

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eugene Chapter

January 2013 Newsletter



IT'S SUMMER IN NEW ZEALAND Photo by Alan Trott

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NEWSLETTER

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

Postal Mailing

JoAnn Napier	541-746-0828
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Webmaster Ted Hewitt	547-687-8119
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Chapter Program for Thursday, January 10: RHODODENDRON DIVERSITY

Harold Greer will be showing us the many different types of plants that exist in the Genus RHODODENDRON – an amazing diversity that most people do not realize exists.

It was a rather flat ending to 2012 for Harold, with the occurrence of some trifling woes that can befall one on a short vacation – finding his favorite restaurant in Klamath Falls closed after driving from Bend with a big appetite, and the further insult to injury of getting a speeding ticket while passing a car. This well-known Rhododendron author, hybridizer, former President of the ARS, and photographer with a lesser known affinity for superb Oregon scenery, needs no introduction as he takes his local chapter with him on a digital slide trip on Hymenanthes “back roads” for our inspiration and enlightenment. We hope that you can join us for a great evening!

EUGENE CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons.

Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships.

Grow both species & hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens.

Educate ourselves & the community about the world of rhododendrons.

Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons.

Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community.

The meeting at Campbell Center, 155 High Street, Eugene, at 7:00 pm begins with coffee, tea, treats and an opportunity to visit with friends and meet new ones prior to the program. For those who enjoy our pre-meeting no-host dinners honoring the speaker, please meet at the TaRaRin Thai restaurant, Twelfth and Oak, Eugene, at 5:00 pm for an excellent meal. Wit, wisdom and wine (at your request) flow freely when the group gets together. Please phone Helen Baxter at 541-461-6082 or e-mail her at galen.baxter@comcast.net by January 7, if you plan to attend.



A Crystal Clear Sunny Day in Oregon's High Desert Region

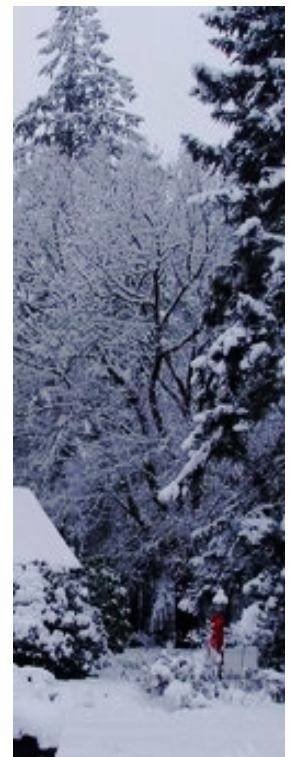
Photo by Harold Greer

Editor's Byte Frances Burns

December 21, the last day of the Mayan calendar, four cormorants perched on the Big Rock in the middle of the river eight inches above the swirling frigid water – heads high, stoically scanning the sky, possibly contemplating the predicted end of the world. Hours later, weary of well-doing and their wake finished, they lifted gracefully off the rock and flew down the fast flowing river, under the covered bridge, to finally descend onto a half-submerged log in shallow Leaburg lake. The day ended and night fell, just as it had for tens of thousands of years.

A family of beavers (*Castor canadensis*), Oregon's largest rodent, made a recent move to the riverbank adjacent to our home and garden, paddling silently about in the swift water and gnawing on saplings and young trees by night. Since we'd not seen beaver sign for two decades – they were heavily trapped – we were quite elated, yet hoping Bogie wouldn't get his nose bitten off or dragged into the river and drowned. Some say beavers are nocturnal because they switched from daytime activity to stay alive. Until they were extensively hunted and trapped by men in boats, eaten by bear, coyotes, bobcats, cougars or killed by dogs, beavers were mostly active during the day when they actually see better. Fewer in number and less often trapped, they remain nocturnal animals. Amazing. In the face of extinction an entire species changed their lives. Fishermen dislike that they eat salmon and gardeners hope they won't run out of saplings and move into their gardens to dine. Long live the saplings!

This winter, California quail have survived in the blackberry swamp thus far, despite wily coyote's daily travels through the area, leaving their tell-tale scat on the driveway. Winter birds come in to the suet/sunflower feeder...a flicker and a single spotted towhee pecking around under an azalea for seeds with the juncos. A humming bird returned after a two-week absence, desperate to find its missing feeder momentarily in the house thawing out. A sharp-shinned hawk scooped up a pine siskin and flew into the forest, leaving behind a small pile of feathers. Despite the winter cold and snow, and hungry predators, somehow survival continues...



When it comes to rhododendrons, some of us are incurable.

