

# American Rhododendron Society



An unnamed seedling from  
Jack Olson's collection  
Photo Credit: J. Olson

## Eugene Chapter Newsletter April 2023

### ~ April Chapter Meeting ~ Wednesday, April 19th

*Dinner - 5:30 pm, Gathering Time - 6:30 pm, Program - 7:00 pm*

Our April Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19th, at The Springs at Greer Gardens. Both the dinner and the meeting will be held in The Three Sisters Room (where we have dinner; we will not move to the Chapel for the program). Please make note of the new adjusted times: 5:30 pm for dinner, 6:30 pm for socializing, and a business meeting and program will begin around 7:00 pm. As usual, you are invited to join in for dinner before the meeting at a cost of \$25/person. The menu for this month, as well as a description of the program, can be found on page 2 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, April 13th. 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...so, please be certain about your attendance if you RSVP! No one wants to leave the chapter paying for a no-show!!

An important order of business for the April meeting will be holding the annual election of officers and directors, including electing someone to complete the term for President following Terry Henderson's recent resignation (Terry will remain on the Board in the position of Past President). The slate of positions and nominees is:

President, 2023 - 2024: Lorrie Bolivar  
Secretary, 2023 - 2025: Emily Aune  
Treasurer, 2023 - 2025: Dana Manion  
Director, 2023 - 2026: Nancy Greer  
Director, 2023 - 2026: Gordon Wylie

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor if offered.

#### 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, April 19

#### Meeting Location

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

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## *April Meeting Program*

### *“Rhododendrons 101”*

The program for our April chapter meeting, “Rhododendrons 101”, will be presented by our own Terry Henderson and Jack Olson. Terry’s portion of the program will address the four Ps of rhododendrons: propagation, planting, pruning, and pests. Jack’s portion of the program will be a slide show highlighting things most people don’t know about rhododendrons. And finally, Jack will also share some photos to guide us in how to select and prepare rhododendron trusses for entry in our upcoming truss show.

If you have friends or neighbors who are interested in participating in our Truss Show, or in learning more about rhododendrons in general, this meeting would be an excellent opportunity for them to visit our meeting. Please think about who you might know that would appreciate an invitation to check out our group!

## *Hinsdale Garden News*

### *by Gordon Wylie*

We are very pleased to announce the return of hosted open garden days for this historic garden on the lower Umpqua River off Highway 38, a few miles above Reedsport. The dates will be April 15, April 29 and May 13, with hours from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. These arrangements are courtesy of the Reedsport Friends of Hinsdale Garden, with cooperation and assistance from the Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management.

Parking for visitors is available at the Dean Creek Elk Creek Viewing Area which is off the highway a few miles west of Hinsdale Garden. A shuttle bus will transport visitors to and from the garden throughout the open hours. Members of the Friends of Hinsdale Garden will greet visitors at the garden and be available to answer questions.

## *April Dinner Menu 5:30 pm*

*~~ Please RSVP by Thursday, April 13th!! ~~*

### *Asian Stir-Fry Buffet*

#### *Sesame Chicken and Teriyaki Beef*

*Egg Rolls*

*Soba Noodles*

*Jasmine Rice*

*Stir-Fry Vegetables*

*Orange-Sesame Garden Salad*

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 socializing at 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting and program beginning around 7:00 pm. This month’s meeting will be held in The Three Sisters Room. Coffee and cookies will be available for all prior to the meeting.



# Rhododendron Flower Show

Hosted by the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Plant Sales and Information Booths

**5th Street Public Market Alley**

(at the Gordon Hotel)

**May 6, 2023**

Entries accepted 8 am - 9 am

\*\*\* Entries from the general public welcomed! \*\*\*

Show Hours 9 am - 6 pm

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Join us to learn how to prepare a flower truss for entry in the show

April 19th, 6:30 pm

The Springs at Greer Gardens, Three Sisters Room

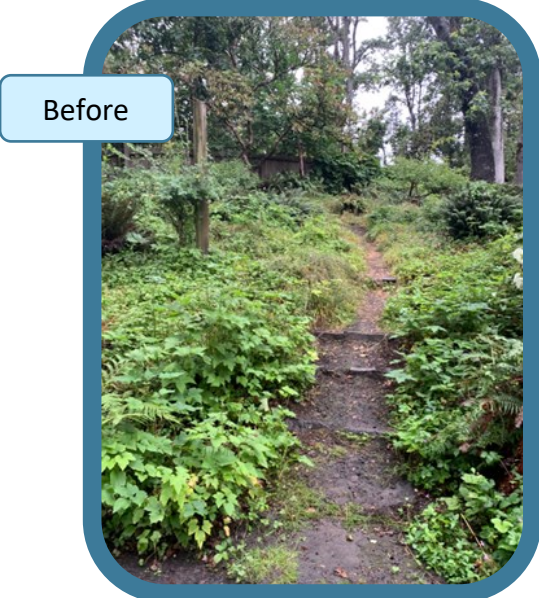
1282 Goodpasture Island Road

**For more information, visit [www.eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org)**

→ ARS members are invited to meet at Hendricks Park from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Friday, May 5th, for a volunteer event, to collect and prepare trusses for the show. Please RSVP to Emily Aune by email at [Eaune@eugene-or.us](mailto:Eaune@eugene-or.us). More information in next month's newsletter! ←

~ ~ News from Hendricks Park ~ ~  
*What's New at Hendricks Park*  
By Emily Aune

The Friends of Hendricks Park recently hired a local mason, Rob Hoffman, of Hoffman Stoneworks, to transform an indiscreet cut-through path into a beautiful set of stone stairs. These steps branch off from Barto's Path, border the Species Bed, and bring you toward the Dr. Royal Gick Memorial Seating Area. Come and walk these steps as part of your next visit!



