

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY

EUGENE CHAPTER

AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER



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& Committees

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Terry Henderson     2013 - 2016

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominations     Harold Greer  
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Welfare            Nancy Greer  
                          541-686-1540  
Honors             Rich Aaring  
                          541-485-6013

NEWSLETTER

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The photo above right of the saprophytic plant pinesap (*Monotropa hypopithis*) was taken by Ari Sarlak on a trail on Mt. Tidbits. *Monotropa* is in the heath family along with *Rhododendron* and *Azalea*.

## Western Regional Rhododendron Conference Returns to Newport

As summer winds down, an exciting ARS Western Regional Rhododendron Conference awaits us on the weekend of September 27 - 29 at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn in Newport. For the past several months, Harold & Nancy Greer and Mike & Maria Stewart have been planning an outstanding program that includes much about rhododendrons but also offers a wide variety of other garden topics. What a time this would be for you to invite friends to come for the weekend on the beach and to learn more about the American Rhododendron Society.

With a theme of *Around the World with Friends & Rhododendrons*, the conference will include speakers from Russia, England, and eastern and western United States. Session topics will include propagation of rhododendrons by cuttings, seed, layering, and air layering, species rhododendrons for the garden, hybridizing, companion plants of trees, perennials, and hydrangeas, and keeping the garden healthy. With a registration fee of only \$39.00 (if submitted prior to September 10), moderately priced meals, and special rates at the Agate Beach Inn, it is an affordable weekend vacation. There is also time in the schedule to enjoy the beach and the town of Newport. Details are in the Summer ARS Journal and on the website - [www.2013wrrc.com](http://www.2013wrrc.com).

A U T U M N   P I C N I C   A N D   P O T L U C K

AT NANCY AND HAROLD GREER'S PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2013.  
DETAILS INSIDE!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I begin my time as editor of this newsletter with the certain knowledge that I am a sorry replacement for Frances Burns. Garden writing has never been my "thing." My thing is more about spiders in my hair, dirt stains on every item of clothing I own, and constant consternation over the mismatch between my plant budget and appetite.

Frances, I love your letters, photographs and comments. You have always inspired me, and reminded me that each month, there is something new and wondrous to be found in my garden. Therefore, with you in mind, in the cool of this morning, I ventured into my garden with camera, to see what wonders I would discover. What I discovered is that a few of the plants in my yard don't look as if they are dying of heat-stroke. Those would include Cannas, Verbena bonariensis, day-lilies (which I have seen thriving in Reno), all of the weeds, and those few rhododendrons that I have, through sheer happenstance, managed to site in a suitable location. I also noticed that the shady watered areas are full of mole hills and that several plants, while well watered, have inexplicably droopy leaves - could these be related phenomena?

Since there is nothing in my yard worth photographing (well, I'm sure you, Frances, would find something), I am going to use this month's



column to ask you all a question: this spring, I discovered two small evergreen shrubs in a wooded area of my yard - are they friendly - or the beginning of an invasive nightmare? In the next column you can see small chartreuse axillary flowers that appeared this spring.



Anyone who has any idea what this might be is more than welcome to offer an opinion. Should I be horrified?

*p.s.* I think it would be fun to receive any questions about any kind of plant or garden issue for this newsletter - kind of like out own blog - so if you are having a plant problem or pest problem or a garden design problem - please call or write about it. *Sincerely, Barb, on July 26, 2013.*

## THANKS, GORDON WYLIE

*After many years of leadership in the chapter and who knows how many terms on the Board, Gordon has stepped aside to allow other members to get involved in the leadership of the Chapter. Those of us on the Board will greatly miss the perspective and history that Gordon has brought, to say nothing of his humor. We welcome Barbara Novak to the Board and are happy to have Nolan Blansit return for a year while completing Nancy Burns' 3-year term while she becomes Treasurer. Of course, having Terry Henderson accept another 3-year term on the Board helps us maintain continuity in leadership.*

*Ted Hewitt*

## DO YOU KNOW NANCY BURNS?

Ha-Ha! Somehow we have prevailed upon Nancy Burns to volunteer as our new board Treasurer. Nancy spent several years working in the accounting department of Weyerhaeuser and I am

sure that she is up to the job. Since Nancy has only been a member of our chapter for a few years (2010), and since she is generally a back-row sitter, you may not have had the opportunity to get to know her.

