

# American Rhododendron Society



## Eugene Chapter Newsletter

### March News

March 2021

So what is that old saying about March? “In like a lion, out like a lamb.” Actually, we have had a very pleasant beginning to the month ... definitely nothing to complain about! Have you been out in your garden?

Just a couple of items to call to your attention ... your Board of Directors decided to do another Online Plant Auction this month. We heard that there may have been some folks who had difficulty with the email link last month and weren't able to send in bids. Please see page 5 for more information about this month's offerings and what to do if you have trouble sending in a bid. This auction serves as a fundraiser for our chapter, so we hope there will be lots of participation!

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome some new members to our chapter since the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, during these Covid-19 days we're not meeting in person, so we will all have to be patient until the time when we can meet face-to-face!

- **Pat and Dave Eckerdt** of Salem ... their garden, “Deerly Missed”, was to have been the first stop on the ARS Bus Tour following last year's <cancelled> convention in Vancouver. You can check out some gorgeous garden pictures at their website: [www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com](http://www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com).
- **Ryan Contreras** of Corvallis.
- **Peter Aune** of Bend ... Our secretary, Emily's, father!
- **Julia Rhoda** and **William Rhoda** of Eugene. They are a brother and sister team - keeping it all in the family!

Welcome, welcome! We can't wait to meet you all!

#### 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, March 17  
Wednesday, April 21

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~~ *March Chapter Meeting* ~~  
*The Diversity of Plants Found in the  
 Humboldt Botanical Gardens*

**Wednesday, March 17th**

**6:30 pm - Social, 7:00 pm - Business Meeting & Program**

Tim Walsh will speak to us about the diversity of plant material, including lots of rhododendrons, that grow in the Humboldt Botanical Gardens. Of note is the very rare *Wollemia* pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) which was recently discovered in Australia. This is one of the best specimens in the United States. Also found in the gardens is an extensive collection of rhododendrons which Tim highly prizes and will describe for you. You are sure to see a “must have” plant for your garden in his presentation.



Tim’s fascination and passion with rhododendrons began in the late 1980’s. Soon after, he joined the Eureka Chapter of the ARS. He was awarded the ARS Silver Medal in 2008. Tim was one of the founding directors of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens (HBG). He has recruited other Chapter members as they continue to develop, select, and care for plants at the HBG ‘Temperate Woodland Garden’. Tim is a University of California Extension Master Gardener. He is a past president of the ARS Eureka Chapter and currently the District 5 Director of the American Rhododendron Society.

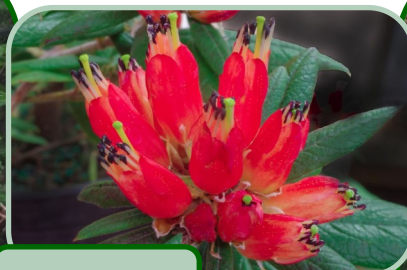
**ZOOM link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmpRMXNkdz09>

Meeting ID: 811 8816 312

Passcode: 741695



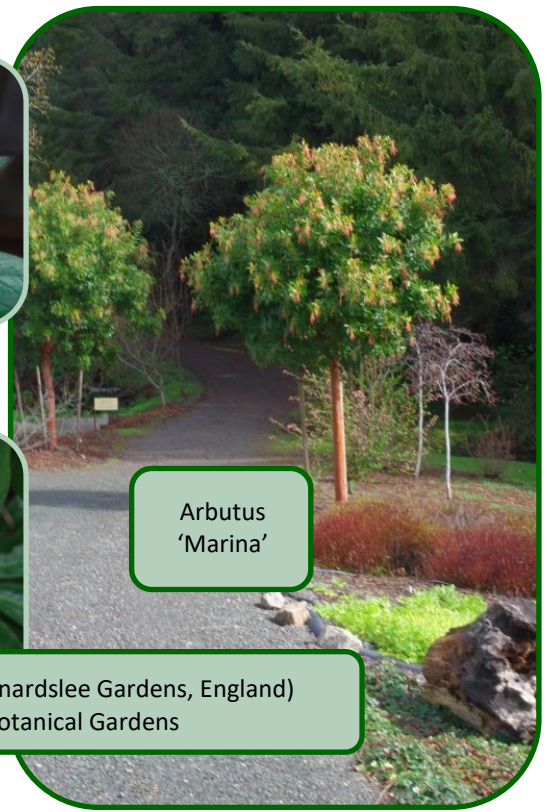
*Wollemia nobilis*  
 in Humboldt Botanical Gardens



