

*American Rhododendron Society*

# EUGENE CHAPTER

*August Update 2010*

## **NEXT CHAPTER EVENT**

**AUGUST 15 PICNIC**

**JOIN US AT HAROLD & NANCY GREER'S**

**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN & NURSERY  
1280 GOODPASTURE ISLAND ROAD,  
EUGENE, OREGON**

**WHERE THE SUN SHINES ALLSUMMER!  
Details Inside!**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Though it is still summer, I have been thinking ahead to the many challenges of the year ahead with our chapter. However, first I want to thank our outgoing President, Helen Baxter, for her two years of leadership. For me, she has been a fine mentor and has left our chapter in a strong position for growth and enjoyable activities. And for this, I say "Thank you, Helen."

In this "Message From the President", I want to outline the calendar for the coming year and challenge you, our members, to be active and to enjoy the many events we are planning. We have an excellent Board of Directors composed of long-time ARS members as well as members who are relatively new to the organization who will lead a variety of activities. At the August 15 picnic, we are continuing the tradition of inviting members from other District 4 (Oregon) chapters to join us at the home and nursery of Harold and Nancy Greer for a time of camaraderie, visiting, eating, and exchanging cuttings for propagation. Please see the details in another part of the Newsletter. In my three years as an ARS member, I have come to appreciate the different reasons that our members belong to the organization - many enjoy the social times together, some enjoy propagating new plants to add to their garden, some enjoy hybridization to create new varieties, all of us enjoy learning more about this incredibly diverse genus, some enjoy designing gardens and using rhododendrons as a component, some enjoy the competitive challenge of the flower shows, and, of course there are more reasons as well. This coming year will offer events for all of these interests.

As you opened this Newsletter, you found two surveys that I would appreciate you taking the time to think about, complete, and return to me or another Board member. The first deals with the interests that you have so that we (the Board) can be sure to plan activities that you will enjoy. The second gives you a chance to indicate what activities you would enjoy helping with. Over the last two years I have learned much about the effort that it takes to make the chapter operate smoothly, so I ask that you find a number of activities with which you can help. We are a much smaller chapter now than we were just 9 years ago so we face the challenge of finding what activities we can continue to offer and we need your help. Needless to say we are all getting a little older and finding that the energy level does not go as far as it used to. I look forward to receiving your completed surveys so that the Board can be in touch with you for the help that we need. Thank you.

This coming year will be highlighted with two major ARS conferences nearly in our backyard offering us some wonderful opportunities - the ARS Western Regional Conference in Florence in October and the ARS National Convention at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA, in May of 2011. I urge you to attend both of them.

At our regular monthly meetings, we will explore the diverse flora of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in southwest Oregon, learn more about the BLM project at the Hinsdale Garden, look at some of the reasons we enjoy rhododendrons, and learn about how to judge trusses in a show. Throughout the year, I would like you to feel free to contact me to discuss your ideas or your concerns and to offer suggestions for the chapter.

See you at the August 15 picnic.

**Ted**

# OFFICERS

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 TREASURER: Rick Reed  
 SECRETARY: Paula Hewitt  
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<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

# YOU'RE INVITED TO FEAST AND FRIENDS!

*The Eugene Chapter and Harold and Nancy Greer invite all members and friends in District 4 to our summer picnic on Sunday, August 15 at Greer Gardens. The Chapter will furnish Top Sirloin steaks and/or Pork Tenderloin cooked hot off the grill. We will also supply paper plates, silverware, cups and soft drinks and water. You may also bring other drinks of your choice. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert or whatever food from that special recipe you love to cook. One thing the ARS is known for is good eats, so come and enjoy the food and friendship.*

*After all that food, we will have a cutting exchange, with Greer Gardens inviting members to take cuttings (within reason) from any and all plants in the nursery! So bring some cuttings from your plants that you think some of your friends might want and get some you don't have. We will also supply a limited number of small cutting pots with rooting soil for those of you who have not tried your hand at propagating rhododendrons.*

*Come and tour the nursery and see a large selection of plants, rhododendrons and otherwise! It's easy to find, just off the I-5 freeway. Below is a map for those of you who need directions. Please RSVP to [hgreer@greergardens.com](mailto:hgreer@greergardens.com) or 541-686-8266 so we know how much food to buy, but even if you don't RSVP and decide to come at the last minute, you are welcome!*

## DID YOU KNOW

– A cap of walnut hulls was worn in colonial times to keep hair from turning grey?

