

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

~ ~ January Chapter Meeting Info ~ ~

January 2022

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



The History of Hendricks Park & the Rhododendron Garden

Presenter: Emily Aune
Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022
Time: 6:30 pm, Gathering
7:00 pm, Presentation

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900120737?pwd=dC9lOXpUWWhwTU13TlVXQUF1VzhHdz09>
Meeting ID: 869 0012 0737 Passcode: 907426

Our own Emily Aune is the speaker for this month's meeting! Emily currently works as the Head Gardener for the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. She has held that position for the last eight years. Prior to that time she was employed on the garden staff for four years. Emily's presentation will trace the history of Hendricks Park from when it was first established in 1906 as the first City of Eugene park through its development into the amazing garden and open space that it is today.

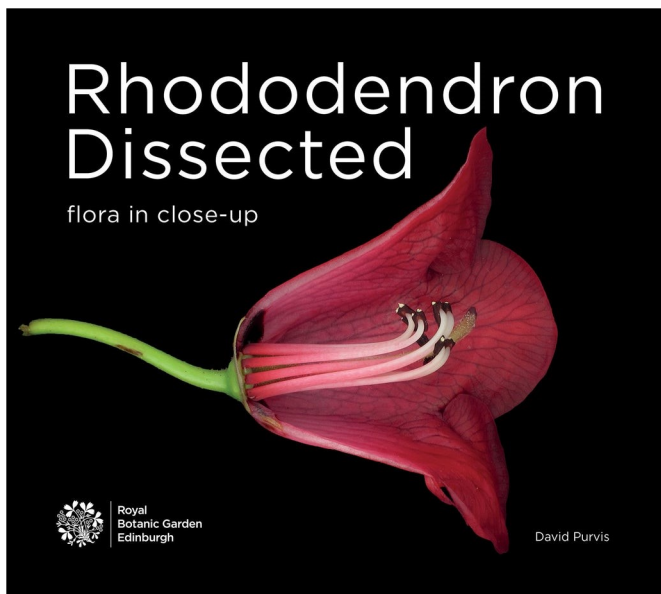
Emily's love of plants and the outdoors began in Bloomington, Indiana, where she spent her summers working at a youth camp and her high school years working at a retail plant nursery. She moved to Eugene in 1999, where she had family, and quickly fell in love with the mountains, streams, and mossy, green forests. She picked up gardening jobs for work - - *cont'd on page 5*

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~ ~ Book Review: Rhododendron Dissected ~ ~ by Gordon Wylie

Most of us immersed in gardening, fascinated with rhododendrons and other ornamental plants, generally are not so much into morphology, the biological study of the form and structure of living things. And while we may often read reference works, we tend to skip over the botanical descriptions found therein. Here's a recently published book which will likely draw you into those details with its up-close and personal photography showing fascinating characteristics in leaf and flower.



RHODODENDRON DISSECTED, published by The Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, certainly lives up to its name. That's achieved through David Purvis' painstaking macroscopic color photography revealing truly fascinating details of leaf and flower for each rhododendron species found here. Much becomes visible which is simply not apparent to the human eye absent magnification.

The book has come to hand courtesy of John Hammond, an ARS member of the Scottish Chapter and associate member of the Eugene Chapter of the ARS. John comments:

"This book is a part of a much larger project undertaken by David Chamberlain and David Purvis... The very time-consuming photographic content...is entirely the work of David Purvis. The two Davids went to China (around five years ago) where the book was instigated by Chinese botanical staff... "

John notes the book can be ordered from the RBGE website, though stocks are limited.

The often stunning images are presented on a matte black background, thus highlighting color hues and other details of foliage and bloom. Both sides of a single leaf are shown together with further enlarged sections revealing scales, hairs and pubescence. A single flower is dissected lengthwise with one half the corolla cut away to reveal the arrangement of stamens and pistil. There are also enlarged views of a filament/anther and the pistil with its ovary, style, and stigma. Perhaps a bit tedious in description but fascinating to view at length.

There's also a brief narrative with each species providing a botanical description, native habitat, flowering time, propagation, and other details, which adds a bonus to the fun and engrossing pictures.

Archival records at the Royal Botanical Garden in Edinburgh show the garden has been cultivating rhododendrons from North America and Europe since at least 1775. Those beginnings were greatly enlarged by well-known collectors working in China during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and plants from the genus are now spread among all four of the RBG gardens in Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan. All pictures in this book were taken from plants at one or more of those gardens.

I encourage you to check out the RBGE website - an interesting experience in itself even if you don't put any items in your cart.