*R. spinuliferum*



*R. arboreum* (from Leonardslee Gardens, England)  
 Humboldt Botanical Gardens



Arbutus  
 ‘Marina’



## ~~ Something Special ~~

It's almost showtime...time to show off your rhododendron flowers, that is! But probably not this year. ☹

April and May have long been a special time of year for rhododendron enthusiasts as we look forward to chapter flower shows where members display blooms freshly cut from their gardens in friendly competition for the best red, yellow, purple, and so on. For our chapter, the show in recent years has been part of a gala afternoon and evening which included dinner, plant raffles, and lots of good visiting among friends. And often, along with the flower awards, came recognition of individual members whose efforts have gone above and beyond.

The American Rhododendron Society has long recognized the value of extra individual effort through written policies spelling out provisions for awards at the Chapter and Society level. As noted, presenting those awards was often a part of the Eugene Chapter's Flower Show and Banquet. But then, along came a nasty virus and cancellations, including our 2020 show and, more than likely, the 2021 show as well.

So Helen (Baxter), Tom (Beatty), Jack (Olson), Gordon (Wylie), and Dana (Manion) got to talking and wondering: How can we recognize and let all our members know about some folks in our midst who bring us all something special? And we decided, for the time being, to make do with these brief notes...



**Emily Aune** - Emily is employed with the Parks and Open Space Department of the City of Eugene, and she is lead gardener at Hendricks Park. She joined the Eugene ARS Chapter Board in 2017; in 2019 she was elected Secretary, and she produces written Minutes of our Board discussions and decisions (which are sometimes a bit raucous!). Emily also writes regularly for our newsletter, sharing work done and pictures taken at Hendricks Park, thereby keeping us current with the extensive rhododendron garden started by pioneer members of the Eugene ARS Chapter.

**Nancy Burns** - Nancy has been a member of the Eugene Board since 2011, and has served as Treasurer since December of 2013. As such, her experience in the accounting department of Weyerhaeuser is evident from the regular and concise financial reports she provides to our Board. Nancy handles membership dues, pays the bills and completes the reports required by ARS central, thus keeping our chapter status in good standing. Hardly a Board meeting goes by without questions from other board members about money; she's always clear and concise with answers to those queries.



**Grace Fowler-Gore** - Grace is another of our 'newer' members who, soon after joining, began making extra contributions to our group's success and well-being. She became a Board member in 2015 and, just over a year later, she took on the demanding task as Editor of the newsletter. When we were having truss shows, Grace spent much extra time revising classification and format to fit a reduced number of entries and changed venue, and in tallying the results for prize awards. More recently, she set up our first Board meetings via ZOOM, and then went on to arrange ZOOM access and participation for all members for our Chapter meetings.

**Terry Henderson** - We have known Terry for many years as a wholesale nurseryman producing high quality plants, and he has been very supportive of both our chapter and the ARS generally. This has included donating many plants for our raffles, for the Hinsdale plant sales and for numerous other special events. Indeed, we have previously recognized him by the award of a Bronze Medal. But Terry has not rested on that honor, and he has cheerfully and effectively served an extended term as President of the Eugene Chapter beginning in July of 2016.



To each of you: Thank you for your service and commitment to the Eugene ARS Chapter!

~~ *Rhododendron of the Month* ~~  
 by Harold Greer  
 'Cilpinense' or 'Snow Lady'



'Cilpinense' is an old hybrid from Lord Aberconway of Bodnant, a famous garden in Conway, Wales, (as was 'Seta' that I wrote about last month). Like many of the old hybrids, this one goes back to 1923, and while one clone was registered, so were the whole group of seedlings from the cross of *R. ciliatum* x *moupinense*. All are called 'Cilpinense' and there are plants that are nearly white and some are quite pink.



'Snow Lady' is a hybrid from Lionel de Rothschild of Exbury Gardens in Hampshire, England. He apparently sold a seedling of *R. leucaspis* to a W. G. Tucker which, when flowered, appeared to be a hybrid, most probably *R. leucaspis* x *ciliatum*. The date is unknown but was most probably before 1940. 'Snow Lady' was included in **The International Rhododendron Register** in 1958.