Spring is upon us, even though we still see bits of snow every couple of days. The giant *Rhododendron arboreum* is in bloom, along with many others. I also found this unusual nurse-log seedling hiding behind some branches. Quite the stem!

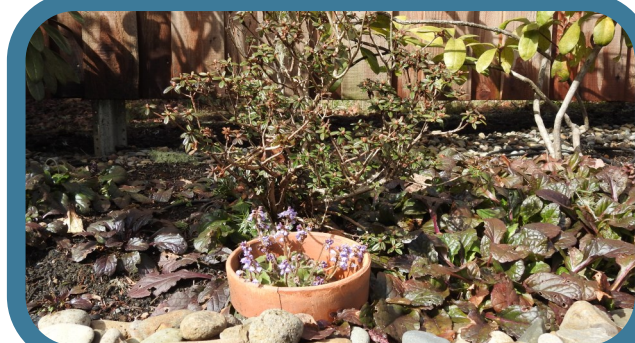


One last thing ... mark your calendars! I will be leading a Rhododendron Garden Tour at Hendricks Park on April 23rd at 1:00 pm. The tour will be focused on Hendricks Park history, unique trees and shrubs,

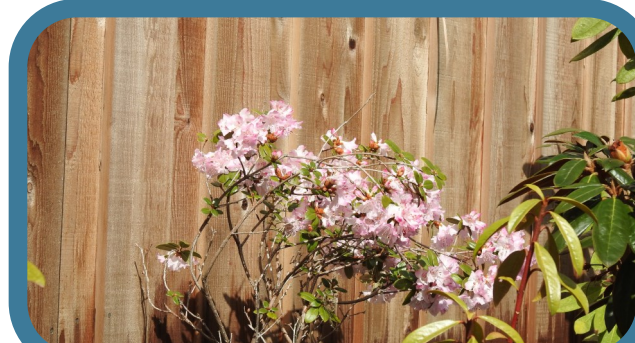
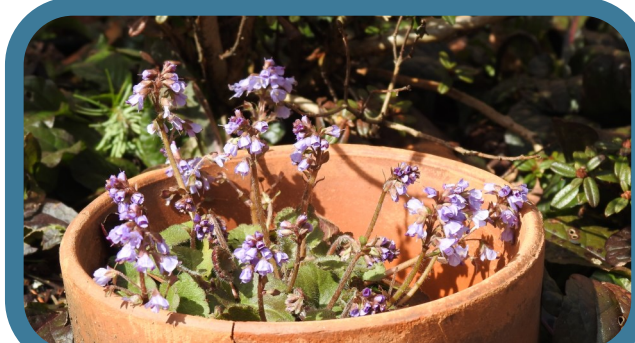
and tips on how to care for rhododendrons. We will meet up at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 1800 Skyline. You can register online at [friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://friendsofhendrickspark.org). \$5 donation suggested.

## From My Garden

Grace Fowler-Gore



(Above) This is a tiny leafed rhody (background)) with a tiny flowering plant (potted). Both of them grow really slowly. I don't recall the name of the potted plant.



I do have another photo of the rhododendron which was labeled with the correct name - R. 'Pink Snowflakes'. I think it is the only rhody I have blooming right now. It was a door prize at one of our chapter meetings. :)

An interesting thing I learned from the last speaker, Glen Jamieson, who spoke about rhododendrons growing in Iceland, was that when the ground is frozen plants can be burned. The sun comes out, but the water isn't available to get taken in by the plants. I'm glad we don't live where that is a big problem. Brrr!

## What to Do in March?

by Tom Beatty

It's now April and many of you may be seeing lots of rhododendrons starting to bloom in your neighborhoods. Well, if your green thumb is getting itchy to plant, here are some tips. Hopefully, the nursery where you buy your new rhododendron will have a label on it describing the plant. Remember, the plant height and width are based on a 10 year average, however, plants never stop growing, so a 5 x 5 foot rhododendron in ten years could be 8 x 8 foot in 20 years! Plan accordingly, because placing that particular plant under a picture window may not be the best place for it. Rhododendrons are shallow-rooted plants that like a humus soil (wood chips or leaf mulch mixed into a soil compost works great). You should scrape out a shallow but wide hole, at least twice the width of the root ball, and set the plant so that the top of the soil it has been growing in is above the level of the ground. This elevation of the roots allows for water to drain around the roots instead of puddling on top of the roots and drowning your plant. Fill in around the roots with your soil mix, but remember not to cover the trunk with the mix. In fact, keep the mix away from the trunk by at least 6 inches or more. Water it well, and then water at least once a week, and even more during hot periods. Rhododendrons will grow well in dappled or light shade and many will tolerate full sun, more light encourages better flowering. I think it's a good idea to locate your rhododendron in a place protected from the intense sun and high heat of mid-to-late summer. If you do choose to plant in the sun, that's OK, just remember to keep the soil moist and be generous with mulch so the soil will not dry out. Always water before a heat wave, do not wait until it gets hot because you want your plant to be well hydrated before the heat.

