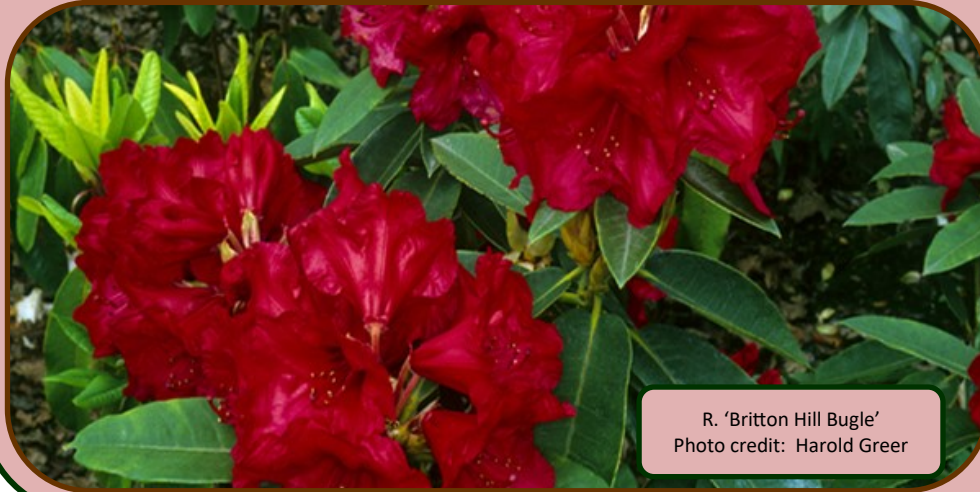


American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter December 2022

~ Holiday Gathering and Meeting ~

My, how time flies!! Can you believe it? The holiday season is upon us!

Your Board of Directors is looking forward to resuming our chapter's tradition of the December meeting serving as a holiday celebration and a Member Photo Show & Tell. There is a slight twist, however ... instead of having a covered dish dinner, we made arrangements for The Springs to provide a Prime Rib Dinner for those who are interested, followed by desserts for all provided by the members. We hope that everyone will join in by bringing a dessert to share. As we enjoy the desserts and coffee, we also look forward to the photos that you, the members, will bring to share! That is the overview of the evening and here are all the details:

Prime Rib Holiday Dinner - enjoy a festive holiday dinner of Prime Rib with Au Jus and Horseradish, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, and Chef-selected Seasonal Vegetables. Cost is \$30/person, and you are asked to RSVP to Terry Henderson no later than Tuesday, December 6th. Please call or text Terry at 541-953-9316 to RSVP. Dinner will begin around 6:00 pm. Please feel free to bring wine and/or beer for yourself and to share!

Bring a Dessert to Share - whether or not you choose to join in for the Prime Rib Dinner, plan to bring a dessert to share ... home-made or store-bought, it makes no difference! Just plan to come and indulge in the treats of the season! The dessert table and coffee will be available beginning around 6:30 pm.

Member Photo Show & Tell - for our program, we are asking everyone to bring photos of your garden, your yard, your prize rhododendrons, or any other plants that make you proud! We can accommodate up to 10 photos per person! Please load your photos on a USB thumb drive or similar memory device. Don't be bashful - this is your chance to show off the beauty of your garden!

Chapter Meetings

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

Please note: the December meeting will be on the second Wednesday of the month.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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

In This Newsletter

December Meeting Info	Page 1
News from Hendricks Park	Page 2 - 3
Odds and Ends	Page 4
Member Show & Tell	Page 5

~ ~ *News from Hendricks Park* ~ ~

“Bond Lane Park & Greer Garden Transplanting”

by Emily Aune



A sad day came this past month, when Hendricks Park staff, alongside Mike and Maria Stewart and their employees, joined forces for the first round of decommissioning Harold Greer’s garden to the south and west of his home. This beautiful garden has an unfortunate history of being a poorly defined and misunderstood encroachment onto City of Eugene Parks property. Harold had been granted permission to take care of it as a garden during his lifetime. His passing left too much maintenance for his widow, Nancy, or The Springs. The City of Eugene is unable to take on the maintenance of another botanical garden, while The Springs owns the irrigation but is unable to maintain the system. It is a sad story for everyone involved, but the City of Eugene Parks department is working with Nancy to transfer this area to forested natural habitat instead of the garden that it was. It will still be a place where people can walk and have time in nature, but the landscape will change. Nancy gave Hendricks Park first dibs on which plants to transplant to Hendricks Park, a place where anyone can share the enjoyment of these plants and their health and beauty can continue to be maintained. Emily and her crew devoted a day to dig and transplant any plants that they could move and find homes for.

It was a dark and rainy day, which was very fitting with our moods that day, as all of us would have rather seen the garden left intact. Everyone got soaked and covered with mud as we dug large root balls, wrapped them in burlap or cloth, and loaded them into trucks. We loaded seven large plants that could only be moved by a tractor including R. ‘Hallelujah’, R. ‘True Blue’ *R. elegantulum*, *R. proteoides*, R. ‘Loderi Pretty Polly’, R. ‘Golfer’ and R. ‘Elephant Ears’. All of these plants were re-planted at Hendricks within the following weeks. In addition to the large specimens, we also dug an additional twenty-five or so smaller plants that we relocated to a makeshift bed in the lathhouse at Hendricks Park until an ideal spot can be found for them in the garden.



