December 2017



Holiday Potluck and Slide Show

5:30 @ The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene

Scrumptious Potluck Dinner from the best cooks in town.

- •The chapter will serve baked ham.
- Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to serve 12 along with a serving utensil. Or bring another main dish such as a special chicken recipe, a vegetarian entree, a seafood stew, or something you like to prepare.
- Arrive at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:00.

Be sure to bring your own dishes, napkins, utensils, glasses, and drink of choice. Coffee will be available.

7:00 Slide Show

Please bring your garden related digital pictures to share on a flash drive in a JPEG format. Maybe you're thinking I only have one or two pictures to share, so it isn't worth bringing them with you. Luckily, Harold has offered to bring the photos that members submit to him by email to the meeting for them. Please e-mail photos to Harold at hgreer@greergardens.com.

Message from the President:

Hopefully you have finished up the Thanksgiving left overs and are ready to go full speed into the Christmas season. Looking forward to our potluck at the Springs at Greer Gardens in December, always a fun event with great food.

I have noticed that other newsletters have much longer President messages than our chapter, oh well, that's just the way it is.

I was thinking about people that I have talked to that say they don't like Rhododendrons. These are the same people that probably say they don't care for alcohol and have never had a Smith and Kerns drink. I could show these same people a dozen plants that they would not even think were Rhodys and would think they are great. How can you not like R. *lutescens*, Chiminus, R. *racemosum*, R. *sinogrande*, R. *roxieanum*, Cherries and Merlot, and so forth? These people should open their horizons and look at something other than Nova Zembla and Cunningham White. It's our job as ARS members to educate these poor souls!

Terry Henderson jentersruger@aol.com

December 2017



Members for being part of a great group of gardeners.

Terry Henderson being our President and for his continual financial support through rhododendron plant donations to the group.

Jack Olson for contributing rhododendrons and sharing his hybridizing zeal with fellow members.

Sherlyn Hilton for typing up our board meeting minutes.

Nancy Burns for sending out membership notifications and taking care of all the business that requires a bank.

Ali Sarlak for making presentations and being president for the four years before Terry H.

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

Helen Baxter for so many years of volunteer work within our group and still having a wonderful attitude.

Grace Fowler-Gore for taking over as newsletter editor and the flower show lead/organizer.

Emily Aune for contributing the News from Hendricks Park articles and baking ham.

Ted Hewitt for taking care of the name tags and helping Grace with the newsletters

Paula Hewitt for being so warm and friendly to new members and old members.

Harold Greer for helping the Eugene ARS group meet at The Springs and being a wealth of knowledge.



We are saddened to hear that Emma Bowhan, who has been a member of the Eugene Chapter for more than 50 years recently lost her grandson. He was killed in an accident with a train in Junction City in early November. We ask that those who know Emma to please send her a card. Emma and her husband Tom were very active in our chapter for many years before Tom's passing.

Since that first paragraph was written, Emma's brother Rod Huey passed away on Thanksgiving Day. Rod was not active in the Eugene Chapter but was known by many of us. Also Emma had another brother Curt Huey, who was very active in the Eugene Chapter and the International ARS and passed on some 20 years ago. His wife Beverly passed on last

year in Texas. A memorial is being held for her in Eugene on December 9th at 3346 Roanoake Ave, Eugene, OR 97408 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM for any who knew Bev and wish to attend. (By Harold Greer)

On November 6, 2017, Margaret Kintigh, a longtime member of the ARS Eugene Chapter, passed away at age 95. Some of you will remember Margaret as a wonderfully gracious lady who attended our chapter meetings with her husband, Bob, who had served as chapter president and had a nice rhododendron garden at their Mountain Home Ranch east of Springfield. (By Ted Hewitt)



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 v site a Demark & 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. 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 Holland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; the convention; and the post-convention tour to Finland.

Rhododendrons 201 by Ted Hewitt

At the November chapter meeting, Mike Bones gave us a very good quick look at the basics of growing rhododendrons covering a wide range of topics about rhododendron culture which might be called *Rhododendrons 101*. With winter soon to be upon us, there is not much to do in the rhododendron garden though many of us do enjoy watching next spring's flower buds swell or seeing the various winter foliage colors of many of the small-leafed rhododendrons. However this is a good time to make plans for changes and additions in the garden when spring rolls around. A few years ago, Ginny Mapes published an article in the newsletter of the Tualatin Valley ARS Chapter that included a few lists of rhododendrons with certain characteristics that would add to the overall garden plan. The following is excerpted from this article:

Rhododendrons: Landscaping Attributes

When you start learning about different Rhododendrons, you quickly find that within the genus and its hybrids there are tremendous varieties of flower colors and shapes, growth habits, leaf shapes, hairs and other interesting attributes. (author's note: Mike talked about all of these in *Rhododendrons 101*.)

