

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

And Now ... It's February!

As time marches on into the month of February, 2021, you may feel stuck in the rut of the pandemic ... but there are a few new things coming up that we can get excited about and we want to make sure you know about them!

First of all, be sure to check out page 3 of this newsletter, where you will find information about our Online Plant Auction. This is our first attempt at a virtual plant auction and we hope that everyone will participate. It serves as a fundraiser for our chapter and, if it is well-received, we have more donations lined up for online auctions in the coming months. What a great way to acquire some special plants for our yards and gardens! Winning bidders will be announced at our ZOOM chapter meeting on February 17th.

Another special event highlighted in this newsletter is the upcoming 2021 American Rhododendron Society Convention being held in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 3 - 6, 2021. The organizers of the convention, Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society, are still hopeful that folks will be able to gather in person for the convention, but in a first-ever effort, the convention is also being planned with a virtual component. Read more about the opportunity to participate virtually on page 6.

Finally, here's a suggestion from our member, Gordon Wylie, for something to do to take a break from the boredom ... how about an easy drive out to Hinsdale Rhododendron Garden, located on Oregon Scenic Highway 38, five miles east of Reedsport? The garden's five-plus acres of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias explode into bloom in February, mostly from the large collection of camellias and some spectacular early blooming magnolias. The month of March brings rhododendron and azalea blooms, and new bloom keeps coming well into June. Don't worry about the gates at the two entrances as the garden belongs to all of us. Simply park off the highway, stroll in and enjoy, including the views out over the Umpqua River flowing by the north side of the garden.

February 2021

Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 7 PM 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

In This Newsletter

Eugene Chapter February Meeting Info	Page 2
Online Plant Auction Fundraiser Info	Page 3
Rhododendron of the Month	Page 4
News from Hendricks Park	Page 5
An Amazing Opportunity!	Page 6
Invitations to Other Chapter Meetings	Page 7



~~ February Chapter Meeting ~~
'Rhododendron Species and Hybrids
That Grow in a Perfect Climate'

Wednesday, February 17th
6:30 pm - Social, 7:00 pm - Business Meeting & Program

The speaker for our February meeting will be Dennis McKiver of Fort Bragg, California. The *Genus Rhododendron* contains many different rhododendrons, from tropical to arctic alpine. No individual location can grow every variety, but if one were to select the best location in which to try, Fort Bragg, California, would be the place. It is never too hot or cold. It is dry in summer, but water is available when needed. Dennis will show us month-by-month (as something seems to be in bloom all year in Fort Bragg) what can be grown there. Many of these plants can be grown in the colder northwest. But you will also see rhododendrons that those of us in the northwest can't grow. Things like *R. nuttallii* grow well for Dennis. Don't miss this chance to see some outstanding rhododendrons ... some you can grow, and some you can only admire. Dennis will give you a chance to see really great rhododendrons. Don't miss it!

Dennis McKiver has been a member of the Noyo Chapter, Mendocino County, since 2001. Dennis has 200+ species and 1000+ hybrid rhododendrons growing on his property just north of Fort Bragg, California. He is an active member and volunteer at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Each spring he leads weekly tours of the gardens with an emphasis on how to plant and raise rhododendrons and which ones will do best in different climate zones. Dennis retired from a career as a Patrol Lieutenant for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

ZOOM link:

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

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312

Passcode: 741695



R. nuttallii
Bud, Bloom
& Foliage



Eugene Chapter ARS Online Plant Auction Fundraiser

Email your bids to: ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com

Deadline for Bids: 12:00 Noon on February 17th

Winners announced at the Eugene ARS Chapter ZOOM Meeting on February 17, 7:00 PM

The Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is holding an Online Plant Auction Fundraiser to benefit our chapter. Please email your bids (be sure to include the plant #) to ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com. Those who submit bids will be kept informed of succeeding higher bids via email on an at-least daily basis during the online bidding period (now until 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, February 17th). The winning bidder for each plant will be announced during the Eugene Chapter's February ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 PM. In addition, winners will be contacted via phone/email to make plant pick-up or delivery arrangements.

Plant #1 - 'Barto Alpine'

Minimum Bid: \$10

Description: A very hardy, rugged plant that dances in the sun. Orchid rose flowers open all along the stems. Warm sunshine upon the bark and leaves brings out a sweet spicy scent similar to freshly ground nutmeg. Its dense, upright growth habit provides a form well suited for planting as a short hedge or screen.

