

# Eugene Chapter

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2009

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If you are a cookie baker try Ray Klein's recipe on page 5



R. 'OLGA'

#### HOW TO PLEASE SHOW JUDGES WITH YOUR ENTRIES

LILLIAN HODGSON

When you love flowers and plants as much as I do, you will face the difficult task of mutilating a young plant in order to put a truss in the show, DON'T! I waited 15 years to see my first, solitary bloom on *Rh thomsonii*. Wait until you can really spare that bloom.

When trusses can be spared, exhibit them regardless of their perfection, Tables are usually provided for non competitive displays. Every flower contributes to the overall success of the show and the prime concern of the Rhododendron Society is to educate and introduce to the public an easy-to-grow plant for gardens in this rhododendron paradise.

Don't be discouraged by having to compete with members who have large collections. Plants given tender loving care have a better chance of producing show-quality plants. People with large collections cannot spare the time to give much attention to individual plants.

*Continued on page 6*

#### EARLY SHOW, APRIL 11

##### Oregon Electric Station

3:00 p.m. Set-Up, help needed

4:00 p.m. Truss Entries accepted

Four trophies: best azalea, best species, best lepidote, best hymenanthus

5:00 p.m. Judging

Also come for a social hour. No-Host Bar will be open.

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Price remains the same. \$20 per person after the chapter pays \$6.00 of the \$26.00 cost.

Choice of salmon, prime rib, chicken, vegetarian.

Drinks and dessert are extra.

7:00 p.m. First part of plant auction.

Bring plenty of money - checks accepted.

7:30 p.m. Speaker: Don Wallace of Singing Tree Nursery

8:30 p.m. Second part of plant auction.

9:00 p.m. Take-Down. Lots of hands make for short work. Thank you.

#### SPRING SHOW MAY 9-10

This year we are returning to Valley River Center on Delta Highway just off of Interstate 205 in Eugene. Entries may be submitted between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, and we will have people available to help with classification and placement of trusses. Judging will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The show will remain open to the public until 9:00 p.m. and again on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We would like to have the display filled with color and to have the opportunity to meet or re-meet many of you to chat about what you are growing in your gardens and to enjoy our favorite genus.

This year we are moving our plant sale to the Lane County Fairgrounds on 13th Ave. at Jefferson St. to be part of the large, annual Hardy Plant Group plant sale so there will be a great opportunity to add to your collection of companion plants as well. This event is on Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and now includes a large number of vendors from around the state. Again, we hope you will be able to join us. *T. Hewitt*

Autumn arrives in the early morning, but Spring at the close of a winter day.

*Elizabeth Bowen*

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: <http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

President	Helen Baxter	461-6082
Vice President	Ted Hewitt	687-8119
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Gordon Wylie	2006-2009
Terry Henderson	2007-2010
Nolan Blansit	2007-2010
Frances Burns	2008-2011

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Alternate Director Dave Collier 503-663-7917

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<b>Hospitality</b>	JoAnn Napier	746-0828
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ARS web site	<a href="http://ars.office.org">http://ars.office.org</a>	

**PLEASE NOTE the correction to Alternate Director Dave Collier's Area Code.**

**Secretary Paula Hewitt and Treasurer Richard Reed were reelected to their positions at the General Meeting March 12. Board member Leonard Frojen was reelected to serve on the board. JoAnn Napier was elected to serve in the board slot vacated by Gordon Wylie. Terms will begin July 1, 2009.**

The glimmer of spring is here, despite pea-sized hail; the birds are busy building nests and grateful on frosty mornings for a helping hand of sunflower seeds in the feeders and mixed grains scattered on the ground for those who don't go to feeders. With the help of the birds, I find no need to spray -- I haven't seen an aphid in years. There is one unwelcome guest from time to time: mildew on certain azaleas, possibly from overwatering. Read on for a homemade spray for real mildew, not lichens, which some birds feed upon.

**Many thanks to the Siuslaw Chapter newsletter and Shirley Wilson , a member of Siuslaw chapter, for sharing a great source of gardening information . Shirley subscribes to horticultural news service called *The Avant Gardener*. Following is an article, *The Cornell Mildew Cure* that Shirley would like to share.**

Many rose growers are using a formula developed by Cornell University to control powdery mildew and black spot. This formula is also remarkably effective against the strain of mildew fungus that attacks crape myrtles, reports Texas gardener Field Roebuck from Dallas, Texas. Mr. Roebuck, who uses the Cornell spray on his roses, states: "One evening, with spray solution remaining, I saw that our four large 30-year-old white cape myrtles were covered with mildew. So, instead of mixing up my usual lime-sulfur spray, I doused them with the remaining rose spray. The results were amazing. As I sprayed, the mildew dissolved into nothingness. And more importantly, it never came back. That one treatment did the job for the entire season and that has been the case every year since"... Here is the formula.

