

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

March, 2022

~ March News ~

We all enjoyed gathering together in February for our chapter meeting, so ... we're going to do it again in March! The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16th, at the Sizzler restaurant in Springfield, in the small meeting room at the front of the building. Once again, this space is available to us at no charge, with the understanding that all attendees will place an order for food. Plan to arrive as early as 5:30 pm, so that you can place your order and be served before the program begins at 7:00 pm. Our speaker this month will be Tim Walsh of Eureka, California. His topic will be his trip to Wales in 2018, including his visit to Bodnant Gardens. Please check out page four of this newsletter for more information about Tim.

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group is reviving their annual plant sale this spring and our board member, Tom Beatty, is heading up the planning for the Eugene ARS booth at the event. This is the only fundraiser planned for our chapter this year and we are looking for volunteers from our membership to help make the effort a success. The Plant Show is being held on Saturday, May 7th, from 9 am until 2 pm, with set-up taking place on Friday, May 6th. If you are interested in helping (and YES, your help is needed!), please email your interest to ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com and Tom will get back to you with more information. Thanks in advance for your support!

And finally, please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 16th, as plans are being made for a work party to be held on the property adjacent to Nancy Greer's home at The Springs, 1280 Goodpasture Island Road. Over the years, Harold Greer planted many rhododendrons on this property, which belongs to the City of Eugene. It is being included in the post-tour following the ARS Convention in Portland, so we hope to give it a little TLC in preparation for the visitors. We are thinking of a mid-day event, with potluck snacks and beverages, but please stay tuned for the final plans which will be sent out in the April newsletter.

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

Upcoming Chapter Meeting

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

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~ ~ *News from Hendricks Park* ~ ~

“An Excursion to Florence and Mowbray Gardens”

by Emily Aune

This month I traveled to Florence, Oregon, to give my LIVE and in-person presentation of “The History of Hendricks Park”. Although I had already given this talk twice via ZOOM, the Siuslaw ARS Chapter (which meets in Florence) was the first to suggest this topic to me and they can be credited for inspiring the program that I put together. The Siuslaw ARS Chapter is a wonderful group of people, and I’m enjoying getting to know some of their members better. Not only did they end up paying for the AirBnB that I stayed in that night, they also purchased some raffle tickets and handed them to me. And, I won! I chose a large, dark-green-leaved rhododendron, hybridized by Chris Trautmann. The cross is of the two different forms of *R. sinofalconerii*. They are from different sides of the mountain separating China and Vietnam, and the two forms have subtle differences of height and indumentum. I asked him more about this beautiful plant, and he invited me to stop by his home and nursery, Mowbray Gardens, before returning home.



The garden was magnificent, with plants in every open space from fence-line to fence-line! Chris’ specialty is hybridizing yellow and orange rhododendrons and growing dwarf conifers. It was a (---continued on page 3---)

(---continued from page 2---) glowingly sunny day, which meant my photos all turned out with a glare. I plan to visit again during the Florence flower shows, and maybe catch some more blooms. Chris showed me



some tricks of the trade, when it comes to growing seedlings, and I hope to call upon his wealth of knowledge with future endeavors. The majority of his days, he ran a nursery and hybridized plants in Ohio, but now he has moved to where rhododendrons grow much more willingly! He says it is especially because of the classical music he plays to them. Chris will be on the panel at the ARS Conference this year, speaking about new hybrid introductions of the year, and his garden will be on the post-tour. He welcomes any ARS members to look him up and visit when they head to Florence. It is definitely worth a visit!



As for my new large-leafed rhododendron, I've already up-potted it and added it in my home garden landscape. It may move to Hendricks Park someday, but for now, I want to keep a closer watch on this one!

A bonus from my trip to Florence ...

My dog, Rhody, and I were able to enjoy a walk on the beach - where we happened upon a purple starfish and a rainbow hovering over the surf!



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.

About this month's speaker ... *Tim Walsh*



Tim (center), with a couple of volunteers at the Humboldt Botanical Garden Center

Timothy Patrick Walsh was born and raised as a 4th generation citizen of Humboldt County, Eureka, California. After attending The University of Southern California, Tim became a sheep boy on the southern Humboldt ranch of a family friend. He thought his prospects of making a living as a ranch-hand were poor so he became a real estate broker and finally settled in as a Stock Broker and Certified Financial Planner for more than 30 years.

In the 1980's, Tim had an epiphany at Hendricks Park in Eugene, Oregon, when he discovered *Rhododendron* 'Loderi King George'. He had grown up with thousands of *Rhododendron* 'Countess of Derby', (which in Eureka were planted by Cottage Gardens for the cut flower trade and sold as R. 'Eureka Maid'). As a little boy, he would break off branches of the pink flowers and carry them up the street to sell for candy money. Until that visit to Hendricks Park, he had no idea that there were scented rhododendrons!

As the Rhodo-bug hit him hard, he spent many Saturdays at Westgate Garden Nursery with Catherine Weeks (who passed away in 2015). One day she said that he needed to join the American Rhododendron Society to learn more about rhodos and meet other people who had the same affliction. Thus began a long relationship with the ARS, first as chapter President (an office he has reprised more than once), then treasurer, then Treasurer of ARS, and currently District 5 director where he sits on the Executive Board. He is thoroughly Rhodo-holic.

In 1991, a Eureka lady (Irene Van Natter) called all the garden and plant societies together to see if there were enough people interested in establishing a botanical garden in Humboldt County. Tim was on the first board of directors for the newly formed Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation. Tim and his wife, June, have been very actively involved at all levels of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens, both on the board and at the "hands-in-the-dirt" levels. Each year they spend more than 600 hours volunteering. They are the co-curators of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. We hope you will enjoy Tim's presentation about his trip to Wales in 2018, which included a visit to Bodnant Garden, home of a National Collection of *Rhododendron forrestii*.

Tim received the American Rhododendron Society's Silver Medal in 2007, and he is a University of California Extension Service Master Gardener.

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



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**A promotional video
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**We hope you plan
to attend!**



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

ARS Portland Chapter ~ ~

"Knowing Our Place: A Garden Culture of Care Under Western Skies"

Speaker: Jennifer Jewell

Thursday, March 17

Session opens 6:30pm; meeting at 7 pm

Jennifer Jewell is the host of the national award-winning weekly public radio program and podcast *Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden*. In addition, she is the author of *The Earth in Her Hands*, *75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants* (Timber Press, 2020), and *Under Western Skies, Visionary Gardens from the Rockies to the Pacific Coast* (Timber Press, 2021). In her presentation, Jennifer will explore the philosophy of *Cultivating Place* - her national, public radio program and international podcast based on the belief that gardens/gardeners are powerful agents and spaces for potentially positive change in our world, helping to address challenges as wide ranging as climate change, habitat loss, cultural polarization, and individual and communal health and being. She will explore how this power of gardens and gardeners is exemplified in the beautiful and innovative place-based gardens in her new book that celebrates western landscapes.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327710690>



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