

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

October Rhododendron Society meeting Wednesday, October 16th, at The Springs. Join us for Dinner at 5:30 PM and/or meeting at 7:00 PM.



Jeanine Smith – Using Rhododendrons in the Landscape

Jeanine Smith joined the Seattle Rhododendron Society in 1971, served as President from 1985-87, and again from 2017-2019. She has also served as ARS District 2 Director, Western Regional Vice President for two years, on the [Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens](#) Board and on the Executive Board of the [Rhododendron Species Foundation](#).

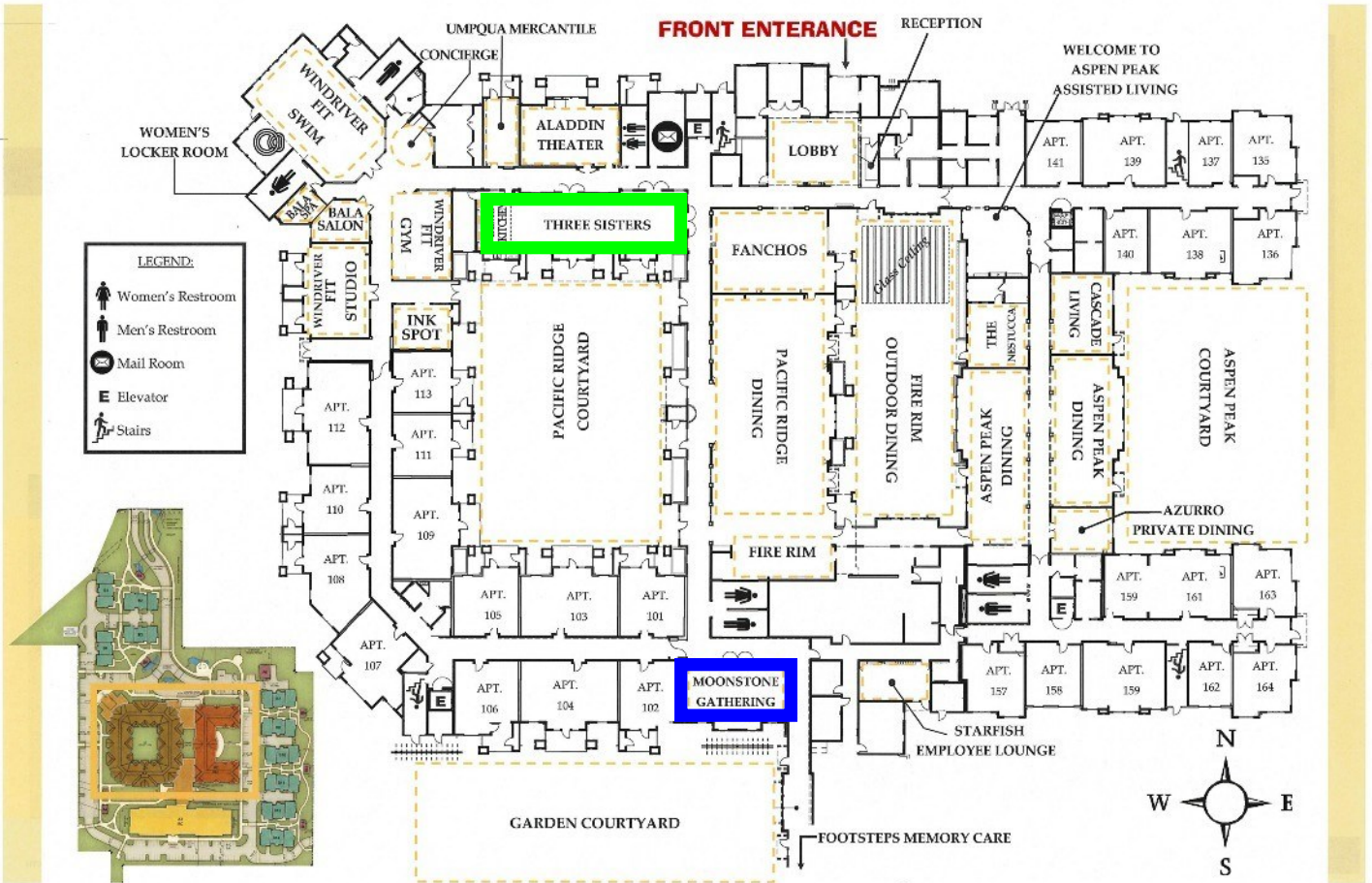
Jeanine and her husband, Rex, have spent 43 years building a large garden on three acres in Woodinville, WA. Plants have interested her since childhood, and she was blown away by the variety of wonderful plants that grow in the temperate climate of the Northwest when she moved here fifty years ago. Being especially drawn to rhododendrons, she soon joined the Society. Her involvement in the ARS has led to forays into collecting, propagating, and hybridizing, along with plant trips to Asia to see the species in the wild. She and Rex are proud of the many rhododendrons they feature on their property. The challenge has been to place these rhododendrons in the sites that suit them, as well as integrating them with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to create a pleasing landscape. Jeanine finds it fortunate that the large genus of rhododendrons has such a great variety of sizes, shapes, foliage, sun tolerance, and times of flowering. Her program will demonstrate how she has used rhododendrons in the landscape in combination with other plants.

