

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

~ February Chapter Meeting Info ~

We are excited to announce that our February Chapter Meeting will be held IN PERSON!!

Your Board of Directors has made plans for the Eugene Chapter ARS to hold its February meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant in Springfield, located at the corner of Gateway Road and Postal Way (1010 Postal Way). The Sizzler has a private room that is available to us at no charge, with the expectation that each attendee at our meeting will place an order for dinner. We encourage you to arrive as early as 5:30 and as late as 6:30 pm so that you can place your order, be served, and have time to socialize before our program starts around 7:00 pm. We are excited to have this first face-to-face meeting and hope that you are, too. However, please be aware that we will evaluate and make meeting plans on a month-to-month basis for the next few months.



Our presenter for this meeting is our Vice-President, Jack Olson, owner of Rocky Knoll Farm, in Fall Creek, Oregon. Jack has prepared a program chock-full of rhododendron trivia to educate and entertain us. Jack has been a member of the American Rhododendron Society since 1970. He bought his first rhododendron, 'R. Britannia', in 1963. In 1965, his father purchased 100 plants from Ted Van Veen, so Jack quickly became familiar with the more popular varieties of that time. After Jack purchased his home in north Eugene, he started hanging out at Swenson's Nursery. The owner, Gladys Swenson, was a good teacher and she taught Jack many

tricks of the trade. The Eugene Chapter of the ARS was very active at that time and Jack met many nice people who invited him to their homes -- (Cont'd on page 4)

February, 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.

For February, we will meet in person at the Sizzler in Springfield (1010 Postal Way)

Upcoming Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, February 16
5:30 pm, Gathering & Dinner
7:00 pm, Program

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~ ~ News from Hendricks Park ~ ~

“Winter Delights”

by Emily Aune



If there is, indeed, anything positive about the freezing fogs we have been seeing most mornings over the past month, it would be that it decorates the plants with a beautiful lacy edge. The winter garden at Hendricks Park also offers a handful of blooms, and several fragrant plants fill the pathways with pleasant surprises as you walk by.



(Upper left and above) Frost collecting on the edges of the sword ferns and the sandmyrtle (*Leiophyllum buxifolium*) near the entrance of the garden.

(Left) You can smell the sweet blooms of the sarcococca, even with frosty edges.



The Hendricks garden has some unique winter blooms including a nice group of *Rhododendron mucronulatum* or Korean rhododendrons located on the far end of the main loop trail. I have had great success getting cuttings from this plant, so the group continues to get larger every year. This deciduous rhododendron flowers prior to the foliage unfurling each spring, so it appears as floating mauve flowers scattered throughout the bed. You can barely see the stems that support them, so the flowers appear to be floating. It is very unusual and always a bright reminder that spring is coming.

Another interesting shrub, planted just outside the office door, is *Chimonanthus praecox*, also known as Wintersweet, which is native to China. I catch scents of it throughout the day as I come and go from the office. The nearly clear pale yellow flowers will freeze into ice flowers one day, and still hold their color the next day. Like the Korean azalea, it also blooms on bare stems and the leaves will form after flowering.



(Cont'd from page 1) - - to see their gardens. Those were great times which gave Jack many opportunities to gather free cuttings. He was always impressed by members who grew rhododendrons from seed. The Eugene Chapter offered many programs over the years, covering various aspects of rhododendrons and Jack was active in the chapter activities and added to his knowledge of rhododendrons every step of the way. He has shown his flowers all over western Washington, northern California, and Oregon. He began judging shows in the late 70's and continues to this day. His seed program is an extension of the plants he likes, his favorite being 'R. Point Defiance'.



'R. Point Defiance'

We received a nice note from Nancy Greer, along with information about the Memorial Service she is planning for Harold. She asked us to share the information with all of you ...

Happy New Year, 2022 and Greetings to All,

2021 is now over and we are into a new year. I hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. It seems like time goes by so fast the older you get. 2021 was a hard year for me with Harold's passing, but there were some wonderful times, too.

