



EUGENE CHAPTER

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

STEVE HOOTMAN TUESDAY JANUARY 12

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

It's time to pay attention to the switch in dates for our January meeting. The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group has invited us to share their speaker, Steve Hootman, at their meeting on Tuesday, January 12, which is the second Tuesday of the month rather than the second Thursday. Therefore, we will be meeting at Agate Hall on the University of Oregon campus, Agate St. at 18th Avenue in Eugene. This is the old Condon Elementary School that faces Agate Street and has parking lots on both the north and the south ends with entrances from the Agate Alley behind the school. You can get to Agate Alley from either 17th Ave. on the north or from 18th Ave. on the south. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. but the doors open at 6:30 for time for visiting, perusing the books for sale, inspecting the botanical samples that people bring from their gardens (probably not much in January), and finding information about events going on in the garden community. This is the annual business meeting of the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group and its members are admitted with no charge, though non-members are charged \$6.00. However, current members of the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron society are invited at no charge. In the entry hall of the building you will find Ted Hewitt at one of the tables with a list of current members so he can check your name off and give you a door prize ticket. If you have not re-



newed your ARS Eugene Chapter membership, bring your \$40 and you will be admitted free; otherwise the charge will be \$6.00. Refreshments are served after the program. As you know, Steve Hootman is co-director and cura-

tor of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA, and one of the world's foremost plant hunters. His expeditions to the eastern Himalayas in China have helped further conservation of wild rhododendrons and other plant material in this remarkably diverse region. Steve brings back propagation material to enrich the collection of the RSBG, which in turn makes these new plants available to the public. This illustrated program will highlight the diversity of species in both the Himalayas and the mountains of Viet Nam. Each mountain and each elevation zone sports its own varieties of perennials, shrubs, and trees, creating an incredibly broad genetic diversity.

Mark your calendars for this exciting evening with Steve Hootman on "Plant Exploration in the Himalayas and Viet Nam" - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, at Agate Hall on the U of O campus. For more information contact Ted Hewitt at 687-8119 or e-mail at ted.hewitt@comcast.net or go to the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group website at www.thehardyplantgroup.org. We look forward to sharing this exceptional program with you. Ted Hewitt

While the editor was working with her new publishing software, strange things mixed the Newsletter up a bit.

Points of View

I'd tiptoe out to the back to see whether I could catch Grandfather in one of his interminable conversations with his flowers.

~Helen Hayes

The current fad for talking and singing to plants and telling them we love them will probably result in nothing more than a vastly increased rate of plant mortality - as gardeners proceed farther and farther down the foolish road of what they presume to be utter communion

~ Henry Mitchell

Have YOU made a contribution to the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden? It would please Steve immensely. Too little money means no full-time gardener and new projects put on hold. Rhododendron Species Foundation at PO Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98003-9996. It's a great garden, let's support it.





EDITOR'S BYTE

A left knee replacement on December 16 to relieve the bone-on-bone friction of arthritis, was my lot – all the better to garden and do Tai Chi, I hope. While the doctor painted word pictures of playing tennis, golfing, leaping over small buildings, etc. all I really wanted for Christmas was to be able to shovel the good earth.

Since Steve Hootman may be relating his adventures in Viet Nam, I have a little story on the subject myself. My grandson, an ex-Marine, is half Viet Nameese and now lives in Saigon with his wife, Thu. He teaches English to high school students there: And as most high school teachers, likes to have a

little fun with his ghoulish American sense of humor. A University of Oregon graduate, he mentioned the Civil War game between the Ducks and the Beavers that was playing at home that day:

This last Friday (Thursday Dec. 3 for you), none of my students knew what a beaver was, so I drew a rudimentary picture on the white board with drops of blood dripping from it's fearsome buck-teeth and explained to them this is the most evil animal in North America that sneaks into houses and eats little children. Afterwards I told them if they ever need protection from this hideous

creature, they should get a pet duck to fend off the beaver. The final test question of the day was "Which is better, a duck or a beaver?"

??????????



??????????



YAKKIN' AT THE OLD TOOL SHED

If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.
 Author Unknown

Spring is on the way; we just have to endure winter first. One of the first displays of color noticed in late winter/early spring is the dandelion. With its bright yellow flowers, lush green leaves, and gossamer seed heads, they attract many insects such as flies, bees and butterflies. If you use insects such as the Blue Orchard Bee to pollinate

your garden, or enjoy early butterflies such as the mourning cloaks, don't be so quick to pull them out. They provide both nectar and pollen for many early spring insects.

