



EUGENE CHAPTER

December Newsletter 2010



Annual Holiday Dinner & Member Slide Show



December 9, 2010 - 6 to 9 p.m.

Campbell Center 155 High Street, Eugene

- Ham will be provided, baked by Paula
- Initials A-Z Bring your favorite holiday side dishes
- Be generous - 'tis the season!
- Bring your table service : silverware, plates, napkins, cups and any special beverage, I.e. wine. Coffee, tea will be provided.
- Bring your favorite pictures of garden related plants, travel, pets - even babies, but no more than 10 - copied on a CD on your computer or take slides/pictures to Walgreens, Walmart, or friend to be copied to a CD.
- Bring food at 6 p.m. so elves can organize for DINING at 6:30 p.m.
- Member Slide show at 7:30 p.m.

Doug and Mary Furr are doing the tables & decorations.

Questions? Call Furrs at 541-896-3216

Jack Olson is bringing greens to deck the hall.

Helping hands welcome!

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Ted Hewitt
VICE PRESIDENT:	Douglas Furr
TREASURER:	Rick Reed
SECRETARY:	Paula Hewitt
PAST PRESIDENT:	Helen Baxter
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:	Rick Reed

BOARD MEMBERS	Term
Frances Burns	2008 - 2011
JoAnn Napier	2009 - 2012
Leonard Frojen	2009 - 2012
Gordon Wylie	2010 - 2013
Terry Henderson	2010 - 2013

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominations	Harold Greer	686-1540
Hospitality	JoAnn Napier	746-0828
Welfare	Naney Greer	686-1540
Honors	Rich Aaring	485-6013

NEWSLETTER EDITOR	541-896-3216
Frances Burns	rebfeb@gmail.com
	P0 Box 663
	Walterville, OR 97489

NL MAILING	746-0828
JoAnn Napier	

WEBMASTER	687-8119
Ted Hewitt	

EUGENE CHAPTER WEBSITE
<http://www.eugene.chapter-ars.org>



Making things new is not my forte'. Seeing things anew –from an odd angle, in an unexpected light, coloured differently – somehow suits my nature better. It comes naturally, I suppose, to someone who believes he's living a completely different life from the one he's actually in the middle of.

Robert Dessaix,

Australian broadcaster, author,
translator, literary commentator.

EDITOR'S BYTE

FRANCES BURNS



Kookaburra sits on the old gum tree,
Merry Merry King of the bush is he.
Laugh! Kookaburra, Laugh!
Kookaburra, gay your life must be!
Australian Nursery Rhyme

Thousands of miles behind me lies the land of Oz, with its dramatic panoramas, warm friendly people with accents difficult to understand at times – rapid is their speech and foreign to the ear at first. But hang in there – they are quite sure we're the ones with funny speech!

With a ream of notes, a thousand pictures, and scores of garden tours to remember, I am home from the trip of a lifetime! (The 1997 trip was pretty fabulous, too!) Organizing all the pictures and notes, writing thank-you notes to the many who made my trip special – well I knew when the plane landed back in Portland, I'd have to hit the ground running--I just didn't realize how fast!

Kathy Van Veen, Artiste of Rooted Cuttings, shipped my last year's cuttings with roots-to-die-for in a big carton to coincide with my return. All 63 now sit in their prospective pots awaiting planting mix to replace their damp newspaper wrappings. Where? On the well protected dining room table. Thanksgiving is two days away and I have the chef's firm directive to clear the table for Thanksgiving. It's freezing outside, the greenhouse will only hold part of them, and *what* was I thinking when the 2009 autumn days were so sunny and warm? I am most thankful for a large living room, which I am about to turn into a temporary botanical garden, because I'm one of those wimpy folks who doesn't work outside when it's below 40° F.

