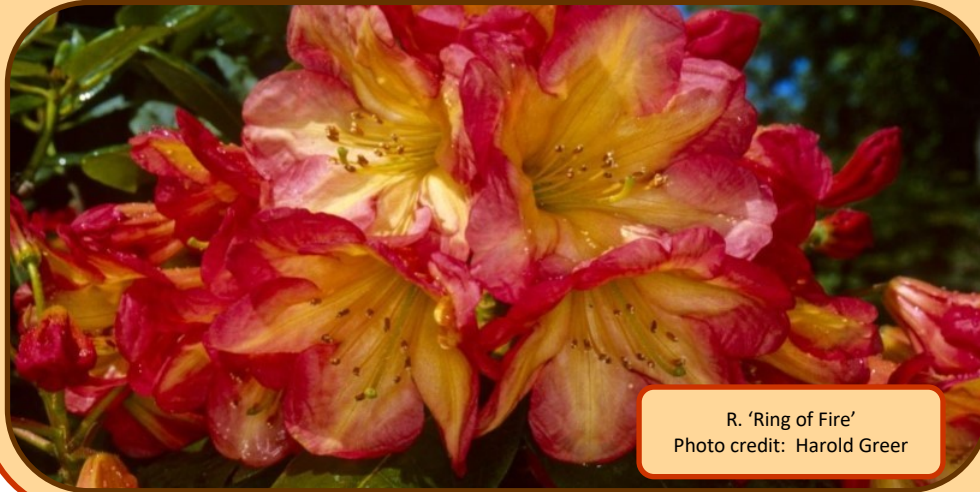


American Rhododendron Society



R. 'Ring of Fire'
Photo credit: Harold Greer

Eugene Chapter Newsletter November 2022

~ All the Latest News! ~

We held our long-awaited first chapter meeting face-to-face last month. It was a wonderful evening - the food, the friends, and Dave Eckerdt's presentation highlighting all the plants (from A to Z!) in his and Pat's garden, Deerly Missed - it all lived up to our best memories of being together. If you missed it, no worries - we plan to do it all again this month! More on that on page 5 of this newsletter.

One of the items of business we conducted during the meeting was to elect and welcome a new board member, Lorrie Zeller Bolivar. Lorrie has stepped forward to fill a position as a Director that has been long vacant and she is already making significant contributions! Thank you, Lorrie!

In other news, your Board of Directors is working on reinstating a couple of annual events that went by the wayside during the pandemic. We want to alert you to the timing for these upcoming events. The first one is our Holiday Potluck, which will take place this year on Wednesday, December 14th, at The Springs. There will be one slight twist: instead of potluck side-dishes, we are asking members to come and bring potluck desserts, as our meal will be provided by The Springs. Members may attend to enjoy the gathering and the desserts even if they choose not to purchase the catered meal. In addition, members are also asked to bring a few pictures of their gardens for Show and Tell with the group. More on that in the next newsletter.

The second event that is being planned is the Eugene ARS Truss Show, which will take place in late April/early May. We hope to have a firm date available to share with you in next month's newsletter. There are several new ideas in the works, including a new venue! Watch the newsletter in coming months for more information as it becomes available!



Lorrie Zeller Bolivar

Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, October through March, unless otherwise specified.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Wednesday, November 16
Wednesday, December 14
Wednesday, January 18
Wednesday, February 15
Wednesday, March 15

Meeting Location

The Springs at Greer Gardens
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd
Eugene, Oregon

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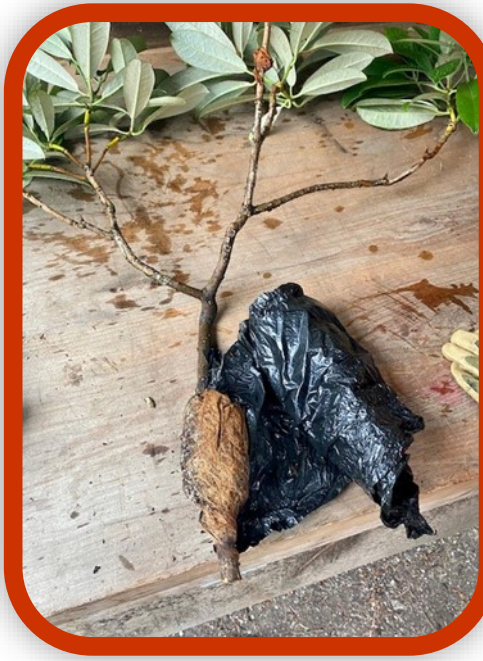
~ ~ *News from Hendricks Park* ~ ~
“Air Layering Harvest”
by Emily Aune

Hendricks Park had some successes with air layering this summer. We started this process in April, 2019, three and a half years ago! Under the tutelage of John Hammond, then president of the Scottish Chapter Rhododendron Society, the park volunteers and I were instructed in his method of air layering rhododendrons. For more details of the process, revisit our June, 2019, newsletter, but in short, we nicked stems and wrapped them in plastic bags filled with peat moss. We made little signs explaining our process.



Early this past summer we achieved the recommended three year time span, and it seemed like a good idea to pot up any successful air layers, rather than keeping them on the plant at risk of drying out during the summer drought months. Several volunteers (some of the same ones who put them on) helped locate and cut all the air layers throughout the park. The result was about fifteen specimens.





