

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Officers, Board Members, & Committees

President	Ali Sarlak
Vice-President	Terry Henderson
Treasurer	Nancy Burns
Secretary	Sherlyn Hilton
Past-President	Ted Hewitt
Membership	Nancy Burns

Jack Olson	2014-2016
Gordon Wylie	2014-2017
Helen Baxter	2015-2018
vacant	2015-2018
vacant	2015-2018

Committees

- **Show:** Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, Terry Henderson
- **Nominating:**
- **Welfare:** Nancy & Harold Greer
- **Hospitality:** Nancy Burns, Helen Baxter
- **Programs:** Board of Directors

Newsletter

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R. morii

END OF SUMMER CHAPTER PICNIC

*Sunday, September 13
at the home of
Grace, Dena, and Ed Fowler-Gore
800 Sweet Lane, Cottage Grove
(Driving Directions on p. 2)*

Potluck Picnic

- *Come at Noon to visit and see the garden.*
- *We will eat at 1:00 p.m.*

Please bring:

- *A dish to share (serves 12)
(Main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert)*
- *Include a serving utensil*
- *No need to bring your own place settings this time*
- *Your beverage of choice. Iced tea and water provided.*
- *A chair, though there will be several available*

Grace, Dena and Ed Fowler-Gore have an established garden overlooking the Cottage Grove High School. The sloped two acre property has large mature trees (black and white oaks, blue spruce, pines, maples, cedars and fruit trees), an assortment of ornamental shrubs (50 year-old rhododendron, Japanese maples, azaleas, tulip trees, dogwoods etc.), and a collection of invasive plantings (English holly, English Ivy, blackberries, Japanese knotweed, which are being removed!).

We are new to this garden which was allowed to go a bit feral over the years. We are happy to share our current progress on reclaiming this beautiful landscape. We will be receptive and appreciative to members' thoughts on how we may enhance the garden.

Looking forward to hosting this fun event.

Grace, Dena, and Ed (817) 975-4936

Summer and Rhododendrons

by Jack Olson

This is the hottest year that I can remember. It has meant lots of watering and moving hoses since plants have to have moisture in them during the hot summer in order to survive. That means watering them early in the morning, so their roots have moisture to draw as it warms up. I have had many people ask me why the foliage turns brown. The plant actually dries, and all moisture is drawn out of the leaves. If it is to the point of drying out, you may lose leaves. At times, I have discovered plants that are withered and dry, but if the water is put on them soon enough they will come back, but usually there is some leaf damage.

At our October program on propagation by cuttings, we plan to have a cutting party. This is an

excellent time to get that rare plant by contacting some one in the chapter, who may have the plant cutting you have been looking for. I will share anything I have, except some of my seedlings. I haven't seen them bloom, so I would like to be the first, since I have put so much time into growing them.

Something to keep in mind, is where will you plant it, and why. I think a lot of us buy, or obtain a plant without thinking how big it will get. It is always smart to find out how big a particular plant grows before planting it. It may be a beautiful plant, yet be too big or too small for the place you have chosen. Talk to other chapter members and see if they grow it. It may save you lots of time and money. The most frequently asked question I hear is, "How do I cut back my rhododendrons?"

Directions to the September 13 Picnic at the Fowler-Gore Home

800 Sweet Lane, Cottage Grove

- I-5 south from Eugene
- Exit 174 at Cottage Grove
- Turn right on E. Cottage Grove Connector
- In 1/2 mile merge left onto OR-99S
- Stay on Hwy 99 through Cottage Grove for about 2 miles
- Just past the high school on your right, turn right on Sweet Lane
- Go straight on Sweet Lane for 0.7 miles until you see a group of mailboxes on the left. The first one is blue.
- Turn **right** on the first driveway and you will see the sign with 800.
- There is room for quite a few cars on the concrete pad by the garages for parking. People with mobility issues should have these spaces first.
- Or you can turn right on the gravel drive below the house and park on the grass.



