



Ectomycorrhizae on birch roots. From <http://mycorrhizas.info/root.html>

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

EUGENE CHAPTER

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

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EUGENE CHAPTER APRIL EVENT.

The 2014 Flower Show will be our final monthly get together until we resume chapter meetings in the fall. Please join us to celebrate spring, 2014. See page 4 for more details.



BRING YOUR TRUSSES & SPRAYS TO THE 2014 FLOWER SHOW

APRIL 19, 2014
3:00 TO 9:00

HILTON GARDEN INN
3528 GATEWAY ST.
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97477

Entries accepted 3:15 - 4:45

Voting 5:00 - 5:45

Buffet Dinner 6:00
(\$25 Per Person)

Plant Auction and Member
Presentations 7:00 - 9:00

Don't Forget to Bring:

- * Bonsai, vireyas and photos for the display tables
- * Digital photos for slide show (up to ten)
- * Checkbook and/or cash for plants and dinner (make checks payable to ARS Eugene Chapter, sorry no credit cards)

RSVP for Dinner by April 12th

Harold Greer (541)686-1540 or hgreer@greergardens.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: SHERLYN HILTON (775)846-1950 OR
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Editor's Note

In nature, rhododendrons, and other ericaceous plants, are found in areas with nutrient poor soils. This does not mean that rhododendrons do not need nutrients - propagating nurseries use substantial amounts of fertilizer to induce vigorous growth - and failure to continue a regular program of fertilization after in-ground planting can result in the death of newly acquired plants.

So here, then, is a contradiction - plants in the garden requiring regular fertilization and plants in the wild that not only require no fertilization, but also grow in nutrient poor soils. By now you've probably guessed that the difference between the two situations is the presence/absence of mycorrhizal associations between the rhododendron and beneficial fungi.

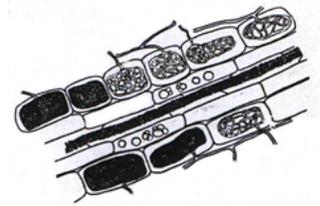
The word mycorrhiza (meaning fungus root) refers not to a fungus or to a plant but to the connection of a fungus to a root. Ectomycorrhiza anchor themselves against the outside of the epidermal cells of a root. They may send hyphae into spaces between root cells, but they do not enter into cells. Endomycorrhiza actually are welcomed into root cells, where they form colonies. Segments of root that form ectomycorrhizae are often swollen by the hyphae wrapping around their surfaces, but segments of roots that form endomycorrhizae are not swollen because the fungal bodies are within the root cells.

Thus, the degree to which a plant relies on mycorrhiza can be easily determined by looking at its root structure. Plants that can thrive without fungal partners have extensive, well-branched roots capable of penetrating large areas of soil. More telling is the presence, especially in newer root segments of root hairs. Root hairs are projections from the surface of epidermal cells. The root hairs greatly increase the absorptive surface of the epidermis and are thin enough to penetrate soil pores that are too small for roots. The density of root hairs depends on the species and environmental conditions and, in trees, has been reported as up to 500/square cm of root surface. The roots of plants that rely on ectomycorrhiza have fewer or no root hairs and the roots of plants that use endomycorrhiza are simple, with few or no root hairs and no fungal swelling.

The root structure of rhododendrons is poorly designed for the assimilation and absorption of soil nutrients. Rhododendrons do not have root hairs, instead, they have hair roots. Like root hairs, hair roots are also projections

of the root epidermis and therefore are comprised of epidermal cells, but they also contain endodermal or cortical cells and, importantly, a stele - which is a central tube that contains xylem and phloem tubes for transporting fluids and nutrients to and from the plant. Thus hair root cells are too thick to penetrate small soil spaces (like root hairs) but they are ready to transport any absorbed solutions into the plant (unlike root hairs).

A special type of endomycorrhiza, called ericoid mycorrhiza, exclusively colonizes rhododendron and other ericales. The hyphae of fungi involved in this process actually penetrate into the rhododendron's epidermal cells and establish coiled structures within the cells. From the intracellular colony, hyphae will be projected deeper into the root system and new colonies may be established inside of cortical cells, deep within the root and adjacent to the xylem/phloem chambers.



McLennan, E (1935), from www.davidmoore.org.uk/assets/mostly_mycology/

Inoculation of rhododendron with ericoid mycorrhizae may be a little tricky. Researchers are currently working to see which of the many species of fungi are appropriate to certain species of rhododendrons. Some researchers have found that a mycorrhizal relationship will not form in the presence of available phosphorous. Therefore, it may be impossible to ween garden plants off of fertilizer unless fertilizer, or at least phosphorous, is removed from the feeding schedule. We all know that phosphorous is important for flower production, so if you want to make your rhododendrons less dependent on fertilizer you may have to accept a season of poor bloom. I would suggest the use of rock phosphate - the phosphorous in rock phosphate is not in a bioavailable form and may take decades to break down in the soil. But that is just the situation made for ericoid mycorrhizae - the partner fungi excels at converting non-available nutrients into nutrients usable by the plant partner.