Questions? Comments? E-mail me at garden.projects@hotmail.com

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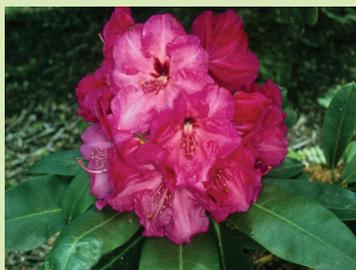
Website <http://www-eugene-chapter-ars.org>

MAECENAS CONDIMENTUM
 WHICH MEANS, I THINK.
 A DUCK IS A DUCK IS A DUCK!





Some of Merle's Children



Rh. 'Gentle Giant'



Trude Webster x Sanders hybrid



Rh. 'Melrose Flash'



Rh. 'Royal Ruffles'



MERLE SANDERS

1931 ~ 2009

In October, Merle was awarded the Bronze Medal from the chapter. On the night of November 22nd he passed peacefully away of a brain aneurism. He wrote articles for our newsletter; they ranged from pathos to comedy to raising rhododendrons. The following article he sent in for the January 1995 newsletter – written by 'Jean Marie de Montague' herself.

FROM THE HEART

BY JEAN MARIE

I said I wouldn't write until one of my children won a prize for my owner, Merle, but my life was such a mess; I know understanding readers will want to hear about it.

People do get married and many of these marriages fail for one reason or another. It is no different with us plants. I fell truss over leaf in love with a dark, good looking stranger who's name will remain unmentioned. We met in a truss show ~ by the time the show ended, we were wed. Having children wasn't discussed; alas, I presumed too much. Soon we moved out on our own—a mistake—and the subject of children arose. Since we live in unpredictable times, he declared he wasn't about to have children, what with two horrible freezes in the past few years. Many of his older friends had died as well as many, young ones who hadn't matured enough to take such cold weather. He had aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews who had frozen to death—horrible!

Recent droughts had also taken relatives and friends. They died of thirst—the worst way of dying – except being talked to death. Plants get

puny and straggly before expiring. In fact, his uncle who was very robust and healthy until the drought hit, clung to life for two years before popping off. It was clear, no children for my beloved!

I began to cry – the more I cried the harder it was to talk to him. He was so stubborn! I dreamed of being back in Merle's garden.

Knowing that I would never have children, I couldn't go on. Certainly I'd never step out on him. There was only one thing to do: I got an annulment. Crawling back to Merle on my roots, I pleaded with him to allow me to come back to his garden. He finally agreed, but only if I would let him be the matchmaker in the future.

This time I will be sure to have children; lots of them are wanted. He will have to ask Merle for my truss in marriage. Now that this is settled, my problems are over and I will have many children for my owner to be proud of.

The End





EUGENE CHAPTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Christmas and New Years have come and gone. Hope everyone had great holidays. We had a real cold snap the first part of December and our rhodies with their curled leaves may have looked sick to some. I like to think they were just having a nice nap and will again amaze us in the spring. They probably do it on purpose, just so we will never take them for granted. Some will win ribbons and trophies at our shows with their blooms.

Galen goes out to the greenhouse once or twice a day to see how the cuttings are doing. The only heat in it is the heat cable under the cuttings, so the greenhouse gets cold.

He also reads the old and new journals, re-reading some of the older ones and learning things he had missed the first time around. I tell him now is the time to decide what gets

moved when the ground and the air are warmer.

We do not always agree on what to do. Gardening in the winter seems to be mostly in our minds, except for the vireyas. One that was not growing is now putting on some new growth. "Showstopper" and "Plum Pudding" are doing well. We were saddened by the unexpected passing of our long time member, Merle Sanders of Roseburg. We also learned of the passing of a long time Willamette Chapter member, Frank Mossman. Frank was a fan of *occidentale* and took many trips to the south coast in search of different forms.

It is almost time for election of officers again. We need a vice-president and two new or renewed board members. Any organization needs new officers and new ideas, so call Harold Greer to volunteer or to nominate

someone, with their permission, of course.

Remember the special January meeting – it's not on a regular meeting night. The details are on the front page.

Think spring, it will soon be here.

Helen



Rh. 'Dreamy Cream'

A Merle Sanders hybrid

When Clouds appear like
Rocks and Towers,
The Earth's refreshed by
Frequent Showers.

John Claridge

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

FOR SALE HP printer/fax/copier/scanner.

Never used. Could be set up as wireless if you have the right router. \$50.00 JoAnn Napier 746-0828 or joannnapier@msn.com

LAUGH AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS!