In 2005, Nancy, and her husband Tim, fled the general hideousness of heat, crime, and long -lines-for-everything in S. Cal., and discovered paradise here in Oregon, on a couple acres on the south side of Spencer's Butte.



Nancy's predecessor's were deer feeders - a fact that has made gardening very interesting for her. On most summer mornings, you can find 7-8 adults and an assortment of cavorting fawns in her backyard. I used to think feeding the deer was a bad thing - till I compared my vet bills (three dogs) with her vet bills (zero). One downside is that the deer think every plant she brings home is deer food. Even plants that are listed as deer resistant disappear in her yard - because even if each deer takes only a single bite - well, you get the picture. If you want to know what is deer-proof, talk to Nancy - if the deer won't eat it in her yard - it is truly repellent.

Among Nancy's many talents are: (1) an uncanny sense of direction, and (2) almost preter-normal observational skills. In tandem with the first talent, Nancy loves to explore any street, road, alley, path, gutter, hall or attic that she hasn't seen before, and, as a result, she knows a short-cut to almost anywhere in the city. Her second skill makes her a great shopper and, wouldn't you know, she also has a passion for shopping. Nancy can, and will, gleefully, shop for anything (AND I MEAN ANYTHING); and she will be the first one to spot anything handy, interesting, beautiful or bargain-iscious. She is a great person to take plant shopping - her eye will immediately pick out

the healthiest and most harmonious individual in any group of plants. Nancy is also pretty generous - unless it's pretty and pink, she will often let you buy that plant and she will then pick another.



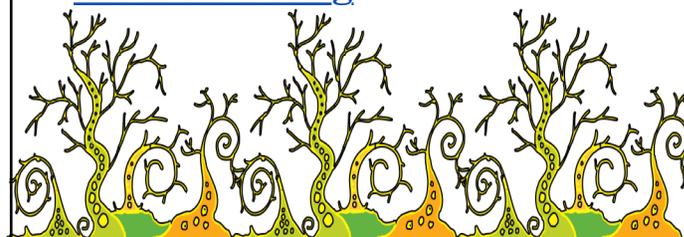
What a friend!

Nancy has been a Chapter board member since 2012. She has enjoyed organizing several of our get-together events, especially because she is extremely curious and likes to get a preview of our host gardens; and we can thank her for the delicious salmon that has appeared at several of our picnics.

**The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Tuesday September 17 at 6.30 pm for refreshments.**

**At 7 pm, a workshop on azalea and rhododendron plant Propagation.**

**The public is invited to the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw at 3996 Highway 101 in Florence. Call 541-997-7573 or go to [siuslawars.org](http://siuslawars.org).**



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a very pleasant summer so far. My summer activities, besides taking care of my landscape customers and my own demanding yard, include regular diving and hiking in the Cascade range. On July 19, I headed to the western Cascades and found myself on a gravelly, dusty, long and winding logging road with all sorts of pot-holes. Aside from wondering if I was headed in the right direction and on the right road, all sorts of things came into my mind while I worried about what would happen if I became stuck - could it be a week before anyone found me?

The road reminded me of my last journey with friends from Portland, Oregon into the Patagonia region of Argentina, which is full of roads to nowhere. Finally there was a sign of hope - a trail marker for my destination - Tidbits Mountain. The moral to this story is that there is always a reward at the end of hard work, and in this case, once I got on the trail I had no further thoughts than to absorb the beauty of nature, admire the alpine flowers and think I might be in a botanical heaven.

Tidbits Mountain is beautiful in many respects. For a while, I was in the middle of what I might describe as oasis, with native *Rhododendron macrophyllum* all over. Most were past their blooming stage.



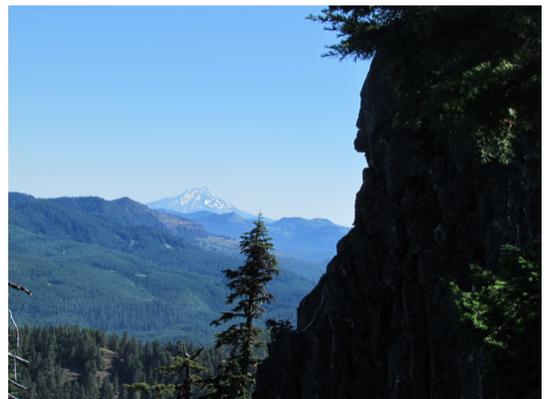
I passed some of the largest bog-orchards that I've ever seen, and, of course, *Lilium washingtonianum*, aka Washington Lilly, which were in bloom, and I took some pictures. Tidbits is a very moderate trail in length and elevation and it is pleasantly shady on a hot day. I should say I was so happy being there that the trip made up for my panic over getting lost on the way there.

