



Rhododendron News



Newsletter of the Portland Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

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MARCH 2007

06 – Study Group-7PM Van Veen Nursery
15– Chapter meeting – Larry Borlin: Companion
Planting in Portland

20 – Board Meeting

APRIL 2007

07 – Early Bloomer Rhody Show
10 – Study Group-7PM Van Veen Nursery
19– Ron Spendall: Composting
24 – Board Meeting

May 2007

12-13 –Mother's Day Rhody SHow
15 – Study Group-7PM Van Veen Nursery
17– Awards Banquet

BIRDS MARCH IN

By Peter Kendall

Rising temperatures
from virtually nowhere- - the
birds have reappeared.

Chickadee, junco
one seed a a time- - the
vanishing stash.

Before the jay- - the
peripatetic junco
casts a nervous glance.

Extending its beak- - the
hummingbird's tongue has
outdone itself.

In a quilted sky
a winter's sun seeking
its openings.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FLOWER SHOWS

You have got to enter a flower show! Don't be bashful. Let me tell you a story.

Several years ago Jan and I decided that we should further our education by entering a flower show. We were really novices. In fact, we did not know what a truss was. The first step in our training was to go down to the Oregon Gardens where the Salem Chapter was holding a flower show one week before our Mother's Day Show. We were impressed with all the different varieties of rhodies and learned what a truss was. We also learned that you could transport the trusses in beer bottles in a cardboard box. We visited our local liquor store, and all they had was a bright yellow coffee liquor carton, which we took home.

Early Sunday morning we picked three trusses from our humble rhododendron garden and headed off for Crystal Springs Garden. We did not know where the cool house was, so we parked in the Reed College parking lot and walked in the front gate of the Gardens.

It was a beautiful warm day and the Gardens were full of people. We must have been a sight to behold as we traipsed through the Gardens with a bright yellow coffee liquor box with three trusses sticking out the top. We eventually found the cool house and walked up and proudly presented our three trusses. Kathy Van Veen gave us the entry cards, at which time I announced that I had no idea what class, group or variety these rhodies belonged in. The only thing I knew was that this flower was Anah Kruschke. Kathy politely but firmly said, "No, it is not. It is Jean Marie." Kathy was very helpful in preparing the entry cards and our trusses were officially in the show.

We then left and toured the Gardens for several hours and then went to lunch. We returned at 12:30 PM to discover that one of our entry cards had a blue dot on it and another had a red dot on it. We were not sure whether this was good or bad so we consulted with Dick Cavender. He explained that we had won a first prize and a second prize. We were not entered in the novice class; we did not even know that there was a novice class. We were hooked.

The next year we entered a few more rhodies and won a few more prizes. We even filled out a few of our cards correctly. Thank goodness for the skilled and watchful eyes of Kathy Van Veen and Maria Stewart or we would have entered improperly identified rhodies in the wrong classes.

The third year we rustled up a few more rhodie entries and arrived with the trusses in a proper holder. Over half the entry cards were filled out correctly. But our rhodie education continued under the careful tutelage of Kathy and Maria. We completed our entries and then headed out to help with the rhodie sales at the entry to the Crystal Springs Garden. We returned after lunch to the cool house and were pleased to discover that we had won several ribbons. However, we could not find our R. Point Defiance. Maybe he was in the wrong class and had to be moved. We looked further, but to no avail. Then Jan discovered him over on the trophy shelf.

I literally had tears in my eyes. Never in our imagination did we believe that we would have a truss sitting with the likes of the Stewarts, the Cavenders, the Van Veens, the Goheens, the Patricks, the Nieuwenhuis, Dr. Forrest Bump or Lucy Sorenson.

So, enter the flower show now, even if you have only one rhododendron. It is fun, and you will learn a whole lot about the rhododendrons that you enter.

Jru

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A POSITION NEEDS FILLING

After 10 years of service, Ann Clack is resigning from her position as membership chairman. Her replacement could be you!! She has held the job for 10 years so it isn't too demanding! She promises that training will be provided but you will need to provide your own computer. If you think you would be interested in serving the Rhododendron Society in this manner, please contact Ann Clack (503) 656-3891. She will be able to answer any questions you have regarding time commitment and/or computer skills required.

ASK THE EXPERT:

WHAT ARE SOME LOW GROWING AND HARDY RHODIES?

