

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 5

October 2023

Issue 7



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. Our meeting may be in person or via Zoom. Meeting information will be sent to members via email and available in this newsletter. In person meetings will be at the RAM Restaurant and Brewery Bearcat Room, 515 12th St SE, Salem, 97301, with dinner at 5:00pm and the meeting at 7:00pm.

CHAPTER MEETING October 11, 2023



Speaker: Mark Akimoff

Title: *Wildflower Adventures Around Oregon*

Mark will be bringing rare plants to sell, so be sure to have plenty of money left over after buying your dinner.

Dinner at 5:00pm in the Bearcat Room at the RAM Restaurant and Brewery with the Program at 7:00pm. Complete details on Page 5



Fall colors in the PNW



President's Report October 2023

Well, the fall weather is finally here! Rain for our rhododendrons and companion plants after another dry summer.

We had another successful meeting at the Ram Pub in Salem on September 13, 2023. The presentation was given by Ali Sarlack on gardens around the Willamette Valley. It was very informative, and he showed lots of great pictures.

Our Fall plant auction started on September 22, 2023 and runs through October 6, 2023. Thank you to Anne for donating all the plants and to Keith and Mary Ellen for getting the "technical" parts of the on-line plant auction done – kudos to all of you! Hope you find one or more plants to bid on - sharpen up your shovel and go plant a beautiful rhododendron that you can purchase from the online auction.

Looking forward to our next membership meeting on October 11th at 5:00 at Ram Pub in Salem. The program will start at 7:00 with our speaker, Mark Akimoff from Illahe Rare Plants. Hope to see you all there!

We are still collecting dues and our treasurer will be sending out a reminder to those who have not paid yet. You can pay at the meeting by check or cash, but you will receive an email with instructions October 1st or 2nd.

Don't forget about the Western Regional ARS Fall conference in Florence, Oregon. It will be held October 19-21 at the Florence Events Center. I know a number of us are attending and it will be a fun gathering!

Hope you enjoy the Fall weather and raking up all the leaves that are soon to come!

Dana Malby - WCARS President



As Dana mentioned in his newsletter, we are still collecting dues and your Membership is important to us. It keeps our Chapter going, provides programs but most of all **it keeps us connected to You!**

Membership benefits include:

- Quarterly Journal with valuable plant and Society information
- Conferences offering lectures, tours and networking opportunities
- Visits to gardens and nurseries, both public and private
- An outstanding seed exchange program
- Participation in local chapter meetings
- Plant auctions and sales. Purchase plants at discount prices.
- Involvement in local and national flower shows
- Support of test and display gardens
- Discounts on rhododendron & azalea reference books
- Information how to grow and care for your rhododendrons
- Meet and socialize with others with common interests

Member Renewal for 1 or 2 people at the same address: \$40

Associate Renewal: \$10 (Must have a Home Membership in another chapter)

If you haven't yet renewed, please do so for all of the reasons listed above. Make sure that your check is made out to the **Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society** as our MAPS Credit Union **will not accept checks made out WCARS**. You can renew in person with our Treasurer, Adele O'Neal, at our Chapter Meeting on October 11 or you can mail your check to Adele at:

Adele O'Neal, 341 SW Hemlock St., Dundee, OR 97115

RENEW NOW - IT'S FOR THE GOURD OF THE ARS AND OUR CHAPTER!



September Minutes



**Mary Crofts
Secretary
Sept 13, 2023**

Following our various supper meals at The Ram, President Dana Malby called for ORDER so we could start our meeting. He reported on the District Meeting that Jack Olsen has taken over Mike Bones position on the District 4 Board and Mike will now be the alternate. Dana also reported that a discussion about sharing speakers between chapters was held.

Treasurer Adele O'Neal reported that the email about our dues was sent out. So far, 7 members and 2 or 3 associates have submitted their dues. Adele will send another notice about the dues before the next /chapter meeting, We all need to remember that Adele, and former Treasurer now President, Dana Malby, cast a mighty big shadow on those who forgot their dues. It's not a pretty sight.