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.



**And there are Cookies
and Coffee with our
free meeting.**



The Springs at Greer Gardens Layout
 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon

5:30 Dinner is buffet style in **Three Sisters**. If you are dining with us, please pay the receptionist \$20 per diner as you enter the FRONT ENTRANCE. An Asian Stir Fry Buffet is the October selection.

7:00 Meeting is held in **Moonstone Gathering**.

ARS Membership Renewal Time

You should have received your ARS membership renewal forms in the mail. The cost for a regular membership that includes membership in the Eugene Chapter remains at \$40.00 including the ARS quarterly Journal and the chapter Newsletter. Please return the completed forms to Membership Secretary Nancy Burns as soon as possible by mail or in person at the October chapter meeting.

Please make your checks payable to “Eugene Chapter ARS.”

Thank you for your membership and support.

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

Improvements have started at Eugene City Parks, thanks to Eugene voters and the Friends of Hendricks Park. In May of 2018, Eugene citizens voted and approved an additional \$30.35 million bond and \$3.15 million levy dedicated to improving Eugene's Parks and Recreation System.

Eugene City Planners have broken ground on the new Riverfront Park and are working diligently on designs, as well as installing new infrastructure and restoring outdated parks.

They have also used this money to hire two new parks-specific Police Officers and two Park Ambassadors to enforce park rules and improve public safety within our park system. In addition, maintenance crews hired a swing-shift evening crew to re-check restrooms, dispose of trash and address safety concerns throughout the park system.

Hendricks Park has also benefited from these new funds with the additional staffing, re-opening the Rhododendron Garden bathroom year-round instead of seasonally, and receiving additional funds for tree work and trail resurfacing.



My favorite designation for the additional bond and levy money enabled the hiring of a seasonal dedicated gardener in the Rhododendron Garden, thanks also to a matching donation from the Friends of Hendricks Park. Kimberly Shocket who goes by, Kimba works 20 hours a week pulling weeds, watering, planting plants and mulching throughout the garden. She comes to us with experience working with plants at Mountain Rose Herbs and Down to Earth, and balances her schedule with her own landscaping clients.

Thanks to the soaking rain we received recently, Kimba and I decided to start our planting season this month. We added a handful of deer-proof summer-interest flowers, including white coneflowers, scabiosa, coreopsis, and a ground cover of corydalis. Plus, we planted our first rhododendrons of the season - *Rhododendron benhallii*. This small shrub-like rhododendron (formerly named *Menziesia ciliicalyx*) has little urn-shaped flower clusters that will bloom pink in the springtime. It is native to Japan, and only grows 2 to 3 feet tall. I look forward to its bright green pubescent leaves brightening up the bed in the springtime as well as adding new species to the garden.

This is just the beginning of the wonderful additions to Hendricks Park. Thank you, Eugene voters and the Friends of Hendricks Park.