The metric system prevails in Australia for temperatures, rainfall, distances, gasoline and other things. I took with me the formula for changing Celsius temperatures to Fahrenheit, but somehow could never locate it when the topic was rife. Full-body inspection at the airport was a *breeze* compared to dealing with the metric system. Since my body fits within the range of the *homo sapiens* blueprint, except for a knee replacement, which fast-tracked me to the infamous pat-down line, I saw no benefit in staging a TSA protest. Prior to the pat-down, the unsmiling, but somewhat gracious gloved employee rattled off **what** she was going to do and where, and repeated it verbatim as she did it--wallpaper on the ceiling would have been a nice gesture' Meanwhile I fretted to myself, "get it *over* with before someone steals my purse"-- as it slowly floated past from of the X-ray machine. Mary, beloved daughter and world traveler *extraordinaire*, packed my bags with a firm hand--liquids in checked luggage, prescription meddies and bill of sale for my camera in my handbag, lest might think I was a druggie or was smuggling a camera from a duty-free shop in Japan into the country and, ie, extract duty charges. Clothing was shrunk into dozens of plastic bags so no earthly hands, not even Customs', would touch them in transit, reducing the possibility of bedbugs catching a lift; my Sudoku puzzles were discreetly tucked into a handy niche and promptly lost. It's fair to say that I had a problem *extraordinaire* repacking for the trip home, plastic baggies notwithstanding.

So much to tell you, but my botanical charges on the dining room table are beckoning!

NEW RHODODENDRONS AUCTIONED AT NOVEMBER MEETING

November 18, 2010

<p><u>'Honey Butter'</u> - Jim Barlup - 'Nancy Evans' x ('China' x 'Lem's Cameo') 4' in 10 years, -5° F, 4 / 4, Yellow-orange bi-color flowers. Buds young.</p>	<p>\$15 Ted</p>
<p><u>'Laramie'</u> - Jim Barlup - <i>R. yakushimanum</i> 'Exbury' x <i>R. macabeanum</i> 3' in 10 years, 5° F, E, 2 / 3, Large leaves. Sister seedling of 'Powder Snow'</p>	<p>\$16 Jack</p>
<p><u>'Amiblue'</u> - Bill Stipes - <i>R. ponticum</i> x 'Whidbey Island ' 5' in 10 years, EM</p>	<p>\$20 Terry</p>
<p><u>'Pomegranate Splash'</u> - Frank Fujioka - 'Midnight Mystique' x 'Magenta Sky' 4-5' in years, 0° F, ML, Spectacular bi-color flowers.</p>	<p>\$21 Galen</p>
<p><u>'Opal Luster'</u> - Frank Fujioka - 'Nancy Evans' x 'Percy Wiseman' 5-6' in 10 years, 0° F, M-ML, 5 / 4</p>	<p>\$15 Terry</p>
<p><u>'Saffron Silk'</u> - Frank Fujioka - 'Nancy Evans' x ('Odee Wright' x 'Crest') 6-7' in 10 years, -10° F, EM-M,</p>	<p>\$21 Barbara Novak</p>
<p><u>'Seaview Sunset'</u> - Frank Fujioka - 'Nancy Evans' x 'Canadian Sunset' 2' in 10 years, 0° F, E, Very showy flowers.</p>	<p>\$16 Gary Parent</p>
<p><u>'Twilight Sun'</u> - Jim Barlup - ('Nancy Evans' x [Whopper x 'Tropicana']) X Whitney Pumpkin 4' in 10 years, 0° F, M,</p>	<p>\$20 Gordon</p>
<p><u>'Prism'</u> - Nolan Blansit 2000, 'Nancy Evans' x 'Tamarindos' (donated by Jack) Height so far and, Hardy PNW, M, Unique truss, Blue/purple tones.</p>	<p>\$16 Nancy Burns</p>
<p>Subtotal</p>	<p><u>\$160.00</u></p>
<p>Less cost of Plants</p>	<p><u>-75.60</u></p>
<p><u>Chapter income</u></p>	<p><u>\$ 84.40 net</u></p>
<p><u>Breast Cancer Donation</u></p>	
<p><u>'The Pink Ribbons'</u> - Gene Cockeram - 'Paprika Spiced x 'Jezebel' Plant #1 (donated by Doug, Paula, and Ted) 4' in 10 years, 10° F, ML</p>	<p>\$20 Ali Sarlak</p>
<p>Plant #2 (donated by Terry)</p>	<p><u>\$20 Paula</u></p>
<p><u>Donated to Susan G. Komen Foundation</u></p>	<p><u>\$40 total</u></p>