Hibiscus at the Eckerdt Garden

photo by Ali Sarlak



Fused glass creation by Pat Eckerdt

photo by Ted Hewitt

From the President

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer. I feel we had only a few very hot days and that so far it has been nice and cool for summer weather. As you all are experiencing, we have had to do much watering because in the Northwest it only rains in the spring and winter months. I have one big leaf rhododendron in my backyard that is some kind of *R. giganteum* and seems to have some of the same characteristics as a large leafed Gunnera as they both enjoy plenty of water and like to be planted along the creek .

Here is a little update on our Eugene rhododendron society. Our board members are working hard to organize the agendas, the topics, and the future speakers for the coming year. We have a potluck coming up on September 13 at the home of our new members in Cottage Grove, Grace, Dena, and Ed Fowler-Gore. We certainly welcome them to our society and please, when you see them, say hi to them. Also, I suggest to all members, please, if you think of any topics of interest to you, let us know and we shall bring it to the attention of our board. At the same time, if you learn of an interesting speaker, you can always tell us about her or him and we will greatly appreciate it.

Our society relies on the work of volunteers, we need your help, and we need you to take some



Eckerdt Garden

photo by Ali Sarlak

position. Together we can step forward in the right direction. Thank you!

As you might know, there are many wonderful gardens in Oregon and recently I visited one of them - the garden of Dave and Pat Eckerdt, located in a suburb of Salem. Their garden has year round interest and has many varieties of interesting and unusual trees, flowering plants, bulbs, and even a vegetable garden. It also includes many works of art and water features.

Dave is an excellent photographer and Pat creates many pieces of ceramic art that you can see around their yard. They are very generous with their love and passion and share that with the public. If you have not been there and you would like to see their lovely garden, you can contact them as they are always glad to invite you to go over .

I personally am impressed with what they have done and thank them for their hospitable attitude.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing you at our meetings and enjoying growing Rhododendrons.

Ali Sarlak

Editor's note: Pat Eckerdt also excels in creating garden art pieces made with fused glass and stained glass that capture the light beautifully throughout the garden.



Eckerdt Garden

photo by Ali Sarlak

Are you interested in becoming more active with planning chapter events?

- There are two vacant seats on the chapter Board of Directors.
- Might you like to help organize the Holiday Potluck Dinner in December?
- Would you like to help organize the summer picnics?
- Would you like to help coordinate the goodies for the chapter meetings?
- Could you make the coffee for the meetings?

Let Ali know if you are interested in helping with these or other chapter activities.



Noel, Gordon, and Steve share a laugh
photo by Ali Sarlak

Kudos for the June 2015 Picnic

- Special thanks to Linda and Gordon Wylie for hosting the Picnic at their lovely home and shady garden.
- Once again, Nancy Burns helped coordinate this special event. Many thanks.
- Thank you Terry for providing extra tables and chairs.
- I don't know how he does it, but, again, Ali arranged for a very pleasant day squeezed between some very warm June days. Amazing.
- We had a number of guests and associate members in attendance from other District 4 chapters. Always nice to see our out-of-town friends.

The ARS Eugene Chapter Mission Statement.

Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons.

Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships.

Grow both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens.

Educate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons.

Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons.

Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community.

Ted's Notes

- In his President's Message, Ali mentions how our chapter depends on volunteers to make events happen. The newsletter is the same in that we depend on members to submit contributions, whether long or short, to make the newsletter interesting. In this issue, appreciation goes to Jack, Ali, and Grace for their contributions. Last year, commendations go to Ali Sarlak, Sherlyn Hilton, Jack Olson, Rich Aaring, John Hammond, and Gordon Wylie for their contributions. As editor of the newsletter, I would like to ask all of you to think of something that you could submit in the way of observations that you have made about gardening, comments on specific rhododendrons or companion plants, special gardens that you have visited, or tools that you especially like. This could be a paragraph, a whole page, or a poem. Each of you has ideas that are interesting, so please consider sharing them.
- When Paula and I joined the ARS Eugene Chapter in 2007, it took us a while to learn about a Members Handbook that had been written by Rich Aaring in 2006 that was filled with information about the history and activities of the chapter. By 2010, enough of the handbook needed revising that JoAnn Napier, Paula Hewitt, and I compiled a new version that was distributed to each chapter member and has been included in the New Member's Packet for each new member since. Now it is time to again revise the handbook, so I have done that this summer and will have the new one available by the September 13 picnic. However, since the chapter has been spending

