

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

# Eugene Chapter

### March 2013 Newsletter

PARIS  
*polyphylla*

Photo by  
Frances  
Burns



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#### NEWSLETTER

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

#### Postal Mailing

JoAnn Napier	541-746-0828
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#### Webmaster Ted Hewitt

547-687-8119

## MARCH 14 ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM:

### HYDRANGEAS IN YOUR GARDEN



Kristin VanHoose and her husband David own Hydrangeas Plus® and Amethyst Hill Nursery in Aurora, OR, which they purchased in 1999. David and Kristin specialize in growing hydrangeas, azaleas and other ornamental shrubs. In her presentation, Kristen will discuss current trends and the new varieties/cultivars that gardeners and designers are using in their gardens, and will highlight some of the best new cultivars for the Northwest.

The VanHoses grow more than 300 different varieties and cultivars and close hydrangea relatives. They are renowned for the vast collection of rare and unusual varieties and the nursery serves as a test garden for several of the country's hydrangea breeders. Kristen, a busy mother of two daughters with their own activity schedules, manages to stay in contact with many researchers and hydrangea experts for the latest developments in the hydrangea world.

Kristin grew up in Richland, Washington, and graduated from Washington State University with Bachelor degrees in Mathematics, Statistics and Accounting. Upon the completion of her MBA in Business Administration, she moved to Portland to pursue an accounting career until she and David purchased the nurseries in 1999.

She is a past President of the Oregon Association of Nurseries and active volunteer on several community committees. The VanHoses will host an open house and Annual Spring Break Sale featuring, in addition to their own hydrangeas, plants from Dancing Oaks Nursery, Sebright Gardens (hostas, ferns, epimediums), and Fry Road Nursery – an incredible variety of plants available in one place on one day.

A brief election of officers and board members will be held. Nominees for Board of Director are: a 3-year position, Barbara Novak; a 3-year position, Terry Henderson; and a 1-year position Nolan Blansit.

Nominated for Treasurer is Nancy Burns, and for Secretary, Joanne Napier. Nominations from the floor are welcomed.

A pre-meeting dinner for those wishing to attend will be at El Torito on Valley River Drive at 5:15 p.m. Call Helen 541-461-6082 or e-mail [galen.baxter@comcast.net](mailto:galen.baxter@comcast.net) by March 11 for reservations.

## SPRING SHOW

### LOCATION & DATE

CHANGED TO

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, AT  
THE HILTON GARDEN INN  
ON THE NORTHWEST  
CORNER OF GATEWAY &  
BELTLINE.**

**PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR  
CALENDAR. FULL DETAILS  
WILL APPEAR IN THE  
APRIL NEWSLETTER.**

## EDITOR'S BYTE FRANCES BURNS

In the early 90's, while attending a Dan Hinckley soiree' at his paradisaical, once-upon-a-time Heronswood Nursery on Whidbey Island, I bought a little pot with a plant tagged as "Paris". Later I found it was the genus Paris – some twenty-seven species and subspecies of flowering plants, spread out from Iceland to Japan, the majority of them in China. As with many genera, there's a good deal of taxa sorting out yet to do.

On March 24, 2007, Berrygirl from Braselton, GA (Zone 7b) described Paris very well on the web:

Paris *polyphylla* is a Trillium relative with green-and-black flowers highlighted by long, wild yellow anthers. The Bloom atop each individual stem is up to six inches across, measuring from the lower petals, which are the symmetrical green stems that look like leaves. The central stigma is a red so deep it might as well be black, surrounded by a short golden ray and long, slender, whisker-like yellow anthers.

Growth Habit: In spring, first to be seen is a solitary stem (eventually reaching 18 inches tall) topped by a good cluster of spidery green whorls. Even if this plant never bloomed, the foliage alone would be eye-catching, because nothing else in the garden even remotely resembles it. But the blooms follow in early summer, and the green outer petals (actually sepals) remain long after the inner flower parts have passed. Then there are showy (poisonous) red berries.

