

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY

EUGENE CHAPTER

AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER



Photo above is a carnivorous cobra lily (*Darlingtonia californica*) by Ali Sarlak on a trip to Florence. The Darlingtonia State Natural Site is the only state park created to preserve a single species of plant.

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AZALEA LACEBUG ALERT!

by Ted Hewitt

Recently Emily Aune, a member of our chapter and a gardener with the Eugene Parks Department, contacted me to let me know that a number of azaleas and rhododendrons in Hendricks Park are showing considerable damage from lace bugs and wondered if chapter members are seeing damage in their gardens. Last spring a number of gardeners in the north Willamette Valley were seeing evidence of lace bugs including damage at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Consequently, the ARS Portland Chapter is promoting an educational campaign to alert gardeners of what lace bug damage looks like and how to treat it. In November, our chapter meeting program will include a section on identifying lace bugs and how to control them and the ARS Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport will have a session on lace bugs as well. These tiny critters suck the chlorophyll out of the leaves making them appear pale or even white.

Here are two websites that have good information about identifying lace bugs:

[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/azalea\\_lace\\_bug.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/azalea_lace_bug.htm)

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/shrubs/azalea\\_lace\\_bug.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/shrubs/azalea_lace_bug.htm)

If you would like to see first hand what the damage looks like, you can see it on the large evergreen azaleas beside the path at the entrance to the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden near the parking area. If you walk around the loop trail, you can also see it on a few small leafed rhododendrons and on a few larger leafed rhododendrons

If you find damage in your own garden, please let me know the specifics and I will forward the information to Emily. If you have found a successful way to control these pests, I also would appreciate knowing.

*photo at left:lacebug azalea damage*



## EDITOR'S NOTE

### WORTH REPEATING:

The August newsletter of the Willamette Chapter ARS had an article about the benefits of Epsom Salt (magnesium sulfate) as a fertilizer. Suggested application rates were 2 Tablespoons per gallon for house plants, 1 TBS per gallon as a garden spray or drench or 1 cup mixed into a new planting bed per 100 square feet. The article stated that Epsom salt is not helpful for sage.

I did a little experiment with Epsom Salt a few years ago when I first planted the area along my front sidewalk with spanish lavender (Lavendula stoechas). I watered the new plantings on only one side of the sidewalk with Epsom Salt solution. I did not control all other variables, but I can tell you that the side that received the Epsom Salt grew larger and survived the winter; the side that was not treated rotted or froze out over the winter.

### MYSTERY PLANT:

Thanks to the many of you who wrote and called to identify the mystery plant depicted in this column last month as Daphne laureola.



The common name for this plant is Spurge Laurel.

Although Daphne laureola is a hearty-looking and compact

growing evergreen, it is listed as a **Noxious Weed** in the states of Oregon and Washington. If left undisturbed, it reportedly forms large colonies and is a serious threat to our forests.

This plant can grow in quite shady conditions, and is spread when birds eat its blue berries which form in the spring. It also spreads by sprouting from its roots. It is reported to be

difficult to eradicate once established.

The leaves, bark and berries are poisonous to humans and the plant's sap can cause contact dermatitis. According to the Gary Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Daphne laureola may alter soil acidity and chemistry and form a dense, light-barring canopy that eliminates native plant undergrowth. GOOD RIDDENCE Spurge Scourge!

## SMITH GARDEN WORK PARTY - OCT 5

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden is located at 5055 Ray Bell Road in St. Paul, Oregon. The garden's website describes it as follows:

"A canopy of native Douglas firs create an ideal environment for the natural woodland garden of rare beauty, featuring superior forms of species and hybrid rhododendrons. This spectacular garden Cecil and Molly created now has over 600 rhododendrons and azaleas."

There will be a fall Smith Garden Work Party. The Date is Saturday October 5th. Starting time is 8 am or whenever you can arrive there. The usual delicious lunch will be served. Hardy garden enthusiasts may continue working in the afternoon. The not so hardy or not so enthusiastic are encouraged to make a long day of it. The garden has major tools, but it is advisable that you bring your own light garden tools.

If you have never been to the garden, directions are available in the garden website;

<http://smithgarden.org/smithgarden.org/Welcome.html> Come to support the garden and experience a jolly garden time with your friends.

