

Eugene ARS meeting Wednesday, February 20th, at The Springs.
Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.



Form Plus Function: Building Better Adapted Rhododendrons

A presentation by Stephen Krebs, Ph.D

Director, David G. Leach Research Station of
The Holden Arboretum

Kirtland, Ohio

Rhododendrons have been hybridized in the West for almost 200 years, resulting in over 25,000 registered cultivars. This large number of plants reflects their popularity as well as the enthusiasm of hybridizers who have recombined the vast ornamental diversity of genus *Rhododendron* via interspecific cross pollinations. Overwhelmingly, and not

surprisingly, the breeding emphasis has been on aesthetic attributes such as flowers and foliage because most backyard hybridizers are pursuing an enjoyable avocation and are less concerned with broad consumer or commercial success. Improvement of adaptive traits has been largely focused on cold hardiness, resulting in a diverse array of rhododendrons that can be grown in USDA hardiness zones 4 and 5. Yet many other functional traits have not been addressed, traits such as disease and pest resistance, heat tolerance, drought tolerance, and high pH adaptability that could improve the landscape performance of rhododendrons and expand their commercial market. In many cases, species that have these valuable features can be found in the wild. As an example, my presentation demonstrates how a species from Taiwan, *R. hyperythrum*, can be hybridized to combine its resistance to the rhododendron root rot pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* with a broader array of ornamental traits. Significantly, increased disease resistance also confers adaptability to warmer climates such as the Gulf South (hardiness zone 9), regions where culture of large leafed rhododendrons has heretofore been limited. Resistant cultivars can be grown on their own roots, or serve as rootstocks for grafting susceptible scions, and I will give an update on our evaluations of experimental and commercially available rootstocks that can provide protection against this soil pathogen.

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

Mapping the Rhododendron Garden

Picture this. You are walking into the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park with your smart phone, and it is mapping where you walk on your screen. As you approach a bed you see a rhododendron and click an associated point on the map. It pulls up a database with information associated with the plant and photographs of the plant in bloom. Sounds pretty cool, right? Well friends, it's happening. The City of Eugene Parks Department has started to use a program called ArcGIS Collector to map valuable assets in our parks and to help us track our work. Now, I am one who would rather be out digging in the garden than sitting at a computer, but this program continually amazes me with its usefulness. Plus, it is installed on my iPad, which, I can take out in the field if it's not too rainy. It's great because you can attach as many photos as you like, maintain a shared and extensive database, and can track certain work over time. For example, you can input when you last pruned a tree, or where you fertilized, or track the spread of an invasive species. At this point Parks has collected all of our restrooms, kiosks, trash cans, drinking fountains, buildings, benches, irrigation shut offs and nearly all of our trees. I've decided to take it a step further in the Rhododendron Garden by inputting as many of the rhododendrons that I possibly can. As you all know, I have been getting help from the local rhododendron society members to identify many more of the plants at Hendricks Park, and this is a great way to track that information. Also, every newly planted plant gets inputted. The picture below is the current map of the Rhododendron Garden. It shows all the trails and each red diamond signifies a specific plant.