Belva's Cake
Bow Bells
Midnight Sky
Ruby Hart
Mount Seven Stars
Maxine Childers'
R. kiusianum "Komo Kulshan"

(actually the last item is an azalea, not a rhody. There are a lot of low growing azaleas. I have a red azalea that grew to 4 ft diameter and 6 inches high in 10 years. A number of the dwarf lepidote rhody species and their hybrids also fit this bill-editor)

HOW DO YOU TELL IF YOUR RHODY LIKES SUN OR NEEDS SHADE?

Dr. Bump: Most all hybrids like sun.

Dick Cavender: Look at the handout at the shows!

Dr. Bump: rule of thumb, the smaller the leaves the more sun it can take. The larger the leaves the more shade it will want.

It was agreed that azaleas need or like more sun and rhody species like conditions most like their natural environments.

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CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN GATE HOUSE BY ROSE KRESS

2006 was a good year at the Rhododendron Garden.

Working at the Gatehouse ticket booth has been a pleasure and I enjoyed meeting and greeting the visitors from far and wide. Many "Friends" have signed up to support our beautiful garden.

Many thanks to Sally Phillips and her hard work we are finally able to offer our new Walking Tour Guide to visitors. It was very well received and much admired for its pictures and layout. In addition, the city of Portland has provided us with a new supply of very nice and colorful brochures of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

We want to thank the loyal volunteers who gave their time to help in the ticket booth, especially during the hectic Mother's Day weekend. If you have never volunteered at the gatehouse, now is the time to step forward. You will not regret it.

One visitor from the East Coast expressed it best when she said, "After seeing the 'Big Three' in Portland, the Rhododendron Garden is the best."

To learn more about volunteering please call Rose Kress at 503-654-4318

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SPECIES AND HYBRIDS-PART 3 by Luurt Nieuwenhuis

We looked a little bit into the concept of 'species' in previous months. Now we look into some of the aspects of naming the species.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that there is an organization dedicated to the proper procedure for naming species. It has its rules and its record keeping designed to prevent confusion (hah-hah!) and duplication.

The 'type specimen' describes the species. For many years the description had to be in Latin and had to be accompanied by a preserved sample to which later students could refer. The first person to properly describe the species also got to name it - within the framework of the naming rules, of course. It is not considered to be a sufficient reason to rename a species if you only collect a better (type) specimen and do a better write-up. Disputes are decided by the governing body.

Sometimes a species is moved from one genus to another, or even undergoes a more significant placement shift. The species name is retained throughout this process if at all possible. *Ledum groenlandicum* used to be in a separate genus from the rhododendrons. Now it is *R. groenlandicum* even if it doesn't crossbreed well with the rest of the rhododendrons.

Natural gradation of one from of rhody into another has long been recognized. *Haematodes* grades into *chaetomallum*. Both are subspecies of *R. haematodes*.

Here we take a slight detour. All of the currently accepted rhody classification systems have downgraded *yakushmanum* to the status of a subspecies or variety of *R. degronianum*. Yet many people still insist on using what is now only the common name for this plant and refuse to acknowledge its new, downgraded status. Insisting on using the *Balfourianum* classification in a major rhody show perpetuates this outdated grasp of the rhododendron continuum. The species *R. degronianum* includes the subspecies and varieties of *heptamerum*, *pentantherum*, *metternichii*, *hondoense*, *intermedium*, *kyomaruense*, and of course *yakushmanum*. But I digress; back to the topic.

Remember *R. linearfolium*? There is no rhododendron with that name. There was one once, but was reclassified to *R. macrosepalum*. That went over so well with the taxonomists that they renamed it again to *R. stenopetalum*. Furthermore if you ever looked closely at this plant and its nearest relatives, you find that *R. linearfolium* never was representative of its group but rather is a selected form with narrow leaves and corolla that has never been found in the wild; maybe it has been an unrecognized sport or even a natural mutation all this time. Could there be another name change on the horizon?

R. occidentale is a different example of an extreme in the classification process. Oregonians are fortunate in that *R. occidentale* grows wild in our region and that chapter members have made extensive surveys of the wild population. Whites, white with pink, white with yellow, variation in the glossiness of the leaves, and variation in the structure of the flower are all found in the wild. The most absurd form is 'Pistil Packing Momma' whose flower petals are reduced almost to invisibility. Many of the crosses made with non-occidentales are indistinguishable from crosses made between the extreme forms of the wild occidentales.

