

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

~ ~ December News ~ ~

Your Board of Directors continue to explore the interest in and possibilities for resuming our chapter meetings in a face-to-face setting. The survey that was circulated via email recently indicated some interest in resuming in-person meetings, but unfortunately, only about 30% of the membership responded. If you did not take the time to respond, we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience by emailing your 'yes' or 'no' response to the question: **Are you ready to begin meeting in person again?** - along with any comments, to ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com. We really want **and need** to hear from all of you!



We will not be holding a meeting in December. Your Board of Directors regrets that we will not be able to get together for our traditional holiday pot-luck dinner but we wish each of you a happy, healthy holiday season. Looking forward to 2022, we will resume our chapter meetings via ZOOM in January as the board works to find a location for face-to-face chapter meetings. Unfortunately, The Springs at Greer Gardens is not currently accepting outside groups for meetings so if we are going to meet in-person, we must find a new location. However, please mark your calendars - our January ZOOM meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19th, and our own Emily Aune will present the program, "The History of Hendricks Park". It is possible that we will meet via ZOOM in February, also ... but we will keep you updated!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to One and All!

December 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, January 19
6:30 pm, Gathering
7:00 pm, Program

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~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~

A Progress Report on our Seed Propagation Trial by Emily Aune

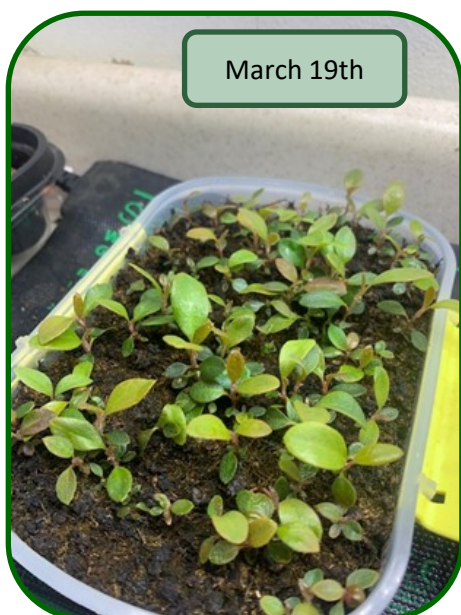
In February of this year, I wrote an article about my visit to Jack Olson's property, otherwise known as Rocky Knoll Farm. At the end of the article, I mentioned I was going to try my hand at starting some rhododendron seeds this year. Spoiler alert - it worked! Here is a year of progress....

In January of 2021, I collected wild *R. macrophyllum* seed near Odell Lake, while doing some cross-country skiing. Typically, that is pretty late, I've heard October is best, but I still found seeds in the pods. After visiting Jack and feeling inspired, I set up an LED light on my kitchen counter with a seed mat. It was quickly relocated to the laundry room, where it still is today, because the light was too strange to have on all the time in my open kitchen. I also started some basil seeds, just because it was dark, and winter, and quarantine-time, and I wanted some tastes of summer. They were started around March 1st and by March 19th I had some sprouts!

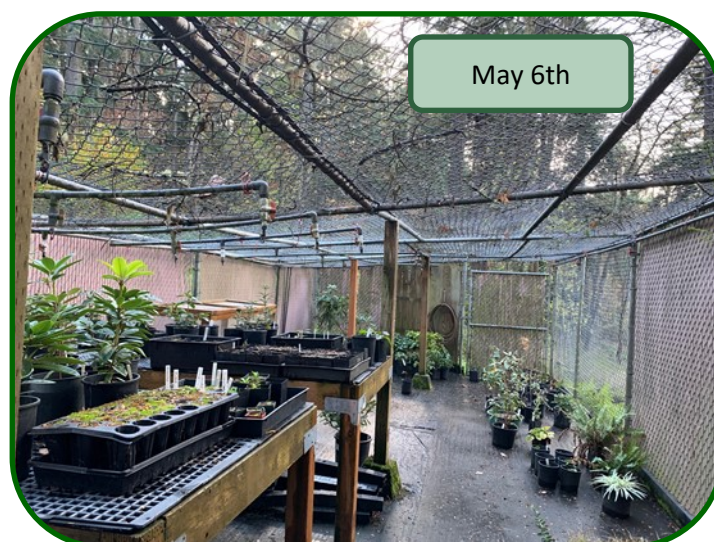
I ended up with so many sprouts I had to thin them, using tweezers, two to three times.



Early March



March 19th



May 6th

By May 6th, they were growing big and happy so I took them to Hendricks Park to live in our lathhouse with a sprinkler system.



May 11th

On May 11th one of our volunteers, Elizabeth, who is hidden by her mask and hair in this photo, up-potted the little babies. In addition to helping us every Tuesday in the Rhododendron Garden, she volunteers independently nearly every week in the lathouse with weeding, seeding and up-potting all of our plants.



