

American Rhododendron Society



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

Eugene Chapter Newsletter

May 2023

~ Eugene Truss Show ~ Saturday, May 6th

We are all very excited and looking forward to the upcoming Truss Show, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. We hope that everyone will bring lots of trusses to enter in the show! Entries will be accepted from 8:00 - 9:00 am. We are in a brand new location this year - The 5th Street Public Market Alley at the Gordon Hotel. It is a lovely venue and we are pleased to have found such a visible and well-traversed location to share all the beautiful blooms with the general public. Plus, this will be our first judged show in many years and we are looking forward to distributing lots of ribbons! There will also be a selection of plants and trees available for purchase. Many thanks to Log Cabin Nursery, which is providing plants for our chapter to sell as a fundraiser. And there will be other vendors present - Rocky Knoll Farm, Bloom River Gardens, and Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery.



Carol Schroeder checking entries at
our last show - in May, 2019!

Also, don't forget the opportunity to help select trusses at Hendricks Park to be entered in the Show. Please check out the Hendricks Park article on page 4 for more information!

See you at the Show!

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. No meetings are planned for July, August, or September.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Watch your email for more information about our Spring Picnic in May or June

Meeting Location

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

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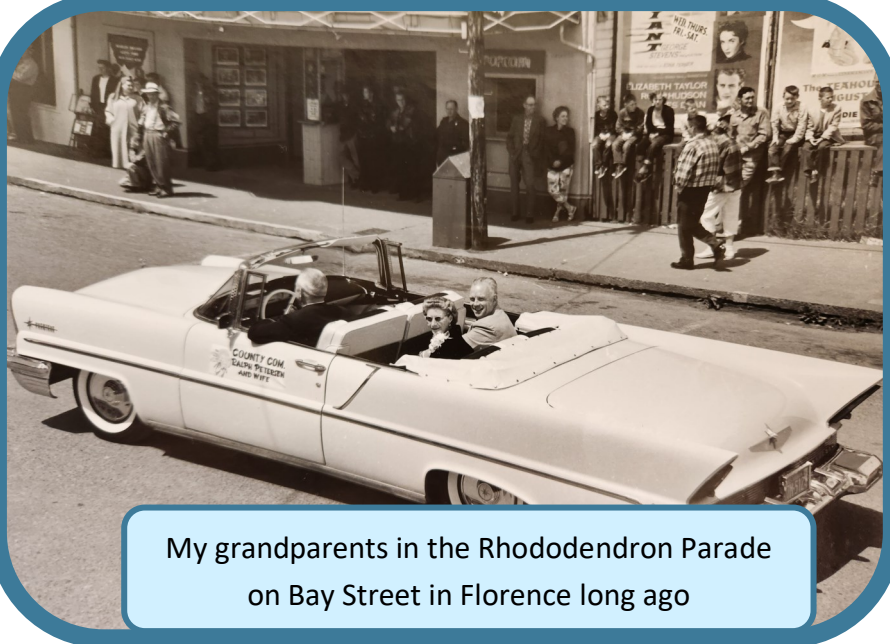
The President's Corner

by Lorrie Bolivar



Greetings to you all, fellow ARS friends!

Although I have been acting as President for a couple of months now, I have been remiss at introducing myself a little bit more so you all know what you have gotten yourselves into! Of course, I have been around our ARS Chapter for a couple of years, but I was very un-involved during Covid, sadly, even though life went on and I found myself getting deeper and deeper into the world of rhododendrons. I hear this is a common phenomenon! So, here is a little bit more about yours truly...



My grandparents in the Rhododendron Parade on Bay Street in Florence long ago

I was born and raised here in Eugene, to parents who also grew up in Eugene. My mother was from a Norwegian family based in Salem, Oregon, and Minot, North Dakota, before that. My father was born in Cushman, Oregon, to my grandparents who were in the Florence/Cushman area. My grandfather was one of 6 sons born to his father, Hans Petersen, a German immigrant. I may have mentioned my connection to Florence mostly due to my grandfather, Ralph Petersen, who was Lane County Commissioner in the 1950's. He was not only the first Commissioner to be elected from Florence, but he was instrumental in the choosing of Route F to bring both sides of our County together. The tunnel outside of Mapleton is named after him, and I was there for the

dedication in 1989. I am very proud of the work that my grandpa did for Oregon in his own small way, as well as my family's roots at the Oregon Coast.