There are even some crosses in our rhody genealogy books of plants that should not exist. One that comes to mind is aptly named *Nosuchianum*. It was hybridized by a Big Name in the rhody world who would never, never let a mongrel bee visit his delicate virgin flower during the breeding season. Next month, part 4: A case of species-hybrid confusion.

--- *Luvit*

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Congratulations to Ed Egan for the azalea named after him by Earl Sommerville. For details see your latest ARS journal because the Northwest really takes center stage with this issue.

**IT WILL BE UPON US BEFORE THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER!**

SATURDAY, APRIL 7,

THE EARLY BLOOMERS RHODODENDRON SHOW.

As our older members slow down their springtime garden harvesting activities, we need *new blood* to bring trusses and plants to the show. We always have lots of fun and will welcome all of the help that shows up to eat the doughnuts.

This should be a very good year for the Early Bloomers. We hold this show for one day only on the first Saturday in April. Some years when the first Saturday falls on April 1 we have contributors who tell us that they had a hard freeze the night before and thus have nothing to enter. This year's, on April 7th, is the latest date possible so there should be more frost-free plants in bloom than usual. If we combine that anticipation with new (novice) exhibitors and all of us bring everything that we can we can have a great show.

If you missed getting a copy of the show rules, you can download them at <http://www.rhodies.org/pdx/early2007/2007rules.pdf>

<http://www.rhodies.org/pdx/early2007/early2007cover.jpg>

Next month's newsletter will include the results and winners of the show.

The location for the show is the Exhibition Hall at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, the location of which is on the website at <http://www.rhodies.org/pdx/meeting.htm> Entries are accepted between 8 and 9:45 AM, judging takes place from 10 to noon, the show is open to the public from noon to 5, and at 5 we throw away everything that has not been claimed.

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SPRING PLANT AUCTION—TUALATIN VALLEY ARS

The Tualatin Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is holding their annual spring plant auction at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 12th at 7:00pm.

Club members donate rhododendrons they have grown in their gardens or nurseries. While the focus is on rare, hard to find, special species and hybrids, a wide range companion plants and trees share the auction stage.

This event is one of TVARS's major sources of funding to plant and maintain the rhododendron garden at The Jenkins Estate and the Lloyd Baron Rhododendron Garden at Hillsboro's Rood Bridge Park.

All garden club members as well as members of the general public who would enjoy adding interesting plants to their landscape are invited to participate in our annual ritual of buying and planting for the spring garden. Refreshments and door prizes are included in the evening of fun!

Meeting Location:

First Baptist Church
177 NE Lincoln Street

Hillsboro, OR 97123

Phone: 503-647-2896

e-mail: ginny@coho.net

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MAY AWARDS BANQUET SIGNUP TIME

It's almost spring and time for the Mother's Day Show! So mark your calendars for this year's May Awards Banquet.... Thursday 17 May 2007 at 7:00pm The banquet will be catered by Katherine's Catering in Gresham.

The price is \$24.00 per person. Please make your reservations with Loni Welsh.

Email is oregon1853@yahoo.com

phone: 503-663-6987; Cell 503-705-0695

The Awards Banquet menu is:

Prime Rib
Pesto Stuffed Chicken Breast
Stuffed Pasta Shells with Marinara Sauce (Vegetarian)
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Caesar Salad
Orange Cream Fruit Salad
Relish Tray and Dip
Rolls and Butter

Dessert table with:

Flourless Chocolate Cake
Chocolate Dipped Strawberries
and other decadent delights
Punch and Coffee

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YES, MAKE BONES ABOUT IT FEBRUARY MEETING REPRISÉ:

BY KATHY VAN VEEN

Mike Bones, with his usual infectious enthusiasm, presented the program for February. He came in his role as Rhododendron Ambassador, to get us excited about the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Florence Rhododendron Festival happening the third weekend in May. Their flower show last year attracted 1077 entries. This year he wants it to be even bigger and is asking for our help.

The native *R. macrophyllum* in the Florence area is being destroyed by development and this is angering the public and calling attention to rhododendrons in general. A bad thing could be turned into a good thing as more people are made aware of the wonderful diversity of the rhododendron genus.