Photo from Smith Garden by Don Patrick, May 2013.



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### September pot luck. A note from President Ali Sarlak

All photos courtesy of Ted Hewitt



President, Ali Sarlak at Picnic

Mother Nature was good to us and provided us with a warm and sunny day for our potluck picnic in the Greer's nursery and home.

Certainly, we all agree that Nancy and Harold Greer know how to organize group events. The Nursery was cheerful and healthy as always, and so were the Greers. They provided everything we could think of for our enjoyment. The salmon was so tasty but I didn't get a chance to find out how it was done - perhaps I will ask when I see them at the N.W Regional in Newport, OR



Harold supervises desert unwrapping

To our Eugene members, you all did wonderful jobs bringing delicious dishes, and there were more than enough side dishes and deserts to go around!!

Again I can't thank the Greers enough for their generosity with our Chapter and I am sure all the members appreciate and certainly notice it.



A real highlight of the picnic was our opportunity to present member Francis Burns with a tribute of our appreciation for all of the extraordinary work she has done for our chapter over the years!

Francis Burns

Yum, eager pickners !

I hope to see you all in Newport, Or at the end of September, there are many good programs waiting for us, not to mention the Plant Sale!!



## OCTOBER SPEAKER DAVE ECKERDT

At our meeting on October 10, we will welcome Dave Eckerdt back to Eugene with his talk on *Gardens East - Gardens West*, a program that finds Dave and his wife, Pat, where they most often choose to be, out in a garden. From their own two-acre "collector's garden" near Salem, Oregon, to gardens and arboretums in the Carolinas, Georgia and throughout the Northwest, Dave's talk is a horticultural travelogue of special gardens and special plants encountered throughout the year. An aside to their travels was Dave's search for a prize winning Rhododendron photograph to compete at the national convention this past May. Dave is a fine photographer and, with Pat, was in charge of the photography contest at the 2013 ARS Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport.

Dave and Pat Eckerdt live near Salem, Oregon, in a 120-year-old home surrounded by a two acre "collector's garden". The twenty-plus year old garden known as *Deerly Missed* has been featured on television, in newspapers and magazines. You can see images of their garden at [www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com](http://www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com). Dave and Pat are not genus loyal, being members of the American Conifer Society, the North American Rock Garden Society, the International Clematis Society, the American Rhododendron Society and several Oregon plant groups. Dave is past president of the Salem Hardy

Plant Society. An engaging speaker and enthusiastic photographer, Dave is a frequent presenter to Northwest plant organizations.

Please join us for cookies, coffee, and conversation at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, at the Campbell Community Center at 155 High Street in Eugene. The program will follow at 7:00.

You are invited to join us for a pre-meeting, no host, speaker's dinner at the Oregon Electric Station at 5:00 p.m. to visit with Dave and Pat (27 E 5th Ave in Eugene). Please RSVP to Helen Baxter at [galen.baxter@comcast.net](mailto:galen.baxter@comcast.net) or call her at 541-896-3216 by October 8 so that she can notify the restaurant.

*Eckerdt Garden Dovehouse, from  
[www.deerlymissed.cmugmug.com](http://www.deerlymissed.cmugmug.com)*



**32nd Annual Western Regional Conference**  
**Best Western Agate Beach Hotel in Newport Oregon**  
**September 27 - 29, 2013**  
**Hosted by the Oregon Chapters in District 4**

Registration is possible up to and during the event. The fee for attendance of the entire conference is \$49.00 after September 10 (not including meals). There are still a few rooms available at the hotel. This will be a wonderful event including plant and book sales, raffles and auctions, and of course, the beach. Don't miss it!

## ***Rhododendron megeratum***

by Ted Hewitt

One of my favorite small lepidotes in our garden is *Rhododendron megeratum* with its shiny, mid-green oval leaves on a compact plant. Though I have had one plant in the garden for 6 years, it has not flowered yet, but, when it does, it will have yellow or cream bell-shaped flowers with red stamens set in trusses of up to 3 florets in March or April. It is now about 12" high and 20" across. My second plant was grown from a cutting taken in Leonard Frojen's garden in the fall of 2008 and is now about 8" high and 12" wide. It is listed as the Cecil Smith form and has minute hairs along the edges of the leaves as well as along the stems. Both plants have a nice glaucous color on the undersides of the leaves.

