

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

~ ~ October News ~ ~

Our first meeting of the program year will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, October 20th (6:30 pm, Gathering Time; 7:00 pm, Program). We really hope that everyone will try to join us. If you've never ZOOMed before, reach out to us at ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com and we will be happy to send you a cheat sheet to help you be ready to join the meeting. If there is enough interest, we might even set up a practice meeting ... so let us know if you need some assistance! We want everyone to be able to join in!

The program for our October meeting will be a video presentation "**Pruning Rhododendrons: How and When?**" given by Don Wallace. This video is being shared with us by the Eureka ARS Chapter and we are very appreciative. The ZOOM link for this meeting is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900120737?
pwd=dC9lOXpUWWhwTU13TlVXQUF1VzhHdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900120737?pwd=dC9lOXpUWWhwTU13TlVXQUF1VzhHdz09)

Meeting ID: 869 0012 0737 Passcode: 907426

In other news, we all continue to mourn the passing of Harold Greer. Please be sure to read the Hendricks Park article on page 2 to learn more about one of the activities underway to honor him. In addition, your Board of Directors voted to send \$100 donations in honor of Harold to both the Rhododendron Species Foundation and the ARS Research Foundation on behalf of the Eugene ARS Chapter.

Finally, we have learned that the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant group is making plans to hold their Plant Sale over Mother's Day weekend and we will participate as we have in the past. The sale had to be cancelled last year due to COVID, so we are especially looking forward to the event next spring. This sale is a good fundraiser for our chapter so be sure that you add it to your calendar!

October 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, October 20
Wednesday, November 17

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~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~

by Emily Aune

Usually, I write about what has been happening at Hendricks Park, but this month I would like to speak to the future. The staff at Hendricks Park and I are interested in planting and dedicating a section of the garden to Harold Greer and his rhododendron hybrids. Harold's passion and vast knowledge of rhododendrons and his willingness to share his knowledge via books, articles, presentations, photographs, and simply conversations contributed to the world of rhododendrons in a way no one can quantify. It certainly outgrows all bounds of a garden bed at Hendricks Park, but this could be one nice place to start. Currently within the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden there is the James Barto bed, the Del James Walk and a bed for Marshall Lyons, just to name a few areas of the park dedicated to local rhododendron growers and hybridizers. It seems only fitting to add a section for Harold Greer as well.

This project is in the beginning phases, but I have received approval from co-workers, my volunteer garden design committee, and Friends of Hendricks Park. In addition to that, the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society has already offered to donate some of Harold's hybrids for the cause. I was a little nervous to know whether this would be something Harold would have wanted, so I asked Nancy Greer her opinion. She thought Harold would have liked this idea very much, and sweetened her approval with a donation of a *Rhododendron* 'Harold Greer' from her greenhouse.

Currently, I have two areas in mind, and I would like to invite others who are interested in designing, planning and planting this bed to join me in whatever capacity they would like. Prep work is beginning this fall and planting will occur no later than Spring of 2022. If you have interest in being a part of this project, email me at EAune@eugene-or.us as I love getting as many people involved as have interest. We hope to do a site walk in a couple of weeks.



A truss from *R.* 'Harold Greer'
Photo by Harold Greer



Emily Aune receives *R.* 'Harold Greer' as the first rhododendron to be placed in a planting of Greer hybrids at Hendricks Park in honor of Harold Greer



2021 Virtual ARS Fall Conference

Fall Into Gardening

October 23 and 24, 2021

This virtual conference is at **NO COST** and open to all interested gardeners - members and non-members - anywhere!

To Register: <https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021>

All you have to do is enter your email address and you're registered!

And just in case you missed it ... **It's FREE!**

ARS 2021 Virtual Fall Conference Schedule

Saturday, October 23

9:00 am - 1:00 pm (PST)

Hartwig Schepker, Germany

Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise

Shannon Berch, British Columbia

Living Soils

David Sellars, British Columbia

From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening

Don Hyatt, Virginia

A Walk in the Woods

Sunday, October 24

9:00 am - 1:00 pm (PST)

David Millais, United Kingdom

Conservation of Heritage Rhodos

Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington

Landscape Mulches

Richard Dionne, Québec

Growing Rhododendrons in Québec

Don Wallace, California

Fragrant Rhododendrons

Hosted by Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in Partnership with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

For a detailed conference schedule, topic descriptions, and speaker biographies please visit:

https://rhododendron.org/Fall_2021_Conference.pdf

~ *Rhododendron* 'Blewbury' ~
'A Beautiful Hybrid With a Strong Species Look'
By Maria Stewart

When you see *R.* 'Blewbury' from a distance, you may think that it is *R. roxieanum*. The foliage is dark green, narrow and covered underneath with light brown woolly indumentum in a thin layer. The trusses of *R.* 'Blewbury' also show some of *R. roxieanum* traits, including attractive white corollas with occasional red spotting. That being said, *R.* 'Blewbury' trusses are white and the upper throat is *always* spotted with a strong, deep purplish red blotch. We have found that *R.* 'Blewbury' performs very well in our garden under a variety of conditions. This rhododendron draws your attention to its wonderful foliage, cinnamon-colored buds and full trusses.

