

# American Rhododendron Society



## Eugene Chapter Newsletter

### *Rhododendron News for the Month of May*

Well, your Board of Directors had hoped to be able to announce plans for a Chapter Picnic at Hendricks Park to get together and celebrate spring, but unfortunately that nasty virus didn't cooperate and things in Lane County needed to tighten up again for a little bit. We are still hopeful that we will be able to plan a picnic sometime during the summer, so please watch your email box for communications!

And in keeping with our chapter's typical schedule, there is no meeting this month, since we normally have the Flower Show and Gala in May ... another event that has fallen prey to the pandemic.

We do want to say thank you to those who sent in photos to share in this newsletter - your plants are magnificent! We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place.

Also, thank you to everyone who voted in the virtual Board Election - the slate of candidates has been officially elected!

Lastly, our own Emily Aune will be leading a walking tour of the Rhododendron Garden in Hendricks Park on Sunday, May 30th, at 1:00 pm. Attendance is limited to 15 people, so you must sign up in advance! Emily will share tips on how to care for rhododendrons along with the history and heritage of the garden. Please go to <https://friendsofhendricks.org/tours/> and scroll to the bottom of the page for more information and for a link to the sign-up page.

This will be the last newsletter until August. Here's a wish that everyone will stay healthy and happy, with fingers crossed that we will be able to gather for in-person meetings when September arrives. Enjoy your summer!

*May 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.

A decision has not yet been made about resuming face-to-face meetings in Fall, 2021.

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## ~ Rhododendrons of the Month ~ 'Laramie' and 'Powder Snow'

By Harold Greer



This month I am highlighting two plants which are from the same cross and possibly the same seed pod. In 1981, Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington, crossed two of the most regal Rhododendron species, *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum* and *R. macabeum* resulting in two plants which he named. One is 'Laramie', which he registered in 1998, and the second is 'Powder Snow', which he registered in 1999. They both are similar with 'Laramie' having a creamy white truss (what other color would you expect when you cross a white with a creamy

yellow) with a red throat with the red color extending nearly all the way around the base of the flower. It has the campanulate flower shape and truss form from *R. macabeum*. The foliage is mid-sized, showing *R. macabeum*, though not near as large as that parent. The leaves are good matt green on a plant that is well covered with foliage.

'Powder Snow' on the other hand, has basically the same flower except the red throat (nectar pouches) are only red on the top lobes. The foliage is like 'Laramie', but generally a little smoother and more shiny. Both have light indumentum on the underside of the leaf. 'Powder Snow' also makes a very attractive shrub in the garden.

Both of these plants are in the trade, but are not commonly seen in nurseries, so pick one up for your garden if you can find one.



• Height in 10 years	4-5'	• Ease of Propagation	Medium
• Hardiness	0° F to -5° F	• Foliage	Great
• Color	Cream	• Vigor	Good
• Rating	4-5 / 4-5 / 4-5		
(flower / foliage / performance, 5 is best, 1 is least)			

~~ From Our Gardens ~~



'Kaberett'

Terry Henderson



'Silver Beat'  
Foliage



'Ruth Mottley'



A fairly common color,  
but still a nice seedling.

Jack Olson



'Kahlua' x 'Misty Moonlight'



And another exceptional plant!



'Naselle' x 'Kahlua'



'Kahlua' x 'Mead'

## ~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~

by Emily Aune  
"Irrigation"



A root ball that is drying out, even though the mulch and soil around it are wet!



Cut an opening into the netting of roots using a rice knife

Currently, I am welcoming the rain and the cooler temperatures following the hot spell we had in April. With several 80 degree days and over two weeks without rain, it was not our typical April. It became a very stressful time of testing and repairing sprinklers, plus dragging hoses and watering cans around to individual plants that were thirsty. But we now have the irrigation up and running, and I can scale it back or turn it off depending on what May brings.

When I first started working at Hendricks Park, irrigation was such a luxury. I figured I could plant anything anywhere and the plant would get enough water to survive. But after a year or two of failures and plant deaths, I realized that every new plant planted needs more water than the every three days that the irrigation cycle provides. Also, nothing compares to hand delivered water by hose or a watering can to really get the roots enough water. I have a couple of committed volunteers who show up weekly through the summer for a watering route, and every staff member also has their own route. This year we planted so many new plants that I am still looking for more folks who want to commit to nurturing a group of new babies in the garden. Drop me a line if you would be interested, we have never had to start watering so early!