Then in true ambassadorial style Mike showed us this diversity. He began with the lovely vireyas. Although they are not winter hardy here, they can stay outdoors much of the year.

We saw beautiful maddenias with their lilly-like highly fragrant flowers and he pointed out that many, especially those of *R. polyandrum* extraction, are fairly hardy. Some can withstand brief temperatures into the teens but will lose their flower buds that year.

From early blooming *R. mucronulatum* and *Seta* to the very late *R. rhabdotum* there are flowers to enjoy. These come in all colors and combinations of colors. The season can be extended even more with the appreciation of new growth, which is often very beautiful. When that is finished, we have the colorful indumentums of plants such as *Sir Charles Lemon* and *Rosevallon*. In the fall we have the colorful displays of the deciduous as their leaves change before dropping.

Different types of flowers add to our enjoyment. From the yellow and orange bells of *Cinnkeys*, to the ball-shaped truss of *R. maccabeanum*, to the mountain of *Viennese Waltz*, there is something for everyone (and a real rhododendronperson wants some of each).

Fragrant foliage is not always appreciated enough. Mike showed a 3 ft by 3 ft *R. bathyphyllum* withy leaves that smell like honey. Then there are the spicy *lepidotes*.

Rhododendrons come in many shapes and sizes. Not all are the little round bushes common at the garden centers. There are ground huggers and there are huge trees such as *Dame Nelly Melba*. Once again, something for every situation.

So after this pep talk we are ready to look at our gardens with new appreciation, and of course we are eager to acquire new plants, even if we don't have the space.

If you left before the companion plant auction you missed quite a show when Mike Bones and Dick Cavender teamed up to have everyone happy and laughing, bidding and buying. Laughing and happy. That's what its all about, isn't it?

---*Kathy Van Veen*

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***HERE STARTS
THE EXTRA
MATERIAL
THAT IS NOT IN
THIS MONTH'S
PAPER COPY
NEWSLETTER***



Ever notice the bare veins on your favorite deciduous azalea just days after the new growth extends? Nice, tender new growth, delicious food for inch worms

CREDO QUIA ABSURDUM?

(I BELIEVE BECAUSE IT IS ABSURD?)

The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans

The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausage and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

You might have wondered what place a discussion of *Correlation and Causation* had in last month's rhododendron newsletter. Observations versus explanations, assumptions versus conclusions; when we approach the world around us with preconceived ideas of how things should be we only see the details that fit our desires.

Allow me to demonstrate. Old (pre-scientific age) views of life, the world and the universe saw all things as essentially static. Part 1 of *Species and Hybrids* (in the Dec newsletter) described the idea of the development of the diversity of life from an initial static, point-origin creation of everything with all subsequent changes being deviations and non-desirable. This is the fundamental beginning of almost all religions - Akkadian, Sumerian, Egyptian, Jewish and its derivatives of Christianity and Islam, Buddhist, various animist cults and most the rest of the Beliefs.

The world was thought to be essentially static and eternal (except for unexpected acts of divine intervention). With the growth of the scientific method the evidence for long-term changes and dynamics began to accumulate, sometimes in the face of strong opposition.

The early solar system was filled with a lot of debris during its formation. The sun and planets slowly swept up this material through gravity induced collisions until now most of the space of the solar system is, well, empty space. However, evidence of its formation remains in the cratering visible on the moons of most of the planets. Think of a time-lapse movie of a germinating flower seed. Then imagine a very fast moving video clip of the solar system: the mind's eye sees things settling down after a few very hectic billion years.

The Earth also has had many large meteor impacts in the past. A few large remnant craters still exist but most have been obliterated by weathering and tectonic processes. The history of the dynamic Earth has been an ongoing learning experience for science over the last 300 years. Plate tectonics (continental drift) finally came to be accepted by most geologists in the 1970's because of the overwhelming evidence in its favor and how well the theory made testable predictions about the natural world. Now we have good explanations for why there are fossils above 20,000 ft on Mt Everest and why there are tropical plant and dinosaur fossils in Antarctica. Just think of what the global climate would have had to be for tropical conditions to flourish at the south rotational pole as was thought to be the case before plate tectonics.

The long term view of geology shows a planet that changes constantly - land masses move, ice sheets come and go, volcanoes pop up and sink away, mountain ranges rise and erode away, living species arise, spread, fade and go extinct. The world around us only appears static because of our short, myopic viewpoint.