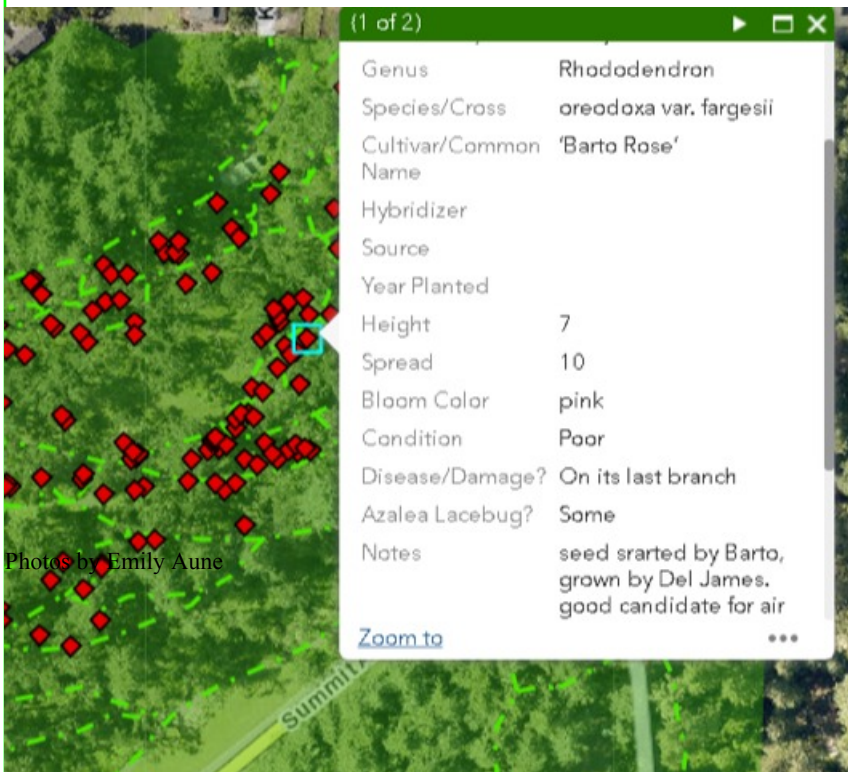


Photo by Emily Aune

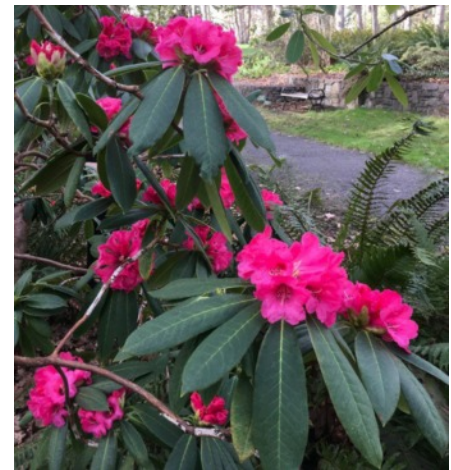
Continuation of News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

Mapping the Rhododendron Garden

The next photo shows that as you click on a plant point, it opens a list of information about the plant, including its name, the cultivar, health, when it was planted, bloom color, the hybridizer, etc.... It is also very simple to attach photographs to each point, so I can track the plant over time or see it's bloom color even if it is not in bloom. At this point, I have collected 184 plant points, 175 of which are Rhododendrons.



I'm very excited about building this database so future gardeners can have easy access to all the plant information that is known. Currently, you can download the program on your phone or ipad for your own garden or mapped information. We hope to make all the park information public too, but at this point we are still just collecting data and sharing it among employees.



Photos by Emily Aune

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Conferences & Shows

2019 ARS Annual Convention, May 16-19, 2019, Malvern, PA, pre-tour on May 15 <http://ars2019.org>

2019 ARS Fall Conference, September 27-29, 2019, Parksville, BC, Canada

*Special invitation from the Willamette Chapter ARS President
Wally Reed.*

All are invited to our next meeting of the Willamette Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society on **Wednesday, February 13, 2019**. It will be at 7:00 pm in the Carrier Room of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem, Or 97301. Refreshments will be served.

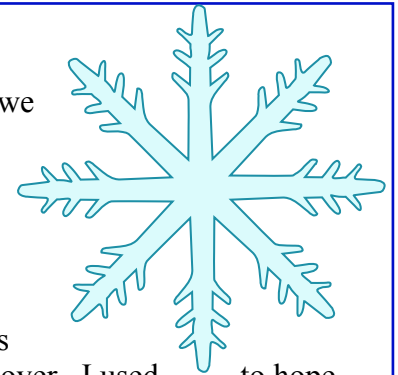
It will be an exciting program by **STEVE HOOTMAN**

Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, a wondrous place filled with a world-class collection of rhododendrons and companion trees and plants. He is an expert hunter of new and rare plant species from travels to the far reaches of China, the Himalayas, and surrounding areas. Steve will talk about his most interesting expeditions—it will be a visual treat.