more each year than it has earned, the Board has decided to attach a nominal printing cost (\$1.00 to \$1.50) for the 2015 edition with the exception that new members will receive one free. For copies that require mailing there will also be a postage charge. The handbook contains information about membership in the ARS, a history of the Eugene Chapter, chapter award winners, the chapter by-laws, information about the shows of recent years, suggestions about good rhododendrons and companion plants for your garden, good reference books, and information about where to see and buy rhododendrons.

- Even though Nancy and Harold Greer have retired from the nursery business, Harold has volunteered to continue printing the high quality color copies of the newsletter that some of you have requested. In addition, he does the mailing of the newsletter. Many thanks to Harold for allowing us to have the nice printed newsletters that we enjoy.
- In an effort to assure that you are receiving the newsletter in a format that you like, I would appreciate you contacting me if you would like to continue to receive a printed copy. Beginning with the October newsletter, only those members who have requested a printed copy will receive one by mail. However, those members who do not have e-mail will continue to receive a printed newsletter. Many of our members have requested to receive only the electronic copy and, of course, this saves the chapter the printing and mailing expenses. Please notify me by September 25 if you would like to receive a printed newsletter - by e-mail at ted.hewitt@comcast.net or by phone at (541) 687-8119. Thanks.

Ted

Welcome to new Associate Members, Jack & Wanda Hackett, from Bandon.

ARS Membership Renewal Time

It won't be long now until you will be receiving your ARS membership renewal forms in the mail. The cost for regular membership that includes membership in the Eugene Chapter remains at \$40.00 including the ARS quarterly Journal and the chapter newsletter. You will notice that the forms look a little different this year. Our many Associate Members (who already belong to another chapter) will receive a different form but your dues will remain the same at \$10.00 and will include the chapter newsletter and other communications. Please return the completed forms to Membership Secretary Nancy Burns as soon as possible by mail or in person at the September 13 picnic or the October 8 chapter meeting.

An Introduction to New Members Grace, Dena, and Ed Fowler-Gore

Almost two years ago, Grace, Dena, and Ed relocated to a 2-acre property on the edge of Cottage Grove to escape the heat and the congestion of 6.5 million people living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas. Their house, built in the 1960s, sits on a hillside with views over the garden, the mature trees, the swimming pool, and with glimpses of forested ridges in the distance. As Grace indicates, the garden had been "allowed to go a bit feral over the years", but they have been cleaning out the brush, freeing the large old rhododendrons so that more light can reach the many garden worthy shrubs and trees. Already they have made a big difference in the health and beauty of the garden. That said, Grace has indicated that they would love to hear any suggestions or thoughts on how to enhance the garden and to deal with the local wildlife visitors such as turkeys, deer, raccoons, etc. What plants have you found that would be appropriate for a list of deer resistant plants?

In spite of being new chapter members, they have graciously agreed to host the chapter picnic on September 13 at their new house and garden. On the upper level, there is a large deck from which to appreciate the wonderful views of the garden and beyond and on the lower level there is more space around the swimming pool. If it happens to be a rainy day, there is plenty of indoor space.

When I visited them recently, Grace frequently mentioned the birds that visit the feeders and the many trees on the property. In the distance, we could hear the raucous call of a pileated woodpecker. Their pet parrot, Lucy, (actually a black-capped caique) www.caiqueparrots.com/ made the move from Texas with them and, in case you are wondering, Lucy does not speak human - only caique. Grace also talked about enjoying making an occasional quilt and she says that she especially likes to chase blackberries from the garden. (Ask her about her favorite tool.) Dena also likes the physical labor of attacking the English hollies that have sprouted and grown around the garden as well as removing the English ivy that has tried to take over the garden. Ed enjoys working with stained glass and refurbishing antique radios and talks a bit about the businesses he has run over the years including some construction work. In this garden, you will notice signs about not allowing chemical sprays and the gardeners will talk about doing things the organic way to protect the health of the birds and wildlife as well as the soil. You will have a great respect for their efforts in "mechanical weed control" when you see how much they have accomplished.