Approximate height at 10 years - 3 feet Hardy to -10°F

Flowers in late April

Quality - 3/4/4 (flower / plant & foliage / performance)



Plant #2 - 'Pink Snowflakes'

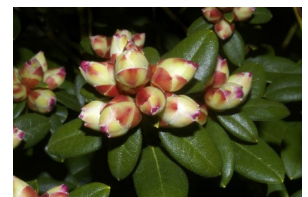
Minimum Bid: \$10

Description: A little plant with shining, glossy green leaves and beautiful bright red flower buds that make the plant extra attractive all winter. In early spring the plant is covered with light pastel pink to white flowers, which have touches of deep pink for added interest. Each flower has a spot of red purple in the throat. The new foliage is bronze red.

Approximate height at 10 years - 2 feet Hardy to 0°F

Flowers in late March

Quality - 4/4/3 (flower / plant & foliage / performance)



Plant #3 - 'Seta'

Minimum Bid: \$10

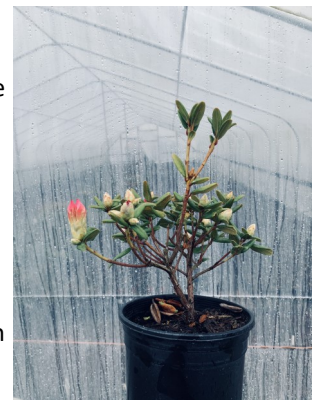
Description: In the early spring, before there is much color, 'Seta' bursts forth in full splendor. The flowers are light pink with deep candy pink on the back of the tubular flowers.

Approximate height at 10 years - 5 feet Hardy to 5°F

Flowers in late February/early March

Quality - 4/3/3 (flower / plant & foliage / performance)

As luck would have it, this is Harold Greer's 'Rhododendron of the Month' for February, so you can read more about this plant on page 4 of this newsletter, as well as see some additional pictures!



Plants donated by Terry Henderson ad Log Cabin Nursery

Plant descriptions excerpted from "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons" with permission from Harold Greer.

~~ *Rhododendron of the Month* ~~
by Harold Greer
'Seta'



'Seta' is an early flowering rhododendron that, depending on the weather, can flower in February or early March so it is great for ending the "winter blues" or, in my opinion, the lack of rhododendron flowers. 'Seta' was hybridized by Lord Aberconway of Bodnant, a famous garden in Conway, Wales. There were three Lord Aberconways, the first prior to 1900, the second 1879-1953, and the third 1913 - 2003. The third Lord Aberconway introduced the plant in 1933, the same year it received an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. It also received a First Class Certificate from the RHS in 1960.

'Seta' is hybrid of *R. spinuliferum* x *moupinense*. Like many of the early hybrids, the entire group of seedlings from that cross were named Seta Group with one clone selected to be registered as 'Seta', which means there may be more than one clone of this plant grown under the name 'Seta' as you might note in my pictures.

The pink and white flowers have an interesting tubular shape originating from its parent *R. spinuliferum*, which has one of the most unusual tubular flowers in the Genus Rhododendron. It is certainly a worthwhile plant to grow for its early flower and unique flower shape. It is a lepidote rhododendron, meaning that the leaves have natural scales. Generally, the plant can be compact, though I have seen some leggy plants without light pruning when young.

- Height in 10 years: 5'
- Hardiness: 5° to 10°F (may lose buds at 15°F)
- Color: Light candy pink with deeper pink on edges of the petals
- Rating: 4/3/3 (flower, foliage, performance, 5 is best, 1 is least)
- Ease of propagation: Relatively easy
- Foliage: Good, sometimes gets red spots on leaves in winter
- Vigor: Good



~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~

by Emily Aune

“A Field Trip to Rocky Knoll Farm To Get Some New Plants!”



Last month, I decided to take a field trip (from the field) to visit Rocky Knoll Farm, also known as Jack and Sandie Olson’s property. Jack had offered me plants for the park, so I masked up and drove out to Fall Creek.

It had been at least three years since my last visit. A lot had changed besides just having to remember to maintain safe distance while touring the property and nursery. During the winter storm of March, 2019, many fir trees had fallen down, including one on Jack’s house! After the storm clean-up, the Olsons did some additional tree-thinning to keep the house safe and to open up the tree canopy.

