

# 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

### • Editor

Ted Hewitt 541-687-8119  
email: [ted.hewitt@comcast.net](mailto:ted.hewitt@comcast.net)

### • Printing & Mailing

Harold Greer 541-686-1540  
email:  
[hgreer@greergardens.com](mailto:hgreer@greergardens.com)

### • Webmaster

Ted Hewitt 541-687-8119



R. 'Bruce Brechtbill'

## SUMMER PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

*at the home of*

*Terry & Jeanette Henderson  
3820 Hayden Bridge Road  
in Springfield.*

- Come at 11:00 a.m. to visit and to see the nursery or wander along the McKenzie River.
- We will eat about Noon.
- At 1:00 p.m. we will have a potting activity in the work area to pot up your plants that you made as cuttings at the October meeting as well as some plants for the Hinsdale Garden. Then you can take your plants home to grow on until they are ready to be planted in your garden.

### Please bring:

- A dish to share (main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert) with a serving utensil. Should serve 10-12 people.
- Your own dishes, silverware, napkins and your beverage of choice.
- Your own chair.

The picnic will be set up in the shade or in a greenhouse if it rains and no kitchen facilities will be available. However, a bathroom is available. Because of the potting activity, there will not be the traditional plant exchange.

(Continued on p. 2)

(Continued from p. 1)

### **Driving Directions to the June 5 Picnic**

- From Eugene, take I-105/Hwy 126 east to Springfield
- Exit at 42nd Street and turn left onto 42nd St.
- At the T-junction turn right onto Marcola Road for 0.4 mile
- Turn left onto Hayden Bridge Road (across from the Child Center)
- After 0.4 mile, look for a small sign 3820 partially hidden by a peony on the right side.
- Turn right into Terry's driveway and continue through the nursery to the house.
- Unload your chairs and food, etc. and then return to the east end of the nursery to park.
- There are a few parking spaces at the west end for those who need to be close to the picnic.
- If you get lost, Terry's cell phone is 541-953-9316

### ***For the Love of Rhododendrons...and Other Good Friends***

#### **34th Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport, Oregon September 30 - October 2, 2016**

The six chapters of ARS District 4 again welcome you to the Best Western Agate Beach Inn for another great conference featuring outstanding speakers from around the world and across the nation.

After the welcome dinner on Friday evening, there is a program which highlights rhododendrons from around the world.

Saturday morning seminars will educate us on propagation, how to select rhododendrons, and wonderful companion plants to go with our rhododendrons.

Saturday night will feature Don Hyatt, an outstanding and well-known speaker from Virginia, plus a sight and sound program called *Rhododendrons, Up Close and Personal*, which will make you look at rhododendrons in a different way. This promises to be a delightful and entertaining way to end the evening.

Sunday morning will round out the educational seminars before ending the conference with a continuation of Friday night's theme of seeing and learning about rhododendrons from around the world. You will not want to miss these last programs, which complete our world tour of *For the Love of Rhododendrons...and Other Good Friends...* Watch the July ARS Journal for registration details.

## President's Message

What a beautiful rhody season!

In my mind, this spring has been the most beautiful season for our rhododendrons with cool temperatures and every so often some rain showers which all the plants need.

I had a very busy month between attending the ARS Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, and hosting our visitors from Japan.

Our visitors, Hideo and Kimiyo Matsukawa, and Gloria, my wife, and I have visited many rhododendron gardens and they all were beautiful. Even to our surprise, we stayed at Otter Crest Resort in Otter Rock, Oregon, and we were so surprised with the display of large rhododendrons on the grounds. The grounds are beautiful and the plants are almost 50 years old with a variety of colors. I didn't expect such a showcase at the resort.

Like most of us, we all, in our life, have many stories to tell if someone wants to listen. Here is one of mine. Years ago I took a load of debris to our dump site and, while I was there, someone came with a load of plants to get rid of and they happened to be my favorite plants - rhododendrons. I felt it was a shame to see these plants thrown in the garbage so I picked up at least three of them and planted them in my yard.

Now Rhododendron 'Cadis' happens to be one my favorite plants in our yard and is 12 feet high and 6 feet wide. It is a beautiful plant with lovely color on the stump and bark. I love the form and shape as a landscape plant also.

