

American Rhododendron Society



www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Eugene Chapter Newsletter

*~~ January Chapter Meeting ~~
RSBG Sikkim Expedition 2015:
In the Footsteps of J. D. Hooker*

Wednesday, January 20th

6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm Business & Program

Our January meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Keith White. Dr. White has long lived in Salem, Oregon, and practiced medicine in Independence, Oregon, just west of Salem. He is a member of the board of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and has long served the ARS.



Dr. White will present a program called "RSBG Sikkim Expedition 2015: In the Footsteps of J. D. Hooker". Keith is an experienced photographer and is the chairman of the photography committee of the RSF so you know his photography is great. Keith will give us a look at

the rhododendrons of Sikkim plus the magnificent scenery of that part of the world.

This is an opportunity to see the rhododendrons we grow in their native habitat. You will want to be sure to join this ZOOM presentation!

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmRmXNkdz09)

[pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmRmXNkdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmRmXNkdz09)

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312 Passcode: 741695

January 2021

Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, October through March, unless otherwise specified. Unfortunately, face-to-face meetings are currently suspended due to Covid-19.

Upcoming ZOOM Chapter Meetings

Wednesday, February 17

Wednesday, March 17

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Our Mission

Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons

Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships

Grow both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens

Educate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons

Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons

Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community

One Last Chance!

It is not too late to renew your regular or associate membership in the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society ... but it soon will be!

If you have not yet renewed your membership - we don't want to see you go! Please access renewal forms on our chapter website by following this link:

<http://eugene-chapter-ars.org/membership.html>

Spring 2021 Eugene Chapter Meetings One Zoom Link

In an effort to simplify your access to our Eugene Chapter ARS meetings, a single ZOOM link has been created for all Spring, 2021 monthly meetings. We suggest that you bookmark this link in your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmpRMXNkdz09)

[pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmpRMXNkdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmpRMXNkdz09)

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312 Passcode: 741695

6:30 pm - Social Time

7:00 pm - Business Meeting and Presentation

Wednesday, January 20

Wednesday, February 17

Wednesday, March 17

One ZOOM link for all our meetings!



ARS Eugene Chapter Officers

Terry Henderson, President
Jack Olson, Vice President
Emily Aune, Secretary
Nancy Burns, Treasurer

Directors

Helen Baxter Dana Manion
Tom Beatty Gordon Wylie
Grace Fowler-Gore

Board Meetings are held via ZOOM on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am, and are open to the public.

ZOOM link (recurring through June, 2021):

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978426753?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978426753?pwd=WU5pRHBpSnF1Zm9XZmh3SGd3OHpyQT09)

[pwd=WU5pRHBpSnF1Zm9XZmh3SGd3OHpyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978426753?pwd=WU5pRHBpSnF1Zm9XZmh3SGd3OHpyQT09)

Meeting ID: 859 7842 6753 Passcode: 017524

~~ *Rhododendrons of the Month* ~~
'Emasculum' and 'Praecox'
 by Harold Greer



'Emasculum'



'Praecox'



Rhododendron 'Emasculum' and 'Praecox' are both old varieties that go back 100 years or more to their origination in England. Both are the same cross of *R. ciliatum* x *dauricum* but are not really sister seedlings out of the same cross. 'Praecox' originated at Brook Lane Nursery, Lancashire, England, in 1855 and received an Award of Garden Merit in 1926 and a First Class Certificate in 1978. With 'Emasculum' there seems to be some disagreement on its origin. The old **International Rhododendron Register** says it came from Waterer in Surry, England, while the newer **International Rhododendron Register and Checklist** does not mention Waterer, but says it was listed by R. Veitch and Son in 1927. It received an Award of Merit in 1976.

