

October Rhododendron Society meeting Wednesday, October 18th at The Springs. Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.

The History of Greer Gardens and Rhododendrons by Harold Greer

For more than 60 years Greer Gardens has existed, first as a hobby of my father and then growing to a full blown mail order nursery, shipping plants around the world and employing up to 40 people. This happened when I decided that this was my life passion after the death of my father in 1972. The program will show with graphic pictures (some very old and faded) the property that is now The Springs at Greer Gardens, as it developed through the years. And even a few pictures of Greer Gardens when it existed as a house and an extra lot in the River Road area.

For residents of The Springs, it is a chance to learn about this property and its history, plus see some of the beautiful plants that are part of Greer Gardens and were developed here. Many are now known around the world. We guarantee you will hear some facts that you will want to know.

Pre-Meeting Dinner RSVP

Please contact **Harold Greer** by phone at 541-554-2342 or by e-mail at hgreer@greergardens.com, so that Harold can let the staff at The Springs know how many will be in our party.

Message from the President:

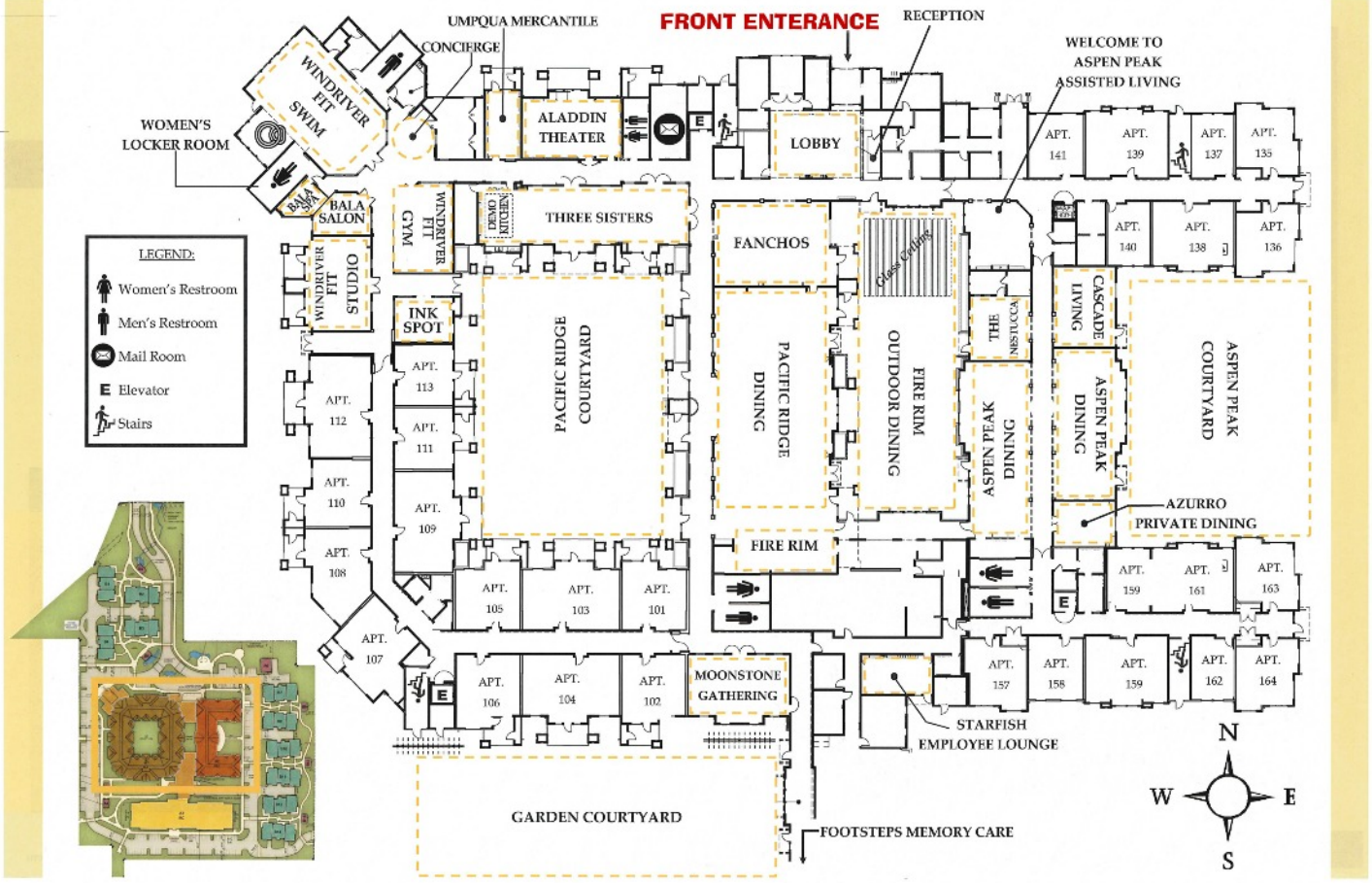
Now that the smoke has cleared, I see it's time for another year of meetings. It was a long hot summer and I think most of us are looking forward to a little cooler weather. In another couple of months we will be complaining it's too cold.

