

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eugene Chapter

February 2013 Newsletter



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Honors Rich Aaring	541-485-6013

NEWSLETTER

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Electronic mailing	rebfeb@gmail.com

Postal Mailing

JoAnn Napier	541-746-0828
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Webmaster Ted Hewitt	547-687-8119
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EUGENE CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons.

Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships.

Grow both species & hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens.

Educate ourselves & the community about the world of rhododendrons.

Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons.

Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community.

THE WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION PROJECT



CLARICE CLARK, a professional surveyor, is currently Project Manager of a 16-year volunteer research effort begun by Rhododendron Species Foundation affiliates Hank Helm and Dr. George Ryan in a time when the Global Positioning System and the internet were in their infancy and used by government agencies, such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management – not in general use for projects such as organizing and cataloging locations of Rhododendron species native to Western North America. As GPS and the internet became common everyday tools, the identity of plant locations became much more accurate.

Now the health of rhododendron plants can be tracked through years of climate change and other factors affecting the rhododendron species. How much information is required and should it be stored on paper, or “in the clouds”? Who better to lead the project than a professional surveyor.

Clarice will speak at our chapter meeting February 14 at 7:00 PM at the Campbell Center, 155 High Street, Eugene. Coffee and goodies precede the 7:30 program.

A dinner for the speaker will be held at 5:00 PM at the Electric Station, Fifth & Willamette, Eugene. Those wishing to attend, please email Helen at galen.baxter@comcast.net or call her at 541-896-3216 by February 12 so that reservations can be made.

EDITOR'S BYTE FRANCES BURNS

Listen to your little inner voice, according to Oprah. It IS trying to tell you something. For some time now, especially on nice days when I'm doing the newsletter – and my needy garden is beckoning– that little voice has been saying, “See what you're missing?”

This week little voice became a cacophonous carping. While I was in Eugene, getting my unruly locks trimmed and having lunch with a friend, unknownst to me, my in-house technology diva proceeded to install Windows 8 as a surprise for me. And indeed it was.

After backing up my computer files (*including seven pages completed of an eight-page February newsletter*) on an external hard drive, she wiped clean my desktop hard drive and installed Windows 8. When she began reloading my files from the backup external drive, it became evident that something had gone horribly wrong. They'd been gobbled them up and were spewing forth as unreadable garbage. Surprise! Gone: my filing system obliterated, all my newsletters gone except the January edition, and all my notes for a book I was planning. I've often wondered what life would be like without my computer. That question has been answered: it's as though my life has been drained of meaning.

Where were the bread crumbs to lead me back to a new starting point? Anger, despair, a profound sense of loss, a few tears and four days of numbness reloading software and trying to recover years of work. A recovery program is still running in the background, as I work on getting out a minimal four pages for the February newsletter, Keep it simple....that inner voice warns. All this to say, as soon as someone can be found to take over the Eugene Newsletter – the line forms to the left – I will skip off to the garden and not look back. It's been a great experience all the way – I love doing the newsletter, chuckling away, as my muse whispers ideas in my ear.

After 18 years as editor, and just past my 87th birthday, it's time to enjoy other pursuits. my good health, *joie de vivre* and mental acuity – now where did I put the new JARS, it was here a minute ago. Did I forget to say that, after my incredible family – including my computer diva – my rhodies are right up there on a par with my computer, in my heart of hearts?

A beautiful shipment of plants from the Species Foundation just arrived...have you placed your order yet? And I just ordered some seeds from the Seed Exchange...have you placed your order yet? This is what it's all about, what keeps gardeners going year after year until they just spade away.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ali Sarlak

The January weather was kind and allowed us to meet without misadventure, despite icy roads here and there. The Presenter was Harold Greer – who needs no introduction – most of us know him as the Rhododendron Encyclopedia man. His slide show was for all rhodie lovers, plus the people who think rhododendrons are only attractive when in bloom – actually they are beautiful plants in all seasons.

First, he told about how the Genus Rhododendrons is composed of Lepidotes and Elepidote. Lepidote are with the smaller leaves most of the time, with scales underside, and bloom earlier in the season. Elepidote are without scales and grow taller, some becoming large trees in time. As matter of fact, in 1996 the Greens, the Wylies, the Burnses and I all attended the Scottish International Rhododendron Convention in Oban and experienced how big trees and rhododendrons grow in the large estates in that country.

