

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

EUGENE CHAPTER

April 2012 Newsletter



'Loderi King
George'

Photo by
Ken Gibson

April 21 - Gardens of Belgium, Honors Banquet & Spring Show

On Saturday, April 21, please join us as we present the 2012 Spring Rhododendron Show and Honors Banquet with speaker Keith White from the ARS Willamette Chapter presenting a program on the *Gardens of Belgium*. Keith is a well-traveled rhodophile with several trips to the Himalayas in China, the big gardens of Britain, and recently to Belgium. Currently he is on the Board of Directors of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, WA. And yes, there will be an auction, with some wonderful choices in species and hybrids, so bring your checkbook and prepare to add to your plant collection while enjoying an evening visiting with friends as we celebrate this extraordinary genus grown in our gardens.

The show will be at **Mookie's Northwest Grill**, 400 International Way in northwest Springfield again this year, but set up in the atrium of the International Marketplace instead of the banquet room. So bring your entries in the front door between 3:15 & 4:45 p.m. Bring blooming trusses and sprays, samples of the interesting foliage, photos that you have taken, and the bonsai or vireyas that you are growing. Labels will be available to identify what you have brought.

At the entries table, each entry will receive a number to be written on the entry form in the upper right corner. Also, include the name of the rhododendron, your name, and the Section letters. Each entry will also entitle you to one ticket that will be entered in a drawing to win a free dinner for the evening. Last year Terry was the lucky winner. We will have people at the classification table to help identify the plant and to place it in the correct rack.

At 5 p.m. ballots will be distributed so that each attendee can practice their judging skills. This seems to generate a lot of discussion and careful observation of the entries and is fun as well. You simply need to write the entry number for what you deem the best entry in the following categories:

- **Deciduous Azaleas [A]**
- **Evergreen Azaleas [B]**
- **Pink Elepidotes [Cp]**
- **Red Elepidote, [Cr]**
- **Other-colored Elepidote, [Co]**
- **Lepidote, [D]**
- **Best Species (azalea, elepidote, or lepidote)**
Hybrids and species separated in each category.)

At 5:45 ballots will be collected and trophies awarded.

Terry Henderson and Jack Olson are again setting up a display of rhododendrons with interesting foliage and we encourage you to bring your own items of interest, be they good leaves or bonsai plants or rhododendron photos that you have taken or vireyas that you have grown.

At 6:00 dinner will be served offering a choice of four entrees plus salad and dessert:

- **8 oz. Slow Roasted Prime Rib**, cooked to your liking and served with garlic mashed potatoes and a seasonal vegetable.
- **Flame Broiled Silver Salmon**, lightly basted with Mookie's own lemon dill butter and served with rice pilaf and a seasonal vegetable.
- **Chicken Black Forest** - a boneless chicken breast served in a Marsala wine sauce with mushrooms and scallions. Served with garlic mashed potatoes and a seasonal vegetable.
- **Penne Pagoni** - Sun-dried and fresh chopped tomatoes, fresh spinach, kalamata olives, artichoke hearts, virgin olive oil, feta and pine nuts tossed with penne pasta. May be made as a vegan dish upon request.

The cost of dinner will be \$22.00 including gratuity - same price as last year. There will be a no-host bar but coffee, tea, water, and soft drinks are included for free. We need to let the restaurant know ahead of time how many dinners will be needed so please RSVP with your dinner choice [by Wednesday, April 18](#), to Ted Hewitt at (541) 687-8119 or e-mail ted.hewitt@comcast.net **You may pay for dinner and the plants you purchase with cash or check** (no credit cards since the chapter pays the restaurant directly for the evening).

After dinner, chapter awards will be presented, and the plant auction and speaker's program will begin. It will be great fun - a fine program, superb food, good friends - and a great tribute to our favorite "perennial".

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	541-483-6013
NEWSLETTER	
Frances Burns, Editor	541-896-5216
Electronic mailing	rebfeb@gmail.com
Postal Mailing	541-746-0828
JoAnn Napier	

Election Results

The following candidates were elected at the Annual Meeting March 8. Their terms begin July 1.

PRESIDENT: ALI SARLAK

Ali brings his leadership experience from Corvallis Chapter and this past year as Eugene Chapter Treasurer.

VICE-PRESIDENT: JACK OLSON

Jack has been an active member of the chapter for many years and brings experience and enthusiasm to the Board.

TREASURER: TED HEWITT

Ted will serve the remaining year of Ali's Treasurer's term.