To paraphrase American writer/rose lover Eleanor Perenyi

MANY THANKS FROM THE PRESIDENT, ALI SARLAK

Eugene Chapter's Holiday Banquet

When I got in the car at our home in Corvallis, my wife Gloria asked if I was wearing enough warm clothes; My answer was, "If there is no crisis between here and Campbell Center I should be OK"

Certainly, she was right to be concerned - when we arrived at the Center no staff member was around to let us into the hall on this cold dark night! Each and every body who was there with food, fun and pictures to show came up with suggestions: Douglas, with no phone number available o reach staff, called the Fire Department on his cell phone; Nancy Burns tried opening the door with her credit card; I thought of wearing Santa's Clothes and descending in the Chimney to release the door latch; Gordon urged us to take our plunder and go over to Greer's Nursery; Frances showed the most patience of all (*Ed. Note: Thanks Ali, that's a first!*) We started loading our cars to follow Plan B, Gordon's suggestion we go to Greer's Nursery instead. He exited in a beeline out of the the parking lot to Greer's Nursery - but hark! Before the rest of us could join him, a Campbell Staff member emerged out of the dark frosty night, claiming we were an hour early. Not so!!!

He unlocked the door, the lights flashed on and from that moment on our event went very smoothly!! It didn't take long for Frances, Mary and Douglas to set up and decorate tables with fresh green center-pieces that Mary had made. Everyone put their appetizers, salads, side dishes, breads and desserts on the table, and away we all flew to the buffet line with our plates.

Boy, the smoked turkey and ham Douglas had prepared were so delicious, and, of course everyone had brought plenty of their favorites dishes, from appetizers to nuts to share with the rest of us - quite a feast I should say!!

Of course, Harold did a nice job with the projector to show our slides. Many thanks to the folks who brought some pictures to share with everybody!

Nancy Greer and Harold brought a Wreath made from greens around the Nursery, including some rhododendron leaves. In a spirited auction, Paula and Ted Hewitt took it home to enjoy during the holidays. Well done! Well done, and thanks for the contribution to our chapter!

In conclusion, we had a great time with delicious food and good turnout, despite a stressful, cold beginning.

Photos by Ali



The Precision Decision Makers, Mary & Doug



The long and short of it - Helen in the Lead!



Having Fun - Thawing Slowly

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE UPCOMING CLASSES IN LANE COUNTY

Contact: Ross Penhallegon

Phone: 541-344-5859

The OSU Extension Service, Farms & Gardens Program has scheduled Pruning, Growing Great Tree Fruit, and evening gardening classes starting in January. The 2013 class schedules are available on the web at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens>.

Certified Pruning Specialists will give demonstrations on the following dates and locations in January (\$10 donation per person suggested). Contact OSU Extension Service – Lane County to reserve your spot, 541-344-5859, unless otherwise noted:

- Thursday, January 10, 2013 – 9-11:30 a.m. Learn to prune Fruit Trees and Berries in Florence. Meet at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street, behind Safeway at 9 a.m.
- Saturday, January 12, 2013 – 10 a.m.-noon. Learn to prune Apples, Peaches, & berries at Thistledown Farm, 91455 River Road, Junction City.
- Tuesday, January 22, 2013 – 1-3 p.m. Get hands-on experience pruning Fruit Trees at GrassRoots Garden, 1465 Coburg Road, Eugene (behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church).
- Friday, January 25, 2013 – 1:30-3:30 p.m. Learn to prune Roses and Pruning Tool Care, Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C Street, Springfield. Call Willamalane to register at 541-736-4444.
- Tuesday, January 29, 2013 – 1-3 p.m. This indoor class will teach the pruning of Fruit Trees, Small Fruits, and Grapes, River Road Park, 1400 Lake Drive, Eugene. Call River Road Park to register, 541-688-4052.

If you want to learn all about Growing Great Fruit Trees at Home join one of the six classes that are scheduled around the county. The first one will be Saturday, January 26, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Viking Sal Senior Center, 245 W 5th Avenue, Junction City. The \$25 fee must be paid prior to class. Additional classes will be held February 9 in Cottage Grove, February 23 in Springfield, February 26 and March 2 in Eugene, & March 7 in Florence. See registration form for details: extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens

The public is invited to attend individual classes (\$25 per class) of the daytime Master Gardener training. Payment at the door will be accepted. Classes will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church 1685 W. 13th Ave., Eugene. January classes are:

