

# Eugene Chapter

*A m e r i c a n R h o d o d e n d r o n S o c i e t y*

## 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
Grace Fowler-Gore	2015-2018

## Committees

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

## Newsletter

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R. 'Shamrock' photo by Dick Cavender

## MARCH 2016 CHAPTER MEETING

*Thursday, March 10  
at the Campbell Community Center  
155 High Street in Eugene*

- Cookies, Coffee, and Conversation at 6:30 p.m.
- Election of President and Vice-President 7:00.
- Program at 7:10

Program: *Lepidotes for the Garden*  
Speaker: Bill Hicks



Guest speaker Bill Hicks has been an active member of the Tacoma Chapter (ARS) for over 45 years. Retiring from the Boeing Company over 20 years ago, he and his wife Carole reside in Des Moines, WA.

Lepidotes are distinguished by tiny scales, usually seen on the underside of the leaf; they also tend to have smaller flowers and leaves. Bill contends that the lepidotes are often overlooked in landscape planning and should receive more consideration for inclusion in the garden. He will describe both the diversity of the plants and the characteristics many share; beautiful foliage, hairy leaves and stems and stunning flower colors.

He will be bringing plants of his special favorites to share with the membership.

Here is an opportunity to learn more about these special Rhododendrons and how they can enhance our gardens.

## March 10 ARS Eugene Chapter Elections

The March chapter meeting is the annual business meeting at which elections for leadership positions are held. These two-year terms begin on July 1, 2016, and end on June 30, 2018. The Board has prepared the following slate of candidates:

- **President:** Terry Henderson (2016-2018) Terry has been a very active leader in the chapter for the past decade, serving several terms on the Board of Directors, taking care of the storage trailer for the chapter, supplying plants for the plant sale as well as transporting them to the fairgrounds, and spending all day Saturday selling them to the public and answering questions. For several years now, he has helped extensively with the annual Spring Rhododendron Show participating on the planning committee, transporting and assembling the truss racks, entering a good number of trusses, supplying quality foliage samples, and helping with the plants for auction. Throughout the years, he has been generous supplying us with many door prize plants for our meetings.
- **Vice-President:** Jack Olson (2016-2018) Jack is one of the chapter's long time members and throughout has been very active in the leadership, serving 3 terms as president, a number of terms as vice-president, and many terms on the Board of Directors. With his wife, Sandie, he has hosted chapter picnics at his lovely garden as well as open gardens and a few propagation workshops. Over the years, I think it is safe to say that he has propagated thousands of rhododendrons in his large greenhouse and has made many crosses naming and registering several of his hybrids. Entering well groomed trusses from his outstanding plants in various flower shows around the state has brought him many trophies and he always makes sure our show is well stocked with beautiful entries. As vice-president, he will be in charge of scheduling the programs for the year and handling the communications with the speakers.

### Board Seat:

The Board was unable to find a nominee for the two Board seats that are vacant. That leaves us with a Board of eight members which is fine for making decisions but it means that these eight shoulder more of the work of making our chapter successful. If you would like to help out, please notify Ali Sarlak or Terry Henderson. Thanks.

Has it been awhile since you looked at the chapter website?

[www.eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org)



## President's Message

### Looking for Topics

I have been thinking about what I should share this month with our rhody club since I have been writing about many topics during my presidency the last four years or so. I thought of writing about our passion with gardening. What I mean with that is “why do we bother physically working and having gardens anyway?” Why are we raising rhododendrons or any other plants in our gardens?

I think the answers are very obvious: gardening is therapeutic, creative, and exciting. When we garden, it gives us some exercise, relaxation, and happiness. Gardening is bringing happiness in human souls and minds. We garden to eat healthy foods; we do it ourselves to prevent pesticides and herbicides in our daily foods as these chemicals are life threatening and give us all sorts of diseases for which we have not found solutions. Another effect of gardening, in my personal experience, has been that, when I see new and different flowers in my yard, it gives me a smile on my face; it gives me hope for living and I love to share such moments with my neighbors, my family, and my friends.

Gardening gives us pride of who we are, shows what our interests are, and tells about our life style. By gardening, it shows why we care for our healthy environment that provides food and shelter for wildlife, birds, insects and butterflies. Gardening has proven to be beneficial to human health, human anxieties, and prevents many diseases. As people, we enjoy the arts,

plants, trees, flowers, and many other aspects of gardening adding good meaning to our life.

So, this topic brings me to a close and I might suggest to all gardeners and rhody lovers that you are not only helping yourself but you are showing to your families, friends, neighbors, and, in fact, the whole world that we all care for each other and that it is our responsibility to keep our world safe, productive, and more humanitarian for the generations to come. I do my share and you should too. We take pride in our gardens.