BOARD POSITION: TOM BEATTY

Tom is a newer member but brings good ideas and has a long experience of working with rhododendrons.

BOARD POSITION: HELEN BAXTER

Helen has been a board member for several years continued to be an effective chapter leader.

BOTANIZING IN PATAGONIA WITH ALI SARLAK

In the middle of January, to escape the grayish, cold, rainy, dark and wet weather of Corvallis, I traveled to Argentina with a couple friends from Portland; our aim was botanizing in the Mountains of Patagonia, that are located partly in Argentina and partly in Chile. Mostly we traveled in the southwest part of Argentina which is called Patagonia. Due to lack of snows this year the alpiners were not in the best condition; however, there were many other beauties which filled the gap!!

We traveled almost 2500 miles in the rental car, on any roads you might imagine. The highway goes from North to South in Argentina and is still under construction. Some days we were on sand and gravel with speeds of 30 miles or less, but, I should say, the roads were not all distressful traveling. We passed hundreds of guanacos, rheas, armadillos, and foxes, as well as sheep and their shepherds. In Patagonia the guanacos are a protected species and now you can view them like sheep in the field!!!

Patagonia is desert land with all the beauties that you might expect. It is very dry, sandy, rocky and at the time was very windy. It is sheep grazing land and sheep are seen by the thousands, thousands, and thousands. I might say there are some plants - shrubs adjusted to such harsh climate that sheep can eat.

"*Lonely Plants*" describes Patagonia as the "South America Southern Frontier where nature - long left to its own devices - grows wild, barren and beautiful. Spaces are large, as are the silences that fill them; for those who come here, an encounter with such emptiness can be as awesome as the sight of jagged peaks, pristine rivers and dusty backwater oases".

Certainly, through seeing plants, animals, birds, mountains, rivers, glaciers, lakes and more lakes, I witnessed such beauty in Patagonia. I could not end this note without not mentioning the warmth of the people and their honesty. And it won't be the last time I will be hiking in Patagonia.



Photo by Ali Sarlak

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For many ARS chapters, declining membership is a problem and it is now more difficult for a single chapter to host a national convention. Within District 4, the Eugene and Portland chapters are the only two that have ever hosted a convention, so, in 2011, when it became the turn of District 4 to host the convention, it was decided to do this as a district. I think everyone will agree that the convention was a success on all accounts and that the six chapters did a fine job. After all the bills were paid, the profit from the convention stood at \$17,087.52. Of this \$1,700.00 was donated to the ARS General Fund and the rest was divided among the six chapters of the district based on the individual efforts of the membership, with the Eugene Chapter receiving \$3,077.50. Many thanks to all our members who helped to host this convention be it with organization, the plant sale, introducing speakers, the hospitality table, or hosting a bus tour.

At the March chapter meeting, the slate of nominees for leadership positions was approved by a voice vote so, on July 1, Ali Sarlak will assume the duties of chapter President, Jack Olson will assist as Vice-President, Tom Beatty and Helen Baxter will take seats on the Board, and I will take the checkbook from Ali and finish his final year as Treasurer. I want to thank these people for their willingness to assume leadership roles and to thank Frances Burns and Leonard Frojen, as they finish their Board terms, for the many contributions they have made. As with many groups with which I am familiar, filling leadership roles is becoming an increasing problem and I urge you to consider stepping forward to help with some part of keeping the organization viable. Please contact any of the Board members if you can offer to coordinate a picnic, the Holiday Dinner, the Spring Rhododendron Show, publicity of our activities, or the hospitality at our meetings. Your help will be much appreciated.

Within the next few months, there are a number of chapter

activities for you to enjoy and help with - the Spring Rhododendron Show on April 21 (see another article in this NL), our main fundraiser, the plant sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds on May 12 (we can always use help here), a couple of open garden dates for the Hinsdale Garden, and our chapter picnic in June. At the March 8 chapter meeting, I mentioned a little bit about the Hardy Plant Group inviting our chapter to be a vendor at the Northwest Study Weekend in June. Unfortunately, they have had to cancel this event due to a poor initial registration so we will lose the opportunity to have this exposure to the broader garden community. Their Board has put a great deal of effort into the planning of this conference, which they have successfully sponsored several times in past years, and our gardening community will miss this fine event.