On a larger scale, the universe has always been an all-inclusive concept. True, that encompassment was rather small and local in primitive humanity. The stars were just barely out of reach and the heavens consisted seven or so crystal spheres just over our heads. Within the last 100 years we have come to realize that the universe is a much bigger place than that. Direct measurements via trigonometry established stellar distances of over 20 light years. Further scaling of its immensity was based, in part, on Cepheid variable stars and RR Lyrae stars. These stars show a great variation in their energy output, a variation that is regular and predictable and is related to their absolute brightness (as an aside, they also show that the energy output of a star can change dramatically). The Hubble Space Telescope has resolved other galaxies into millions of individual stars each. For a massive collection of Hubble pictures and information, see <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/index.htm> . Using the time-distance relationship implied by the constant speed of light we can in effect look billions of years into the past at distant galaxies. Using our time-lapse camera-of-the-imagination once more we see a universe filled with billions of giant pinwheels and sparklers and firecrackers.

We come away, in each of these three examples, with an understanding that we are embedded in dynamic systems whose 'constant' is change. Denying that there are forces at work of which we are not the cause of is the epitome of egotism. Our demand that something be a certain way does not make it so. King Canute tried to teach the Danes and English that lesson over a thousand years ago.

An interesting observation was brought to light in the early 1960's by Edward Lorenz. Lorenz was a meteorologist at MIT who tried to generate computer models of the weather. He found that even miniscule changes in the initial settings of his simulations produced widely varying and unpredictable results. Computer modeling has brought the concepts of strange attractors, boundary conditions, chaos theory, and fractals to general scientific awareness. The field is too big to discuss in detail in a short column, suffice it to say that when we are looking at the transition zone between two semi-stable conditions, predicting the progress and eventual outcome is well-nigh impossible. Phenomena that appear complex on one scale of observation often retain that complexity on many other scales of observation. Here, if you can't predict the

weather two days in advance, it is unlikely that you can predict it 2 years or two hundred years in advance. The detail is in the details. (see James Gleick; *CHAOS: Making a New Science*)

Speaking confusing the popularity of an issue with the practice of scientific inquiry, the governor of Oregon recently expressed his present attitude towards climate science with crystal clarity during a broadcast statement on evening television news (Feb 6, 2007, 6:20 PM ch8 KGW) when he said that he would seek to have a bill introduced in the state legislature to strip the state climatologist George Taylor of his title because he didn't agree with the "state government's position on global warming" and coincidentally with the governor. This is not an isolated political move, though we could wish that it were. In the middle of February, the governor of Delaware took similar action towards her state climatologist, and for the same reasons. Shades of Stalin and Lysenko! (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lysenkoism>). Oh, in case you forgot, George Taylor was the featured speaker at our Mother's Day banquet several years ago.

Here are several links to start with on locating scientific data on global warming. There are many more, and much more could be said but personalized research is always more convincing.

<http://www.oism.org/news/s49p1523.htm>

<http://mitosyfraudes.8k.com/ENGLISH.html>

<http://mitosyfraudes.8k.com/INGLES/Warm.html>

<http://www.co2science.org>

We can conclude this diatribe with many fine one-liners from many unrelated fields:

Trust, but verify (Ronald Reagan)

and Support global warming - plant Vireyas (E. White Smith).

But if the global ice age returns, we can grow frost flowers on the insides of the window panes after the oil wells run dry.

-----*Lurt*

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The worm
thinks that there
IS such a thing as
a free lunch



HYBRID OF THE MONTH

R. LOVELOCK

BY KATHY VAN VEEN

In mid-January, in case you hadn't noticed, we had a pretty good blast of winter weather. There was an extended period of below freezing days with night temperatures in the teens. This was topped off by three inches of snow, which because of the cold, hung around for a few days. As a result, the nursery padlocks, 9 of which I open every morning, were frozen shut. I had to put my mouth to them and blow hot air on them. A couple of times I got too close and became momentarily stuck to the cold metal. This odd morning ritual of mine caused a lot of amusement in certain quarters and is the reason that I chose Lovelock for this month's featured hybrid.