This is actually my piece of introduction for an important topic and that is to introduce to you two of our recent board members: Barbara Novak and Nolan Blansit.

These are two talented individuals and we welcome them to the board, of course. Nolan is well known to some rhododendron lovers, because he has been hybridizing rhododendrons for many years and some of you folks are already enjoying his plants.

Barbara is taking over the interesting task of editing our newsletter, which has been done for many years by our friend Frances Burns, and we owe also a big thank you to Frances, who has done incredible work as our editor for so many years - always smiling and patient.

I encourage our rhody members to thank these folks when you see them for what they have done and what they are willing to do for all of us as board members! Barbara can always use articles and I encourage all of you to write. If I can write, even though English is not my native language, then so can you!



## OSU MASTER GARDENER™ Volunteer in Lane County

Now is the time to apply for the daytime option of the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program in Lane County. Applications are accepted through October 17.

Orientation will be held December 4, 2013 and classes will meet Wednesdays, January 8-March 12, 2014 from 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. The Master Gardener curriculum provides volunteers with information and references on subjects such as plant botany, tree identification, native plants, ornamental and edible gardening, soil management, lawns, weed identification, and pest and disease management. Volunteers receive 66 hours of intensive gardening education in exchange for 66 hours of volunteer time. Applications accepted through October 17. Upon completion of the course, Master Gardener volunteers serve their community, in coordination with plans developed by Extension faculty or horticulture assistants. Community needs, as well as the capabilities of individual Master Gardeners, determine how this is best accomplished. Master Gardeners conduct garden clinics, teach basic gardening classes, and answer phone calls about all aspects of home gardening.

Commercial growers are invited to apply for the program to earn a Certificate of Horticulture Proficiency. Participants that plan to volunteer pay a \$200 class fee plus \$35 for the textbook. There is an additional cost to students who choose not to complete the volunteer hours. Applications are available at the OSU Extension Service office 783 Grant Street, Eugene or on the website [extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens).

For more information, contact the OSU Extension Service office at 541-344-5859, or

stop by the Extension office at 783 Grant Street (between Garfield & Chambers) in Eugene, to pick up an application. Pre-registration is required. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. There will be an evening Master Gardener training option starting in January, and an online option through OSU ecampus. For details see the website [extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens).

We will endeavor to provide public accessibility to services, programs, and activities for people with disabilities. If accommodation is needed to participate at any meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the Lane County office of OSU Extension Service at 541-344-5859 at least two-weeks prior to the scheduled meeting time.

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

*Linda Renslow*

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[extension.oregonstate.edu/lane](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane)

*To our ARS Portland Chapter Members and other plant lovers*

# *You Are Invited!!*



## *Summer Party 2013*

**When:** Sunday, August 25, 2013

**Time:** Party starts at noon; 1 P.M. Potluck

**Potluck:** Main course of salmon will be provided  
Bring your favorite side dish to share

**Beverages:** We will provide soda pop and water  
Bring your own alcohol

**Utensils:** We will provide plasticware, plates, etc.

**Where:** *Steve and Brenda's Home*

4450 SE Oxbow Parkway, Gresham, OR 97080  
(No mail at this address)

Please refer to [mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com) or GPS

If lost, call 503-663-1500

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 21 to 503.314.5834**

or by email to [bzgift@aol.com](mailto:bzgift@aol.com) or [stevehopkins@prodigy.net](mailto:stevehopkins@prodigy.net)

If you prefer mail: 1490 NE Village Street, Fairview, OR 97024

Well-behaved children accompanied by responsible adults are welcome.

**Please come to enjoy the Food, the View,  
the Garden, and the Fellowship**  
*Garden Tours available after lunch!*



SOUTHWEST OREGON CHAPTER  
AMERICAN RHODOGEDRON SOCIETY  
ANNUAL CUTTING PARTY

**Saturday, September 7**  
**Cutting party: 10:00 am**  
**Lunch around noon**  
**Place: Home of Ann Drake**

If you can't come for the cutting party and would like to join us for lunch, please do so.

**Cutting Party**

Bring cuttings in plastic bags with the name written on the bag. They should be damp. You can put a damp paper towel in the bag.

Bring clippers, extra bags and 3" pots for your cuttings. The planting medium will be provided by the chapter.

