

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

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October Chapter Meeting Thursday, October 9

Companion Plantings at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Dennis Bottemiller, RSBG Propagator

Over the past decade, many of us have seen the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden expand the wide variety of companion plants that grow among its fine collection of rhododendrons and Dennis Bottemiller indicates that many people have suggested that he create a program that includes these interesting plants. So, on Thursday, October 9, Dennis will be in Eugene to do exactly that.

I would imagine that we will see *Cardiocrinum giganteum* var. *yunnanense*, the extraordinary blue Himalayan Poppy, *Meconopsis* 'Lindholm', *Paeonia mairei* that grows well in the shade, *Arisaema taiwanese*, and a variety of hardy ferns in the stumpery. Of course, there are also larger plants like the many Japanese maples, stewartia, magnolias, and the interesting *Rehderodendron macrocarpum*.

Dennis Bottemiller is the Nursery Manager and Propagator for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, which is home to the largest collection of species rhododendrons in North America. The garden is presented in a beautiful naturalistic display setting and is also a unique resource for botanic and horticultural research institutions worldwide.

Join us for cookies, coffee, and conversation at 6:30 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, in Eugene with the program at 7:00. Prior to the meeting you are invited to join us for a no-host dinner at 5:00 at TaRaRin Thai Restaurant at 1200 Oak St. in Eugene. This is a good time to visit with affable Dennis and friends. You might note that there are many non-spicy, tasty Thai dishes on the menu. There is plenty of parking and the location is convenient. Please RSVP to Helen Baxter at 541-461-6082 or by e-mail at galen.baxter@comcast.net by Tuesday, October 7.

Announcements

ARS Membership Renewals will be out soon. Annual membership cost remains at \$40.00 for a regular membership that includes the ARS as well as the Eugene chapter, the quarterly Journal and the chapter Newsletter, and opportunities to hear great programs, obtain unusual plants for your garden, go on field trips, and socialize with friends who have similar interests. Please mail in your renewals or give them to Membership Secretary Nancy Burns at the October 9 meeting.



THE EUGENE CHAPTER IS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE RHODODENDRON SPECIES BOTANIC GARDEN IN FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON, WHICH INCLUDES FREE ADMISSION TO THE GARDEN FOR YOU - JUST TELL THEM YOU ARE AN ARS EUGENE CHAPTER MEMBER AS YOU ENTER. BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE FALL CATALOG OF PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR ORDER ON THEIR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://RHODYGARDEN.ORG/CMS/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2012/09/2014_FALL_CATALOG-9-12-14.PDF](http://rhodygarden.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/2014_Fall_Catalog-9-12-14.pdf)

Program: "Plant Hunting in Vietnam"

with Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones

- *Tuesday, October 14 - doors open at 6:30 with program at 7:00*
- *Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group meeting*
- *Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, Eugene*

Bleddyn and Sue are plant explorers extraordinaire from Wales who run a nursery that has introduced many new plants to cultivation. Since 1991 they have traveled to the far corners of the globe in search of exotic new plants. Their travels have taken them to Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Nepal, India and beyond. As does Steve Hootman of the RSBG, they say that we can grow many of these plants from Vietnam in the Pacific Northwest. This promises to be a very fine program.



From the President

September's Picnic at the Hilton Home

Though we still had real summer weather with us, on the way to Eugene from Corvallis, I noticed the changes of leaves as signs of fall also being here.

Our picnic went beautifully as the Hilton family (Sherlyn, Cameron and the kids, Elliot, Andrew, and Isaac), had it planned very well for us. We could not have asked for a better place on the hot day than their garden as we had plenty of shade. As hostess, Sherlyn prepared the main dishes for us and the people who came brought wonderful additional foods to share. We all had plenty to eat. How nice it is to have younger people in our rhododendron society in Eugene as we had people from age two up to 80-something. That's the way to go

Society! At the picnic, we had guests - Dick and Karen Cavender as well as Anne Gross - from out of town. How nice to have them with us bringing the attendance to about 20 people.

Our thanks go to the Hilton family who provided our September potluck as we know how much work is involved in having a group coming to one's home and garden. Certainly, we want to let them know that, as a society, we understand and appreciate their willingness to host the picnic.

I am sure that each and every one of the attendees had a good time and plenty of chances to visit with friends. On a final note, we are always looking forward to such events and want to encourage participation as much as possible. Thanks again Sherlyn, Cameron, and the kids.

