

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY

EUGENE CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

David Williams Edition



American Rhododendron Society

Officers, Board Members
& Committees

President Ali Sarlak
Vice President Jack Olson
Treasurer Nancy Burns
Secretary Sherlyn Hilton
Past President Ted Hewitt
Membership / Secretary
Nancy Burns

Nolan Blansit 2013 - 2014
Helen Baxter 2012 - 2015
Tom Beatty 2012 - 2015
Barbara Novak 2013 - 2016
Terry Henderson 2013 - 2016

STANDING COMMITTEES

[Reserved]

NEWSLETTER

Editor Barbara Novak
541-465-2155
Email kbhome@epud.net

Printing & Mailing

Harold Greer
541-

Webmaster

Ted Hewitt
547-687-8119

**Chapter Graphic
Image by Eugene Chapter
member, David Williams, who
died this year.**

A FEW WORDS ABOUT DAVID J. WILLIAMS
By Harold Greer

While 'David J' as his friends used to call him had not been active in the ARS for some time due to health, he was one of our most devoted members I have known in the nearly 60 years I have had the joy of attending Eugene Chapter meetings.

For years 'David J' wrote and printed the newsletter for the chapter. One Thursday of every month he would show up at our nursery to print the newsletter on our copy machine and "we always got to help"! It was a Thursday we always looked forward to. He had many illustrations which he drew for each publication of one species or another. Along with that he would always draw small characters making various comments on the newsletter contents in the margins of the newsletter.

David was a highly educated medical doctor and also a skilled writer who authored several unpublished but interesting books. He also created rhodo-crossword puzzles! David frequently liked to use the two words, "no one", which he always wrote as "noone"! That

was just a trade mark of David which no matter how often I asked about that spelling, He always said "that is the way I spell it" with a little laugh.

David J loved Rhododendron species and along with another loved and passed member, Curt Huey, always went up to the Rhododendron Species Foundation in April of each year to collect the species plants for the Eugene Chapter spring plant auction. David J had a large city garden which was on tours when the Eugene Chapter hosted ARS conventions. David grew many plants in containers on his huge deck as well as in the ground.

Then there was his dry humor, his doctor jokes, versus the lawyer jokes of some of the other members at meetings. Those days are fond memories for all of us who had the pleasure of knowing David. He was always the first to arrive at rhododendron shows to check the truss into the show, and we could be assured that he would add to the show with his flowers which always

(continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 14
CHAPTER MEETING

Doors open at 6:30 pm.
Gohpers, Moles and Lace
Bugs with Dick Cavender
at 7:00 pm.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is probably my favorite garden month. Although I love rhododendrons, I am first and foremost a lover of trees, and as spring is given to blossoming shrubs and bulbs and the summer is made for perennials, autumn is all about the glory, glory, glory of trees.

It thrills me, after the droughty days of August, to see the entire garden renew itself, without any




A young *Parrotia persica* flanked by Japanese maples and nandina.

effort on my part. Unlike in other seasons, where a garden tour involves up close scrutiny, the fall display asks you to step back, stand up, take a deep breath and enjoy the long view. Look out, look up!



This Sugar Maple is beautiful but drops its leaves too quickly.

I think I need more *Callicarpa* (beautyberry). In fall they bear psychedelic purple berries, wonderful with flaming  *Euonymus*.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT DAVID WILLIAMS

By Harold Greer (cont. from page 1)

won some ribbons and trophies.

David was the kind of friend seldom found in life and his dedication to the Eugene Chapter of the ARS is even more seldom found in people today.

On a personal note Nancy and I had the pleasure of travelling to Europe with David and his wife Barbara many years ago. What a great trip - it started with the ceiling liner over his seat falling down on him as we landed in Seattle. From there it went downhill or uphill depending on how you looked at it. David lost his video camera on a plane, but no matter what, David was always in great spirits. One fond memory was taking a water taxi in Amsterdam with David and Barbara. When we compared notes after we got to the restaurant where we were going, we realized we both had paid the equivalence of \$100 per couple to travel about one mile! But it was worth it for the memories we have now. You can be assured after that cost we walked back to the hotel!