About the name "Paris," this plant was not discovered along the banks of the Seine or growing through a crack in the pavement beside the Eiffel Tower. . . The name "Paris" comes from "*par*," meaning equal, and it refers to the great symmetry of the flower, which is one of the most beautiful things about it. Only the Passionflower seems its equal in symmetrical, balanced presentation.

Paris *polyphylla* reaches eighteen inches tall and [*optimistically*] about 8 inches wide. Plants should be spaced about 10 inches apart, because the form itself is part of the enchantment of this perennial. . . Plant then ten inches apart and give them water during dry spells.

The Alpine Garden Society website has the most complete information I have found so far. Seeds are said to germinate within one to 3 months, with stems arising in the second year. It's said that the plants can flower in two years – it may have been 4 or 5 years because –I wasn't paying much attention, until one day there it was!

As Porky Pig used to chortle, "Th-th-that's all, folks!" With just one plant, not surprisingly, no seeds have appeared. More delving revealed that the plant produces a hormone in early spring which inhibits side shoot growth, so And for more than a decade it has risen like a phoenix out of the earth each spring, displaying the long lasting peculiar spiked flower on a single tall stem. Dividing the rhizome is another propagating method, but with only one rhizome at present with which to experiment, I am loathe to whittle away. Different species of the genus Paris have rhizomes of various sizes and shapes, if one has a mind for "rhizomatics". Growing a solo Paris seems akin to solitary confinement, but it blooms each summer in splendid isolation and the green outer sepals remain long after the inner flower is gone to continue its long-running late spring to fall Paris presentation.

Paris plants love deep well-drained woodland or humus-rich, slightly acid soil and will do well in pots or in the ground in zones 5b to 8. A guaranteed conversation starter, it grows in splendid isolation like a "lonely little petunia in an onion patch" among my Rhododendron *campylogynums*. Some petite woodland perennials flowering at their base will accentuate the Paris flower's resemblance to a little UFO from a far corner of the universe resting on its landing pad.

Paris *polyphylla* is touted as the easiest of the genus to grow, and if one can grow Trillium, one can grow Paris, a pleasant reminder of an enchanting ferry trip to idyllic Heronswood ever so long ago.

*Ed. Note: Heronswood's post-Hinckley/Jones period as it appears on <http://www.héronswood.com>*

HISTORY – Dan Hinkley and Robert Jones began planting the seeds for Heronswood in 1987. A horticulturalist and an architect, respectively, by trade, the two grew the 15-acre site into one of the most impressive and diverse examples of plantsmanship in North America. Heronswood is located in Kingston, Washington on the Kitsap Peninsula.

In 2000, Heronswood was sold to W. Atlee Burpee Company. In 2006, much to the disappointment of local gardeners who still had Heronswood's dirt under their nails, portions of the display gardens were moved to Burpee's headquarters in Pennsylvania. Soon after, Burpee closed Heronswood to the public save for a few times a year.

In early 2012, Burpee placed Heronswood up for auction. The Port Gamble S'Klallam-a small Native American tribe with a reservation close to the Heronswood site-purchased the property for an undisclosed amount.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT     ALI SARLAK

FEBRUARY 14 RHODODENDRON OCCIDENTALE     I thank our speaker from Rhododendron Species Clarice Clark and her husband for volunteering their time toward such a wonderful project – mapping areas which our favorite native Western Azalea Rhododendron *occidentale* is found growing .

After listening to her talk I decided to look into the plant *occidentale* for myself and learn more about the plant, its habitat, zone, size, colors, soil, and the most special characteristics of the plant.

The literal word in Latin and Greek for the western Azalea is “Rose tree of the western sky”. Western Azalea species is found in southwestern Oregon, northern California, the Sierra Mountains, west of Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest.

John Muir saw the shrub in the Yosemite area and said “It is very showy and fragrant and everybody must like it not only for itself but for the shady alders and willows, ferny meadows, and living water associated with it.”