To the left,
deer resistant perennials
To the right,
R. benhallii



Great Foliage, Form and Flowers: R. 'Vibrant Violet'

By Maria Stewart

When I think about Frank Fujioka's hybrids, R. 'Seaview Sunset' comes to mind first because its foliage is so beautifully dark green and its flowers are so bright. Well, R. 'Vibrant Violet' comes to mind next because its small leaves are also dark green and its violet flowers are beautifully bright. Additionally, the form of 'Vibrant Violet' is compact. The leaves densely cover the branches and form an attractive plant that is wider than tall. This is a rhododendron that would complement any garden.

Here is more about r. 'Vibrant Violet':

Hybridizer: Frank Fujioka in 1986.

Parentage: R. impeditum x R. augustinii 'Towercourt'

Flowers: vivid violet color with orange anthers; clusters of 4 to 5 trusses, each with 5 to 6 flowers.

Foliage: small, pointed and dark green leaves cover the plant and make a great background for the flowers. The bloom time is mid-April.

Form: grows wider than tall to about 3 feet in 10 years; the branches form a rounded plant.

Hardiness: 0 degrees F. (Some writers say -5 degrees hardiness.)

Placement in your garden: does well in full sun.



Pre Convention Tour



Times and Locations may change.
The dates will remain the same.

Around the Sound – Day One -- Monday, April 27th, 2020

Breakfast at Heathman Lodge 7:00 to 8:30

Heathman Lodge to Falls Terrace Start from Heathman Lodge @ 8:30.

Drive 103 miles (1&1/2 hrs) to <http://www.fallsterrace.com/> 360-943-7830

106 Deschutes Way SW Tumwater, WA 98501 arriving @ 10:00.

Tour Falls Terrace/Salmon Ladders 10:00 to 11:00

Lunch 11:00 to 12:00

Falls Terrace to Whitney Gardens Start @ 12:15

Drive 60.7 miles (1 hr 11 min) to <http://www.whitneygardens.com/> 360-796-4411

306264 Hwy. 101, Brinnon, WA 98320 arriving @ 1:30.

Tour of Whitney Gardens & Nursery 1:30 to 2:45

Whitney Gardens to Far Reaches Farm Start @ 2:45

Drive 36.5 miles (45 min) to <https://www.farreachesfarm.com/Default.asp> 360-385-5114

1818 Hastings Avenue, Port Townsend, WA 98368 arriving @ 3:45.

Tour Far Reaches Farm & Wine Tasting 3:45 to 6:00

Far Reaches Farm to The Point Start @ 6:00

Drive 34.2 miles (49 min) to <https://www.thepointcasinoandhotel.com/> 360-297-0070

7989 NE Salish Ln, Kingston, WA 98346 arriving @ 6:40.

Dinner at The Point 7:30 to 9:00

Around the Sound – Day Two -- Tuesday, April 28th, 2020

Breakfast at The Point 7:00 to 8:30

The Point to Heronswood Start from The Point @ 8:30.

Drive 2 miles (5 min) to <https://heronswoodgarden.org/> 360-297-9620

7530 NE 288th Street, Kingston, WA 98346 @ 8:45a.m.

Tour Heronswood 8:30 to 10:30

Héronswood to Bloedel Reserve Start @ 10:30

Drive 12.2 miles typically (20-24 min) to <https://bloedelreserve.org>

7571 N.E. Dolphin Drive, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 arriving @ 11:00.

Tour Bloedel Reserve 11:00 to 12:30

Bloedel Reserve to Fay Bainbridge Park Start @ 12:30

Drive 2.5 miles (6 min) to <https://biparks.org/fay-bainbridge-park-campground/>

15446 Sunrise Dr NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 arriving @ 12:45

Lunch Fay Bainbridge Park 12:45 to 1:45

Fay Bainbridge to RSBG Start @ 1:45

67.4 miles (1hr 15min -1hr 30 min) via WA-16 W and WA-3 N [or]

38.5 miles (1 hr 40 min – 2hr 10 min) via I-5 N and WA-305 to <https://rhodygarden.org/cms/>

2525 S 336th St, Federal Way, WA 98003 arriving 3:15. **GPS use “Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden”**

Tour Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 3:15 to 7

RSBG to Heathman Lodge Start @ 7:00

Drive 143 miles (2hr 10min-2h 30min) to <https://www.heathmanlodge.com>

7801 NE Greenwood Dr, Vancouver, WA 98662 arriving @ 9:00p.m.

The American Rhododendron Society to hold its 75th Anniversary Convention

Hosted by ARS District 4, April 29-May 3, 2020,
at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA.