Another benefit to encouraging your rhododendrons to depend on mycorrhizae is the possibility that ericoid mycorrhizae protect plants against other disease pathogens, including phytophthora. G. Grunewaldt-Stocker, C. von den Berg, J. Knopp and H. von Alten (2013) *Interactions of ericoid mycorrhizal fungi and root pathogens in Rhododendron: In vitro tests with plantlets in sterile liquid culture*. Plant Root 7:33-48.

OREGON COAST GARDEN TRIPPING

THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 4 *by Sherlyn Hilton*

You are warmly invited to join us for a relaxed rollick through three fantastic coastal gardens as rhododendron season kicks into high gear at the coast.

8:00 meet at Campbell center. Depart at 8:15. (Sorry, no wake-up calls)

9:30 tour **Gallaghers Park in Florence**. (Helen is arranging a guide for this wonderful collection of rhododendrons.)

10:30 tour **Cheryl and Ron Prchal's garden** on the south end of Florence

12:00 picnic lunch at Prchal's (bring your own lunch, there are tables at the park)

2:00 tour **Gerdemann's Botanical Preserve in Yachats**

4:30-5:00 return to Campbell center.

Please bring appropriate clothing. I will leave it up to each member what they are comfortable doing. If your RSVP we will notify you if the event is cancelled due to bad weather.

Please email or call me to RSVP. Please let me know if you plan to drive and can take a couple passengers or if you would like a ride. Sherlynhilton@gmail.com or (775)846-1950.

We currently have more drivers than riders, so, if you don't want to drive, there are plenty of passenger spots.

My Tree *By Tom Beatty*

I planted a tree today. Not for summer shade against the west wall of my house or for protection from winter winds. And not to keep my bathroom window private from the street and not to reduce the noise level from my neighbor's power tools.

Purifying and cooling the air, stabilizing the soil on my steep bank and reducing surface water runoff are all good reasons for planting a tree that could have come to mind. But they did not.

A dense canopy and an annual provide will provide food and habitat for the birds. Summer flowers will attract beneficial insects to my garden. All great reasons for planting a tree, but not my reasons --

Beautiful flowers and delicious fruit are healthful for soul and body ... Autumn leaf drop will give me mulch for my rhododendrons, and, when composted, will provide a rich humus for next year's plantings. In the shade of a tree I can plant a new shade garden, full of woodland wildflowers from my childhood memories. But these are not the reasons why I planted a tree ... and neither are rustling leaves in afternoon breezes or dappled sunshine creating a

troupe of shadow dancers on my rock wall my reasons ... nor is my reason for planting a tree the soothing sounds of quaking trees changing to various hues of red, orange, yellow, purple, gold and buckskin as they calmly color the autumn's pall. The tree's ascending branches will enhance the vertical lines of my home and the tree's fullness will soften the sharp corner of my dwelling. I'm told a tree's architectural form and other landscape benefits can raise property values 20% or more. But that's no why I planted a tree ...

You can find peace and quiet and a place to think under the enduring strength of a tree. Many picnic reunions of family and friends commence beneath trees ... children will climb them and build strong bodies ... and tree houses. I could have planted my tree as something to pass on to those children ... I could have planted a tree to measure the passage of time, to honor someone, to mark an important moment or event ... All these are good reasons to plant a tree ... but not my reasons.

Today I planted a tree just because it felt good.

T H E 2 0 1 4 S P R I N G F L O W E R S H O W

Mark the date, Saturday, April 19, to enjoy great food, fabulous flowers, new plants, and, most importantly, the camaraderie of our friendships at the annual flower show!

Bring your blooming flower trusses and sprays to the Hilton Garden Inn of Springfield. An area will also be available to display bonsai, vireyas and photos. Come and enjoy an evening dedicated to rhododendrons.

Trusses and sprays can be entered under one of the following seven (7) classes: Deciduous Azaleas (A), Evergreen Azaleas (B), Pink Elepidotes (Cp), Red Elepidotes (Cr), White Elepidotes (Cw), Other-Colored Elepidotes (Co), and Lepidotes (D). Bring what you have blooming; it will fit in one of these categories! Entries will be accepted 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Voting will start at 5:00 p.m.