If you haven't been to The Springs at Greer Gardens, you're in for a real treat. It is a first class operation and I think our meetings there will feel more visitor friendly. We will have our pre-meeting dinner there in October and make a decision on using them for all dinners in the future.

Harold has put together our speakers and came up with an idea that will be great for our flower show. Instead of having to take down the racks on a full stomach, we will leave them up for The Springs to view and take them down Sunday at our leisure.

See you on the third Wednesday of October.

Terry Henderson jentersruger@aol.com



The Springs at Greer Gardens Layout

Dinner will probably be in the Pacific Ridge Dining (it is possible that we might be served in one of the private dining areas if there are enough people). The meeting will be in Threes Sisters or possibly the Aladdin Theater or both. When people come in the FRONT ENTRANCE, there will be someone and/or signs directing people where to go, so no worries for people attending.

**Looking forward
to seeing you,
your family and
your friends.**

**We appreciate
them joining in
our fun!**

October 18th is our first Chapter Meeting at our wonderful new location The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, Oregon.

We look forward to starting the year with all of our members in attendance enjoying each others company in a beautiful venue with comfortable new chairs while listening to Harold.

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune



This month, the long awaited McCready Arbor repair was completed. This arbor was one of the many wounded from this winter's ice storm. A large oak branch fell on this arbor and a nearby park light and damaged several cross beams on the arbor. The list of repairs is long, but thanks to the City of Eugene's planning department who hired Oregon Woods to do the repair, we have a brand new arbor made of Alaskan Yellow Cedar. The original arbor was a donation in memory of Gladys Wilkins McCready. A bronze



plaque on the base of the structure reads her name, followed by 1895-1990 and "Historian of early Eugene". I did not know her story, but couldn't help but notice the name Wilkins correlating with the F.M. Wilkins shelter at Hendricks Park. With some research, I verified there is indeed a correlation. Francis Marion Wilkins was her father, and the former Mayor of Eugene. During his service from 1905-1907, he was responsible for the first paved street, and for the purchase of the first parkland in Eugene. That purchase was half of the eighty acres that is now Hendricks Park (the other half was purchased by the Hendricks family). When the shelter was built in 1938, it was dedicated to F.M. Wilkins on his 90th birthday. Francis and his wife, Emily had four daughters. Gladys, Lucia, Nina and Maude. Gladys was a graduate from the University of Oregon, and an editor for the Eugene Morning Register. Three of the sisters, including Gladys co-authored "The Story of Eugene", published in 1949, it is an early history book of Eugene. The arbor was built in her name in 1995. If anyone still has connections to the family members or knows more of the history, feel free to contact me. It remains a beautiful seating area, just off the main garden loop trail.

Emily Aune is the Lead Gardener at the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. You can come volunteer to weed, prune mulch or water Tuesday mornings from 9am-noon March-October. Call 541-510-4636 for questions.