**Into 1 gallon of water, mix 2 tablespoons of light horticultural oil (I use Sunspray oil), 1 heaping tablespoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of a mild liquid dish-washing detergent (I use Palmolive Green). Mix well and spray with a pump-up sprayer late in the evening when the sun is no longer on the foliage. Spray both sides of the leaves and all the wood to the point of runoff.**

If you would like to subscribe to *The Avant Gardener* here is the contact information: THE AVANT GARDENER (monthly) Horticultural Data Processors ISSN 005-1926 P.O. Box 489 New York NY 10028 Thomas Powell, Editor and Publisher Subscription: Published monthly, \$24.00 per year, \$30.00 outside USA. (Summarizes new garden info, lists sources, etc.)

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE NATIONAL ARS CONVENTION  
APRIL30 - MAY 4 IN EVERETT, WA (Don Smart 425-333-6178)**

## BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS FOR FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDENS

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Cassandra Barrett on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the University of Oregon, Agate Hall, Agate Street at 18th Avenue, Eugene, OR.

Cassandra Barrett, of Barrett Landscape and Design, is a local designer and creator of beautiful perennial and food gardens. Her talk will focus on the many ways to make a productive food garden look great and function as a center for dining, relaxation and entertainment. She will show us several techniques, including how to blend a more modern, relaxed style into traditional parterre style planting, and how to incorporate heritage and antique fruit trees into a decorative garden, taking advantage of the specialty nurseries we have in the Pacific NW.

The evening includes a mini clinic by Nate Champion of Champion Acres Nursery. He will have vegetable starts for sale. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and book sales. Admission is \$6 for non-members and \$3 for members. Membership in the Hardy Plant Group is \$20 annually. There is ample parking next to Agate Hall. For more information about the group or this event, visit the website at [www.thehardyplantgroup.org](http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org) or contact Pam Perryman at (541) 344-0896.

**There was an old lady who swallowed a fly.  
I dunno why she swallowed a fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.**

*Alan Mills*

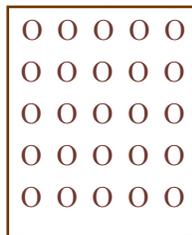
In 1953, Burl Ives recorded a version of Alan Mills's poem that is hilarious. I'm not sure if the old lady would be considered carnivorous, or omnivorous, but, when she swallowed that fly, she became like many of us who, while moving into the wind, or caught in a cloud of bugs, became entomophagous (feeding on insects). In other words, became a bug eater.

Because I own a scooter and used to ride it often, I've eaten my share of insects-- probably more than my share—but I need their help. We grow blueberries, and although they are entomophilous (pollinated by insects), honeybees aren't the best insect pollinators for them (they don't vibrate enough to shake loose the pollen). I need, therefore, to attract other pollinators for our blueberries, specifically orchard mason bees.

The blue orchard mason bee, *Osmia lignaria*, is a solitary bee that collects pollen for their young. The typical females lives an average of 4 to 8 weeks, lays about 32 eggs, and works from can't, (from when they can see till they can't). Unlike honeybees that sting when the hive is threatened, orchard mason bees only sting in self-defense. The males do not have stingers at all and they only live long enough to mate. The females like to build their nests in a series of compartments where they store pollen and lay each egg. The amount of pollen is staggering--usually they make 25 trips to about 75 flowers (that's 1,875 flowers per egg!) before sealing the compartment and starting another. That's 60,000 visits to flowers! One mason bee is equal to 20,000 honeybees when it comes to pollinating.

Questions? Comments? E-mail me at [garden.projects@hotmail.com](mailto:garden.projects@hotmail.com)

**TIPS FROM THE OLD TOOL SHED:** When building a bee house for the solitary bee the size of the hole should be 5/16" and the depth anywhere from 3 inches to a maximum 5 1/2". Of course, in the wild, they have been known to use various holes including keyholes. Researchers for the USDA at Utah University have discovered that the females are attracted to a darker face and recommend burning the front of the bee house for a natural dark color. Each hole should be at least 3/4 of an inch apart for optimum usage. Some people make them out of bamboo; others use drinking straws, which they can stack in an old tin can! The thing is, if you want super pollinators, the houses are easy to make and maintain.