Keith White spoke at length about the upcoming plant auction. Mary Ellen is looking for photos of the plants.

Kathy Lintault our web site leader, will be back to finish it up. She will have more to tell us at the next chapter meeting.

Our speaker this evening was our own Ali Sarlak. Ali is one of our board members and has his own nursery, which was the third one he talked about this evening. He and his wife, Gloria, visited Schreiner's Iris Nursery and Adelman Peony Garden over the Memorial Day weekend. As quoted in the last newsletter, they found those "places are very special, lift human spirits and give some energy."

Schreiners is set up as "very neat". There are about 15 large formal gardens set down the middle of the greenest and softest of grass. These are Schreiner's display gardens and have examples of each iris they sell. So each flower bed contains many examples of all sorts of flora. This method of displaying makes it very easy to take photos without tripping over each other.

The iris beds range from tall in the center to small ones along the edges. Accompanying the iris are flowers of all kinds to make a cacophony of color. Each iris is tagged and numbered. And if you need help, head gardener Heidi is nearby and knows where each plant is located.

There are picnic tables/benches along the garden sides for resting, reading, eating, checking photos. There may be a wedding or two happening. There's a lovely gift shop and a cut-flower display as well as plants for sale on the grounds. Schreiner's is open two weeks a year for public "walk-ins".

All photos in this article were taken by Ali Sarlak.

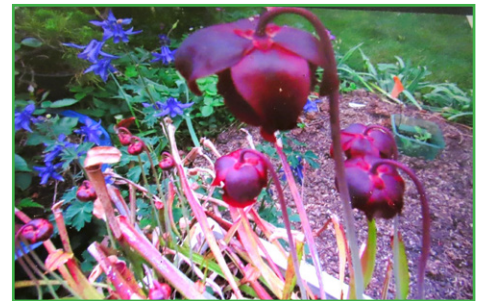


Next was Adelman's Peony Garden, which isn't very far from Schreiners'.

The layout is similar to Schreiner's, except the starring flowers are peonies. The beds are large and a lot. Peonies large to small, single to double and more than double, many colors. They also have a cut-flower display which would be a good place to see the plants if you're having trouble walking. They are also open only a short time for visitors - 4 to 6 weeks depending on weather.



The final nursery was Ali's Garden Of Serenity near to Corvallis. And it certainly is a garden of serenity. It isn't as big as Schreiner's or Adelman's nor is it as "formal". It's about half a block of flower rooms that are connected by flower "hallways". Trees are very much a part of Ali's landscape as are violets. One room has a full-grown banana tree. Ali didn't inherit this garden. He built it himself over the past 30 years, give a year or two. Every year Ali and Gloria have a plant sale. His stock comes from checking the date of his plants in the rooms, and then dividing them and selling them when each plant is ready to sell.



Of course, Ali had outstanding photos of all three nurseries and your Secretary has been to them all. They are a photographer's delight.

We will meet at The Ram again in the Bearcat Room on October 11th. Our speaker will be Mark Akimoff, owner of Illahe Rare Plants. Our newsletter will have full details.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Crofts - Secretary- WCARS



October Program Wildflower Adventures around Oregon



Dinner and the program will take place in the Bearcat Room at the RAM Restaurant and Brewery at 515 12th St. SE, Salem, OR 97301.

Dinner at 5:00pm and the program at 7:00p

Mark's early interest in plants was fostered by spending summers with his grandparents who both had indelible green thumbs with a beautiful garden and fruit orchard. Having grown up in a horticultural family, Mark started working with plants at a young age as a nursery hand for his uncle that grew palm trees for the landscape industry on Kauai.

Mark would go on to study biotechnology at Montana State University until he decided to move back to Oregon to study horticulture at Oregon State University. In 2001, Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture Science.

After graduating from OSU, Mark was hired as the propagator for the legendary Rae Selling Berry Botanic Garden where he mentored under Jack Poff and many of Portland's horticultural legends. Mark would go on to have a successful 25-year career as a professional horticulturist that spanned large scale wetlands, riparian and environmental restoration projects for government, estate gardening and groundskeeping to teaching horticulture at the community college.