Currently, Jack is installing another greenhouse and planting out a new rhododendron species area below the house. Pots and pots of rhododendrons surround the greenhouse, all in various stages of growing out.

The first plant I received from Jack was *R. praevernium*. This species is from China and is a very early bloomer, with pale pink flowers and



a reddish center. The plant has very large and long elliptic-lanceolate leaves. Next, Jack passed on a *R. niveum* and *R. niveum* ‘Baxter’. I have been on a search for this species because I have found historical records of them being on the Founders Path but I have never found any in the park.

More plants donated include two Louis Mensing lepidote crosses (#1), two *R. yungningense* (aka *R. glomerulatum*), and a tall unknown lepidote resembling a *R. davidsonianum*. Jack also included a tall evergreen shrub that he had grown from cuttings. Roots of the vibrant shrub were growing through the bottom of the gallon pot into the ground, so it was time to get it out of that pot and into the garden!



I was especially inspired by Jack’s seed-starting set up, and I was excited to see that it was really quite simple: a shelving system with LED and fluorescent lights. Jack usually harvests seeds in October and plants seeds in December. He uses moss from the trees as his seedling mix, and he keeps the plants in enclosed containers under LED and fluorescent lights in his barn. Some of his favorite containers are reused containers from KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken)!

Inspired by Jack, I now have an LED light on my kitchen counter with some rhododendron seeds thinking about sprouting. It will be my first proper attempt at growing rhododendrons from seed, so wish me luck! If all goes well, I’ll start collecting more seeds from the species plants at Hendricks, and growing them out with the help of the park volunteers.

Thanks, Jack, for the visit, for the inspiration, and for your donations to the park!

~~ An Amazing Opportunity! ~~

The 2021 American Rhododendron Society Convention Rhodos Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region

Friends, this inconvenient, seemingly never-ending pandemic has brought all of us so much boredom, anxiety, fear, and grief. However, one very beneficial outcome of the pandemic has been the new-found opportunities for virtual interactions. The ability to use our computers and meet via the ZOOM platform is making it possible for anyone and everyone who has interest to participate in the American Rhododendron Society Annual Convention without the expense and hassle of cross-country travel!

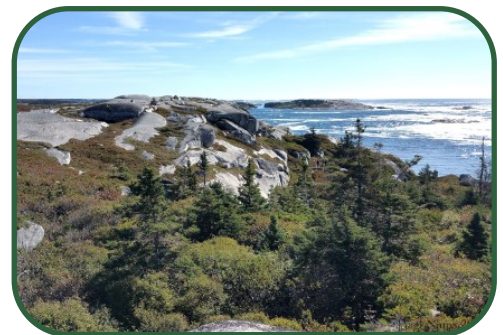
The convention, which will take place in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, from June 3 - 6, 2021, will offer presentations, garden tours and networking opportunities both online and in person (travel restrictions allowing). You will find the complete schedule of events at <https://ars2021.org>, but to tease you, please take note of the following highlighted events that you will be able to enjoy from the comfort of your home - if you register as a virtual participant! (All virtual events will take place between 9AM and 1PM Pacific Time).

Virtual tour of Kentville Research Station - From the 1950s to the 1980s, Don Craig and Geroge Swain ran a research program hybridizing and growing hardy rhododendrons at the Kentville Agricultural Experimental Farm. (see "Recognizing an Inheritance: The Kentville Rhododendron Legacy" by Sheila Stevenson, p. 205 - 210, JARS Winter 2020.) Each year in early June the "Farm Pond Bank" is ablaze with many of these rhododendrons and azaleas. This tour will include the story of the breeding program, the resulting rhodies which were distributed throughout Atlantic Canada, and the interpretive plaques that tell the story to all visitors.



Virtual tour of Annapolis Royal Gardens - In Annapolis Royal, we will first visit Gramercy Park, a country garden started just eight years ago by a couple of garden-crazed ruralists who established a vegetable garden, a rock garden, an experimental collection of hydrangeas, and over 70 kinds of rhododendrons. Second, we visit the main attraction of this tour, the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, a lovely seventeen-acre public garden with meticulously cultivated plantings of roses, magnolias, perennials, conifers, and much more. Overlooking a tidal river valley, the historic gardens are a premiere Nova Scotia attraction. Home to over 140 species and varieties of rhododendrons from hybridizers such as Steele, Craig, Breuckner, and Weagle, this garden has one of the most complete collections of mature rhododendrons suitable to Eastern Canada.

