



Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

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Vice-President	Terry Henderson
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Past-President	Ted Hewitt
Membership	Nancy Burns

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Jack Olson	2014-2016
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Committees

- **Show:** Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton
- **Nominating:**
- **Welfare:** Nancy & Harold Greer
- **Hospitality:**
- **Programs:** Board of Directors

Newsletter

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R. 'Cinnkeys' taken at Larry Jensen's

Hands-On Propagation with Stem Cuttings Workshop

Thursday, November 13

at the Campbell Community Center
155 High Street in Eugene

Over the past few years, many of us have enjoyed the hands-on programs that have been presented so this year the Board has selected a workshop on propagation in which attendees will get their hands dirty while learning about propagating by stem cuttings. Nurseryman Terry Henderson will lead the workshop and all supplies will be furnished for attendees to actively participate. However, it would be helpful if you could bring a pair of hand pruners.

This is part of a propagation project for the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park and the Hinsdale Estate Garden in which the ARS Eugene Chapter is participating. Material from plants in these two gardens will be available from which cuttings will be made, trimmed, dipped in rooting hormone, and stuck in rooting mix. Flats will then be transferred to the nursery where bottom-heated tables will be used to enhance the success rate.

You also may bring up to 5 cuttings of your own for rooting. These rooted cuttings will be returned to you in the spring. This is an excellent chance for you to join the fun of propagating and creating new plants.

Join us for cookies, coffee, and conversation at 6:30 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, in Eugene with the program at 7:00. Prior to the meeting you are invited to join us for a no-host dinner at 5:00 at TaRaRin Thai Restaurant at 1200 Oak St. in Eugene. This is a good time to visit with Terry and friends. You might note that there are many non-spicy, tasty Thai dishes on the menu. There is plenty of parking and the location is convenient. Please RSVP to Helen Baxter at 541-461-6082 or by e-mail at galen.baxter@comcast.net by Tuesday, November 11.

October Meeting Plan B

As many of you discovered when you arrived at the Campbell Center on October 9, our planned speaker, Dennis Bottemiller, had car trouble and was not able to come to Eugene. Thanks to the quick action of Terry Henderson who is handling the program schedule this year, we had a wonderful program presented by Eugene chapter member Jack Olson on choosing and preparing trusses for entry in a show as well as how he has planned his hybridizing program to create new show winners. Jack's excellent photos of trusses of past winners are very helpful for us less experienced folks to learn about some of the long-time rhododendron winners. We are fortunate to have excellent presenters in our chapter who can step in when needed. We hope to have Dennis come later in the year to give a presentation on the *Companion Plantings at the RSBG*.

Newsletter photos are by Ted Hewitt unless otherwise indicated.



Kudos to Jack & Sandie Olson and to Helen Baxter for supplying the yummy treats at the October meeting.

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LEONARD FROJEN AND SHERLYN HILTON HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO SPOIL US WITH DELICIOUS MUNCHIES AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We love our volunteers.

In case you have not yet renewed your ARS membership for 2015, please do so soon. Make checks payable to :

ARS Eugene Chapter

Give them to Treasurer Nancy Burns at the November 13 meeting or mail them to:

ARS Eugene Chapter
P.O. Box 7704
Springfield, OR 97475

Regular Dues are still \$40.00
Associate Membership Dues are \$10.00 if you are also a member of another chapter.

ARS Portland Chapter Meeting
Thursday, November 20
7:00 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church,
4033 S. E. Woodstock
Portland, OR

Program:
The Rhododendron Species Foundation: Early Years and Founders
 with Harold Greer, another of the fine speakers from the Eugene Chapter.

From the Past-President

As many of you know, chapter president Ali and his wife Gloria are traveling in New Zealand during the month of October to attend the 70th Anniversary of the New Zealand Rhododendron Society Conference. It is with more than a little jealousy that I write this and learn more about this gathering of gardeners.