– A tea made from dogwood bark was used by Native Americans to break fever and stimulate the appetite?

– Beech trees planted near the house are thought to keep lightning away?

– Juniper was once planted near doorways because it was believed to keep witches at bay?

*The Folklore of Trees & Shrubs*

By Laura C Martin



**PLEASE ADD YOUR COMMENTS HERE AND RETURN TO TED HEWITT**

## ARS EUGENE CHAPTER

### MEMBERS' INTEREST SURVEY - FALL 2010

So that we may offer programs and activities that will match the interests of the members of the ARS Eugene Chapter, the Board of Directors asks that you complete the following survey on your interests. Please place a number from 1 to 5 by each item with 1 meaning "not very important" and 5 meaning "very important". Then return the survey to any Board member at the August 15, 2010, chapter picnic or mail it by September 1 to *Ted Hewitt at 3811 Monroe St., Eugene, OR 97405-2377*. Thanks.

#### A. REGULAR MEETINGS

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Social time visiting with friends
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Cookies and coffee
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Program
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ How to grow rhododendrons successfully
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Travel programs on where rhododendrons grow naturally or in gardens.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Programs specific to a rhododendron species or section
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Programs dealing with more general gardening interests such as design
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Door prizes

#### B. PLANT AUCTIONS

1. \_\_\_\_\_ November auction
2. \_\_\_\_\_ April Early Show auction

#### C. Holiday Potluck

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Potluck dinner buffet
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Slideshow with members' pictures

#### D. Spring Flower Show

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Early Show            | 2. _____ May Show              |
| a. _____ Judged truss show     | a. _____ One-day show          |
| b. _____ Non-judged exhibition | b. _____ Two-day show          |
| c. _____ Dinner                | c. _____ Judged truss show     |
| d. _____ Key-note speaker      | d. _____ Non-judged exhibition |
| e. _____ Plant Auction         | e. _____ Large public venue    |
|                                | f. _____ Smaller venue         |

#### E. Picnics

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. _____ June Picnic    | 2. _____ August Picnic    |
| a. _____ Social time    | a. _____ Social time      |
| b. _____ Plant exchange | b. _____ Cutting exchange |

#### F. Field Trips

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Hinsdale Garden
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Portland Gardens
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Nurseries
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**On the back, please feel free to make suggestions for other activities that would be of interest to you. Thanks for your input.**

**What can you do to help? There are many roles that need to be filled for our chapter to function well and it is fun to be involved in the activities that we do as a chapter. Please indicate the jobs or roles that you would like to help with and then give the form to any Board member at the August 15 picnic or mail it (by September 1) to Ted Hewitt, 3811 Monroe St., Eugene, OR 97405-2377. Then we will be in touch. Thank you.**

**A. Regular Meetings**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be a greeter                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help make coffee and arrange refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with name tags           | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as publicity coordinator            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help set up chairs            | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as refreshment coordinator          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with take-down           | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as door prize coordinator           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring cookies or refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Be in charge of name tags                 |

**B. Holiday Potluck**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with decorations        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cook the ham                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as potluck coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Organize the members' slide show |

**C. Flower Shows**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on coordinating committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with set-up and take-down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with trophies              | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with publicity            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with hospitality table     | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep trusses watered           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with classification        | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a clerk                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be the "Showmanship" person     | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a judge                     |

**D. Leadership**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be a Board member                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Be on the Honors Committee               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be a chapter officer              | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair the Honors Committee               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate the Hospitality        | <input type="checkbox"/> Be the Welfare Coordinator               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be on the Nominations Committee   | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate the picnics                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write articles for the Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos for the Website & Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host a picnic                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with the 2011 ARS Convention        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grow plants for Door Prizes       | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a "presenter" for a program           |

**PLEASE ADD YOUR COMMENTS HERE & RETURN TO TED HEWITT**

## BRONZE MEDAL AWARDED AT THE JUNE PICNIC

The June picnic at the Jack Olsons' garden was a great success. Events included a large plant exchange (the sooner your number was drawn, the more exciting it was, of course); a tour of the garden to view the garden development Jack has done; the fine company of many out-of-towners; the good food; and last, but not least, the surprised look on **Rudy Fecteau**'s face when he was asked to come forward and accept the Bronze Medal! The Chapter had planned to bestow it on him at the April Early Show and Awards Banquet, but Rudy had a previous commitment and didn't attend! By hook or crook and a possible body snatch, he attended the June picnic and was awarded the chapter's highest honor, to his complete amazement and demurrals.

