

Eugene ARS meeting Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at The Springs.  
Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.

Title: The Rhododendron Garden of San Francisco Botanical Garden @ Strybing Arboretum.



Content and Bio:

Jason Martinez, Horticulturist at San Francisco Botanical Garden @ Strybing Arboretum for the past 13 years, caring for the Rhododendron, Mediterranean, and Ancient Plant Gardens. I will be sharing some of the Garden's statistics, facts and current developments pertaining to the SF Botanical Garden. I will highlight some of our rhododendron specimens that make our garden unique, as well as changes and new additions to our Rhododendron Garden as a whole.

In conclusion, I would like to add a few photos of Rhododendron Country that have inspired me over the years contributing to my understanding of how to care for them as well as my admiration for the Genus *Rhododendron*.

**News from Hendricks Park**  
by Emily Aune

Photos by Emily Aune

A new planting surrounds the McCready Arbor and seating area at Hendricks Park. Beneath the dappled shade of the white oak trees, we planted nearly fifteen new rhododendrons, purchased from Log Cabin Nursery. We chose rhododendrons in the Triflora subsection, including *R. oreotrephes*, *R. davidsonianum*, *R. yunnanense*, *R. augustinii*, and *R. lutescens*. All of these species are native to China, which fit in nicely with existing plants such as the *Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana* tree, a Paperbark Maple and an unusual evergreen shrub called *Sycopsis sinensis*. Most of the rhododendrons we planted here have an upright, open and airy habit that will help to create a more private seating area. The blooms range from mauve, pink, white, purple and yellow providing a variety of colors throughout the bloom season. *R. oreotrephes* has been a personal favorite of mine, with it's blue tinted leaves and purple stems contrasting the smoky mauve flowers. There was already a mature *R. lutescens* in the area, so we added a few more to create a swath of the unique yellow flowers and colorful red fall foliage. We mixed in some local history by planting a named selection of *R. augustinii* 'Barto Blue' by James Barto of Eugene, and a hybrid 'Crater Lake' by Carl Phetteplace of Leaburg, OR. 'Crater Lake' is a cross of 'Barto Blue' and 'Bluebird'. Come visit in the spring as they start to bloom.



*R. oreotrephes* in front of the Paperbark maple.



*R. davidsonianum* with a backdrop of white oak trees.



*R. lutescens* with McCready Arbor and seating area behind.

Emily Aune has agreed to replace current Secretary Sherlyn Hilton upon her departure.

**We still need another board member!**



## A Year Later

by Ted Hewitt

For the October 2017 chapter newsletter, I wrote an article entitled *To Move a Garden* and discussed a few of the plants that we had moved from our former garden to our new garden. When we moved them in the fall of 2016, we had heeled them into a pile of mulch to hold them temporarily until we could plant them. However, for several of the plants that stayed in this moisture retentive planting mix for most of a year, it took its toll on their health. Now they have all been in the ground for over a year and some almost two years and are becoming quite well established. So, how are they doing now?

*R. pachysanthum* did not like the mulch pile well and about a third of the plant died. However, I cut off this branch as far down as I could and trimmed back several of the smaller branches, replanted it in a sunnier position than it had been in, and hoped for the best. This season it doubled its size and once again looks very healthy with several blossom buds so it will bloom for the first time in 2019. I purchased it in a one gallon pot in 2007 and it is now about 24" tall and wide. With its handsome indumentum, it is planted in a prime position by a pathway so it can be enjoyed all year.

*R. 'Carmen' x yak* is a small plant about 12" high and 12" wide with shiny foliage that enjoys its new location in a raised bed across the path from *pachysanthum*. It also had a good growing year and will show off its rich red flowers next spring nestled between a lacy fern, *Polystichum setiferum divisilobum multilobum*, and an arching fern, *Dryopteris wallichiana*. It was first planted in our garden in 2012 and is a handsome little plant.

*R. flinckii* is a bit of an enigma to me as I have had it since 2009 and it has not grown much but remains healthy with interesting orange-brown indumentum. In its new home it is in considerable shade but has had some new growth and shows off well in front of a Japanese Tassel Fern, *Polystichum polyblepharem*. *R. flinckii* should be a larger plant (5' in ten years) but this plant is growing slowly and at this rate will be in its current location for several years.

*R. yak x pachysanthum* loves its new home in a light and open area but with afternoon shade. Its handsome foliage covered with a white indumentum made it glow in the garden. It is now 30" high and 40" wide and very handsome. I purchased it from Thompson's Nursery as a rooted cutting in 2008.

*R. lepidostylum* appeared to make the move very well and showed off its unusual blue-green foliage well in 2017 and started well in 2018 but then quickly wilted in the summer and died. I assume it died from root rot, *Phytophthora*, and that it was not in light enough

Continuation of **A Year Later** by Ted Hewitt

soil. At the old garden it had a mostly sunny location in a raised bed and I did not repeat that well enough in the new garden as it requires good drainage. I had grown this from a cutting in 2008 and had enjoyed watching it flourish with its hairy foliage.

I will end on a positive note with another of my favorite small plants, R. 'May Morn' x *proteoides*, a delightful little plant with rusty indumentum on the undersides of the bright green rugose or quilted foliage. I grew this from a cutting from Rich Aaring in 2012 and enjoy seeing it now mature to take a place in the garden.

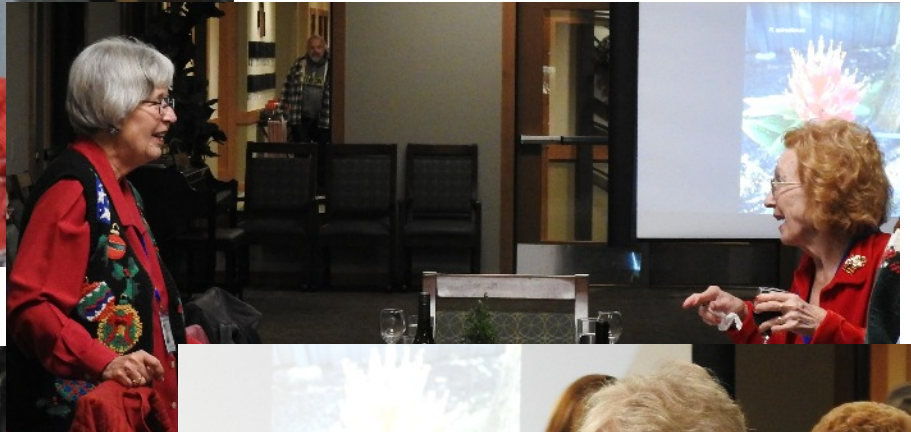
Having been with our new garden for two years now, Paula and I are enjoying seeing the many new plantings fitting in with the mature plantings that were here and seeing the tapestry of foliage in shape, color, and texture develop. This year we began adding several perennials that provide flower color in the summer.

Winning  
is  
always  
fun!



Photos by Dena Fowler-Gore

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Let's all **thank** Emily Aune for stepping forward and agreeing to become our new Chapter Secretary. She is replacing Sherlyn Hilton who is moving out of state.

**Thank you** Sherlyn for all the contributions you've made to our Eugene Chapter. You will be missed!



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Eugene Chapter  
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**Happy New Year**

## Event Calendar 2018 – 2019

- 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](http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org)

### **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.