

American Rhododendron Society



Two unnamed seedlings from
Jack Olson's collection
Photo Credit: J. Olson

Eugene Chapter Newsletter March 2023

~ March Chapter Meeting ~ Wednesday, March 15th Meeting - 6:30 pm, Dinner - 5:30 pm

Our March Chapter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th, at The Springs at Greer Gardens. Please make note of the new adjusted time: 5:30 pm for dinner and 6:30 pm for the meeting! As usual, you are invited to join in for dinner before the meeting at a cost of \$25/person. The menu for this month can be found page 5 of this newsletter. If you would like to eat with us, please RSVP to Terry Henderson by text or call at 541-953-9316 no later than Thursday, March 9th. Please be aware that if you RSVP and indicate that you will be joining the group for dinner, the chapter must pay for your meal, even if you don't show up. Please be certain about your attendance if you RSVP! No one wants to leave the chapter paying for a no-show!!

We are in for a real treat in March, as our speaker for the meeting will be Mr. Glen Jamieson. His name should be familiar to you as he is the Editor for the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society (JARS), a quarterly publication mailed out to all ARS members. You can read more about Glen and his presentation, "Iceland - Land of Fire and Ice" on page 5 of this newsletter.

And finally, please make note that an April Chapter meeting has been added to the calendar as a bonus this year. The program topic will be "Rhododendrons 101" which should be an excellent topic for all newcomers to the world of rhododendrons. It will be the perfect opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to check out our chapter. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, October through March, unless otherwise specified.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Wednesday, March 15
Wednesday, April 19

Meeting Location

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

In This Newsletter

March Meeting Information	Page 1 and Page 5
News from Hendricks Park	Page 2 - 3
Spring	Page 4
What to Do in March	Page 4
Photos from the February Meeting	Page 6
ARS/ASA Joint Convention Information	Page 7

~ ~ News from Hendricks Park ~ ~

Rainbows, Flowers, and Snowflakes: An Early Spring Sampling from Hendricks Park

By Emily Aune



Rainbows, snowflakes and sunny days have been taking their turns in the garden this winter.

The flowers aren't exactly sure what to do about it. One of our signature early spring plants, the *Edgeworthia chrysantha* wears a hat of snow on the bare stems that support drooping, fragrant yellow flowers. This one can tolerate the snow, but some fully open trusses like the *Rhododendron ririei* went from smoky lavender to just smoky brown.

We have had several lovely visitors who visited with plant donations this month. A big thank you to Sandra and Larry Jenson, as well as their new pup, Sunny, for donating a second, and VERY large *Edgeworthia chrysantha* to Hendricks Park. The Jensens just couldn't find a space in their garden, so I will add it to the Hendricks Park collection for all to



enjoy. Along with that donation, they donated fifteen native dogwood trees to the park. The trees grow like weeds on their property, so they had some to pass on. We planted the young trees throughout the garden on the edges of forested areas of the park.

Steve Hootman was our next visitor who brought plant donations for the park. He donated a very unique mix of rare rhododendrons and special trees for Hendricks Park. He was scheduled to talk at the Hardy Plant Club of Eugene, so I invited him to walk around the park with me before his speaking engagement. He has spent some time at Hendricks in the past, but it had been over 10 years since his last visit, so he had fun and was surprised with some of our plant collection. I'm taking some cuttings of unique plants here for his garden. I'm very excited with the plants he donated, and I've included a list of his donations so you can get excited with me.

Juniperus recurva var. *coxii* - an evergreen conifer with long pendulous branches.

Japanese Big Leaf Magnolia (Magnolia obovate)

Tetracentron sinense – Very rare in cultivation with beautiful foliage and pendulous catkin-like spikes of small yellow flowers in mid-summer. Fall color is yellow to chocolate brown.

Styrax huanus – Small to medium sized deciduous tree fragrant pure white flowers in early to mid- spring.