Lovelock the plant is a cute little R. chrysodorn hybrid from New Zealand. It was registered by the Dunedin Rhododendron Group, but its origin remains unknown. We've had it for many years and it is always the first Maddennia to bloom in the spring. It has typical R. chrysodoron leaves and a nice yellow bloom. Very welcome in March.

Lovelock the man was a cute little fellow, also from New Zealand. His name was Jack and he competed in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and the year before he had used his finishing kick to beat the American Glenn Cunningham at Princeton's Mile of the Century. The Berlin 1500 meters was a rematch. Cunningham was a sympathetic favorite because everyone knew that he had almost lost his legs in a schoolhouse fire in Kansas. But once again Lovelock bested Cunningham with his kick, which he turned on with 300 meters to go. In Lovelock's words, the race "...was a true climax to 8 years of steady work, an artistic creation."

Glenn Cunningham continued to run for several more years, setting 23 world and American records. But Jack Lovelock retired in order to apply his drive and tenacity to the study of medicine. He moved to New York City and became a director of a hospital there. Then 8 days before his 40th birthday he had a dizzy spell on the subway platform and fell in front of a train. That was the sad end of Lovelock the man. Lovelock the plant, though it most certainly won't bloom this year, will survive to grace our world with its lovely yellow flowers next spring.

--*Kathy Van Veen*

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A CORRECTION FOR THE ARTICLE ON SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

— SENT BY CHRIS KLAPWIJK

Thanks to Chris Klapwijk of Surrey, BC who pointed out that the term "grex" has fallen into disfavor. His link to the Royal Horticultural Society site yielded the following information:

"Cultivar-group names are also used for swarms of hybrids with the same parentage. These were formerly treated as grex names, a term now only used for orchids; thus grex names for lilies, bromeliads and begonias are now styled as Groups. A single clone from the Group may be given the same cultivar name, e.g. 'Polar Bear'. In many cases nursery catalogues do not specify whether the named clone is being offered or other selections from the hybrid swarm and entries are therefore given as e.g. Rhododendron Polar Bear Group & cl."

This change is, to my mind, somewhat unfortunate. Now we have to use the non-technical term "sister seedling" to denote a close (fraternal) but not identical relationship. Oh well. Why use four characters when 15 will work just as well? Just remember that when we have our flower shows, sister seedlings are acceptable entries, but no more than one entry of a given clone per exhibitor.



R. Fulgens, photo by Yasoyuki Doi



R. campanulatum aeruginosum, photo by Yasoyuki Doi

MIKE CREEL ON MILDEW AND ROT WHEN USING DOME POTS

The editor asked Mike to clarify solving these common problems in rooting cuttings.

To answer your question: I have never had a problem with rot and wilt in my dome pots, or any kind of fungus or disease. I do not sterilize my pots, tools or media, though I leave pots outdoors, clean and exposed to heat, cold, drought and rain. I do NOT use any sort of chemicals, rooting hormones, fungicides, fertilizers, etc. in my domepots.

The only problem I have had to deal with is saturation of media, caused by too-dense media, earthworm conversion of media, too-deep media in pot, and insufficient or too small drain holes in pots. I have addressed all of these causes by half-filling pots, mixing fast-draining media, keeping pots out of direct ground contact by use of pedestals or hanging.

I do find that some people have trouble duplicating my propagation system BECAUSE they add their own twists, doing things that I do not do, due mostly to things they have previously learned or read about for propagation. There is some latitude for experimentation with my propagation regimen, but please check with me first.

I do not know what other media combinations from various regions of the US will work in CreelWay domepots, but I can find very few that meet my standards. The media in the pot, once moistened MUST drain completely from the surface in ONE EYE BLINK, no temporary puddling.

As a rule I first drill new drainage holes in pots that I use for domepots. But there are a few plant containers that DO work with no additional drilling. A \$1 plastic colander from the dollar store is one excellent POT for drainage.

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We'll even print the occasional glory shot. This is one of our overseas members, Ms. Yasoyuki Doi of Japan, on a field trip to Bhutan. Note the large rhododendron tree in the background

Hardy Plant Society of Oregon

2007 Plant Sale & Art Fair

Dates: April 14th & April 15th, 2007

Hours: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

location: Washington County Fairplex, Hillsboro, Oregon

Buds and blooms are beginning to show! A sure sign that it's almost time for the Hardy Plant Society's plant sale and art fair. The Plant Sale once again features a unique gathering of specialty nurseries, wholesalers, and plant propagators. Exceptional and often rare plants, plus old favorites, are all under one roof. It would take months to drive to the 80+ nurseries attending the Plant Sale. Gardeners will have the opportunity to consult and get tips from the very nursery people who grow the plants.