Ali and Gloria made the long flight from Portland to Auckland which is on the North Island of New Zealand to participate in the week long pre-conference tour of gardens and sights of both the north and south islands. On Day 1 the tour visited several gardens in the Auckland area that sound beautiful and include some of the subtropical native plants, tree ferns, bromeliads, vireyas, and a stunning bonsai collection. In an e-mail, Ali indicated that the gardens were beyond his expectations in beauty and that local rhododendron society members treated the attendees to wonderful dinners. On Day 2, the group flew to New Plymouth which is on the western coast of the North Island and home to the internationally recognized garden of Pukeiti with its collection of more than 2000 varieties of rhododendrons as well as complementary native and exotic plantings. This 64 acre garden lies within 830 acres of protected rainforest. Among the garden walks is the Valley of the Giants Walk that is designed to take the visitor through the plantings of the large leaf rhododendrons as well as camellias, and magnolias.



R. 'Simbu Sunset' Photo from www.trc.govt.nz/pukeiti-the-gardens

On Day 3, the group traveled by tour bus across a variety of steep and rolling farmland to Rotorua, the thermal center of New Zealand where they spent Day 4 visiting gardens with plants growing in almost pure free-draining pumice and experiencing Maori culture. On Day 5, the group flew to Queenstown on the South Island with

spectacular views of the long mountain chain that makes up the backbone of the South Island and enjoyed more gardens near the city. The tour again traveled by tour bus on Day 6 to Milford Sound, the scenic fjord and world heritage site that attracts many tourists to this rugged end of the island. Finally, on Day 7, the group headed for the city of Dunedin, the site of the 70th Anniversary Conference, passing through rolling sheep and dairy farmland with a stop at the well-known Blue Mountain Nursery run by Denis Hughes, a noted hybridizer of deciduous azaleas and rhododendrons.

At 46° South latitude, Dunedin has a similar climate to Eugene, though, slightly tempered by the proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The long established Botanic Garden has an extensive Rhododendron Dell with over 2000 rhododendrons including 128 species and more than 700 hybrids many of which will be at their peak for the conference. (www.dunedinbotanicgarden.co.nz)

The four-day conference will feature 5 speakers and visits to several public and private gardens. Hartwig Schepker from Bremen, Germany, will speak on *The Mysteries of Arunachal Pradesh – exploring unknown rhododendron territories in North-Eastern India* as well as *An unusual network of parks, private gardens & nurseries – Rhododendron cultivation and preservation in Germany* and Steve Hootman from the RSBG will speak on *Rhododendrons in the wild – highlights of twenty years in the field*. Denis Hughes, the owner of Blue Mountain Nurseries, will share his knowledge on *Hybridizing rhododendrons* and Lynn Bublitz who has been involved with the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust's garden will speak on *Maddenis in New Zealand*. The welcoming address is given by Neville Peat, a local author, photographer, ecologist and conservationist who will speak on *Wild Dunedin - the ecology of Dunedin*. Each day it sounds like they have planned luncheons in nice places and the gardens visited sound superb. "Flanked by pine-clad hills, with a view across Dunedin Harbour, Tannock Glen is reminiscent of a true Scottish glen and loch. The specialist rhododendron collection there has been built up since 1975 by members of the Dunedin Rhododendron Group and contains a large number of rare species collected from the wild, plus choice hybrids. A flowing lawn, with well balanced plantings of mature Magnolia, Prunus, Acer and Quercus, among others, form a backdrop and canopy for the rhododendrons

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(Past-President's Message - continued from p. 3)
 that lead down-hill via graveled paths to more shaded plantings and a short bush track that leads back towards a beautiful stand of golden elm." Complete listings and descriptions of the gardens can be found on the conference website http://rhododendron.org.nz/conference_info.php.

This sounds like a wonderfully organized 70th Jubilee conference that would have made for a very nice way to see the country of New Zealand and I am sure that Ali will have many stories to tell and photos to show.

