

Eugene Chapter

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

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'Fabia
Tower Court'
?
or
'Fabia
RomanPottery'
?
Photo by
Frances Burns

CALENDAR

- Nov 9 Hinsdale Planting Party
- Nov 19 Rodney Bloom speaking on "COMPOSTING" followed by Rhododendron PLANT AUCTION
- Dec 10 Holiday Party, Campbell Center
- 2010**
- Jan 12 Steve Hootman speaking on "PLANT EXPLORATION IN THE HIMALAYAS" Tuesday night 7:00 p.m. with Hardy Plant Group at Agate Hall, 18th and Agate Streets, Eugene
- Feb 11 Wilbur Bluhm speaking on "THE KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS"
- Mar 11 Keith White speaking on "PLANT HUNTING IN SICHUAN", Annual Meeting & Election
- Apr 10 Early Rhododendron Show; Honors Banquet with Mike Stewart speaking on "HYBRIDS AND HYBRIDIZERS of the PNW"
- May 1 & 2 May Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale
- May 14-17 ARS annual Convention, Long Island NY
- Jun Chapter Picnic ~ To be announced
- Oct 7-10 Western Regional Conference, Florence OR
- Oct 17-20 Australian Rhododendron Society Golden Jubilee Conference, Melbourne/Dandenong Range

RODNEY BLOOM NOV. 19

For Rodney (a.k.a. the Worm Guy), composting is more than a waste management system, it's the opportunity for all of us to close the loop that reconnects us to the earth.

A Lane County Master Recycler and Compost Specialist, his passion for composting began with vermicomposting in the basement of his New Jersey flat 10 years ago and has since expanded into all forms of composting. In 2001 he created the vermicomposting systems at Food for Lane County, which he still runs, providing their gardens with thousands of gallons of high quality vermicompost. Rodney regularly presents programs to Lane County Master Recyclers and Compost Specialists, schools and other venues.

In 2007 he helped on Project *Replant New Orleans* to repair and rebuild soils damaged and polluted by Hurricane Katrina. He will be traveling soon to Ethiopia to help with soil building efforts in the Gimbe area. A former board member of Worm Digest Magazine, he is the founder of the non-profit organization "Turned Earth."

Rodney is a recipient of the University of Oregon's Martin Luther King Jr. Award for sharing his love of composting with the community, in recognition of his community efforts, and his positive impact on the environment. Welcome Rodney!

Third Thursday -- November 19

Officers

President	Helen Baxter	461-6082
Vice President	Ted Hewitt	687-8119
Past President	Jack Olson	988-9133
Secretary	Paula Hewitt	687-8119
Treasurer	Richard Reed	747-6221

Directors	Terms
Leonard Frojen	2005-2009
JoAnn Napier	2006-2009
Terry Henderson	2007-2010
Douglas Furr	2007-2010
Frances Burns	2008-2011

Standing Committees

Nominations	Harold Greer	686-1540
Hospitality	JoAnn Napier	746-0828
Welfare	Nancy Greer	686-1540
Honors	Rich Aaring	485-6013
Show Chair	Leonard Frojen	485-0560

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EDITOR'S BYTE

Frances Burns

Due to a laid-back fall without a killing frost, *R neeriflorum* 'Rosevallon' bloomed for the first time in October, creating immeasurable joy. Planted in the mid-90's in too much shade, it tested my patience. Last year I transplanted it to a spot that was, to quote Baby Bear, "just right! Others were transplanted from similar shade to a nearby "just right" location and they are all in bud. Lesson learned!

I was amazed to read about a Chicken Walk on Bainbridge Island (where they have it *all!*). Just as we rhodophiles like to stroll through rhododendron gardens, so do Bainbridge small flock owners like to checkout the flocks of other chicken lovers, strange as that may seem to those with faint interest in fowl.. At Dunroamin, alas, we are afflicted with both interests. Big Mama, at four, is the biggest and oldest of our eight golden hens. She suddenly went under the weather, in a poultrified way: her lustrous red comb paled and drooped, her feathers fluffed up like a coonskin coat, and her eyelids hung at half-mast. Online gurus encouraged us to give her four or five days to regain her *chi* or "take her out". Since none of us three are psychologically wired to deliver the *coup de main*, and without insurance, we chose the five-day interim plan.