Harold and I decided to take a trip to Mount Rushmore in late June. We were ready to get away after Covid kept us from traveling. We left on June 20th and came back home on June 29th. We had never been to Mount Rushmore, which had been on our travel list for some time. There were so many people just like us, who wanted to get out and travel. The trip highlight for us was seeing where Harold was born in Greeley, Colorado. He wanted to show me where he lived when he was brought home from the hospital. Harold, his parents, and his sister, Beth Ann, lived in a small house in Evans, Colorado, but he was born at the hospital in Greeley. Evans is a small town outside of Greeley. About a year later they moved to Greeley and stayed there for about four years. Harold was so happy to show me everything in Greeley. He remembered where they went shopping and other stores they shopped at. Many of the stores and places were still there. The house in Evans was still there and looked just about the same as when they left it in 1946. The same was true for the house in Greeley. Harold had a remarkable mind for remembering so many things. He always felt he had a God-given talent and a photographic mind. He pictured places, names, horticultural plants and trees, especially rhododendrons, and remembered them years later. He said it was like having a computerized brain. Harold seemed so excited and at peace on this, his last trip. When I look back now it was a wonderful trip with so many memories for both of us ... I am so glad we went.

Harold passed away on August 10th, unexpectedly. He always said that he would want to go among the beautiful rhododendrons in his garden ... and that's where he went. It has been such a shock for me and our family. It has also been hard for all our friends. I am trying to be positive and take each day as it comes. I am doing well and have family and so many friends that have been there for me. It has been a big change in my life, but I have so many wonderful memories.

I want to thank you all for all your cards, letters, emails, phone calls and visits. It has been such an uplifting and positive experience for me. If you need to contact me, you can email me at: Nancy@GreerGardens.com. Thank you all and I wish you all a Happy New Year!

-- Nancy C. Greer --



Harold Eldon Greer

1945 - 2021

A Memorial Service honoring Harold Eldon Greer will be held in Eugene, Oregon, on Saturday, March 26, at 1:00 pm (Pacific Daily Time). The service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Eugene, located at 3550 Fox Meadow Road in Eugene. There will be a reception following the service at the church from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. All of you are welcome to attend, but if you can't be there in person, the service will be streamed live on the First Baptist Church website (www.watch.fbceugene.com). The service will also be available for viewing on Vimeo a few days after the service (www.vimeo.com/672147809).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Research Foundation of the American Rhododendron Society at P.O. Box 214, Great River, NY 11739; and The Rhododendron Species Foundation at P.O. Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98063.

Remembering Richard 'Dick' 'Red' Cavender

by Gordon Wylie

Rhododendron and gardening enthusiasts lost a truly stalwart friend with Dick's unexpected death at his home in Sherwood, Oregon, on January 17, 2022. Longtime members of the Portland Chapter ARS, Dick and Karen are widely known in Oregon and beyond as active and enthusiastic participants with other chapters, gardening conferences, social gatherings, work parties and many other gardening pursuits. Red's smiling face and often wry comments ... and generous help... will indeed be missed.

By vocation a railroad man, Dick was a conductor on Union Pacific freight trains running to the Hinkle Station east of the Cascades near Pendleton. Not surprisingly, he was known as something of a character by the staff at the Union Pacific Yard in Portland. At the same time, he was a skilled plantsman and proprietor of Red's Rhodies, operated from the Cavender's hilltop acreage in Sherwood.

Though rhododendrons dominate the Cavender home garden, there's evidence too of an eclectic ornamental plant interest in play. One example, from another plant genus, is *Pleione* orchids. Dick gathered and propagated an extensive collection of these delightful miniatures. Or consider the many years Dick and Karen cultivated *Physalis alkekengi*, often referred to as Chinese Lanterns, harvesting and carefully drying the fiery orange lanterns for use in the holiday floral trade.