By the time you read this, April will be here and the enjoyment of the beauty of rhododendrons will be well underway. However, there just never seems to be enough time in April and May to do all that I want to but it's nice to at least start making a list - being in gardens of friends, walking through Hendricks Park, meandering through the plants and mature plantings at Greer Gardens, driving along the Umpqua River to see the Hinsdale Garden or north to visit the Cecil Smith Garden or further north to the lovely Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden. Of course, spending time in our own garden is much enjoyed by Paula and me as we watch plants grow and change, creating patterns of texture, color, and shape. By the way, the Cecil Smith Garden is open to the public on most weekends in April and May and information can be found on the web site www.smithgarden.org. As happens every year, I realize how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful part of the country..

TED

BOB KINTIGH, AGE 90, REMEMBERED

Having seen Bob recently, we were shocked and saddened to hear of his passing March 21, Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and their family of four sons, a daughter, 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

We realize he was in pain, but will miss his quiet sense of humor and willingness to share his love of trees and rhododendrons. With Margaret, their garden was generously made available for chapter picnics several times.

Bob was a former president of Eugene Chapter as well as a former state legislator for 12 years- the "only forester ever to serve in the Senate". He was a dedicated advocate for sustainable forestry, private tree growers and rural residents. His Mountain Home Ranch tree farm once provided a Christmas tree for the White House. Bob had a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Penn State, who recently recognized him as an Outstanding Alumnus His war duty as a WW II Naval officer was followed by a Master's degree in forestry from the University of California at Berkeley. Bob and Margaret bought their land in Cedar Flat in 1957 and settled in to raise their family and enjoy not only his many successes and awards, but their 68-year marriage and the development of their large rhododendron garden, his pride and joy. He will be missed on many levels. A memorial service will be held March 31 at 1:00 p.m. At Grace Community Church, 989 Country Club Road. Eugene. Remembrances may be sent to the Eugene Mission, PO Box 1149, Eugene. 97440. *Mary Furr & Frances Burns*

PEOPLE, PLACES & PLANTS : SIR EDMUND GILES LODER, 2nd BT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEONARDSLEE GARDEN AND THE RAISING OF RHODODENDRON 'LODERI'

Continued from the March Newsletter

Whilst life in the Victorian era was considerably more leisurely, it was governed by strict formal codes of etiquette amongst the aristocracy and the country house set, something many present-day enthusiasts have great difficulty in comprehending.

An invitation to dinner was usually the mechanism by which discussions could be facilitated, and sometimes that would lead to a walk around the grounds and an exchange of plant information. Plant hybridization was carried out under a veil of secrecy, as the status of a garden was measured by the rarity of the plants it contained, so current work with crosses would not be discussed, other than the results of crosses made at an earlier stage.

A second plant-hunting expedition took place in 1883, this time to the Dolomites where he and Marion sought alpine plants for the rock garden at Floore. In 1885, when the Amat, Corriemulzie and Glen Diebidale deer stalking leases terminated, Sir Robert Loder rented the Forest of Glenavon in Forfarshire from the Duke of Richmond, and continued the tenancy till his death in 1888. After Sir Robert's death Sir Edmund took places for himself; Kintail Forest, near Kyle of Lochalsh, was taken by him and his brother Reginald.

Edmund Loder's son, Robert Egerton Loder, was born on 27th July, 1887 and named after his grandfather, but known as 'Robin' amongst family and friends, and was never to know any other home than Leonardslee. For the last three years Edmund Loder was at Floore, from 1886 to 1888, he was on the Council of the Horticultural Society, and it was through love of gardening that he formed friendships with such men as the Rev. C. Wolley Dod, Sir Trevor Laurence, Sir Michael Foster and Sir Joseph Hooker. There are at least two highly appreciative entries in the Guest Book at Floore by Sir Joseph Hooker in regard to the gardens, expressing surprise at the numbers of plants in the collections and remarking on the charms of Floore. And so the years passed between Floore and Amat, with weeks spent in London or abroad, with visits to Whittlebury and to other country houses.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEONARDSLEE WOODLAND GARDEN:

Sir Robert Loder, who passed away suddenly at the Beach House, Worthing on 27th May, 1888, was determined that his eldest son should be the leader of the Family, reside at Whittlebury, and inherit his title along with the bulk of the family fortune. There were seven brothers still extant, although one of the three daughters died at an early age. This in effect resulted in 'musical chairs' being played with the other Loder estates, as Floore was left to Sydney Loder; The High Beeches was left to Wilfred Loder; and the Beach House, purchased in 1878, was left to Sir Robert's wife, Maria. These arrangements did not meet with the approval of Sir Edmund who did not want to live at Whittlebury and perhaps had his eyes on The High Beeches in the more temperate climate of Sussex. Whilst the arrangements in Sir Robert's will were being discussed and enacted, in 1889 Sir Edmund purchased the 240 acre (100 he) Leonardslee estate from his ageing father-in-law and this provided him with the opportunity to leave Northamptonshire and to return to his native Sussex. And, Leonardslee, his wife's old home just five miles from The High Beeches, became theirs to the end of his life.

