

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

EUGENE CHAPTER

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

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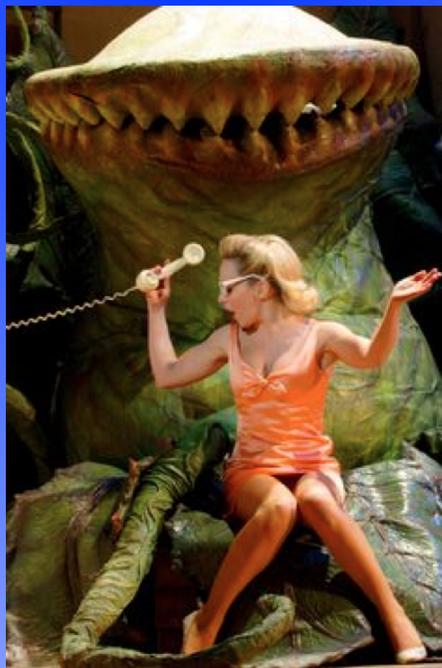
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Growing Rhododendrons from Seed Workshop!

WHERE: Campbell Senior Center
WHEN: Thursday January 9
PRE-MEETING: 6:30 pm
WORKSHOP: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

You are all invited to the pre-meeting dinner at 5:00 at Bai Khao, a Thai restaurant at 5410 Centennial Road in



Springfield. Please RSVP to Helen Baxter at (541) 461-6082 or to her email shown at left.

Jack Olsen will provide expertise, medium and containers for planting seedlings.

Bring seedpods from your favorite rhododendrons, have fun and see what comes up!

http://blogs.coventrytelegraph.net/thegeekfiles/littleshop1.jpg



## Editor's Note

Ericaceae also known as the Heath Family, is the family to which Rhododendrons and Azaleas belong. Ericaceae is one of the largest families of the plant kingdom and includes over 4,000 species. The family contains 35 genera that provide many of the evergreen plants used in our Northwest gardens, including madronne, manzanita, heather and calluna, snowberry, huckleberry, blueberry, kalmia, salal, wintergreen, leucothoe, and pieris. One very lovely plant that you may not recognize as an ericaceae is the sourwood tree, *Oxydendrum arboreum*, which is also the only species in its genera.

Sourwood, also called Lily of the valley tree, or sorrel tree is hardy in our climate in sun or part shade and is, in my opinion, on a par with flowering dogwoods and stewartias for its size, shape, flowers and beautiful fall foliage. As is the case with other members of its family, it prefers acidic soils.



Sourwood in the fall, photo from Portland Nursery website.

Sourwood is slow growing and tends to be narrow at first. I once had one in my front yard and it was lovely to look at all year.

Although sourwood is deciduous, unlike most other members of the ericaceae family, it does share some other common

characteristics with its family members, including bisexual, or hermaphrodite flowers, seeds in capsules or berries, and alternate leaves (whorled leaves are also common to ericaceae).

Sourwood is native to oak-heath forests of the eastern United States, as are many other native ericaceae. Perhaps its preference for eastern oak forests makes it a good companion for our white oaks.

Another characteristic which sourwood shares in common with all of its family members is the absence of STIPULES. Ericaceae do not have stipules. What is a stipule you ask? Glad you asked, because I think stipules are interesting.

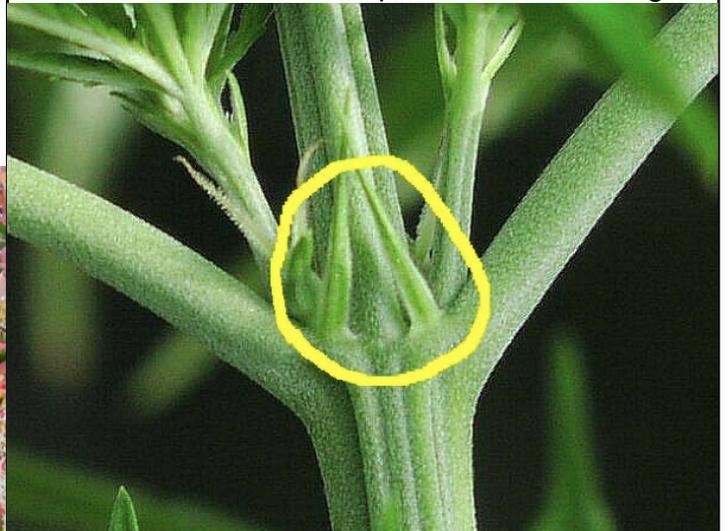


Photo: [www.thctalk.com/gallery/data/951/Stipules1.JPG](http://www.thctalk.com/gallery/data/951/Stipules1.JPG)

Stipules are small structures found at the base of the leaf stalk, or petiole, in many flowering plants, including legumes, roses and magnolias. They may take the form of small leaves, glands, hairs or spines. They may be green, white, brown or colorful. Although stipules look like outgrowths of the stem, they arise from leaf tissue.