A few other tactics have helped with my new plants' survival rates. I try to do the bulk of my plantings in fall, which gives the plant a winter of growing roots in place with regular water. I also attempt to plant in small groupings, so that our water routes are condensed and focused. But perhaps most importantly, I try to make sure all new plantings get their root balls properly cut apart upon planting. It can be such a scary thing for a new gardener to do, but I have learned that pot-bound rhododendrons dry out really easily, and can be very hard to rehydrate. They sometimes even create a netting on the surface that does not let water through if it dries out. If I find a plant in this condition, I'll take a rice knife and actually cut an opening in this netting so water can percolate through to the inside of the ball. Then I'll



Water dripping out of the tiny hole in my slow-watering bucket

opening with a hose, or I'll use a five-gallon bucket with a small hole drilled into its side that I fill with water and place beside the plant to slowly release water right in the perfect spot.

~~ From Our Gardens ~~



'Mario Pegliogini'



Possibly 'Snow Pearl'?

Grace, Dena & Ed Fowler-Gore

Either 'Arnold Piper' or "Red Walloper"



'Jean Marie de Montague'



'Phyllis Korn'



'Purple Passion'

Steve McCormick

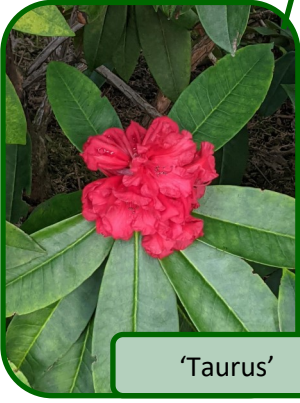


'True Blue'

'Kimbeth' (one of Harold Greer's)



Mark & Dana Manion



'Taurus'



'Horizon Monarch'

*A Note and  
An Invitation  
from our members,  
Dave & Pat Eckerdt*



The Covid experience reinforced for us the joy of open gardens. In 2019, our traditional Saturday-Sunday 9-6 Open Garden Weekend drew over four hundred visitors. Pat and I were please so many folks would choose to spend valuable weekend time traveling to and visiting our garden. We were also disappointed in how little personal time we could spend with our guests. In 2020, we opened the garden by appointment and rediscovered the joy of sharing time with twos and fours rather than dozens and scores.

Our garden, Deerly Missed, is a two-plus acre 'collectors garden' of plants and art. Like your own gardens, it is constantly changing. This winter's ice storm wreaked havoc upon many of our woody trees and shrubs and upon the more tender under-plantings which were buried under the debris. It has been an opportunity for reassessment. We have welcomed new trees and plants into the garden and are enjoying its new look and direction.

Ours was to be the lead garden in the 2020 ARS post-conference tour. The garden is on flat ground with easily accessible pathways. Most of our plants are labeled. We welcome the Eugene ARS Chapter members, friends and family to come for a visit. Come and make friends with some plants you may not have met before. You can see images of the garden at [www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com](http://www.deerlymissed.smugmug.com). Please email and we will arrange a convenient time for your visit!

*Editor's Note: The Deerly Missed Garden is located in Salem, Oregon. Please contact the Eckerdts at [patanddave@mac.com](mailto:patanddave@mac.com) if you wish to arrange a visit.*

The **ARS Siuslaw Chapter** continues their weekly Virtual Rhody Show, with a special invitation extended to Eugene ARS members to participate! They have expanded the show to include 4 categories: species Rhododendron, hybrid Rhododendron, evergreen Azalea, and deciduous Azalea. New winners are selected each week.

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.