R. occidentale, discovered on the Cavenders' first vacation trip as a married couple, held a special place in Red's heart. During its bloom season he often prowled the back roads of the southern Oregon and northern California coast seeking special examples of the native, making intraspecific crosses and marking other special plants for seed collection come fall. Plants from his long-term hybridizing program with *R. occidentale* and east coast azalea species are now available in the nursery trade.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given for either of Dick's favorite gardens, Smith Garden or Crystal Springs Garden. Checks should be made payable to the Portland Chapter ARS, with a notation as to which garden is preferred, and sent to Portland Chapter ARS c/o Cavender, 15920 SW Oberst Lane, Sherwood, Oregon, 97140.

~ ~ *Expressions of Sympathy* ~ ~

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Nancy Burns and her family on the recent death of her husband, Tim. Nancy serves faithfully as the Treasurer and Membership Chairman for our chapter.

Also, as this newsletter was being composed, we received news from Ted Hewitt about his wife, Paula. With his permission, here is a portion of his message ...

It is with sadness that I let you know that Paula passed away on February 2, ending her struggle with breast cancer.

Paula and I joined the ARS Eugene Chapter in 2007 and Paula immediately stepped in with her inability to say "No" and soon was in charge of making coffee and arranging for someone to furnish cookies for the meetings that were then held at the Campbell Community Center. Shortly thereafter, she was asked to serve on the Board and she did. Not long after that, she was asked to serve as Chapter Secretary and she brought the minutes into the digital age. In her quiet way, she served the chapter in a leadership role for several years, but then stepped back to be a member who much enjoyed the camaraderie of the meetings, the programs, the visits to nurseries, the field trips that the chapter offered, and the conferences - be they regional or national. As with many of our chapter members, it was the friendships that she enjoyed the most and her involvement on the wider level of regional, state, and national levels that she felt blessed with enjoyment of many special people.

At home, she enjoyed the tranquility of the shade garden that she had created and liked how the rhododendrons were a part of the tapestry along with ferns, hosta, perennials, and other shade lovers. Texture, color, shape, and size were what made the garden work for her.

Please keep both Nancy and Ted, along with their families, in your thoughts in the weeks to come. If there should be any additional information about arrangements or services, we will share that information with you as it becomes available.

A Podcast for Rhododendron Enthusiasts "For the Love of Rhododendron"

If you are looking for something new to listen to before our spring gardens draw us outdoors, perhaps you'd like to check out the podcasts that have been produced by The Next Generation Program of the American Rhododendron Society. To date, there are eight episodes available, generally an hour in length. Each episode focuses on an individual and the remarkable things that they have done all "For the Love of Rhododendron". You can listen to the episodes by visiting the ARS Next Gen web page at https://www.rhododendron.org/next_gen_podcasts.htm and clicking on the title of the episode you would like to hear ... or the episodes can be downloaded to your smart device via the iTunes or Spotify app.

The goal of the ARS Next Generation Program is to attract and prepare the next generation of rhododendron experts by making ARS resources more visible and accessible to students, young scientists and horticulturists.



As a special bonus this month, Emily sent in some beautiful photos from Hendricks Park, taken by a couple of park staff members.



The first two photos were taken in the early morning by John Willman, who does the basic restroom and clean-up on the weekends at Hendricks Park.



These frosty photos were taken among the Evergreen Azaleas by Seth Eddy, who is a seasonal employee at the park and is a student at the University of Oregon, studying Landscape Architecture



Save the date! For folks interested in being a part of the planting of the Harold Greer Bed at Hendricks Park, all are welcome to join us during our regular Tuesday work party on March 8th from 9am-12pm. We will be planting about 15 of Harold's hybrids that morning in the newly dedicated bed. We provide tools and instruction, just show up in the main garden that morning. For questions, contact Emily Aune, EAune@eugene-or.gov.

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 is now open! ARS2022.org

Hosted by the chapters of ARS District 4
Portland - Tualatin Valley - Eugene - Willamette - Siuslaw

World-
renowned
Keynote
Speakers



Tours to the
Northwest's
Outstanding
Gardens
& Nurseries



Around the
Sound
Convention
Pre-Tour



Willamette
Valley
& Coast
Excursion
Post-Tour

A promotional video
of the convention
is posted on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

We hope you plan
to attend!



