

ARS Eugene Chapter February 2018 Newsletter Addendum

Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM

At our ARS Eugene Chapter meeting on Wednesday, February 21, we will be honored to hear Steve Hootman speak on the development of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden bringing its collection of species rhododendrons to the largest in the United States and one of the best in the world. Steve is the Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, where he has become a foremost international authority on Rhododendron taxonomy and world distribution. In 2007, he was awarded the Gold Medal by the ARS for his internationally significant work with the genus Rhododendron. During his tenure at the RSBG, he has made many plant hunting expeditions to the Himalayas in southeast Asia including China, Sikkim, Viet Nam, New Guinea and other parts of the world and has introduced many new species for our gardens. In his talk, he will focus on the species of rhododendron at the RSBG and how there is variation within a species often depending on the geographical locale where it was collected.

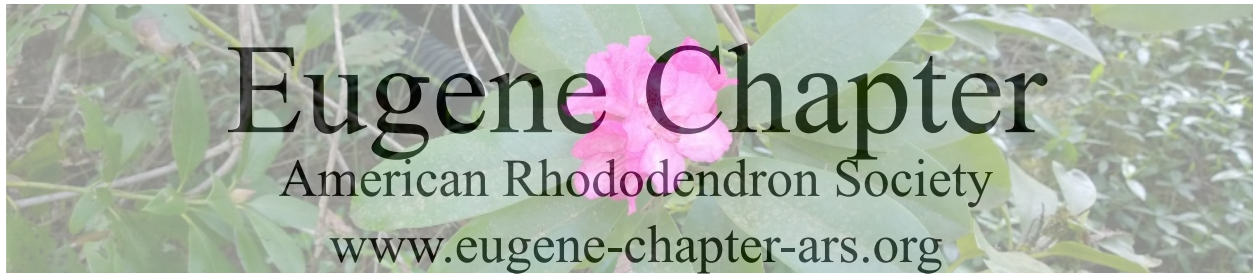
Steve Hootman is one of the most knowledgeable rhododendron species experts in the world and it will be a pleasure to have him in Eugene. This is a talk that you will not want to miss. The Pre-Meeting dinner is a wonderful time for you to visit with Steve as well as each other.

After this presentation, you will certainly want to visit the RSBG in Federal Way and there are a couple of special occasions for you to do so in April which is the height of the blooming season at the garden. On April 6 & 7 is the 3rd annual Rhododendron Species Symposium with excellent speakers and workshops that are presented in the garden. A few weeks later on April 20 & 21 is the annual RSBG Plant Sale offering plants from the RSBG as well as from over 20 other vendors from throughout the Pacific Northwest. For more information on these events see the RSBG website at www.rhodygarden.org

Feb. 21 Chapter Dinner 5:30 & Meeting at 7:00
The Springs at Greer Gardens,
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd
Eugene, Oregon

No-Host 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 ARS meeting Wednesday, February 21st at The Springs.
Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.

**Steve Hootman – History of the Species Foundation
Federal Way, Washington**

The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1964 by Pacific Northwest members of the American Rhododendron Society in order to secure the finest authentic forms of Rhododendron species and to develop a comprehensive collection of this plant genus. Because of the destruction of Rhododendron habitat in many areas of the world, conservation has become of primary importance in recent years. This concern led to the formation of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and has guided its activities.

Lots of information may be found at <https://rhodygarden.org/cms/rsf-foundation/history/>

Double your enjoyment with two Steve Hootman presentations in February!

Siuslaw ARS meeting Tuesday, February 20th in Florence.
Join them for Dinner at 5:00 PM, 6:30 Cookies and/or meeting at 7:00 PM

Steve Hootman – Exploring for Rhododendrons over the past 20 years.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 20th for a night to remember. Steve Hootman Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, will be our guest speaker with his presentation of Exploring for Rhododendrons over the past 20 years. The excitement of finding a new plant, that has never been described by anyone else, the steep mountain terrain or the Himalayan mountains with drop offs for over a hundred feet breath taking views. Having to fight off the elements of nature, in down pours that one would think would never stop. Leeches dropping from the forest around you, crossing rope bridges with raging rivers far below, having to bribe your way into remote areas with the local governments and the locals who have never seen a Caucasian before in their life.

There will be rare and unusual plants to buy from his expeditions at this meeting.

Join the members of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for a fun evening, we meet at 6:30 for coffee, cookies and camaraderie, with our meeting starting at 7 pm. Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Hwy 101, Florence, Oregon . If you would like to join us for a no host dinner at Ixtapa Family Mexican Restaurant, please **RSVP** by Monday the 19th of February to Rosemary Rebello , 541-261-1849, rosemary.rebello@gmail.com or Mike Bones, rhodies@charter.net.

Maria Stewart with one of her favorites R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'



**Thank
You,
Maria**



Mike Bones and Leonard Frojen discussing the wonderful examples of indumentum provided by Maria after Maria's talk.



R. recurvoides





‘Pachy Bee’ (pachysanthum x yak) ‘Teddy Bear’ (bureavii x yak) ‘Cinnamon Bear’ (bureavii x yak)



My personal favorite of the examples Maria provided was ‘Pachy Bee’. One of my favorites from the photos Maria presented was *R. lepidostylum*. The foliage has a very blue color to it with bristly margins. (See www.rhododendron.org/descriptionS_new.asp?ID=354 for information on *R. lepidostylum*.)

News from Hendricks Park

by Emily Aune

While taking a stroll through Hendricks Park I get the sense that my favorite time of year is just around the corner. The previous gardeners must have paid close attention to winter plantings, which are giving us little tastes of what is to come. It also seems this warm winter may be prompting earlier than normal blooms. Whatever the case may be, I'm excited for spring, yet concerned about the damage that could be caused by a late freeze.