Looking out my patio doors reminds me how quickly weather can change and dictate what must be done in ones garden. A month ago from this writing (11/14), I was mowing my lawn every week to keep it trim and neat. Now I mow whenever I can to clean the lawn of leaves and twigs that blow down during storms. All the leaves are saved in a pile under 'Romany Chal' because that's where I will bury my fuchsias. After a couple of months of mowing my lawn, the leaf mulch gets about 3 ½ ft tall and is a great insulator for the fuchsias.

Our first freeze makes it necessary for me to plan when I will dig my dahlias. They must be dug, washed and then cut into separate tubers, labeled and stored for the following spring.

I also start collecting seed pods. If I have made a cross of two different rhodies, I have logged it in my flower book. Now I go through my book so that I can go to those plants and collect the seed pods. I then put the seed pods in small sacks, always keeping the sacks properly labeled. I place the sacks in the front room on top of my bookshelf. I find that the heat dries the pod which causes them to split.

From then until show time I am always watching for good show trusses. I look for good leaves and straight stems. I may even use florescent tape to mark potential show trusses.

The fall storms start a new season and new gardening jobs. If one does not stay ahead of these tasks, the work may really pile up by spring. *Jack Olson 1991*

*Train up a fig tree in the way it
should go, and when you are old sit under
the shade of it.
Charles Dickens*

Nadine & Michael Scanlan of Talent, Oregon have recently rejoined our group. They first joined our chapter in 1989, then "disappeared" at some point after the 2001 roster was published.

Welcome back, Nadine & Michael! We hope to see you at a meeting soon, though Talent is a long drive. How about the holiday party December 9?

A warm welcome also to Ronald and Cheryl Prchal, new Eugene associate members from Siuslaw Chapter, who have a lovely garden on South Jetty Road in Florence, and have attended some Eugene Chapter events in the past year They joined at the Fall Picnic.

Whatever Happened to Barrett's Nelson Mountain Garden?

Mary Knight is the current owner of Slim Barrett's former Nelson Mountain Garden. A very nice lady who realizes what a terrific property she has but without a lot of knowledge of rhododendrons. Slim has visited her at his old garden; we wish her well, and hope she accepts her invitation to the December potluck and slide show. If anyone has pictures of that garden, it's a sure thing she would be delighted to see them.

We are very happy worms today,
But it hasn't always been that way.
We had to pack our lunch, you see,
The ground was hard & mighty dry—
We couldn't even get the dust to fly.
With a bar, a shovel and a pick,
We'd have made some dandy bricks!

The boss arrived with peat & plants,
The soil's so soft, with joy we prance.
With lots of roots on which to munch,
Nevermore we'll make our lunch.
The only thing we simply have to do
Is watch out for a nasty mole or two.
With his hoe the boss is nice and firm —
Never never does he slice a worm.

We thank him for each day we live,
To him we have so much to give.
And give we do with thankful heart;
We laugh and giggle and do our part!
And what we do you all must know,
Is make it easy for for the plants to grow.
We dig, we tunnel, we aer-i-ate;
It helps our gardening boss to irrigate.

The rhodie roots, they really grow;
That will help him win at every show.
We like to care for his new field,
For this is where he'll find his yield —
Best New Truss at the summer show.
He's ne'er done that before — and so
He'll keep trying and never sway —
We worms will dig and munch all day!