We welcome them to the chapter and look forward to the social time at their home and garden.

Using Websites

by Ted Hewitt

I much enjoy the library of books that Paula and I have collected over the years, especially the books on gardening. However, I tend to rely on the computer more and more for information on rhododendrons or other plants in which I am interested and am amazed at how quickly I can find information. A few years back, when we realized how we were accessing information, Paula and I decided to send our 30 year old set of encyclopedias to Goodwill.

If you have not visited the ARS website (www.rhododendron.org) for a while, you will be surprised at how it has changed. I would suggest that you bookmark this website for easy access, even if you have to learn how to do this. Here you will find the standard information about rhododendrons, such as information on how to grow plants successfully, the large database of species and hybrid rhododendrons, and proven performer lists but there are now some new pages as well. The Rhododendron Blog (blog is a truncation of “weblog”) where people post interesting information about rhododendrons and readers have the option to add questions or comments. However, not many people seem to be adding comments, perhaps because many ARS members are not familiar yet with this site. There are many other blog sites hosted by individuals that attract devoted followers who add interesting comments or questions. This becomes sort of

like a giant magazine that doesn't just arrive quarterly or monthly. Recent posts include *Weigela ... a companion plant*, *Two Lovely Ladies* (hint: ‘Mary Fleming’ and ‘Countess of Haddington’), *The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden* (I bet you might want to look at that one).

Somewhat new to the ARS homepage is an easy access to the archives of the past ARS Quarterly Bulletins and ARS Journals all the way back to Vol 1, Number 1: April 1947. In my bookcase, these take up two full shelves. Should I keep them or recycle them now that they are all online? Part of the chapter library has been a large archive of past Quarterly Bulletins and Journals but, with the closing of Greer Gardens this summer, the Board decided to recycle these publications which took a large space.

The ARS home page is also where you can access the ARS Online Store when you want to do some shopping such as at Amazon.com and let the ARS benefit from your purchase. Warning: this site can become addictive and may cause you to sit at your computer or use your iPad when you should be out in your garden.

One of the advantages of reading an electronic publication, such as the e-version of the Newsletter, is that it allows you to use direct links to other websites for more information on a topic (see the second article on p. 6 of this NL).

Having lost its home at Greer Gardens and attracting very little use, the chapter library has been greatly reduced in size. We are looking for someone who can store a couple of boxes of books and bring a few to each meeting to solicit more interest. Please let Ali know if you can help. Thanks.

2015

EVENT CALENDAR

2016

CHAPTER EVENTS:

- September 13, 2015 Potluck Picnic - *At the home and garden of Grace, Dena, and Ed Fowler-Gore*
Come at noon to see the garden and visit. Eat at 1:00 p.m.
- October 8 Chapter Meeting - Workshop on Propagating by Cuttings & Cutting Party
- November 12 Chapter Meeting - program TBA
- December 10 Holiday Potluck Dinner
5:30 set-up; 6:00 Dinner; 7:00 members' slide show
- January 14, 2016 Chapter Meeting - program TBA
- February 11 Chapter Meeting - program TBA
- March 10 Chapter Meeting - *Lepidote Rhododendrons* with Bill Hicks
Annual Business Meeting with Elections
- April 9 2016 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield
Speaker: Bob Zimmerman
- April 20-24 2016 ARS Convention, Williamsburg, VA - www.arsasaconvention2016.org
- May 9 Chapter Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 2:00
- June ?? June Picnic, details TBA

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
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*August/September 2015
Newsletter*



2016 ARS Fall Conference
Islandia, Long Island, NY
October 16-17, 2015