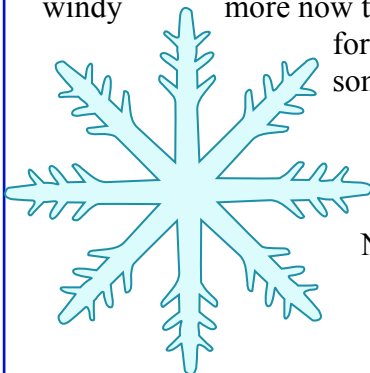
If you want to know where species rhododendrons and companion plants are found, this is the program.

Message from the President:

We made it through January without much weather to worry about. I figure if we get to March, we have avoided any killing freezes. That leaves February to worry about. I was going to take a load of plants to Seattle, but that dang weather guy says freezing rain and snow a possibility, so there goes that trip.



Being in the nursery business, a person is controlled by the weather. Seems it's windy more now than when I was a kid and didn't have plants blowing over. I used to hope for snow, now I dread it. Cold weather wasn't a problem and floods were somebody else's problem.



I never liked partnerships very much and now I find I'm in one with Mother Nature.

Terry Henderson jentersruger@aol.com

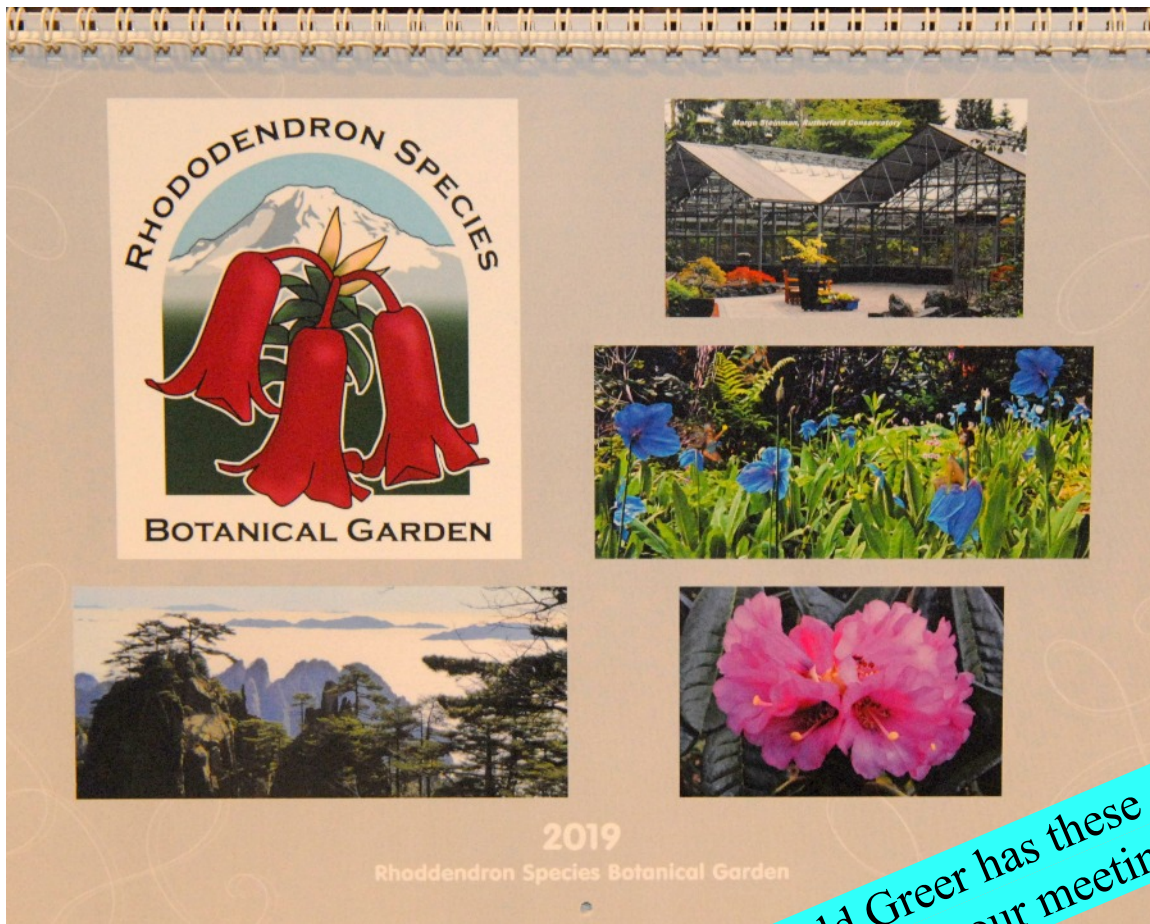
Greetings: From Keith White, chairman of the RSBG Photography Committee. Every year we produce a calendar. Below are comments from Britt Board who is in charge of volunteers and marketing and is general coordinator of everything at the RSBG. I am forwarding this on to you in the hope that members of your chapter will order some calendars to help support and publicize the RSBG. Please pass this on to your chapter members. (The Tualatin Chapter purchased 15 calendars.)