Western Azalea or Rhododendron *occidentale* can grow in the 7,500 feet elevation, it grows in the alkaline soil although it is in the Ericaceae family and likes acidic soil, it likes moisture and usually grows along creek edges, wet land bog and well-draining soil. It is very fragrant to the point you can spot it from quite a distance when it is in bloom. In the wild

In the wild it can grow to 15 feet; its suggested Zone is between 8-10. In a garden situation it grows half as much 7 feet or so and can grow in sun or partial shade. Western Azalea is not easy to grow in the back yard, due to lack of moisture and too much heat. It needs ideal conditions in order to thrive. In the Coastal climate it is less difficult to grow the plant.

The flower color is a combination of white, orange, pink and red when is in bud stage. In the fall the leaves turn. It is also poisonous and that is a good because animals don’t harm it!

Thus, I hope this refreshes some of our memories for this native treasure of the Pacific Northwest. Next time you are in the those areas look around and enjoy the beauty of Rhododendron *occidentale*.

*Editor’s note: Ali, at 800’ altitude we have three 60-year old R. occidentale “trees” that my folks dug in the Oregon wilds and planted in full sun. They grow to a towering 15-feet with thick limbs. They have been pruned to the ground several times. Thank you for this article; perhaps I will more fully appreciate them.. FB*



*It was a Happy Valentine’s Day  
Dinner honoring speaker Clarice Clark  
for Chapter diners at the unique  
Electric Station in Eugene*

## PLACES TO GO; PEOPLE TO SEE, A BOOK TO ENJOY

**THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HARDY PLANT GROUP** will present Sadafumi Uchiyama, Garden Curator for the Portland Japanese Garden, on Tuesday March 12, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Sadafumi (Sada) is a third generation Japanese gardener. His family has been involved in gardening since 1909 in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. His traditional apprenticeship in Japanese gardening combined with formal training in Western landscape architecture has enabled Sada to design and build a unique and wide range of private and public landscape projects.

Prior to becoming the Garden Curator, he taught landscape design courses at Clackamas Community College and lectured on Japanese Gardening at both Mt. Hood and Portland Community Colleges. Sada has written for the "Journal of Japanese Gardening" since its inception, as well as for "Inspired House" and "Oregon Home". He served as a secretary of the International Association of Japanese Gardens from 1996-2000. He was invited to speak at the 5th International Symposium on Japanese Gardens in Tokyo, September 2007.

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, call 541-344-0896.

### **McKENZIE RIVER NURSERY**

38698 Camp Creek Road  
Springfield, Oregon 97478  
(541) 747-2767

If, in past summers, you have seen our gorgeous hanging flower baskets in the Waltherville shopping area on the McKenzie Highway a few miles east of Springfield, be aware – Spring is fast approaching and our hanging basket classes are a great way to jump start your gardening spirit. We teach you everything you need to know to make and care for a beautiful hanging basket bursting with flowers.

#### CLASS SCHEDULES

Saturday, March 23 - 10 am to noon

Saturday, March 30, 10 am to noon or 1 to 3 pm

Sunday, March 31 (Easter Sunday) 1 to 3 pm

Cost: \$20 for a small basket, \$35 for large  
(you can make as many as you like)

We provide the pots, soil, plants and instruction.

Finished baskets will be kept in our warm greenhouses until May when they are in glorious bloom and can be taken home to enjoy for the summer.