After the Board meeting on February 4, I went to Hendricks Park to see what rhodys were in bloom. I happened to see Emily Aune, the head gardener, working with one of the volunteers and she identified two good sized plants that were in bloom. One was *Rhododendron ririei* and the other was *Rhododendron mucronulatum*. I also enjoyed seeing a very nice orange colored *Hamamelis jelena*. Of course, I mentioned to Emily and her volunteers about our meeting coming up soon in case they would like to attend.



*R. ririei* at Hendricks Park

photo by Ali Sarlak



*R. mucronulatum* at Hendricks Park photo by Ali Sarlak



*Hamamelis jelena* photo by Ali Sarlak

(President's Message continued from p. 3)

I would like to thank our newer members, Grace and Ed Fowler-Gore, who are stepping in and filling some gaps on our Board which I appreciate. We need every member to think of his or her interests in the rhododendron society and find a way to contribute. We do have responsibilities for

the organization. Thanks for your contributions.

*Ali Sarlak*

**Cookie Team:**

- **Terry Henderson and Helen Baxter have volunteered to supply us with treats for our tummies at the March 10 meeting. Thanks in advance.**
- **Also, special thanks go to Grace and Helen for the February 11 goodies.**



**2016 Chapter Membership Directory**

Printed copies of the 2016 Chapter Membership Directory will be available at the March 10 meeting. We ask for a \$1.00 donation to help defray chapter expenses. All members with an e-mail address will also receive an electronic copy via e-mail. We hope this helps you stay in contact with friends.

## ***2016 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet***

Save the Date!

April 9th, 2016 is our annual 2016 Spring Flower Show. Come enjoy an evening of flowers, friends and food! Bring your blooming flower trusses and sprays to the Hilton Garden Inn (3528 Gateway St. in Springfield). Join us for an evening dedicated to rhododendrons.

The fun starts in the afternoon. Entries will be accepted 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Voting starts at 5:00. The winners will be announced prior to a delicious buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is \$30 per person, including gratuity. The bar will open at 4:00 p.m. again this year. Throughout the evening there are great opportunities to add

to your plant collection with both auctions and a raffle.

Bob Zimmerman will be our speaker this year. Bob is the owner of Chimacum Nursery on the Olympic Peninsula and an ardent collector of Rhododendron species. He has travelled the world collecting seed from wild rhododendron populations with the hopes of preserving the gene pool for future generations. We will share more information about his program in the April Newsletter.

Mark the date, April 9th, to enjoy great food, fabulous flowers, new plants, and, most importantly, the camaraderie of your friends at the annual Spring Flower Show!

*Submitted by Sherlyn Hilton & the Show Committee*



A very striking photo of a Great Blue Heron by Ali Sarlak taken on a walk in Finley Wildlife Refuge

### **Rhododendron ‘Shamrock’**

Here is a small rhododendron that all of you will have room for at the front of a border and it will be blooming just in time for St. Patrick’s Day. Being a cross between *R. keiskei* dwarf form and *R. hanceanum* ‘Nanum’ we can be assured it will be small reaching a height of about 1’ in 10 years and about 2’ wide. It is hardy to -5° F. and is rated as 3-4 in flower and 4 in foliage and is a nice compact plant. As you might guess, the flower color is a chartreuse yellow as you can see in the photos on p. 1 of this newsletter. It is somewhat of a local hybrid introduced by Dr. Robert Ticknor from Oregon State University in 1978. Plant it along with a dwarf blue-purple rhododendron such as *R. ‘Ramapo’* that blooms at the same time for a striking combo.

## 2017 ARS Spring Convention Rhododendrons in the Redwoods

Mark your calendar now for **April 27 through 30, 2017** for the American Rhododendron Society's annual spring Convention. The Eureka Chapter will host the convention which will bring visitors to world famous Humboldt County, California from across the nation, Canada, and around the world.

For many seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must see 'bucket list', as is the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill the home of the Smith/Mossman expedition *Rhododendron occidentale* azaleas.

The Red Lion <http://www.redlion.com/eureka> will be our host hotel with a wonderful rate of \$99 per night per room for the duration of the convention with that rate being extended for visitors coming before or staying after the convention. The rate will include airport shuttle and breakfast. In addition to the hotel's restaurant there are many restaurants within easy walking distance.

The new Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue. Visitors can walk to the conference center or drive as there is plenty of off-street parking.

The Convention Committee is working on getting world-class speakers and having tours to highlight the natural beauty of Eureka and Humboldt County as well as public gardens, private gardens and nurseries.

We hope to welcome all of our Rhodo friends to our piece of heaven with the world.

For more information call or email June Walsh, 707-443-0604 or [RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net](mailto:RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net) or on the Web at <http://EurekaRhody.org/>.

