

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Rhododendron Society meeting Wednesday, **November 20th**

7:00 PM Talk @ The Springs at Greer Gardens

1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon



Bill McNamara's talk will focus on a particular aspect of collecting plants in the wild. While human beings have moved plants around the globe for thousands of years, this activity has not been without problems. Usually it has provided great benefit. Today the little-mentioned but severe extinction-crisis has generated particular urgency to get plants and their seeds to botanic gardens and seed banks. Thus, his title:

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The trials and Tribulations of Plant Hunting

Bill recently retired from the Quarryhill Botanical Garden, a private research garden in Glen Ellen, California. He began work there in 1987 and became Executive Director in 2007. In company with horticulturists from Kew, the Howick Arboretum, and others, Bill has botanized extensively in the wilds of Asia, venturing into the mountains of China, Japan, India, Nepal, Vietnam and Myanmar. Among other accolades and appointments, Bill became an Associate Member of the joint Chinese-American Committee for the Flora of China. He has published numerous articles and lectured widely. His talks are well-known for featuring his exceptional photographs of both the plants he has botanized and the local cultures where they are found. He has received wide-spread recognition, including the prestigious Garden Club of America's Eloise Payne Luquer Medal in 2009, the 2010 Scott Medal and Award from the Scott Arboretum, the California Horticultural Society Annual Award, the Award of Excellence from the National Garden Clubs, and, in 2017, both the Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society and the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from the American Horticultural Society. He welcomes interactions during his presentations, but for our more confrontational members, please remember along with his master's degree in Conservation Biology, he holds a third-degree black belt in Aikido!

5:30 PM Dinner — 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.



6:30 PM Meet & Greet

**Join us for free Cookies
& Coffee while meeting
our members.**



Jeanine Smith, **thank you**, for your talk *Using Rhododendrons in the Landscape* and answering questions after your wonderful talk.



**Thank you
members for
renewing your
membership.**



News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

A warm thank you goes to **Leonard Frojen** this month. He offered me a tour through his garden, despite the downpour that planned itself during our meeting time. Leonard has been an avid gardener and Rhododendron Society member for 30+ years. Leonard and his wife, Carmen, live in south Eugene, and although their plot is relatively small, they have packed it full of plants. Beneath several unique understory trees, including a *Katsura* and a *Styrex*, the understory is bursting with rhododendrons.



Continuation of News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

He allowed me to take cuttings from some special plants in the garden. I'll let you know if they take. Also, from his collection, Leonard donated three nice potted plants to Hendricks Park. The largest is a Lem's form *Rhododendron bureavii*. This plant is already 2 feet high and nearly 3 feet wide. It has already found its new home in the newly designated species section of the garden above Barto's Path. It has soft, dark brown indumentum that will protect its leaves from Azalea Lacebug infestation and its creamy white flowers with red tinges will add a unique flower to the park.



Rhododendron bureavii (Lem's Form) -
Ready for planting

Continuation of News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

The next biggest plant he donated was a very nice *Rhododendron decorum*. This plant is known as the great white rhododendron and will some day tower over the other plants in a newly renovated main garden bed. Hendricks Park has some older specimens of this plant. I've noticed that lace-bugs don't bother its leaves, even though it lacks indumentum. Perhaps it's because the leaves are so thick and glossy, or maybe it just tastes bad to them. Either way, it's nice to find plants that show resiliency against these pests. The very last potted plant that Leonard donated is a little yellow lepidote called *Rhododendron hanceanum*. This one will only grow to about 2 feet, so I'll find a spot to tuck it in, once the plant matures a little bit more. Thank you Leonard, for your time and for the plants.



Rhododendron decorum - in its new home in the main garden

Another shout-out to **Terry Henderson** of **Log Cabin Plants** for donating his time, expertise and space to get some cuttings started of Hendricks Park rhododendrons. This will be the third year he's taken cuttings from special plants within Hendricks Park in the interest of keeping some of the older or unique plants alive and in greater numbers. This year I snuck in a couple from Leonard Frojen's house as well! Figures crossed they all root!

While I was there, I couldn't help but fill up my work truck with some new additions for the garden. We both win!

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.

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 Winter 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 **Photos Ready ??**

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

Have you Started
Planning to Attend?

One of the fun sites visited during the post convention tour is our chapter's very own meeting location of The Springs at Greer Gardens. The information below can be found at <https://ars75.org/>

The Greers have been involved in rhododendrons for more than 60 years. [Greer Gardens](#) started as a hobby of Harold Greer's father, Edgar, whose death in 1972 was the impetus for Harold to make a business of a hobby. The Garden grew into an internationally known mail-order nursery, with up to 40 employees shipping plants worldwide on an eventual 14 acres (5.7 ha). The property recently transitioned into a premier senior retirement complex—The Springs at Greer Gardens—which houses a new residence for Harold and Nancy and an adjacent rhododendron garden of Harold's treasured specimens.

In 1989, Harold Greer was the youngest person ever to receive an ARS Gold Medal and the youngest to serve as president of the Society. He was the organizing founder of the Western Regional Conferences some 39 years ago and is co-chairing the 2020 convention with Mike Stewart. Harold's photos have been published widely, including on the cover of *Smithsonian Magazine*. The combination of his extensive knowledge and his warm and engaging style make him the perfect host for our first evening's dinner event.

Winner of seven of fourteen silver trophies and awards was Harold Greer, Eugene. Photo by Dan Morris JARS v21n4 October 1967



American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
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Event Calendar 2019 – 2020

- Nov. 20 Bill McNamara –
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The trials and Tribulations of Plant Hunting
- Dec. 18 Holiday Potluck @ The Springs
- Jan. 15 Bruce Palmer “What’s in a Name”
- Feb. 19 Bob Zimmerman – Species
- March 18 Glen Jamieson Journal ARS editor
- April 75th Anniversary ARS Convention, April 29th – May 3rd
- May 9 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds
- May 30 Eugene Chapter Flower Show and Banquet