Another rhody, which is the tallest in our yard, didn't come from the dump but I just want to remark on its height and shape. It is R. 'Seville' (Lady Chamberlain's) and is 20 feet high, such an outstanding plant.

A final word, as the outgoing president of the Eugene chapter, is "It was an interesting journey to work with our board and I wish them all the luck." Now, Terry Henderson will be taking over and I wish him good luck also.

Don't forget we have our potluck coming on June 5 at Terry's and his wife's place and I hope everyone can attend

So long,

*Ali Sarlak*



R. 'Cadis'

photo by Ali Sarlak

## You Are Invited to an *Almost* Summer Solstice Potluck!

Mark Saturday, June 18th, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on your calendars to celebrate the third annual solstice party at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and nursery. **Portland Chapter members and members of all the chapters in District 4 are invited.** Gathering time is 1:00 PM followed by meal time at 1:30 PM. We will supply the meat entrée, beverages, plates, cups and utensils. Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert to round out the meal.

*Thanks to a very generous donation from Debra and Jeff Cheyne, a special presentation will take place at 3:00 PM. They have arranged for a Birds of Prey demonstration as part of the day's activities! This is a unique opportunity to experience raptors out in the open air.*

You are also welcome to walk through our nursery and garden after the meal. The rhododendrons and companion plants are labeled and we enjoy talking about our plants, too. Our home and Dover Nursery is located 5 miles southeast of the town of Sandy. We have plenty of indoor space for eating, so if the weather is rainy, don't let that keep you from joining in the fun. We are looking forward to having you as our guests on June 18th! ***Please RSVP to 503-668-3522, so we can plan food and seating.***

### **Directions to Mike and Maria's home, 42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd., Sandy, OR:**

- From the last signal light in the city of Sandy, take U.S. 26 east out of town, for 2 miles.
- Exit right onto Firwood Road. The landmark at this exit is a gas station/store combination called Shorty's.
- Go 3/4 of a mile on Firwood Road and then turn right at the 4-way intersection at the top of the hill. There is a Dover Nursery sign on a utility pole pointing right at this intersection. There is also a Dover Community Church sign pointing right at this intersection. This right turn will keep you on Firwood Road.
- Go 2 1/2 miles further on Firwood Road until you get to a 4-way stop at the intersection of Wildcat Mountain Drive and Firwood Road.
- Cross over Wildcat Mt. Drive and take the middle road, which is Kleinsmith Road. It goes slightly to the left and down the hill. There is also a sign pointing to the Dover Nursery at this intersection. Our home and nursery is 0.8 of a mile more on Kleinsmith Rd., on the left side, across from the Dover Community Church. **503-668-3522**