Ted Hewitt

*70th Anniversary Celebration
of the ARS*

2015 ARS Convention May 6 - 10, 2015
Sydney-by-the-Sea, British Columbia

SPEAKERS
OPEN GARDENS
PLANT SALE

Save the Date ~ ~ Plan ahead

Convention Website:
<http://2015rhodo.ca/>

2014 ARS Western Regional Notes

For those of us who did not attend the 2014 ARS Western Regional Conference in Everett in September, Anne Gross, the District 4 Director, sent a nice recap that I will condense for you.

Ted

Speakers:

- **Bob Zimmerman**, owner of Chimacum Woods Nursery in Port Ludlow, WA, and plant collector in China, Tibet, and Japan, spoke on *The Siren Song of Species*. "... program featured beautiful photos of species foliage and some amazing scenery."
- **Dr. Ben Hall**, a professor of Botany and Genetics at the Univ. of Washington, spoke on the *Evolutionary History Within & Between Rhododendron Species in Asia and North America*.

"Until 10,000,000 years ago, there was a land bridge between northern Asia and North America, which enabled the spread of rhododendrons to this hemisphere. There was also a land bridge that extended from Northern Europe, across Iceland, Greenland and Labrador that enabled rhododendron migration from Europe. Genetics have shown that red pigment in rhododendrons becomes more predominant at higher elevations, with the exception of three species. This explains why we find so many *R. arboreums* & their relatives . . . in the Himalayas."

- **Susie Egan**, owner of Cottage Lake Gardens and a B & B in Woodinville, WA, spoke on *The Diversity and Varieties of Trilliums*. "... trillium are native to Northeast & Eastern Asia and to North America, having migrated to Asia over the aforementioned land bridges. There are 48 species world-wide, 6 in Asia and 42 in America. Thirty-five are native to the East Coast and 7 to the West Coast, although all species can grow here. Trillium are rhizomes, not bulbs, and can be divided. Their seeds are disbursed by ants. It takes 7 years from seed to flower."
- **Steve Hootman**, Executive Director of the RSF, spoke on *Down Under - Tasmania and Southeastern Australia*. "... focusing on the gardens and flora of Tasmania. It made me really want to go there, if only I wouldn't have to be confined in a large metal tube, way above the ocean, for hours on end with no leg room."
- Other speakers included Lois Blackmore, Dennis Bottemiller, Don Hyatt, Shirley Rock, Sharon Ronsee, and Tim Walsh - but one could not hear them all.

• ARS Board Meeting:

Due to Bruce Feller's resignation as ARS President, Bob MacIntyre is now president and Ken Webb, from Victoria is Western Vice-President. Attracting new members and keeping current members will be a priority for Bob and the ARS.

A motion to raise dues by \$5.00 per membership was narrowly voted down. Balancing a budget is difficult.

Ted's Notes

Autumn is a beautiful season with the changes in the garden and even the larger garden of the town as trees take on their array of fall colors. But autumn is also a nice time to slow down from the busy summer and to look more closely at one's own garden. Perhaps there are some vignettes that look particularly nice or maybe there are some beds that have become overly crowded as plants have grown and need to be reworked. Touching bases with our gardens when the weather cools rather renews the gardener's spirit before the winter sets in.

With visits from family and friends, travels of our own, and the extra warm weather, Paula and I did not spend much time in our garden during the summer so are enjoying these pleasant days of fall.

As we walk the pathways, we like to notice what is contributing to fall interest and notice the hardy fuchsias that do not seem to have been affected by the cold of last December. Some are small plants (1' - 2') around the edges of the borders and some are taller (3' - 5') and show their colorful blossoms from deeper in the beds. Fuchsia 'Miniros' (Minirose) with its pale pink sepals and tube and dark purple-pink corolla looks especially nice set against a blue conifer (*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Curly Tops'), displaying its little dancing ballerinas against the blue. In addition to the late



Fuchsia 'Lambada'

flowers, several of the fuchsias have deep purple swollen fruits that will become the seed pods. On a larger scale, the *Clerodendron trichostomum* (Harlequin Glory Blower) that provides textural contrast between two of the larger rhododendrons is covered with dark blue berries each surrounded by bright red bracts. From a distance, the reddish purple cast shows well against the green leaves but

at closer observation the clusters of berries with the red bracts are quite stunning. Prior to turning dark blue the berries are a bright turquoise making the plant at its best in the fall.



