



Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 4

November 2022

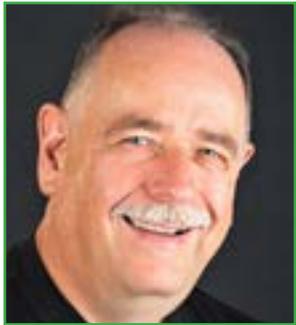
Issue 8



Willamette Chapter ARS
Rhododendron Hillside Garden
Bush Pasture Park

CHAPTER MEETINGS: Our current chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. Due to Covid 19, our meeting may be in person or via Zoom. Meeting information will be sent to members via email and available in this newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until more permanent plans are made.

CHAPTER MEETING November 9, 2022



Speaker: *Kevin Vaughn*
Hybridizer, Author and Musician

Title: *Hybridizer on the Loose*

Social Time: 6:30pm Meeting and Program: 7:00pm

Join via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87630903001>



October Minutes



Mary Crofts Secretary October 12, 2022

Tonight we were back to having a Zoom Meeting. Fortunately, all the connections to cameras and speakers and such seemed to be in good working order.

We discussed the upcoming Smith Garden Work-Party. In my notes I've written the date, "October 22" and I'm going to assume that's the date of the Party. Keith White, our On-Line Meetings Coordinator and Program Chair person, asked if someone would take photos with their phone at the party and then send them on to Mary Ellen for the newsletter.

Ali Sarlak asked if anyone was checking their rhodies for the dreaded lacebug as they are very active this year. Someone noted that the Smith Garden needs to be sprayed next year.

The Portland Chapter ARS is back to live meetings again. Their first meeting full of living breathing happy rhody fans had around 40 present.

Dana Malby momentarily exchanged his President's Cap for his former Cap as Treasurer to announce that 50% of our members and 80% of our associates have renewed their ARS dues for another year. **If you have not renewed, please do so.**

We needed to vote on some of our usual monetary expenses, which was "doable" with Zoom.

1. We needed to renew and extend our commitment to RSBG to the amount of \$750. This covers our membership and the purchase of bricks in memory of those who went off to a really big rhododendron garden in the sky..

It was "so-moved" by Susan Doellinger and seconded by me.

2. Next we voted on the amount of money to allocate to Keith for speakers. Keith felt the amount of \$600, which is what he had last year, was more than adequate. It was "so-moved" by someone and seconded by someone else (sorry).

Both motions were approved by a combination of hands and/or voices.

At this point our Speaker for the evening, Colin Tamboline, "zoomed" in and the "stage" was turned over to him. Colin talked to us about lilies and how to raise them, and also how they fare in a garden full of rhododendrons. Although he didn't mention this until much later in his program, Colin found a copy of Lilies In A Rhododendron Garden dated October 1958 in which "our man", Cecil Smith had an article extolling the virtues of lilies and rhodies existing side-by-side.

By Colin's own words he's "gardened" all his adult life. He received his Doctorate in Developmental Biology from UVic in 1990 and his MD from UBC in 1991. (In case you haven't figured it out by now, Colin is Canadian.)

He was a Family Doctor in Sidney BC from 1998 until this year when he "officially" retired. Colin has a wife, 3 kids, and 4 "grands".

He is also "obsessed" with lilies and has been since about 1988. Now that he's fully retired, he spends more time hybridizing lilies. Colin also works with British Columbia's native plants, alpines, peonies, and rhodies. His lilies take top honors at flower shows.

Colin uses only "true lilies" for hybridizing, which surprised me. I'd always assumed that if a flower had "lily" somewhere in its name, then it was a lily. Not so. For example, a day-lily is not a "true lily". A day-lily is able to rebloom whereas a "true lily" cannot. Another "lily-truth" is that they are found all over the Northern Hemisphere, with the largest num-

ber in China.

When lilies are classified for judging or classification, they will belong in one of 10 divisions. Some lilies will cross with different divisions or classes, but not all will do that.