To sign up, please call us at 541-747-2767

Happy Gardening!! McKenzie River Nursery

**Sandi Olson brought the delicious goodies for the February meeting – Thank you, Sandi!**

**Our president, Ali Sarlak has generously volunteered to provide them for this month.**



**If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first.**

**Mark Twain**

## **THE ROOTS OF MY OBSESSION**

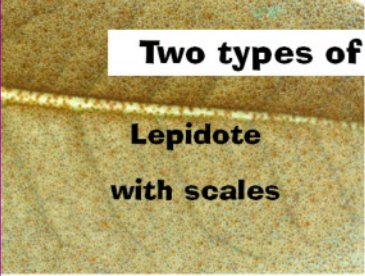
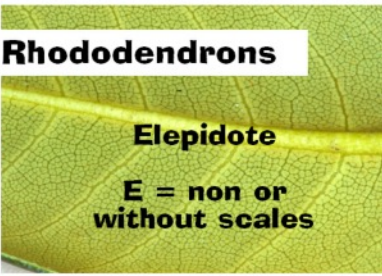

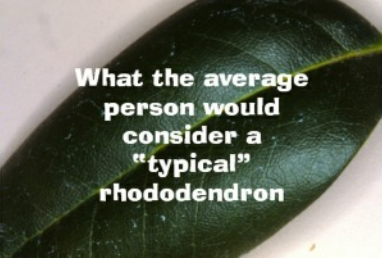
**Thirty great gardeners reveal why they garden!**

This newly published little paperback with readable print will last the whole month if you read one obsession nightly before turning out the light. The crux of the matter is that they can't help themselves! It is a joy to read and the soul rendering is very quotable. These modern day gardening authors represent a broad spectrum of "The Universal Itch", as characterized by Amy Stewart. Other names familiar to gardeners are Tony Avent, Ricke Darke, Ken Druse, Sydney Eddison, Daniel J. Hinckley, Penelope Hobhouse, Roy Lancaster, Roger B. Swain and many more. The individual authors are allowed up to 3 pages...an eazzy bedtime read. This book, edited by Thomas C. Cooper, is published by Timber Press. FB







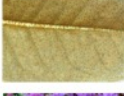















THANKS TO HAROLD GREER FOR SHARING THESE ADDITIONAL SLIDES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL VERSION OF HIS PROGRAM ON *RHODODENDRON DIVERSITY* WHICH HE PRESENTED TO THE CHAPATER IN JANUARY.

### Two types of Rhododendrons

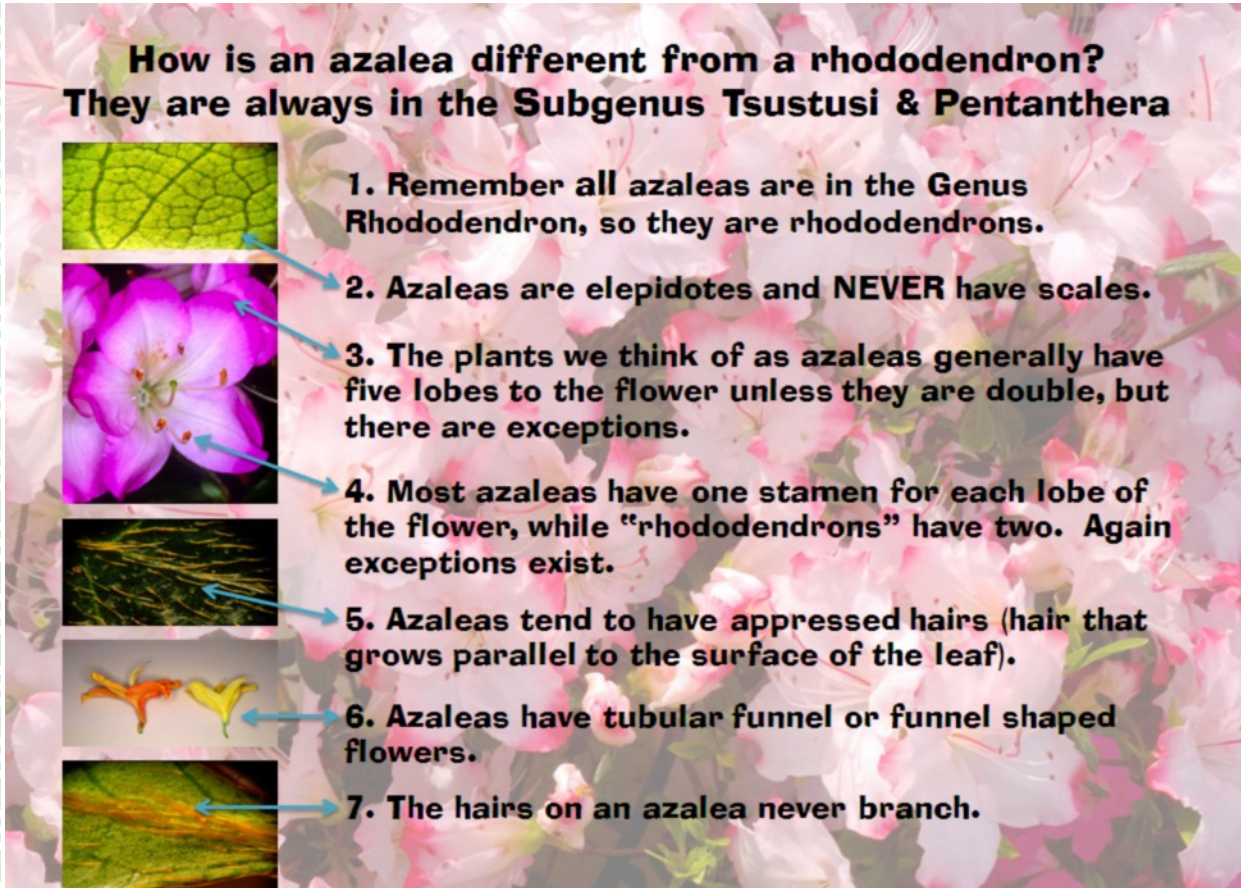
 <p><b>Lepidote with scales</b></p>	 <p><b>Elepidote E = non or without scales</b></p>
 <p><b>Often small leaved, but not always</b></p>	 <p><b>What the average person would consider a "typical" rhododendron</b></p>