David and Barbara Williams (photographer unknown)

It is with respect that I submit these memories of a special person, both as a friend and as a part of the Eugene Chapter. He will not be replaced in our members or the lives of those that had the pleasure to know him.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT At the Western Regional Conference,
September 30

Since there were too many aspects to the conference to write about in on article, I will only touch a few.

I looked at the brochure while I was signing up and saw the list of ideas why we go to such event. Here I repeat some of them: to have fun, to learn, to experience new things, to relax and enjoy the amenities of the region where we stay (in this particular case, the beautiful Pacific Ocean with its lovely Oregon coast), to see old friends, to express and deepen our love for rhododendrons, and, if we are lucky, to make new friends!

This event more than amply fulfilled all of those objectives. I was so pleased with the speakers, and very impressed by how knowledgeable they were, as one example - our familiar rhododendron expert Harold Greer took us all over the world to show us where all of our lovely rhododendrons come from, and to highlight some of the more significant rhododendron finding expeditions.

The Western Regional Conference also provided a fine market for some very interesting and unusual plants. I am sure lots of folks went home with something special. I admit that I am not much of a shopper when it comes to buying plants, but even I came home with a few that I could not resist.



Ted Hewitt peeks at offerings from Dancing Oaks at conference plant sale. *photo by Ali Sarlak*



Yellow Hammer. photo by Ali Sarlak

A part of the conference also allowed us to visiting some fine gardens. And quite a few of us got out in spite of heavy, heavy rains to visit Connie Hanson's garden and Rich Craven's garden in Lincoln City.

At Connie Hanson's garden there are rhododendrons as big as the local evergreen trees (Sitka Spruce). I am including a picture of Rhododendron "Yellow Hammer," which was in full bloom in Connie's garden - wow!!

Since I am talking about our garden visit, the Connie Hanson's garden would like someone who is knowledgeable about identification and naming of rhododendrons. If you know of someone who may want to help out at Connie Hanson's garden, contact the organization or talk to me and I will pass it along. Thank you.

A hard rain was pouring when we finished out tour of the Hanson garden, and we headed to Rich Craven's garden which is another treasure on it's own. It is on a small lot and he has the smallest rhododendrons that I can ever imagine, and many of them, in the small lot.

By now, the rain and fog was getting harder, to the point where it was hard to find our way back to the highway;

(continued on page 5)

SHERLYN and ISAAC HILTON

I am sure that everyone has noticed Sherlyn Hilton at our gatherings, for she is conspicuous by virtue of her rather short companion Isaac, who is ten years old. At home, Sherlyn and her spouse, Cam, have two more budding geniuses - Andrew, age 5, and Eliot, who is "almost" 2.

I asked Sherlyn about her gardening history, and she told me that she has always tried to garden, but that gardening has been difficult where she lived. The couple's first home together was in Colorado at an altitude of 8,000 feet with approximately 62 frost-free days per year. It seemed that no matter when Sherlyn set her tomatoes outside, a sneak freeze would manage to kill them. In addition, the year after they arrived, the region moved into a period of record-breaking drought, and Sherlyn's main concern was not for the tomatoes, but whether the house would burn down. Their next home was in Nevada where the only thing that grew well was a large elm tree that shed debris everywhere and kept itself healthy, by quickly extending new root growth into any area that she tried to garden.

The family moved to Eugene in 2008 so that Cam could finish his post-doctoral work at the University of Oregon. Originally they didn't intend to stay in Oregon, but when Cam found a job here in Eugene they decided to settle down and buy a house with a large yard for the boys. They responded to a real estate listing that described a large yard with a rhododendron garden and, by great good luck, found the former home of David Williams.

This was the first place that Sherlyn had ever lived where there rhododendrons. Sherlyn admits that she had noticed rhododendrons in Eugene but, frankly, she had never liked them. Her impression was of a clumsy-looking shrub with large, coarse green leaves and "gobby" flowers. As she moved about her new yard, however, she began to discover a number of shrubs that she found quite beautiful, and was surprised to find out that these were rhododendrons (David Williams had left a map of his garden).

Well, Sherlyn thought that since she had so many rhododendrons in her yard, and since she was becoming quite fond of many of them, she should attend some of our

meetings to find out how to take care of them. Jack Olsen was the speaker at her first meeting and he spoke about the many fine qualities of rhododendrons in the landscape - texture, habit, fragrance, foliage, and Sherlyn liked the talk - these were the very features that she most appreciated.