**SIUSLAW CHAPTER'S EARLY PLANT SALE & RHODY SHOW,** will be held Easter weekend, April 11 & 12 at the Florence Events Center.

Trusses, sprays, as well as rhododendron and azalea bonsai may be submitted for the show between 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Judging should be done at 1:00 p.m. and the show will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. The show hours on Sunday will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ribbons and trophies will be awarded. This is a great time to share, ask questions, answer questions, and in general "Talk Rhodys."

Admission is Free. We hope to see you there. For further information, call Mike Bones (541) 997-3082 Our Late Show is planned during Rhododendron Festival weekend, Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17.  
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The Willamette Chapter Show in Salem is done in conjunction with the plant sale in Bush Pasture Park on Friday, April 17 (10 am - 7 pm), Saturday, April 18 (10 am - 5 pm), and Sunday, April 19 (10 am - 3 pm). TH  
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**North American Rock Garden Society**

For those of you interested in growing some of the smaller alpine types of rhododendrons that require more specialized conditions, here is a program of special interest. **The NARGS meeting is April 7 at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene at 7:00 p.m. Loren Russell will speak on "How to Build a Successful Rock Garden".**

Ted and I just attended a winter study weekend for the NARGS in Portland and came home very excited about the numerous examples we saw of small rhododendrons grown in a rock garden habitat. It looks great and it meets the needs of the plants that require good drainage.

In this talk on the basics of rock garden design in the Willamette Valley, Mr. Russell shows how local gardeners can create friendly habitats for an exciting range of rock plants. Mr. Russell will discuss siting, selection of locally available rock and soil materials, techniques of rock handling and the effective placement of rock to create naturalistic garden features. Examples are drawn from rock gardens in Oregon and across the US and from rock plants growing in the wild. P H  
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On March 13, Canada Post released two 54-cent Canadian stamps that depict trusses of 'Mist Maiden' and 'Minas Maid'. The stamps were designed by Isabelle Toussaint from photographs taken by Design Graphique at the 2008 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada exhibition in Kentville, Nova Scotia, and were printed in a quantity of 13 million in booklets of 10 stamps. 'Minas Maid' is a 1966 cross of Nova Zembla x R. *yakushmanum* by George S. Swain. 'Mist Maiden' is a cultivar of R. *yakushmanum* selected by David Leach in 1958. Thanks to Gus Cerini of Tappan Zee Chapter.

## LICHENS OR NOT -- A PERSPECTIVE

Hello Mr. \_\_\_\_\_,

Thanks for your inquiry about lichens on rhododendrons and trees in Oregon. Lichens are among the most beautiful and valuable gifts of our climate and vegetation to those of us lucky enough to live in Oregon. As you've seen, they grow on trees; they also inhabit rocks and soils, and a few grow on less expected substrates, such as mosses.

Lichens have no specialized structures for absorbing substances from their environment. They have rhizines, which are little projections from their bases that adhere to surfaces on which they grow. Rhizines do not conduct water, minerals, or food substances. They just grow into tiny cracks in the bark, rock, or soil surface enough to anchor the lichen body. On the other hand, the roots of vascular plants actually conduct water through tubes formed by plant cells. In lichens and bryophytes, however, water movement occurs through cell-to-cell absorption only.

Lichens are formed by two organisms - a fungus and an alga. The fungus provides the shape, and a lichen species' name is the name of the fungus that shapes it. The algal cells grow in a layer near the top of the fungal structure. They photosynthesize - they manufacture food - for both the fungus and themselves.

Ecosystems are served by lichens in several ways. Bryophytes, which are mosses and similar-looking small green plants (liverworts and hornworts) perform many of the same functions. One important function is water absorption. During a rainstorm, lichens and bryophytes soak up a lot of water. Forest mosses can absorb at least three times their body weight in water. Far more water is retained in a system that includes lichens and bryophytes than in a similar system without them. Water is released slowly by the soaked-up lichens and bryophytes, rendering the ecosystem (forest, grassland, shrubland, temporary or permanent water body) humid for a long time after rain has stopped. Nutrients are retained and slowly released in this way as well. The alternative to this retention and slow release is fast runoff and thus loss of water and nutrients during precipitation events.