When Sir Edmund left Floore in August, 1889 he did very much what Peter Beckford did with his harriers—"having thus got them perfect he parted with them"; Sir Edmund presented the whole of his cacti collection to the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, and changed his interests to trees and shrubs. Once he had made his mind up he was steadfast in his decisions and this enabled him to move on and not be concerned about what had gone before. Thirty-two years after, Professor Bayley Balfour writing to Lady Loder (January 1921) recalled:

"I have a most vivid recollection of the splendid collection of cacti, presented to us by Sir Edmund Loder, coming here. It was in the year after I came to Edinburgh and I find on looking up our records that there were 250 species of cacti and of other succulent plants in the gift—truly a sumptuous one and one that I valued very greatly because it really was the foundation of our collection. I am glad to tell you that nearly the whole of them are still alive and thriving here. . . . Many of them of course have had to be propagated, the older plants dying out, but I can safely say that the gift is still the backbone of our collection. It has always been a very pleasant thought to me that Sir Edmund was so kind to us."

There must have been a period, previous to the 19th Century, when the district around Leonardslee suffered severely through the felling of its oaks for the Navy, and the felling of timber more generally to provide charcoal for Sussex furnaces and foundries. But two hundred and fifty years had given time for the recovery from any desolation wrought by the iron industries. Such traces as survive of ironworking in the county add rather than detract from its valley scenery. The uninformed would never guess, for instance, that the chain of ponds and lakes in the main valley at Leonardslee, studded with gem-like nymphaea, reflecting gigantic-leaved gunnera and aquatic wonders of plant life along their borders, had been evolved out of the old

"Hammer Ponds" -- the ancient reservoirs which ensured the continual running of the water-wheels which drove the batteries of stamps which crushed the iron ore.

About 1803 a thousand acres in the south of Lower Beeding parish were sold from the St. Leonard's Forest estate to Charles George Beauclerk, being known after c. 1870 as the Leonardslee estate. In around 1852 the estate passed to W. Egerton Hubbard, a Russia merchant in the City of London, and a new house was designed in the Italianate style by T. L. Donaldson and built of local sandstone in 1853. Much of the property had originally been covered by scrub, birch and oak, and sometime prior to 1852 Beauclerk had begun to lay out the 40-acre grounds in the style of an 'American Garden', containing rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and other ornamental shrubs; and the Wellingtonias were evidently planted at that time.

The main feature is a very long deep valley, narrow and wild at the high end, running down from north to south, deepening, widening and opening itself more and more to the sun. In the bottom a stream flows down through a chain of pools, ponds and lakes, the waters becoming larger and wider as the valley broadens out. On the edge of the western plateau stands the house, commanding an extensive view of the valley, of the lake with its various waterfowl below, of the hills, of woods, and to the right, away over miles of Sussex, to the Downs.

He immediately began planting trees and shrubs on a grand scale to create an 80-acre woodland garden from the somewhat empty valley on the Wealden sandstone to the south of Horsham. Following the lead of James H. Mangles, whose pioneering work with *R. griffithianum* created a range of hybrids from the primary species available between 1860 and 1880, and who probably had commenced a program of secondary crosses prior to his untimely death in 1884, Sir Edmund took up the torch that Mangles had carried for over 20 years. Sir Edmund perceived that if rhododendrons were to be improved as garden plants some new strain must be introduced to create hybrids that would in future become good flowering shrubs. This theory he put into practice by acquiring a fine collection of the Himalayan species and a few of the best Chinese then known and crossing them together, as well as using them as pollen parents on the best of the *R. caucasicum*, *arboreum* & *catawbiense* hybrids already in existence.

John Guille Millais, artist and natural history author, lived at Compton's Brow in Horsham, Sussex where he had a sixteen-acre garden running down to a valley in St. Leonards Forest; and had a friend and neighbour in Sir Edmund Loder at Leonardslee. Millais was an avid do-it-yourself gardener and this came to the fore in the opening chapter of his 1917 monumental work titled, *Rhododendrons and their Various Hybrids* :

In the formation of the garden and its surroundings. . . it is much better that he who will always live there should create his own even if he does make the most colossal errors. In time by the study of others gardens he can correct most of the mistakes, and will appreciate any success he may achieve in far greater proportion than if it had been created by others. The very essence of the enjoyment of gardens is to do things yourself. . . One point, too often missed, that is of importance is that the owner should introduce into his garden his own individuality.