Her current favorite is *Rhododendron przewalskii*. Although Sherlyn finds the flowers "sweet," she values the plant more for its compact habit, narrow, dark-green foliage, fuzzy bronze indumentum and bright orange new growth.

Due to the vanity of naming rhodies after explorers, here, a Russian, one would not guess from its name that this is a species from the mountain slopes of Western Sichuan in China. *Przewalskii* is classified in the subgenus *Hymenanthes*, section *Pontica*, subsection *Taliensia*, along with other foliage beauties that you may have heard about, including *bureavii*, *elegantulum*, *lacteam*, *proteoides* and *roxianum*.



In addition to its rhododendrons, the Hilton gardens have several trees, including six sequoias, 3 English walnuts, a Katsura and several Japanese maples. Last year, Isaac became interested in trees, especially Japanese maples, and Sherlyn thought he might also enjoy the ARS

meetings so she began to take him with her, and he has become a delightful addition to our membership.

Before Sherlyn attended our chapter meeting she never even knew that there were plant societies. Now she has volunteered to act as our board secretary. It seems to me that we can thank David Williams for Sherlyn's and Isaac's interest in trees and rhododendrons as just another part of his legacy. The universe is a pretty amazing place.

Note from the President
(cont from page 3)

however we finally figured out how to get back to our hotel. We were wet and soaked but happy for having seen the gardens in spite of rains and winds. Now, we were ready for the hotel hospitalities and a glass of red wine.



I personally had a great and enjoyable time and am certain that my experience was shared by all the attendees. I cannot emphasize enough how wonderful a job the organizers and volunteers did to put such a wonderful event together. I personally thank them for all they did and please if you know of someone who was part of WRC organization, make sure to show your appreciation. I am already looking forward to the next Western Regional Conference after this experience.

Gloria Sarlak and Sherlyn Hilton searching for trails among the rhodys to get out of rain at Hanson Garden. Photo and interpretation of motives by Ali Sarlak.

Rhododendron NOYO CHIEF
by Ted Hewitt

A few years ago, I noticed a rhododendron in Jack Olson's garden with beautiful, shiny green foliage that stood out from the others. This is when I learned of R. 'Noyo Chief.'

With a name like 'Noyo Chief' one might think that it had something to do with the ARS Noyo Chapter in Fort Bragg, California, and it does. It may have been imported as a form of *R. arboreum* ssp. *kingianum* from the Reuthe Nursery in southern England by Lester Brandt, a rhododendron enthusiast in Tacoma, Washington. In 1952, Brandt sold it as a large plant to Dr. and Mrs. P. J. Bowman of Fort Bragg to add to their large collection. In 1966, the Bowmans registered it with the ARS as R. 'Noyo Chief' and, over the years, it has made its way into many western gardens. It is now considered to be a hybrid of *R. arboreum* ssp. *nilagiricum*.



Photo from poorfish.me

Glossy, deep green and deeply ribbed leaves make it an eye-catcher wherever it is used in the garden whether as a specimen, a back of the border plant, or something to break the monotony of lighter leaves of other rhododendrons. In early May, the rose-red flowers stand out well against the beautiful foliage and have up to 16 florets in a truss. In 1971, 'Noyo Chief' received a Conditional Award from the ARS. Achieving 5' in 10 years and 10' in 15 years, it is not a small plant for the long run, but with hardiness varying from 5° to 15° F, we may not have to be concerned with it living long enough to become too large for our garden.

DAVID WILLIAMS MEMORIAL DONATIONS

David Williams' daughter has requested that those who wish to remember him do so with a contribution to the ARS.

Donations on behalf of David Williams can be given to treasurer, Nancy Burns, or any board member. You may designate your memorial donation for use by the national ARS or by the Eugene Chapter. If your donation has no designation as to its use, half of the donation will be retained by the Eugene Chapter and half of the donation will be sent in David Williams' name, to the national ARS.



Foliage display at Western Regional Conference. *photo by Ali Sarlak.*

The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

will meet on Tuesday November 19 at 6.30 pm for refreshments.

At 7 pm, Dennis Bottemiller from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way WA, will present a program about the development of the three year old Rutherford Conservatory and the conservatory culture of rhododendrons.