Lichens and bryophytes provide habitat for a large and intricate community of algae and invertebrate animals. These small organisms all take in water and nutrients in the courses of their life cycles. They, too, assist in holding water and nutrients for a longer period than if they were absent. They also break down complex molecules into small molecules during their various means of obtaining energy to fuel their metabolic processes. Plants require simple nutrient

molecules for their metabolic processes. Because of nutrient cycling and breakdown by lichen- and bryophyte-dwelling organisms, more usable nutrient molecules are available to plants than would be available if the bark, soil and rocks were barren.

A byproduct of the existence of lichen and bryophyte algae-invertebrate communities is that food for other animals is more plentiful than if these organisms were absent. For example, many bark-foraging birds, such as juncos, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and bushtits, eat arthropods that inhabit lichens and bryophytes or else arthropods that feed on other arthropods that inhabit them. In my own yard, I've noticed that these bark-foraging birds tend to spend more time foraging on trunks and branches covered with lichens and bryophytes than on bare bark.

OK, back to the organisms you've seen on trees in Oregon and on your own spruce: Some kinds of trees in western Oregon are good substrates for lichens, and they can have a pretty dense lichen growth on them. Your description makes me think of Oregon white oak, the common oak in this area. These oaks are good, strong trees built of dense, entwined wood cells. They can support a lot of weight beyond their own, so lichen and bryophyte growth is fine, even though it looks like a lot. Big-leaf maples would be in the same situation - they are strong and dense (although the cells aren't quite as intertwined as those of oaks) and can support lots of weight. The native trees and the native lichens and bryophytes have the advantage of having evolved together over the past several million years, so that trees with bark that lichens can hold on to will have evolved strength enough to support them (if they weren't that strong already). I suppose some non-native trees - ornamentals in urban plantings - could have some problems and break under the load, but compared to the weight of branches themselves, I don't think the lichens and bryophytes weigh that much, even when wet.

Conifer species usually have fewer lichen and bryophytes species growing on their bark. Conifer bark tends to chip off in little plates, whereas broadleaf tree bark often builds up into a thick layer. There ARE exceptions - cherry (we have two native species, and at least one non-native also grows in forests here.) has smooth bark that renews its outer layer periodically by peeling, and madrone (native), which also repeatedly exfoliates bark layers. Thus, these last two examples are two that are hardwoods but don't support large lichen and bryophyte communities, because they're too slippery.

Spruce trees usually do not have a lot of lichens growing on their bark; it's typical conifer bark that peels off in little scales. (I'm not intimately familiar with Colorado blue spruce, but I'm pretty sure it's much like the (Continued pg 5)

*Continued from page 4*

Engelmann spruce that grows right outside my back door.)

It is possible that you are seeing growths that are not lichens. For example, a virus infection will have symptoms much different than fluffy lichen or moss material on the outside of the plant. Virus symptoms are things like stunting, deformation, concentric ring-shaped spots, mottling, and yellowing. It is also possible that you are seeing crustose lichens -- these look as if they were painted onto the bark. They don't hurt the tree either.

To get a specialist to pass judgement on your problem, more information would be needed. For example, it would be good to know where you are located, for help in thinking about the abundance of lichen growth you could expect on your tree, and to know more about the appearance of the stuff you are removing from the bark. Better yet, you might try showing a sample to a county extension agent -- they should be able to help, or at least refer you to someone who can.

Best wishes, Kathy M. (OSU)



Last meeting the subject of lichens came up when a dire plan to eradicate them was presented. Pictured above are lichens on the editor's 50+ - year old Rh *schlippenbachii*, planted directly in front of a huge fir tree and living in shade forever. Broken in half by a falling branch, it hasn't been pruned for several years. The remains bloom beautifully every spring; the lichens have done no harm. New growth on the back of the plant has no lichens (yet) and is now getting more sunshine. The plant will be pruned this year after it blooms. Even in full sun Azaleas get lichens. In my experience, pruning to encourage new growth is the answer if one does not like the look of lichens. As Merle Sanders says, "Prune, prune, prune! Notice the buds in picture, taken early March. fb

As Spring comes upon us, it is nice to see the blossoms on the rhododendrons once again burst into color and, of course, the wonderful new foliage on many will follow soon after. This year it would be nice to show on our chapter website what members are noticing either in their own gardens or in gardens elsewhere. As you may have noticed, the homepage of the website has been showing pictures of some rhododendrons in the Berkeley garden over the last few months.