Ali Sarlak

Isaac, Andrew, and Elliot



Good conversation, good food, good time at the picnic photo by Ali Sarlak



photo by Ali Sarlak



**Many thanks to Sherlyn and Cameron
for hosting the picnic**

A Rhododendron for All Seasons

Rhododendron schlippenbachii

by Ted Hewitt

I love the name *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* and how it rolls off the tongue but, when I started seeing this elegantly graceful plant growing in woodland gardens, I knew I wanted one for our garden. As a deciduous azalea, it shows its branch structure in the winter but, come spring, the delicate pink or sometimes white flowers add beautiful soft color to the woodland garden as if large pink snowflakes were floating through the air. Soon after the blossoms, the thin lighter green leaves appear and the plant settles into the collage of the other nearby plants. Then, if the plant has received enough sun during the summer, the fall color is among the best of all rhododendrons. This is truly a multi-season plant that so many gardeners search for.

Native to Korea and the surrounding area of Japan, Manchuria, and the Russian Far East, *R. schlippenbachii* has been called the Royal Azalea but gets its botanical name from the Russian naval officer, Baron von Schlippenbach, who discovered it in Korea in 1854 and introduced it to western horticulture.

Currently it is classified in the Subgenus Pentanthera with the other deciduous azaleas and in the Section Sciadorhodium with other upright Asian deciduous azaleas that have this graceful foliage and flower with striking autumn color, such as *R. quinquefolium*, *R. albrechtii*, and *R. pentaphyllum*.

Listed as being 4' tall after 10 years, *schlippenbachii* will mature to a height of 12' or more in time while maintaining its upright and open habit. In the garden *R. schlippenbachii* must have good drainage but also must have continuously moist soil and the thin leaves do not tolerate hot afternoon sun exposure. However, if one can provide a nice location with morning sunshine and an evenly moist, humusy soil, one will have a beautiful plant growing among the others in a woodland garden. The cultivar, 'Sid's Royal Pink', has a particularly nice deeper pink color to the flowers that bloom in April. As Sonja Nelson describes in her book *Rhododendrons in the Landscape*, "the azalea *R. schlippenbachii*, with its light-textured foliage and elegant pink flowers, comfortably blends with other light-textured shrubs without overpowering them." While discussing textural interest as a characteristic of plants in a Japanese-style garden, she goes on to say that *schlippenbachii* is "a textural wonder excellent



R. schlippenbachii at the RSBG



R. schlippenbachii at the RSBG

Ted's Notes

A week ago, Paula and I spent some time returning to one of our favorite locations, Mt. Desert Island and Acadia National Park, along the coast of Maine. The island is almost divided into two parts by Somes Sound, the only fjord on the east coast with Bar Harbor being on the eastern part and Southwest Harbor being on the "quiet side" of the island, the western part. We find many things that we enjoy doing here but most of them involve being outside enjoying the interplay of the water and the rocky, granite shores, the forests and the glacier carved mountains.

When I sit at my computer here at home, I look out the window at a dwarf Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin') in a pot on our entry terrace and am reminded of the beautiful light green needles of the Eastern White Pines that set them apart from the darker green color of the other trees of the Maine forest. *Pinus strobus* is an example of a five-needle pine as opposed to our western native three-needle

Ponderosa Pine and the two-needle Lodgepole Pine but it is really the soft green color that makes the *Pinus strobus* stand out in the forest. Though not as big and majestic as our



Eastern White Pine, *Pinus strobus*

Ponderosa Pines, *Pinus strobus* is in scale with the spruce and fir trees and the many deciduous oaks and maples of the eastern forests and has been named the state tree of Maine.

One of our favorite trails, winds through a forested area to the incredible, large slabs and chunks of pink granite at the

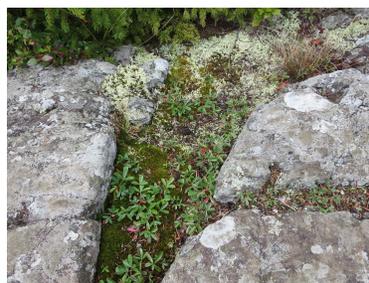


Newsletter photos are by Ted Hewitt unless otherwise noted.

edge of the sheltered waterways of this island-protected shore. From the shoreline, one has wonderful vistas of the broad worn mountains of Mt. Desert Island as well as the off-shore islands and sailboats that are so popular in this area. As the trail passes some boggy areas, I once again enjoyed seeing and observing the plants of *Rhododendron groenlandicum* that grow here and throughout the northern latitudes of North America and Greenland. Sometimes known as Bog Labrador Tea, the plant has long been used to make an herbal tea. Prior to 1990 it was classified as being in the genus *Ledum* but is now considered to be a *Rhododendron* in subgenus *Rhododendron*, section *Rhododendron*, subsection *Ledum*. The leaves are rather crinkly, dull green and downwardly recurved and measure about 2" in length and 1/2" in width with hairy, tan indumentum on the underside. In the spring the dense clusters of small white flowers would light up this walk in the forest.