In its native area of India, Burma, and China it is quite common growing in forests or on rocky slopes and cliff ledges though it is also found growing as an epiphyte in tree tops or on rotting logs. To help with good drainage, my plants are in a rock terrace with bright light and partial sun. Even while not in bloom, the mound-like plants with many small branchlets are attractive all year long. On a recent visit to Keith White's garden near Salem, I was interested to see his two plants growing in hanging wire baskets lined with sphagnum moss, something that is sometimes done with epiphytic plants.

In terms of taxonomic classification, *Rhododendron megeratum* is in subgenus *Rhododendron*, section *Rhododendron*, and subsection *Boothia* so is related to the species *sulfureum*, *leucaspis*, *boothii*, and *chrysodoron*.

H.H. Davidian states that *R. megeratum* "with dark green foliage, covered with large yellow flowers is, as the specific name suggests, 'lovely in the highest degree', and is worthy of a place in every collection of rhododendrons." Now, if I only knew how to pronounce *megeratum*, I would be quite happy.

*Photo by Hank Helm, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington*



## **RSBG Associate Membership**

For the past several years, the ARS Eugene Chapter has been an Associate member of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, so, as a member of our chapter, each of you has several benefits. One of those benefits is free admission when you visit this lovely garden. All you have to do is identify yourself as a member of the Eugene chapter at the gift shop when you enter the garden. With the recent addition of the Rutherford Conservatory, the RSBG is now able to display a number of tender or tropical plants bringing their number to over 700 of the more than 1,000 species rhododendrons found throughout the world.

We receive two copies of the RSBG yearbook *Rhododendron Species* which you are welcome to borrow to read the many excellent articles ranging from plant exploration and taxonomy to individual species by authors around the world.

If you like to explore websites, the RSBG website, [www.rhodygarden.org](http://www.rhodygarden.org), is an interesting, recently reorganized website with lots of information about the genus and the RSBG. Via the website, you can order plants, seeds, or pollen from the online catalog which also is a good source for information about the wide variety of species rhododendrons available through the RSBG.

## Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group

### Ferns from the Woods to the Rooftop

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Judith Jones of Fancy Fronds Nursery in Gold Bar, Washington in a talk about a range of uses for ferns on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Fancy Fronds specializes in temperate ferns, with the widest selection in North America. They have tree ferns, temperate ferns, hardy ferns, and desert or xeric ferns. Judith started the nursery in 1977 in response to demand for more unusual as well as difficult to find Northwest native ferns.

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](http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org) or call 541-344-0896.

*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. Find out more at: [www.thehardyplantgroup.org](http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org).*

### The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

The public is invited to the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw at 3996 Highway 101 in Florence. Call 541-997-7573 or go to [siuslawars.org](http://siuslawars.org).



## Janice Gerdemann

Recently the chapter received a note from Janice Gerdemann that she had broken her leg last winter and is now living in the Quail Run Assisted Living unit of Mennonite Village in Albany. If you wish to contact her, her address is Janice Gerdemann, 2525 47th Ave SE, Apt. 358, Albany, OR 97322.

Note: In the early 1980's, Janice and her husband, Jim, began creating a wonderful garden along a coastal stream north of Yachats as a retirement project. This lovely garden features many unusual and tender rhododendrons and other plants set amidst the native salal, huckleberry, and ferns under a canopy of spruce trees. Though it is now a private residence and botanical preserve, there is a public footpath that winds through the garden and garden tours are offered in the spring by the current owners.

The website [www.gerdemanngarden.org](http://www.gerdemanngarden.org) offers information and a virtual tour of the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve.



