Eugene Chapter

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- **Nominating:**

- **Welfare:** Nancy & Harold Greer
- **Hospitality:**
- **Programs:** Board of Directors

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Hands-On Propagation with Stem Cuttings Workshop

Thursday, November 13

at the Campbell Community Center
155 High Street in Eugene

Over the past few years, many of us have enjoyed the hands-on programs that have been presented so this year the Board has selected a workshop on propagation in which attendees will get their hands dirty while learning about propagating by stem cuttings. Nurseryman Terry Henderson will lead the workshop and all supplies will be furnished for attendees to actively participate. However, it would be helpful if you could bring a pair of hand pruners.

This is part of a propagation project for the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park and the Hinsdale Estate Garden in which the ARS Eugene Chapter is participating. Material from plants in these two gardens will be available from which cuttings will be made, trimmed, dipped in rooting hormone, and stuck in rooting mix. Flats will then be transferred to the nursery where bottom-heated tables will be used to enhance the success rate.

You also may bring up to 5 cuttings of your own for rooting. These rooted cuttings will be returned to you in the spring. This is an excellent chance for you to join the fun of propagating and creating new plants.

R. 'Cinnkeys' taken at Larry Jensen's

Join us for cookies, coffee, and conversation at 6:30 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, in Eugene with the program at 7:00. Prior to the meeting you are invited to join us for a no-host dinner at 5:00 at TaRaRin Thai Restaurant at 1200 Oak St. in Eugene. This is a good time to visit with Terry and friends. You might note that there are many non-spicy, tasty Thai dishes on the menu. There is plenty of parking and the location is convenient. Please RSVP to Helen Baxter at 541-461-6082 or by e-mail at galen.baxter@comcast.net by Tuesday, November 11.

(Ted's Notes - continued from p. 5)
clumping and do well in a woodland bed, we have found that *Epimedium* x *perralchicum* 'Frohnleiten' is a very aggressive spreader and rapped itself around the trunk of one of the rhododendrons so we are removing all of the clumps from the garden.

With our generally mild winters, fall is a good time to move plants in the garden for better garden design and to divide perennials such as hosta that have become too large. The roots will have several months to get reestablished and, in the spring, the garden will look better.

Autumn is harvest time as well as Thanksgiving time so what better time to think about the enjoyment we get from our gardens, our friends, and our rhododendron chapter. Many thanks to all of you.

Ted Hewitt

R. lepidostylum at the RSBG

Rhododendron lepidostylum

by Ted Hewitt

Recently, while talking with Jack Olson, I was reminded of a trip to Florence that I had made with him to take cuttings for propagation in October 2008 as he indicated that *R. lepidostylum* is one of his favorite species rhododendrons. At that time, I was pleased when I had success rooting these cuttings and growing on a couple of these plants. Having read that it is best to plant this species in an unshaded location and that they need good drainage, I planted one of the plants beside our driveway in a rocky little niche where it has been quite happy. It also turns out that this is a location where I see it often and enjoy its quirky characteristics of having glaucous, blue-green foliage that is densely hairy and bristled. This also makes it one of those plants that is interesting to have in the garden all year long. The epithet for its name means scaly style and hence it is a lepidote (Subgenus Rhododendron). In his book, *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, Harold describes it well as a "compact little shrub (that) is most notable for its beautiful, fuzzy foliage which is an unusual bluish green" with leaves that are hairy and with "edges (having) tiny bristles" and whose "undersides have a dense covering of scales." Eventually it may get to 18" high though wider, will be hardy to -5°, and will bloom later in May.

Though mine has not flowered yet, eventually it will have pale yellow flowers borne singly or in pairs that are of a wide funnel form. In its native habitat, it is found in a small area of Yunnan growing at 10,000' to 12,000' on humus-covered boulders and in crevices of cliffs in ravines.

Taxonomists place it in Subgenus Rhododendron, Section Rhododendron, and Subsection Trichoclada along with *R. caesium*, *R. mekongense*, *R. trichocladum*, and *R. viridescens.*

Last spring, I noticed that the RSBG has a few *R. lepidostylum* planted in the stumpery that are growing very well with the ferns as well as *R. pendulum* and *R.sargentianum*. Since I have another plant growing in a container, I will find a place in our woodland garden to plant it along with some small ferns.