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 winners, along with all the entries for the week, can be viewed at:

[https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgAxEg\\_Z8DoHgcsQpBFc3VQAzXFwQ?e=Y9lu1W](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgAxEg_Z8DoHgcsQpBFc3VQAzXFwQ?e=Y9lu1W)

## Invitations to District 4 ZOOM Meetings

### ARS Willamette Chapter

#### “Ron Rabideau: International Botanical Expedition to Arunachal Pradesh, India, 2005”

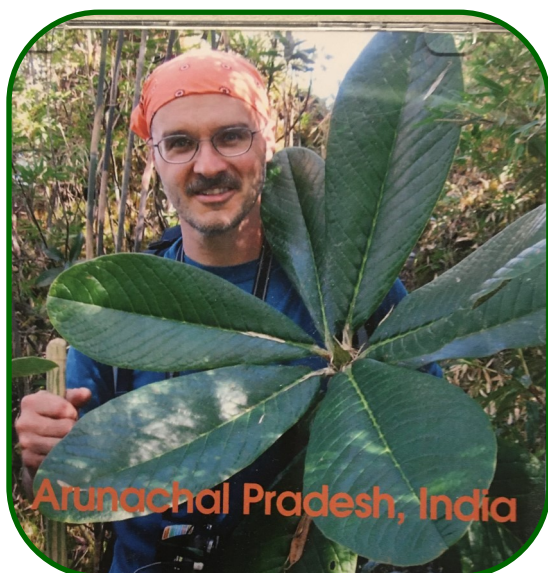
Program: DVD Presentation

Wednesday, May 12

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

This DVD presentation includes a virtual ‘who’s who’ of plant explorers as they tackle this difficult, unexplored corner of India bordering Bhutan, Tibet, China, and Burma.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505198981>



### ARS Portland Chapter

#### A Legacy of Rhododendrons from RareFind Nursery

Speaker: Ron Rabideau

Thursday, May 20

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

Ron Rabideau is a propagator, hybridizer, finder of rare plants, and experienced photographer. Many ARS members know Ron from his numerous programs and the exceptional plants offered at RareFind Nursery\* in Jackson, New Jersey, where he served for 18 years as

General Nursery Manager. He developed the stock plant collections of rare and unusual Rhododendron and other genera through networking, purchasing, and sharing. He researched and wrote detailed and interesting plant descriptions for the nursery’s mail-order catalog and web site. Ron will share with us some of his favorite rhododendrons from that time, focusing on those that went through production and turned out to be good performers.

Ron is currently Horticulture Lab Instructor/Greenhouse and Arboretum/Teaching Garden Manager at Mercer County Community College. He grew up in Massachusetts loving plants from his early childhood and now considers himself a “plant fiend.” His grandmother taught him to grow vegetables when he was about eight years old and his father taught him to deadhead rhodies not long after. Ron received his BS in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has been a rhododendron and daylily hybridizer since 1987, and member of the American Rhododendron Society since the early 1980’s. He is currently president of the ARS Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Ron has a broad interest in many plants including Magnolia, Clethra, and Hydrangea and a strong passion for propagation.

Ron puts his passion for new plants to work seeking out new and noteworthy specimens. He has participated in four plant and seed collection expeditions to Asia: China (2000), Tibet (2002), Arunachal Pradesh, India (2005), and the Altai Mountains, Siberia (2007). Hybridizing since the mid-1980s, his first introduction was ‘Absolute Citron’ (see Page 1) and he has recently added ‘Jersey Mammoth’ (*R. brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x *R. macabeanum*). The cross was made by June Sinclair, who sent seed to the ARS Seed Exchange. Ron grew the seed at RareFind and selected this individual for its much larger leaves.

*\*RareFind Nursery occupies 11 acres at the northwestern tip of the famous New Jersey Pine Barrens. The nursery is centered around a four-acre rhododendron display garden in a natural wooded setting. The garden is home to a large and diverse collection of shrubs from the East Coast.*

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87363177926>

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

## *An Invitation to Visit O. Howard Hinsdale Garden*

The volunteers of Hinsdale Garden will be meeting up to do a little work in the garden on Thursday, May 27, between 10 am and 2 pm, and you are cordially invited to come out at that time to see friends, make comments, or simply to enjoy the garden. It will be a little past the peak of bloom season, but there should still be plenty to see and enjoy!

Although it's not possible to predict what restrictions, if any, may be in place on that date due to Covid 19, there is ample space in the garden to comply with limited group numbers by spreading out, being attentive to others, and curtailing too many folks in close discussion at any one time. The garden volunteers may not get as much accomplished as in 'ordinary' times, but it will be good to see other folks and maintain our contacts. And, it's just about the right time to enjoy the garden! Please drop by for a visit! -- Gordon Wylie

## *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?](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