A few years back in my days in the nursery industry, both cultivars were fairly widely grown in the Northwest, but we see fewer of them today. 'Emasculum' is probably seen more often. The name 'Emasculum' is used for the plant, because it has emasculated stamens or no stamens at all. 'Praecox' has a name that means "very early" which is true of the flower which opens in late winter/early spring. 'Emasculum' is more upright growing and flowers a bit later than 'Praecox', but it still flowers early in the season.

The following mostly fits both cultivars:

- ◆ Height in 10 years 5 feet
- ◆ Hardiness -5°F
- ◆ Color soft silver pink
- ◆ Rating 3 - 4/3 - 3
 (flower / plant / performance)
- ◆ Ease of propagation Easy
- ◆ Flower Lots of buds make
 for a plant covered
 with flowers
- ◆ Foliage Decent in summer,
 loses some leaves in
 winter
- ◆ Vigor Good

Editor's Note: The next time you visit Hendricks Park, I'm told there is an 'Emasculum' across the lower path from the Rock Garden. Look for it!

~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~
by Emily Aune
“Happy New Year to Everyone!”



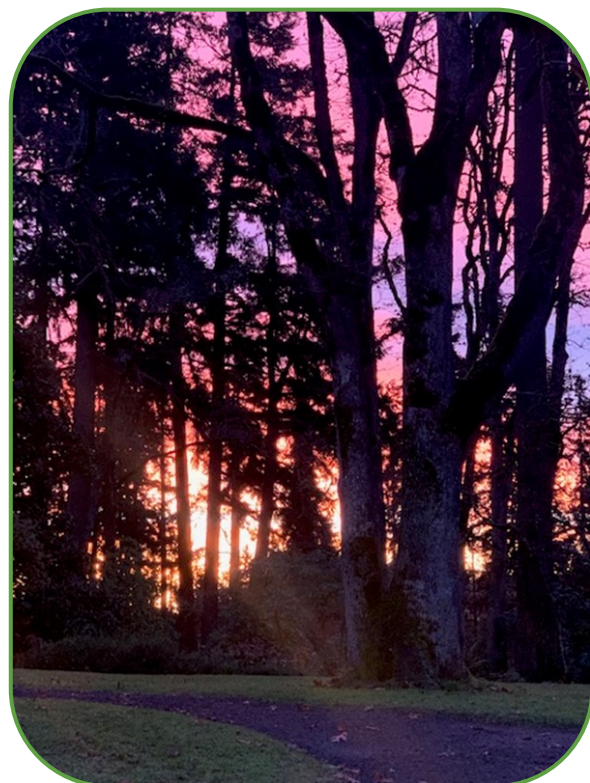
I have had an incredibly successful fall planting season. We moved hundreds of plants out of the lath house and into the garden. I spent the last of my annual plant budget from the Friends of Hendricks Park at Gossler Farms nursery. It is always such a treat to see Roger Gossler and visit this nursery to see what fantastic and unusual plants he has on hand. The Hewitts were able to join me at the nursery as well, so we walked around (6 feet apart!) and ogled all the fine plant choices.

Roger loaded up a cart for me. We had no problem filling it up, and he always donates a free plant or two as they are going towards the good cause of a public garden.



Among the gems I brought back to the garden was a group of *Fothergilla gardnerii* 'Jane Platt'. I love their fall color and the deer don't bother them, making them a good choice for Hendricks Park. This grouping is now edging the tip of a bed that has been empty (except for weeds) for too many years. I look forward to this filling out and making a bold fall statement in the years to come.

We are coming out of the dark season, thank goodness, but one perk I get this time of year are the sunrises during work hours. It is quite dark when I get to work, but as the sun creeps over the ridge, I witness amazing early morning moments like these. Here's to new beginnings and fresh starts!



