

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Officers, Board Members, & Committees

President	Ali Sarlak
Vice-President	Jack Olson
Treasurer	Nancy Burns
Secretary	Sherlyn Hilton
Past-President	Ted Hewitt
Membership	Nancy Burns

Nolan Blansit	2013-2014
Helen Baxter	2012-2015
Tom Beatty	2012-2015
Barbara Novak	2013-2016
Terry Henderson	2013-2016

Committees

- **Show:** Ali Sarlak, Terry Henderson, Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, Nancy Burns
- **Nominating:** Terry Henderson, Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton
- **Welfare:** Nancy & Harold Greer
- **Honors:** Rich Aaring
- **Programs:** Board of Directors

Newsletter

- **Editor** Barbara Novak
541-465-2155
email: kbhome@cpud.net
- **Printing & Mailing**
Harold Greer 541-686-1540
email: hgreer@greergardens.com
- **Webmaster**
Ted Hewitt 541-687-8119



And the Winners are ____:

At the 2014 ARS Eugene Chapter Spring Rhododendron Show on April 19, trophies were presented in 7 categories and the winners were:

- **Best Azalea**, Terry Henderson for R. 'Alice de Steurs'
- **Best Pink Elepidote**, Jack Olson for R. 'Margaret Mack'
- **Best Red Elepidote**, Jack Olson for R. 'Martian King'
- **Best White or Yellow Elepidote**, Jack Olson for 'Lady Rothschild'
- **Best Other- or Multi-Colored Elepidote**, Noel Berkeley for R. 'Starbright Champagne'
- **Best Lepidote**, Ted Hewitt for *R. primuliform* var. *cephelanthoides* 'Doker La Form'
- **Best Species**, Larry Jensen for *R. glaucophyllum*

157 entries were submitted by 13 people and we thank all those who contributed. The real winners were the 32 members who attended and enjoyed the colorful display of the entries, the friendship of our chapter members, good food, and a spirited and fun auction.

Sherlyn Hilton was the lucky winner of the drawing for the free dinner. Terry Henderson won the beautiful *R. spinuliferum* in the plant raffle. In the Silent Auction, Bob Whitman took home the gorgeous R. 'Ward's Ruby' and Rich Aaring took home the large *R. makinoi*.



Other-Colored Entries



Winning entries in front of trophies

From the President

Leonard and Carmen Frojen

Eugene Rhododendron Members

On Sunday, April 13, Ted and Paula Hewitt had an open garden so I made plans to go to Eugene to visit Hendricks Park, Ted's and Paula's garden, and my last stop would be at the garden of Leonard and Carmen Frojen. I stopped at Leonard's house and they were pleased to see me. Leonard and I chatted for a while and he took me on a tour of his rhododendron and azalea garden. He told me he had been a Eugene Rhody society member since 1983. He also gave me a little background and story of how the place was initially and said there were only two nandinas, two rhododendrons, and a couple of evergreen trees. I thought that sometimes it is better to be that way versus having an overgrown place and needing to do the cleaning.

Initially he thought to get someone to do the job of landscaping their home, but, when he got prices, he decided to start doing it himself. He did some planning, then started going to nurseries and some meetings. He brought plants home and planted them in the yard, expanding the landscape with all sorts of rhododendrons and azaleas. I tell you, his plants are not typical garden store plants, but are very well selected and he knows them by heart. While I was in his yard, he named almost every single plant to me.

I remarked to him that if he continues memorizing the names of his plants, he doesn't need to worry about getting forgetful in his old age. Here are a few of his plants by name: *calistrotum* 'Gigha', *campylogynum*, *keiskei*, *russatum* 'Night Editor', *bureavii*, *augustinii*, Taurus, Azalea 'Greenwood White' (hose-in-hose) and the list goes on and on. Mostly he has purchased his plants from nurseries and rhododendron society meetings but has grown some by way of cuttings. He even has a rhody with his wife's name (Carmen)!! He also told me that he has a blueberry plant in his yard from his father's time since 1952. I should also mention that Leonard and his wife, Carmen, are both very friendly and easy to approach and he likes to talk to you about his rhododendrons!!

Finally, I was very impressed with his knowledge about his plants, and the beauty they have created around their home. I always learn from anyone's landscape and this is no exception. Certainly I thank them for what they have created and are willing to share and, also, for the many years of his contributions to the Eugene Rhody society.

