

# American Rhododendron Society



## Eugene Chapter Newsletter

### April Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, April 21st

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

**"Camellias: Beautiful and Versatile"**

**Kathy Lintault, Speaker**

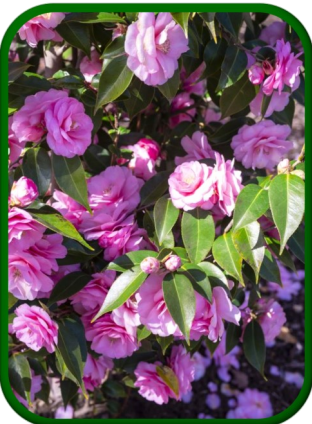


After living in southern California for 25 years, Kathy and Roger Lintault moved to their home outside McMinnville, Oregon, in 2000. They were excited to start gardening Pacific Northwest-style. Camellias and rhododendrons became a great interest and Kathy went on to be the President of the Oregon Camellia Society. While we all love rhododendrons, camellias give us another dimension to the garden, such as the flowering from October to April when we have few rhododendrons that are in flower. Kathy 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. Also, the camellia's past history and cultural requirements will be discussed, along with the camellia's ability to brighten the landscape and blend with other of our favorite garden plants.

**ZOOM link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312>

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312    Passcode: 741695



*Camellia  
sasanqua  
ssp. vernalis  
'Yuletide'*

### April 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, April 21

#### In This Newsletter

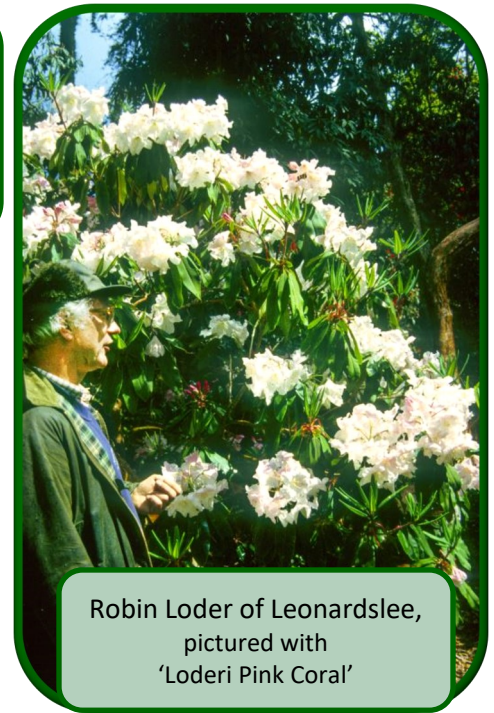
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~ *Rhododendron of the Month* ~  
*Loderi Group*  
 By Harold Greer

When Sir Edmund Loder, of Leonardslee in southern England, made the cross of *R. fortunei* x *griffithianum* in 1901, he produced a group of plants that have become quite famous in the warmer coastal rhododendron growing areas of the world. In 1875, the same parents were supposedly crossed at Kew Gardens near London, England, only the seed parent was *R. griffithianum* instead of *R. fortunei* as is the case with the Loderi Group. However, there is some doubt of the parents of Kewense Group, so we will devote our discussion to the Loderi Group.

There were some 30 clones of the Loderi Group registered, the best known of which is probably 'Loderi King George'. It is a large growing plant that will eventually become a small tree, as is true of all in the Loderi Group. 'Loderi Venus' is also well known as it is the most pink of all of the Loderi Group. Most of the Loderi Group are hard to tell apart, and my personal



Robin Loder of Leonardslee,  
 pictured with  
 'Loderi Pink Coral'

opinion is that only about three should have been named, not thirty! However, any one of the Loderi Group is worth growing if you can find one. They are not easy to propagate, hence we do not often see them in nurseries.

The foliage of the Loderi Group is large and attractive, though it does tend to get purple spots on the new foliage in the first warm days of May and June. But by fall, most of the spotting seems to disappear. 'Loderi Superlative' does tend to have chlorotic (yellow between the leaf veins) foliage, more than other cultivars.

Pictured with this article is Robin Loder, the great-grandson of Edmund. Robin and his son, Christopher, currently run Leonardslee which was started by Sir Edmund in the 1890s.

