

Eugene ARS meeting Wednesday, January 17th at The Springs.
Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.

Maria Stewart – Indumentum on Rhododendrons

Maria Stewart of Dover Nursery, exploring one of the wonders of rhododendron foliage.

Maria Stewart will explore the wonderful world of indumentum displayed on rhododendron foliage. Species rhododendrons have adorned themselves with attractive indumentum through the ages. Some hybrids have inherited these trichomes, which is the botanical term for these fine hairs. Maria will use photos and commentary to explain how nature has provided protection for rhododendrons that, at the same time, adds to their beauty.

Maria first encountered her love of plants in her grandmother's flower garden. She has nurtured students as a teacher in elementary school for 31 years and plants for her entire life. She is co-owner of Dover Nursery in Sandy, which grows over 1,000 varieties of rhododendrons to supply garden centers and landscape companies. She has made numerous contributions to the ARS. Since she joined the Portland Chapter in 1980, she has held almost every position available, including two years as President. She has participated in organizing several Western Regional Conferences. She was Co-Chair of the 50th Anniversary Convention in 1995, and is now planning the 75th Anniversary Convention for 2020.

Dover Nursery

Rhododendrons & Azaleas

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Mike & Maria Stewart, Owners



A Trio of Bears: 'Teddy Bear', Cinnamon Bear' and 'Silver Bear' By Maria Stewart

To make this article into a story, 'Goldilocks' would have to be included. However, 'Goldilocks' deserves her own article, therefore, November's newsletter will feature that fine lepidote. Meanwhile, back to the bears. All three have striking indumentum of the woolly type underneath their leaves which makes you think of bear fur. And 'Silver Bear' has discontinuous white indumentum on the tops of its leaves which leads you to think of the color silver. You will see shared characteristics among these three rhododendrons, mainly because of their parentage. Notice that each "bear" grows with a different stature, however.

Here are descriptions of the three bears: 'Teddy Bear' grows wider than tall and makes a large specimen in fifteen years of 4 feet in height and 7 feet in width. Its leaves are dark green on top and have orange-brown indumentum on the undersides. The same indumentum extends down the petioles of the leaves and then down the stems. It blooms in late April into early May and the 8 to 10 corollas are light purplish pink fading to white with red spotting in the throat. Its hardiness is -5 to -10 degrees F. It appreciates filtered sunlight and good drainage. The cross is (Lem's bureavii hybrid x *R. yakushmanum*) but the hybridizer is unknown. Briggs introduced this hybrid in 1991. 'Cinnamon Bear' grows a bit taller than wide in ten years to about 6 feet in height and 5 feet in width. Its leaves are dark green on top with small remnants of discontinuous fawn-colored indumentum on the previous year's leaves. The undersides of the leaves give this rhododendron its name because the indumentum is a rich cinnamon color. Also, fawn-colored indumentum covers the petioles and the stems. It blooms in late April into early May with full trusses of about 20 white corollas. It is hardy to -5 to -10 degrees F. It appreciates filtered sunlight and good drainage. The cross is (*R. bureavii* x *R. yakushmanum* 'Koichiro Wada') and the hybridizer is Cecil Smith who registered it in 1989. 'Silver Bear' is more compact growing than the other two bears. It grows to about 3 feet tall and wide in ten years. Its leaves are dark green on top and are decorated with white discontinuous indumentum. The undersides are covered with woolly orange-brown indumentum and the indumentum covers the leaf petioles and the stems, also. It blooms in late April into early May with full trusses of white corollas. It is hardy to -5 to -10 degrees F. It also appreciates filtered sunlight and good drainage. The cross is (*R. yakushmanum* x *R. bureavii*) and the hybridizer is in question. We purchased this rhododendron from Lansing Bulgin about 25 years ago when it was simply (yak x bureavii). The hybridizer could be Cecil Smith, but that is not confirmed. We named it 'Silver Bear' after growing it for several years under the cross name only.



R. 'Teddy Bear'
Photo by Garth Wedemire from the
hirsutum website.



R. 'Cinnamon Bear'
Photographer unknown, courtesy
hirsutum website.



R. 'Silver Bear'
Photographer: Mike Stewart

A Fuzzy Wonder

Rhododendron ‘Sir Charles Lemon’

by Ted Hewitt

With a name like ‘Sir Charles Lemon’, one might expect this rhododendron to be a splendid and distinguished plant and, indeed, it is. I first saw this rhododendron in the garden of Jim and Janice Gerdemann in Yachats several years ago on a Eugene chapter field trip and was impressed with the pure white flowers but even more so with the distinctive bright cinnamon colored indumentum on the underside of the leaves. It becomes a rather large plant in time so one must have the space for it to become a specimen plant in the garden. Though it is listed as being 5 feet tall in 10 years, Clive Justice cites in an article entitled *Down the Trivia Trail with ‘Sir Charles Lemon’* that the original plant was some 30 feet tall and about 27 feet across at age 50 years. This was noted from a book published in 1917, *Rhododendrons and their Various Hybrids*, by John Guille Millais, a noted artist, naturalist, ornithologist, and author but also an authority on rhododendrons.