Ali Sarlak



Frojen Garden

Photo by Ali Sarlak



Leonard in the garden Photo by Ali Sarlak

May 10 Plant Sale

The annual chapter plant sale will take place on Saturday, May 10, at the Lane County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group's large sale. We will be a vendor at this sale from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with the sale both on Friday, the set-up day, and on Saturday, the sale day. All of you are welcome to come buy plants from specialty nursery vendors from throughout the Willamette Valley and those of you who are volunteers may buy at an early sale on Friday. This is our single largest money maker so please bring your friends.

June 29 Chapter Picnic

Time for a summer Picnic at Ali & Gloria Sarlak's house at 4150 NE Fair Acres St. in Corvallis. Come at noon for time to visit and to see the lovely garden. We will eat at 1:00.

- Bring a dish to share (salad, side dish, or dessert) with a serving utensil to serve 10.
- Bring your own place settings (plate, silverware, glass or cup, napkin)
- Bring your drink of choice.
- We will serve salmon for an entree.
- Ali has plenty of chairs and tables.

Bronze Medals Awarded to Paula and Ted Hewitt

At the banquet following the Spring Rhododendron Show on April 19, Vice-President Elect Terry Henderson awarded ARS Bronze Medals to Paula and Ted Hewitt for their contributions to the chapter over the past several years.

“Paula Hewitt has faithfully served the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society as an enthusiastic member as well as in a leadership role. She was for many years the Secretary of the Chapter and an active Board Member. And she, along with her husband Ted, has hosted a number of Chapter Picnics and Open Houses in their wonderful and diverse garden in Eugene’s South Hills. Therefore, the Eugene Chapter is pleased to present to Paula our highest award.”

“Ted Hewitt has been an active, productive, and cheerful member of the Chapter for many years. He has served

in many capacities including as President, Treasurer, Plant Sale organizer, Website administrator, Convention Treasurer, occasional Newsletter Editor, and Special Assistant in charge of Communications. His ability to see the needs of the Chapter and happy willingness to step up and fill those needs with quiet competence has helped ensure the Chapter’s wellbeing for many years. Therefore, the Eugene Chapter is pleased to present to Ted our highest award.”



Paula & Ted Hewitt receive Bronze medals

Photo by Ali Sarlak

Ted's Notes

- Due to Barbara's illness, I am again serving as guest editor of the newsletter.
- For me, the annual Spring Show and Banquet is one of my favorite chapter events as it brings many of our members together with our enjoyment of rhododendrons. The color of the entries in the racks, the discussion of the different hybrids and species, the camaraderie of people visiting, and the fun of the auction with the many different rhododendrons. My thanks go to all those who were able to participate this year.
- In the past few months, several plants have found their way to my garden. These are plants that I want to grow in the garden and now must find places where they will add to the beauty of the garden while I watch them grow.

At a recent Hardy Plant Group meeting, when I won a door prize and knew there was a nice little rhododendron still available, it did not take me long to grab *R. 'Carmen' x yak*. This little gem is still in its pot but has rich red flowers and will be a little mound of a plant with shiny green leaves. I must find a front of a border location that gets some sunshine.



Another little one is *R. calostrotum* ssp. *keleticum* 'Pin Cushion' that I propagated from a cutting from Rich Aaring's garden a few years ago that is now sturdy enough to find a home in the new rock garden bed that spills down the hill across the path from our main rock garden. I think this little creeper will look very nice with its purplish-pink flowers showing off well against the gray basalt rocks. In this part of the rock garden, I think that adding more humus to the quick draining soil mix will be helpful. So far this little

'Pin Cushion' has a bit of an upright growth habit that is far different than my ground hugging and spreading *R. calostrotum* ssp. *keleticum* Radicans Group, *R. hanceanum* 'Nanum' and *R. keiskeii* 'Yaku Fairy'. How interesting it is to watch these little plants grow.

As a table favor at the 2013 Western Regional conference in Newport last September, I brought home a small *R. camtschaticum* that I will also plant in this new rock garden section in a position that gets morning sun but will be shaded in the afternoon by an established nearby narrow-growing conifer. This little mat-forming rhododendron that grows in the northern latitudes has beautiful small, purplish-pink, pansy-like flowers and is one of only two members of the Subgenus Therorhodon. In the winter, it appears to be completely dead but then bursts forth with bright new green growth from which the flower pedicels will grow.