Walking in the city, a man was accosted by a dirty, shabby-looking bum who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner. The man extracted two dollars from his wallet and asked, "If I give you this money, will you take it and buy whiskey?" "No. I stopped drinking years ago," the bum answered.

"Will you use it to gamble?" "I don't gamble. I need every thing I can get just to stay alive." "Will you spend the money on greens fees at a golf course?" "Are you crazy? I haven't played golf in 20 years!"

The man said, "Well, I'm not going to give you two dollars. Instead, I'm going to take you to my home for a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

Astounded, the bum said, "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty and probably smell pretty bad."

"That's OK," the man replied. "I just want her to see what a man looks like who has given up drinking, gambling and golf."





EUGENE CHAPTER

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A large majority of chapter members now have computers. Even our president succumbed to accessing the world wide web (www) and is sailing around its universe on a laptop propelled by Windows 7, no less! – feeling like Aladdin on his Magic Carpet, no doubt.

The question to be considered is: Is it time to consider reading the newsletter online with just the push of a button in an e-mail once a month? Every question has its pros and cons.

We now send the newsletter out in black and white using bulk mail rates provided for non-profit organizations which saves the chapter postage money over sending it first class. The problem is, we have to send 200 copies in a batch or we don't get the special rate. We are floating at the 200 mark, paying for printing them when we could easily send them in beautiful color by electronic mail at no charge.

If we were to switch to electric mailing right now, the dozen or less members without a computer would no longer receive the black and white newsletter unless a few were printed in black and white and mailed first class rates. This will be discussed at the February meeting. In the meantime, why not consider getting a computer

with web and e-mail capability –they are very now quite reasonably priced. Sometimes a free printer is included. Get the kid next door to help you set it up.

Imagine having a huge library at your fingertips. Access information by typing into the “search engine” (sometimes named Google) the subject dear to your heart. Your choice! Family and friends are but a few finger taps away. Whether puzzles and games or comparison shopping is your wish, you are the Aladdin who pushes the keys. One must push the right one, there is that, but the computer won't go into paroxysms of grief if you don't. You only have to try try again. We all went through that.

Health authorities recommend computers for older folks; they provide activity for a healthy brain, which may help stave off Alzheimers. At the public library watch children barely able to see over the keyboard navigating their way through the library catalog! Consider getting a computer for your pleasure – and so cost effective for the chapter. Best of all one can choose whether to to receive the newsletter or not!

Check out our website:
<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

MAECENAS CONDIMENTUM

(Leonard Frojen can translate this for you.)

ONCE UPON A TIME A HOUSEWORK-CHALLENGED HUSBAND DECIDED TO WASH HIS SWEATSHIRT. FROM THE LAUNDRY ROOM HE SHOUTED TO HIS WIFE. “WHAT SETTING DO I USE ON THE WASHING MACHINE?”
“IT DEPENDS.” SHE REPLIED.
“WHAT DOES IT SAY ON YOUR SHIRT?”
“UNIVERSITY OF OREGON”. HE YELLED BACK.

Donec sit amet neque.
Donec posuere tempus
massa. Duis bibendum
adipiscing nibh.
(Whatever you do,
beware!)

Once upon a time a man walked into a bar, ordered a triple of the best in the house and slammed it down in one gulp. He then ordered another, slammed it down and reordered.
“That's expensive whiskey to drink so fast.” the bartender said.
“You'd drink it fast too if you had what I have.” the man answered.
“What do you have?”
“Two dollars.”

Husband: “What have you been doing with all the grocery money I give you?”
Wife: “Turn sideways and look in the mirror.”





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2010 CHAPTER CALENDAR

- Jan 12 Steve Hootman on "PLANT EXPLORATION IN THE HIMALAYAS"
Tuesday night 7:00 p.m. with Hardy Plant Group at Agate Hall,
18th and Agate Streets, Eugene (SEE PAGE 1 for details.)
- Jan 19 Hinsdale Garden Restoration, Siuslaw Chapter, Presbyterian
Church, 3996 Hwy 101, Florence. 6:45 pm. Visitors welcome.
- Feb 11 Wilbur Bluhm on "THE KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS",
Campbell Center, 155 High St, Eugene
- Mar 11 Keith White on "PLANT HUNTING IN SICHUAN",
Annual Meeting & Election, Campbell Center
- Apr 10 Early Rhododendron Show; Honors Banquet
"HYBRIDS & HYBRIDIZERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST,
Speaker Mike Stewart ~ The Electric Station, Eugene
- May 1 & 2 May Rhododendron Show, Location in progress
May 8 Plant Sale, Fairgrounds