An Update on Some Longtime Friends shared by Gordon Wylie



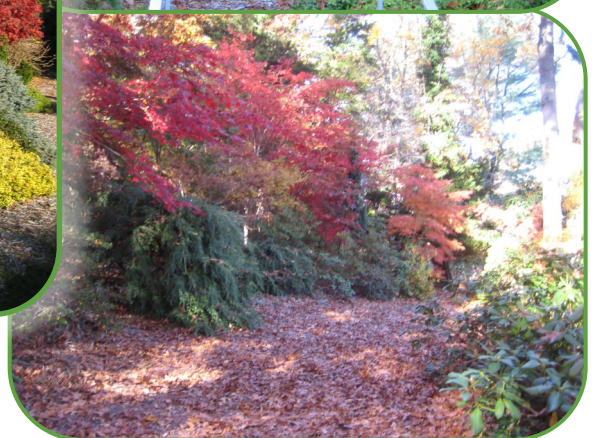
Bruce and Marianne Feller have happily retired from working lives in the Big Apple to their two acre garden on Long Island, New York. Many Eugene ARS chapter members will remember that Bruce and Marianne are longtime American Rhododendron Society members - Bruce served as the national ARS President in 2013 - 2014 and he has also served on a couple of ARS committees over the years. In addition, Bruce and Marianne have attended several ARS conventions here on the west coast.



Their home and garden on Long Island contain a fine collection of conifers and maples which provides shelter and contrast to rhododendrons. The pictures on this page, taken in early November, illustrate the grand fall color. Early in 2020, in contrast to virus driven closures of other gardens and parks, the Fellers opened their garden to the public. Of course, decorous conduct was required; masks, distancing and such at visitors' discretion. The result of their hospitality has been over a hundred guests, ranging from those with casual interest to serious horticulturalists, along with many good conversations.



What a wonderful response to all the angst of 2020!



Reflections of our December Photo Share Meeting shared by Grace Fowler-Gore

It was wonderful seeing so many of your smiling faces at our December Photo Share ZOOM gathering. I want to thank everyone for sharing their time and photos with all of us. Of course I run the risk of omitting someone, but I'd like to acknowledge those who attended our get-together. From the south (Eureka Chapter) we had the pleasure of meeting Ellen Gill for the first time. From the north (Portland and Willamette Chapters) we had in attendance Steve McCormick & John Stephens, Anne Gross & Steve Krasik, Dick & Karen Cavender, Keith White, Mike & Maria Stewart, and Steve Hopkins. From the east, we had Sherlyn Hilton (a member of our chapter who lives in Utah). Locally, we had Harold & Nancy Greer, Ted & Paula Hewitt, Terry Henderson, Mark & Dana Manion, Nancy Burns, Lorrie Zeller, Donna Manion, and Ed, Dena & Grace Fowler-Gore. From the west (Siuslaw Chapter), Patricia & Myles Swift have attended previous meetings, so I may have missed writing down their names this time. And again, I may have missed other folks - my apologies!

For our next Photo Sharing ZOOM gathering, whenever that might be . . . I think it would be good to have everyone able to make comments on the pictures as they are shared, rather than having everyone muted.

I am looking forward to seeing more of you at this month's meeting. Remember that there are three different talks that you can attend right from your cozy home (see page 8 of this newsletter for invitations and links to the meetings) . . . Let's start 2021 together!

ARS Annual Convention - Virtual or In-Person Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada June 3 - 6, 2021 Registration opens January 15, 2021 <https://ars2021.org/>

Take advantage of an exciting opportunity to learn about growing, breeding and gardening with rhododendrons. Due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, ***the 2021 American Rhododendron Society Convention will be offering all the presentations, garden tours and networking opportunities available on line, to anyone who can access the internet!*** For those who can travel to Nova Scotia (see latest travel restrictions [here](#)) there will also be in-person sessions and garden tours as well as a plant sale featuring rare and unusual Rhodos propagated especially for this event.