Now, Rudy Fecteau has requested that more members submit digital photos of trusses, plants, garden vignettes, or foliage with a short statement about what they like about the photo. This will make the website an interesting place to visit and we will continue to showcase the happenings of our chapter.

You may submit your digital photos by e-mail to either Rudy Fecteau at [rudyfecteau@comcast.net](mailto:rudyfecteau@comcast.net) or to Ted Hewitt at [ted.hewitt@comcast.net](mailto:ted.hewitt@comcast.net). By the way, while you are visiting the website take a look at the newsletter, or even past newsletters, that are beautifully done in color. Suggestions for what you would like to see on the website are always welcome. T. H.

### RAY'S SNOQUALMIE COOKIES

Many thanks and generous applause to our March Goodie Volunteers, JoAnn Napier and Ray Klein. Ray was generous and gave us the recipe for his exceedingly good cookies. One lady drove down from Portland to get some! This makes half a recipe, double for a big batch.

Mix well 1 stick of butter, ½ cup brown sugar, 1 large egg, and ¾ tsp vanilla.

In another bowl combine: 1 cup white flour, 1 ½ tps cinnamon, ½ tsp baking soda, ¼ tsp baking powder, ¼ tsp salt, 1 ½ cups oatmeal and ½ cup chopped hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, or dates, etc. Mix together the contents of the two bowls. It's very stiff batter. Add 2 tbs water if you want smoother, flatter cookies. Drop from teaspoon onto baking sheet. Bake 9 minutes at 350° F. Cool on a rack and watch them disappear.

# HOW TO PLEASE THE SHOW JUDGES WITH YOUR EXHIBITS

*Continued from Page 1*

So you have decided to enter some exhibits. What will the show judges be looking for? (I am presuming the show committee “has done its job” and has selected judges who are knowledgeable and are reasonably familiar with most of the plants and flowers on display. They must be completely unbiased and without prejudice.

## HOW PLANTS ARE JUDGED

Outdoor plants must be grown outdoors and not in greenhouses, and must have been in the exhibitor’s possession at least 6 months; you are on the honor system. Tender greenhouse plants have their own category.

The first thing the judge will look for is a well-grown plant, clean and well groomed with nothing added. If needed, leaves should be washed: with a hose in the case of a plant, or with a water-moistened paper towel or cloth in case of a truss. Where possible, remove old damaged corollas (flowers), old seed pods or other debris. If leaves have damage from frost, weevils, bees or slugs, or are distorted, they should be removed but not trimmed. This is known as “dressing”. The motto is “You can take away but you cannot add.” Leaf Shine, wax or other polish will disqualify an otherwise perfect exhibit. Plants should not be forced and should be “in character”.

Some judges will give additional consideration to plants or flowers that are difficult to grow or are rare in cultivation. Good form is important.

If you dig up a plant just prior to the show and exhibit it in a container or balled root, it will suffer a certain amount of shock and could take at least a couple of years to recover. It is preferable to dig up a plant when it is dormant and grow it in a container for future show purposes.

Judges will look for perfection in flowers and leaves. Rain spots on corollas, insect marks, bird droppings, last year’s seed pods or other debris, and soil on the leaves will often eliminate an otherwise excellent truss.

All trusses must be on a single stem. Several years ago at the Vancouver show, the judges awarded “Best in Show” to a huge truss. If they had known the plant as they should have, they would have recognized that it was very much out of character. As soon as I saw it I was suspicious, so I turned it over and it was a double-headed truss. However, the judging was over and the decision had been made.

A truss of R. ‘Mrs. A. T. De la Mare’ averages 12 flowers per truss but I have photographed an example with over 30 flowers. A closer look revealed five different stems so short that only a careful examination would expose it.

Incorrect names do not eliminate a truss from competition. At the turn of the [20th] century, Layritz Nurseries were the big growers and suppliers for the Lower Mainland and the Pacific Northwest, with nurseries in Vancouver and Victoria. Rhododendrons were imported from Britain and redistributed.

Somehow, the tags on R. ‘Mrs. Lionel de Rothschild’ and R. ‘Lady de Rothschild’ were mixed up, so for many years these two ladies exchanged identities. Had the Rhododendron Register been consulted, the error would have been apparent. As a favour to the exhibitor, a judge will ask the show clerk to correct it on the entry card. Judge’s remarks are for the purpose of educating the exhibitor and must be accurate.