Merle Sanders, 1991

SPRING BANQUET & SHOW ~ DECISIONS DECISIONS!

Because of the extra time involved in putting on the 2011 ARS National Convention, the ARS Eugene Chapter Board has chosen to have a single Spring Rhododendron Show on April 16, 2011. We have also chosen to change the venue of this show to the brand new banquet room of Mookie's Northwest Grill at 400 International Way in Springfield which is very convenient to the I-5 and Beltline interchange. This location offers more space, better lighting, excellent facilities, convenient access, good food, and a very pleasant ambience, all of which provide for the possibility of having a different kind of show that might include a flower show, dinner, speaker, and auction like we have done in the past but also opens the opportunity for new ideas.

And this is where the Board needs your help. We are forming a Spring Rhododendron Show Planning Committee to plan a show that will take advantage of the new facilities and be enjoyable for our members as well as within what our smaller membership can do. If you would like to help with this, please contact Ted Hewitt by phone (541-687-8119) or by e-mail (ted.hewitt@comcast.net).

Over the next few months, there will be articles in the chapter newsletter to update you with the plans. It will be an exciting time to hear what new ideas come forth and I send my thanks in advance. TH

Editor's note: A few minutes ago word was received from Siuslaw Chapter that their early show, originally schedule for April 16-17 had to be rescheduled to the 9th & 10th to fit in with The Florence Event Center schedule. So keep any eye open for a new date for our Eugene early show...possibly April 16th? The board will ponder this new development at its next meeting.

UPDATE ON CHAPTER ACTIVITY AT HINSDALE GARDEN

HINSDALE FALL PLANTING DAY -

Somehow Gordon Wylie picked the best day of the week in mid-November to schedule the ARS District 4 planting day at the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden on the Umpqua River. Though it was overcast the temperature was mild and when we arrived about 10:00 in the morning the rhododendrons to be planted were already placed where they were to go along with a bag of pea gravel and two bags of mulch. With much of the garden being built on soil that had been dredged from the river bottom, it is easy to skim off a grassy patch, dig a shallow hole in the sandy loam, place the gravel in the hole for drainage, mix some mulch with the soil from the hole, plant the rhododendron and cover with the remaining mulch. With about 20 ARS members and three BLM folks the planting of the 30 rhododendrons was finished by 11:30 and we even had to wait for the soup to be heated before lunch. Bob MacIntyre, District 4 Director, and his wife, Marjean, supplied the excellent home-made soup, sandwich makings, and delicious pumpkin bread for the hungry crew.

Now that the garden is in its third year of renovation, the plants are responding to the extra light from the limbed-up trees and lack of competition from blackberries and scrub, and access is now much easier with a wide, new bridge over the slough. By spring even the new plantings will have some blooms and the established 50- to 70-year old plants will be covered with blossoms easily seen from the highway. According to Gordon the garden now has one of the largest selections of the 'Loderi' grex outside the United Kingdom that will only get better with time. Each time that I visit this lovely garden beside the river I am so impressed with how it sat untended for so many years and survived. Special thanks go to Gordon for his tireless work on the project, Terry Henderson for transporting the new plants to the garden, and those chapter members who attended the planting party. It was quite a day for the chapters of ARS District 4.

Most people, early in November, take last looks at their gardens, and are then prepared to ignore them until the spring. I am quite sure that a garden doesn't like to be ignored like this. It doesn't have to be covered in dust sheets, as though it were an old room which you had shut up during the winter. Especially since a garden knows how gay and delightful it can be, even in the very frozen heart of the winter, if you only give it a chance. Beverly Nichols

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The end of another year is upon us and I always tend to look back over the year at some of the happenings, but first I would like to address a couple of more current affairs of the chapter. The annual December Holiday Potluck Dinner is always a nice time to sit down with our friends to enjoy good food and conversation and then to see some photos of what has been happening in our gardens, our travels, and our families. I hope that many of you will be able to join us on December 9 for this social event.