The Loderi Group are all pink to white which would be natural since both of its parents are that color. But don't forget about their fragrance. A large plant of the Loderi Group will fill your whole garden with fragrance.



'Loderi Venus'  
 at Leonardslee



'Loderi Superlative'

- Height in 10 years                      6' plus
- Hardiness                                    5° to 10°F (may lose flower buds at a higher temperature)
- Color    Pink to white, very fragrant
- Rating                                         4 / 3-4 / 4 (flower / foliage / performance, 5 is best, 1 is least)
- Ease of propagation                      Difficult
- Foliage                                         Good, but sometimes shows purple spots on the leaves
- Vigor    Good to excellent

## A Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That!

Did you see **Gordon Wylie's** article about the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, which was published in the *Spring, 2021 ARS Journal*?

Did you also notice all the newly listed cultivars listed by **Harold Greer** in 2020?

Eugene ARS has some very active members!

The Next Generation Program of the ARS, a project that hopes to attract and train the next generation of rhododendron experts, has launched a photo contest. They have three categories including flower closeups, people in action, and plants in nature. Entries must be submitted by May 25 via a Google account and awards will be announced at the 2021 Virtual Convention from June 3 - 6, 2021. Anyone can submit photographs but since they want to encourage young people to participate, they are offering cash prizes only to students. For full details, check out the link below to the Next-Gen Photo Contest on the ARS website. Please Note: Although the "Early Bird" discount deadline has passed, there is still time to register for the 2021 ARS Virtual Convention. A link to the Convention is below, as

**Next-Gen  
Photo Contest**  
[Click HERE](#)

**2021 ARS  
Virtual Convention**  
[Click HERE](#)

The **ARS Siuslaw Chapter** continues their weekly Virtual Rhody Show, with a special invitation extended to Eugene ARS members to participate!

### Guidelines

1. Each weekly show runs from Monday to Sunday
2. Plants must be in your own garden.
3. Pictures must be current for the week entered.
4. Rhododendrons and Azaleas only, please.
5. Must be a member of the Siuslaw, Eugene, or SW Oregon ARS Chapters.

To participate, email your picture to [pcswift@outlook.com](mailto:pcswift@outlook.com), and include as much information as you can about the plant.

Each week's winner, along with all the entries for the week, can be viewed at:

[https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgAxEg\\_Z8DoHgcgSQpBFc3VQAzXFwQ?e=Y9lu1W](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgAxEg_Z8DoHgcgSQpBFc3VQAzXFwQ?e=Y9lu1W)

**Congratulations to Eugene ARS Member Ted Hewitt, who submitted the winning entries for the weeks of March 15-21 and March 22-29!**

Have you ever daydreamed about becoming a Master Gardener?

**Fast Growing Trees**, the largest online tree nursery in the world, is pleased to announce their new educational series on Master Gardening. It includes information about each state's Master Gardener Program, as well as similar, **FREE**, self-paced gardening curriculum for those who might not otherwise engage in a formal Master Gardener program due to the cost and time commitment required.

To check it out, please visit their **Master Gardener Resource Page** by clicking [here](#)

Please add

[ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com)

to your address book! We will begin using this email address to communicate with you when we send the monthly newsletter next month! Thank you!

~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~  
by Emily Aune  
“Meeting the Challenge of Lacebugs”

Azalea lace bugs (*Stephanitis pyrioides*) have been a recent topic of concern among rhododendron growers and plant enthusiasts here in the Northwest. I have even heard garden clubs and other landscapers dissuading the use of rhododendrons in their landscapes, due to the aesthetic damage from these pests. No, they don't just suck chlorophyll out of the leaves of azaleas, but they damage rhododendrons too, as they are all in the same genus. As a caretaker of a 13-acre public garden with thousands of rhododendrons, and a great admirer of this plant, I do not want people to give up on rhododendrons completely. Through my years of management of this pest, without using neonicotinoids, I am seeing that many rhododendrons show resistance to damage, and I have learned some other organic management practices that can help.

Azalea lace bugs have been an issue in the eastern United States since 1915, but were only just found in Oregon in 2009, and have since exploded in populations. I first noticed this pest in the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden the summer of 2013, and we have been experimenting with management practices ever since. Since this garden is owned by a municipality with a very strong commitment to the responsible use of pesticides, I am prohibited from the use of any neonicotinoid within the garden. Although I have heard that this type of insecticide can be very effective in mitigating azalea lace bug damage, this chemical is also known to have negative effects on our bee populations. Because of this, we are steering clear of using them, and since 2014 it has been prohibited for use on any City of Eugene property.