The words on his certificate read: *The bronze medal is awarded ... in recognition of your dedicated efforts as Webmaster, your plant sale endeavors, your friendship and sense of humor, your generous baking of ham entrees and teaching of computer skills, and your contributions of superb rhododendron photography.* A very fine article on the award to Rudy was printed in the Summer ARS Journal.

## IN MEMORIAM

June 11 **Helen Louise Saunders**, wife of the late Palmer Saunders, a long-time and illustrious member of Eugene Chapter, passed away June 11 from complications of a stroke. She is survived by two daughters. June 14 **Gwendolyn Lounsbury**, former chapter secretary, passed away following a stroke. She is survived by three sons. Both were beautiful active women and though inactive in the chapter for several years, will be greatly missed by those who knew them. Heartfelt condolences to their families.

## SUMMER EVENTS

Ted and Paul Hewitt hosted a daughter's wedding, in their lovely garden this summer.

Ray Klein and John Fry have both had some health problems recently. It is hoped they are well on their way to recovery and will be joining us in the fall for chapter activities.

## THINKING AHEAD

Information about the September program will appear in the September newsletter. Meanwhile, don't forget the ARS Western Regional Conference October 8, 9, and 10 in Florence. For information, see the Summer ARS Journal or online at <http://web.me.com/siuslawars/WRC2010> Get your registrations and room reservations in, there is another major event in Florence that weekend! For reservations at the Three Rivers Casino, call 877-374-8377, or for other options, contact the Florence Chamber of Commerce at <http://www.florencechamber.com/businessdirectory/motels.shtml>

**August is the time** to dig and divide phlox, iris and daylilies. Try using two spading forks. Dig the clump, and then insert the forks back to back into the clump and pry them apart. Bigger, nicer flowers next summer will be your reward. And you will have fewer dried stalks to pull or cut to tidy up the plant after it has bloomed.

**For a beautiful plant**, try Rose Mutabalis, also known as 'Tipo Ideale', as a companion to your Paperbark Maple. The rose blooms daintily all summer, each blossom changing color from buff-yellow to a hazy pink, and finally a bronze crimson, creating a floral kaleidoscope of color. This complements so beautifully the coppery orange peeling bark of *Acer griseum*, yet never steals the show and never gets too big. Mutabalis is a very old single rose with wiry twiggy growth and young foliage of bronze. You may have to search in old rose specialty catalogs for this rose, but it is worth the endeavor! Goes well with azaleas, too.

**According to local news reports**, Eugene hosted a large, revealing nudist convention earlier in the summer. A rumor persists that a hole was found in the camp wall; the police were looking into it.

**Bumper sticker observed**: Don't worry about what people think of you. You'd be surprised at how seldom people think at all.

**AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**  
**EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**  
**PO Box 7704**  
**Eugene, OR 97401**

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AUGUST, 2010

Summer Sun & Summer Fun

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Rhododendron Calendar

Aug. 15 **Fall Picnic/Cutting Exchange** hosted by Harold & Nancy Greer. Details Page 2

Sep. 9 **Chapter meeting and Program:** Wilbur Bluhm speaking on "The Kalmiopsis Wilderness". Campbell Center 7:00 P.M.

Sep. 14 **Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group:** Botanist Kali (Dr. Kathleen) Robson speaking on Northwest Natives; 7 P.M. at the University of Oregon, Agate Hall, Agate Street at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene,

Oct. 7-10 **ARS Western Regional Conference,** Florence, OR  
<http://web.me.com/siuslawars/WRC2010>

Oct. 17-20 **Australian Rhododendron Society Golden Jubilee Conference,** Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne, <http://www.vicrhodo.org.au>

Oct. 26-29 **New Zealand Annual Convention,** Wanaka, NZ [www.rhododendron.org.nz](http://www.rhododendron.org.nz)

May 11-15 **ARS Annual Convention,** Vancouver, WA, <http://www.heathmanlodge.com>

Full year chapter calendar available in September Newsletter.

EUGENE CHAPTER WEBSITE <http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>