Sir Edmund was a man with a mission, and engaged the services of James Pulham & Sons, the famous landscaping company of Woodbridge in Suffolk, to create a massive sandstone rock garden near the House.

James H. Mangles was struck down with a serious illness in 1884 and, when it became clear he would no longer be able to care for the seedlings from his on-going hybridization program, a load was sent to his friend Colonel Frederick Du Cane Godman (1834-1919) at South Lodge in Horsham to be grown on. Mixed in with the plants were a few seedlings raised by another of Mangles' hybridizing friends, Mr. Luscombe of Combe Royal, Cornwall and, as the hardiness of the seedlings was uncertain, Col. Fred Godman placed them all in a cold greenhouse. Col. Fred Godman had bought the South Lodge estate in around 1880 and had started to develop the gardens prior to rebuilding the house in 1883. One of the seedlings did particularly well, but became too large to continue growing under glass, so he gave his new neighbour on the other side of the road at Leonardslee, Sir Edmund, some cuttings to graft. It was probably one of Sir Edmund's skilled gardeners who grafted the cuttings on to plants of *R. ponticum* and these were planted in various parts of the garden, and placed in a coldhouse, to determine their hardiness.

The plant in the greenhouse grew well, producing the clear white flowers of a *R. griffithianum* parentage in April and, when it was possible to ascertain the grafts were hardy, Sir Edmund sent specimens to his friends in Cornwall for trial in their climate. It quickly became clear that the cross flowered somewhat later outdoors, was very hardy, and this milestone in the annals of hybridization became referred to in Cornwall as 'Loder's White'. Sir Edmund exhibited, introduced and registered 'Loder's White' in 1911, when it received an Award of Merit. There has been much debate as to origin and parentage of the cross, and the 'officially' suggested parentage is probably incorrect; Frederick Street whose knowledge of old hybrids was extensive, and who had the ability to recognize them from their leaves, is probably much nearer the mark:

“The habit is compact and the foliage is dark and shiny. The shape of each leaf is very similar to that of the old hybrid called ‘Album Elegans’ which was used to raise ‘Alice Mangles’, and were it not for the compact habit of the plant, I would say it was another seedling of the same cross.”

Despite James H. Mangles being particularly meticulous with his hybridization program, his records have never been found, but it would not be unreasonable to suggest that he had progressed to make secondary crosses using ‘Alice Mangles’ and ‘Album Elegans’, which led to the first hardy hybrid of *R. griffithianum* that Sir Edmund and many of his friends used to make a plethora of new crosses.

In the late 1800's the ‘key’ rhododendrons enthusiasts of the era, together with many famous rhododendron nurseries, made their own replica crosses of plants that had been exhibited, gained awards and were highly sought after by gentleman gardeners. Sir Edmunds was no exception in this regard and he endeavor to repeat the crosses using the best specimens of species and hybrids available. He was successful in creating better forms of several hybrids, but that’s another story.

The following is taken from Sir Edmund Loder’s own notes made in 1913 outlining the conditions under which he pursued his hobby of acclimatizing rare and beautiful plants and trees.

Leonardslee is 270 feet above sea-level: 9 miles from the northern slopes of the South Downs and 13 miles in a direct line to the sea near Shoreham. The ground planted occupies both sides of a valley running nearly north and south. It is partially sheltered from southwest gales by trees and by the configuration of the ground. The soil varies considerably in different parts, generally, however, containing sand, mixed more or less with clay. Geologically it is ‘Upper Tunbridge Sand’ and ‘Cuckfield Clay.’ The natural growth is heather, bracken and birch trees.

In 1913 he spent many, many hours reviewing the proof of his first publication, *List of Trees and Shrubs grown in the Open Air at Leonardslee*, a somewhat rare book of 122 pages, published by the Army and Navy Co-operative Society of London.