Eugene Chapter Picnic

Ted Hewitt

## Oregon State Extension Classes

Located at 783 Grant Street in Eugene. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

We will endeavor to provide public accessibility to services, programs, and activities for people with disabilities. If accommodation is needed to participate at any meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the Lane County office of OSU Extension Service at 541-344-5859 at least two-weeks prior to the scheduled

### TERM 2 of the MASTER GARDENER™ @ NIGHT PROGRAM

OSU Extension Service will offer Term 2 of the 2013 Master Gardener @ Night program starting in September. Students that completed Term 1 will continue in Term 2 to become Master Gardener volunteers. The public is invited to attend individual classes at \$25 per class. The first two classes, Thursday, September 12 - Pesticide Safety, and Thursday, September 19 - Native Plants will be held 6:30-9 p.m. at EWEB North Building, 500 E 4th Avenue, Eugene. Starting with the September 26 class on Integrated Pest Management, classes will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th, Eugene. Additional classes to be held at the Church are: October 3 - Lawns; October 10 - Diagnosing Diseases; October 17 - Plant Propagation; October 24 - Worm Composting; October 31 - Tree Identification; November 7 - Small Fruits; November 14 - Spiders; November 21 - Water Wise Gardening; and December 5 - Bees.

Walk-ins are welcome to attend any of the classes. Application forms and details are available at the OSU Extension Service office and online at [extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens).

Master Gardener Saturday hours through September are 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 541-344-5859 (OSU Extension office) or 541-344-0265 (Master Gardener HotLine).

### Sustainable Landscape Training Offered for Homeowners

Lane County homeowners can learn to save money on yard maintenance and lessen their impact on the environment through a class. The Sustainable Landscape program will be offered on October 23-24, 2013, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Class will be held at EWEB North Building, 500 E 4th Avenue, Eugene. OSU Extension Service in Lane County has received a grant from EWEB to promote this program.

The two-day training includes a combination of class work and yard evaluations that can lead to a Sustainable Landscape Certification. Participants will learn a variety of landscape practices that can help them improve water

efficiency, enrich soil quality through mulching and composting, create wildlife habitat, reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and protect nearby waterways. Efficiencies in the use of resources should also lead to lower power, water, and waste bills.

The cost of the program is \$25. Pre-registration is requested by October 16. The registration form is available at the OSU Extension Service office, 783 Grant Street, Eugene, OR 97402, or on the Web at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens>.

## Master Gardeners 2013 Fall Gardening Festival Nears

Learn many gardening tips at the 2013 Master Gardener Fall Gardening Festival, sponsored by the Oregon State University Lane County Master Gardener Association. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C Street, Springfield.

Many fun and informative activities are being planned:

- Garden related vendor booths with locally crafted garden items for sale
  - Ask-a-Master Gardener booth
  - Apple cider press demonstration
  - Tomato taste off, your vote needed
  - Bake sale - homemade goodness from Master Gardener kitchens
  - Educational presentations on a variety of gardening topics
  - Master Gardener Veggie Fair - a display of Master Gardener grown produce
  - Bulb sale - garlic and ornamental bulbs
  - Locally created garden art and used books will be on sale
  - Talks on a variety of gardening topics
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Growing Up! - making vertical garden structure  
1-2 p.m. - Low cost greenhouses and cloche  
1-2 p.m. - Growing Great Garlic  
2:30-3:30 p.m. - Growing culinary mushrooms at home  
2:30-3:30 p.m. - Four season vegetable gardening

For gardening information call the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener hotline at 541-344-5859 or visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens>.

American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter

PO Box 7704

Springfield, OR 97475

Darlingtonia  
californica

PHOTO BY ALI  
SARLAK



O c t o b e r 2 0 1 3  
N e w s l e t t e r

2013-2014

E V E N T C A L E N D A R

2013-2014

CHAPTER EVENTS

- October 10 Gardens East / Gardens West, with Dave Eckerdt  
November 14 Lace Bugs, Root Weevils, Caterpillars, with Scott Renfro  
December 12 Holiday Potluck and Slide Show  
January 9 Growing Rhododendrons from Seed WORKSHOP by Jack Olson  
February 13 The Shady Rock Garden, with Truls Jensen & Emma Elliot of Wild Ginger Farm Nursery,  
Beaverton, OR  
March 13 The Humboldt Botanic Garden, with Tim Walsh  
Officer and Board Member Elections  
April 19 2013 Spring Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn

CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS 2013

- September 27-29 ARS Western Regional Conference Newport, OR  
October 4-6 ARS Eastern Regional Conference Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

CONFERENCES 2014

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

CONFERENCES 2015

- Spring Annual Converntion Victoria B.C.