(continued on page 4)

## From the President

Since we had early, unprecedented cold, snow and freezing, Mother Nature is giving us a break during Christmas and it will be pleasant to travel and be with family and friends!!!

During the several freezing days I kept checking the Rhododendrons in our garden and saw

that the newest hybrids were the ones more affected and it remains to be seen



how they will do when spring comes. Actually at this point I would be happy if the plants live, even if they lose their flower buds.

Despite feeling despair for my plants, I enjoyed the ambiance which the snow brought. But at one point, not being able to get around got me thinking I was better served in my village life when my donkey could take me around than by all all the fancy vehicles which I could not use

on snow and ice.

I'd like to take a moment and thank the dedicated and helpful folks who put energy and time to make our society great in 2013. Thanks to all of you and I am looking forward to your input and contributions in the coming year 2014. Please be sure to thank our board members for their parts!! As we all admit Barbara is doing a great job as our new editor so thank you Barbara!!

*Wishing you all Happy holidays and Merry Christmas.*

President Ali Sarlak



## From Jack Olsen

As I write, the last of the snow is melting. We had over seven inches of snow and the temperature dropped to ten degrees. I thought there would be a great deal of plant damage, but so far I have seen very little. One of the large leaf rhododendrons was burnt, but the plant looks healthy (so far). I am hoping the snow insulated the plants. In 1972, I believe it was much colder and only plant to bloom in my garden was R. Tom H. Lowinsky, a nice white with brown and yellow blotch. Ironically, a couple of weeks prior to the cold, I had purchased some plants for hybridizing. Fortunately my greenhouse was finished so I think they all will do fine and I will be able to make some crosses in the greenhouse. I have found the warmth of the greenhouse makes the plants more receptive to producing seed. I will see all you in January, I look forward to giving my program on raising seedlings. I will bring some material so you can all take some seed in containers to see what you may get.

## Rhododendron 'Razorbill' by Ted Hewitt

Rhododendron 'Razorbill' is one of the small rhododendrons named after birds that Peter Cox has developed and named that are very useful in the garden landscape. As Cox indicates in his book *The Smaller Rhododendrons*, 'Razorbill' is a chance seedling of a *Rhododendron spinuliferum* so it is referred to as an open pollinated seedling. Blooming in April and early May, it has small, tubular-shaped flowers in compact trusses of 6-12 that stand quite erect with a color of an attractive light rose-pink hue with darker pink overtones. The plant itself is compact, easily grown, and quite hardy for a *spinuliferum* cross with attractive, dark green crinkled leaves edged with hairs and scaly underneath. I have had my plant in the ground for 8 years and it is now about 30" tall and 42" wide and is an excellent bloomer. Listed as being hardy to 10° F. mine looks very good after the 9° of the recent cold snap.

Peter Cox registered 'Razorbill' in 1976 and it received the British Award of Merit in 1981,

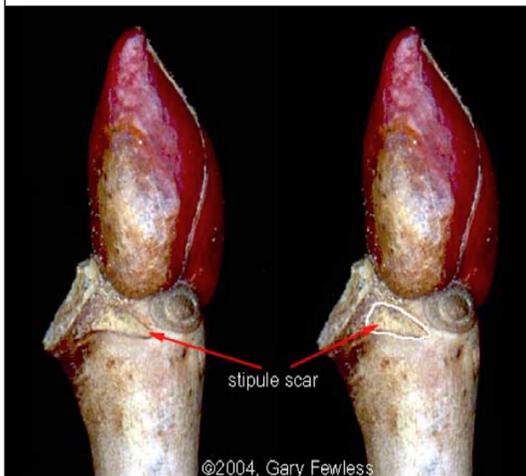


R. 'Razorbill' photo by Ted Hewitt

followed by the First Class Certificate in 1981. From a Google search, it appears to be much more available in England than in the United States but is worth looking for as a front of the border, attractive semi-dwarf plant. Look for one to be available at the upcoming January auction.