**Lunch**

Bring a salad or dessert to share, your own place setting and beverage of choice. Coordinate with Marjene what you are bringing -- salad or dessert.

**RSVP**

In order to plan how much planting medium to have available, please let us know you are coming. RSVP to Marjene, 541-347-7269 or marjenem@frontier.com.

**How to get to Ann Drake's**      56671 Cougar Rd., Coquille 396-2718

Take the Rink Creek turnoff on HWY 42 between Coquille and Myrtle Point. The turnoff is a left turn approx. 1 mile from the only stoplight in Coquille. Drive 8/10 of a mile. Take a left turn on Cougar Rd. There is a redwood sign on a rock base with a duck on it.

## EUGENE CHAPTER

### AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

#### AUTUMN PICNIC

Sunday, September 8, 2013  
Beginning at Noon

#### Picnic

Salmon and Ham will be provided by the Chapter. Please bring a dish to share, your own utensils, plates and beverages.

#### Plant Exchange

If you would like to participate in the plant exchange, please bring a potted plant. The exchange is a game, something like musical chairs, but not -- and you never know what you'll end up with.

#### Directions to the Greer's                      **phone: 541-686-1540**

Greer Gardens is located at 1280 Good Pasture Island Road, in Eugene, Oregon. The easiest way to get there is to take the Good Pasture Island Road exit from Delta Highway, which is the first exit south of the Beltway or north of Valley River Center. If traveling south from the Beltway, turn left at the end of the exit. If traveling north from Valley River Center, turn right at the end of the

### RSBG Associate Membership

For the past several years, the ARS Eugene Chapter has been an Associate member of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, so, as a member of our chapter, each of you has several benefits. One of those benefits is free admission when you visit this lovely garden. All you have to do is identify yourself as a member of the Eugene chapter at the gift shop when you enter the garden. With the recent addition of the Rutherford Conservatory, the RSBG is now able to display a number of tender or tropical plants bringing their number to over 700 of the more than 1,000 species rhododendrons found throughout the world.

We receive two copies of the RSBG yearbook Rhododendron Species which you are welcome to borrow to read the many excellent articles ranging from plant exploration and taxonomy to individual species by authors around the world.

If you like to explore websites, the RSBG website, [www.rhodygarden.org](http://www.rhodygarden.org), is an interesting, recently reorganized website with lots of information about the genus and the RSBG. Via the website, you can order plants, seeds, or pollen from the online catalog which also is a good source for information about the wide variety of species rhododendrons available through the RSBG.

## Together in the Garden: Food Plants and Ornamentals

**(Eugene, OR)** The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group will present Kate Gessert in a talk about combining food and ornamental plants in the garden on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR.

Kate Gessert is a Master Gardener, LCC instructor and author of *The Beautiful Food Garden*.

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 [www.thehardyplantgroup.org](http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org) or call 541-344-0896.

*The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group is a non-profit, volunteer organization for gardeners of all experience levels. The Group is dedicated to educating the community about perennials, shrubs, and other plants for use in the garden, sharing each other's gardens, and fostering a love of gardening. For more information, visit [www.thehardyplantgroup.org](http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org).*

American Rhododendron Society

Eugene Chapter

PO Box 7704

Springfield, OR 97405

Trail along  
Mt. Tidbits

PHOTO BY ALI  
SARLAK



A u g u s t / S e p t e m b e r  
2 0 1 3  
N e w s l e t t e r

2013-2014

E V E N T C A L E N D A R

2013-2014

CHAPTER EVENTS

- September 8 Fall Picnic at Harold and Nancy Greer's Place
- October 10 Gardens East / Gardens West, with Dave Eckerdt
- November 14 Lace Buds, Root Weevils, Caterpillars, with Scott Renfro
- December 12 Holiday Potluck and Slide Show
- January 9 Growing Rhododendrons from Seed WORKSHOP by Jack Olson
- February 13 The Shady Rock Garden, with Truls Jensen & Emma Elliot of Wild Ginger Farm Nursery, Beaverton, OR
- March 13 The Humboldt Botanic Garden, with Tim Walsh  
Officer and Board Member Elections
- April 19 2013 Spring Rhododendron Show & Awards Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn

CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS 2013

- September 27-29 ARS Western Regional Conference Newport, OR
- October 4-6 ARS Eastern Regional Conference Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

CONFERENCES 2014

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

CONFERENCES 2015

- Spring Annual Converntion Victoria B.C.