Division 1) Asiatic Hybrids

These are crossbreeding among all the different Asian (mostly) bulbs. They're the kind we find in store bins. However, some of them are "proven winners". Colin's "Eurydice" has been a winner for him.



Eurydice photo from GardenTags plant encyclopedia

Division 2) Martagon Hybrids

These will grow in the shade. There aren't as many types of eurydice bulbs in this division. A "plus" however is that they can be grown in pots. Colin's two favorites are "Brocade" and "Cadense"



Martagon Lily 'Brocade' photo from Soules Garden

Division 3) Candidum Hybrids

Best known in this group is the "Madonna Lily". They grow somewhat small (3 - 4 feet) but they can have up to 20 blooms. They flower in the late spring to early summer.



Photo of Madonna Lily by Brecks

Division 4) American Hybrids

These come from combinations of *L. pardalinum* (the Leopard or Tiger Lily) with other species. Their flowers can be recognized by the freckles on their petals. They can be quite small to quite tall with few flowers to a lot of them.



Tiger Lily, *Lilium pardalinum* photo by Calscape

Division 5) The Easter Lily (longiflorum hybrid)

Some of the best of these hybrids are "Lakshmi", "Queen's Promise", and "Easter Morn". They are native to Japan and Taiwan. The smaller of these bulbs work well in pots.



'Easter Morn'
Photo by The Lily Garden

Division 6) Trumpet and Aurelian Hybrids

This division is the largest and most popular. They have many narrow leaves along their stems which can be between 3 and 6 feet. They bloom in mid-summer with up to 25 bold-colored flowers.



'Trumpet Lily 'Wishka'
Photo by B & D Lilies

Division 7) Oriental Hybrids

These are combinations of Japanese and L. auratum. They are the fragrant lilies and grow to 7 feet with about 8 blooms on each stem.



Oriental Hybrid Lily 'Dizzy'
Photo by B & D Lilies

Division 8) All Other Hybrids (or the Interdivisional Hybrids)



Interdivisional Hybrid Lily 'Zeba'
Photo by Faraway Flowers

Division 9) All True Species

This includes the subspecies as well as the "true". This division "mingles" with other divisions, except Division 5. Most of these bloom in early to late summer.



'Turk's Cap'
Photo by Plant Profiles

Division 10) Miscellaneous Hybrids

These don't fit in any of the other 9 divisions. Colin's favorite one is "Night Rider".



'Night Rider'
Photo by Breck's

None of the lilies bloom much earlier than June. The plus side of this is that their colorful arrival occurs about the time rhodies are losing their blooms. Hybrid bulbs are easier to store and generally healthier than species bulbs nor are they as "fussy". Species have "demands" that must be met or you'll have a very unhappy plant.

Most lilies can be grown in pots, provided the pot is large enough to hold them. The minimum is 1 gallon but 5 to 15 gallons is best. Lilies can grow very tall and need a lot of room for roots but not so deep that their roots will sit in water. You have to make sure the pots don't bake in the summer sun, which brings up an advantage. If your lilies don't like when you've put down the pot, then you can pick it up and move it into the shade. Pots of bulbs can remain outside all year, but avoid anything that might drip on them which would make the bulbs soggy.

Lilies don't like to have soggy feet whether they're in a pot or the ground. They need good drainage to thrive and do best in a raised bed, minus the clay that we seem to have more of than anywhere else. They also like humus, the "rottener" the better. Another sort of "rule" is that lilies with small leaves like the sun whereas those with larger leaves do best in the shade.

Plant them in groups of three of the same bulb. It makes a better show. They need to be deep in the soil, 6 to 8 inches. Another "rule of thumb" is to plant them 3 times deeper than the depth of the bulb. If the bulbs are well-drained there will be little need for "aggressive" watering.

Lilies have numerous problems. Voles love to eat the bulbs. Colin did point out that lily bulbs were eaten by the Chinese and are considered a special treat. Bulbs can also die from "botrytis" and root-rot. Lilies are a favorite of sucking insects (aphids for example) and lily beetles. We aren't bothered much by them here in the West. But this beetle is making its way from the East coast to us. This bug is a European import.