THE CREATION OF THE LODERI CROSS:

Throughout his life Sir Edmund had set himself complex problems to solve, with which he wrestled tirelessly, to the amazement of his close companions. He perceived that if rhododendrons were to be improved as garden plants some new strain must be introduced to create hybrids that would be good flowering shrubs. As was the case with his zoological studies and interests, what mattered for eventual success was that he spared no pains to obtain exceptional specimens of the various species with which to breed. In 1901 he selected a particularly sweet-scented and large-flowered *R. fortunei* amongst the several he had, as the seed parent. But as he did not consider any of the *R. griffithianum* which he had were good enough, Sir Edmund sought to locate a better specimen of this species. He was fortunate to discover a particularly good form of *R. griffithianum* growing in a cold house, across the road from Leonardslee, in the South Lodge garden of Colonel Fred Godman, who kindly allowed him to take pollen from the plant back to Leonardslee. Dozens and dozens of seedlings were raised from this cross, and they proved to be vigorous growers, some with leaves a foot long.

The original cross was raised in three batches; twice *R. griffithianum* was the male parent, and once *R. fortunei*. Sixty to seventy per cent were successful when *R. griffithianum* was used. Only about twelve per cent were successful when the *R. fortunei* was the father, which the seedlings tended to replicate, so perhaps this was a genetic problem. The first plant to flower in 1907 at Leonardslee was ‘White Diamond’, producing a handsome truss with individual flowers 6 inches in diameter. Many of the seedlings at Leonardslee were named after members of the family, or personalities; those at The High Beeches were named after racehorses. William Watson (1858-1922), Curator at R.B.G., Kew, came to visit and was much taken with the new seedlings; he suggested the name ‘Loderi’. Some plants did not produce mature flowers and were not named until after Sir Edmund’s death; amongst these was ‘Loderi Sir Edmund’, the last to bloom in 1921. The best varieties are not necessarily those first named by Sir Edmund, but experience over many years suggests that in Britain the best are ‘Loderi King George’ (which carries 10 to 12 flowers, often 7 inches across), ‘Loderi Sir Edmund’ (immense pink, waxy flowers, retains pink in veins), ‘Loderi White Diamond’ (see notes above), ‘Loderi Sir Joseph Hooker’ (white, prominent pink veins), ‘Loderi Pink Coral’ (retains its lighter pink colour), ‘Loderi Pink Diamond’ (opens pink and quickly fades to greenish white), ‘Loderi Game Chick’ (opens pink and fades to white, flowers around a week later) and ‘Loderi Venus’ (opens pink and fades to blush, flowers around a week later). These latter two are useful for extending the flowering season of the grex and may be from the batch which had *R. fortunei* as the father.

Two later batches of crosses were made with the same parents post-1907 and prior to the death of Sir Edmund Loder in 1920; however, the progeny has never replicated the quality of the original 1901 cross, and actual dates of flowering and naming are unknown. At least six other hybridizes in the same era, and several key nurseries, have made the same cross without obtaining the grand size and quality of the flowers in Sir Edmund’s hybrid; whilst countless enthusiasts across the years have used R. ‘Loderi’ in their inter-grex crosses. *To be continued in the May Newsletter.*

Half the interest of a garden is in the constant exercise of the imagination. Mrs. C. W. Earle

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THE CECIL AND MOLLY SMITH GARDEN, world renowned for its collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons, will be open during the blooming season, Saturdays and Sundays, April 7th through May 20th, 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This three-acre natural woodland setting also features choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and bulbs, including Cyclamen, Trillium, Erythronium and Narcissus which complement the over 600 rhododendrons and azaleas. Established in the early 1950's, the garden contains many rare species grown by Cecil Smith from seeds imported from China and cuttings from England, as well as hybrids he developed.

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society purchased the garden in 1983 and, along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, now manages and maintains it. A selection of plants featured in the garden are available for purchase. There is a modest admission fee of \$3.00. Due to the sloping site the garden is not considered handicap accessible.

The garden is located at 5065 Raybell Road, St. Paul, Oregon, 7/10ths of a mile west of Highway 219 between St. Paul and Newberg. Turn west on Champeog Road (look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign) and continue straight on to Raybell Road to the garden. Parking and entrance are on the right just past the house with the garden address. For more information, call Ginny Mapes at 503-647-2896 or see <http://www.smithgarden.org> This spring, don't miss this hidden gem which has been featured in *Horticulture* magazine and several television programs.

THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HARDY PLANT GROUP will present Jeffrey Bale, garden designer and mosaic artist, on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St, Eugene, OR. Jeffrey will present a slide show entitled "The Pleasure Garden," which explores the concept as it manifests itself in several cultures.

A graduate of the University of Oregon's Landscape Architecture program, Jeffrey is now based in Portland but has designed gardens and mosaics throughout the US. His wide-ranging travels abroad to study mosaics and construction techniques contribute to his eclectic style.

