

Eugene ARS meeting Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at The Springs.  
Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.

### **John Stevens & Steve McCormick – *Rhododendrons in Southern Chile***

**John Stephens'** professional life was devoted to university level instruction in geography and cartography, to management in two major publishing companies, and to his position as Director of Professional & Continuing Education at the University of Washington.

**Steve McCormick's** professional life encompassed positions in marketing in the Los Angeles music industry, in account management for major broadcast companies and as Senior Account Executive of CBS Radio. **John and Steve** retired to Washington State's Long Beach Peninsula in 2013. They purchased a retirement property on Willapa Bay which they found had been a rhododendron nursery created by Dr. J Harold Clarke, one of the early ARS Presidents and a founding member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Development of the property has focused on the preservation of existing specimens and introducing additional rhododendrons, all with a newfound interest in learning more about the genus.

#### ***Rhododendrons in Southern Chile***

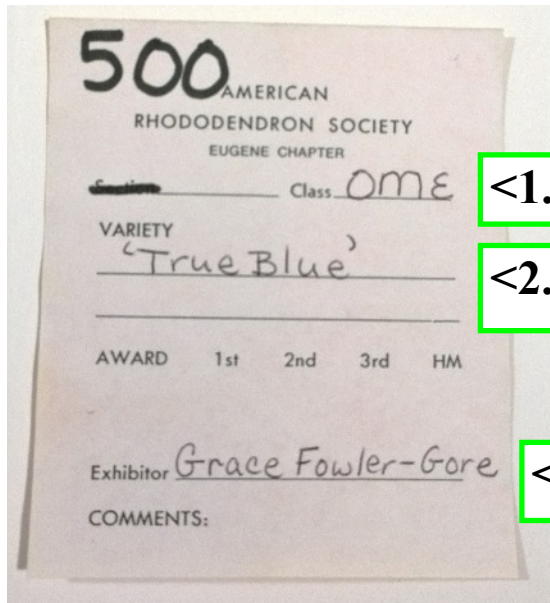
Speakers John Stephens and Steve McCormick - A recent travel itinerary took John and Steve to the Lake District of southern Chile in the southern hemisphere's late Spring, November, 2015. They wanted to see if rhododendrons flourished there due to the area's proximity to the Pacific and similar latitude to their home environment in the Pacific Northwest. They were pleased to find a wide distribution of rhododendrons in full bloom and will share what they have learned about the history and origins of rhododendrons in the region.



Ted Hewitt had the pleasure of hearing this talk at the 2016 Western Regional conference which is where this write-up was taken. The picture is taken from the Eureka Chapter Newsletter Feb 2018 PDF.

2018 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet  
May 5<sup>th</sup> at The Springs

Entry Form -Entry Number- Already Filled In.



**2018 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet  
May 5<sup>th</sup> at The Springs**

**<1.** Using CAPITALS, write Class of entry.

**<2.** PRINT entry name.

**<3.** Write your name.

You may pick up Entry Forms early at the April meeting, so you can prepare your Entry Form at your leisure. If you still have entry forms from last year with a number on them, please use them for this show.

Sample Entry Form

**NINE CLASSES TO ENTER**

- 1 DA Deciduous Azaleas
- 2 EA Evergreen Azaleas
- 3 PE Pink Elepidotes
- 4 RE Red Elepidotes
- 5 WYE White or Yellow Elepidotes
- 6 OME Other-Colored or Multi-Colored Elepidotes
- 7 L Lepidotes
- 8 SE Species Elepidotes
- 9 SL Species Lepidotes

**10 Prizes Awarded**

- Best DA
- Best EA
- Best PE
- Best RE
- Best WYE
- Best OME
- Best L
- Best SE
- Best SL
- People's Choice Any Class

## News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

Since 2001, the Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP) have been effectively supporting the park with their mission statement “To provide stewardship for Hendricks Park through education, restoration and community support”.

The original focus of this non-profit organization was to help preserve and restore the 58-acre forest, as laid out in the Forest Management Plan created by the City of Eugene in 2000. As membership and contributions increased, FoHP became instrumental in the establishment of the Native Plant Garden. Soon after that they built the Moon Terrace, adjacent to the F.M. Wilkins Shelter. FoHP subsequently provided matching funds with the City of Eugene to hire a part-time gardener in the Native Plant Garden and a seasonal employee to host volunteer work parties.

But as time went by, the combination of an economic downturn and the City of Eugene’s Parks budget getting spread thin, regular staffing levels and money designated for Hendricks Park continually decreased. FoHP and the community began noticing that the Rhododendron Garden, specifically, was in need of a more secure income to support the continued success of the garden. In 2016 they went further, initiating a Rhododendron Garden Endowment fund through the Oregon Community Foundation.

Members and the community quickly responded to their fundraising efforts and have already grown the fund to \$77,492.40! FoHP is currently reinvesting the interest each year to continue the growth of this fund, establishing a more stable income source for the future. For questions or more information about Friends of Hendricks, visit [friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://friendsofhendrickspark.org).

John Weagle sitting on Terry Henderson’s left side.