Despite my status of a local girl, I admittedly did not grow up having a love affair with rhododendrons. Yes, it's true. I actually hated them as a kid because I wanted to pick flower bouquets non-stop and my mother would never let me "pick" her rhododendrons. Not only that, but my sister and I spent hours and hours every year dead-heading my mother's sticky 'Unique' rhodies (her favorite) and that made me like them even less. I am a wildflower lover through-and-through, which has been reflected in my work as a Landscape Designer, since I predominantly create Perennial Meadows for clients. When I was young, I built my own cold frame and used to grow plants from seed. I was always reading about plants and flowers, studying nature as much as possible, and creating art with flowers. I volunteered at flower shops and eventually got my first nursery job in Boise, Idaho, when I was a college student. I have worked at other retail nurseries in California and here in Oregon, as well as at a large flower farm next to Mt. Pisgah.

However, it was during my training in Landscape Architecture that I began to drift in a rhododendron direction. Shopping for an affluent client led me to Log Cabin Nursery and I quickly learned that

(cont'd on page 6)



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.

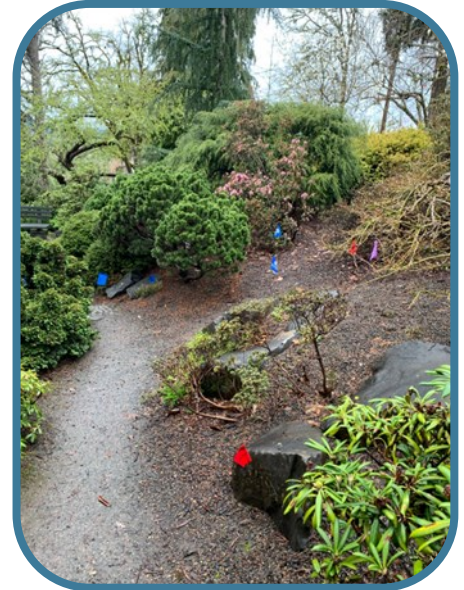
Please RSVP to Emily Aune by email at [Eaune@eugene-or.us](mailto:Eaune@eugene-or.us).



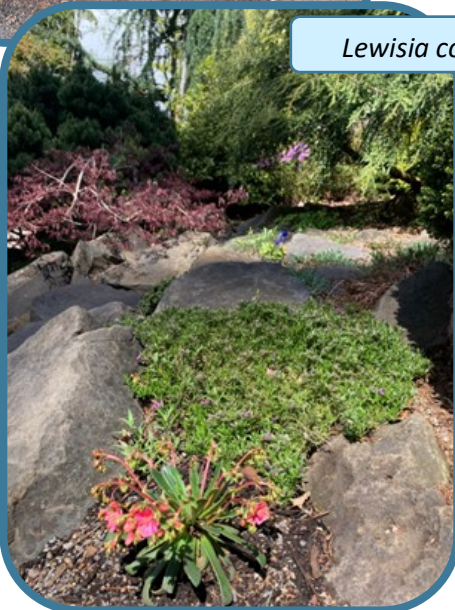
~ ~ News from Hendricks Park ~ ~  
*What's New at Hendricks Park*  
By Emily Aune



During April, we were given a donation specifically to provide flowering plants in our rock garden. Emily purchased plants from several local nurseries and worked with a crew of volunteers on plant selection and design. This is just one of the many ways to get involved at Hendricks Park. This crew designed and flagged plant positions, and the following Tuesday volunteers helped to plant the empty spaces between the rocks.