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, or the 21st annual May 12 Plant Sale, visit the website at www.thehardyplantgroup.org or call 541-344-0896.



EDITOR'S BYTE FRANCES BURNS

Love solving puzzles? Crack the secret code by substituting another letter of the alphabet for each letter in the following puzzle. You will find a delightful quote from a famous plant explorer. The letters "e", "t" and "a" are used more frequently in the English language, as a rule, than any other letters. Get a good #2 pencil with a fat eraser and have a go at it. *First local chapter member to solve it gets a free plant from the editor!*

F AHO CLFKK BFALQMD LUD CADOD FO LUHL IFJ KFLDKD CJRZD-
XHKHAZDODI MRRJ, LUD MFHO KHCUFOW IRVO RQLCFID, HOI LUD
MRHM RY LUD MFEDM GQCL XDKRV QC, VUFKD F KHS XHAZ RO
JS XDI DOGRSFOW FL UQWDKS, HKK AHMDC YRMWRLLO.

2012 HINSDALE GARDEN VISITS

Spring *n.* That season of the year following winter in which plants flower and begin growth.

Spring *v.* Constant, lively movement adopted by garden enthusiasts each year in an effort to view every emergent plant or tree within reach by foot, auto or other means of transport.

Here are two more dates to add to this year's calendar of delights: **Saturday, May 12 & Wednesday, May 16** at Hinsdale Garden located next to the scenic Umpqua River about 5 miles east of Reedsport on highway 38.

May 12 will be this year's Public open garden day, starting at 10 a.m. and includes a special invitation to ARS members to act as docents and ambassadors for the garden and rhododendrons—a primary goal we share. A definite plus is the opportunity to do so in a garden created during the early years of the ARS.

Visitors on the 12th will check in at 10 a.m. at the kiosk and information center for the elk viewing area west of the garden. BLM will provide shuttle service from there to and from the garden. Though the entire garden is not available to persons with disabilities, they will find much of the main garden, along with excellent perspectives of large plants in the east garden, quite visible from the driveway circling in front of the house.

Several other events clamor for gardeners' attention on the weekend, so we have arranged time the following Wednesday, May 16, especially for garden enthusiasts. This date is for ARS members, their gardening friends and members of other garden groups. Folks of limited mobility may be left off at the main entrance, and parking will be in the small lot immediately east of the garden. Car-pooling is encouraged because of limited parking space.

It simply doesn't get any better than a coastal drive highlighting nature's annual renewal, coupled with your

THE DISCOVERY OF JEANNE BARET

A STORY OF SCIENCE, THE HIGH SEAS,

AND THE FIRST WOMAN TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE GLOBE

In 1740 when Jeanne Baret was born in Burgundy, France, her parents lived a life of serf-like existence, selling their daily labor in the fields, starving through the winter if there was no work, and living in with no comforts in dismal shacks belonging to the landowner. With illiteracy rates up to 80% for men and 90% for women, their average life expectancy was 26 years.

How, then, did Jeanne Baret, at 26, find herself living well in Paris, preparing specimens and organizing the written material for an eminent botanist, Philibert Commerson. He recently had been appointed official naturalist to the first circumnavigation of the world by the French in their quest for empire: medicine, spices, timber, and food.

Commerson could identify most species, but had little knowledge of their healing properties – of great interest to him as a former medical student. Thus the assistance of peasant herb woman Jeanne – who claimed the heritage of “ethnobotanical wisdom” of centuries – was of great value to botanist Commerson, whose life was intertwined with hers as long as he lived. She proved to be an able plant illustrator, as well, as a strong sturdy woman in the field.

On February 1, 1767, with petite, plain Jeanne disguised as a man, they sailed with the Louis-Antoine Bougainville expedition on the small sailing ship, *Etoile*, – from Aix to Rio de Janeiro, where Jeanne collected and named *bougainvillea brasiliense*, after the ship's captain – on through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific Ocean, eventually arriving in Tahiti in April 1768.

It would be late 1774 or early 1775 before she set foot again in France, the years in between filled with adventure, pain, and penury – a demeaning, difficult and uncertain life for the first woman to circumnavigate the world. It reads like a novel, yet is really the discovery of one of the world's first women botanists.

HARDY PLANT GROUP 21ST ANNUAL PLANT SALE

AT THE LANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Eugene, OR

MAY 12, 2012

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present its 21st annual Hardy Plant Sale on Saturday, May 12, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lane County Fairgrounds in the Auditorium Building.