While Mark's personal interests in plants runs wide, propagation has always been a specialty, especially of rare and difficult plants. Mark's passion for rock gardens and alpine plants often has him exploring in the high country for wildflowers. In the gardens at Illahe Rare Plants, Mark trials dryland and xeric plants looking for the best plants to better help gardeners create a garden that is able to thrive in a changing climate.

Mark teaches Integrated Pest Management, Pesticides laws and Safety, Irrigation management and water management classes at the community college in Salem, Oregon. He is active in the North American Rock Garden Society and Pacific Bulb

Society. Mark also lectures on a variety of plant topics to plant clubs and the gardening community. Check out the [website](#) to see the amazing array of plants that he grows at Illahe Rare Plants.

Please join us for Mark's engaging program of Wildflower Adventures around Oregon. Bring your pocket books as Mark will also have plants to sell.

The following photos are by Mark Akimoff and Illahe Rare Plants



Mark and *Lilium formosanum*



Colchicum variegatum

Mentzelia decapetala



**Northwest Native
*Camassia cusickii***

For Your Reading Pleasure

Mark mentioned in his bio that he was hired as the propagator for the legendary Rae Selling Berry Botanic Garden. I was curious about who she was and whether her garden was still in existence. My research revealed a fascinating and informative article in Pacific Horticulture. Click [here](#) if you would like to read it.



Rae Berry, here atop Eagle Cap in Oregon's Willamette Mountains.

Photo courtesy of the American Primrose Society

ARS Fall Conference Coastal Spice

ARS Fall Regional Conference

I hope you are planning to attend the 2023 Fall Western Regional Conference, "Florence Coastal Spice", to be held October 19-21, 2023 at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street, in Florence OR. Hear interesting talks, purchase beautiful and unusual plants, renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Both ARS members and non-members are welcome to attend the conference. View the [Event Schedule](#) and the [Registration Schedule](#).



Rhododendron 'Coastal Spice'

**Spicy
Fragrance**

**Photo by
J. W. Gerdemann**

Whistle While You Work

Smith Garden Fall Work Day

The Smith Garden Fall work day is Saturday, October 28. Start around 8:30am, or when ever you can manage, and work as long as you want. Bring gloves and your favorite hand tools, rakes, etc. There are chores for all skill levels. Tom will once again be our expert supervisor and will post his list of jobs to be done in order of priority somewhere around the garage entrance.

Coffee and light snacks will be provided. Bring your own food items to supplement or enough to share with others.

The extended weather forecast calls for the possibility of showers but we will work regardless. And even though we don't have a convention in the spring as incentive to participate, this garden is part of our chapter's Legacy for future generations so we need to do our part to maintain it's beauty - and believe me, you will feel so good about what you accomplished at the end of the day. Please mark your calendar, come out, put in some hard work and enjoy seeing old friends. You can emphasize the fun, rather than the monotony of the work by Whistling While You Work.



Lyrics

Just whistle while you work
And cheerfully together we can tidy up the place
So hum a merry tune
It won't take long when there's a song to help you
set the pace

This is also a good opportunity to visit the garden. The address to the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden is 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, OR 97137. Directions at www.smithgarden.org/Map.html



Annual Financials 2022-2023 & Final Budget 2023-2024

The following information is the Chapter year end financials for 2022-2023 and the projected budget for 2023-2024, submitted by our WCARS Treasurer, **Adele O'Neal**. Please save any questions for the Business Meeting prior to our evening program at the October 11th meeting.

The Projected Budget is printed first as it takes less room and I want to make sure you see all the figures clearly for the Annual Financials.

