



Rhododendron News



Newsletter of the Portland Chapter vol. LII no 06⁵/₈ July 2007
American Rhododendron Society www.rhodies.org

Nothing scheduled yet during the summer

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Haiku

by Peter Kendall

*The hemlock and its
shadows; a draping of moss
upon the tumbled stone*

*The croak of the frog
a gentle breeze, and the sound
of footsteps*

*On the horizon
clouds building upon themselves
The dew point says rain*

*Those fallen blossoms
--once more, in a single patch
of morning light*

*This last day of spring
the maple's shadow in
its every detail*

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
***THIS MONTH WE HAVE A
SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
AN E-MAIL EXTRA EDITION***

There normally is no July issue of the Portland Chapter Newsletter. But since e-mail is cheap, its only my time and effort that is at issue. So the Staff presents to you, our dear readers, an extra issue, one that does not deal solely with rhododendrons.

All articles and photos are by the senior editor unless otherwise cited

HEZEKIAH 3:16

There was some mixed reaction to last month's newsletter. Some people really enjoyed the pictures and the write up of the featured members' activities. Other people felt left out because they or their friends weren't featured or even mentioned. The Portland Chapter has many members; members who engage in activities benefiting the chapter. Many do these activities without regard to recognition or personal publicity.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind all of our readers of the old adage derived from Hez. 3:16.

*Wherefore he who tooteth not his
own horn
shall not have his horn tooted.*

So if you're of the opinion that you or someone you know is being neglected in the newsletter, send a note to us. Or better yet, write a small article about the honored person for the newsletter.

This month we will try to stay away from all of those controversial topics as 'who did what' and 'who contributes when'. To this end we present a smattering of non-rhododendron pictures.



FROM FLOWER
TO SEED:
A FAST-PACED
PHOTO-ESSAY ON
THE ANEMONE
FLOWER

The first sequence is the blooming pattern of the anemone, 'wind flower', a small bulb used to fill in drab places in the yard.

They also come in colors other than what's shown here.



Here's the seed head right after the petals fall.

The seed head in an end-on view presents itself very differently from the side view shown above.



Popcorn has nothing on this seed head when it ripens.

And did you notice the aphid on the stem in the picture above? If you missed it, here's a close-up view.





Another day and the seed head has really puffed out. Dandelions aren't the only fluffy things that you can find in your yard.

Here is a close-up of the final seeds, ready to go into the ground.



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ENOUGH OF FLOWERS.

HERE ARE SOME BUG PICTURES OF BIOTA THAT INHABITS THE YARD



A head shot of a brown darner dragonfly

Boyeria vinosa

Notice a couple of things about this detail of the main wing of the brown darner: there is a panel near the wing tip that is weighted,

apparently to make the wing vibrate easier, and all of the small veins in the wing have barbs that alternately stick up and below the wing surface



Some flies that fell afoul of the water hazard below the bug zapper.

*Probably family
Sarcophagidae or possibly
family Tachinidae
that is either the flesh flies or the
tachinid flies*

The water hazard also collects moths at night. This moth was motoring across the water at a rapid rate by vibrating its wings.

Possibly
Amphipyra pyramoides
copper underwing



This moth was pulled from the water to dry out, and sat still for a profile view.

No idea on this
moth's identification



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THE RETURN OF THE EVIL WEEVIL

To see the earlier article on root weevils (expanded from the newsletter), link to: www.rhodies.org/pictures/web_weevil/weevil.htm

I took the advice found in an earlier issue of this newsletter regarding the use of Telstar© for weevil prevention, and applied liberal quantities both in the fall and early spring. Then I sat back in blissful contentment, knowing that I had done the 'right thing'.



The summer drought arrived in the last part of June. When I started watering some of the potted rhododendrons in a neglected storage area, I noticed a severe case of root weevil damage on the new growth. Horror of horrors. Why didn't my super-duper beetle basher blast all them buggers to Beelzebub?

Putting on the LED headlight, I took an expedition into the rhody jungle at night. There they were, happily munching away. If you've ever tried to capture weevils, you have probably noticed that often they 'see' you coming and fall off the leaf and onto the ground before you can crush them with your favorite pliers.