Parentage: *R. roxieanum* var. *roxieanum*
x *maculiferum* ssp. *anwheiense*
Hybridized at the Crown Estate Windsor,
1968. There are several different clones
in commerce.

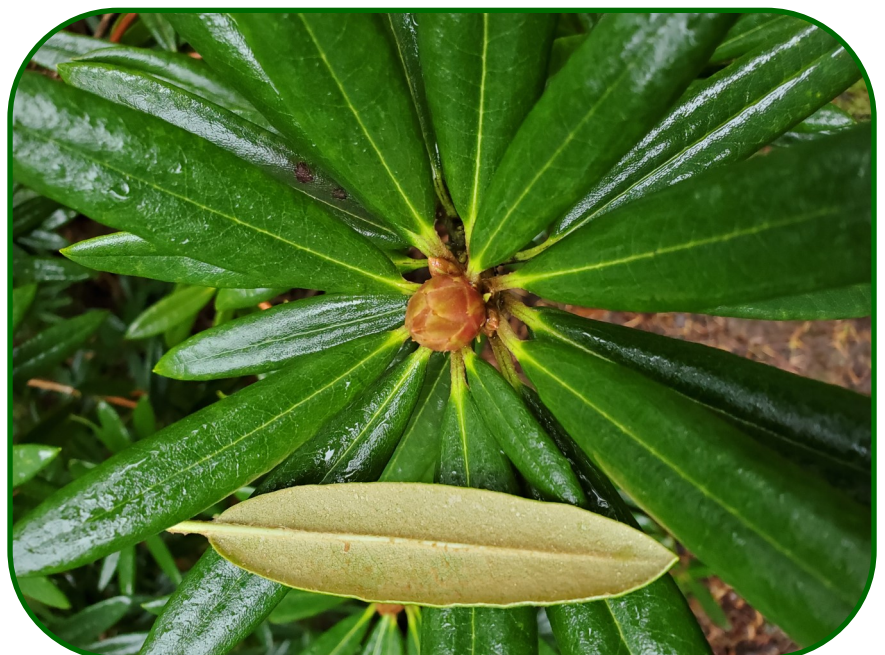
Foliage: Leaves narrowly elliptic and 3.5
inches long; recurved edges; dark green
with slight covering of light brown woolly
indumentum underneath.

Trusses: Each truss has 18-20 corollas;
each white corolla is 1.5 inches across;
the upper throat is spotted deep, purplish
red; *R.* 'Blewbury' blooms in late April or
the first part of May.

Height in 10 years: Two to three feet
tall; grows in an upright manner.

Hardiness: 0° F

Photo credits: Mike Stewart



Invitations from Neighboring ARS Chapters

ARS Willamette Chapter

“Mount Kinabalu: Southeast Asia’s Kilimanjaro”

Speaker: Dr. Glen Jamieson

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

6:30 PM, Social Time / 7:00 PM, Meeting & Program



Dr. Glen Jamieson has a B.Sc. in Agriculture from McGill University and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Zoology from UBC. He worked for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as a research scientist for 31 years, both in the Maritimes (5 yr) and at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, BC (26 yr). He retired from DFO in

2008, and became editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society in 2009. He joined the ARS in 1995, and has explored for plants in Yunnan, China (2005); Borneo (2008); Ecuador and Peru (seven trips between 1998-2014) and in Sikkim, India (2015). He has travelled to over 70 countries and with his wife Dorothy, lives and maintains a garden in Parksville that is periodically on his local chapter’s (Mount Arrowsmith; MARS) garden tour, where he also has an extensive vireya collection, possibly the largest in Canada. He is the editor of the Journal American Rhododendron Society and created the online journal Rhododendrons International.

His powerpoint presentation will be on his 2018 trip to Borneo, Malaysia, which will illustrate culture, regional biodiversity and some of the challenges.

ZOOM Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208341281>

ARS Portland Chapter

“Our Northern Cascade Rhododendrons: Friends and Family”

Speakers: David Anderson & Andrew Stern

Thursday, October 21, 2021

6:30 PM, Meeting opens / 7:00 PM, Program



David and Andrew are avid hikers and they found a mutual interest as naturalists. They take weekly hikes all over the Northwest exploring and discovering interesting botanical and entomological (insect study) specimens. They use inaturalist.com as a source of identification and contribute their own findings. They have focused their plant hunting on the search for *R. macrophyllum*, the reliable roadside native found in upper elevations of Washington and Oregon. In this presentation, they will share the spotlight with the other Northwest native rhododendrons – *R. menziesii* and *R. albiflorum* – and the plants typically found accompanying them. David’s article “The Search for the Wild Rhododendron” was published in the Spring, 2021 issue of the ARS Journal (JARS) (note: requires member login). David and Andrew are members of the Board of Directors of the ARS Portland Chapter.

ZOOM Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84885825966>

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

Membership Renewal Time

Our treasurer, Nancy Burns, reports that Membership Renewal information has gone out in the U.S. Mail recently ... if you haven't received your renewal information, please let us know at ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com We hope to have 100% renewal, so be sure to respond to the information you receive! Also, we encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to join one of the ZOOM sessions and learn more about us. We are hopeful that it won't be much longer until we can have face-to-face meetings again and we are working to be ready to come together as soon as it is safe to do so!

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.

To request the ZOOM link to the meeting, please send an email to:

ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com