Big Mama was rushed to the Snuggery on a blanket ("blankie" to the younger set), and encouraged to drink and to eat from loving hands. The Snuggery is where we play wildly bid bridge games, do needle-point, read *Frank & Ernest*, and seriously agonize over Sudoku. Big Mama was soon strolling tentatively into the sewing room, yea, on to the master bedroom, stretching her wings taking it all in, then back to the Snuggery with great dignity before settling down on her blankie to commune with her nursing staff. As days passed, we worried about a condition known as "egg bound" 'and whether- the Yankee or the Angels would make the World Series.

Caretaker Mary gave daily reports on Big Mama's precarious health. Her chart looked like the daily stock market report. On the fifth day she wisely rallied and was forthwith returned to the chicken coup to face the music from the other hens. She lost a few notches in the pecking order during the ordeal, but hadn't totally lost her common touch; she reentered the life of a hen with relative equanimity. And laid a big brown egg to prove it. (Applause for Big Mama!)

Allow me to share a family secret: If you build your hens a frame on wheels, enclosed and covered with chicken wire and with a nest or two, they will remove all the moss from from your lawn. Move them once or twice a day to a new area and soon your lawn will be dethatched, rid of insects, and on the way to a glorious rebirth. The hens will be contented, you will have named them, understood the foibles of each, and your eggs will be so country rich and fresh. Anyone for a Chicken Walk? We have barely scratched the surface!

LAST CALL TO PAY DUES!

NOVEMBER 20 deadline to receive

Winter Journal ARS 🙌

ARS Individual membership	\$40
Family membership	\$40
Associate member	\$10
Individual Life membership	\$1,000
Family Life membership	\$1,500

Mail dues to Treasurer Richard Reed,
PO Box 7704. Eugene 97401
Phone 747-6221

Membership includes 4 ARS Journals,
10 Chapter Newsletters,
interesting & informative programs,
opportunities to visit gardens
and more with a congenial gathering
of people having similar interests.



Yakkin' at the Old Tool Shed

WHEN I SEE A SLIPPERY SLOPE, MY INSTINCT IS TO BUILD A TERRACE.

John McCarthy

Recently my wife shared a research article with me about how an increase in *Rhododendron maximum* coverage in the hollows of the Appalachian Mountains may be associated with an increased risk of landslides during intense rain storms. The research, conducted by scientists working for the U.S. Forest Service in the southern Appalachian Mountains, studied several species of shrubs and trees and their ability to control hillside erosion. *Rhododendron maximum* has a shallow root system that does not deter heavy rains from washing the soil away in the steep hollows and hillsides. We don't have a hollow landscaped with rhodies at our place, but a friend in Deerhorn does. We'll be watching his hillside for slippage after heavy rains. An Internet search using the keywords "*Rhododendron landslides*" will bring up the article.

Heavy rains create fall hazelnut harvesting problems and cause erosion, but they also soften the soil for easier removal of unwanted plants. I'll be working on the slopes around our marsh this winter to remove blackberries. To prevent slippage of the soil, I may need to build some terraces. If so, I'll trench a ditch, place flat rocks in the trench, and keep stacking more flat rocks until I have sufficient height to fill in and construct the first terrace. And so forth and so on for any additional terraces. I also envision building a wildlife observation bridge across the marsh. It's a winter challenge that I hope to accomplish before the next spring. We'll see...

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? E-mail me at garden.projects@hotmail.com

TIPS FROM THE OLD TOOL SHED:

Winter is almost upon us. November 1st will be a busy day for Les Schwab employees mounting snow tires.* Thinking about snow reminds me of a way of keeping the snow from sticking to the blade of a shovel.

Take some kitchen spray, such as PAM[®], and spray both sides of the blade. The snow will simply fall off without any fuss! (Arthur Meyerhoff along with another gentleman, Leon Ruben, invented a no-stick cooking spray 50 years ago. Their company was called **P**roducts of **A**rthur **M**eyerhoff, also known as PAM.)

Do you keep small tools stuffed into an old pot in your greenhouse? Purchase a magnetic strip from your local hardware store and mount it to your worktable. It's great for tweezers, scissors, knives, and other small metal tools. You can also stick a small metal can to the strip to put your aluminum labels in.

A POULTRIFIED BOOK REPORT:

If sleep flies out the window on a moonbeam, here is a book for you. You will reluctantly turn the final page as the rooster crows. It is :

STILL LIFE WITH CHICKENS,

Starting Over in a House by the Sea,

A memoir by Catherine Goldhammer. Available at Amazon \$9.60.