At the November meeting, several of you took home an exciting new hybrid for your garden and helped contribute to our coffers with a net profit of about \$85 from the auction. As a chapter, we were also able to contribute \$40 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research by auctioning off two donated plants of Rhododendron 'The Pink Ribbons'. Thanks go to all of you who helped with this event.

Now for a look back over 2010. Early in the year, the chapter website was rebuilt and is a good resource for what the chapter is currently doing as well as what it has done in the past. If you have not had the chance to explore it, be sure to take a look at www.eugene-chapter-ars.org. In the spring, the Early Show at the Oregon Electric Show was judged by our own members, providing a nice way to begin the evening of camaraderie. In the Center Court of the Gateway Mall, many of our members contributed trusses as well as volunteer hours to showcase rhododendrons for the community at the May Show. In April, a number of our members enjoyed a field trip to visit the Berry Botanic Garden and The Bovees Nursery in Portland and the Cecil Smith Garden near St. Paul. What fun to enjoy these three wonderful rhododendron gardens in good company. In May, the chapter had another successful plant sale in conjunction with the Hardy Plant Group at the fairgrounds as our major fund-raising event of the year.

Being the social animals that we are, we again enjoyed summer picnics - at Jack and Sandie Olson's house in June and at Nancy and Harold Greer's garden in August. By fall, the chapter Members' Handbook had been updated and distributed to members as another resource for the rich and long history in rhododendron culture that the Eugene Chapter has had. In October many of us took the opportunity to attend the wonderful programs, plant sale, and bonsai exhibit at the ARS Western Regional Conference in Florence. In 2010, the chapter made contributions to the revitalization of the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden on the Umpqua River with spring garden visits and a fall planting day. If you have yet to see how nicely this garden is being reclaimed, set a visit there as a priority in 2011.

Of course, one of the major reasons that people belong to the chapter is the program schedule and this year we have twice traveled to the Himalayas in search of plants, we have learned what makes the Kalmiopsis Wilderness such a biologically diverse region, we have revisited the many rhododendron hybrids that have been developed by hybridizers in the Pacific Northwest, and we have traveled to gardens in New Zealand. Wow! It really is worth looking back over the year and realizing how much this chapter has done. Thank you one and all. Finally, as you read this Newsletter, take a moment to realize what a fine production it is and how lucky this chapter is. Thank you, Frances. [Thank YOU, Ted!]

**One should take good care not to grow too wise for so
great a pleasure of life as laughter.**



Addison

Frances M. Wilkins & the Hendricks Park Lodge

It was on a full moon night of March 4, 1999 that an extraordinary local windstorm uprooted 24 100-year-old Douglas fir trees in Hendricks Park. Two of them flattened a large timbered lodge structure, leaving only the fireplace standing. From a Eugene Register Guard article dated August 9, 1938, it was learned that Wilkins, chairman of the Eugene Parks Board, formally presented the lodge to the City of Eugene. The celebration was held on his 90th birthday and dedicated to him for his more than thirty years of service on the Parks Board, which he helped create following the founding of Hendricks Park, Eugene's first park, in 1906. The park board "served free coffee with cream and sugar. Music was furnished by the I.O.O.F. band and Dr. Charles E. Hunt led the group in singing."

Judge Lawrence T. Harris paid tribute "to Francis Marion Wilkins, a fine gentleman and public spirited citizen, who has completed 90 useful and eventful years of life." A related newspaper account of August, 1938 invited the public to attend the dedication and greet Wilkins, "who has done more, perhaps than any one individual to see that Eugene obtained what park facilities it has and to foster the program of planting trees and shrubbery that the city might be a beautiful place in which to live."

