

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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Elisabeth Miller Garden, Seattle

And the Winners are...

At the 2016 Spring Rhododendron Show on April 9 at the Hilton Garden Inn, there were 193 entries in the show and the winners in the 7 categories for trophies were:

- **Best Azalea** 'Koromo Shikibu'
entered by Harold Greer
- **Best Red Elepidote** 'Leo' x 'Jutland'
entered by Dennis/Valerie McKiver
- **Best Pink Elepidote** 'Noyo Brave'
entered by Jack Olson
- **Best White/Yellow Elepidote** 'Carnelian Candy'
entered by Dennis/Valerie McKiver
- **Best Other-Colored Elepidote** 'Horizon Jubilee'
entered by Dennis/Valerie McKiver
- **Best Lepidote** 'Kalista'
entered by Dennis/Valerie McKiver
- **Best Species** *R. benhalli*
entered by Gordon Wylie

Special thanks go to those of you who brought so many trusses and sprays to share with us what is blooming in your gardens. The 193 entries were the most we have had since changing our spring show to the current format. In 2015, there were 155 entries and, in 2014, there were 157 entries. A special feature of this format is seeing so many people looking carefully at the entries and discussing the individual trusses or sprays. What a pleasant way to spend the afternoon before dinner.

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It is always fun to welcome guests and some of our associate members from out of town and this year we enjoyed meeting Dennis and Valerie McKiver from the Noyo Chapter in Fort Bragg, CA, where Dennis serves as chapter president. It's always good to see Mike Bones from the Siuslaw Chapter, Jack and Wanda Hackett from the Southwestern Oregon Chapter, Anne Gross and Steve Krasik from the Willamette Chapter, and Mark and Val Bloom. Of course, it was also good to welcome Bob and Beth Zimmerman back to Eugene.

Bob brought a number of special species from Chimacum Woods Nursery for us to use in the auction and Terry Henderson brought several new hybrids from Log Cabin Nursery, so we had a spirited auction as part of the fun evening.

Bob also spoke about why we should be growing more species rhododendrons in our gardens and showed many fine pictures taken on his plant hunting trips to the Himalayas in his program.

What a great spring celebration.



These four photos by Grace Fowler-Gore





Photo by Ali Sarlak



Best Pink - R. 'Novo Brave' Photo by Grace Fowler-Gore



Photo by Grace Fowler-Gore



Photo by Ali Sarlak

June Chapter Picnic

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 5 (note change of date), for the annual early summer picnic at the home of Terry and Jeanette Henderson, 3820 Hayden Bridge Road in Springfield. Come at 11:00 to visit and wander the area along the McKenzie River. We will eat about noon. About 1:00 we will have a potting party to pot up the cuttings that you rooted at the chapter meeting last October as well as cuttings for Hinsdale Garden. More details will follow around June 1.

What's in Bloom in Your Garden by Ted Hewitt

Here we are at the perfect time of spring with the fresh greens being bright and many perennials and shrubs being in full bloom. So let's look at a few of the special plants around the garden.

- *Rhododendron* 'Trude Webster'. This large shrub is a real "doer" year after year with large, rich pink trusses with up to 14 flowers per truss. Now about 9' tall and 9' wide, the larger of our two plants is a handsome sight from the house and parts of the garden. Hybridized by Harold Greer in 1960 as a cross of 'Countess of Derby' x 'Countess of Derby' this plant was the first winner of the American Rhododendron Society's Superior Plant Award and continues to warrant a place in a larger garden.



- *R. qiaojiaense*. Now here is a new species for many of you. Bob Zimmerman says it is pronounced like "chow-ja-en-se". It is a relatively new introduction to horticulture and is in Subsection Fortunea and is most likely related to *R. decorum*. It bloomed for the first time for us this year with pale violet trusses that become a light



pink and then fade back to violet in the evening light. It is found growing in Qiaoshan in the northeast part of Yunnan province.

- *R.* 'Cookie' is an old timer that I find a beautiful addition to the garden. It came to us as a gift from Galen Baxter several years ago and has been quietly growing into its space until this year when it has been covered with blossoms for a month. The last of the buds are just now opening while the first ones are now gone. Large trusses are formed by very large flowers that are a light rose spotted with maroon and having a maroon throat. Listed as 4' in 10 years ours is now about 6' tall and staking out its place in the garden. It was hybridized by Del James who named it after his friend Alleyne Cook, head gardener at Stanley Park in Vancouver, BC, from 1967-1980, though it was not registered until 1980.



- Though not blooming in our garden, this is one of my favorite vignettes of color, shape, and texture.



Ted's Notes

- It is with a great deal of pleasure that I can announce that Grace Fowler-Gore has offered to assume the job of newsletter editor for the chapter starting with the August/September edition. Though Grace is a relatively new member of the chapter, she has learned a great deal about the chapter as an active member. Being a board member will allow her to know what is taking place with the chapter and to be current on events. I am sure she will appreciate any articles that you can write and submit to her, making the newsletter a project of the whole chapter.
- Also, Ed Fowler-Gore will be assuming the role of webmaster for the chapter in July. In June, he and I will meet to work out the logistics as we will no longer be using the software provided by GoDaddy.com. Grace and Ed certainly deserve our appreciation for their efforts.
- Over the years, one of the things that Paula and I have enjoyed doing together is visiting gardens, both private and public. However, it is with the private gardens that we enjoy seeing how the garden reflects the personality of the gardener. At conferences, there are often open gardens to visit and usually these gardens have some degree of distinction. Several years ago, the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group started a program where a few members would open their garden to other members on some weekend in the spring, often in June. This was quite successful so the program was modified to where

