



November Rhododendron Society meeting Wednesday, November 15th at The Springs. Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.

Mike Bones doing Rhodies 101

Starts as a basic fun and educational rhododendron talk and finishes with growing rhododendrons and azaleas in pots, what to do and what not do.



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.

Eugene Chapter's New Meeting Venue by Ted Hewitt

After holding our chapter meetings at the Campbell Center for more than 50 years, we moved our location to The Springs at Greer Gardens retirement community and were so pleased with the new and comfortable facilities. It was great that the location and program attracted so many members as well as guests. The pre-meeting dinner was very good and allowed us to visit in quiet surroundings and then Harold's program on the history of Greer Gardens was a special look at the past 50 years of rhododendron culture, chapter history, and interesting people. Be sure to mark your calendar for the next meeting on Wednesday, November 15, when Mike Bones will talk on Rhodies 101.

Members – Emily is on the lookout for the rhododendron 'Hendricks Park'. If anyone is growing this and can offer cuttings, or has a plant that Hendricks Park could purchase, please let Emily know.

Emily Aune can be reached by phone at 541-255-5315 or by e-mail at emily.r.aune@ci.eugene.or.us.

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



Sandi Olson,
Frances Burns
& Jack Olson

Wonderful atmosphere and food provided by The Springs at Greer Gardens for our dinner.



Some of the members chatting before we all sat down to eat the great food. We moved to another room, also with comfortable chairs, to hear Harold's talk. Sorry there aren't more photos. I only took these at the start of the evening, Grace.

Hinsdale Garden Update

Near Reedsport on the Umpqua River, there is a large rhododendron garden developed by O. Howard Hinsdale in the mid-1900s that is now owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. ARS District 4 (Oregon) chapters have been helping restore the garden toward its original glory with the help of BLM and Friends of the Hinsdale Garden. For those who are new to the garden or who would like to review a little about the garden, the following blogsite will be of interest.

<http://www.mysouthlane.com/2014/hinsdale-rhododendron-garden/>

On October 2, a group of those people who are the most closely involved with the garden met to review the work that has been done this year and to lay plans for the future. Included in this group were Jennie Sperling (a botanist with the BLM who is in charge of caring for the garden), Steve Samuels (retired Cultural Resource Specialist with the BLM who was instrumental in getting the Hinsdale project going), Sophie (the current BLM intern at the garden), Sue Martino (the president of Friends of the Hinsdale Garden), Gordon Wylie (member of the ARS District 4 who has worked with the Hinsdale Project from the beginning), John Harper (Outdoor Recreational Planner for the BLM), Glen Harkleroad (Field Manager for the Umpqua Field Office of the BLM), and Anne Gross (Alternate Director of ARS District 4).

After a tour of the garden, Gordon deemed the garden to be in good shape with just a few plant losses and with a good deal of pruning on the over story trees. As many of you might remember, it was the pruning of the mature trees that originally allowed the extra light to reach the rhododendron collection that began the restoration more than 10 years ago. In the spring there were three open garden dates organized by Friends of Hinsdale Garden allowing the public to enjoy this historical garden.

As with so many planning meetings, it was the budget that received much discussion for future plans. Mr. Harper feels that there is enough money to make the temporary water line from across the highway into a permanent line that will allow the installation of an improved irrigation system for the garden. Hopefully there will be enough money to hire the Neighborhood Youth Corps to again clean up the garden prior to the 2018 open garden dates. Discussion included a potential ARS grant application to help with the irrigation system including the specifics of what is needed to apply for the grant. Further plant replacement is on hold until a permanent irrigation system is in place.

In the longer term, the needs of the garden include an interpretive center, an observation deck, and a permanent restroom.

Note: This article was compiled from e-mails written by Gordon Wylie and Wally Reed by Ted Hewitt.

Kudos to :

Terry Henderson for contributing 60 rhododendrons grown from Hinsdale Garden plants to the Friends of Hinsdale Garden for use in their fundraising plant sale last spring and 50 more this fall.

Gordon Wylie for his many years of leadership on the rehabilitation of Hinsdale Garden.