Also, according to newspaper accounts, Wilkins "pleaded with his fellow citizens to 'save something for the future,' and to think of the unborn generations and give them parks and other beauties of nature to enjoy." Shortly before the dedication of the lodge, an issue was placed on the ballot in Eugene to save Spencer's Butte from further logging and to purchase the land as public park. In a letter to the Eugene Daily News, Wilkins, "that tree happy pioneer said, 'Remember, Eugene boys and girls will be climbing Spencer's Butte fifty and one hundred years from today, to be inspired by a city built out to the very foot of the butte.'" (from *The Story of Eugene*, The History of Eugene's First Century by Moor, McCornack, McCready)

Both men served in the early city government of Eugene, Hendricks on the first city council in 1864 and later as mayor. Wilkins served as mayor from 1904 through 1906. It was reported that in 1906 the Wilkins and Hendricks families rode in their horse-drawn carriages to the hilltop on the eastern outskirts of Eugene for a picnic and when they arrived on the ridge line, admired the panoramic view of Eugene and its environs.

On that night Hendricks proposed to purchase half of the land for Eugene's first park, if Wilkins could persuade the city council to purchase the other half. The city council followed their lead and in 1906 Thomas and Martha Hendricks deeded their portion and the city provided the additional land to create nearly 80 acres of parkland, the city's first. In the deed they stated the importance of procuring such land "while it was available in a natural state," as logging was occurring on the land adjacent to it. They dedicated the park forever for the public's enjoyment and recreation, realizing what a great city Eugene was likely to become. Wilkins and his family were known for planting and defending the trees in Eugene and their long family history is filled with stories of trees.

As mayor of Eugene, Wilkins encouraged families in a "back to the soil" movement. He planted trees in the schoolyards of early Eugene and promoted agriculture as a member of the Lane County Agricultural Society which was formed to hold fairs in Lane County. Mitchell Wilkins, pioneer settler in 1847, and father of Francis Marion Wilkins, had promoted agriculture in the State of Oregon and the first Oregon State Fair. Permelia Allen Wilkins, his mother, planted a flower garden with seeds which she had carried in their long journey from Missouri. F. M. Wilkins and his family planted native maples and walnut trees along the streets of early Eugene and, as was reported upon his death in September 1941, "He always liked to think of Eugene as a city of trees, and it was a great sorrow to him that many of the fine old trees were to be cut down as the city expanded." ("Eugene Register 'Guard, Sept. 6, 1941) It was reported in the same article that many trees were planted around the Wilkins home and at one time: "Wilkins boasted of having every tree native to Oregon Planted in his yard."

Lucia Moore, Nina McCornack and Gladys McCready, 3 daughters of Wilkins, retold the history of Eugene in its first century in *The Story of Eugene*, which includes the history of its trees. In her will, Gladys Wilkins McCready left a generous sum for the beautification of Hendricks and Skinner Butte Parks. Martha Hendricks Goodrich bequeathed a generous trust which is dedicated for the natural area of Hendricks Park.

It is fitting that after the 1999 storm, the picnic lodge was rebuilt and rededicated Nov. 4, 2000 as the Francis Marion Wilkins Lodge. (Ed note: contents reprinted in part from an article by Michael Robert in the Eugene December 2000 Newsletter.

DECEMBER 2010
See you at the party
December 9, 2010



Ice Prism

Photo by Jim Barlup



Waiting for Santa In New Zealand

Photo by Alan Trott



2010 Rhododendron Calendar 2011

Dec. 9 Annual Holiday Potluck & Member Slide Show, Campbell Ctr, 155 High St, Eugene

Jan. 13 Program “Rhodie Insights” presented by Jack Olson.

Feb. 10 Program “The BLM Hinsdale Garden Project” by Steve Samuels, BLM

Mar. 10 Annual Meeting; Board Member election;

Program: **Panel Discussion: Prepping a Truss for Show and Judging**

Apr. 9 -10 Siuslaw Chapter Early Show, Florence

Apr. 16 Early Show and Banquet at Mookies

May 11-15 ARS Annual Convention, Vancouver, WA, <http://www.heathmanlodge.com>

EUGENE CHAPTER WEBSITE <http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

Happy Holidays