This indoor sale has 24 specialty vendors and non-profit groups selling both new and familiar perennials, trees, shrubs, grasses, hostas, rock garden plants, peonies, heather, rhododendrons, ferns, native plants, and food plants.

There will also be a collection of birdhouses and feeders for sale, as well as information about butterfly gardens.

The Hardy Plant Sale is a great way to meet new vendors and buy unusual plants of all kinds. Rain or shine, join us for this great annual event in the Auditorium building at the Fairgrounds.

Help will be available to move plants from the check out area to cars, which park free at the Fairgrounds.

Proceeds from the sale support the Hardy Plant Group's Speakers and Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

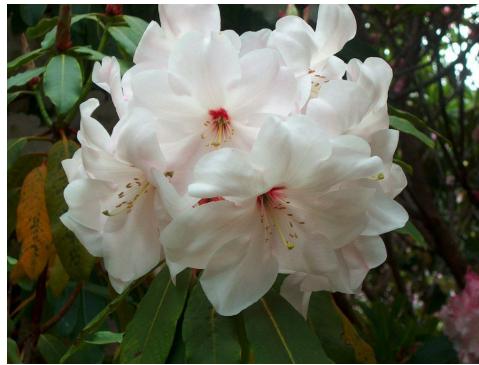
**For more information about this event,
contact Pam Perryman at 541-344-0896 or visit**

www.thehardyplantgroup.org.

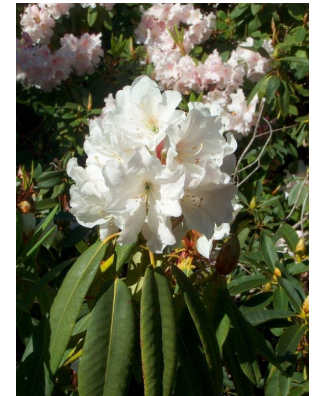
Eugene Chapter
 American Rhododendron Society
 PO Box 7704
 Eugene, OR 97401



'Loderi Game Chick'



'Loderi White Diamond'



'Loderi Clay'

Photos by
 Ken Gibson



'Loderi Mollie Coker'



'Loderi Pretty Polly'

Others in the Loderi Group are: 'Loderi Cream', 'Loderi Dairymaid', 'Loderi Diamond', 'Loderi Fairyland', 'Loderi Fairy Queen', 'Loderi Georgette', 'Loderi Helen', 'Loderi Irene Stead', 'Loderi Julie', 'Loderi Maximus', 'Loderi May Pink', 'Loderi Maillais Pink', 'Loderi Netherfield Rose', 'Loderi Olga', 'Loderi Patience', 'Loderi Pearly Queen', 'Loderi Pink Coral', 'Loderi Pink Diamond', 'Loderi Pink Glamour', 'Loderi Pink Satin', 'Loderi Pink Topaz', 'Loderi Princess Marin', 'Loderi Queen Mary', 'Loderi Sir Edmund', 'Loderi Stag's Head', 'Loderi Sue', 'Loderi Superlative', 'Loderi Titan', 'Loderi Venus', 'Loderi White Diamond', and 'Loderi King George' (pictured on page 1)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 10 WHPG meeting, 7 p.m. at Campbell Center, 155 High Street, Eugene

Apr 14 & 15 Siuslaw Chapter 2012 Early Flower Show, Plant Sale & Bonsai Exhibit, Saturday & Sunday

Apr 21 Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet at Mookie's - Speaker Keith White on *Gardens of Belgium*

May 4-7 2012 ARS Convention, jointly with Azalea Society, Crown Plaza Resort, Asheville, NC. Last Chance!

May 12 WVHPG Plant Sale, including our Eugene Chapter Plant Sale will be Fairgrounds on 13th.

May 12 10 a.m. Hinsdale Garden Open to Public - on the Umpqua River 5 miles east of Reedsport on Hwy 38.

May 16 10 a.m. Hinsdale Garden Open to ARS members. See page 8.

May 19 & 20 Siuslaw Chapter May 2012 Festival Rhododendron Show with Plant & Book Sales, Saturday & Sunday

Jun 7-10 2012 Hardy Plant Study Weekend at Valley River Inn CANCELLED

Jun 24 Picnic - Date and place to be arranged

Sep 9 Fall Picnic at Dunroamin with Frances Burns, Mary & Doug Furr

Sep 21-23 ARS Western Regional Conference, "Rhodos in Paradise", Nanaimo BC