However, some blooms don't mind freezing. The bright yellow blossoms of the Mahonia x media 'Charity' have been blooming since November, unfazed by the cold. This 10-foot relative of our native Oregon Grape is a cross of two species from Japan and China (*M. japonica* x *M. lomariifolia*). It has been a great nectar source for Anna's hummingbirds this winter and provides great structure and color throughout the year.

This week, a spicy scent in the air drew my attention to a great new bloom on a beautiful Witch Hazel. Another cross from Japan and China, Hamamelis x intermedia 'Moonlight', is located on the Founder's Walk tucked in behind a couple of rhododendrons. Its bright yellow, spidery petals seem to explode from the stems as it blooms prior to new leaf formation. Unfortunately, sometimes the dead leaves hang on through the winter. It will look much better if you carefully pull off the leaves.



Also exciting, if not a little alarming, is that the Rhododendron ririei is already showing little pink buds, and even a few flowers. It is always one of our earliest bloomers with a February bloom, but January?! This plant is a native to the Sichuan province in southwest China, with smoky-blue to lavender flowers with dark purple nectar pouches in their center. Its oblong leaves have a compact, indumentum that is proving to be effective in keeping the Azalea lacebugs from harming it. I'm sure by the time you are reading this, it's in full bloom, **so come on up to Hendricks Park!**

Rhododendron seingkuense

by Ted Hewitt



Photo by Ted Hewitt

Rhododendron seingkuense is a small lepidote often found growing as an epiphyte on the mossy trunk of a tree or in the crotch of two branches in northern Myanmar (formerly Burma), southeastern Tibet, and western Yunnan province of China at an elevation of 6,000 to 10,000 feet. However, it can also be a ground plant on cliffs, in dense forests, or on mossy rocks where it can have extremely good drainage. Closely related to *Rhododendron edgeworthii*, it has leaves that are about 2" long by 1.5" wide, are ovate to elliptic in shape and wrinkly (bullate) on top but with few hairs though on the underside they are scaly (hence the lepidote) and covered with dense reddish brown indumentum that extends over the petioles and down the stems. The effect is a hairy or woolly plant similar to *R. pendulum* which is also in the Edgeworthia Subsection. The reddish brown hairs and indumentum contrast nicely with the green leaves.

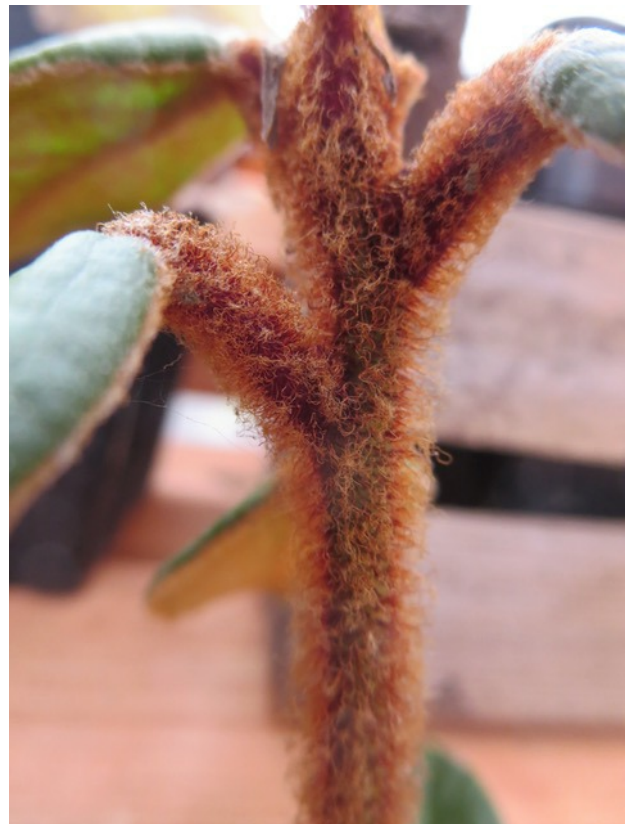


Photo by Ted Hewitt



Photo by Ted Hewitt



Flowers occurring singly or in pairs in March - April have the shape of an open saucer and are about 3/4"-1" long with a very nice sulphur-yellow color that contrasts with the reddish brown anthers.

Photo by Hank Helm



R. seingkuense at the RSBG
Photo by Garth Wedemire



Photo by Ted Hewitt

R. seingkuense gets to be about 2'-3' in ten years and may be rather tender for growing in the Willamette Valley though it is rated as being hardy to 10° F. The Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden in Federal Way, WA, has a very happy plant growing in the conservatory. I have had my plant for seven years growing in a hanging basket lined with coco fiber, outside in the summer and in the greenhouse in the winter. It grows nicely and has become bushier with pinching. However, it has yet to bloom. The epithet, seingkuense, refers to the Seingku Valley in Upper Burma (now Myanmar) where it is found in good numbers. I find *Rhododendron seingkuense* to be a fun, unusual plant to grow and to observe and, perhaps, I am the only one on my street that has one in the garden. Maybe it will even bloom this year.

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



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



January was meatloaf and lemon chicken.
February will be beef stroganoff, fried chicken & rice pilaf

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

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.

Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

- Feb. 21 **Chapter Dinner 5:30 & Meeting 7 @** The Springs at Greer Gardens,
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, Oregon
Steve Hootman – History of the Species Foundation
Federal Way, Washington
- March 14 John Weagle from the Atlantic Rhododendron Society
175 Years of Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia
(**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 12** Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds (Please correct date on
your calendars.)
- June 3 Spring Picnic at Hendricks Park **NEW ON CALENDAR**