



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

MARCH 2014

March Program—Jack Olsen

Jack will enlighten us with Little Known Facts about Rhododendrons and Hybrids.

Meeting Time/Place

March 20 —7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Benetti's
260 S. Broadway
Coos Bay

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President's Message

Liz Hultin

So far we are getting the "warm" rain I was hoping for. Things are really coming into bloom. Else Frye and Elizabeth are coming into full bloom. The Trilliums in the backyard are also in bloom and the weeds are coming back. Spring is here.

I enjoyed Mike Stewart's presentation very much. In the past I had fantasies about exploring as he and many others have, but I realize that is all they will ever be, fantasies. The closest I will ever come is to donate funds to send others out. It was a real turn off when I read that in the years before good repellants, native guides refused to take clients searching for Rhododendrons and other plants in the rain forests during certain times of the year because of the numerous leaches descending from the trees.

I have belonged to the Rhododendron Species Foundation for 12 years. It is really helpful to know the parentage of a hybrid. If the parents need shade, or good drainage, or will not tolerate temperatures below 20 degrees, possibly the hybrid will need those same conditions. Most catalogs don't give much information about growing specific varieties.

Mike's talk gave me the incentive to fill out and send in the seed order form from the foundation that I had already printed out. Anyone can order from the foundation, you get a price break and can order earlier if you are a member. Anything worth doing is worth doing to excess. I ordered 17 packets of seed. The previous time I had ordered seed from the foundation they doubled some of the order because some of the seed was older and they worried that germination might be reduced. I think every seed sprouted. I may again have seed to share if anyone is interested.

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Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

A bag of lemons: Many yellows coming into bloom early. The FCC form of *r. lutescens* is a gem. *R. W. Rye* has been blooming for at least a month. Nike is opening. Yet to be seen is Goldilocks, Sunspray, Sunny Day, Banana Flip, Many Moons, Butterhorn and Lemon Dream. Lost forever is; Lemonade, Lemon Marmalade, *r. burmanicum*, Hotei and Lemon Mist. Two more regretful losses: Crest, still the best yellow, and a cross by Lofthouse called Lemon Float. When we visited New Zealand, my favorite at Pukeiti was Lemon Lodge, a huge bloom. Shamrock, an old favorite always manages to show up on St. Patrick's Day. Has bloomed for over 30 years. Almost forgot: a cross: *R. yak* x *Mrs. Lamont Copland* x *Tweedy Bird* a low growing pale yellow, a favorite of mine. Always pat it little when I walk by. Tom made this cross in 1995. Know there are many more good yellows out there. Now we just wait for the sun!



Lemonade: Pictures by Ken Gibson, private garden Vancouver Island Canada



O. HOWARD HINSDALE GARDEN, SPRING 2014**Open Garden Days & Other News**

The growing vitality of the community based 'Friends' group supporting this historic collection of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias is reflected in their commitment to provide manpower for three public open days this year. The scheduled dates include a late April Saturday, and two Saturdays in May--April 26, May 10 and May 24. The open hours will begin at 10 AM and continue to 2 PM. Ample parking will be available at the Elk Viewing Area Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, and free transportation will be provided from there to the main garden.

Attend on one or more of these dates to both enjoy the garden and lend your support via expertise about the rhodies and their companions while visiting with folks attracted by the blooming spectacle. A rewarding means, by the way, of carrying out the ARS mission of promoting interest and knowledge of rhododendrons, all while in the midst of a beautiful array of those very plants.

[If some chapter(s) also wish to make a group visit on another date, I suspect that can be arranged. Contact me.]

2014 marks the beginning of the second decade in reclaiming the Hinsdale Garden. In addition to the annual chore of removing rough grass and weed growth, the Northwest Youth Corps will clear a way for permanent paths this year. The routes for these have been marked with ARS member assistance, and they will be completed over a weed barrier topped with relatively coarse wood chips. Other investments this year by the BLM will include tree pruning work following up that done several years ago, and installation of an attractive arched wooden pedestrian bridge between the main and east garden segments.

The Friends group is exploring the possibility of securing a water supply from the City of Reedsport for a robust irrigation system throughout the garden. Planning and other BLM agency/volunteer work continues for identified long range goals of restoration and perpetual maintenance of the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, which is well on its way to becoming a permanent feature in the Deans Creek area of officially designated "Scenic Highway 38".

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Gordon Wylie

lgwone@gmail.com or 541 895-2864



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

It's early March and the early bloomers are going strong. We have at least 18-20 rhody's in bloom now with some almost over. Some plants are blooming or showing almost a month early which is very surprising considering our weird winter this year.

We had long stretches of cold weather with some frozen ground heaving, but very little frost damage. No plants were lost to freezing conditions.

Late February and early March is the time to start this year's fertilizer program. Remember to spread your fertilizer at the drip line and not under the plants.

Most cuttings have been potted up and are doing well. A few laggards are still not fully rooted and will spend a few more weeks in the rooting bed. Most seem to be pushing vigorous new growth. As new growth begins, make sure you don't have any deer around your yard. The new growth could become a salad bar for the deer.

Try spraying your plants with milk diluted half and half with water. Several of the Siuslaw Chapter members have had good success with this method of deer repellent. If anyone has a favorite method that is successful for them, we would love to hear about it.