Harold also educated us that Rhododendrons come in various colors, sizes, foliage, different bloom times, textures, forms, and different landscape usage, such as alpines, providing different leaves textures to add year-round interest. As owner of a landscaping business, I love rhododendrons for various reasons – first of all for their low maintenance, their use as privacy barriers, and for their year around interest. One should study them in advance of placement in ones yard. Harold's presentation was impressive!

PLACES TO GO; PEOPLE TO SEE

THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HARDY PLANT GROUP will present Sadafumi Uchiyama, Garden Curator for the Portland Japanese Garden, on Tuesday March 12, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Sadafumi (Sada) is a third generation Japanese gardener. His family has been involved in gardening since 1909 in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. His traditional apprenticeship in Japanese gardening combined with formal training in Western landscape architecture has enabled Sada to design and build a unique and wide range of private and public landscape projects.

Prior to becoming the Garden Curator, he taught landscape design courses at Clackamas Community College and lectured on Japanese Gardening at both Mt. Hood and Portland Community Colleges. Sada has written for the "Journal of Japanese Gardening" since its inception, as well as for "Inspired House" and "Oregon Home". He served as a secretary of the International Association of Japanese Gardens from 1996-2000. He was invited to speak at the 5th International Symposium on Japanese Gardens in Tokyo, September 2007.

Doors open at 6:30 for book sales and viewing botanical samples. Admission is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Membership in the Hardy Plant Group is \$20 annually. There is ample parking in the parking lot at the corner of 2nd Ave. and High Street. For more information about the group or this event, visit the website at or call 541-344-0896.

Sandi Olson will provide cookies for the February 14 meeting – Valentine's Day, no less! Thank you, Sandi!

And thank you **Ted and Paula Hewitt** for the delicious goodies at the January meeting! They were much appreciated.

HINSDALE GARDEN UPDATE

Our next Core Group meeting will be on February 9, 2013 11:00 am, at Dean Creek's East End Ranch House, 47088 Highway 38, Reedsport, Oregon. I will be sending out an agenda and meeting information within the next two weeks. If you have any questions or you would like to make suggestions for the meeting please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Mike Kelly
Michael Kelly
Loon Lake Park Manager
Coos Bay District
Bureau of Land Management
michaeljkelly@blm.gov
541-751-4488

NOTE:

This is the second of a series of meetings we hope will lead to formation of a permanent, and formally incorporated, 'Friends of Hinsdale Garden' group to help insure maintenance and public availability of this wonderful garden in perpetuity. We anticipate ARS involvement as expert advisors and some work in the garden under the MOU between ARS District 4 and the BLM will continue independently of the Friends organization. However, our members may also wish to join the coastal community based group; in addition, attendance of rhododendron enthusiasts at these meetings will help keep us up to date and is a worthwhile show of support for the embryo community group.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. And thank you very much for your continued support. Gordon Wylie



FROM THE PRESIDENT Ali Sarlak continued from page 2

I didn't remember that in the Willamette Valley it can snow several feet; Harold refreshed our memories by showing on his slides of their Eugene nursery and home under four feet of snow in January, 1969!

In closing, I would add that Nancy Greer has much to do with making sure things go smoothly in the Greer's busy lives. As president I thank both of them for the leadership they have always provided to the chapter.

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
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Springfield, OR 97475-0026

*Rh.
lanatum*

Photo by
Jens Birck



February 2013
Newsletter



2013 CHAPTER CALENDAR 2013

- Feb 14 Chapter meeting and program, Western North American Rhododendron Species Project by Clarice Clark
- Mar 14 Chapter Annual meeting and program, Hydrangeas in Your Garden by Kristen Van Hoose
- Apr 20 Spring Show and Awards Banquet, Program. Species Azaleas of North America by Mike Stewart
- May 11 Plant Sale with the WHPG
- June Picnic

CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS 2013

- April 20 -21 Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland
- May 1 - 5 ARS Annual Convention, A Journey of Discovery, Seatac Airport between Seattle & Tacoma,
- Sept 27-29 ARS Western Regional Conference, Newport, OR
- Oct 4 - 6 ARS Eastern Regional Conference, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

CONFERENCES 2014

- May 16-18 ARS Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH
- Sep 26-28 ARS Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA

CONFERENCES 2015

- Spring Victoria B.C. Canada Annual Convention

Visit our Eugene Chapter Web Site

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org