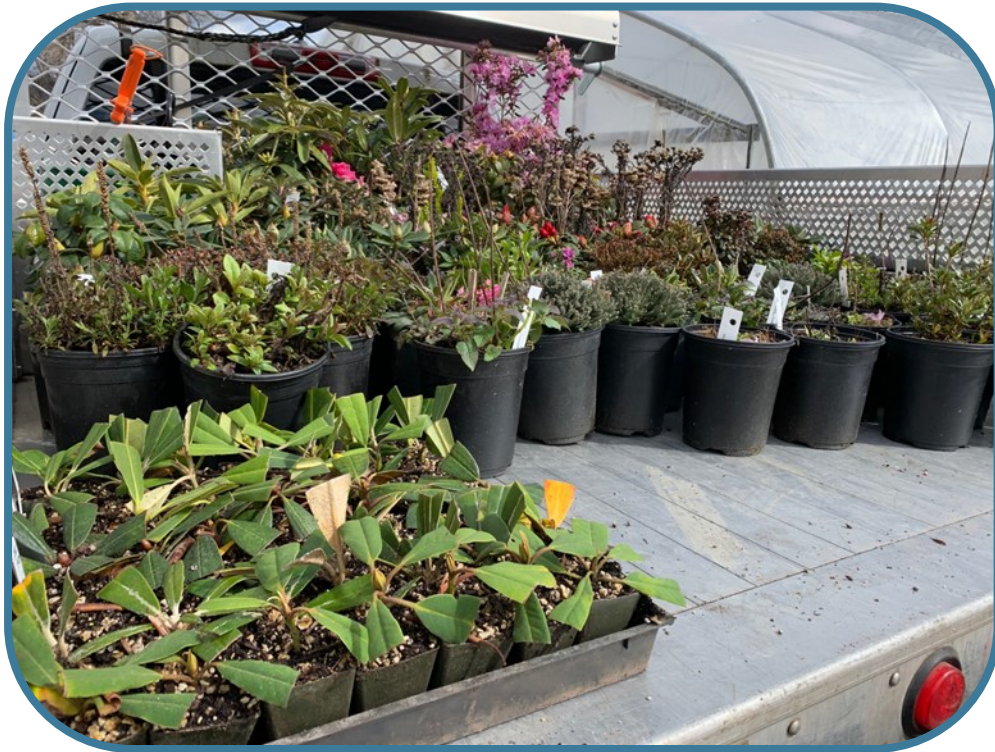


*Lewisia cotyledon*



*Gentiana acaulis 'Undulatifolia'*





A huge 'thank you' goes out to Log Cabin Nursery for once again rooting a flat of cuttings from Hendricks Park. They have been taking cuttings from the park on an annual basis, so that some of the historical plants from the park can be preserved. It seems to be a symbiotic relationship because every time the rooted cuttings are retrieved, the truck is also filled with more plants for the park!



This expressive photo was captured at Emily's Sunday tour, where she is speaking passionately about *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* and the history of Hendricks Park. If you want to hear more of Emily's exciting stories, ARS members are welcome to join her on Friday afternoon, May 5th, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. We are inviting a small group to learn how to select, collect, and prep trusses from Hendricks Park for the Eugene Flower Show at the Gordon Alley the next day! If you would like to attend, please email Emily at [EAune@eugene-or.gov](mailto:EAune@eugene-or.gov), for details, questions and to RSVP.

*(The President's Corner .... cont'd from page 2)* was the place to learn about rhododendrons! Wow! Next thing you know, I have joined the ARS and left my job at Armitage Nursery to work at Log Cabin. Some of you may also know that I have stepped away from most of my Landscape Design work to help Terry run Log Cabin fulltime. It's a very busy time with many changes...so stay turned for more twists and turns for sure!

It's my mission now to learn as much about growing and sharing rhodies as possible. Being a part of the ARS has been just the beginning, but it has introduced me to so many wonderful folks who have much to teach me about the history and love of this very special genus. I love a good challenge, and there are many on this educational path for sure! I recently spent a week in Federal Way, Washington, at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden learning about the nursery and the gardens there. I will share about that in a future article, so keep an eye out! We have a very rich past here in the PNW, and Willamette Valley especially, with regards to rhododendrons. The future is going to hold many obstacles in regards to changing ideals within the world of gardening, much related to increased climate-change awareness. I am looking forward to digging deeper into the continuing rhododendron story with all of you! Are YOU ready? I sure hope so!!