WCARS Budget September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024

REVENUE

Membership dues received (17 x \$40 + \$75 sustaining member)	\$775.00
Associate member dues received (10 x \$10)	\$100.00
Donations to Chapter	\$0.00
Truss Show	\$0.00
Plant Auction (Fall - \$1025; May - \$200)	\$1,225.00
Savings account interest	\$0.72
Credit from ARS (payment via Paypal)	\$30.00
Total Revenue	\$2,130.72

EXPENSES

Dues remitted to National (17 x \$30 + \$63 sustaining member)	\$573.00
Speaker expenses (October honorarium - \$200; Meals - 7x30=\$210)	\$410.00
Newsletter expenses	\$0.00
Website (2 year subscription)	\$276.34
Zoom Membership	\$0.00
Liability insurance	\$51.00
Membership RSF, due December	\$100.00
Donations, RSF	\$0.00
Memorial donations, RSF, ARS	\$0.00
Donations ARS General Fund	\$0.00
Donations, ARS Research Fund	\$0.00
December Dinner Potluck - Redgate	\$0.00
December Dinner Potluck - Main Dish	\$100.00
May Potluck and Plant Auction	\$50.00
Summer Potluck	\$0.00
Awards (2 Bronze)	\$55.25
Supplies	\$25.00
Postage	\$25.00
Truss show expenses - plants, etc.	\$0.00
Plant Auction expenses	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,665.59

NET (REVENUE LESS EXPENSES) \$465.13

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society

Annual Financials September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023

Beginning Balances - September 1, 2022			
Business Membership Account			\$3,318.27
Checking Account	\$1,477.97		
INCOME			
Membership dues	\$745.00		
Donation to Chapter	\$0.00		
Convention Reimbursement	\$750.00		
Business Membership Account Interest	\$0.00		\$0.67
Truss Show	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous Meeting Auction	\$0.00		
Plant Sales	\$0.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,495.00		\$0.67
EXPENSES			
Dues Paid to National	\$433.00		
Speaker expenses	\$800.00		
Rent for meeting location	\$0.00		
Newsletter expenses	\$0.00		
Zoom Membership	\$149.90		
Go Daddy (website)	\$30.16		
Wix (website)	\$0.00		
Liability insurance	\$51.00		
Membership RSF	\$100.00		
Donations to RSF	\$400.00		
Memorial donations, RSF, ARS	\$0.00		
Donations ARS General Fund	\$0.00		
Donations, ARS Research Fund	\$0.00		
DOJ Charitable Report	\$20.00		
December Potluck	\$266.82		
May Potluck	\$0.00		
Summer Potluck	\$83.14		
Awards	\$0.00		
Misc. Supplies	\$0.00		
Office Supplies	\$0.00		
Postage	\$50.90		
Truss Show Expenses	\$0.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,384.92		\$0.00
NET (Income Less Expenses)	-\$889.92		\$0.67
Transfer funds from Business to Checking Acct.	\$900.00		-\$900.00
Ending Balances - August 31, 2023			
Business Membership			\$2,418.94
Checking	\$1,488.05		

Autumn Gold is the Flower for October



Photo by Harold Greer

Autumn Gold:

When I lived in Portland and for many years after I would visit Crystal Springs almost every week during blooming season. From the first I was impressed by the beautiful, unusual color and size of Autumn Gold. Thus, as soon as I could find one, I purchased one for my property. It is now 10 ft tall and a wonder every late spring when it blooms.

In 1986 I made my first visit to Exbury. I was disappointed that the police had set up barriers to prevent garden entrance until Prince Charles could arrive by helicopter to plant a tree, accompanied by Nicholas and Edmund de Rothschild, to commemorate the opening of the new Exbury garden center complex.

After the planting ceremony the barriers were lifted and I took off as fast as my legs would carry me, into the garden. Soon a silver estate wagon with Edmund de Rothschild at the wheel pulled up next to me. He rolled down his window and asked who I was and where I was from. I said that I was from Oregon, the Salem and Portland area. He asked if I knew Ted Van Veen. I said that I did know Ted and that I would see him occasionally at Portland Chapter ARS meetings and when he gave programs at ARS meetings, including our chapter. Edmund asked if I would say "Hello" to Ted for him. I, of course, was delighted.