Rhododendron groenlandicum



Nature's mini-rock garden

One afternoon I hiked up Flying Mountain - it doesn't take much to be called a mountain here as this is only 284' tall but makes a nice walk through nature's miniature rock garden of many mosses and lichens growing in the forest and on the large granite rocks with beautiful views from the summit.



My Summer Trip to Finland

By Sherlyn Hilton – photos also by Sherlyn

I wasn't sure what to expect when we got off the plane. A business project had sent Cam to Finland and my parents offered to watch our kids, so I could travel with him. It was a spontaneous trip to a country I knew little about and I felt unprepared. Our plan was to visit six cities in western Finland over the next ten days. Here is some of what I learned about this very cool land.

We started in Oulu and worked our way south to Helsinki. Oulu is located on the coast of the Bothnian Sea, 375 miles north of Helsinki and 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle. It was the last weekend in June, just past summer solstice, and all of Finland was experiencing unseasonably cool weather. Just as we of the Northwest grumble about the rain in June, so do the Finns about cold after solstice. That morning the temperature was in the high 30s, refreshingly brisk!

The lilacs in Oulu were in full bloom and I managed to find one park with a few pink rhododendrons that were also at their peak. I don't know what variety it was, but it was interesting to watch how the lilacs and these rhodies faded as we travelled



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south over the next few days.

Tampere, 300 miles inland to the south, was much warmer. There we found an arboretum on the shore of Lake Pyhäjärvi. It has a lovely rose garden, a rock garden with a great selection of conifers, and many interesting trees and flower beds. My favorite was a bed that was bordered with



succulents. What did they do with them in the winter? The mosquitos were just hatching out for summer and quite hungry, so we had to walk around the garden at a steady pace to keep from being eaten alive!

Finland has 180,000 lakes. Boating is a popular Finnish pastime, so we took a day cruise on Lake Päijänne from Jyväskylä to Lahti. The cruise took us 100 miles from one end of the lake to the other. After visiting four cities in four days, it was a relief to slow down and watch the scenery as we cruised along. The shoreline and islands are covered with a beautiful mix of Scotch pine and birch trees and dotted with colorful



summer cottages. It was idyllic and peaceful.

In Helsinki we visited the Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden. Unfortunately the outdoor grounds were closed for maintenance during our stay, but we were able to go inside the



glasshouses, which hold a great collection of unusual plants, many from Africa that were completely new to me.

Finland is an easy place to travel. Everyone we talked with knew excellent English. The people were always glad to help us.

The public transportation is reliable, clean and easy to use. The Finnish people enjoy being active and out of doors, so there are many nice

public areas with native forest, sports parks and gardens. The Finns enjoy a wonderful quality of life. I would love to visit again!



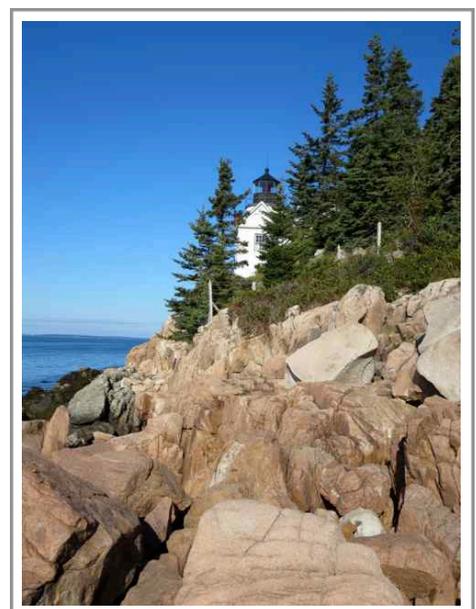
Wildflowers (Lupine) at the Ski Jump Park in Lahti

Note:

If you plan to do some shopping through Amazon.com, you can also benefit the ARS by accessing the Amazon catalog through this website www.ARSStore.org. For each order placed through this website (the ARS Store), Amazon will donate a percentage of the order amount to the ARS.



Somes Sound, Southwest Harbor, Maine



Bass Harbor Light House, Maine

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EVENT CALENDAR

2 0 1 5

CHAPTER EVENTS:

September 13	Potluck Picnic at home of Sherlyn & Cameron Hilton,	Noon to 3:00 p.m.
October 9	Chapter Meeting - <i>Companion Plantings at the RSBG</i> Speaker: Dennis Bottemiller	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
November 13	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
December 11	Holiday Potluck Dinner & Members' Slide Show	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
January 14, 2015	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
February 12	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
March 12	Chapter Meeting - program TBA	
April 25	Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn,	3:00 - 9:00 p.m.
June ??	June Picnic, details TBA	



American Rhododendron Society
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Newsletter