## Editor's Note continued . . .

The function of stipules varies and on many plants stipules are almost vestigial, or present only before the actual leaf structures unfold. In other plants stipules may convert to leaves, or



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structures which deter predators.

provide nectar for ants or other protective insects. Larger stipules may protect buds by wrapping them, or by forming thorny

## Portland Chapter of ARS invites you to:

### Design and Integration of Stonework In Garden Landscapes

Thursday, January 16. 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Terry Olsen of Emerald Stone Masonry will speak on the design and integration of stonework with rhododendrons and native plants in both home gardens and larger landscapes. Emerald Stone Masonry has done several such projects at the crystal springs rhododendron garden, and elsewhere.

*All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd. Portland, OR*

[www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

## OSU EXTENSION'S ALL ABOUT FRUIT TREES

The OSU Extension Service and the Lane Small Business Development Center are partnering to offer a class All about Fruit Trees.

The Willamette Valley is a great place to grow tree fruits, but some fruit trees are more difficult to grow than others. Whether you are a homeowner with a few trees or a small acreage farmer planning to plant an orchard, this class will teach you how to grow trees successfully in this region. Information about apples, prunes/plums, pears, cherries and peaches will be covered including what you should know about rootstocks, spacing, soils, irrigation, fertility, site selection, plant problems and insects.

This class will be taught by Ross Penhallegon with Lane County OSU Extension Service and will be offered on February 19, 2014 at 6 pm on the Lane Community College main campus in Eugene. The cost of the class \$35 and pre-registration is required. To register please call the Lane Small Business Development Center at (541) 463-6200.

*Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender-identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. OSU Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This event will be made accessible upon request. If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for you to attend these OSU events, please notify Chrissy Lucas at 541-766-3556 by February 12, 2014.*

Botanist **JAMIE TAGGERT** of the Linn Botanical Garden has been missing in Vietnam since October 31, 2013 when he entered the mountains on a plant hunting trip. Anyone wishing to contribute to the continuing search for his body can send a check to: Friends of the Linn" with the words, written on the back, "for Jamie". The cheque should be sent to **Mrs Rie Bellamy, Treasurer, Friends of the Linn Portkil House, Kilcreggan, Helensburgh, G84 0LF**

## ARSStore.org - The new ARS Online Store

*Every purchase benefits the ARS*

The store has three divisions:

- **ARS Logo Merchandise:** featuring knit, woven and denim shirts, caps, visors, and computer briefcases.
- **Amazon Merchandise:** featuring Rhododendron & Azalea Books, Garden Books, Garden Tools, and any other item sold on Amazon.
- **Participating Merchants:** featuring other merchants who agree to give referral fees to the ARS for each purchase when you mention

To access each division, just go to [ARSStore.org](#) and from there select what interests you. If you don't see an item, just use the Amazon search feature. Amazon sells just about everything. You get the same low Amazon prices from the ARS store, but by using it the ARS gets a fee for referring you. As long as you go to Amazon from [ARSStore.org](#) before making a purchase, the ARS gets a referral fee.

ARSStore.org has a Main, Canadian, and European Store. Canadians and Europeans can use the Main Store which uses *Amazon.com* but the shipping can be expensive. The Canadian Store uses *Amazon.ca*, a Canadian affiliate, and shipping within Canada will probably cost less. The European Store uses Amazon stores in the UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy which can offer lower cost shipping within Europe. Do not go directly to the other stores from *Amazon.com*. If you do, your purchase will not qualify for a referral fee. Go to [ARSStore.org](#) first and use links from there.

People who are not members of the ARS may use [ARSStore.org](#). Invite all of your friends to use it and nurseries to add links.

American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter

PO Box 7704

Springfield, OR 97475



ARSStore.org

*Where every purchase benefits the  
American Rhododendron Society*

January 2014  
Newsletter

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EVENT CALENDAR

2014

#### CHAPTER EVENTS

- January 9 Growing Rhododendrons from Seed WORKSHOP by Jack Olson  
February 13 The Shady Rock Garden, with Truls Jensen & Emma Elliot of Wild Ginger Farm Nursery,  
Beaverton, OR  
March 13 The Humboldt Botanic Garden, with Tim Walsh  
Officer and Board Member Elections  
April 19 2013 Spring Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn

#### CONFERENCES 2014

- 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.