This year a sample plant list includes: *Erythronium oreganum*, *Brunnera* 'Looking Glass,' *Pinus contorta* 'Chief Joseph,' *Euphorbia* 'Tasmanian Tiger,' *Rhus copallina* 'Prairie Fire,' *Abutilon vitifolium* 'Ternate White,' *Daphne* 'Summer Ice,' *Lilium* 'Black Dragon,' and *Agastache* 'Heather Queen,' plus much, much more.

In addition to nurseries, artists will be on the grounds displaying and selling handcrafted and garden-worthy artwork to embellish garden landscapes. Their unique offerings in the past have included trellises, sculptures, fountains, tiles, chimes, and pots.

Contact: Linda Donnelly 503.282.5566

Linny Stovall 503-245-5280

For more information, check www.hardyplantsociety.org

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MARCH 15, 2K7: **PROGRAM** OF THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

DESIGNING YOUR GARDEN WITH MORE ELEMENTS THAN JUST RHODODENDRONS

Presented by

LARRY BORLIN

Metro Natural Gardening Program

Larry Borlin is a Garden Planner and Architect with Drakes Seven D's Nurseries in the Portland, Oregon area. Larry has the expertise to put Companion Plants with your Rhodies and plan a garden walkway or a pond in exactly the right place. You did buy some companion plants at last month's Companion Plant Auction, didn't you?

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society Monthly Meeting,
All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 S.E. Woodstock
March 15, 2007, 7:30 pm,

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SPRING REGIONAL RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

The Spring 2007 ARS Convention will be hosted by District 5 in San Francisco, California.

Many members have never attended a rhody convention. This is a “natural” convention for the rhodoholics living in the southern part of the region, such as California and southern Oregon who don’t like to travel to the colder climates of the north. Conventions are great fun for “baggage” (the spouse or friend of a rhodoholic) as well as the “baggage handlers” (the rhody loving spouses). There are wonderful public and private gardens to see on tour, world-class speakers AND the nicest group of people one could ever meet.

The web site, www.ars2007conf.org has the forms for registration and also contains descriptions of tours, speakers and events.

CEANOOTHUS

A book review by-by Peter Kendall

Book details

ISBN-13: 9780881927627
ISBN-10: 0881927627
Price: US\$39.95, C\$54.95, £30.00
Format: Hardcover
Pages: 272 pp.
Dimensions: 7 x 9 in (230 x 180 cm)
Illustrations: 104 color photos, 50 line drawings
Copyright: ©2006 Timber Press
Publication Date: February 1, 2006

This book represents the most recent effort to explore the genus *Ceanothus* from the dual perspectives of horticulture and botany. As such it follows in the footsteps of a classic monograph treatment of the genus (also titled *Ceanothus*) published in 1942 by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden under the authorship of Maunsell van Rensselaer and Howard McMinn; the genus was likewise appraised in the same two parts.

In this current *Ceanothus*, it is Dave Fross who examines the horticultural side of the genus while Dieter Wilken takes up the horticultural investigation.

When it comes to the field of horticulture, perhaps the most sought-after color is the color blue. While *ceanothus* offers white flowers, it is its wide array of blue selections in the form of ground covers, shrubs, and small trees that is most fetching. Although *ceanothus* is quite adaptable to various garden niches, it is recognized principally as a ‘Mediterranean’ plant given its special liking for hot and dry exposures with low fertility and excellent drainage. *Ceanothus* ranges widely across the temperate areas of North America and offers a startling assortment of horticultural variety in its numerous morphological and ecological adaptations. It is, however, California with its core Mediterranean habitat which claims the bulk of the species (41 out of 50 species occur here between the seashore and the mountains).