Harold Greer for helping Emily Aune identify more of the rhododendrons growing at Hendricks Park.

Jack Olson for contributing rhododendrons to the rhododendron garden at Hendricks Park.

Hinsdale Garden Volunteer Needed

ARS District 4 is looking for a volunteer to serve as a liaison between the ARS and the BLM in the effort of restoring the historic Hinsdale Garden. This person would work closely with Gordon Wylie in the restoration of Hinsdale Garden along with the BLM and might even become interested in assuming Gordon's role when he chooses to retire. In the past ten years, great strides have been made in returning this fine garden to its present form and we want to see this continue in the coming years. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gordon at lgwone@gmail.com or talk to Gordon at one of the ARS Eugene Chapter meetings.

Message from the President:

I took a load of plants to Singing Tree Garden and Eureka ARS last week and came to a conclusion. The rewarding part of being in the ARS is the great friends one makes. The education is good but secondary to me over the social aspect of the meetings. Had I not joined in the ARS (other than making lots of money off it) I would never have met all the wonderful people that I look forward to seeing. Lots of us older people don't have the social life we had in our younger days. While it may take a little effort to make picnics, board meetings, conventions, and regular meetings I think the rewards are worth it. I look forward to seeing all of you next meeting.

Terry Henderson jentersruger@aol.com



North America Meets Europe



The 2018 ARS Convention will be in Bremen, Germany. It will start around May 7, 2018, with optional tours before the convention and after the convention. The schedule may and probably will change slightly in the next couple months.

- 1st Pre-Tour: Optional 5 days visiting Dutch Gardens including Keukenhof Gardens
- 2nd Pre-Tour: Optional 2 days at RHODO 2018 Rhododendron Festival and Bremen
- 3rd Pre-Tour: Optional 6 days public and private garden visits in Denmark & Sweden
- Convention: 7-day convention in Bremen from May 20 to 26 including 3 tour days
- Post-Tour: Optional 4 days visiting gardens in Finland.

Calendar this now! It is a do-not-miss event. You can choose to start in Holland or Germany with one of the 3 pre-tours or start with the convention. Then you can choose to finish in Germany after the convention or in Finland after the post-convention tour. That means there are 8 possible combinations ranging from 7 days & nights for just the convention to 24 days & nights if you do everything which includes the 3 pre-tours to the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; the convention; and the post-convention tour to Finland.

Rhododendron 'Canadian Sunset' Ramblings By Ted Hewitt

Recently, while looking through the potted rhododendrons that I have propagated over the past few years, I noticed a nicely shaped compact plant with a light indumentum on the leaves. Looking at the tag, I found that it was called 'Canadian Sunset' and thought what a nice name to go with an attractive plant. Also on the tag, I noticed that I had gotten the cutting from Don Patrick at a cutting exchange at the October 2012 meeting of the Willamette Chapter ARS. In the past, many chapters held cutting exchanges to allow members to share unusual plants and many members enjoyed propagating plants from stem cuttings. Don and his wife, Dorothy, have been associate members of the Eugene Chapter for many years but are more active in the Portland and Willamette chapters as they live in Sherwood. A few years ago, I remember Jack Olson talking about one of the things he enjoys most about growing rhododendrons is the connections with the people associated with the plants. How true this is.

Over the years, I have found that Harold Greer's book *Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons* is the most informative book on many rhododendrons, so I opened it up to learn a little more about this plant. First, I noticed that 'Canadian Sunset' will be about 3 feet tall in 10 years so will fit nicely into our new garden. It's hardy to 0° F. and blooms in midseason so frost will not be a problem. Next, I saw that it is a hybrid of *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* (i.e. yak to most of us) x 'Gipsy King' hence the indumentum on the recurved leaves so typical of the yaks. The pollen parent, Gipsy King, is a cross of 'King George' x *R. haematodes* ssp. *haematodes* so also contributes to the indumentum and compact shape, at least from the *R. haematodes*. Harold describes the plant as "Quite different! The buds begin as a good solid red and open to flowers of an almost salmon-orange color which fades to creamy yellow toward the center. Add to this the beauty of a compact, rounded bush with indumented leaves and it's almost too good to be true." - always a succinct and interesting description. With the indumentum, the plant will most likely be resistant to the Azalea Lace Bugs that are creating such a problem in many gardens of the Pacific Northwest.