Photo by Harold Greer



## March 14, 2018 Eugene ARS Meeting

Photos by Ted Hewitt



Now that is a truss! Nancy and Paula.



*R. sutchuenense* ?? Nope. It's *R. openshawianum* or now *R. calophytum* var. *openshawianum*.

From Harold Greer:

One of the pictures that Ted sent you is labeled *R. calophytum* var. *openshawianum*. I would just change the name of the picture, but many people in the chapter saw it as *openshawianum* so I want to explain the name change.

Oops, even the most reliable sources can be wrong. The plant I thought was variety *openshawianum* is actually *R. calophytum* var. *calophytum*. Var. *openshawianum* has less than ten flowers in a truss. Mine has more than 20! So it is

*R. calophytum* var. *calophytum*!





The wine connoisseurs - Sandi, Linda, Jack, Helen.



There is a hint of wild strawberry with a touch of chocolate.

Photos by Ted Hewitt

## John Weagle Program Growing Rhododendrons in Nova Scotia

by Ted Hewitt

At the March chapter meeting, John Weagle presented a program on growing and hybridizing rhododendrons in Nova Scotia over the last 175 years. Though mild compared to the surrounding interior of Canada, coastal Nova Scotia has a remarkably harsh climate compared to the Pacific Northwest with cool foggy summers, long warm falls, drastic cold winters, and late springs. For many years, the efforts of hybridizers were to create rhododendrons with more interest than the standard “Ironclads” that had been developed by the British. Eventually they were able to create some nice yellows, better pinks, and true whites many of which have caught the interest of gardeners in northern Europe.

In spite of being on the same latitude of 44° as we are here in Eugene, the growing zone is rated Zone 5b or 5a as opposed to the Zone 8 of Eugene. This severely limits the interesting foliage plants of the species rhododendrons that we can grow here. In the past 20 years, John and his friends have developed a nice hybrid that closely resembles *R. campylogynum* and has done some work with *R. rex* to create a very nice compact plant with the large indumented leaves of *R. rex*. Further work has been done with *R. makinoi* and others that have interesting foliage.

An interesting aspect of the talk was seeing how a beautiful garden along the southern Nova Scotia coast was created years ago by hand digging the soil out of cracks between the massive granite rocks and then forcing in the root balls of many of the dwarfs of Subsection Lapponica. Now it is an impressive swath of blues, pinks, and yellows of very healthy rhododendrons that like this climate of cold winters and cool foggy summers.



Photos by Harold Greer



<b>Officers</b>	<b>The Board</b>	Term	Phone	E-mail
<b>President</b>	Terry Henderson	2018-20	541-953-9316	jentersruger@aol.com
<b>Vice President.</b>	Jack Olson	2018-20	541-988-9133	rhodyjack@msn.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Sherlyn Hilton	2017-19	775-846-1950	sherlynhilton@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nancy Burns	2017-19	541-342-1946	nancyinor@msn.com
<b>Past-President</b>	Ali Sarlak	2016-18	541-758-9190	asghar@q.com
	Gordon Wylie	2017-20	541-895-2864	lgwone@gmail.com
	Helen Baxter	2018-21	541-461-6082	galen.baxter@comcast.net
	Grace Fowler-Gore	2018-21	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](http://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](mailto:Christina.R.Bentrup@ci.eugene.or.us)

## March was Election Time for our group.

Officer Positions: President - Terry Henderson & Vice President - Jack Olson

Regular Board Positions: Helen Baxter & Grace Fowler-Gore & two vacant positions were available.

At the March meeting, these terms were voted upon. Note the new terms. There is room on the board for two new members. The terms are for three years. We meet once a month to coordinate the group's activities. If you are interested in joining us on The Board, please speak with one of the board members.

## Hendricks Park Tour Guides Needed

Hendricks Park staff receives a large amount of requests for garden tours, especially during the spring months. The staff will take on some of these tours, and members from the Friends of Hendricks Park are sometimes available too. Still, we are looking to grow our numbers of possible tour guides and I think that Rhododendron Society members would be perfect candidates. These are unpaid tours to the community, usually school groups, garden clubs, and assisted living homes. Tour lengths would generally be about an hour. If you are interested in joining the tour group list, let our volunteer coordinator Christina know at [Christina.R.Bentrup@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Christina.R.Bentrup@ci.eugene.or.us). We are also hoping for additional tour guides on Mother's day, between the hours of 10-3pm.

American Rhododendron Society  
Eugene Chapter  
P. O. Box 50004  
Eugene, OR 97405

## Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

**April 18**    **John Stevens & Steve McCormick – *Rhododendrons in Southern Chile***  
**Chapter Dinner 5:30 & Meeting 7:00 @**  
**The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, Oregon**

May 5        Flower Show and Banquet

May 12      Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds

June 3       Spring Picnic at Hendricks Park

### **Pre-Meeting Dinner RSVP**

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

Our Past President, Ali Sarlak, will be giving his talk *Flora of Iran* on April 26th, 2018, to the Eureka Chapter. You can find the Eureka Chapter's wonderful newsletter with all the details at:

<http://www.eurekarhody.org/newsletter.php>