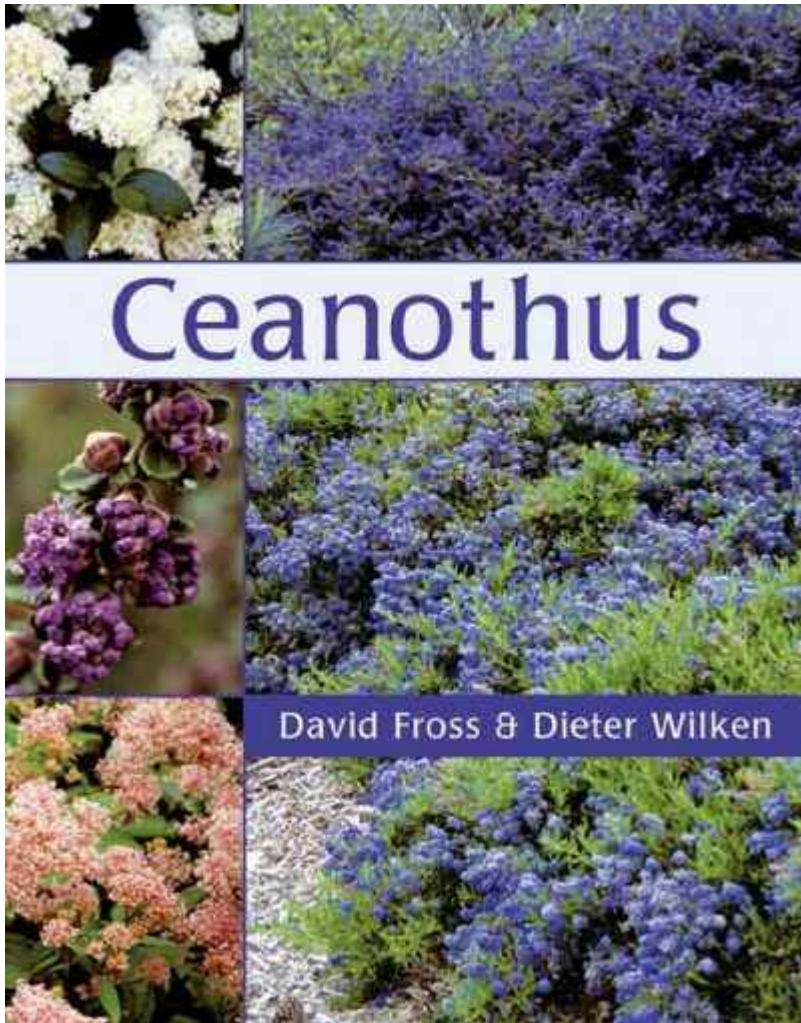
Although native cultures were first to be attracted to *ceanothus*, its real burgeoning came with its European exposure. In California its recognition occurs in the first half of the 20th century and virtually explodes with many garden hybrids and selected clones coming to individuals, nurseries, botanical gardens and other entities. Propagation from seed or cuttings is

relatively straightforward. Pests and diseases exist but are usually localized and can be limited by environmental controls.

From the standpoint of botany, ceanothus comprises a large genus in the buckthorn family. It is fire resistant; indeed, it thrives (as does much of the chaparral) with surviving root stock and long lived seed. Moreover, most members of the genus have the ability to nitrify the soil in a limited way. Ceanothus is a model for evolutionary studies with widespread hybridization and speciation in different locales and ecological niches—the result of being a perplexing unfolding of taxa for both amateur and professional botanists.

Throughout the first and second parts of the book are photographs and in-depth of various forms; line drawings are an added bonus in the second part. All-in-all, a fine resource for people who might be tempted in this direction.

---*Peter Kendall*



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Through 6/30/08

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PORTLAND CHAPTER WEB SITE

www.rhodies.org/index.htm

Membership and ownership

The Portland Chapter is a local chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined annual dues to both the Society and the Chapter are \$35.

Annual subscription price to the 9+ times yearly newsletter *Rhododendron News* is included in Chapter membership

Newsletter

Rhododendron News is the newsletter of the Portland Chapter and is mailed by non-profit class postage (Permit #1134) paid at Portland, OR. . *Rhododendron News* is sent to current members in good standing. Articles may be copied or reprinted with credit given to the author(s) and *Rhododendron News*. Views expressed herein do not imply Portland Chapter or ARS endorsement.

Newsletter articles

Newsletter article and idea deadline is at the Chapter meeting. Items received after that time might not be included in the current issue.

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Meeting time and place

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in June, July, and August, starting at 7 pm with a social half-hour which precedes the main meeting.



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