You will fill out a form for each of your trusses and sprays. The form will ask for the name of the rhododendron, your name, and the class. Volunteers will assist you! Each entry will be given a number. Volunteers will then help you place your entries in the correct categories on the display racks. You will receive a ticket for each entry you bring. Tickets will be entered into a drawing for a free dinner. The more entries you bring, the better your odds of winning! Judging starts at 5:00. Each attendee will cast a ballot. This is a great chance to carefully observe and discuss all the entered trusses and sprays. Mark the ballot with the number of the entry you decide is the best in each of the seven categories. Ballots will be collected and tallied at 5:45 p.m. The winners will be announced prior to dinner.

This year dinner will be a delicious buffet. You can dine on tossed green salad with tomato, cucumber, carrot and croutons; arugula salad with asparagus and

prosciutto ham; cucumber and tomato salad; bow tie pasta salad; roasted pork medallions topped with fresh peaches and caramelized onions; grilled chicken breast with apples, fennel and sausage; smoked gouda ravioli in a marinara sauce; roasted potatoes; rice pilaf; fresh vegetables; freshly baked rolls with butter; and a generous assortment of freshly made desserts with freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee and hot teas. A no-host bar will be available for beer, wine or mixed drinks.

Dinner is \$25 per person, including gratuity. Please send your RSVP by April 12 to Harold Greer at (541) 686-1540 or (541)686-8266 or email him at hgreer@greergardens.com. You may pay for dinner at the end of the show. The chapter pays \$9 for each dinner, so we need an accurate number of guests to tell the restaurant to prepare for.

Since our Christmas dinner was cancelled due to icy conditions, we missed seeing what everyone has worked on in their own gardens. After dinner you can update us on your adventures. Please bring up to ten digital pictures (.jpegs) of your plants and projects. Travel and family photos are welcome! You can tell us what you've been up to, or just show the pictures in a slide show. We hope to get to know each other a bit better over the evening.

Throughout the evening there will be great opportunities to add to your plant collection. We will have a spirited auction for unusual beauties, a silent auction for unique gems, and a raffle for an extraordinary specimen. Bring your checkbook or cash so you won't miss out!

Dinner and plant purchases can be paid with cash or a check made out to ARS Eugene Chapter (sorry, no credit cards because the chapter pays the restaurant directly for the evening). *Sherlyn Hilton*

O. HOWARD HINSDALE GARDEN, SPRING 2014 Open Garden Days & Other News

The growing vitality of the community based 'Friends' group supporting this historic collection of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias is reflected in their commitment to provide manpower for three public open days this year. The scheduled dates include a late April Saturday, and two Saturdays in May--April 26, May 10 and May 24. The open hours will begin at 10 AM and continue to 2 PM. Ample parking will be available at the Elk Viewing Area Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, and free transportation will be provided from there to the main garden.

Attend on one or more of these dates to both enjoy the garden and lend your support via expertise about the rhodies and their companions while visiting with folks attracted by the blooming spectacle. A rewarding means, by the way, of carrying out the ARS mission of promoting interest and knowledge of rhododendrons, all while in the midst of a beautiful array of those very plants.

[If some chapter(s) also wish to make a group visit on another date, I suspect that can be arranged. Contact me.]

2014 marks the beginning of the second decade in reclaiming the Hinsdale Garden. In addition to the annual chore of removing rough grass and weed growth, the Northwest Youth Corps will clear a way for permanent paths this year. The routes for these have been marked with ARS member assistance, and they will be completed over a weed barrier topped with relatively coarse wood chips. Other investments this year by the BLM will include tree pruning work following up that done several years ago, and installation of an attractive arched wooden pedestrian bridge between the main and east garden segments.

The Friends group is exploring the possibility of securing a water supply from the City of Reedsport for a robust irrigation system throughout the garden. Planning and other BLM agency/volunteer work continues for identified long range goals of restoration and perpetual maintenance of the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, which is well on its way to becoming a permanent feature in the Deans Creek area of officially designated "Scenic Highway 38".

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Gordon Wylie
lgwone@gmail.com or 541 895-2864

FABULOUS FREE HOTEL!! Accommodations for two (2).

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden while staying at the Federal Way Hampton Inn in a non-smoking STUDIO with 2 queen beds. Check In on Thursday, April 24 and depart on Sunday, April 27. All you need to pay for is transportation and tickets to the celebration event! Email Barb Novak at kbhome@epud.net .

THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO SEE IN APRIL

GERDEMANN BOTANIC PRESERVE: This 3.5 acre garden is on the Oregon coats, north of Yachats. In addition to magnificent species and hybrid rhododendrons, the garden includes an eclectic mix of rare plants including tree ferns. There is a path, called "Jim's Loop" that is wheel chair accessible.



photo of spring garden from gerdemanngarden.org

GBS It is currently owned by Kathleen and Jerry Sand, who are making the garden open for guided and non-guided tours on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the months of April, May and June. A

reservation is required for a group tour and there is no minimum size for this. An appointment is required if you want to stroll through the garden by yourself. Usually only a day or two notice is required, so this is a wonderful treat you can decide on during any trip to the coast. Contact me by phone, at 541-547-5143, or by email, at <mailto:gbgarden@peak.org>. Or check out their website, www/gerdemanngarden.org.

