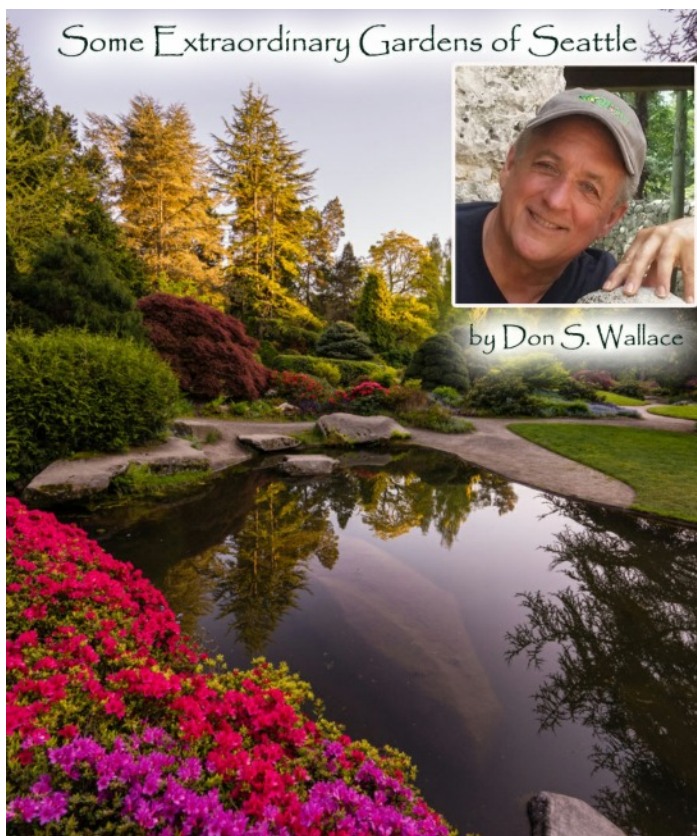


Eugene ARS meeting Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at The Springs.  
Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.



## *Some Extraordinary Gardens of Seattle* by Don S. Wallace

I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to the Seattle area last May, 2018 to tour several extraordinary gardens. This program is a travelogue highlighting some of the most memorable gardens there. Starting at the Rhododendron Species Garden in Federal Way, we were a bit late for most of the rhododendron species, but still were able to see many in bloom. We traveled next to the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge. This world-class garden is considered to be in the top 10 of all gardens in the US. I would agree! We traveled to the Meerkerk Gardens on Whidbey Island, and had a short tour of a few private gardens in the area. We finished the tour visiting

the Washington Park Arboretum and the Kabota Gardens in South Seattle. Don will be bringing some special plants for sale as well.

Don Wallace is the owner of Singing Tree Gardens, a small retail nursery, located in McKinleyville, California. Over the past 20 years Don has planted, propagated, hybridized, and grown from seed many rhododendrons. He is the past president of the Eureka chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and participated as one of the Show Chairmen at the Western Regional Conference in Eureka back in 1999. Don has been involved in photography for 25 years and travels each year to photograph many gardens up and down the Pacific coast. Currently, Don is active in hybridizing rhododendrons for fragrance, as well as new and exciting colors of flowers.

*Don will be bringing some plants with him.*

Jack Olson sent me the following pictures and text February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 before the big storm.



I love to use R. 'Prism', for my crosses, because of the variation in seedlings.



This is a 2018 seedling. I have found that growing seedlings under light, the year round, they just keep growing.

Jack Olson sent me the following pictures and text March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 after the big storm.



Above (before the snow) and to the left "My big problem." (after the snow storm).



Below: Rhododendrons in the greenhouse did well.



## Steve Hootman Speaks in Salem

by Ted Hewitt

On Wednesday, February 13, Rich Aaring and Leonard Frojen joined Paula and me for a visit to the Willamette Chapter of the ARS to hear Steve Hootman's program *Rhododendrons on the Edge*. In this program, Steve compiled slides from a number of his plant exploration trips to areas well to the east of the well known rhododendron areas of Yunnan and Sichuan where few other explorers have trekked due to the lower elevations and the idea that the plants would not be hardy in Western gardens. His talk included provinces such as Guizhou, Guangxi, and Anhui (formerly romanized as Anhwei) as well as the northern parts of Vietnam and included a number of genera other than Genus *Rhododendron*, making it interesting from a wider perspective, though always concentrated on garden worthy plants.