volunteers could open their garden at any time during the year and the HPG would provide the publicity. Though it has grown slowly, now there is often at least one garden open each week from April through June and occasionally during the other months. Paula and I have found this to be a very enjoyable experience, both visiting other gardens and opening our garden, as it is a chance to meet other members and to see how the gardens reflect the owners. One thing that we enjoy is that we can open our garden rather on the spur of the moment when we expect the weather to be good and the garden to be looking good. A couple of weeks ago, when the weather was so nice and the rhododendrons were nearing peak bloom, we decided to open the garden for a Saturday afternoon so notified the HPG president who sent out the invitation with a description of the garden and directions. Throughout the afternoon there were people enjoying the garden and we got to visit with nearly all of them. Some stayed for half an hour, others for an hour or more. Many had questions about particular plants or general comments about what they liked, such as the new growth of the hostas. Gardens change so much from spring to fall and even from week to week that it is enjoyable to see the same garden multiple times through any given year, but, certainly from a rhododendron point of view, it is hard to beat that time from mid-April to mid-June.

Ted

Newsletter photos by Ted Hewitt
unless credited otherwise.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Annual Spring Sale

Each spring the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, WA, sponsors a plant sale and invites over 25 vendors from around the Pacific Northwest to bring their best plants to sell to the public. This is a marvelous event at which to find special plants to add to your garden or collection. This year Terry Henderson brought a variety of blooming hybrids from Log Cabin Nursery. Bob Zimmerman offered many of his special species rhododendrons from Chimacum Woods Nursery, and, of course, Dennis Bottemiller had many of his young rhododendrons from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden for sale. In addition to rhododendrons, there were many small nurseries that offered a large variety of unusual and special plants for sale to raise funds for the the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. Attending the sale also allows one to see the RSBG at its very best in April when many of the species rhododendrons are blooming. Now is a good time to put this on your calendar for next April.

Over the Back Fence with Terry

by Terry Henderson

Jack Olson and I took a load of plants to the RSF plant sale the week of April 16th. The weather was great and so was the sale. I think they set a new Friday sales record. People seem to be hungry for plants. which bodes well for our sale coming up at the Fairgrounds. On the down side, I'm not sure how many plants I will have left with flowers. We will find something I'm sure but I don't think Crystal Springs will get a shipment this year.

The June picnic is still on at my place along with a transplanting party. More to come later. Probably should tell the wife sometime, but not yet!

A few things I have heard over the years that make me wonder how we survive.

“What is the name of that plant”. Henry's Red. “What color is it”.

Standing out in the middle of my field, they ask if that plant can take full sun.

A lady asks if a certain plant would work by her entryway. I ask “what exposure does it have?”. The reply was “everyone will see it”.

“Do you have any plants that get 4 foot and stay that size”.

Places to Go and Things to Do

- May 6** **10:00 -3:00 Set-Up for the plant sale** at the Fairgrounds. Volunteers may also shop.
- May 7** **9:00-2:00 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds. We are a vendor at this sale and earn a large part of our chapter budget here.**
- May 7 & 8 11:00-4:00 Cecil & Molly Smith Garden open each weekend through May 22.
- May 7 & 8 ARS Portland Chapter Mothers Day Show and Plant Sale, Crystal Springs.
- May 10 6:30 p.m. WVHPG Meeting, Campbell Center, Eugene.
 Speaker: Thomas Johnson, *Shade Perennials*
- May 15 1:00 p.m. Rhododendron Walk in Hendricks Park with **Jack Olson**. Meet at Picnic Shelter.
- May 20 & 21 Rhododendron Species Symposium at the RSBG, Federal Way, WA.
- May 21 & 22 ARS Siuslaw Chapter Late Show, Florence Events Center, Florence.
- June 5 Chapter Potluck Picnic at the home of Terry and Jeanette Henderson
 3820 Hayden Bridge Road, Springfield. Come at 11:00 and we will eat about
 noon. Potting event after lunch. More details later.

MOTHER'S DAY SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SHOW OPENS

12:00 PM

SATURDAY

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN

will be at peak bloom time. Come and join us to view the garden.

There is a **JUDGED FLOWER SHOW** in the Exhibit Hall and a big **PLANT SALE** in the front parking lot.

COMPETITION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.

TO ENTER YOUR OWN RHODODENDRON TRUSSES IN THE SHOW, bring them to the Exhibit Hall
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

The garden is located at: **5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland** across from Reed College.

Questions about rhododendron care and culture?
Ask the **MASTER GARDENERS** who will have a table in the sale yard.

More information: www.crystalspringsgarden.org or 503 771-8386

Presented by
The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

Hendricks Park Walk

At 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, Jack Olson will lead a walk through the Rhododendron Garden of Hendricks Park. This is an activity sponsored by the Friends of Hendricks Park and a donation of \$3 per person is suggested.

As a long time member of the Eugene Chapter of the ARS, Jack is very knowledgeable about rhododendrons and has hybridized several as well. He has a large collection of rhododendrons in his garden in Fall Creek.

*May 2016
Newsletter*



2016 ARS Western Regional
Newport, Oregon
September 30 - October 2, 2016

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

2015

EVENT CALENDAR

2016

CHAPTER EVENTS:

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|-----------------|---|
| May 6 | Set-up for the plant sale. Lane County Fairgrounds, 10:00-3:00 |
| May 7 | Chapter Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 2:00 |
| May 15 | Walk in the Rhododendron Garden in Hendricks Park with Jack Olson
1:00 p.m. Meet at the picnic shelter |
| June 5 | June Picnic, Home of Terry and Jeanette Henderson, 11:00 - 3:00 |
| Sept 30 - Oct 2 | ARS Western Regional Conference, Newport, Oregon |

2016 Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

Agate Beach Best Western Hotel, Newport OR

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