### Five Major Groups

Subgenus Hymenathes	Subgenus Rhododendron	Subgenus Tsutsusi	Subgenus Pentanthera	Subgenus Rhododendron Section Vireya
				
				
				
				
Larger leaf rhododendrons elepidote	Small leaf scaly rhododendrons lepudote	Evergreen azaleas elepidote	Deciduous azaleas elepidote	Vireyas tropical lepudote

## How is an azalea different from a rhododendron? They are always in the Subgenus Tsustusi & Pentanthera

1. Remember all azaleas are in the Genus Rhododendron, so they are rhododendrons.
2. Azaleas are elepidotes and NEVER have scales.
3. The plants we think of as azaleas generally have five lobes to the flower unless they are double, but there are exceptions.
4. Most azaleas have one stamen for each lobe of the flower, while "rhododendrons" have two. Again exceptions exist.
5. Azaleas tend to have appressed hairs (hair that grows parallel to the surface of the leaf).
6. Azaleas have tubular funnel or funnel shaped flowers.
7. The hairs on an azalea never branch.



American Rhododendron Society  
Eugene Chapter  
PO Box 7704  
Springfield, OR 97475-0026

*SPRING IN  
THE  
BORDER*

Photo by  
Frances Burns



'Mount Hood'  
Daffodils will soon  
enhance the antique  
grinding wheel



March 2013  
Newsletter

## 2013 CHAPTER CALENDAR 2013

- Mar 14 Chapter Annual meeting and program, Hydrangeas in Your Garden by Kristen Van Hoose
- April 20 Saturday--Training Day at Hinsdale Garden for ARS and local community members
- Apr 27 Spring Show and Awards Banquet, Program. Species Azaleas of North America by Mike Stewart
- May 11 Plant Sale with the WHPG
- May 11 Saturday--Public Open Garden Day at Hinsdale Garden
- June Picnic

### CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS 2013

- April 20 -21 Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland
- May 1 - 5 ARS Annual Convention, A Journey of Discovery, Seatac Airport between Seattle & Tacoma,
- 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](http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org)