Throughout the talk he emphasized how interesting it is to find plants of a species that are similar to but with many differences to the same species found hundreds of miles away in the higher Himalayas, always with a question of why it had happened. As to why they are finding that many of these plants are hardier here in the Pacific Northwest than their counterparts, there is a very interesting theory. The mountains north of the Himalayas run in east - west ranges which block the extreme cold air masses that move south from the arctic periodically over the millennia whereas the mountain ranges to the north of the eastern provinces run north - south allowing the cold to penetrate even the lower elevations thereby weeding out the less hardy species. A look at a topographic map of Asia shows these mountain ranges well.

Though there are not as many species of rhododendrons in this part of Asia as in the Himalayas, Steve has found a number of new species for introduction to cultivation in the last 10 years and you will find these in the current catalog of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. You might look for *R. suoilenhense*, *R. glanduliferum*, and the small *R. changii*. Among the plants that Steve looks forward to having in the RSBG is a hardier form of *R. edgeworthii* with its heavily indumented, deeply-veined leaves and fragrant flowers. In Anhui Province, while looking unsuccessfully for an unusual *R. shanii*, he reintroduced *R. anhweiense* which has not been done for a good many years, which adds a new interest to the plant that is growing in Hendricks Park.

You can read about his 2015 expedition to this region in the *2017 Rhododendron Species* yearbook of the RSBG to find many of the other genera that he has started bringing to the RSBG to enhance the wonderful collection already started. As an associate member of the RSBG the Eugene Chapter receives two of these yearbooks each year. One of the genera that interested me includes the Chinese forms of *Styrax* and how they differ from *Styrax japonica* (Japanese Snowbell) with long dangly racemes of larger white flowers. We all enjoyed this program and agreed it was a nice trip. It's always nice to meet ARS members in other chapters.

### News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

Winter Storm of 2019 covered Eugene in close to 2 feet of snow. Plants were covered, trees fell on houses and vehicles, lots of power outages for Eugene and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park suffered immense tree failure from the heavy snow load and saturated soils. Currently, we have just barely opened up the streets that lead there. I walked around with my co-worker the other day, getting these photos among a tangle of oak branches blocking the trails. We will be getting some major cleanup efforts going in there soon, but we have to address close to 30 overhead hazards first. This means, getting climbing crews in there to climb the trees and dislodge hangers. Arborists are very busy right now, but I'm hoping we can get some here by the end of the week. The garden will be getting some heavy pruning this year. (March 6, 2019)



Large oak limb failure in the Main Lawn.



Large branches in *Rhododendron ririei* and pathways.

Continuation of News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

→  
Large oak limbs cracked over  
McCready Arbor.



←  
Japanese Snowbell, obliterated.

Continuation of News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune



Ted's Bench.

Ted Trombert (former head gardener of Hendricks Park)

Blocked trails... everywhere.



Want to help get the park back in shape. 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)

<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)

Come re-elect Nancy Burns as our chapter's Treasurer and elect Emily Aune as the new chapter Secretary.

Thank you Sherlyn for all the effort you've given our chapter over the years. We wish you and your family a wonderful future in your new community.

## March is Election Time for our group.

Officer Positions: Secretary – Emily Aune AND Treasurer – Nancy Burns

Regular Board Positions: **two vacant positions available**

At the March meeting these terms will be voted upon. Please let us know if you are interested and wish to be a member of the board. The terms are for three years. We meet once a month to coordinate the group's activities.

### 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 2018 – 2019

**Chapter Dinner 5:30 & Meeting 7:00**

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

**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](mailto:hgreer@greergardens.com), so that Harold can let the staff at The Springs know how many will be in our party.