To order phone RSBG at 253-838-4646 extension 110 (gift shop open Thursday through Sunday). Or just 253-838-4646 if no answer at the gift shop.

Or Email at: info@rhodygarden.org

“2019 Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Calendars - \$15 each

The calendar features rare plants, photos of plant hunting adventures, garden landscapes, and luscious macro shots of rhododendrons. All of the photos are courtesy of talented volunteers and staff. Order yours over the phone or pick one up at the Visitor Center of the RSBG. 100% of the proceeds support conservation and education, the cornerstones of the RSBG’s mission.”



Harold Greer has these calendars available at our meeting.



Dinner is a great time to socialize with fellow rhododendron enthusiasts. Harold says it is okay for members to bring wine to share at our pre-meeting dinner. Thank you for the fine wine you've shared with us Harold.



← Jason Martinez, Horticulturist at San Francisco Botanical Garden @ Strybing Arboretum and his wife, Kristi Beddow, before his presentation *The Rhododendron Garden of San Francisco Botanical Garden @ Strybing Arboretum.*

Thank you both for sharing with us!

Photos from January Meeting
Taken by Grace Fowler-Gore

VISITING HINSDALE GARDEN



As most readers know, the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden is located on Oregon Highway 38 about five miles east of Reedsport. It's an easy day trip from anywhere in western Oregon, with good scenery to enjoy on the way there and back home. If home base is in the Willamette Valley, a 'loop' drive utilizing different routes going over and along Highway 101 is fun. Blooming season for the rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias is going well by March, and continues through April, May and in to June.

There are several ways to enjoy strolling through Hinsdale Garden. One is to choose an open garden day hosted by the Friends of Hinsdale Garden. This option provides parking at the Elk View Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, with shuttle transportation to a central point in the main garden. Garden maps are available, interpretive signs are posted and you might also purchase a plant propagated from a Hinsdale cultivar. Due in part to the government 'shut-down', dates this year are not yet firm. But one is almost certain, that is May 11, the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. Once established, the dates will likely be posted on the Friends of Hinsdale Garden website, and perhaps the BLM, Coos Bay District site.



A second option is a self-guided tour. You can choose this on any day you wish throughout the year. Some cautionary remarks about this alternative: There is no public parking in the garden. Both the main entrance and an eastern entrance have locked gates, and you must walk in to the garden after parking across the highway. Be cautious of traffic in crossing, and of course respectful of any persons or crews that might be working in the garden.



Another possibility is for groups of perhaps a dozen or more traveling by van or bus. Please contact me at 541 895-2864 or lgwone@gmail.com. We'll put something together to unlock one of those gates...and maybe even offer a guide for your tour.

Gordon Wylie



Photos Provided by Joanne Turner

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

Hope to see you.
www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Event Calendar 2018 – 2019

Chapter Dinner 5:30 & Meeting 7:00

The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, Oregon

Feb. 20 Stephen Krebs, Ph.D –
Form Plus Function: Building Better Adapted Rhododendrons

March 20 Don Wallace –
Some Extraordinary Gardens of Seattle

April 17 Bruce Palmer –
What's in a Name II?

May 4 Flower Show and Banquet @ The Springs

May 11 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds

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.