Bulbs can be purchased at local and regional nurseries. Plan to plant them in the ground or pot by March at the latest or as soon as you buy them.

For books on lily culture check out www.lilies.org and/or www.rhslilygroup.org Already printed and ordered on-line is "Let's Grow Lilies" from the North American Lily Society and costs about 7 or 8 dollars. Two good publications are "The Lily Garden" and "The Lily Nook" and another site is the North American Lily Society.

Thus ended a great talk by Colin. Full of information and lots of photos. The photos he had of lilies and rhodies showed how tall a lily can be and the color of the lily and the rhody at almost the same.

So we continued our business meeting to vote on Adele O'Neal as our new Treasurer. Her background shows clearly that she can handle the position. Best of all...she volunteered for the job. Since we still had a quorum, a quick motion and a quicker second and a whole lot of loud "ayes" and waving hands and Adele is now our Treasurer.

Our meeting was over, but the chatter on-line was not...And thank you, Colin, for a talk that certainly has me (and others of our group) looking forward to next spring and trying out lily-growing ourselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Crofts - Secretary - WCARS



November Program



Speaker:
Kevin Vaughn

Hybridizer on the Loose

November 9, 2022 6:30 Social 7:00 Program

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87630903001>

Meeting ID: 876 3090 3001

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,87630903001# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

While having lunch at the Wild Pear with Roger and Karen Landers a few weeks ago I was introduced to Kevin Vaughn, one of the Lander's guests. After a bit of talk, describing "what we did" I was excited to find that Kevin is a major hybridizer of Irises as well as other plant families. (See Bio). Irises happened to be on my list of subjects to pursue for WCARS programs. On hearing that the Schreiner family had encouraged and aided Kevin in moving here post retirement and that he was an author on books about Irises, et al, I was hooked. "Would you be willing to give us a program?" came out of my mouth before I even had time to think about it. Kevin is well spoken and truly a delightful person.

Kevin recently gave a version of this talk in Boston (probably not to the Red Sox). He is going to give us a version that should appeal to rhododendron lovers from the "just interested" admirers of Iris to the "technically avid", with many wonderful photos.

I also learned that Kevin is a true "Renaissance Man". He plays woodwinds, oboe et al, in performance with more than one group. And I suspect that he has many other interests in which he thrives.

Please join us in Kevin's presentation titled "Hybridizer On The Loose", Wednesday November 9th, at 6:30 PM for chat and 7 PM for the start of the presentation. Zoom Link Below. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87630903001>

A more formal invitation to this program, including phone links will have been emailed to our WCARS contact list.

Keith White - WCARS Program Chair



Above and Below are Two of Kevin's Hybrid Irises



Kevin Vaughn Bio:

Kevin Vaughn has been hybridizing plants since he was 9 years old and is still at it at age 68. Irises were one of his first passions, including establishing the first Siberian iris test garden at age 14 and his first introduction of a Siberian iris hybrid at 18.

For many years he ran a successful program breeding hostas and has ~80 cultivars on the market.

After obtaining a PhD in botany and genetics from Miami of Ohio University (using hosta hybrids of his own for the research), Kevin was a cell biologist with the USDA in MS and for 30 years hybridized Louisiana and spuria irises that were well-adapted to this region.

DeBaillon Medal winner 'Red Velvet Elvis' is one of the outstanding LA irises developed from this program and has proved to be one of the most popular LA irises ever introduced.

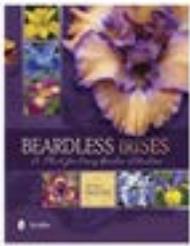
Upon retirement in 2010, Kevin moved to the Iris Mecca of Oregon and has greatly expanded his iris breeding program in all directions with ~6,000 seedlings rowed out each year.