Both plants have similar small rounded hairy foliage. They are both lepidote (scaly) rhododendrons and have attractive foliage year around. 'Snow Lady' especially will flower well in deep shade. Both flower early, generally in March in this area.

- Height in 10 years: 3'
- Hardiness: 5° to 10°F
- Color: White for 'Snow Lady', White to light pink for 'Cilpinense'
- Rating: About 4/4/4 (flower, foliage, performance, 5 is best, 1 is least)
- Ease of propagation: Easy
- Foliage: Good to Excellent





## Eugene Chapter ARS Online Plant Auction Fundraiser - Round 2

Email your bids to: [ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com)

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

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

Following last month's Online Auction, we received some reports of non-working links for the email address, which may have impacted your ability to participate ... so we are going to try this again! This month's offerings are some real beauties! We look forward to your participation! (And if you have any difficulties with the email address, please call your Newsletter Editor, Dana Manion, at 832-768-4147...be sure to leave a message if she doesn't answer!)

We sincerely thank **Jack Olson** of **Rocky Knoll Farm** for providing these plants and their descriptions! You should know that these plants are hard to come by ... in fact, Jack reports that he is the only person in the area who has these varieties. He obtained them either through cuttings or significant financial investment! He also mentioned that he will always grow these varieties because they are outstanding plants.



**Plant #1 - *R. niveum***  
**Minimum Bid: \$20**

Jack's Comments: This is a picture of the species *niveum*, rather than the Baxter form of *R. niveum*, which is what is being offered in this auction. The truss of the Baxter form is nicer. The foliage is narrow for *niveum*. It is a tree-like rhododendron, so it wants to grow up. It is a constant show winner that will become one of your favorite plants.

Flowers in May



**Plant #2 - *R. erosum***  
**Minimum Bid: \$20**

Jack's Comments: *R. erosum* is an incredible foliage plant. At the stem of each leaf are thorns. However, they are harmless, because they are soft. The plant has crinkle-like leaves. To make it even better, the new foliage comes out in shades of maroon. The added bonus is a beautiful red truss.

Flowers in April



**Plant #3 - *R. 'Nolan B'***  
**Minimum Bid: \$20**

Jack's Comments: I have yet to register this plant. It was one of the many plants I obtained from the late Nolan Blansit. It is a beautiful plant as well as having an incredible truss. It won best truss in one of the flower shows at Florence. At fifteen years it is less than four feet and very compact. If you want a winning truss, this is it!

Flowers in May

Please email your bids (be sure to include the plant #) to [ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com). Bidders will be kept informed of succeeding higher bids via email on an at-least daily basis during the bidding period (**which is now through 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, March 17th**). The winning bidder for each plant will be announced during the Eugene Chapter's March ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, March 17th, at 7:00 PM. Winners will also be contacted via phone/email to make plant pick-up or delivery arrangements.



~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~  
 by Emily Aune  
 "Winter Rolls Into Spring!"



An enormous frond!

It has been a long, wet winter but thankfully there is always something new to appreciate in the garden. This Giant Chain Fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) caught my attention and brought me delight, as captured here, during one of our weekly volunteer work parties. There is a group of these ferns scattered up a steep hillside. Their giant fronds cascade over the bank, but they are usually seen at a distance. This one growing beside the trail let me revel in its unusually enormous size. Standing beside it, I realized it has fronds taller than me! These particular ferns were planted in this garden, but they are a native fern to the Pacific Northwest. They can be identified by their size and elongated sori (spore clusters) along the midrib of the fern that resemble a chain stitch.

Spring is right around the corner and there are flowers blooming and occasional sunny days to prove it. Our *Rhododendron ririei* began blooming in January this year. Nearby there is an open form rhododendron named 'Airy Fairy'. It is a hybrid by Mrs. Francis Maloney (a cross of *R. lutescens* and *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink').



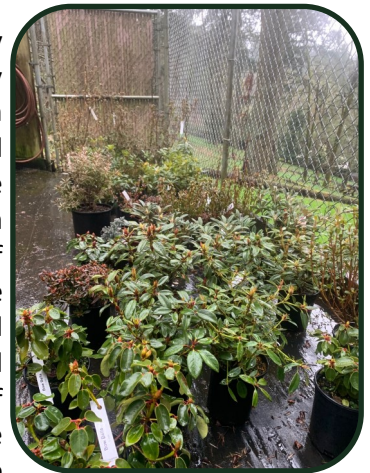
'Airy Fairy'

The early blooming and glowing pink flowers contrast nicely with the smoky lavender of the *Rhododendron ririei*. Years ago, (2014?) we took several cuttings of 'Airy Fairy' and last year we planted them all around the parent plant. They are taking hold and filling out the area very nicely.