The public is invited to come to the the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw at 3996 Highway 101 in Florence. Call 541-997-7573 or go to siuslawars.org.

EUGENE CHAPTER ARS November 14, 2013

We will have handouts for identifying lace bugs as well as suggested methods of control and Dick Cavender will share with us what he has tried. He will also bring samples of lace bug damaged foliage for us to see. You can see lace bug damage at Hendricks Park on the large evergreen azaleas at the entrance to the garden by the parking area for the rhododendron garden. Look at the top and bottom surfaces of the leaves.

All of you are invited to a no-host dinner at 5:00 PM at Oregon Electric Station on 5th and Wilamette in Eugene. Those wishing to attend, please e-mail Helen at galen.baxter@comcast.net or call her at 541-896-3216 by November 12 so that we can notify the restaurant.

Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group

Beauty and the Eye of the Beholder

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Laura Crocket of Garden Diva Designs LLC in Hillsboro, Oregon in a talk about garden design on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Laura Crockett has been designing custom gardens in the Pacific NW and California for 18 years. Her unique approach begins with observing the people she is creating for, and then designing a beautiful, functional garden.

Her work has been featured in Pacific Horticulture, Portland Spaces, Horticulture, Garden Design, The Oregonian, Fine Gardening, as well as many other garden design magazines. She has built a reputation for designing unique garden elements, many of which she credits to the collaborative process she uses.

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 or call 541-344-0896.

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

Application deadline extended to become an OSU MASTER GARDENER™ Volunteer in Lane County

The deadline to apply for the **daytime** option of the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program in Lane County has been extended. Apply now for the daytime option of the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program in Lane County, one of the most popular volunteer programs in Oregon. Orientation will be held December 4, 2013 and classes will meet Wednesdays, January 8-March 12, 2014 from 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. The Master Gardener curriculum provides volunteers with information and references on subjects such as plant botany, tree identification, native plants, ornamental and edible gardening, soil management, lawns, weed identification, and pest and disease management.

Upon completion of the course, Master Gardener volunteers serve their community as Extension educators, in coordination with plans developed by Extension faculty or horticulture assistants. Community needs, as well as the capabilities of individual Master Gardeners, determine how this is best accomplished. Master Gardeners conduct garden clinics, teach basic gardening classes, and answer phone calls about all aspects of home gardening.

Commercial growers are invited to apply for the program to earn a Certificate of Horticulture Proficiency. There will be an additional cost to students should they choose not to complete the volunteer hours. Applications are available at the OSU Extension Service office 783 Grant Street, Eugene or on the website extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens. Volunteers receive 66 hours of intensive gardening education in exchange for 66 hours of volunteer time. Participants that plan to volunteer pay a \$200 class fee plus \$35 for the textbook.

For more information, contact the OSU Extension Service office at 541-344-5859, or stop by the Extension office at 783 Grant Street (between Garfield & Chambers) in Eugene, to pick up an application. Pre-registration is

required. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. There will be an evening Master Gardener training option starting in January, and an online option through OSU ecampus. For details see the website extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens.

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.

Call 541-344-5859 (OSU Extension office) or 541-344-0265

COMPOST DEMO

What: Compost Demo by Compost Specialist, Lane County OSU Extension Service Farms & Gardens

When: Saturday, October 26, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM - Noon

Where: GrassRoots Garden (The GrassRoots Garden is located behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Coburg Road)

Address: 1465 Coburg Road, Eugene, OR

Cost: Free but donations are welcomed.

For beginning to experienced composters, these hands-on workshops will cover the basics of how composting works, which materials to use, different methods of composting and types of compost bins. Workshops are led by certified OSU Extension Service Compost Specialists. Pre-registration is not required.

Contact: Linda Renslow

Phone: 1 541 344 5859

Email: linda.renslow@oregonstate.edu

Department: Lane County OSU Extension Service Farms & Gardens Program



American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter

PO Box 7704

Springfield, OR 97475

R. Occidentale

DRAWN BY
DAVID
WILLIAMS



November 2013
Newsletter

2013-2014

EVENT CALENDAR

2013-2014

CHAPTER EVENTS

- November 14 Lace Bugs, Moles and Gophers, with Dick Cavender
- 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 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.