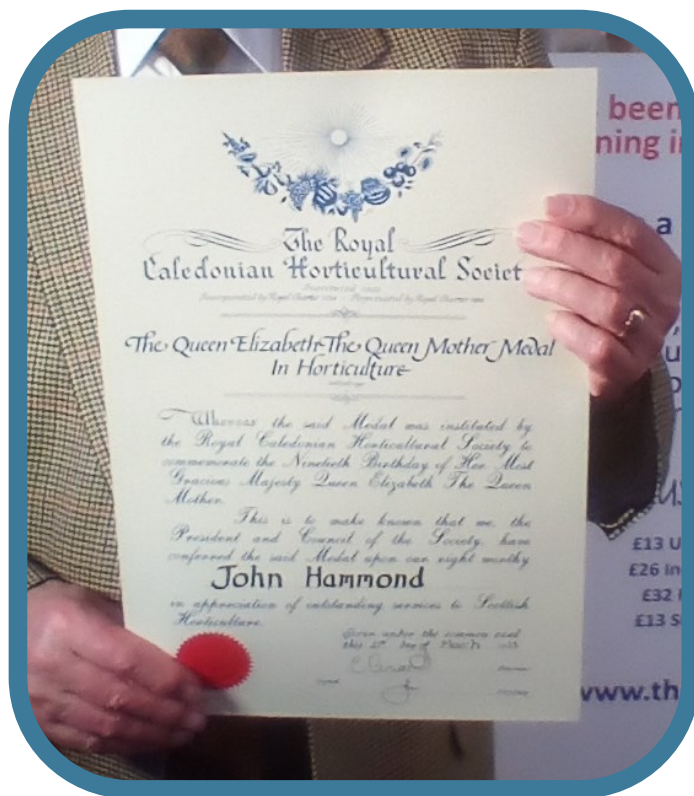
And a final suggestion: Get out to Hendricks Park, or any other garden, and enjoy the great outdoors!

## News about a Good Friend from 'Across the Pond'

*Editor's Note: John Hammond is a long-time associate member of the Eugene Chapter of the ARS. His many contributions include an excellent (and successful) lesson in air-layering which was mentioned in one of Emily Aune's recent Hendricks Park articles. Many thanks to Gordon Wylie, who keeps in touch with John, and forwarded this report of John's recent honor, which I have paraphrased to be included in our newsletter.*

On a recent evening in Edinburgh, Scotland, the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, also known as the 'Caley', presented to John Hammond the 'Award of the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Medal for Outstanding Services to Horticulture in Scotland by someone not a Professional Gardener'. John Hammond has spent the last 30 years guiding the Scottish Rhododendron Society through many conferences, helping with garden visits, writing articles on historic gardens as well as sharing his knowledge on rhododendron propagation. In 2008, when the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group was set up, John was the driving force 'behind the scenes'. Now there are many conservation gardens around Scotland, including over 20 gardens surveyed and databases holding over 5000 taxa. Today, both the Scottish Rhododendron Society and the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group are healthy organizations, continuing to promote and conserve the genus 'Rhododendron'. Much of the thanks for this must go to John Hammond, who totally deserves the 'Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother' medal awarded by the 'Caley'. Accompanying John to the ceremony was his wife, Margaret, which goes to prove that behind every good man is an equally good woman.

*Congratulations, John, from your friends  
in Eugene, Oregon!*





**THE SIUSLAW RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY IS HAVING A SPRING  
RHODODENDRON FLOWER SHOW  
AT THE FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER,  
ON APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>  
FLOWER SHOW-SAT. 1-5 PM  
SUNDAY 10-5 PM  
PLANT SALE HOURS:  
SAT. 10- 5; SUNDAY 10-5**

**TRUSSES ACCEPTED FROM 7-9 AM SATURDAY AM**

**FREE ADMISSION !**

**BONSAI DISPLAY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:**

**[HTTP://WWW.SIUSLAWARS.ORG](http://www.siuslawars.org)**



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

### *Looking Forward ...*

- April 15 - 16 - The Early Show, Siuslaw ARS, Florence Events Center, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm on Saturday  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm on Sunday
- April 19 - Dinner (5:30 pm), Gathering (6:30 pm),  
Program (7:00 pm) 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, 5th Street Public Market Alley (at the Gordon Hotel).  
Volunteers Needed!
- 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 fourth 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](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com)

***The next Board Meeting will be held  
on April 26th , at 10:00 am***