The next solution was a one pound margarine container with a little bit of water and soap. Sneak up to the weevils, put the jar under them, then brush them off the leaves and into the water.



Some observations on the weevil hunts: the beetle form must have started feeding at around the third week of June here in Portland. There was no noticeable damage on the new growth before then. By the first of July (the time of these photos),

the beetles were not yet up to full size. These beetles apparently go through 'molts', just like the 7 line leaf hoppers that are now flitting across all of the plants. Most of the weevils are very small, and more of a dull-brown color than the adult weevils that we are used to seeing.



I collected about 100 weevils in two hours' work spread over two nights. Of all these weevils, only two were what we normally would consider to be adult weevils, the rest were all smaller. There were a few green metallic flies

The smallest weevils, brown coloration

on the leaves, a lot of leaf hoppers, an occasional moth, and some crab spiders trying to remain inconspicuous.

A mid-size weevil, already showing the adult coloration



One of several hazards of these night-time expeditions was the teeming hordes of the black ground beetle moving through the lawn. Since these are predatory beetles and not vegetarians, stepping around them was a major test of skill.

Adult sized root weevil



There is a large bug zapper near our back porch. The trap is baited with the bodies of dead flies. There must be several dead rats or possums in the neighborhood - flies will breed in dead carcasses. We also own a big dog; as the old adage goes, 'you can catch more flies with shit than with sjokolade'.



*Clockwise from the bottom:
ten line June bug (Polyphilla decimlineata),
European ground beetle (Carabus nemorales),
two of the smallest root weevils, a mid-size root
weevil, and one adult full-size root weevil*

LGN

The daily take of flies during this period was at least 50 per day. The zapper is equipped with black light to attract the flying insects at night. Lots of moths, flying insects, an occasional root weevil and even several 10-line June bugs have collected in the water pan below the zapper.

A moth can be submerged in detergent-wetted water all night, and after it dries out for several hours, will still be able to fly away if there is no electrocution damage to the wings. They only look drowned and dead!

Walking past the zapper at night with the headlamp on diverts the moths from the black light to the headlight- it's almost as entertaining as trying to avoid seagulls at the garbage dump.

A few days after collecting the weevils shown above I sprayed the entire area with a good drench of insecticide. It reduced the night time collection efficacy significantly, to where I only found three per night. These were all small weevils. One of the nights, about 11PM, I went out and shot a weevil in my pajamas. What he was



doing in my pajamas, I have no idea. (Sorry, Groucho, but I couldn't find an elephant). This is the first and only time that I've actually seen anything eating weevils. The pictures were taken by a hand-held camera with a flash and a close-up lens, and a flashlight was used to assist in focusing.



This is a close-up of the spider fangs stuck into the posterior of the weevil. The audio level was too low to record and let you hear the sucking noises as the weevil met its well-deserved end.

And finally, we present to you a tulip, to bring your thoughts back full circle to flowers.

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Through 6/30/07

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Through 6/30/08

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Ginny Mapes 503-647-2896

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 for one person, \$40 for family. Annual subscription price to the 9+ times yearly newsletter *Rhododendron News* is included in Chapter membership

Online Discussion Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com> and look for rhododendrons. Participants include renowned hybridizers, growers and hobbyists.

Tualatin Valley Chapter

Regularly scheduled meetings on the **second Tuesday of the month**

at 7 p.m. - at the:

First Baptist Church
177 NE Lincoln Street
Hillsboro, OR.

Phone: **Ginny Mapes** 503-647-2896

Email: ginny@coho.net

Siuslaw Chapter

Meetings on the **third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.** at the:

Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw,
3996 Hwy 101 N.
Florence, OR

A pre-meeting dinner is held at a different restaurant each time at 5 pm. Visit www.siuslawars.org to find out where.

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Newsletter

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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.

For location, see

www.rhodies.org/pdx/pdx_meeting.htm

All Saints Episcopal Church

at the corner of SE 40th and Woodstock

(a little east of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden) in Portland, OR

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Receive a newsletter about Vireya Rhododendrons.

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