Kevin co-authored the book, **The Louisiana Iris: Taming of a Native American Wildflower** and authored **Beardless Irises: A Plant for Every Garden Situation** and **Sempervivum: a Gardener's Guide to the not-so-humble Hens and Chicks**, and his latest **Dwarf and Median Irises: Jewels of the Iris World**.

Nothing with pollen is safe in Kevin's garden and breeding projects include daffodils, hardy cyclamen, penstemons, hardy geraniums, Kniphofia, pulmonaria, hosta, daylilies, and a major program with Sempervivum, including the production of giant cultivars.

Kevin has produced almost 300 varieties of plants on the market and in many genera.

Editor's Note: You can purchase Kevin's books on Amazon through the ARS Store by clicking [here](#).



Beardless Irises: A Plant for Every Garden Situation

by Kevin C. Vaughn | May 28, 2015

★★★★★ - 23

Paperback

\$29.99

prime

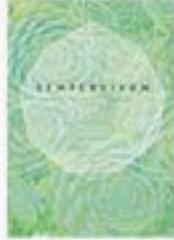
FREE delivery **Wed, Nov 2**

Only 15 left in stock (more on the way).

Add to Cart

More Buying Choices

\$15.56 (14 used & new offers)



Sempervivum: A Gardener's Perspective of the Not

by Kevin C. Vaughn | May 28, 2018

★★★★★ - 28

Hardcover

\$34.99

prime

FREE delivery **Thu, Nov 3**

Only 14 left in stock (more on the way).

Add to Cart

More Buying Choices

\$24.92 (10 used & new offers)



Two more of Kevin's irises



Dwarf and Median Bearded Irises: Jewels of the Iris

by Kevin Vaughn | Oct 25, 2022

Hardcover

Temporarily out of stock.



Kevin's DeBaillon Medal Winner 'Red Velvet Elvis'



President's Report

Hello Fellow Gardeners:

It is that time of year of scary events!

I have a scary story that was true. Just as October was ending, there was an event that happened that would scare the heck out of anyone. You go to bed and wake up the next morning and you go to check your e-mails on your desktop computer. You find the screen with the writing of **Hard Drive Failure.**



HARD DRIVE FAILURE. What! HARD DRIVE FAILURE.

Yes, it is true.

This put the fear in me of not backing up all the things on the computer.

Now what to do!

For a slight fee, I was able to find a local technician that could download information from the failed hard drive.

This was followed by a trip to Costco for a new computer.

It is now all back up for a year.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable time out working in their own garden.

Bill Vagt, Anne Gross and myself attended the Smith Garden fall clean up. I had a fun time

helping with the clean-up and a good lunch. It was nice to meet the other chapter members.

We have had a good turnout for our chapter member renewals.

There are a few checks that Maps Credit Union will not accept, I will contact these people to fix the problem.

Keith White e-mailed me about having the December potluck at the Redgate Winery in Independence, OR. We need to talk about this in our next Zoom meeting.

I called the person in charge of meetings at the First Methodist church where we used to meet. She has not gotten back to me. They are trying to set up for groups and organizations to meet at the church for the upcoming year.

Happy Gardening!

Dana Malby - WCARS President



Smith Garden Work Day

The following report was submitted by Ali Sarlak, one of our Associate Members:

Today was clean up day at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden by Saint Paul ,OR.

There were 10 volunteers today at the Smith Garden and the weather turned out in our favor. We did a great amount of work which included placing one bench and moving and placing another.

The most memorable was placing a bench in the memory of Dick Cavender, who was very active for this garden for many years, and passed away some months ago.