Invitations from Neighboring Chapters

ARS Portland Chapter ~ ~

“Kia Ora! Springtime in New Zealand”

Speaker: Bruce Wakefield

Thursday, February 17

Session opens 6:30pm; meeting at 7

New Zealand is a land of stunning beauty and diversity. With volcanic peaks and geothermal hot spots on the North Island to the uplifted “southern Alps” and glacial plains of the South Island, it is filled with contrasts. Because of the frequency of earthquakes, New Zealand is known as the “shaky isles”. From tip to tip, New Zealand is roughly the length of Portland to southern California, having a similar range of climates but in “reverse” since it lies in the southern hemisphere. The northern tip enjoys a definite subtropical climate (similar to San Diego) while the extreme southern end is a much cooler temperate one (with alpine areas, too). With all of this diversity comes a wide range of garden styles featuring a wide range of plants - both native and exotic! This presentation will take you on a grand adventure across the “shaky isles” while we visit many of New Zealand’s finest gardens.

Bruce Wakefield has been involved with The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) for most of the past 31 years. Between 1991 and 2010, he was a Vice President; served two terms as Treasurer; ran the twice-yearly plant sales now known as [Hortlandia](#) and [PlantFest](#); planned programs and Study Weekends; helped establish HPSO’s first office and oversaw two office moves; hosted board retreats; wrote for the newsletter; sat on board committees—long-range planning, finance, website, nominating, library, open gardens, grants, and by-law revisions. In 2010, when Bruce completed a two-year term as HPSO President, he stepped into the job of Office Director where he served for eleven years. He continued to volunteer as well, leading the HPSO travel interest group known as “Travel Club” and planning and escorting nearly 30 tours. In honor of Bruce’s service, HPSO named an annual scholarship in his honor. Now officially retired from his service as HPSO Office Director, Bruce plans to continue serving HPSO as a board member. He will continue focusing on HPSO’s travel program, too.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82565149180> Meeting ID: 825 6514 9180



ARS Willamette Chapter ~ ~

“The Gardens of Western Scotland”

Speaker: Win Howe, Narrator & Photographer

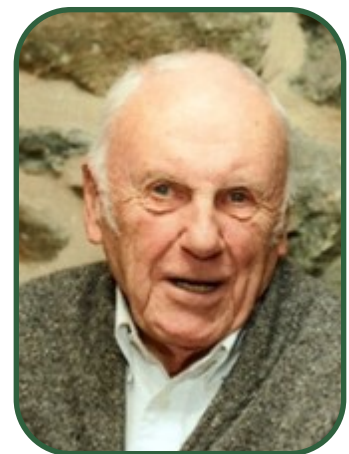
Wednesday, February 9

6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting

For the February program we will visit some of the most famous gardens of Western Scotland. Photography and narration is by Win Howe, of the Valley Forge Chapter, ARS.

This program is recorded on DVD as part of the ARS library. It is a high-quality presentation with excellent photography and insightful narration by Win Howe. The photography was done during the 1996 Annual ARS meeting in Oban, Scotland. This meeting was arranged by our own Herb Spady, in conjunction with the Scottish Chapter ARS, while Herb was President of the ARS. Though the meeting was many years ago, all the gardens displayed are healthy and still functioning. Further, there are many more large, famous and beautiful gardens within easy reach in the same area. Sadly, Win Howe passed away in 2016.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85389193253> Meeting ID: 853 8919 3253



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

Another Invitation! Save The Date!

The Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Trust
announces

The 2nd Annual Spring Lecture

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:00 pm GMT (Ireland Time!)

All gardeners are invited to a ZOOM lecture given by

Michael Lear

'Castlewellan Arboretum - Findings From New Research'



This will be a FREE lecture, however, donations will be greatly appreciated

Please register for the lecture by sending an email request to info@nihgc.org

For more information please visit the NIHGT website at www.nihgt.org

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