It was a whole lot of work, but it was worth it to give a new home to some of these gems. Rhododendrons transplant fairly well due to their shallow root systems, and we did the transplanting in the most ideal time of year when there is plenty of soil moisture to help the roots to get established. Nancy still welcomes members and friends to come and dig plants for your own home. Email her at Nancy@greergardens.com if you are interested and want to coordinate a time to do that.



Emily bringing Rhododendron 'Hallelujah' to the Greer Bed

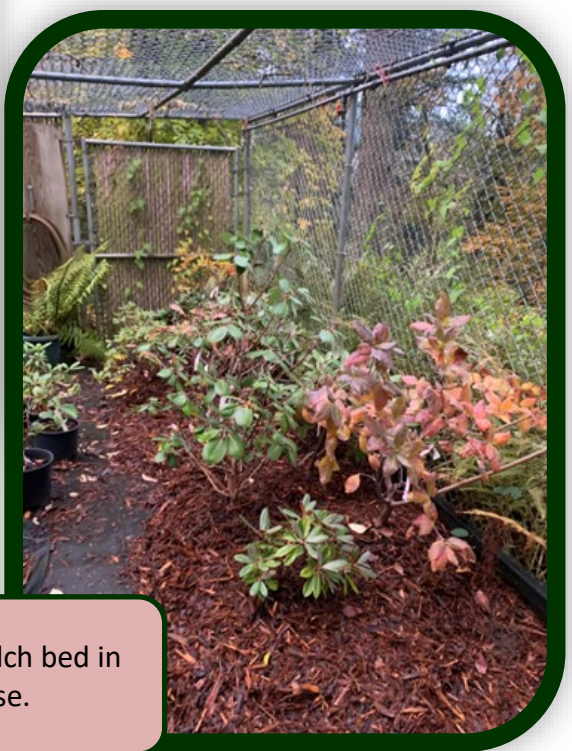


For scale - here's a look at how big the large plants were!



A very large and nice *Rhododendron proteoides* in its new home in the Greer Bed.

Otherwise, come and visit us at Hendricks Park and enjoy some new plantings.



Our temporary mulch bed in the lathhouse.

The 2023 American Rhododendron Society / Azalea Society of America Joint Convention “Georgia with Azaleas on My Mind”

~ ~ April 19 - 23, 2023 ~ ~

The 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention is being held in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 19 - April 23, 2023. The convention is jointly hosted by the Azalea Chapter ARS and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America.

Atlanta is easy to get to from anywhere by either air or road. The convention hotel is the recently renovated Marriot Atlanta Perimeter Center, located north of downtown Atlanta and convenient to Atlanta's MARTA rapid transit system. The hotel is situated in Atlanta's Dunwoody area, with access to shopping, dining, parks, and more. Special rates have been negotiated for convention attendees.

For more information about the tours, seminars, and speakers being planned for the convention, please visit <https://www.azaleas.org/convention-2023/>, or check out the promotional video which can be viewed at https://www.azaleas.org/wp-content/uploads/conventions/2023/ARSASA_Convention_2023.mp4.

It is not too early to start making your plans to attend the convention!

Thoughts from Jack Olson

I'm sitting here in my family room, watching snow coming down outside and covering all the plants in a blanket of white ... there is something about living in a forest of Douglas Fir that makes the scene so beautiful!

On the first day of December, I started planting the seeds that I collected back in October (from crosses I made last spring while the plants were blooming). I store each seed pod in its own envelope and I write on the envelope the cross and the year of the cross. During the two months of drying from October to December, the pods dry and split, which releases the seeds. An example of a label on the envelope would be “# 5, 2022, ‘Kahlua’ x ‘Red Majesty’”. Tagging the seedling plants is very important - and I suggest that you use a pencil, rather than an ink marker because the ink breaks down over time! I always try to keep the seedlings of the same cross together, so a good comparison can be made as they grow.

Growing seedlings is a good bit of work, but it is very rewarding!

An Update

You may recall that earlier this year, a planting bed was created at Hendricks Park to honor our friend, Harold Greer. One feature of that bed will be a large boulder with a plaque identifying the bed and honoring his life-work in the field of rhododendrons. As of this month, the custom plaque has been ordered from Cascade Engraving and it will arrive soon. As with everything else this year, the cost for the plaque went up a bit, so we are still accepting donations to offset the cost of the plaque. If you wish to make a small donation toward the cost of the plaque, please make your check payable to the Eugene ARS, with a notation on the memo line that it is for “Harold's Plaque”, and mail it to:

Eugene Chapter of the ARS
P.O. Box 50004
Eugene, OR 97405

Thank you for your consideration!

Emily Aune sent in these beautiful photos from her yard. Emily won't be in attendance at our December meeting, so we've included her photos here for your enjoyment!

Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon' with a backdrop of Acer 'Beni Kawa'



R. 'Golden Maya'



Rhododendron pseudochrysanthum



Rhododendron 'Yak' x 'Grosclaude'

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

*Don't Forget to Renew Your
Chapter Membership for 2023!*

Membership renewal notices were mailed out in late September, and we have had a very good response ... but we are still missing renewals from some of you! Please double-check and make sure that you have returned your renewal form. If you need another form, we will have copies at the December meeting for your convenience.



*Merry Christmas &
Happy Holidays
to One and All*

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 Bolivar

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

*Please note - there will not be a
Board Meeting in December*