Speakers include **Ken Cox**, famed Scottish Rhodo breeder from Glendoick Nursery in Scotland; **Joe Bruso**, Rhodo breeder from Massachusetts; and **Todd Boland** from Newfoundland's Memorial University Botanical Garden. The Convention will start with a lecture on "Introduction to Mi'kma'ki" by **Gerald Gloade**, a Mi'kmaw naturalist and educator who will tell the stories of the first people that explain the natural history since the area was covered by ice. Garden tours, both virtual and in-person, will include the Kentville Research Centre, Annapolis Valley Historic Gardens and Peggy's Cove barrens as well as private gardens. Networking opportunities will include the Breeder's Roundtable where you can hear about the latest trends in Rhodo breeding, the ARS Next Generation Project which will show how to involve the next generation in your local ARS club, as well as social events that feature the seafood, cider and wine from our local producers.

Registration for the virtual convention will open January 15 and is only \$65 (US). Registration for the in-person convention will open on February 15, event dependent on Public Health restrictions. Visit the Conference website for deadlines and more information: <https://ars2021.org/>

~~ Have You Seen This Pest? ~~ From Information Shared by Tom Beatty

Fortunately, this pest is not known to harm rhododendrons but it is being found in home gardens, so you might want to keep an eye out for it.

Rose Stem Girdler (*Agrilus cuprescens*) is a damaging, small coppery metallic beetle (family Buprestidae) pest of cane fruit, increasingly being reported by growers throughout the Willamette Valley region of western Oregon and in southwest Washington. Other common names include bronze cane borer, cane fruit borer, and raspberry borer. An older Latin name, *Agrilus aurichalceus*, is still used in some resources. As you might suspect, hosts of Rose Stem Girdlers include roses, but also certain other members of the rose family, among them caneberries commonly grown in home gardens, including both raspberry (red and black) and blackberry. Affected roses may be wild or cultivated kinds. “While the adults levy no particular offense other than to nibble a few leaves, their youngsters are real trouble makers and are some of the most devastating pests of woody plants.” (<http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2013/1/2/gnarly-roses-rose-stem-girdler-agrilus-aurichalceus>)

Management of rose stem girdler in Oregon is currently limited to cultural methods. Plant in well-drained soil and provide adequate water and fertilizer to avoid plant stress. When telltale enlargements are seen on the canes, remove them by pruning below the damage, then destroy the prunings.



Fig.1 - Damage to caneberry foliage by adult rose stem girdlers, *Agrilus cuprescens*, is typically minor. (W. Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org)



Fig.2 - Larvae of *Agrilus cuprescens*, weaken the cane which may break spontaneously. (James W. Amrine Jr., West Virginia University, Bugwood.org)

(Editor's Note: This brief, paraphrased article and the accompanying photographs are excerpted from the following sources:

<http://osu-wams-blogs-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/blogs.dir/2080/files/2017/10/nwsltr-2017-11-rose-stem-girdler-final.pdf>

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/small-fruit/blackberry-raspberry/blackberry-raspberry-rose-stem-girdler>

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
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Eugene, OR 97405

You're Invited!

Please consider attending other District 4 ZOOM Chapter meetings scheduled in January:

ARS Willamette Chapter

Camellias: Beautiful and Versatile

Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 pm

Kathy Lintault, past president of the Oregon Camellia Society, will talk about the camellia's diverse and lovely flower forms which can appeal to those who appreciate quiet and simple blooms as well as to those who enjoy the bright and gaudy. The camellia's past history and cultural requirements will also be discussed, along with the camellia's ability to brighten the landscape and partner with other plants, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83697977860>

ARS Portland Chapter

Vireyas and the Creation of White Cloud Nursery

Thursday, January 21, 7:00 pm

With a degree in psychology from the University of Washington, **Peter Adams** has enjoyed a varied career which included IT programming. Peter and his wife settled on the big island of Hawai'i and started a nursery specializing in vireyas. Peter will share images of some of his favorite vireyas along with a timeline of the development of the nursery and the construction of their unique home and 3000 square foot greenhouse.

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88280941569>

Meeting ID: 882 8094 1569