This puts me in a unique position to manage an infestation in a large rhododendron garden using cultural practices, organic sprays or oils, beneficial insects, and planting into the future with more resistant varieties. I have tried all of these tactics with varying degrees of success and currently rely most heavily on cultural practices like proper irrigation, fertilization, some pruning, as well as completing five insecticidal soap sprays a year in the main garden. Ultimately, planting resistant varieties is going to be the best long term solution for keeping a nice looking garden, as none of these other tactics will get rid of the bug completely.

At home, the first step is to determine whether or not you have azalea lace bugs. You may first notice tiny yellow spots on your leaves. As this infestation worsens, the whole leaf may end up turning yellow. (See photo on the next page) The insects live on the underside of the leaf and feed by piercing the lower surface and sucking out chlorophyll. Too much of this will reduce photosynthesis and transpiration and stress the plant, but mostly it just makes it look horrible. Now, flip over your leaf and you may see the actual insect. The adults are about 1/8" long, so they are visible but quite small. They have clear wings with black net-like patterns, perhaps one would say, lacelike. They do not move quickly and they barely fly, so they spend a long time on one plant before moving to the next, and they don't spread far very quickly. You will also see a lot of black sooty material, which is their excrement or stains left from it. Very lovely little creatures. They lay their 5-7 eggs a day which hatch based on warmer temperatures. They average about 5 life cycles every season, which is a lot, and they persist from June - October before overwintering their eggs within the leaves as all the adults die off.

Because they are called azalea lace bugs, one would assume that damage would be the worst on azaleas. I would agree that *evergreen* azaleas seem to be heavily impacted. However, I would not stop planting *deciduous* azaleas in your garden, like our native Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) or any of its crosses. I personally have not seen much lace bug damage on these. If they do suffer damage, it would only be for a short window in the summer, and then the plants will drop their egg infested leaves and start fresh next year. Our typical Rhododendrons are what I really get concerned about. As an evergreen, they tend to keep their leaves for three years or more, so the damage is visible from all the previous years as well as the current year. The goal would be to control the pest population before they get to the new growth on a plant, and to pay attention to which plants they eat, and which ones they stay away from.

(Cont'd on page 5)



(Cont'd from page 5) The biggest help in preventing any pests is to keep your plants as healthy as possible with cultural practices. Proper irrigation, fertilizing, mulching, and proper placement for sun/shade, will all help a rhododendron fight this pest. I would say that irrigation may be the most important of these factors, as a drought stressed plant can really suffer from an infestation. I have also done some heavy pruning in the wintertime and early spring to control populations on the evergreen azaleas. I have cut them completely to the ground in early spring to remove all the little eggs that are overwintering. Evergreen azaleas can usually take this amount of pruning, and pop back up with fresher, cleaner non-infected leaves. I miss a year of bloom that way, but I found it to be worth it in some areas. If you only had an insect population in your evergreen azaleas, I would do that soon and get them off of your property.

Even with the best of practices, there are just some plants that get it so severely, I choose to spray them with insecticidal soap sprays. Most organic sprays need to contact your insect, so you will need to wait until they hatch. Monitor your leaves closely in May, because this is when the overwintering eggs begin to hatch. Warm springtime weather would result in a quicker hatch, but typically they don't hatch until the end of May here in the Pacific Northwest. This is why your flower and new growth will look very good through the spring, but by June you may start to see more damage. They also hatch on last year's leaves and spend some time feeding on those leaves before even making it to the new leaves (remember how slowly they move).

I hire a company to spray insecticidal soap in a portion of the garden beginning in May or June, and continue once a month through October.

They use high-pressure hoses that can reach into the canopy of my tall shrubs and spray the undersides of the leaves. Ideally, I would want to spray them every three weeks, as the insects have prolific life cycles and making contact with every bug simply doesn't happen. There is only so much time and money, though.

Also, this is a lot of work, and I personally enjoy other tasks like pruning, planting, even weeding compared to spraying my plants. That is why the long term goal is to replace stressed and dying plants with resistant varieties along with keeping spray zones very condensed or just choosing a couple very special plants in your garden that need long-term insect control.

