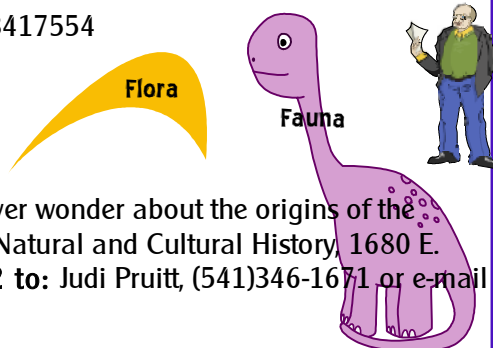
Personally, Ian thinks 'Blue Diamond' is superseded as it will not tolerate overhead shade. The above are just a few that may still be around.

PLACES TO GO ~ PEOPLE TO SEE

THE SIUSLAW CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY will meet Tuesday, January 17 at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, at 6.30 pm for refreshments followed by a presentation on **Disease Identification & Management**, by Pat Osborn, of Thompson's Nursery. His talk will focus on *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of Sudden Oak Death in rhododendronas and other flora. The meeting is free and open to all.

QUESTIONS ON THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NORTH CAROLINA IN MAY? For quick convention information go to <http://www.azaleas.org/convention12.html>

For special hotel rates and Crowne Plaza Resort information go to https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=3417554



A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY – Flora Fossils – Ever wonder about the origins of the ginkgo? Join us on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 5:30- 8:00 p.m. UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Avenue, Eugene. **RSVP requested by Tuesday, January 10, 2012 to:** Judi Pruitt, (541)346-1671 or e-mail judip@uoregon.edu

The Condon Collection will be shown, with speaker Greg Retallack, Co-director of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and UO Professor of Geological Science. Professor Retallack and UO graduate students will share the history and care of plant fossils. During this special evening event you can explore fossils from the collection with the experts and enjoy beverages and hors d'oeuvres – if you RSVP.

AN IRRUPTION OF SNOWY OWLS IS THRILLING BIRDERS AROUND THE SEATTLE REGION.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2017100661_snowies27m.html

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



2012 Chapter Calendar

- Jan 12 Pat Patterson - *Beneficial Insects in the Garden* – See page 1
- Feb 9 Mike Stewart - *Plant Hunting in China*
- Mar 8 Panel Discussion - *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 WHPG Plant Sale, Fairgrounds
- June Picnic - Date to be arranged
- Sep 21-23 ARS Western Regional Conference, “Rhodos in Paradise”, Nanaimo BC

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