Ali Sarlak



Bill Vagt looks very experienced using that big clipper
Photo by Dana Malby

Tom Gressler, our Boss Man, and Caroline Enns looking happy with the final results.
Photo by Ali Sarlak



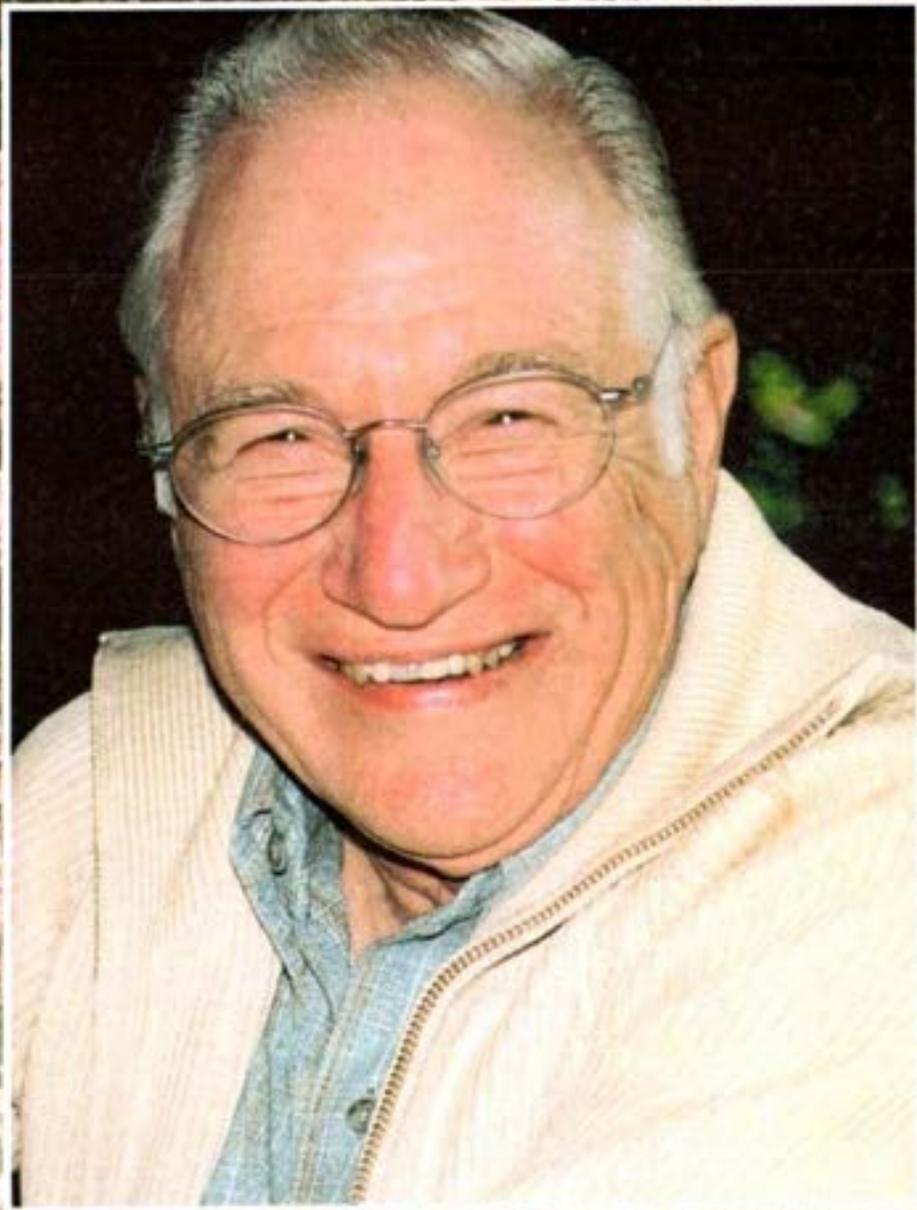
Obviously two heads are better than one when it comes to reading a tape measure.
Ray Clack and Steve Hall
photo by Dana Malby



Dick's bench in it's resting location
Photo by Ali Sarlak



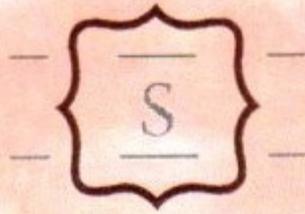
Karen Cavendar looking very comfortable swinging on Dick's bench with Dana Malby, Caroline Enns and Ray Clack.
Photo by Ann Clack



IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. Herbert Arthur Spady

July 17, 1929 - September 6, 2022



"You are gone
but thank you
for all these soft, sweet things
you left behind
in my home,
in my head,
in my heart."

