

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER AND MEMBERS' SLIDE SHOW



*Thursday, December 10
at the Campbell Community Center
155 High Street in Eugene*



Scrumptious Potluck Dinner from the best cooks in town.

- The chapter will serve baked ham prepared by Chef Nancy Burns.
- Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to serve 12 along with a serving utensil. Or bring another main dish such as a special chicken recipe, a vegetarian entree, a seafood stew, or something you like to prepare.
- Arrive at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:15.

Be sure to bring your own dishes, napkins, utensils, glasses, and drink of choice. Coffee will be available.

Members' Slide Show at 7:15

Bring garden related digital photos on a flash drive in a JPEG format. If you bring them imbedded in a presentation software such as Keynote or PowerPoint they may not work unless Harold has that software on his computer. About 12 per person is good. Thank you Harold for handling the projection.

Come at 5:30 if you can help transform the meeting room into a festive hall.

. . . . and to all a good night.



It's December, so, if you have not renewed your ARS membership yet, we would appreciate you doing it soon. We do not want to lose you as a member. Write your check to "ARS Eugene Chapter" (\$40 for Regular Membership or \$10 for Associate Membership) and either bring it to Nancy Burns at the December 10 Holiday Dinner or mail it to ARS Eugene Chapter, P.O. Box 7704, Springfield, OR 97475. Thanks.

HYBRIDIZING GOALS

By Jack Olson

Well, we wanted rain, so now we are getting it. Though we really needed the rain, it makes it hard to go out and weed or move plants. Also, I have a lot of plants to move, since, when you grow plants, there comes a time when it is so crowded, they have to go or be moved. If there is a member who wants a free plant for the digging, I have them. I also have some very special plants (in my opinion) that are fantastic, but I must sell them, to help finance my habit. I just did 20 crosses, 18 of which took so I will be overrun with seedlings this next spring.

All of you should make a cross this next spring, just to see what you can get. It is a lot of fun, and you may get something special such as a trophy winner. Think why you are making the cross or what is the goal of your cross. Are you after fragrance? If so, what are the parent plants you can use to obtain that goal? Is it truss size? If so, then you need to look at a choice of large trusses and varieties with many florets. Is it

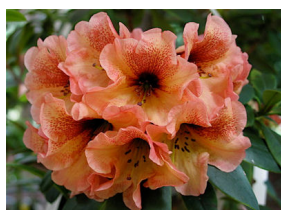
truss color? Then you need to know your plant colors, and which plants have a tendency to throw a certain color. Do you like round leaves, narrow leaves, or what type of foliage? What plant parentage is needed to produce a large plant or a small plant at maturity? Did you know that some plants drop their leaves after one year, making a very open and unattractive plant, while others will hold their leaves for four or five years, making a much more attractive plant? Do you want a double calyx, or flowers with a flair, or multi colors? And last, but not least, have you considered the foliage color? Many of my hybrids are throwing new growth in purples, browns, oranges, and reds, with variations in all those colors. The new growth is as pretty as the flowers. All these items should be considered when making a cross. And if you can think of any other goals that I have left out, let me know. It's all about the fun of hybridizing and improving our favorite plants. Now get out there and hybridize this spring, and if you need pointers, please ask.

Jack

Rhododendron 'Mardi' ('Coral Blossom' x ('Bambi' x *proteoides* #12))



R. 'Mardi' photo by Jim Barlup 2008



R. Coral Blossom'



R. 'Lem's Cameo'

Hybridized in 2002 by Jim Barlup, one of the most prolific hybridizers in the Pacific NW in the past 20 years, this attractive flower illustrates Jack's comments on hybridizing. On the pollen-parent's side, *R. proteoides* will bring a smaller size to the plant which is listed as 3' in 10 years. Also, the pollen parent brings hardiness from the *yak* as well as color from 'Fabia Tangerine'. The seed-parent, 'Coral Blossom' (another Barlup hybrid) brings in the color variations of the well known 'Lem's Cameo'.



R. proteoides



R. 'Fabia Tangerine'