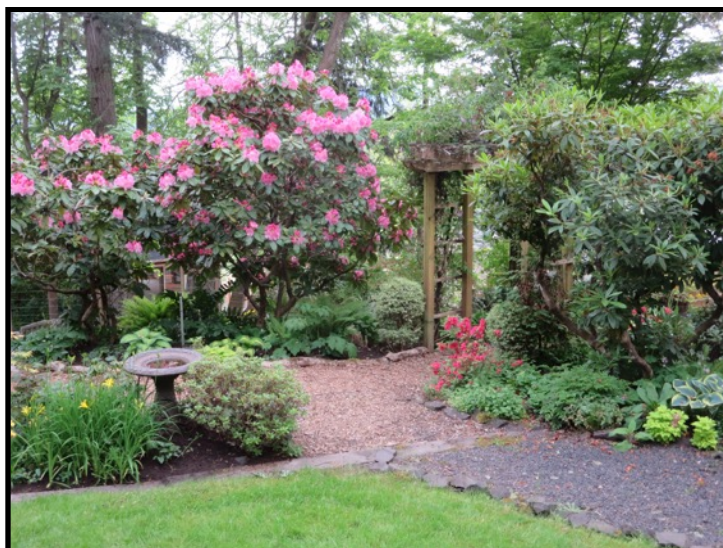
## Ted's Notes

- With the close of this program year coming soon, Ali's second term as chapter president is also ending. I want to thank Ali for his service to the chapter as president. Over the decades since the chapter was formed, very few people have served more than one term as president. Thank you Ali.
- On July 1 Terry will assume the role of president for the next two years and Jack will become the vice-president, being in charge of handling the communications with the program speakers. Both have served the chapter for a considerable length of time and continue to give to the chapter. Thank you Terry and Jack.
- Beginning with the August/September edition of the newsletter, Grace will assume the editorship with her excellent computer skills and photography which go hand in hand. We all can make her job easier by submitting an occasional article, be it a paragraph or a page, of something dealing with why we garden or about plants we love. Thank you Grace.
- In July, Ed will take over the reins of the chapter website with his experienced skills as webmaster of several different websites. Be sure to keep your eye on the website and look for changes. Thank you Ed.
- Certainly the leadership of the chapter is in good hands with the board of directors. Please keep in mind what you can be doing to help the board members in continuing to make the Eugene chapter a viable and active chapter. Thank you Terry, Jack, Sherlyn, Nancy, Ali, Helen, Gordon, and Grace.
- In September, ARS District 4 (the six Oregon chapters) will again be hosting the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport so we will be asking for your

help in one of several areas. Harold and Nancy are again teaming with Mike and Maria Stewart as co-chairs of the conference bringing considerable experience to this task. We look forward to another wonderful conference with an educational program with great speakers, seminars, plant sale, food, and time for visiting with our friends from around the region and the world.

- With the mild winter and the great bud set from last summer, the early and prolific bloom of rhododendrons in our gardens, our neighbors' gardens, Hendricks Park, and throughout the region this spring was indeed memorable. And now, at least in our garden, the show is over and the deadheading continues, though the color and texture of the new leaves is something to marvel at for the next few months. Mixed among the rhododendrons, we have a variety of ferns ranging from small to large that vary greatly in the texture and shape of the fronds and now, in the spring, the bright green color of the new fronds as they uncurl is so interesting.

*Ted*



R. 'Trude Webster' in Hewitt garden



Sarlak garden view

photo by Ali Sarlak



R. 'Avalanche' in Hendricks Park



*R. sanguinem* var. *sanguineum* Rock #6 in Hewitt garden

Newsletter photos are by Ted Hewitt unless indicated otherwise.

## A Species for Beautiful Foliage and Flowers: *R. tsariense*

By Maria Stewart, ARS Portland Chapter

As it is an early spring bloomer, you will be able to enjoy the white with light pink flowers of *R. tsariense* in April. Following the flowers, this species puts on a second show of new foliage. These new leaves are covered with changing colors of white to fawn indumentum and are white on their undersides. They contrast perfectly with the established leaves that are dark green on their topsides with dense and dark cinnamon-brown indumentum on the undersides. Once the new leaves become established, you can appreciate, also, the compact structure and the slow-growing habit of *R. tsariense*. This species is a good choice for smaller gardens.

Here is more information about *R. tsariense*:

- Classification: Subgenus *Hymenanthes*; Section *Hymenanthes*; Subsection *Lanata*; Species *tsariense*.
- It is an elepidote. This is a variable species and includes the Poluninii Group and the Trimoense Group. Differences are seen in the size of the leaves and the color of the indumentum in these two groups.
- Distribution in the wild: SE Tibet, Arunchal Pradesh, Eastern Bhutan at 10,000 to 14,500 feet. Found in conifer and rhododendron forests and on open hillsides, cliffs.
- Origin of its name: derived from the area of Tsari in SE Tibet.
- Flowers: white, flushed pink, often with crimson spots; bell-shaped; 1 1/2 inches long; held in loose trusses of 3-4.
- Foliage: dark green on topsides with dense, dark cinnamon-brown indumentum on undersides; 2 1/2 inches long.
- Structure: broadly upright and slow-growing; well-branched; 3 feet tall in 10 years.
- Hardiness: 15 degrees F.
- Siting in your garden: **needs well-drained soil**; filtered sunlight to protect the early blooms.

*Published with permission from Maria Stewart.*



*R. tsariense* photo curtesy of Jens Birck via [hirsutum.info](http://hirsutum.info)



*R. tsariense* photo by Jens Birck from Maria Stewart

*June 2016  
Newsletter*



**2017 ARS Convention**

Eureka, California

April 27-30, 2017

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016

2015

**EVENT CALENDAR**

2016

**CHAPTER EVENTS:**

June 5            June Picnic at the home of Terry & Jeanette Henderson, 3820 Hayden Bridge Road in Springfield. Come at 11:00 a.m., potluck lunch at noon, potting activity at 1:00 p.m. See p.1 for details.

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>