Clerodendron trichostomum

Of course, one of the interests in rhododendrons is observing how they provide seasonal interest when they are not in bloom, so now we notice how many of them have buds set for next spring. R. 'Kimbeth' has many dark buds set against the green foliage; R. 'Snow Lady' is covered with pert little light colored buds; R. 'Cilpenense' has wonderfully patterned bud scales. Several rhododendrons such as 'Golfer' and yak x pachysanthum stand out from a distance with the silvery tomentum (indumentum on the top side) almost glowing. The bright green foliage of *R. bureavii* looks nice and fresh while the indumentum on the lower side of the leaves is maturing into its rich cinnamon color as is that on tsariense x yak.

During the summer, we noticed that the bed outside our bay window and beside the deck was becoming crowded as the plants grew but we waited until fall to rearrange some plants. The *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Gracillis' had grown to 6' tall providing a nice vertical element to the bed but it was also crowding the rhododendrons so we moved it across the path to the fenceline and rearranged the rhododendrons. R. 'Canada', a *campylogynum* hybrid, will be much happier in the front of the bed and one of Nolan's hybrids now has room to spread like it wants to. R. 'Oceanlake' now provides the vertical element and is farther back in the bed where it will show its blue blossoms well in the spring. All three rhododendrons have a good bud set so it will be interesting to see how the colors do together.

In another bed, we have found that a groundcover fern, *Blechnum penna-marina*, spreads very densely and I am afraid that it will choke out the small rhododendrons and take over the bed so we will remove this carpet. Though some Epimediums are

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(Ted's Notes - continued from p. 5)

clumping and do well in a woodland bed, we have found that *Epimedium x perralchicum* 'Frohnleiten' is a very aggressive spreader and rapped itself around the trunk of one of the rhododendrons so we are removing all of the clumps from the garden.

With our generally mild winters, fall is a good time to move plants in the garden for better garden design and to divide perennials such as hosta that have become too large. The roots will have several months to get reestablished and, in the spring, the garden will look better.

Autumn is harvest time as well as Thanksgiving time so what better time to think about the enjoyment we get from our gardens, our friends, and our rhododendron chapter. Many thanks to all of you.

Ted Hewitt



R. lepidostylum at the RSBG



R. lepidostylum

photo by Hank Helm

Rhododendron lepidostylum

by Ted Hewitt

Recently, while talking with Jack Olson, I was reminded of a trip to Florence that I had made with him to take cuttings for propagation in October 2008 as he indicated that *R. lepidostylum* is one of his favorite species rhododendrons. At that time, I was pleased when I had success rooting these cuttings and growing on a couple of these plants. Having read that it is best to plant this species in an unshaded location and that they need good drainage, I planted one of the plants beside our driveway in a rocky little niche where it has been quite happy. It also turns out that this is a location where I see it often and enjoy its quirky characteristics of having glaucous, blue-green foliage that is densely hairy and bristled. This also makes it one of those plants that is interesting to have in the garden all year long. The epithet for its name means scaly style and hence it is a lepidote (Subgenus Rhododendron). In his book, *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, Harold describes it well as a "compact little shrub (that) is most notable for its beautiful, fuzzy foliage which is an unusual bluish green" with leaves that are hairy and with "edges (having) tiny bristles" and whose "undersides have a dense covering of scales." Eventually it may get to 18" high though wider, will be hardy to -5°, and will bloom later in May.

Though mine has not flowered yet, eventually it will have pale yellow flowers borne singly or in pairs that are of a wide funnel form. In its native habitat, it is found in a small area of Yunnan growing at 10,000' to 12,000' on humus-covered boulders and in crevices of cliffs in ravines.

Taxonomists place it in Subgenus Rhododendron, Section Rhododendron, and Subsection Trichoclada along with *R. caesium*, *R. mekongense*, *R. trichocladum*, and *R. viridescens*.