When there is any doubt, the judges should abstain from commenting. When a truss could be improved by cleaning (dressing) or removing damaged leaves, a judge’s comment on the card helps the exhibitor know only why his/her truss was turned down for an award.

Several years ago, I was judging a rhododendron show in Eugene, Oregon. In the center of one of the tables was a beautiful white truss at eye level. Exhibits on either side had been gently pushed aside so it would receive the full attention of the judge. “Aho”, I said to myself, “a Trophy Hunter.” But it was a beautiful, perfect truss -- except that the leaves had been polished with LeafShine. I felt sorry, but I had to eliminate it. That is when I started adding judge’s remarks, in fairness to someone so enthusiastic. Some new growth leaves are naturally shiny, but you won’t find a truss on new growth.

Don’t be discouraged if you bring in a tiny perfect flower of *Rh cinnabarinum* and think it won’t stand a chance against a monster ‘Walloper’ in the final choice for Best in Show. The public won’t understand, but a good judge will still look for perfection. Most trusses open from the bottom and finish at the top. Three to five unopened flowers on a large truss are a reasonable compromise. Of course, where a similar truss is fully-open and in perfect condition, it will take precedence over the unopened. When I was judging a show in Eugene, Harold Greer was my clerk. When it came to the final judgment, I picked a *Rh cinnabarinum* ‘Roylei Magnificum’ for Best in Show. It was perfect, but I still had to fight with the other judges for it over some less-than-perfect larger trusses. I prevailed, and Harold Greer stood beside me with a huge Cheshire grin on his face. Obviously he approved, it was his truss!

## HOW SPRAYS ARE JUDGED

Sprays are usually up to 18 inches in width, and because of the number of flowers involved, they will range from past-their-prime to unopened buds. This is nature’s way of ensuring fertilization over a longer period of time.

*(Continued on page 7)*

Continued from Page 6

Removal of old flowers is recommended but a spray should not be faulted for unopened flowers, within reason. Personally, I like to see some unopened buds. They are usually darker and sometimes different in color and certainly contribute to the overall beauty of the flower.

### AS THE SHOW DATE NEARS

So, how do you prepare for the show? First see that your plants are well-watered for several days prior to the show. If the weather is hot and sunny, avoid overhead watering and concentrate on the root system. It never rains when the sun is out! Rain spots on a corolla act like a magnifying glass when the sun is shining and will burn the flower.

### CUTTING, PREPARING AND TRANSPORTING TRUSSES

You will have decided on the truss or trusses that you wish to cut. Friday is usually setup day for the show so it is best to cut the stem early on Friday morning. Cut at an angle or crush with a hammer to increase intake of water, it is amazing how much water will be required by a single truss.

The stem should be long and straight if possible, and this type of truss is usually found at the top of the bush, especially in such plants a R. 'Beauty of Littleworth', R. 'Loderi King George' and other large-flowered trusses. Crooked stems will fall over in vases. There is also less weevil damage at the top of the bush. Clean as much as you can without damaging the truss. Weevil bites on the edge of leaves cannot be trimmed. If you cannot remove the whole leaf without spoiling the overall shape of the truss, leave it. Remember that your truss may be the only one of its kind in the show, and that is more important than a damaged leaf. Beside, it shows that you are environmentally friendly and do not use pesticides.

Keep your trusses cool until you transport them. I have kept trusses for several days in a cool place -- longer than that in the fridge when I am making paintings of them. Pack them in coffee, beer, or pop bottles or other containers with crushed newspaper between to keep the trusses upright and from touching. Flowers bruise easily if unprotected; cardboard boxes will keep them upright in the car. Pray that you don't have to brake suddenly!

### ENTERING YOUR EXHIBITS

You will be given a list of categories and entry cards. This can be intimidating, even to the experts. Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many willing, able people to help you. However, the more that you do yourself, the more you learn, and pressure will be reduced on a very busy show committee. #