Portland, Oregon, September 19, 2019

The 2020 ARS international convention—*2020 Vision, Looking Forward, Reflecting Back*—will feature a renowned group of international speakers, including Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland, Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England, Jens Nielsen from Denmark, Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum, Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden, Valerie Soza from the University of Washington, and more. Garden tours will include visits to Crystal Springs Botanical Garden, Cecil & Molly Smith Garden, Portland Japanese Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden, Iseli Nursery, and Woodburn Nursery. The convention will also feature a plant sale and a photo exhibit and contest.

The American Rhododendron Society is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in, and to disseminate information about, the genus *Rhododendron*. The organization has a membership of some 2,500 members worldwide. The ARS was incorporated in Portland, Oregon, in January of 1945. The first annual rhododendron show was held on Park Avenue in front of the art museum in downtown Portland. 75 years later, the 2020 convention returns to the Portland area, home to many of the major nursery suppliers in the country. To this day, *Rhododendron* is celebrated as a diverse and fascinating genus, with hybridizers continuing to create new crosses and plant explorers continuing to locate and identify new species.

Registration for the 2020 convention will open on December 2, 2019 and will be available online at www.ARS75.org

Registration forms will also be available as an insert in the Fall quarterly edition of *Journal American Rhododendron Society*. Information on the ARS, including membership, is available at www.rhododendron.org.

Start going through your photos or considering taking some new photographs for the photo contest. Details @ <https://ars75.org/photo-contest/>

Contest Categories

1. Flower, truss, or spray
2. Landscape: plants in the wild or in a garden setting
3. People, insects, or animals
4. Foliage, bark, or seedpods

Philadelphia 2019 winner, Flower, truss, or spray:

Jackson McCarter – ‘Hachmann’s Charmant’



Convention Details @

www.ars75.org

Start Planning to Attend

One of the fun sites visited during the post convention tour is our local Hinsdale Garden.

The O. Howard Hinsdale Garden origins were in 1912, when Oscar B. Hinsdale, founder of the Umpqua River Navigation Co. and a manager of the Gardiner Mill Co., constructed a three-room house on what would become known as Spruce Reach Island, according to documents provided by BLM. In the late 1940s, son O. Howard Hinsdale, a bank president and serious botany hobbyist, beefed up the island with 23,000 cubic yards of fill and decorated it with an array of flora imported from around the world.

His impressive collection grew to include 500 rhododendrons, 300 azaleas, 50 camellias and close to 100 imported trees. The Hinsdales opened their estate to the public each year for benefit tea parties for Saint Mary's Episcopal Church of Gardiner, drawing such luminaries as the governor's wife.

O. Howard Hinsdale expanded his parents' once-modest home into a 5,500 square foot lodge. But he had to raise it – not once, but three times – to prevent it from being flooded by the river. In recent years, the agency has partnered with the American Rhododendron Society to maintain it. Hinsdale's son, Howard Jr., was the last of the family to live in the house. After 1971, Hinsdales continued to maintain the property, sometimes with tenants.

While the O.H. Hinsdale Garden is being coaxed back to life, the Hinsdale House on the island is only a shade of its once regal self. It features a round turret like a castle and expansive windows offering views of the Umpqua River and stunning garden blooms. Nancy Hammond lived there with caretaker Elizabeth Adamo before BLM acquired Spruce Reach Island in 1994 through a complicated land-exchange deal. The agency intends to use the property to enhance the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area.

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

Event Calendar 2019 – 2020

- October 16th **Jeanine Smith – Using Rhododendrons in the Landscape**
- Nov. 21st Bill McNamara – Quarry Hill Botanical Garden near Santa Rosa, CA
- Dec. 18th Holiday Potluck @ The Springs
- Jan. 15th Bruce Palmer “What’s in a Name”
- Feb. 20th Bob Zimmerman – Species
- March 19th Glen Jamieson Journal ARS editor
- April 75th Anniversary ARS Convention, April 29th – May 3rd
- May 9th Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds
- May 20th Eugene Chapter Flower Show and Banquet