R. lepidostylum photo by Hank Helm

Introduction to Rhododendrons

by Jack Olson

Today is my birthday - October 23, 2014 - and I am now 72 years old. Wow, where has my life gone. It is hard to believe that I have been involved in rhododendrons since my first purchase of R. 'Britannia' in 1963. My family started purchasing rhododendrons for every occasion and the garden expanded with all kinds and colors of rhododendrons helping me to learn the names of many rhododendrons of that time. My dad purchased one hundred plants from Ted Van Veen, who had rhododendrons of many colors and variations in plant size from which to choose. This was the impetus for my interest in rhododendrons. While attending Oregon State University, I would recognize and identify many of the plants on campus including some very large R. 'Cynthia' that were at least fourteen feet high. I even have movies of my son Kevin walking around these plants in about 1965.

When I purchased my home in North Eugene, I quickly looked for rhododendrons to landscape with and my dad gave me twenty-five old plants that he had purchased. I planted R. 'Beauty of Littleworth' at the front corner of my house with its huge white trusses with little purple spots. In the back yard, under some oak trees, I planted about ten plants in a large circle that included R. 'Jan Dekens', R. 'Evening Glow', R. 'Mrs. Donald Graham', R. 'Sappho', R. 'Betty Wormald', R. 'Marinus Koster', R. 'Harvest Moon', R. 'Atraflo', R. 'Anna Rose Whitney', and R. 'Alice'. Along the side of the house were R. 'Lamplighter', R. 'Captain Jack', R. 'Cotton Candy', R 'Sister of Cotton Candy', and R. 'Faggetter's Favourite'. I purchased three species plants from Edgar Greer, *R. macabeanum, R. arboreum, and R. sutchuenense*. This is about the time I met Gladys and Willard Swenson who expanded my awareness of all the new hybrids of the 1970s and 1980s. R. 'Sunspray', R. 'Trude Webster', R. 'Black Eye', R. 'Red Eye', R. 'Yakity-yak', and many other R.yakushimanums. I was introduced to many of the lepidotes such as *R. augustinii* , *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons', *R. impeditum*, R. 'Ramapo', R. 'Shamrock', R. 'PJM', *R. camtschaticum*, *R. lutescens*, R. 'Crater Lake', and many others. I would get to see many of Harold Greer's introductions such as R. 'Harnden's White', R. 'Great Scott', R. 'Hallelujah', R. 'Sugar Pink', and many others.

Now that I have moved to Fall Creek, I have left many of my old plants and am now obtaining plants from the 1990s and post-2000s. It seems that I am constantly trying to have the latest new hybrids because there are vast improvements. By staying informed I have obtained quite a collection.

Now that I am hybridizing, I am making every attempt to improve on these old favorites and to seek out unusual and different plants. Fragrance, and colored foliage are at the top of my list in seedlings. It is a difficult goal, but it is fun and rewarding. So far, I have named four new hybrids, and have some more to name. With my new greenhouse, any of my hybrids that I root, I would love to share with members.

R. 'Sunspray' photo by Noel Berkeley

R. 'Trude Webster' R. 'Cynthia'

2014 **EVENT CALENDAR** 2015

CHAPTER EVENTS:

September 13	Potluck Picnic at home of Sherlyn & Cameron Hilton,	Noon to 3:00 p.m.
October 9	Chapter Meeting - *Companion Plantings at the RSBG* Speaker: Dennis Bottemiller	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
November 13	Chapter Meeting - *Hands-On Propagtation Workshop* Facillitator: Terry Henderson	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
December 11	Holiday Potluck Dinner & Members' Slide Show	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
January 14, 2015	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
February 12	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
March 12	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
April 25	Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn,	3:00 - 9:00 p.m.
June ??	June Picnic, details TBA	

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November 2014 Newsletter

www.ARSStore.org
Where every purchase benefits the American Rhododendron Society