As to the background of this rhododendron, there is some discussion as to whether it is a form of the species *R. arboreum* ssp. *cinnamomeum* or a natural hybrid of *R. arboreum* ssp. *cinnamomeum* x *R. campanulatum* ssp. *campanulatum*. The website, www.hirsutum.info, states the latter. Regardless, it appears that the original plant was grown from seed gathered by Sir Joseph Hooker during his trip to Sikkim, Assam, and East Bengal in 1849-1851 and sent to England where it was grown by Hooker’s friend, Sir Charles Lemon, at his estate of Carclew in Cornwall. Further, it is documented that Henry McLaren (Lord Aberconway) saw the plant and took cuttings for propagation at his garden, Bodnant, in Wales, and later named and registered it in 1937.

The leaves on *R. ‘Sir Charles Lemon’* are a bit wider than on the typical *R. arboreum*, are dark khaki green above, and develop the wonderful rusty indumentum beneath as they mature. With age, the trunk becomes a mahogany color with rough bark contributing to the four season interest. Though it might be slow to bloom, when it does, the pure white flowers (sometimes with reddish spots) contrast nicely with the leaves and the darker stems in April. The plant grows best in the dappled shade of a sheltered woodland and is hardy to 5° F. In Hendricks Park there is an excellent cultivar planted above a path on the south slope above Summit Drive that shows the indumentum well.

For more information on *R. ‘Sir Charles Lemon’* try these websites <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v54n1/v54n1-justice.htm> (this is Clive Justice’s article *Down the Trivia Trail with ‘Sir Charles Lemon’* from the Winter 2000 ARS Journal) and <http://www.hirsutum.info/rhododendron/species/detail.php?id=2373> (the Hirsutum website)



R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' by Photo by Harry Wright

R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' photo from Loder Plants website.



R. 'Sir Charles Lemon', Hendricks Park
Photos by Ted Hewitt

News from Hendricks Park

by Emily Aune

Hendricks Park has a new Volunteer Coordinator position! Christina Bentrup is currently filling the new collaboration between Eugene Outdoors (the City of Eugene's volunteer program) and the Friends of Hendricks Park to help create a long-term position at the park. This two year-trial position is specifically aimed to promote and support the volunteer program in ALL AREAS OF HENDRICKS PARK! She will lead the Saturday Forest work parties, the Tuesday Rhododendron Garden regulars, and will be starting work parties in the native plant garden as well! If anyone is interested in volunteering at Hendricks Park, from pulling weeds with the group, adopting a bed on your own, or perhaps helping us inventory the rhododendrons, she would like to hear from you.

Christina earned her Master's Degree in Plant Ecophysiology from Northern Arizona University and has built an exceptional skillset as a gardener, landscaper, farmer, researcher and teacher throughout her career. She has woven her way around the country from New Mexico to Arizona and most recently Nashville, Tennessee as the Garden Director for a network of urban gardens. Fortunately for us, her partner Becket just accepted the UO Campus Arborist position earlier this year, and Christina has now joined him to settle down here in Eugene. She has a passion for plants, landscapes and ecosystems that she is excited to share with Eugene Outdoors volunteers.

She looks forward to learning more specifically about rhododendrons, Pacific Northwest natives, and all the great places to eat and visit in Eugene! When you have the chance to meet her, make sure you share your favorite local food joints and places to visit.



Christina can be contacted at
Christina.R.Bentrup@ci.eugene.or.us

Members – Emily is still on the lookout for 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.

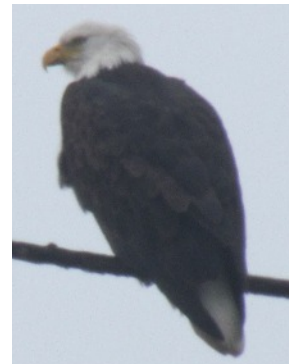
Emily Aune can be reached by phone at 541-255-5315 or by e-mail at emily.r.aune@ci.eugene.or.us.

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	Emily Aune	2017-19	541-255-5315	emily.r.aune@ci.eugene.or.us



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 Christina Bentrup Tuesday mornings at **Hendricks Park**. She'd love to have your help. She can be contacted at Christina.R.Bentrup@ci.eugene.or.us

Photos taken at Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon

By Ali Sarlak



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

Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

**Jan. 17 Chapter Dinner 5:30 & Meeting 7 @ The Springs
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**

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.