Young 'Airy Fairy' cuttings surround the parent plant to make a speckled backdrop of pink. To the upper left, you can see the last blossoms of *Rhododendron ririei* mingling nicely.

I also found that a brilliant way to spend any rainy afternoon is to pay our friends Terry Henderson and Lorrie Zeller a visit at Log Cabin Nursery. With the covered greenhouses and the heated propagation house, it was a nice break from the mud. I came home with a handful of goodies, thanks to the Friends of Hendricks Park. 'Yellow Hammer', 'Maxine Childers', 'Emmasculum', 'Flamecreeper' and 'Conemaugh' are some that I am most excited about. I'm also excited to try out a new dwarf evergreen azalea that blooms later in the season (June) called 'Shiryu-No-Homare'. We have a lot of spring bloomers at Hendricks Park, but the flowers dwindle as we go into summer. I also find its foliage to be very attractive at this time of year, with thin leaves and tints of a dark blue, green and red.



Come visit us at Hendricks Park one of these nice days, and see all the early blooms, nice foliage, and sweet surprises the garden has to offer.

# Invitations to District 4 ZOOM Meetings

## ARS Willamette Chapter

### The Future of Rhododendrons: The Ancient Past, Modern Distributions and Climate Change

Speaker: Richard Hebda, PhD

Wednesday, March 10

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

Richard Hebda joined the Royal BC Museum in 1980 and retired after 37 years in 2017. Richard was Curator of Botany and Earth History from 1986 until retirement and remains active in museum research projects. Since 1984 he has held a faculty position and taught at the University of Victoria (Biology, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Environmental Studies). His PhD in Botany is from the University of British Columbia.

Richard studies plant fossils and their distribution over time and place to shed light on the condition, history and evolution of BC's landscape and climate. He also studies ethnobotany of BC First Nations, restoration of natural systems and processes, ecology and origins of Garry Oak and alpine ecosystems and botany of grasses.

With his graduate students, he has written more than 130 scientific papers and 250 popular articles. He has co-authored or co-edited eight books and major reports, and served as the province's expert advisor on Burns Bog and science advisor on paleontology. He has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal for his work in paleontology and the national Bruce Naylor award for natural history curatorship.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81338525497>

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## ARS DeAnza Chapter

### Peonies: Bloom and Beyond

Speaker: Sharon Bryson

Wednesday, March 17

4:00 PM, Presentation

No detailed description available

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93353606729?pwd=Z-VFzY0l0SmxXV2o2SjBURGhxdFUrUT09>

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## ARS Portland Chapter

### The Miller Garden, Legacy of a Plantswoman

Speaker: Richie Steffan

Thursday, March 18

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

When Mrs. Miller began gardening in the early 1950's, no one could have predicted where her passions would take her. During her lifetime she created a garden with over 3000 different species and cultivars including many rare and unusual plants that she procured from around the world. Her collection lives on today through the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and the [Great Plant Picks](#) program. The garden has built on her extensive collection with special attention to favorite plant groups including many plants from the Ericaceae family and now holds over 5000 taxa. Join Richie Steffan, executive director of the Miller Garden, as he shares some of the remarkable plants along with glimpses of this beautiful garden.

Richie is the executive director for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, northwest of Seattle, overseeing the development of the garden, its programs and the rare plant collections. Using over thirty years of experience in the horticultural field, with the last 20 years spent at the Miller Garden, he maintains the classic Northwest aesthetics while celebrating the tradition of Elisabeth Carey Miller by discovering, displaying, evaluating, and disseminating information about plants suitable for landscape use in the Pacific Northwest.

Richie supervises the primary educational program of the Miller Garden: Great Plant Picks, a program committed to building a comprehensive palette of outstanding and reliable plants for maritime Pacific Northwest gardens and has become the go to website for the best information about plants for our region. He is currently past president of the Northwest Horticultural Society and president of the Hardy Fern Foundation as well as a noted lecturer, writer and horticultural personality. Richie recently co-authored the "Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns"

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82580943492>

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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, March 17      Wednesday, April 21

*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