### Siuslaw Chapter ARS

Early Show

April 16-17

Mark your calendars for a fun day trip to the coast to see this wonderful show of early blooming rhododendrons at the Florence Events Center.



## RHODODENDRON & DAFFODIL SHOW AND SALE

AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN



**SATURDAY, April 2nd - SUNDAY, April 3rd**  
**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

### Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

will host the

**Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Daffodil Society's Annual Show and Sale**

The garden is located at:

**5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland**

**Free Admission**

Sale starts at 9:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday  
Show opens at 12:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday

**TO ENTER YOUR OWN FLOWERS** in the show bring them to the exhibit hall  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.



### Garnish Your Garden!

This year, Saturday only, artists from Crackedpots will be there to sell garden art made from upcycled materials. Reuse is at the heart of what we do. Come check them out from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM April 2nd**.  
[crackedpots.org](http://crackedpots.org)

More information: [www.crystalspringsgarden.org](http://www.crystalspringsgarden.org) or 503 771-8386

Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

## Ted's Notes

• Last week I noticed that the weather for three consecutive days in Boston, where my sister lives, was a high of 12° and low of -9° but clear, a high of 35° and low of 4° with snow, and a high of 54° and low of 31° with rain. I thought about those poor plants in the gardens and then looked out the window to see many plants blooming and feeling like spring. Once again, I was so glad to be living in the Pacific Northwest. With many days of nice weather this February, Paula and I have been getting out in the garden often and enjoying seeing so many of our plants beginning to awaken from the winter dormancy. In fact, some plants like the winter aconites are finished with their bloom cycle and Rhododendron 'Seta' is certainly past its peak. However, after a slow start, R. 'Christmas Cheer' is in full bloom with its dainty, frilly light pink flowers in small trusses some of which have the darker pink of the still expanding buds. Tucked into the woodland section of the garden, *R. erubescens* (or *R. oreodoxa* var. *fargesii*) is at its best this year with an abundance of bright rose pink blossoms. R. 'Rose Elf', R. 'Cilpenense', R. 'Pink Snowflakes', and *R. racemosum* are all in full bloom as well, with R. 'Ptarmigan', R. 'Snow Lady', and *R. lutescens* having opened some of their trusses. Throughout the garden, the hellebores are at their peak with some of the newer varieties having wonderful colors ranging from yellow to tones of pink to dark purples and some have double flowers. What can be cheerier than the bright yellow of clumps of daffodils on the edges of the woodland or the crocuses opening wide and facing toward the sun, at least on sunny days,?



• I am hoping that some of you are considering the task of being the chapter newsletter editor so I think it is a good idea to continue to discuss what it entails. Once you find a satisfactory template for the newsletter in a publishing program, you will modify it to fit the information you want for our chapter. One of the features that I like about the template that I chose is that I can easily replace the photo in the title box with a different rhododendron photo each month. The rest of the template stays pretty much the same and I only need to replace the text box for the information about the upcoming meeting. On succeeding pages, the only part of the template that stays the same is the black bar at the top though I do have to change the date. The rest of the page is comprised of a set of text boxes of various sizes to fit the information that needs to be communicated. On my program, there are several choices for the borders of a text box though I sometimes wish I had a larger selection.

As an editor, one has to decide what kind of information might be of interest to the readers, so one has to think ahead to what will be happening in the chapter in the near future and write appropriate articles or ask other chapter members to do a particular article. Also, when other people submit articles, there is a certain amount of editing needed to fix errors in spelling or grammar without affecting the author's style in order to make the article read smoothly. The newsletter editors in the six Oregon ARS chapters are good about sharing the newsletters with each other and allowing each other to use articles for publication. You might wonder about how much time this job entails, so, for me, I would estimate that each edition requires about 10-12 hours to complete. Let me know if you have more questions. Thanks.

*Ted*

*March 2016  
Newsletter*



**2016 ARS Convention**

Williamsburg, Virginia  
April 20-24, 2016

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

2015

**EVENT CALENDAR**

2016

**CHAPTER EVENTS:**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| March 10        | Chapter Meeting - Bill Hicks on <i>Lepidote Rhododendrons</i><br><b>Annual Business Meeting with Elections</b>         |
| <b>March 17</b> | <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>   |
| April 9         | 2016 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield<br>Speaker: Bob Zimmerman      Topic: TBA    |
| April 20-24     | 2016 ARS Convention, Williamsburg, VA - <a href="http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org">www.arsasaconvention2016.org</a> |
| May 7           | Chapter Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 2:00   |
| June ??         | June Picnic, details TBA   |

**September 30 - October 2**

**2016 Western Regional Rhododendron Conference**  
**Agate Beach Best Western Hotel, Newport OR**

Click for a great video: <https://youtu.be/nUGRWXdoppU>