So, let's go plant shopping! The easiest way to choose a lacebug resistant rhododendron is to simply choose a plant with indumentum. Indumentum is the collection of tiny hairs on the underside of the leaves of some rhododendrons, that make the bottom feel fuzzy to the touch. And, when it comes to protecting for azalea lace bugs, (Cont'd on page 6)



This is an example of a very "clean" leaf (not damaged by lacebugs). This leaf is from our Rhododendron 'Daphnoides' which has no visible indumentum.



Some rhododendrons, like this Rhododendron 'Cilpenense', can be eaten so badly by lacebugs that there is almost no green left in the leaf.



(Cont'd from page 5) the fuzzier the better. Indumentum seems to make it physically too hard for the tiny little lace bug to walk around in or pierce with its mouth. A very common, good looking, and easy to find rhododendron with indumentum is *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum*, casually referred to as the 'yaks'. There are thousands of hybrids with this parent that will defend against lace bug. There are also many other species of rhododendrons that have indumentum.

Surprisingly, what I am also finding is that there are plants that DON'T have any traditional indumentum but still look very, very free from damage, even in sections of the garden where we don't spray, or in areas where they are growing right beside heavily infested plants. There was a study at Oregon State University theorizing that a higher wax content in the leaf may be improving resiliency, which seems plausible, but hard to tell. I'm also noticing that plants with plastered indumentum, which appears as a thick, shiny underside, are showing resistance, particularly in my *Rhododendron insigne*. I have compiled a list of plants in the park that are not being damaged by lace bugs. You may know of others that could be added to the list. Perhaps we can find the common parentage or another reason behind these resilient groups and add more of these plants in to our landscapes. At the very least, it will give you a list to take on your next nursery visit!



This listing is of rhododendrons growing in Hendricks Park which are free of Azalea Lacebug damage ... therefore, it is not a *complete* list of resistant rhododendrons.

### Rhododendron Species

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <i>R. anhweiense</i>                         | <i>R. degronianum</i> ssp <i>yakushmanum</i>                       | <i>R. pseudochrysanthum</i>              |
| <i>R. arboreum</i>                           | 'Ken Janeck'   | <i>R. pseudochrysanthum</i> 'Ben Nelson' |
| <i>R. argyrophyllum</i>                      | <i>R. discolor</i>   | <i>R. racemosum</i>                      |
| <i>R. asterochnoum</i>                       | <i>R. diversipilosum</i> 'Milky Way'                               | <i>R. ramsdenianum</i>                   |
| <i>R. auriculatum</i>                        | <i>R. oreodoxa</i> var. <i>fargesii</i> . ( <i>R. erubescens</i> ) | <i>R. recurvoides</i>                    |
| <i>R. bureavii</i>                           | <i>R. hodgsonii</i> 'affinity'                                     | <i>R. ririei</i>                         |
| <i>R. bureavioides</i>                       | <i>R. impeditum</i>  | <i>R. scabrifolium</i>                   |
| <i>R. callimorphum</i>                       | <i>R. insigne</i>  | <i>R. spinuliferum</i>                   |
| <i>R. davidsonianum</i> 'Ruth Lyons'         | <i>R. lutescense</i>   | <i>R. strigilosum</i>                    |
| <i>R. decorum</i>                            | <i>R. mallotum</i>   | <i>R. sutchuenense</i>                   |
| <i>R. decorum</i> ssp <i>diaprepes</i>       | <i>R. orbiculare</i> 'Edinburgh'                                   | <i>R. wiltonii</i>                       |
| <i>R. degronianum</i> ssp <i>yakushmanum</i> | <i>R. pocophorum</i>   | <i>R. yuefengense</i>                    |
|  | <i>R. ponticum</i> 'Variegatum'                                    |  |

