

Holiday Potluck and Slide Show

5:30 @ The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene
December 19th

Scrumptious Potluck Dinner from the best cooks in town.

- Harold & Nancy will serve a 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 e-mail to the meeting for them. Please e-mail photos to Harold at hgreer@greergardens.com.

Message from the President:

As I sit here this Tuesday afternoon, I think I can safely say the drought is over. I'm sure the plants that aren't under irrigation are glad for the rain. Hopefully this winter brings a better snow pack to the mountains or we could be in for a dry Summer.

The holidays are upon us and the body masses are probably increasing. I know I can't stop eating when there is such good food. Speaking of good food, the Christmas potluck is coming up. It is fun to try other people's cooking. Harold has offered to provide the main dish and we all know what great cooks he and Nancy are. Getting together with people that share a common interest and sharing companionship make for a great gathering. I look forward to all of our meetings to see old friends (and a few younger) but especially the Christmas potluck. Hope to see you there.

Terry Henderson jentersruger@aol.com

Introducing Rhododendron ‘Harold Greer’

by Ted Hewitt

By now, many of you have read the *Fall 2018 ARS Journal* and perhaps noticed the newly registered rhododendron with connections to the Eugene Chapter. Rhododendron ‘Harold Greer’ was hybridized by Harold in 1997 with a cross of ‘Very Berry’ and ‘Horizon Monarch’ and then grown by him in 2012. However, it was not named until 2017 when Donna Manion (one of our new members at The Springs) thought it should be named after Harold and completed the international registration in 2018.

The flower starts with a deep purplish pink bud and then opens to a flower that is a strong purplish red on the outside with a bicolor inside of pale yellow with deep purplish pink picotee margins and strong purplish red nectar pouches deep inside. The truss is of decent size of 5” high and 7” wide and the shrub will be an intermediate size of 5’ high and 5’ wide in 15 years. It is hardy to 5° F. and will bloom in midseason or about early May here in the Willamette Valley. ‘Harold Greer’ is expected to be introduced to the trade in about 2020. As many of you know Harold has hybridized, registered, and introduced many rhododendrons over the past 60 years, including ‘Very Berry’ and one its parents, ‘Trude Webster’, so it is high time that one was named in his honor.



Photo of Rhododendron ‘Harold Greer’ by Harold Greer

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune



Christmas came early for Hendricks Park this year! A box of 132 metal plaques was delivered to my work desk this November. Inside, were labels for rhododendrons, trees and shrubs throughout the Rhododendron Garden of Hendricks Park. These labels were paid for with a generous donation by the Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP), but many hands helped to make them a reality.

Through the years, many labels and tags have disappeared from the plants and records of plantings are spotty and incomplete. Several walks through the garden with Harold Greer, Gordon Wylie and Ted Hewitt

helped me acquire a list of Rhododendrons that could be labeled. I physically tagged many of the plants and input them into our GPS database by location while Ted took handwritten notes. From that he created a spreadsheet with names, hybridizers, origins, and other pertinent information about the plant health, bloom color, history etc.

The design team consisted of the Rhododendron Garden Committee members (including Ted and Paula Hewitt and several members of FoHP), myself, City of Eugene Planning department, and Twin Ravens Press, a local designer and letterpress company. There were many, many edits, changes, critiques and corrections until we finally got it right. Finally, Twin Ravens produced the plaques, Gibson Steel made the stands, and a rivet gun and rivets were purchased. Every Tuesday we get a handful of signs installed with volunteers, so they are popping up all over the garden and they look great!