GARDENPALOOZA, Saturday, April 5

The 2014 Gardenpalooza will take place at Fir Point Farms in Aurora. This is the opportunity to have over 40 specialty nurseries presenting their fine plants all in one place. For complete details see www.gardenpalooza.com

Cecil and Molly Smith Rhododendron Gardens
Open 11-4 Saturdays and Sundays April 5 -18
ST Paul, OR



Spring at Cecil and Molly's garden, from their website

ECKHARDT OPEN GARDEN,
Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6.

Our garden, 'Deerly Missed', will be open from 9am until 6pm or until the last visitor leaves.

Deerly Missed is a two acre "collector's" garden in South Salem surrounding a home originally built in 1893. This second week of Spring will find the garden filled with bloom. Like your own gardens, ours is always changing. New art and new plants have been added as we expand the garden. You can see images of the garden at www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com. Come and see a plant or two you may not have met before.

We love being in our garden, we hope you will also.

River Road South to Roberts Crossing Restaurant
Left Turn onto Riverdale for 1.7 miles.
At the fork, keep left, do not pass under the railroad bridge. We are the next home on your right, 1/2 mile further along. We will have cell phone in hand for navigational support
(503) 559-5878

Pat and Dave Eckerdt
Deerly Missed Garden
4539 Riverdale Road S.
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 581-9745
patanddave@mac.com
www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Hearty Plant Group is looking for a few more volunteers to work the annual plant sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10.

This is always a ton of fun and volunteers get to shop early on Friday.

Please contact volunteer coordinator, Steve Wallace at sbjwall@msn.com

Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden Celebrates 50 years April 24th, 25th, 26th

As we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington, I am humbled by the reality of how much has been accomplished these last 50 years. These accomplishments, of course, are only due to the efforts by you, the members and supporters and staffs of this great organization. Fifty years sounds like a lot of time, but that time is dwarfed by how much you have gotten done. From the beginning organizational meetings in 1962-64, to the first steps in collecting and propagating the original mother plants, to the maturing garden that you see today, those so distant beginnings have turned into a beautiful reality. The efforts of many very devoted people have left their mark on this garden and organization, and ultimately have left a significant contribution to the rhododendron world.

As the current President of the RSF, I wish to invite all of you to our celebration. Registration information is available on the RSBG website, www.RhodyGarden.org. Early bird registration ends March 1 and all registrations must be in by April 14. Speakers include David Chamberlain, Douglas Justice, Steve Hootman, and Harold Greer. There will be guided tours through the RSF Botanical Garden as well as other gardens in the local area. Those who will gather at the RSF to celebrate will come together as friends to reminisce, and to raise a glass in honor of all who have contributed through the years. If you are unable to attend, please take a moment the next time you are enjoying the beauty of your own garden, and the special species rhododendrons that you so cherish, to remember the many efforts and sacrifices through history that were given in the name of making species rhododendrons available for all of us to enjoy. Celebrate the beauty of those rhododendrons, and celebrate the day that the Rhododendron Species Foundation was born.

As in any healthy, living, growing organization, the RSF is in a constant state of evolution. Yes, the RSF has many new ambitions, and the culmination of those ambitions will be realized only with your continuing support. We are working hard to develop new methods of reaching out to further strengthen and grow our membership, and to find additional ways to meet the demand for needed funds so that we may accomplish the next 50 years of dreams for the RSF. This is an exciting time for the Rhododendron Species Foundation, as we not only celebrate each of you, but as we work towards the bright future for which you have laid such a solid foundation to build upon. Among the several presentations given during the “celebration event”, you will hear about some of the plans for the future, and you will be amazed and enthused by what the future holds for the RSF. Our task is large, but with continued resolve, and your help, we will build upon that foundation to accomplish the goals that we have planned for the future.

With my deepest gratitude and best wishes to all of you, the Rhododendron Species Foundation members and supporters, I look forward to meeting each of you at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

Mike Stewart , RSF President



Tree at the Species Garden by Ted Hewitt

American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter

PO Box 7704

Springfield, OR 97475



ARSStore.org

*Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society*

April 2014
Newsletter

2014

EVENT CALENDAR

2014

CHAPTER EVENTS

- April 4 Oregon Coast Field Trip!
- April 19 2013 Spring Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn
- May 10 Plant Sale at Lane County Fairgrounds

CONFERENCES 2014

- April 25-26 RSF 50th Anniversary Celebration, Federal Way, WA
- 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.