Some blooms around the MacIntyre garden—photos by Bob MacIntyre

Small Bulbs

Robin Hansen



Nothing is quite so cheering in the dark damp days of late winter and early spring as small bulbs peering out from under shrubs and winter-dead sticks of who knows what. Many of us have an abundance of rhododendrons, roses, etc. whose bare legs can be enlivened by very early color long before they themselves bloom. Here in southwestern Oregon, we can grow many bulbs, even in partial to full shade, that will offset the often continual gloom of winter.

Several years ago I threw out a large number of packets of *Cyclamen coum* and *C. hederifolium* into the grass that is usually in light shade by mid-afternoon in summer. They were packets that I thought were too old to germinate, but that I didn't want to consign to the trash. I now have both *coum* and *hederifolium* blooming, in winter and fall respectively.

I suppose the small bulbs come to mind most because they are easy to plant in small places and in among the roots of established shrubs. There are the tiny snowdrops which can be planted in areas with lots of light turning to mostly shade by late spring, and one of my favorites, with one-inch flowers in white, pink, pale or dark lavender, *Ipheion uniflorum*, which blooms happily for weeks even in the fully shaded greenhouse. It's hardy and small enough that when the foliage dies down, it is hardly noticeable.

Another small bulb, readily available at grocery stores this time of year, is narcissus, often the little daffodils with names like 'Tete-a-Tete' or 'Jack Snipe', stuffed four bulbs to a three-inch pot, and a bargain that will readily increase. Most of them have delightful fragrance as well and don't seem to provide dessert for deer quite so easily as other bulbs.

Don't forget our native trilliums, especially *Trillium rivale* which has been blooming in the greenhouse for about three weeks now and is perfect in full shade. It is by far the smallest of the trilliums, dainty and easily added to any shady area, of quickly clumping habit, and totally at home with our rhodies, wild flowering currants and smaller maples.

Two other small bulbs that would go beautifully are *Anemone nemerosa*, often available in grocery store bulb racks in white, pink or blue, and much easier to grow than our native anemones, and *Corydalis solida*. Yes, I did say *Corydalis*! Many are bulbs, such as the lovely soft red (or dark pink) 'George Baker' and others are varying shades of blue or lavender. They are closely related to our bleeding hearts, but some are much earlier blooming.

RSF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

April 25 to 26

REGISTER NOW

*Early Registration \$65 / After March 1st \$75
Meals Additional*

Register at RhodyGarden.org



**1964
TO
2014**

*Everyone
Welcome*

Speakers:

David Chamberlain, Harold Greer, Steve Hootman, Douglas Justice

Garden & Nursery Tours, Reception & Banquet

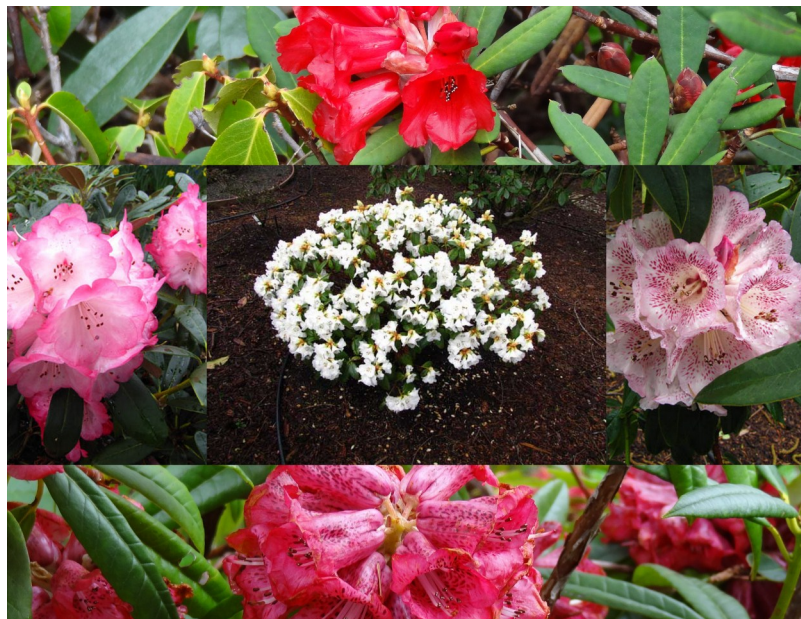
**at the Hampton Inn & Suites &
the Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters**



Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

This month will be Pete's surprise.



Currently blooming in the Lee's garden

Photos by Ray Lee

Future Events

- 2014 March 18—Siuslaw Chapter Meeting, Sylvia Smith will talk about preparing your trusses for a show
April 17—Southwestern Oregon regular meeting

Conferences & Special Events

- April 25 & 26, Rhododendron Species Foundation, 50th Anniv. Celebration, Federal Way, WA
April 26, 10 am—2 pm—Open House at Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport
May 10, 10 am—2 pm—Open House at Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport
May 24, 10 am—2 pm—Open House at Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport
May 15-18, International Convention, Cleveland, OH
Sept. 26-28, Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA
October 20—15—New Zealand Rhododendron Conference, Dunedin, North Island, NZ

Show Dates

- April 12 & 13, Siuslaw Chapter Early Show, Florence Event Center
April 26 & 27, Southwestern Oregon Chapter Show, Pony Village Mall, North Bend
May 17 & 18, Siuslaw Chapter Show, Florence Event Center

- 2015 May 6—10, ARS Annual Convention—70th Anniversary— Sidney, BC Canada
2016 April 20-13 ARS/ASA Annual Convention— Williamsburg, VA