Rhododendrons for the Future

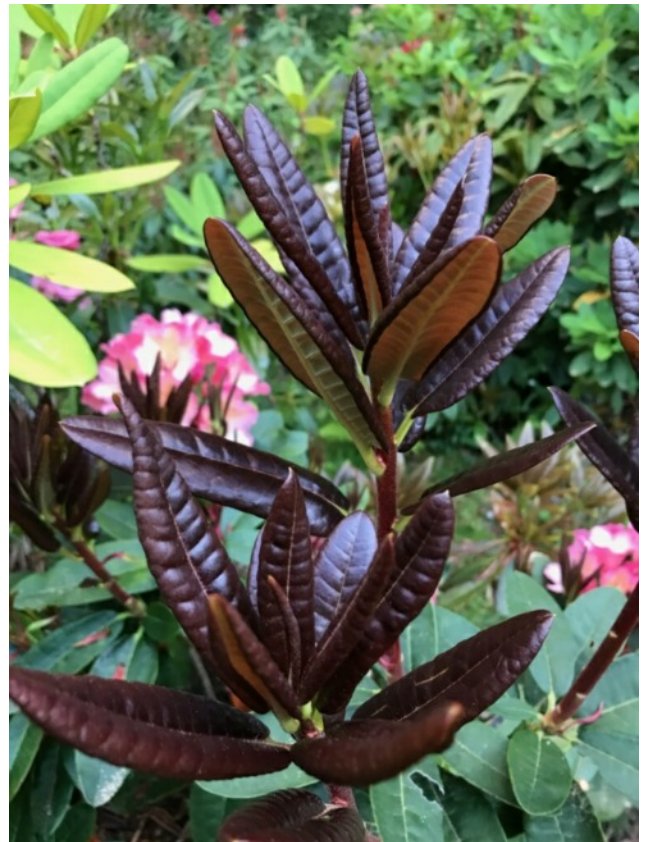
by Jack Olson

I just started planting seed from my crosses this year. I think this is one of the most enjoyable parts of growing rhododendrons as there are always thoughts of what will be the results of my efforts. I look for nice flowers, but foliage is important too. I'm at the point where I consider obtaining anthocyanins in the foliage. I have a seedling 'Prism' x 'Tickle' that is the best of both.

When selecting plants, I always try to choose parents that have full trusses. I dislike open tops as it's like a half lax truss crossed with a full truss. Also the color of the flowers is an important part of choosing parents. I like to cross colors. It is fun, because you never know what combination you will get. I would like to see some more members involved in hybridizing. It is fun to exchange ideas. The following photos show some of my efforts.



Above and right are a truss and foliage of the same seedling from 'Prism' x 'Tickle.'



Photos by Jack Olson



Nice yellow.



Large white truss from ('Prism' x 'Point Defiance') x 'One Thousand Butterflies'



Photos by Jack Olson



'Kubla Kahn' x 'Tickle'



Photos by Jack Olson

This is a very large bud for a three year old *R. protistum*. The article in the ARS Journal stated that *R. protistum* can grow to 120 feet tall in its native China. I got the seed from June Walsh, who got it from the ARS seed exchange.

The leaves are very large and colored.

‘Mrs. G. W. Leak’ in bloom, in October, while I was in Italy.



Officers	The Board	Term	Phone	E-mail
President	Terry Henderson	2018-20	541-953-9316	jentersruger@aol.com
Vice President.	Jack Olson	2018-20	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	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



**Merry
Christmas**
from The Board

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

SERIOUSLY – We are looking for two new ARS Eugene Chapter board members.

The Secretary position is now available to be filled.

Ideally, our chapter has **TEN** board members meeting once a month.

Are you one of the new board members???? Do you know someone?

Thank you Harold for giving a presentation sharing your first hand knowledge of the beauty of Russia and its rhododendrons.

Do you have an article you've written that you'd like to have published in the newsletter? Please send the article to your editor Grace Fowler-Gore at GraceLovesBirds1@gmail.com. Please credit all photographers when submitting photos. Your article will be available to everyone on-line at www.eugene-chapter-ars.org/newsletters.html.

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

Event Calendar 2018 – 2019

Dec. 19 Holiday Potluck @ The Springs

- Jan. 16 Jason Martinez –
The Rhododendron Garden of San Francisco Botanical Garden @
Strybing Arboretum.
- Feb. 20 Stephen Krebs, Ph.D –
Form Plus Function: Building Better Adapted Rhododendrons
- March 20 Speaker & Topic TBA
- April 17 Speaker & Topic TBA
- May 4 Flower Show and Banquet @ The Springs
- May 11 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds

Hope to see you.

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org