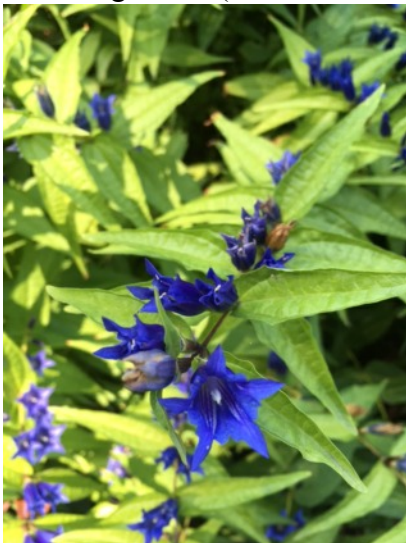
Corrections :

In last month's newsletters addition there was a mix up with the photo and the related captions. For anyone looking for more specific plant titles to last month's photos, these were the captions meant to be below the photos.

- Hedychium coccineum 'Tara' (Ginger Lily)
- Gentian asclepiadea (Willow Gentian)
- Vitex agnus-castus (Chaste Tree)
- Hydrangea macrophylla normalis (lacecap hydrangea)
- Schizostylis coccinea 'Sunrise' with Oak leaf Hydrangea in the background (that one was correct)



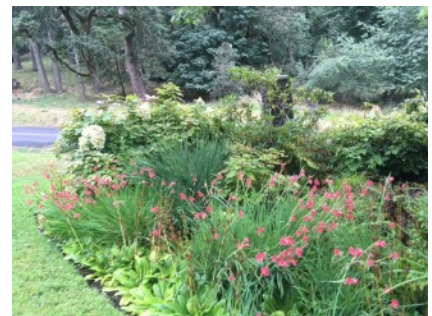
Hedychium



Gentian



Vitex



Schizostylis coccinea 'Sunrise' with Oak leaf Hydrangea in the background



Hydrangea



Photo-Grace Fowler-Gore

Photos By Emily Aune

Thank you to our chefs, Emily and Brad. Great job on that ham!

To Move a Garden by Ted Hewitt

A year ago Paula and I moved to a new home, leaving behind a house that we had designed and built as well as a garden that we had created over the past 38 years. Over the years, we had changed a great deal as gardeners and now had to decide what plants we might want to take with us that would fit into a smaller space. Of course, with an interest in rhododendrons, I chose to take some of my favorite small plants including *R. 'Carmen' x yak*, *R. flinckii*, *R. 'Bambi' x proteoides* #17, *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy', *R. lepidostylum*, *R. williamsianum*, and *R. yak x proteoides*. Before we put the old house up for sale, we dug a few small shrubs, mostly dwarf rhododendrons and conifers and divided some perennials which we moved to the new house and healed into a mulch pile until we had time to decide where they would go. As moving day neared, I still had about 150 potted rhododendrons most of which I had propagated and we had an assortment of other plants in pots that were waiting to go into the ground. And then there were perhaps a dozen large ceramic pots scattered around the garden that we wanted to take with us. With the help of a gardening crew, we got it all moved to the new house along with two garden benches, an Adirondack chair, and several metal sculptures.

The next step was to decide where all of this was going to go in the new garden which was, in many ways, a mature garden of 14 years. There already were several nice medium sized garden trees including, a Japanese *Styrax*, a *Stewartia pseudocamelia*, two well-structured Japanese maples, a lovely magnolia, and a *cercidiphyllum* in its golden fall color. Accompanying the trees were a variety of shrubs including about 20 rhododendrons, several pieris, a few sarcococca, a couple of winter daphnes, and two Sky Pencil Japanese hollies. Some of these shrubs had become too large for the garden, some were not placed correctly, a couple of the rhododendrons had problems with azalea lace bugs, and some we just did not care for, so we began removing plants to get a better look at the garden. As openings were created with the removal of several large seven-foot rhododendrons, all of the day lilies, a couple of the pieris, ideas began to come together and we went shopping for dwarf conifers and a variety of other shrubs that would offer an interesting tapestry of texture, shape, and color for year-round interest.



Continuation of **To Move a Garden** by Ted Hewitt



The front yard is a full sun, south facing gentle slope that is much more open than anything we had at the old house so offers us a new gardening experience. The beginnings of it now feature a columnar purple beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Red Obelisk'), a whimsical dwarf contorted Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi* 'Diana'), two established *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Variegatus', a new *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Goshiki' with its holly-like leaves splotched with various colors, a few dwarf Concord barberries with deep purple leaves, an established seven-foot Rhododendron 'Grace Seabrook' (which takes the sun well), a new Rhododendron racemosum, and a large blue-green ceramic pot. A few sturdy perennials are filling in some gaps but there is still room for several more interesting shrubs of various sizes, shapes, and colors.