### Rhododendron Hybrids

- |                    |                      |   |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|
| 'Alice'            | 'Golden Gate'        | 'Powder Snow'   |
| 'Atroflow'         | 'Golfer'             | 'September Song'  |
| 'Avalanche'        | 'Kodiak'             | 'Showboat'  |
| 'Azor'             | 'Laramie'            | 'Silver Skies'  |
| 'Barto Alpine      | 'Lem's Cameo'        | 'Sir Charles Lemon'                                     |
| 'Barto's favorite' | 'Lem's Monarch'      | 'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague'                  |
| 'Bibiani'          | 'Lem's Walloper'     | 'White Pearl'   |
| 'Cadis'            | 'Loderi Superlative' | 'White Swan'  |
| 'Cinnamon Bear'    | 'Mardis Gras'        | 'White Velvet'  |
| 'Colonel Coen'     | 'May Day'            | 'Yak -Pac'  |
| 'Daphnoides'       | 'Molly Smith'        | Un-named cross ('Fawn' x 'Ray')                         |
| 'Fabia Tangerine'  | 'Noyo Brave'         | Un-named cross ( <i>vernicosum</i> x <i>chlorops</i> )  |
| 'Fabia'            | 'Noyo Maiden'        | Un-named cross ( <i>venator</i> x <i>strigillosum</i> ) |



# Invitations to District 4 ZOOM Meetings

## ARS Willamette Chapter

### All Seasons Interest in the Garden

Speaker: Nancy Moore

Wednesday, April 14

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

Rhododendron growers tend to have exceptionally lovely spring gardens. But what about the rest of the year?

There are many ways to have an interesting garden throughout the year. Floral color is usually our first thought, but plant foliage, texture, bark and form can also be delightful. When you combine those features with creative, thoughtful and well-placed hardscaping, then you have an interesting garden for all seasons.

Nancy Moore spent what seemed like her entire childhood weeding her family's enormous vegetable garden on their small farm. Despite this, she developed a life-long love of plants and gardening, and has been extremely fortunate to be able to spend her working life doing what she loves.

After graduating in landscape design/horticulture, she was involved in many aspects of this field, including being the horticulturist for a parks department, managing a shade tree nursery, teaching landscape design and horticulture at the University of the Fraser Valley, and managing her own landscape design/consulting business. She also enjoyed donating her time and expertise to benefit many community projects, including the Abbotsford Community Garden and the Sylvia Pincott Heritage Habitat Garden.

Nancy has recently retired from most of her commitments, but she still enjoys teaching the Master Gardeners and sharing whatever knowledge she has with a wide variety of clubs and organizations. And she is patiently waiting for her grandchildren to be old enough to weed her vegetable garden!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88676285847>

## ARS Portland Chapter

### Ireland, a Garden Paradise

Speaker: Kathy Lintault

Thursday, April 15

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

As Kathy describes it, "Ireland's land mass is only about the size of Oregon west of the Cascades, but the Atlantic Gulf Stream contributes mild temperatures and plenty of rain which explains why it is known as the Emerald Isle. Small size notwithstanding, with these advantages Ireland is home to a great variety of notable gardens ranging from grand estates to small cottage gardens, from formal to informal, rural to urban, all displaying the passion and care of their owners." Kathy will highlight the gardens and their colorful plants enjoyed while circling the island in July. "Even some rhododendrons were still in bloom!"

After living in southern California for 25 years, Kathy and Roger Lintault moved to their home outside McMinnville, Oregon, in 2000. They are members of the Portland, Willamette, and Scottish Chapters of the ARS. Kathy has served as President of the Oregon Camellia Society and she currently edits their website, as well as the Willamette Chapter ARS website. Traveling with the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, Kathy and Roger have toured New Zealand and many countries of Europe and they have also explored Japan, Vietnam, and Cambodia. They visited Ireland in the summer of 2015 and found it entrancing. You can read more about the Lintaults and their McMinnville garden in the December, 2020 edition of the Portland Chapter's *Rhododendron News*.

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87422887322>



'Loderi Venus'

More beauties  
from the  
Loderi Group!

'Loderi King George'



## *Board Elections*

It is time to hold our Board Elections for 2021 ... thankfully, everyone who is currently serving has expressed their willingness to continue serving for another term! Next week, each member of the Eugene ARS Chapter will receive an email requesting them to vote by reply. The ballot is as follows:

**Emily Aune**, to serve a 2-year term as Secretary

**Nancy Burns**, to serve a 2-year term as Treasurer

**Helen Baxter**, to serve a 3-year term as Director

**Grace Fowler-Gore**, to serve a 3-year term as Director

Thank you to these individuals for agreeing to serve - and thank you to all our members (in advance) for replying to vote when you receive the email ballot!

## *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