This is a humorous yet heart-felt true tale by an imminent author of a divorce, a box of baby chicks and a pre-teen daughter. Mother and daughter establish tiny Dragon Fly Farm by the sea -- it wasn't easy, but it's a happy-ever-after story that will greatly expand your appreciation for starting over, as well as for a small flock of hens. Learn more at goldhammer.com



PLACES TO GO ~ PEOPLE TO SEE

WHAT: HINSDALE PLANTING PARTY ~
WHEN: November 9, 2009 ~ 9am until ?
(Later arrivals welcome!)

WHERE: Meet at Parking lot east of garden.

QUESTIONS/DETAILS: Call Gordon Wylie, 541 895-2864, email lgwone@gmail.com, or 307 Ironwood Loop, Creswell, OR 97426

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

April 9 - 11 UBC Botanical Garden in Vancouver, BC. Registration is limited to 100 delegates. Register in 2009 for \$130. In 2010, registration fee increases to \$155. Go to www.rhodos.ca for information on accommodations, schedules, and registration form. Register now!

HELP WANTED

Think about a candidate you would like to see run for Vice President in March and tell our Nominations Chair, Harold Greer - 686-1540 And if YOU are interested in such a wonderful "understudy" position tell Harold or a board member.

Even more urgent at the moment are a couple to host the Christmas Potluck at Campbell Center December 10. Call Helen 461-6082. Members will help, but need someone to make best laid plans.

Volunteers for January refreshments are needed, please. Call JoAnn 746-0828.

GRACIAS! To Leonard Frojen and Paula Hewitt for providing tasty refreshments for the October meeting. And a big generic thank you to the generous contributors in September, whose names are unknown.

A garden is man's attempt
to improve his lot.

anonymous

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present an illustrated talk by Roger Gossler on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the University of Oregon, Agate Hall, Agate Street at 18th Avenue, Eugene, OR.

Roger Gossler, together with his brother Eric and mother Marge, run Gossler Farms Nursery in Springfield, OR. The family has been in Springfield for 120 years. They farmed for five generations, gradually shifting into the nursery business in the 1960s until that completely replaced mint and corn in 1985. Their catalog is filled with unusual perennials, shrubs and trees. Roger is a popular speaker, and *The Gossler Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs* was published by Timber Press in September 2009. Copies will be available for purchase.

Roger's talk will cover shrubs and small trees that bloom from late summer through early December. There is a wealth of plant material that puts on a show during this season, and with our lovely September and October weather, there's no reason why we can't enjoy fresh blooms as well as fall color. This is a great chance to meet a local author and plant expert.

Doors open at 6:30 for book sales and botanical samples. 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 or contact Pam Perryman at (541) 344-0896.

Roger is a fellow member of the American Rhododendron Society, Eugene Chapter.

Oxydendrum arboreum, the Sourwood Tree, is a native from Pennsylvania and Illinois to Florida and Louisiana. It makes a lovely fall statement with its scarlet leaves and in the summer with its long graceful white racemes. It likes well drained acid soil and will grow in shade, but its color will be best if grown in full sun. Zones 5 to 9. It grows very slowly in the PNW and not out-grow the small garden for many years.

A FEELING OF FALL

I feel fall in the air
as it comes tiptoeing in
close on the heels of late summer
Unpretentious,
sending signals
to prepare for shorter days
and longer nights.
I sense a growing awareness
of a change in seasons
as colors begin to dot the trees
along the streets where I travel,
Faint yellows among the greens,
a twinge of gold
with hints of red
As cooler nights shake the leaves,
encouraging them
to leave their parent limbs
to which they have clung
so happily
On so many warm sunny summer days.

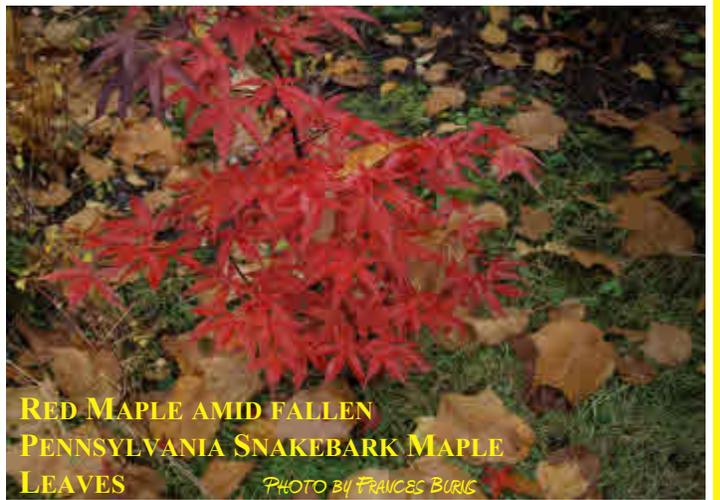
John Fry, Eugene Chapter

Thank you ,John, for a lovely and welcome
contribution to the newsletter!