We lopped off the branches and unraveled wrappers to find several nice networks of roots on about six of the plants that we had done. Some we suspect didn't get enough water, or the plant was already in decline. But with our successes, we soaked the roots in water, to help unfurl them, and potted and staked these two foot tall plants. That is certainly one of the perks to this type of propagation because you end up with a pretty good size plant.

I am most excited to get two successful *Rhododendron ririei* from our air layers. This species from China has a smoky lavender flower, and I have been told our specimen at Hendricks Park is a really nice and unique plant, and I have not been able to take successful cuttings from it previously. We also had success with *Rhododendron decorum* and *Rhododendron souliei* which will make their way back into the garden soon.



~ ~ *Thoughts from Jack Olson* ~ ~
“The Name Game”

I had an interesting visit with a good friend and fellow hybridizer recently. He had invited me to see his seedlings and garden. We started walking through his garden and he would point out and call out the names of his various plants. After about ten minutes it dawned on me that I had never heard of any of these plants. Finally I asked him, “I have never heard of any of these plants, where did you get them?” His answer was “Oh, they are my seedlings, I named them so I could remember them.” I was thinking, “What?!” Through my involvement with the American Rhododendron Society, I have learned that names are important. While touring my friend’s garden, I assumed that the names he was calling out were correct names ... but if something happened to him, the plants that he had “named” could be named the same as a rhododendron that was correctly registered previously. Registering named hybrids through the American Rhododendron Society is how we hybridizers document the crosses we have created.

Registering a plant is a meticulous process. The color of the flowers, color of the foliage, shape of leaves, parentage, and many other characteristics of the plant are all recorded, so that the plant can be correctly identified in the years to come. It takes lots of time and all the paperwork must be filled out completely and correctly. And last but not least, the name you submit for your hybrid must have not been used before. If duplicate names were allowed to be used on multiple plants, there would be two (or more!) completely different plants being sold with the same name. Which is the correct plant? The one that has been registered! As you can see this could cause numerous problems. If a grower collects fifty cuttings of a misnamed plant, it can cause so much confusion! Another problem I have witnessed are mixed seedlings. A hybridizer will have similar seedlings, and will sell them with the same name. A good example of this is R. ‘Red Walloper’. The best way to make sure you purchase a correctly named plant is to attend flower shows and buy your plants there. At a flower show, the plants are inspected and confirmed to be labeled with the correct name. Another option is to purchase your plants from a nursery or grower who is listed with the American Rhododendron Society. You can find a list of nurseries that sell registered rhododendrons on the ARS Website: <https://www.rhododendron.org/nurseryintro.htm>

Dinnertime at our October Meeting
Great food and great conversation ...
Won't you join us in November?



~ ~ *November Meeting* ~ ~
Wednesday, November 16th
The Springs At Greer Gardens
5:30 pm - Meal ~ 7:00 pm - Meeting

The November meeting for the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will be held at The Springs at Greer Gardens on Wednesday, November 16th. If you wish to join in the dinner before the meeting, you will want to arrive around 5:30 pm. The price for dinner is \$25/person. Those who wish to eat dinner are asked to RSVP by texting or calling Terry Henderson at 541-953-9316, no later than **Tuesday, November 8th** (if you text, be sure to include your name in the text!) Please be aware that the chapter will be financially responsible for the entire cost, rather than having members pay The Springs individually. Therefore, please come prepared to pay the chapter for your meal by check or cash. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting at 7:00 pm.



Our speaker for the evening will be Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The RSBG maintains one of the largest collection of species rhododendrons in the world and is committed to disseminating information about them, as well as plants and seeds. Steve has become a foremost international authority on Rhododendron taxonomy and distribution and he regularly visits the more remote parts of China, Vietnam, India, Tibet, and Papua New Guinea to discover, identify, and acquire new species. Steve was awarded the ARS's highest honor, the Gold Medal, in 2007 for his internationally significant work with genus *Rhododendron*. Steve's presentation for our meeting will be a travelogue of his Expedition to China in 2019. It promises to be a fascinating evening of pictures and stories from Steve's trip. You won't want to miss it!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, November 8th !!

November Meeting ~ ~ Dinner Menu

Roasted Chicken, Meatloaf, and Pot Roast
Mashed Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables
Garden Salad w/Ranch Dressing
Dinner Rolls Assorted Desserts

Call or text Terry Henderson at 541-953-9316 (please include your name in your text!) Cost is \$25/person, payable to the Eugene ARS Chapter by check or cash (unless you are a resident of The Springs, in which case you still need to RSVP, but your meal will be charged to your Springs account).

A little background about the plant in our cover image this month ...

R. 'Ring of Fire' was hybridized by Willard and Margaret Thompson, a local nursery couple in Waldport, Oregon, and the middle generation of the Thompson Nursery family. 'Ring of Fire' is one of many fine rhododendrons they hybridized and registered with the ARS, as described in Jack Olson's article on page 4.

(Comment from Ted Hewitt)

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



*Wildlife benefit from our rhododendron gardens, too!
Grace Fowler-Gore recently caught this photo of a deer resting in the shade of the rhodies in her yard.*

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	Lorrie Bolilvar

Board Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am, and are open to the public. To receive location information for the Board Meeting, please send an email to:

ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com