On the 2013 chapter membership roster, Frances used a photo of *R. myrtifolium* with a note that it is "a small shrub from mountains of Transylvania, Carpathia, Bulgaria and Yugoslav Macedonia". I was interested in this as I had rooted a cutting of *myrtifolium* from Rich Aaring's garden and, knowing nothing about it, I looked forward to growing it in my garden. In the past year it has grown quickly in a new growing bed that I built and now it is ready to find a home in the garden. The species epithet refers to it having leaves like *Myrtle* and it will grow into a compact, creeping shrub about 2' tall. As you will notice on the membership roster, the small trusses of flowers are pink.

Certainly one of my fascinations with *Rhododendron* is the wide variety of plant characteristics and growth habits that are found in the genus. In fact, it is the variety of texture, shape, and color that makes a garden so interesting.

Spring Garden Events Calendar

Places to Go and Things to Do

As always, there are many things to do in the garden world during April and May.

- **May 4** 1:00 p.m. Hendricks Park Rhody Garden Tour with Michael Robert
- **May 9** ARS Eugene Chapter Plant Sale set-up, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Lane County Fairgrounds
- **May 10** ARS Eugene Chapter Annual Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Lane County Fairgrounds
- **May 10** Hinsdale Garden open 10 to 2
- **May 10-11** ARS Portland Chapter Show and Plant Sale at Crystal Springs
- **May 17-18** ARS Siuslaw Chapter Show at Florence Event Center
- **May 24** Hinsdale Garden open 10 to 2
- **May 25** 1:00 p.m. Wild Flower Hendricks Park Tour with Michael Kennedy



Note: The **Cecil & Molly Smith Garden** is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays in May from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. but closed on Memorial Day Weekend. ARS members are free, others \$3.00. 5055 Ray Bell Road, St. Paul, OR

Note: The **Gerdemann Botanic Preserve** in Yachats is open for guided tours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in May and June. Reservations must be booked in advance. <http://gerdemanngarden.org> There is a public footpath through part of the garden that is always open during daylight hours.



Pepper looks over the show entries

Photo by Ali Sarlak



R. 'Starbright Champagne' submitted by Noel Berkeley



Hybrid by Nolan Blansit grown by Jack Olson



Banquet conversation

Photo by Ali Sarlak

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

For those of you who missed the March 13 chapter meeting, the slate of nominated leaders was unanimously elected. Please thank these people for keeping the chapter headed in the right direction.

- President Ali Sarlak 2 year term
- Vice-President Terry Henderson 2 year term
- Director Gordon Wylie 3 year term
- Director Jack Olson 2 year term

Thanks also to the Nominating Committee - Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, and Terry Henderson.

A Perfect Day on Phongan Razi

by Ted Hewitt

In the March/April 2014 issue of *Horticulture* magazine, Dan Hinkley writes about a recent plant hunting trip to Mt. Phongan in northern Myanmar. As the developer of the highly acclaimed garden and nursery at Heronswood on the Kitsap Peninsula in Puget Sound, Hinkley has traveled the world in search of new plants for our gardens.

In this article, after discussing the rigors of travel in this remote part of the world with its leeches, insects, mountains, rivers, he describes the “vibrant luxury of plant life” in this botanical wonderland, starting with the towering canopy of the fir trees (*Abies delavayi*) and the Himalayan larch (*Larix griffithiana*). In the secondary layer of shrubs and smaller trees are trees such as *Magnolia globosa* and a “rather remarkable species of *Sorbus* or mountain ash, with heady tints of autumnal red gathering in its glossy green and leathery leaflets.” But it is the

ARS Journal online

The spring issue of the ARS Journal is now available on line at:

<http://www.arsoffice.org/protect1/users/online.asp>

Instructions:

1. Access the ARS Office website at www.arsoffice.org
2. Click on “View Spring 2014 Journal” online edition
3. If you already have a username and password, click on “login”. If you do not have a username and password, click on “Register Now” and follow instructions for obtaining them.