FALL FAVORITES FOR GARDEN COLOR



STEWARTIA KOREANA
PHOTO BY FRANCES BURIS



**RED MAPLE AMID FALLEN
PENNSYLVANIA SNAKEBARK MAPLE
LEAVES**
PHOTO BY FRANCES BURIS

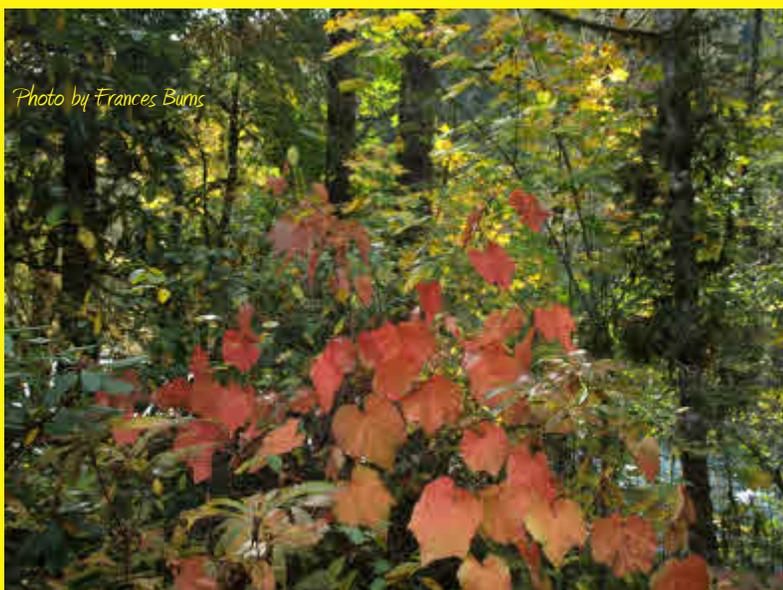


Photo by Frances Burns

VITIS COINGNETIAE AFTER 15 YEARS IN GARDEN

Vitis Coignetiae query to UBC website:

I am thinking about planting this vine in my small yard and training it up a pole to cover a second story window of an obnoxious neighbour, but I have questions: (I live in zone 6b): 1) Will V. coignetiae grow on a metal pole or will its tendrils slip off? 2) How deep & extensive a root system do Vitis sp. have? 3) Is V. coignetiae 'invasive like Trumpet Vine ?

Answer posted on website by "Ralph":

1: It will do better with some grip - could be a series of hose clamps on a metal pole.
2: Very extensive but rarely a problem; the individual roots tend to be relatively small.
3: Not invasive. It is (relative to other vitis) difficult to start from cuttings, but does well by layering so watch for that. It's a native of Japan which covers quite a range of climates including yours. It can take a year getting established - after that - watch out!
Dave added: good for covering unsightly greenhouses.

EUGENE CHAPTER
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November 2009

CHAPTER MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2009



*PLEASE NOTE this meeting is the **THIRD Thursday in November**
because our regular meeting night conflicts with the Campbell Center*

Christmas Bazaar 

HOW THIS SPECIAL EVENING WILL UNFOLD:

5:15 p.m. Speaker's Dinner at Bai Khao Thai Cuisine, located in the rear area of Value Village Shopping Center, Cennennial Blvd. Springfield. Please call Helen 461-6082 by November 17 if you are coming so we have some idea of how many to prepare for. Please let her know if you want the barbecued chicken. Preparation of this delicious entree begins the day prior to serving. A very special little restaurant, Bai Khao presents delicious meals at reasonable prices.

7:00 p.m. GET ACQUAINTED!

Chat with visitors, new members and fellow enthusiasts of Rhododendrons at

Campbell Center
1055 High St, Eugene.

Enjoy refreshments
by **Jack & Sandi Olson**
Douglas & MaryFurr.

7:30 p.m. PROGRAM:

**COMPOSTING:
WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW**

Rodney Bloom, speaker

Read his bio on page 1.
This promises to be
A GREAT PROGRAM!

8:30 p.m. DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION

**A Select Collection of
Species & Hybrid
Rhododendrons,
& Lepidotes for Bonsai**

will go to
the highest bidders.
DOOR PRIZES, TOO!