The backyard is more shady due to the large Oregon white oaks and Douglas firs in the surrounding neighborhood as well as some of our mid-sized trees. We have started intermixing some of the mature rhododendrons with smaller dwarf rhododendrons, dwarf conifers, hostas, ferns, Japanese forest grass, trilliums, arisaema, and other perennials. Among the pots we brought are several kinds of trilliums, a variety of hostas, a few ferns but, I am sure, there will be room for more come spring.

The sculptures are beginning to find places in amongst the plants and the benches and some of the pots have filled the patio in the back yard. Though there are many plants yet to be placed and areas to fill in, the yard is beginning to be more of a garden to our liking. Now to sit back and watch it grow.

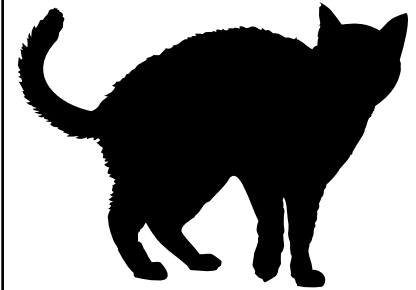
ARS Membership Renewal Time

In the near future, you will be receiving your ARS membership renewal forms in the mail. The cost for a regular membership that includes membership in the Eugene Chapter remains at \$40.00 including the ARS quarterly Journal and the chapter Newsletter. Please return the completed forms to Membership Secretary Nancy Burns as soon as possible by mail or in person at the October or November chapter meeting.

Please make your checks payable to "Eugene Chapter ARS."

Thank you for your membership and support.

Officers	The Board	Term	Phone	E-mail
President	Terry Henderson	2016-18	541-953-9316	jentersruger@aol.com
Vice President	Jack Olson	2016-18	541-988-9133	rhodyjack@msn.com
Secretary	Sherlyn Hilton	2017-19	775-846-1950	sherlynhilton@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nancy Burns	2017-19	541-342-1946	nancyinor@msn.com
Past-President	Ali Sarlak	2016-18	541-758-9190	asghar@q.com
	Gordon Wylie	2017-20	541-895-2864	lgwone@gmail.com
	Helen Baxter	2015-18	541-461-6082	galen.baxter@comcast.net
	Grace Fowler-Gore	2015-18	817-975-4936	GraceLovesBirds1@gmail.com
	Emily Aune	2017-19	541-255-5315	emily.r.aune@ci.eugene.or.us



**Happy
Halloween**

Committees

- *Shows:** Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, Terry Henderson
 - *Nominating:** Available
 - *Welfare:** Nancy Greer and Harold Greer
 - *Hospitality:** Helen Baxter and Nancy Burns
 - Programs:** Board of Directors
 - Newsletter Editor:** Grace Fowler-Gore
 - Newsletter Printing & Mailing:** Harold Greer 541-686-1540 hgreer@greergardens.com
 - Webmaster:** Ed Gore webmaster@eugene-chapter-ars.org
- ARS chapter websites can be found at www.rhododendron.org



You can join Emily Tuesday mornings at Hendricks Park.
She'd love to have your help.

<http://friendsofhendrickspark.org/volunteers.html>



Fall Picnic at Hendricks Park

September 10th in the Francis M. Wilkins Shelter

Photo by Grace Fowler-Gore

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
PO Box 7704
Springfield, OR 97475

Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

- Oct. 18 Chapter Meeting & Dinner @ The Springs**
The History of Greer Gardens and Rhododendrons by Harold Greer
- Nov. 15 Mike Bones – Rhododendrons 101 with reference to container growing
- Dec. 20 Holiday Potluck & Member slides
- Jan. 17 Maria Stewart – Indumentum on Rhododendrons
- Feb. 21 Steve Hootman – Topic TBA
- March 14 John Weagle from the Atlantic Rhododendron Society
(PLEASE NOTE - This is the SECOND Wednesday, NOT the THIRD Wednesday)
- April 18 John Stevens & Steve McCormick – Rhododendrons of Chile
- May 5 Flower Show and Banquet
- May 13 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds

Please mark your calendar with the new meeting date and location.
The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, Oregon