- Wednesday, January 9, 2013 – 8:30-11:30 a.m. Tree Identification
- Wednesday, January 9, 2013 – 12:45-3:45 p.m. Growing Tree Fruits
- Wednesday, January 16, 2013 – 8:30-11:30 a.m. Growing Small Fruits
- Wednesday, January 16, 2013 – 12:45-3:45 p.m. Soils
- Wednesday, January 23, 2013 – 8:30-11:30 a.m. Botany (anatomy)
- Wednesday, January 23, 2013 – 12:45-3:45 p.m. Entomology
- Wednesday, January 30, 2013 – 8:30-11:30 a.m. Botany (physiology)
- Wednesday, January 30, 2013 – 12:45-3:45 p.m. Lawns followed by Spiders

Additional classes can be found on the web site: extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens

The 2013 Master Gardener at Night class will once again be held 6:30-9 p.m. at EWEB training room, North building, 500 E 4th Avenue, Eugene. Orientation for the full series will be Thursday, January 17, 2013. Pre-registration for full series is requested. The other January classes are: January 24-Soils & January 31- Botany (anatomy). The public is invited to attend individual classes for a \$25 fee per class. See details and registration form and payment options on the web site extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens. (EWEB furnishes public meeting rooms as a community service and does not sponsor or endorse activities or groups using EWEB's public facilities.)

For additional class options (compost demo's start in February) and registration information call the OSU Extension Service Farms & Gardens office at 541-344-5859 or stop by 783 Grant Street in Eugene (between Garfield & Chambers, one-half block south of 7th Street). Doors are open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE, AND SOME NONSENSE

WILLAMETTE VALLEY HARDY PLANT GROUP will present Sean Hogan, of Cistus Nursery on Sauvie Island near Portland, on Tuesday January 8, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Sean will talk about "Cool Western Native Plants". He has extensive experience in horticulture and has written in a wide range of horticultural and botanical literature and magazines. Cistus Nursery offers Mediterranean climate, southern hemisphere, hardy tropical plants and more.

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.

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group is a non-profit, volunteer organization for gardeners of all experience levels. The Group is dedicated to educating the community about perennials, shrubs, and other plants for use in the garden; sharing each other's gardens; and fostering a love of gardening.

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Sean Hogan, of Cistus Nursery on Sauvie Island near Portland, in a talk about "Cool Western Natives" on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR. Admission is \$5 for non-members and free for members.

For more information about the group or this event, visit our web site www.thehardyplantgroup.org or call 541-344-0896.

THE SIUSLAW CHAPTER, ARS will meet Tuesday January 15 at 6.30 pm for refreshments and a presentation by Terry Henderson, owner of Log Cabin Nursery in Springfield, who is an expert in propagation, planting and promoting bloom in young plants. The public is invited to come to the meeting at Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101 in Florence. Call 541-997-7573 or go to web site siuslawars.org.



*Fashion Shoot in the Trott Garden
Photo by Allan Trott*

Two carrots were walking down the street, and one of them got run over by a car. So the first carrot took the other to the hospital and waited outside.

An hour later the doctor came out and said, "Well I've got good news and bad news about your friend.

The good news is, he's gonna live.

The bad news is, I'm afraid he's gonna be a vegetable for the rest of his life.

To create a little flower is the labour of ages.
English writer & artist, William Blake 1757 - 1827

A man came home soaking wet and told his wife it was raining cats and dogs and he was afraid of stepping on a poodle.

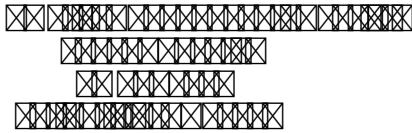


Photo by Harold Greer

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Newsletter

2013 CHAPTER CALENDAR 2013

- Jan 10 Chapter meeting and program: *Rhododendron Diversity*, Harold Greer
Showing all of the different types of plants that exist in the Genus Rhododendron – an amazing diversity that most people do not realize exists.. SEE PAGE 1
- Feb 14 Chapter meeting and program, *Western North American Rhododendron Species Project* - Clarice Clark
- Mar 14 Chapter Annual meeting and program, *Hydrangeas in Your Garden* – Kristen Van Hoose
- Apr 20 Spring Show and Awards Banquet, Program - *Species Azaleas of North America* – Mike Stewart
- May 11 Plant Sale with the WHPG
- June Picnic

CONFERENCES 2013

- April 20 -21 Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland
- May 1 - 5 ARS Annual Convention, *A Journal of Discovery*, Seatac Airport
- Sept 27-29 ARS Western Regional Conference, Newport, OR
- Oct 4 - 6 ARS Eastern Regional Conference, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

CONFERENCES 2014

- May 16-18 ARS Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH
- Sep 26-28 ARS Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA

CONFERENCES 2015

- Spring Victoria B.C. Canada Annual Convention

Visit our Eugene Chapter Web Site
www.eugene-chapter-ars.org