Kudos to Sherlyn Hilton for publishing the 2014 Membership Directory that helps us keep in touch with one another. If you did not receive yours at the banquet, it will be in the mail soon.

remarkable numbers of *Rhododendron* that impresses him the most.

He chooses two species to discuss that were ones that he had never observed growing in the wild before. First is *R. arizelum* which “dominate (s) the landscape” in the higher altitudes all the way to the top of Mt. Phongan where “it morphed into dwarf and wizened reincarnations”. At



R. arizelum Photo from Rhodogarden.com

“its large and long leathery leaves, under-surfaced with a rusty red indumentum” earn it his designation as the “queen of the genus”. At lower elevations, Hinkley found the “substantial foliage” of *R. sino-grande* to be quite impressive with the “acid-

elevations above 8,000 feet, “its large and long leathery leaves, under-surfaced with a

green rib atop the deep green and leathery-textured leaves that stretch” more than a foot in length.



R. sinogrande in Eckerdt garden

The rest of the article is devoted to the perennials that make up the forest floor such as many species of fairy bells (*Polygonatum* spp. and *Disporum* spp.), false Solomon’s seals (*Smilacina* spp.), clematis, and stands of bamboo. Some of the false Solomon’s seals are as tall as 7 feet. In Paula’s and my garden, we grow a very interesting *Disporum cantonese* ‘Night Heron’, that is a Dan Hinkley introduction



from Sichuan, China, that contrasts nicely with rhododendrons in both color and texture in woodland beds. In spring, dark black-purple stems poke their way up to a height of 4 to 6 feet sending out gracefully arching side shoots with a bamboo-like appearance. In April the small chartreuse-yellow blossoms contrast nicely with the chocolate-purple leaves but are rather unobtrusive on the plant. ‘Night Heron’ can be grown in full sun to open shade but we find that ours does quite well in more shade. It has been designated as a “Great Plant Pick” and, in our woodland garden, earns that award with its color, grace, texture, and garden interest in contrast to the broad-leafed green leaves of rhododendrons.

Articles on plant exploration by Dan Hinkley, Steve Hootman, Peter Cox, and Hartwig Schepker are interesting because they share what it is like to trek in these botanically rich and remote areas and they also allow us to learn what the native habitats of some of the plants in our gardens are like. We cannot always replicate this in our gardens but we can often use these plants in good horticultural ways.

Newsletter photos are by Ted Hewitt unless indicated otherwise.

Lace Bug Update

As the weather warms up in May and June, this is an ideal time to check our plants for evidence of the hatch of azalea lace bugs that have overwintered. Check evergreen azaleas, small leafed rhododendrons, rhododendrons such as *R. ‘Cilpenense’* but also the larger leafed ones. Once they emerge, the nymphs are clustered together feeding on the underside of the leaves. This is one of the best times for intervention, prior to damage, when they are very susceptible and in one place, and before they develop wings and disperse. This information comes from Robin Rosetta. For more information and great photos check www.oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/azalea_lace_bug.htm

Special thanks to Terry, Ali, Gloria, and Jack for Show set-up, to Helen and Nancy for entries and tabulation, to Harold for technology, photos, and plants, to Terry for plants and table favors, to Nancy for table center pieces, to Jack for auctioneering, to Gordon for the raffle, to Sherlyn for a whole bunch of things, to Leonard for selecting plants, and to The Show Committee.

2014

EVENT CALENDAR

2014

CHAPTER EVENTS:

- May 10 Plant Sale at Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 June 29 Potluck Picnic at home of Ali & Gloria Sarlak, Noon to 3:00 p.m.

CONFERENCES 2014:

- May 16-18 ARS Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH
 May 20-31 ARS Tour of Northern Europe Gardens, Germany & Denmark
 September 26-28 ARS Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA
 October 20-24 70th Jubilee International Rhododendron Conference
 Dunedin, New Zealand *'First for Rhododendrons'*

What a great fall trip this would be into spring. Contact Ali or Ted
 for conference information or go to www.rhododendron.org.nz

CONFERENCES 2015:

- Spring ARS Annual Convention, Sydney, B.C.

American Rhododendron Society
 Eugene Chapter
 PO Box 7704
 Springfield, OR 97475

*May 2014
 Newsletter*

www.ARSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the
 American Rhododendron Society