Virtual tour of Peggy's Cove Coastal Barrens - The tour starts with an all-seasons lakeside garden, on the better part of an acre in a large suburb, gloriously ram-jam-packed with rhodies, magnolias, and other delights. It then proceeds to a coastal garden established within the barrens habitat where you will see how, by judicious use of shelter and niche plantings, a wonderful collection of dwarf rhododendrons and other garden plants have flourished. The tour also includes the granite coastal barrens of Polly's Cove, a fascinating habitat for ericaceous vegetation. Large patches of bog have their own flora, including pitcher plants and orchids. Our tour guide will be David Patriquin, who loves these barrens. See: <http://versicolor.ca/davidGpatriquin/index.html>



In addition to these garden tours, there will be multiple presentations each day of the convention. And, if the date and time of the tours and seminars don't work for you, the virtual presentations will be available online for a period of time following the convention- but only for registered participants!

Registration cost for the virtual convention is \$65 US, plus a \$5.59 processing fee. Registration for virtual participants opened on January 15th and is ongoing. Please note that late registration begins on April 1st, when the fee will increase to \$80.

For more information and to register, visit <https://ars2021.org/>

Invitations to District 4 ZOOM Meetings

ARS Willamette Chapter

Mapping Your Garden - The Base Map You Need to Create

Speaker: Wally Reed
Wednesday, February 10

6:30 PM, Gathering / 7:00 PM, Presentation

High quality, free programs to manipulate base map information to produce beautiful maps are readily available, but none provide the base map locations of the information to be manipulated into those maps. This talk covers simple, primitive, inexpensive methods to develop the base map of your yard or garden. Most homeowners have all the tools needed to put pencil to paper, or cursors to screens. The focus is on creating a base map for a yard, but is applicable to larger areas. So dust off your tape measures, your protractor, and your memory or photos of what you planted where and when. We'll help you get to the base mapping needed for your garden book, or for your map program.

Wally Reed enjoyed a long research and teaching career with the Environmental Sciences Department of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. His research focused on land use, air quality, and geographic information systems. He joined the Willamette Chapter of the ARS after retiring in 2001. He was soon elected President of the chapter, and subsequently President for Life, 14 years and counting. For the past 10 years, he has been deeply involved in developing the Rhododendron Hillside Garden in Salem's Bush's Pasture Park located in front of his home in Salem.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84046408013>

ARS Portland Chapter

Chinese and Japanese Gardens: A Comparison

Speaker: Justin Blackwell
Thursday, February 18

6:30 PM, Gathering / 7:00 PM, Presentation

Justin grew up in Seattle near the University of Washington among Chinese and Japanese families, instilling an early appreciation for Asian cultures. Justin went on to earn a degree in Landscape Design and Horticulture, hoping to interpret visions of nature to the tranquility of Asian style gardens. Justin will speak on his 12 years as a Japanese garden practitioner at Portland Japanese Garden, his experience as a Japanese garden builder and writer, as well as his current role as Curator of Lan Su Chinese Garden. His remarks will also address the fundamental difference in how to see and enjoy types of gardens and the fundamental and aesthetic influences from China to Japan and vice versa. Another essential thread in the discussion will be Western influence on both garden expressions and how that plays a role in our cultural education of these traditions built in North America. Justin will also shed light on why having your own Japanese or Chinese garden is illusive and not as easy as one might think.

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83724836893>

Emily Aune sent in this photo of a little critter she came across under a Ceanothus plant in her garden last month. Emily commented that during this time of year, she sees many newts but that it's the first time she's ever seen a frog in January!

*As always, we would love to share what's been happening in **YOUR** gardens ... especially as we move into the spring blooming season!*

Please send your pictures and descriptions to our newsletter editor, Dana Manion, at danajmanion@gmail.com. The deadline for the newsletter is the first Wednesday of each month (i.e. March 3rd for the March Newsletter).



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

One ZOOM Link for all
Spring 2021
Eugene Chapter Meetings

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

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312 Passcode: 741695

6:30 pm - Gathering / 7:00 pm - Meeting & Speaker

Wednesday, February 17 Wednesday, March 17

*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.

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

Meeting ID: 859 7842 6753 Passcode: 017524