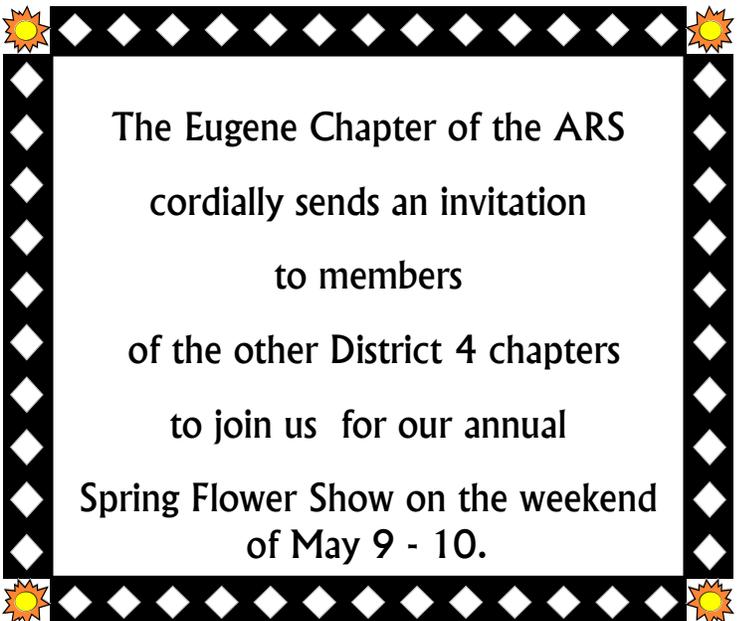
LILLIAN HODGSON

Rhododendron lovers in ARS District 1 and members of Vancouver Rhododendron Society lost one of our pioneers with the passing in mid-July 2003 of Lillian (Lill) Hodgson. Lill was a charter member of the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS. There were no other ARS chapters in BC for many years after 1955, so Lill knew everybody connected with rhodos in the province. Lill served as Chapter Secretary, was a Director and founded, typed, edited and mailed out the chapter's two-page, Gestetner-produced newsletter for some 10 years. Lill had a talent for flower and nature photography. As an artist and water colourist, her knowledge of rhododendrons—particularly the English hybrids—equipped her to excel as a show judge. Lill's service to the chapter and her dedication to the genus earned her the Society's Bronze Medal; she was Vancouver's second recipient.

Lill wrote for the *ARS Journal* and previously for the *Quarterly Bulletin*. Her own photograph of her garden in the UEL, ablaze with rhododendrons, with Vancouver's outer harbour, and West Vancouver's forested slopes and shoreline (with the Tantalus Range behind) appears on the cover of the Spring 1979 Quarterly Bulletin. It announced the ARS National Convention at the Bayshore, for which Lill served as Registrar.

There is a hybrid named for Lill created by Dr Bob Rhodes, then of Maple Ridge, 'Solent Queen' × 'Old Copper'. I never asked her whether she liked it or not; however, I do. *Rhododendron* 'Lillian Hodgson' is sweet and pink on the outside, fire inside; with a heritage to fit the *grande dame* of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society. **Clive Justice**

[Ed. Note: Permission was granted to reprint this information by Vancouver Rhododendron Society and Clive Justice, a grande old man of the VRS himself. Many thanks!]



The Eugene Chapter of the ARS  
cordially sends an invitation  
to members  
of the other District 4 chapters  
to join us for our annual  
Spring Flower Show on the weekend  
of May 9 - 10.

EUGENE CHAPTER  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY  
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## 2009 CHAPTER CALENDAR 2009

**APR 11 EARLY SHOW & AWARDS BANQUET -- details on page 1**  
The Electric Station, Fifth and Willamette, Eugene

**Speaker Don Wallace, Singing Tree Nursery near Eureka, California**

**APR 30 - MAY 2 ARS CONVENTION, EVERETT, WASHINGTON SEE ARS WINTER JOURNAL**

**MAY 9-10 SPRING RHODODENDRON SHOW -- VALLEY RIVER CENTER -- See page 1**

**MAY 9 only PLANT SALE - 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. FAIRGROUNDS (Vendors from around Oregon)**

**JUNE 7 PICNIC AT THE EWEB PARK ACROSS LEABURG LAKE. NOON. EAT AT 1 P.M.**  
**POSSIBLY A LOOK-SEE VISIT AT A NEARBY GARDEN**

**AUG 9 PICNIC AT DUNROAMIN (FRANCES BURNS / DOUGLAS & MARY FURR) NOON.**  
**EAT AT 1 P.M. Followed by TUFA WORKSHOP presented by Douglas Furr**

**SEP 10 MEETING & PROGRAM : DAVE ECKERDT of the Willamette Chapter speaking on**  
**"GARDEN GEMS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST".**

**SEP 17-20: WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, TACOMA, WASHINGTON**