

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	
vacant	

Committees

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

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Hands-On Propagation Workshop

*6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 8
at the Campbell Community Center
155 High Street in Eugene*

One of the fun parts of growing rhododendrons is learning how to propagate them from stem cuttings and October is a great time to do that.

This year each member will be able to bring up to 7 cuttings of their own to the workshop where Terry Henderson, professional nurseryman, will explain how to trim the cuttings, dip them in rooting hormone, stick them in a 2" pot of prepared rooting mix, and carefully label them. He will then transport them to his heated propagating house where they will spend the winter creating roots made easier with bottom heat in his benches. In the spring, you will receive your 7 rooted cuttings back with instructions on how to grow them on until they are large enough to be planted in your garden.

One of the most rewarding parts of making your own cuttings is visiting the gardens of other rhododendron enthusiasts of which there are many in the Eugene Chapter. Not only do you make good friends but you have access to many quality rhododendrons that are not available in the trade - ones with unusual and interesting

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Unnamed Jim Barlup hybrid

foliage, ones that are unusual crosses, or ones that are new hybrids ready to make a splash. Several of our members have offered their rhododendrons for making cuttings, but I have also found that anyone I have asked has warmly welcomed me and taught me how to correctly make cuttings. Here are the names of a few to get you started. Jack Olson has a large collection of both hybrids and species; Leonard Frojen has many species as well as hybrids; Terry Henderson has an enormous variety of hybrids and some species all in pots; Rich Aaring has a very interesting collection of species and unusual hybrids. Feel free to contact any of these members or others to arrange a time for your own cutting party within a day or two before the October 8 meeting.

Make your cuttings 4"-6" long so they can be cut to a better length at the meeting. Place cuttings of a single kind in a baggie with a spritz of water or wrapped in a damp paper towel to keep them fresh along with a plastic plant label.

Store them in the refrigerator until the meeting.

For the meeting, bring your clippers, your cuttings (carefully labeled with the plant name as well as your name and the date taken). If you forget, don't despair. I am sure that several members will bring extra cuttings to share - gardeners are just this way.

At the meeting, 2" containers of prepared rooting material as well as the rooting hormone will be provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to do some propagation for yourself even if you don't have your own greenhouse, and rooting box with bottom heat.

In the spring, when you receive your rooted cuttings back, you will get to share in the thrill of creating new plants as well as the discouragement of realizing that some (or all) of your cuttings did not root. Then, watching the mini-plants grow for a year or two until they are ready to plant in the garden has been a very rewarding gardening experience for me.



Cookie Team

- Helen Baxter and Nancy Burns have volunteered to supply us with delectable goodies for the October 8 meeting. Thank you.
- The sign up list for the rest of the year will be available at the meeting awaiting your signatures.

From the President

September Event

I start my note by saying how wonderful a day we had for the picnic at the Fowler-Gore home. They certainly showed their lovely hospitality with the warm welcoming of our members in many aspects. We all agreed it was a very relaxing day with the temperature right for the month of September, though personally it felt a little hot. I could look at the lovely swimming pool with the fresh, clean and blue water then I felt all right.



photo by Ali Sarlak

Grace, Ed and Dena did a nice job dividing the group and taking us on a garden tour and explaining what they have been doing since moving to their new home. The most impressive that I heard from them for me was doing all the removal of plants, berries and weeds by physical hands and tools with no use of herbicides !!!



We also had visitors from four other chapters, Portland, Willamette, Siuslaw and Southwestern Oregon. I personally thank them for taking time and joining us that day.

Now for our coming general meeting, we have our nurseryman and member Terry Henderson who will be helping us on how to propagate rhododendrons by way of cuttings. It will be hands on and will be fun at the same time. I encourage everybody to attend the meeting.

Fall weather is almost among us and I love to see trees, shrubs, and all sorts of plants even rhododendrons with so many shades of colors. Nature always brings happiness in our life. The only thing is we have to recognize it and take time to appreciate what it has to offer.

Looking forward to our future programs as they are always informative and a nice gathering at the same time.

Ali Sarlak



Grace leads a garden tour

photo by Ali Sarlak

Good food and friendship enjoyed at the picnic at the home of Grace, Dena, and Ed Fowler-Gore



Carmen, Leonard, Karen, Dick, Ali, Gloria



Paula, Sandie, Jack, Anne



Ed, Gordon, Terry



Noel, Pepper, Grace, and Dena

October 8 Pre-meeting Dinner

Prior to the October chapter meeting you are invited to join us for dinner at Amici Restaurant located in the Holiday Inn at 919 Kruse Way in the Gateway area (not the Holiday Inn Express). This is a moderately priced Italian restaurant with several American dishes as well. If you want to avoid the freeways, take Coburg Rd north, right on Harlow, left on Gateway, right on Kruse Way. Or, if you are coming from Beltline or I-5, take Beltline East toward Riverbend Hospital to Hutton St (one block east of Gateway), turn right, then left on Kruse Way.