August

Pictured to the right are the seedlings this August. I'll admit, I thought they would grow more during the summer, but I'm happy they are still growing.



New cold frame

In an effort to keep these alive through the winter and to help with our propagation trials at the park, one of our volunteers built us a cold frame, and the Friends of Hendricks Park purchased a seed mat for it. We have so many helpers.



Seedlings (left) and cuttings (right)

This will be our first winter with the heated seed mat and cold frame. Inside the box, the seedlings are to the left, and the other two trays have cuttings from the garden. *(continued on page 4) - - -*

Log Cabin Nursery



We took the rest of this year's cuttings to Terry Henderson's greenhouses at Log Cabin Nursery in Springfield. He graciously allows us space for a couple of trays of cuttings a year, which has really helped us with the success rates of our cutting.

This photo was taken at Terry's nursery in the propagation greenhouse. I always love visiting and seeing his setup. The Hendricks Park lathhouse still has room for improvement, but I'm pretty happy with the new additions.

And finally, here are a couple of cuttings that I'm very excited about. We took these to Log Cabin Nursery a few years back and have been up-potting them until they are big enough for the garden. One of them is a *R. preodoxa* var. *fargesii* from Hendricks Park. The other one is a red-flowering *R. arboretum* from Leonard Frojen's yard (a former Eugene chapter member) that he wanted me to have.

R. arboretum



R. preodoxa var. *fargesii*



AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



ARS2022

RETURN TO THE NORTHWEST

SPRING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

PORTLAND-VANCOUVER | MAY 4 – 8, 2022

**A belated
75th
Anniversary
Celebration
of the ARS**

Registration now open! ARS2022.org

Hosted by the chapters of ARS District 4
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Excursion
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A promotional video
of the convention
is posted on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

We hope you plan
to attend!



~ ~ *Newly Registered Rhododendrons!* ~ ~

Jack Olson, our Eugene Chapter Vice-President and owner of Rocky Knolls Farm, has been busy registering new rhododendron hybrids. He recently submitted names and information for six new plants to the American Rhododendron Society - three of his own crosses, and three hybrids crossed by former Eugene Chapter members, now deceased. Jack said that he felt compelled to register the hybrids from Nolan Blansit, Art Childers, and Slim Barrett because these men were "excellent gardeners and the plants they created are excellent specimens." Jack has graciously shared pictures and informational tid-bits about these newly named beauties . . .

R. 'Scoop'

A cross between

R. 'Teachers Pet' x (R. *proteoides* x R. 'Nancy Evans')



R. 'Ah Ha'

A cross between

R. 'Prism' x R. 'Pt. Defiance'



R. 'Babbo'

A cross between R. 'Prism' x R. 'Tickle'
Named for Jack's father, Bob Olson



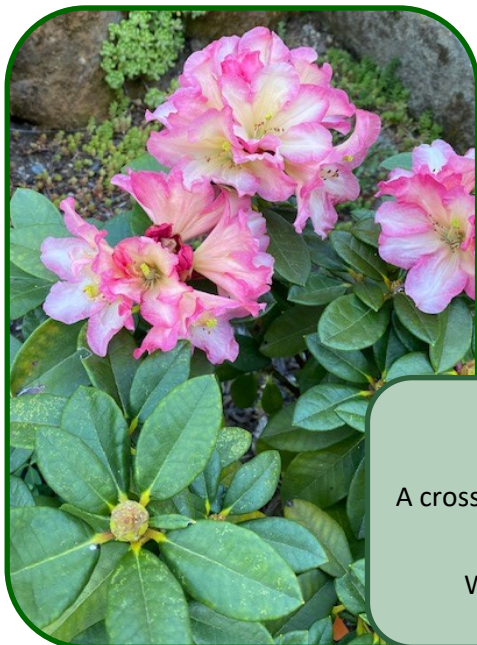
R. 'Slim B.'

A cross between R. *bureavii* x R. 'Fabia'
Crossed by Slim Barrett at his Triangle Lake home



R. 'Art C.'

A cross between R. *campanulatum* x
R. *degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum*
Crossed by Art Childers, who owned Rhody Land Nursery,
on the McKenzie River in Vida, Oregon



R. 'Nolan B.'

A cross between R. 'Naselle' x (R. 'Bambi' x R. *proteoides*)
Crossed by Nolan Blansit
Winner, Best Truss in Show, Florence, Oregon

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
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Eugene, OR 97405

From the ARS Portland Chapter

For those of you who have enjoyed joining in to the Portland ARS Chapter meetings in the past, here is the information about their December ZOOM meeting, which will feature a Member Photo Slides presentation:

Thursday, December 16, 2021
6:30 PM, Meeting opens / 7:00 PM, Program

ZOOM Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81140756490>

Meeting ID: 811 4075 6490

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