Last spring, I noticed that the RSBG has a few *R. lepidostylum* planted in the stumpery that are growing very well with the ferns as well as *R. pendulum* and *R. sargentianum*. Since I have another plant growing in a container, I will find a place in our woodland garden to plant it along with some small ferns.

Introduction to Rhododendrons

by Jack Olson

Today is my birthday - October 23, 2014 - and I am now 72 years old. Wow, where has my life gone. It is hard to believe that I have been involved in rhododendrons since my first purchase of R. 'Britannia' in 1963. My family started purchasing rhododendrons for every occasion and the garden expanded with all kinds and colors of rhododendrons helping me to learn the names of many rhododendrons of that time. My dad purchased one hundred plants from Ted Van Veen, who had rhododendrons of many colors and variations in plant size from which to choose. This was the impetus for my interest in rhododendrons. While attending Oregon State University, I would recognize and identify many of the plants on campus including some very large R. 'Cynthia' that were at least fourteen feet high. I even have movies of my son Kevin walking around these plants in about 1965.

When I purchased my home in North Eugene, I quickly looked for rhododendrons to landscape with and my dad gave me twenty-five old plants that he had purchased. I planted R. 'Beauty of Littleworth' at the front corner of my house with its huge white trusses with little purple spots. In the back yard, under some oak trees, I planted about ten plants in a large circle that included R. 'Jan Dekens', R. 'Evening Glow', R. 'Mrs. Donald Graham', R. 'Sappho', R. 'Betty Wormald', R. 'Marinus Koster', R. 'Harvest Moon', R. 'Atraflo', R. 'Anna Rose Whitney', and R. 'Alice'. Along the side of the house were R. 'Lamplighter', R. 'Captain Jack', R. 'Cotton Candy', R. 'Sister of Cotton Candy', and R. 'Faggetter's Favourite'. I purchased three species plants from Edgar Greer, *R. macabeum*, *R. arboreum*, and *R. sutchuenense*. This is about the time I met Gladys and Willard Swenson who expanded my awareness of all the new hybrids of the 1970s and 1980s. R. 'Sunspray', R. 'Trude Webster', R. 'Black Eye', R. 'Red Eye', R. 'Yakity-yak', and many other R. yakushmanums. I was introduced to many of the lepidotes such as *R. augustinii*, *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons', *R. impeditum*, R. 'Ramapo', R. 'Shamrock', R. 'PJM', *R. camtschaticum*, *R. lutescens*, R. 'Crater Lake', and many others. I would get to see many of Harold Greer's introductions such as

R. 'Harnden's White', R. 'Great Scott', R. 'Hallelujah', R. 'Sugar Pink', and many others.

Now that I have moved to Fall Creek, I have left many of my old plants and am now obtaining plants from the 1990s and post-2000s. It seems that I am constantly trying to have the latest new hybrids because there are vast improvements. By staying informed I have obtained quite a collection.

Now that I am hybridizing, I am making every attempt to improve on these old favorites and to seek out unusual and different plants. Fragrance, and colored foliage are at the top of my list in seedlings. It is a difficult goal, but it is fun and rewarding. So far, I have named four new hybrids, and have some more to name. With my new greenhouse, any of my hybrids that I root, I would love to share with members.



R. 'Sunspray'

photo by Noel Berkeley



R. 'Trude Webster'



R. 'Cynthia'

2014

EVENT CALENDAR

2015

CHAPTER EVENTS:

September 13	Potluck Picnic at home of Sherlyn & Cameron Hilton,	Noon to 3:00 p.m.
October 9	Chapter Meeting - <i>Companion Plantings at the RSBG</i> Speaker: Dennis Bottemiller	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
November 13	Chapter Meeting - <i>Hands-On Propagation Workshop</i> Facilitator: Terry Henderson	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
December 11	Holiday Potluck Dinner & Members' Slide Show	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
January 14, 2015	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
February 12	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
March 12	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
April 25	Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn,	3:00 - 9:00 p.m.
June ??	June Picnic, details TBA	



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PO Box 7704
Springfield, OR 97475

*November 2014
Newsletter*



www.ARSStore.org

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