So that we may let the restaurant know how many people to expect, please RSVP to Helen Baxter by Tuesday, October 6, by e-mail at galen.baxter@comcast.net or by phone at 541-461-6082

Unusual Summer?

by Gordon Wylie

Jack Olson, in the August/September Newsletter, declared, "This is the hottest year that I can remember." A couple of days later, after one of their reporters saw Jack's comments, *The Register-Guard* on its front page headlined "You're right: It was the hottest", going on to explain the average temperature in Eugene this year, was 69.5 F between June and August, which was indeed the highest in about 120 years of record keeping. The previous high average for those three months took place over fifty years ago in 1958, producing 68.1 degrees. The article went on to describe other high averages for the three-month span took place in 2014 (67.9) and 1970 (67.6). On the other hand, if hottest is considered in terms of highest temperature, we must look back more than thirty years to August of 1981. The thermometer reached a scorching 108 degrees that year, and three or four other years have produced high temperatures greater than that in 2015.

As gardeners and thus keen students of THE WEATHER, we also know this year was warm and relatively rain free much earlier than normal. We noticed a difference as early as March, and definitely during April and May. So did our plants, with many rhododendrons putting on an early bloom show. The Friends of Hinsdale Garden became so concerned the bloom would all be over as to cancel a scheduled June open garden date, moving it back to May. The old refrain here in the Willamette Valley of never counting on dry days until after the fourth of July simply did not apply in 2015. Another, somewhat sobering statistic, is that by the first of September we experienced only about one half the normal rain for the calendar year.

Higher temperatures and less rain early on mean more work for the gardener. Those pesky weeds begin showing up sooner than usual, and we must be diligent to avoid plants drying out, particularly shallow rooted rhododendrons, which can sometimes go from looking fine to nearly or fully dead in just a few days if they dry out. And so on, but...there are also some benefits from this year's weather pattern.

Plants started growth early and, so long as properly cared for, just kept at it. Two distinct flushes of growth was not uncommon in R. Subgenus Hymenanthus, even in fairly good sized plants, and here in Creswell we had a few younger 'earlier' plants which made three growth flushes. Plants in Subgenus Rhododendron and Pentanthera made long, sometimes willowy growth; quite a few in our garden thus ended up with stakes or splints to hold up such growth until it hardened off. I must admit to missing some that flopped out horizontally and then turned up at the ends as buds sought more light.

Nor was the good growth limited to rhododendrons, with other woody plants, perennials and conifers vigorously extending their impact in the garden. For example, a fairly young but established Magnolia Elizabeth, at about six to seven feet before this year's growth, surged to gain in height by more than a third of 2 1/2 to 3 feet as the growing season

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closes out. A number of dwarf Acers grew in about the same proportions. And while it's a bit early to be sure, a walk among the plants finds many bloom buds for next year, suggesting we may have a truly glorious flowering season in 2016.

So was it an unusual Summer? Perhaps a better way of examining that query is to reframe the question: What is a usual Summer? Or even: Is there such a thing? Maybe after a few years of gardening and watching the weather we conjure up a mental 'average'; one that is never fully realized.

Gordon Wylie



Have you Remembered to Renew Your ARS Membership ?

ARS Dues remain at \$40.00 for a regular membership and \$10.00 for an associate membership (if you have a regular membership in another chapter). Please return the renewal form to Membership Secretary, Nancy Burns, by mail or at the October 8 chapter meeting.

2015 Eugene Chapter Members Handbook

The newly revised handbooks will be available at the October 8 meeting for a cost of \$2.00 to help defray the printing costs. If you would like one mailed to you let us know, though there will be an additional \$1.00 postage. 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.



Ted's Notes

- I was pleased when the Board decided to do a hands-on workshop on propagation where members would have the opportunity to do the full scope of growing a new plant starting with finding a plant they would like to propagate, taking the cuttings, doing the “sticking” in the rooting mix, and then growing on the rooted cutting in the spring. This is a great opportunity for those of us that don’t have a greenhouse with a rooting box with bottom heat to have this experience. The October 8 meeting and workshop will be a good one.
- By mid-August or 12 weeks after my surgery, I was feeling very good, had a good amount of energy, and my stamina was returning to where I could be active much of the day. This was also a time when we had family visiting in town prior to our daughter’s wedding so it was a very nice time to celebrate. For the wedding, people gathered in Oregon City at a beautiful venue



Caitlin & Dave

developed around the handsome Ainsworth house built in 1851 and surrounded by a beautiful garden. The three days of dinners, visits, and the wedding were wonderful. All of my siblings and all of Paula’s siblings were able to attend.



Carmen and Pepper at the picnic photo by Grace



Gordon and Terry photo by Grace



Helen, Ted, and Paula photo by Grace

*October 2015
Newsletter*



2016 ARS Convention
Williamsburg, Virginia
April 20-24, 2016

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015

2015

EVENT CALENDAR

2016

CHAPTER EVENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| September 13, 2015 | Potluck Picnic - <i>At the home and garden of Grace, Dena, and Ed Fowler-Gore</i> |
| October 8 | Chapter Meeting - Workshop on Propagating by Cuttings & Cutting Party |
| November 12 | Chapter Meeting - Mark Bloom |
| December 10 | Holiday Potluck Dinner
5:30 set-up; 6:00 Dinner; 7:15 members' slide show |
| January 14, 2016 | Chapter Meeting - Marietta O'Byrne on <i>Companion Plants</i> |
| February 11 | Chapter Meeting - Loren Russell on <i>Kalmiopsis</i> |
| March 10 | Chapter Meeting - Bill Hicks on <i>Lepidote Rhododendrons</i>
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 7 | Chapter Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 2:00 |
| June ?? | June Picnic, details TBA |