The donated rhododendrons include *Rhododendron fortunei* ssp. *fortunei*, *Rhododendron jingangshanicum*, *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* (Royal Azalea), *Rhododendron griffithianum* (a parent of Loderi), *Rhododendron maoerense*, *Rhododendron quinquefolium*, the rare *Rhododendron niveum*, *Rhododendron asterochneum*, *Rhododendron auriculatum* (pink form), and *Rhododendron faithiae* that has big fragrant white flowers in late September.

I'm thankful for these contributions as we continue to build an amazing collection at Hendricks Park. I would have never met these folks except through my involvement with the American Rhododendron Society.

Spring

by Gordon Wylie

Spring: A happy and active word, evocative of action or resilience, a source, energy, and more; all appropriate as a description for the subject of these comments. That is, of course, the fascination of unfurling new foliage and myriad flowers with which nature treats us using a spectacle of growth and color during the yearly emergence from winter all across our waysides and gardens.

A 'Sunday Drive' including a stop at Hinsdale Garden is a great way to enjoy some of that Spring bounty. About seventy years ago, O. Howard Hinsdale set out to create a small woodland garden after the style made popular in the British Isles. Redwoods, spruce, and larger growing deciduous trees provided cover for massive plantings of rhododendrons, camellias, and magnolias. Plant material was sourced from both overseas and around Oregon, the latter often mature garden specimens, thus forming the basis for a well-established garden. Hinsdale also greatly enlarged and improved the existing weekend cottage into a permanent family home. Soon the family began hosting open garden days and teas, attracting visitors from up and down the coast, Roseburg, Eugene, and beyond.

Today, many of the plants have reached a size where one may delight in flowering well overhead, while also enjoying blossoms close at hand in mass plantings of evergreen azaleas. And then there's three weeks or so when the significant collection of Loderis fills the air with their special fragrance. The garden location is easily accessible from either the Interstate 5 corridor or coastal Highway 101 about five miles upriver from Reedsport on Scenic Highway 38. Parking can be tight, but pull-outs for the Elk Viewing Area on the other side of the roadway (one opposite the gated garden entrance) provide access with just a short walk. The garden is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and thus open to us all.

What to Do in March?

by Tom Beatty

It's time for a rhododendron minute. To all you rhododendron gardeners, by the time you read this newsletter, the cold harsh winter weather will hopefully be in the rear-view mirror and spring will be about to burst forth. The month of March, just prior to the beginning of bloom, is when the first application of fertilizer should be put around the drip line of your rhododendrons. The drip line is the outer reaches of a plant's foliage, this is always thought to be where new feeder roots are being developed. A rhododendron's roots are shallow, so only a light scratching into the soil should be done so as not to damage roots. I personally prefer to use an organic based fertilizer containing nutrients derived from both plant and animal based products. Always read the package label. I believe an organic fertilizer to be less harmful to the soil over the years than chemical fertilizers which might cause salt build-up and foliage burn.

March is also a great time to begin to apply mulch. Mulch holds soil moisture, buffers the soil temperature, and suppresses weeds. Woodchips or pine needles make fine mulches, as does a bark or leaf mulch, and using mulches may reduce the amount of fertilizer needed. Always remember to keep mulches back away from the trunk of the rhododendron so as not to deprive the plant of oxygen by keeping the trunk too wet. Heavy mulch around the trunk also may provide habitat for root weevils, a small grub that will feed on the lower trunk. And once again, going into spring, don't forget to keep any rhododendrons under the eaves of your home watered!

Editor's Note: The News from Hendricks Park article in the February newsletter was not attributed properly. Your editor excerpted and paraphrased it and presented it as an article written by Emily Aune, when in fact Emily intended that it be published exactly as submitted from an article that appeared in the Friends of Hendricks Park "Park Bench" newsletter. Your editor regrets the error.