Some are easily grown and others require very special conditions. Here are some lists of Rhododendrons useful in different ways to your landscaping and gardening plans.

For the Small Garden:

- R. calostrotum, R. campylogynum, R. dauricum, R. fastigiatum,
- R. ferrugineum, R. fletcheranum, R. hippophaeoides, R. impeditum,
- R. keleticum, R. kiusianum, R. microgynum, R. mucronulatum,
- R. pemakoense, R. polycladum, R. pseudochrysanthum,
- R. schlippenbachii, R. williamsianum, R. yakushimanum, and many others.

For the Larger Garden:

- R. arboreum, R. augustinii, R. auriculatum, R. brachycarpum, R. bureavii, R. calophytum, R. Catawbiense,
- R. decorum, R. rex ssp. fictolacteum,
- R. insigne, R. oreodoxa, R. rubiginosum, R. wardii, R. wiltonii,
- *R. yunnanense*, and many others.

Rhododendrons with Fragrance:

R. auriculatum, R. decorum, R. edgeworthii, R. fortunei, R. diaprepes,

R. luteum, R. occidentale, 'Cotton Candy', 'Loderi', 'Naomi', 'Polar Bear',

'Lavender Girl', 'Lodauric', 'Aladdin', and many deciduous azaleas.

Rhododendrons with Attractive Leaves:

Indumentum (thick fuzzy or velvety hairs on the underside of leaves):

- R. argyrophyllum, R. bureavii, R. elegantulum, R. insigne,
- R. pachysanthum, R. principis, R. recurvoides, R. roxieanum, R. tsariense,
- R. yakushimanum, 'Ken Janeck' and other hybrids of R. yakushimanum, 'Sir Charles Lemon' and dozens more.

Blue Leaves:

- R. campanulatum ssp. aeruginosum, R. fastigiatum, R. impeditum,
- R. lepidostylum, R. mekongense Viridescens,
- R. oreotrephes, R. thomsonii, 'Intrifast'.

Rounded Leaves:

R. campylocarpum, R. orbiculare, R. souliei, R. thomsonii, R. wardii,

R. williamsianum, 'Bow Bells', 'Linda', 'Moonstone'.

As you peruse these lists, you might find some ideas that would improve your garden in some way and then choose to learn more about some of the rhododendrons within that category. Or perhaps you will come across a rhododendron with which you are somewhat familiar but would like to learn more, such as *R. tsariense* or R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'. The computer brings an enormous amount of information to you easily but reference books also work well. If you are not familiar with how to use a Google search, take the time to learn how to use this amazing tool. Also you might use the plant database on the ARS website www.rhododendron.org or the marvelous website www.hirsutum.info with its list of 1,279 species and 14,597 hybrids. Among the many reference books about rhododendrons are Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons by Harold Greer, Rhododendrons in the Landscape by Sonja Nelson, Dwarf Rhododendrons by Peter Cox, and The Larger Rhododendrons by Peter Cox. You might want to put these on your wish list or they are readily available on line or you might find them at some of our fine used book stores such as Tsunami Books or Smith Family Books. This should take you through several of the rainy days of winter so enjoy the search and prepare for Rhododendrons 301.

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

This month, we replaced an old rotten sign that formerly sat at the top of Summit Drive. With the help of the planning department for the design and the MAC Group who built the sign, we installed this sign in one of the three "Gateway" beds of Hendricks Park. From an aerial view, these three beds form a complete circle surrounding the three-way intersection of Summit Drive, Birch Lane and Floral Hill Drive as you enter the park. Each Gateway bed has plantings that are representative of the garden or section that extends beyond them. There is a bed for the Forest, the Native Plant Garden and the Rhododendron Garden. Anyhow, this sign is meant to help drivers decide which way to turn as they come up Summit Drive, with arrows pointing to either the Rhododendron Garden or to the Forest. I know which one I would choose! With this sign installation I gained some new experiences. I learned how to measure the correct placement of the metal brackets and then to pour concrete around them for the base. Plus, I got to use a pretty rockin' new tool. It was a gas-powered drill with a 15" drill bit to bore through the posts on-site. I have to say, we were all pretty



pleased when it fit correctly and the job was complete!



Members – Emily is still 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.

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



Merry Christmas from The Board



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.

December 2017

Eugene Chapter American Rhododendron Society PO Box 50004 Eugene, OR 97405

Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

- 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