R. 'Canadian Sunset' Photo by Garth Wedemire



Finally, a little about the provenance of the plant. It was hybridized by Rudolf Henny, one of the early growers of rhododendrons in the Willamette Valley, a charter member of the ARS, and the first editor of the *Quarterly Bulletin of the ARS* from 1947 to 1962. In *Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons*, Harold lists 3 people associated with R. 'Canadian Sunset' - R. Henny, Linington, Lofthouse 1974. Over the years, I have been intrigued how a good many plants were hybridized by one person but passed along to other growers before being

named, registered, and introduced by someone else. John Lofthouse was a well known hybridizer in Vancouver, BC, and registered R. 'Canadian Sunset' in 1974 and E. J. Linington was another Vancouver hybridizer at about that same time but I could not find his connection to 'Canadian Sunset'. Perhaps he obtained the seed from Rudolf Henny, grew it into a plant, and passed the plant on to John Lofthouse for use in his hybridizing program.

Continuation of Rhododendron ‘Canadian Sunset’ Ramblings By Ted Hewitt



Photo by Ted Hewitt

Of course, the Internet is also a good place to find information about plants and a quick Google search for Rhododendron ‘Canadian Sunset’ offered links to the ARS Database of rhododendrons and the website <http://www.hirsutum.info/> with its treasure trove of information about rhododendrons including a number of photos. Hirsutum.info also includes information about how a plant has been used in newer hybrids so this showed me that R. ‘Canadian Sunset’ lives on in the very popular R. ‘Seaview Sunset’ created by Frank Fujioka and registered in 1988. It is a cross of ‘Nancy Evans’ x ‘Canadian Sunset’.

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

The Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park received several hefty donations of rhododendrons this year. Ted Hewitt brought by six new plants, including a cutting taken many years ago from a *R. williamsianum* growing in the park, plus a ‘Barto’s Blue’, to replace the one that got smashed years back. He also donated several plants that appear to have resiliency to azalea lacebug, including *R. pocophorum*, *R. bureavii* x ‘Sir Charles Lemon’, ‘*R. chaetomallum* and ‘Belva’s Joy’. Thank you, Ted, for these contributions.



In addition, Jack Olson welcomed me to his home at Rocky Knoll Farms to pick out some plants for Hendricks Park. Mostly, he said it would help him to have fewer plants to water next year. Brad and I ended up with an overflowing truckload of plants to bring back to Hendricks Park. With almost 20 new plants, many of them 3-4 foot tall plants and in 3-5 gal containers, we filled up the lathhouse in no time. Some of the plants I’m most excited about include *R. argyrophyllum*, ‘Cavalier’, ‘Prism’, ‘Whirlaway’ and ‘True Blue’.



Furthermore, the Friends of Hendricks Park purchased \$500 worth of plants from the Rhododendron Species Foundation this spring, and I only got a handful of them in the ground before summer. Henceforth, you will start seeing new rhododendrons appearing throughout the garden. The volunteers and I are so excited we started our first round of planting last week. Here’s a volunteer planting ‘Point Defiance’ in the main garden, which is one of Jack Olson’s favorite plants.

Officers	<u>The Board</u>	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



Corvallis pumpkin patch.
Photo by Ali Sarlak

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

Happy Thanksgiving



You can join Emily Tuesday mornings at Hendricks Park. She'd love to have your help.
<http://friendsofhendrickspark.org/volunteers.html>

Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count

Grace Fowler-Gore is restarting the Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count (National Audubon Society citizen science project) on December 30, 2017. If you are a birder and would like to participate in the bird count, please contact Grace either by e-mail at GraceLovesBirds1@gmail.com or by telephone at 817-975-4936.



Photos by Ali Sarlak of birds in his garden.

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

Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

- Nov. 15 Chapter Meeting & Dinner @ The Springs
Mike Bones – Rhododendrons 101 with reference to container growing
- Dec. 20 Holiday Potluck & Member slides at The Springs
- 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**