Nikita Gill



Rhododendron bakeri

**Honsuchachac
Rhododendron Garden**

'Trewithen Orange' is the Flower for November



Photo by Harold Greer

With Halloween over and Thanksgiving coming up Keith's thoughts turned to the color orange and that led him to Rhododendron 'Trewithen Orange', the flower for November.

Revered as a masterpiece of landscape gardening, Trewithen Garden in Cornwall, England contains a south-facing great glade that was developed at the time of the great plant hunting expeditions between 1910 and 1932. Astonishing seed collections were sent back to England and, thanks to the expertise of horticulturalist George Johnstone, who inherited the house in 1904, many were successfully cultivated at the Cornish manor - one of those being 'Trewithen Orange'.

Predominant Flower Color: Orange

Flower/Truss Description: Pendulous campanulate flowers, brilliant to light orange with a faint rose blush. Loose truss holds 5 flowers.

Fragrant: No

Bloom Time: Midseason

Foliage Description / Plant Habit: Leaves elliptic, glossy, medium green. Branches are erect and the plant is narrow and tall.

Height: 4 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: 5°F (-15°C)

Parentage (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent):
Full House x cinnabarinum ssp xanthocodon

Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L): L

Hybridized or Selected by: Johnstone

Registration Reference: RHS 58

Plant information obtained from the American Rhododendron Society website and Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons - species and hybrids.



Photo from Glendoick Gardens

Online Shopping and the ARS Store - A Reminder to Help

Anytime you shop online for just about anything, please consider first going through the American Rhododendron Society Online Store. The ARS Online Store is reached by the link <http://arsstore.org/>

On this **site you will find** a range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee back on each sale "referred" by ARSStore.org. Just use a link from the ARS Online Store site to go to a merchant's site and buy something like you normally would. You get the same low price and help the ARS.

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

EUGENE CHAPTER

Third Wednesday from Oct to March at 7:30pm

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Third Thursday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele Street
Portland 97202

SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
Dye House at Willamette Heritage Center, 1313
Mill Street SE, Salem, OR

SUISLAW CHAPTER

Third Tuesday at 7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, 3996 Highway 101,
Florence, OR

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Willamette Chapter arswillamette.com
Eugene Chapter eugene-chapter-ars.org
Portland Chapter rhodies.org
Siuslaw Chapter siuslawars.org

All other web sites can be found on
rhododendron.org
Under "chapters" under web sites

ARS BULLETINS are available online at:
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS AWARDS HISTORY - 1978 to 2019

GOLD ---

Herb Spady	1991
Betty Spady	2001

SILVER ---

Richard "Dick" Cavendar	2003
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BRONZE ---

June Brennan	1987
Jason Ashford	1990
Constance Hansen	1991
Betty Spady	1991
Bob Grasing	1997
Sharon Leopold	2002
Wilbur Bluhm	2006
Chuck and Maxine Dehn	2006
Keith White	2007
Helen Malby	2008
Anne Gross	2009
Dick and Carol Lundin	2011
Wally and Kathy Reed	2012
Syd and Don Wermlinger	2013
Dick and Carol Lundin	2019
Mary B. Crofts	2019
Roger and Kathy Lintault	2019

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Dana Malby503-393-6463
V-President:
Programs Chair: Keith White ...503-559-5796
Secretary: Mary Crofts.....503-838-4122
Treasurer: Adele O'Neal
Librarian: Keith White503-559-5796
Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ellen Ramseyer503-689-3733
Print. & Mail: Mary Ellen Ramseyer -503-689-3733
Board Members:
Bill Vagt503-581-8654
Susan Doellinger503-838-4884
Position to be filled.....
Greeter Susan Doellinger.....503-838-4884
Past President: Wally Reed503-588-3666
Web Site Kathy Lintault.....503-434-5472