~ ~ *About our March Meeting* ~ ~

~ ~ *About Dr. Glen Jamieson* ~ ~

The speaker for our March chapter meeting is Dr. Glen Jamieson. Dr. Jamieson has a B.Sc in Agriculture from McGill University and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Zoology from UBC. He worked for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as a research scientist for 31 years, both in the Maritimes (5 years) and at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, BC (26 years). He retired from DFO in 2008, and became Editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society in 2009. He joined the ARS in 1995, and has explored for plants in Yunnan, China (2005); Borneo (2008); Ecuador and Peru (seven trips between 1998 -2014); and in Sikkim, India (2015). He has travelled to over 70 countries and, with his wife, Dorothy, lives and maintains a garden in Parksville that is periodically on his local chapter's (Mount Arrowsmith; MARS) garden tour, where he also has an extensive vireya collection, possibly the largest in Canada. He is the Editor of the Journal American Rhododendron Society and created the online Journal Rhododendrons International.

~ ~ *Iceland - Land of Ice & Fire* ~ ~

Iceland, the Nordic, most sparsely populated European country, has become a very popular tourist destination in recent years. For two weeks in June 2022, Glen Jamieson and his wife, Dorothy, circumnavigated the island by car, visiting all the main tourist sites and many interesting remote locations. Dr. Jamieson's presentation will showcase their travels, illustrating the country's history, scenery, communities, biodiversity, rhododendron gardening, and food.

One of the most geologically active countries in the world, the island of Iceland is the only location above sea level on the Mid-Atlantic Rift, a long valley on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge that is about 50 to 75 miles (80 to 120 km) wide. This rift contains the zone of seafloor spreading, at an estimated rate of 1 to 10 cm (0.5 to 4 inches/year), in which molten magma from beneath Earth's crust continuously wells up, cools, and is progressively pushed away from the ridge's flanks.

March Dinner Menu 5:30 pm

~ ~ Please RSVP by Thursday, March 9th!! ~ ~

Roasted Chicken and Pot Roast

Mashed Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables

Garden Salad w/Ranch Dressing

Dinner Rolls

To RSVP, please call or text Terry Henderson at 541-953-9316 (please include your name in your text!)
Cost is \$25 per person.

If you prefer not to join in for dinner, please come for the meeting at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.
Coffee and cookies will be available for all prior to the meeting.

~~ Photos and Comments from the February Meeting ~~

Our speaker, Mark Akimoff, of Illahe Rare Plant Nursery in Salem, Oregon, brought a lovely selection of bulbs and small plants that were available for purchase by those who attended the meeting.



What I Learned ...

I learned that different bulbs require different water conditions. Maybe I've killed some of my plants by watering them in the summer when they would have been very happy being dry! I'm going to be a little more careful putting my new bulbs into the correct watering locations!

~ Grace Fowler-Gore



*Recently Registered
Beauties from Jack Olson*



When reading through the JARS recently, your Editor noticed that our own Jack Olson has recently registered two beautiful hybrids.

Pictured above is **'Slim B'**, an Elepidote rhododendron, *R. bureauii* X **'Fabia'**. Jack named this one for the hybridizer, Clarence 'Slim' Barrett, who was a good friend to Jack.

Pictured to the left is **'Ah Ha'**, also an Elepidote rhododendron, **'Prism'** X **'Point Defiance'**.

Well done, Jack!



*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 late to make plans to attend the convention!

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

Looking Forward ...

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 15 | - Dinner (5:30 pm) and Meeting (6:30 pm),
Guest Speaker - Glen Jamieson, Editor of the
Journal of the American Rhododendron
Society |
| March 22 | - Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 am |
| April 19 | - Dinner (5:30 pm) and Meeting (6:30 pm),
Program topic: Rhododendrons 101 |
| April 19 - 23 | - The 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention, Atlanta, GA |
| April 26 | - Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 am |
| May 6 | - The Eugene Annual Truss Show, Gordon Hotel
Market Alley. Watch for more information! |
| May 13 & 14 | - Our chapter will participate in the Hardy Plant Sale
Several volunteers will be needed and
appreciated!! (Set-up on the 13th) |
| May or June | - Spring Picnic, location to be determined |

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

***The next Board Meeting will be held
on March 22nd, 10:00 am***