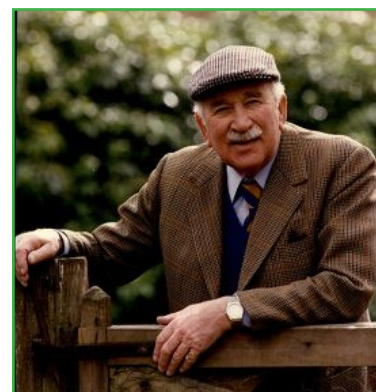
Then Mr. de Rothschild advised that I watched where he drove and follow that path. He said that there was a grove of now very large hybrids that

that his father had planted that he likes to re-view frequently. Indeed, there was a grass road through this grove of magnificent blooming large hybrids.

After I had seen all I could between the opening of the barriers at 3 PM and garden closing at 5 PM I looked through the new garden center. There I met Marianna Kneller, the artist in residence at Exbury. I was impressed with her work. Especially the large posters she had done featuring Exbury Rhododendrons. Each featured a single rhododendron that she favored. I asked the name of these rhododendrons. She told me that the orange one was her favorite one of all. It was named "Autumn Gold". The irony, of course, was that Autumn Gold was a Van Veen rhododendron, not an Exbury Rhododendron. I purchased two of these posters and another of a white rhodo. But I said nothing about Autumn Gold's origin.

When next I saw Ted VanVeen I told him this story, which got a good laugh. Then I presented him with an Autumn Gold poster with "Exbury Rhododendrons" proudly displayed at the bottom.

Keith White



Edmund de Rothschild



Ted Van Veen



Predominant Flower Color: Orange

Flower/Truss Description: Flower openly funnel-shaped, 3.5" across, salmon-orange with pink and orange shading and a deep orange eye. Flat trusses of 10 flowers.

Fragrant: No

Bloom Time: Late Midseason

Foliage Description: Leaves twisted, medium green, retained 2 years. Well branched, upright.

Plant Habit: Spreading habit. Tolerates the heat well.

Height: 5 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: -5°F (-21°C)

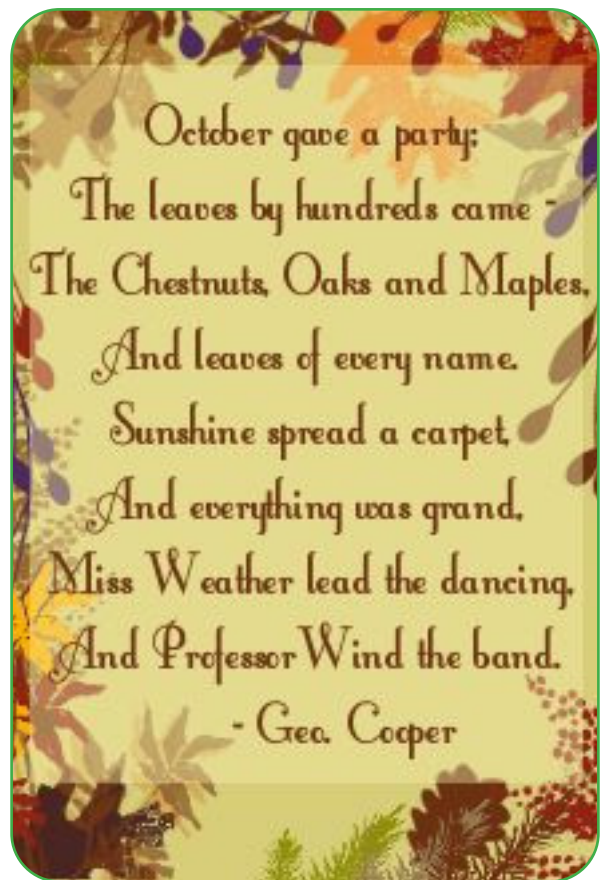
Parentage (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent)
fortunei ssp discolor x Fabia Group

Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L): E

Hybridized or Selected by: Van Veen Sr.

Registration Reference: RHS 58

This information came from the American Rhododendron Society website and Greer's Guide-book to Available Rhododendrons by Harold Greer.



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
-------------------------	------

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.....971-570-0237
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
Ali Sarlak.....541-758-9190
Greeter Susan Doellinger.....503-838-4884
Past President: Wally Reed
Web Site Kathy Lintault.....503-434-5472