Editor's Note: The RBGE (Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh) website address is: <https://www.rbge.org.uk/>
Their online shop can be found here: <https://rbgeshop.org/>

~ ~ News From Hendricks Park ~ ~
*Making Progress on Establishing
the Harold Greer Bed*
by Emily Aune



We have made some progress in the development of the Harold Greer Bed in the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park. Members of the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, along with members from the Friends of Hendricks Park, gathered one rainy October day to assess the bed possibilities that I was considering. We decided upon a fairly prominent bed within the main garden loop as an ideal place to plant many of Harold's hybrids. However that location was full of large sword ferns throughout the bed, and we needed room for rhododendrons!

In mid-November, we decided the soil was saturated enough to start transplanting the large sword ferns from the bed to the forested areas. Every Tuesday since then, we have had 2-6 volunteers split apart from the main volunteer group to tackle these giant ferns. Many of them were so large, we needed 2-3 people just to pick them up. Not to mention that there were a couple of shovels broken in half! I decided to buy the team some metal shovels, which totally changed the game. They ended up transplanting FORTY ferns down to the natural area below the office.

- - **Harold Greer Bed** continues on page 5



Check out these before and after photographs . . .



Harold Greer Bed . . . cont'd from page 3

More room! We also plan to expand the bed a bit more into the main lawn, but we will wait for things to dry out a little bit. All that snow and rain is not helping, but it is needed in the mountains, so we can wait.

I visited Terry Henderson at Log Cabin Nursery in December. He donated several of Harold's hybrids including 'Our First', 'Kimbeth', 'Kimberly', 'Hallelujah', 'Whispering Rose', 'Misty Moonlight', and 'Very Berry', along with another specimen of 'Harold Greer'. Those plants are waiting safely in our lathhouse until planting day. Many thanks to Terry and Log Cabin Nursery!

Thanks also to Larry Jensen, who brought me a handful of cuttings. The cuttings included 'Perfectly Pink' and also 'Eugene'. We are still on the lookout for donations of those plants as well as for 'Everything Nice'.

And finally, a thank you to the many participants who are helping to create something wonderful in Hendricks Park. Feel free to email me at EAune@eugene-or.gov if you wish to get involved! I'll certainly let everyone know when the planting date is scheduled.

Our Mission

- E** - Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons
- U** - Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships
- G** - Grow both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens
- E** - Educate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons
- N** - Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons
- E** - Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community

January Meeting Info . . . cont'd from page 1

and started taking Botany classes at Lane Community College. She finished college with an Environmental Science degree and worked some seasonal positions for the City of Eugene, including as a Botany Assistant, and also in the city's native plant nursery. After a time, she landed a full-time position with the City of Eugene Parks Department on their landscaping crew. It was not much longer until she was permanently assigned to Hendricks Park. One of the favorite parts of her job at Hendricks Park is working with the park volunteers who show up every Tuesday morning to help weed, prune, plant, and take care of the garden. She relates to this group of folks who are equally dedicated and excited about maintaining a beautiful garden. When not at work, Emily is out adventuring with her dog, Rhody, or spending time with family and friends.

Emily joined the Eugene Chapter of the ARS in 2017, and was elected Secretary in 2019. She contributes articles to our newsletter on a monthly basis and she has had two articles published in JARS (Journal of the American Rhododendron Society). She continues to be more and more involved in our local plant and garden societies.

Mark your calendar now to ZOOM in to our January meeting and enjoy this presentation about the wonderful rhododendron garden located right here in our community!



Registration is now open!

Visit ARS2022.org for more information!

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

*An Invitation from
the ARS Portland Chapter*

Date: Thursday, January 20
Speaker: Loree Bohl
Topic: "Fearless Gardening"
Time: 6:30 pm, Gathering
7:00 pm, Meeting and Presentation
ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86537607714>
Meeting ID: 865 3760 7714

Loree Bohl is the creator of the popular blog, Danger Garden (thedangergarden.com), where she shares her love for agaves, cactus, and all things spiky - as well as a fondness for ferns and a good patch of PNW moss. Loree's first book, **Fearless Gardening: Be Bold, Break the Rules, Grow What You Love** (Timber Press), was published in January, 2021. She gardens in northeast Portland and is a firm believer there is always room for one more plant. Fearless Gardening is a call to arms; urging gardeners to be bold, break the rules, and grow what they love. In this photo-rich seminar you'll be inspired to look at plants differently, see your garden through new eyes, and to treat gardening as an adventure.

*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