I know that you share my happiness that Spring has FINALLY ARRIVED to Lane County! We have a full month of May with all the usual events, so please enjoy them, but make sure to enjoy the lovely outdoors with friends and family as much as possible!

Be seeing you soon....

Lorrie

## *What to Do in May?* *by Tom Beatty*

To deadhead or not to deadhead? Put on your tie dyes and let's find out! The phrase 'dead head' is used to explain the action of removing the spent flowers from the point of origin on the bush, (but it's also a devoted follower of the rock band The Grateful Dead) ☺

Our interests are in flowers, though. My reply to people who have asked the question 'should I remove the old flowers from my rhododendrons' is ... Well, nobody removes them in the forest and they still bloom! For those of you who attended the April chapter meeting, you heard Terry Henderson tell us that it makes no difference to the following year's bloom potential, to deadhead or not. However, if you have the time to do so it will tidy up the appearance of the bush.

The time of the year when the flowers of a rhododendron begin to fade is also the time when growth begins, so this offers a chance to do some thumb-pruning. Rhododendron growth occurs on the branch tip at the base of the flower stock. Anywhere from one to five new growth tips may emerge. As Terry mentioned, pinching out (removing) these growth tips will result in a more compact bush as growth now needs to begin over again thus reducing its overall length. A person can also control where the new branches grow. If the rhododendron is becoming too crowded in the middle then removing those growth tips that face inward toward the center of the bush will allow for the tips growing toward the outside to grow more, spreading the bush out. This also works in reverse removing outside growth tips will develop strong growth to the inside. This type of pruning applies more to large leaf rhododendrons. Small leaf rhododendrons and azaleas can be clipped because they will recover growth at the point of the cut. Please refer to Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons for more info and photos on pruning as well as all rhododendrons needs.

*(Editor's Note: Copies of Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons will be available for purchase at the Eugene Truss Show on May 6th.)*





*'Grace Seabrook'*



*'Taurus'*

After a recent Eugene ARS Board Meeting at the home of Nancy Greer, Emily Aune takes a moment to admire the large specimens of 'Grace Seabrook' and 'Taurus' which were in full bloom on the property adjacent to Nancy's home. These plants will soon be moved to new homes as the City of Eugene moves forward with plans for the Bond Lane Park Natural Habitat.



The Annual Rhododendron Show and Sale, hosted by the Siuslaw Chapter of the ARS, will be held on Saturday, May 21st and Sunday, May 22nd at the Florence Events Center, from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm each day. The show and sale are held each year in conjunction with the Rhododendron Festival, which is celebrating its 116th anniversary this year. Only the Portland Rose Festival and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses have greater longevity than this festival!



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

### *Looking Forward ...*

- |                 |                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 5           | - Gather at Hendricks Park to gather and prepare trusses for the Truss Show, 4:00 - 6:00 pm                                |
| May 6           | - The Eugene Annual Truss Show, 5th Street Public Market Alley (at the Gordon Hotel), 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Volunteers Needed! |
| May 12          | - Hardy Plant Sale set-up; Time to be determined                                                                           |
| May 13          | - Hardy Plant Sale; Lane County Events Center Auditorium, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm                                                |
| May 17          | - Board Meeting, 10:00 am                                                                                                  |
| May 21 - 22     | - Florence Annual Rhododendron Show & Sale, Florence Events Center, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm each day                            |
| May or June     | - Spring Picnic, location to be determined                                                                                 |
| October 19 - 21 | - Western Regional Fall Conference, Florence                                                                               |

### *ARS Eugene Chapter Officers*

Lorrie Bolivar, President  
Jack Olson, Vice President  
Emily Aune, Secretary  
Dana Manion, Treasurer

### *Directors*

Helen Baxter      Nancy Greer  
Tom Beatty      Terry Henderson  
Grace Fowler-Gore      Gordon Wylie

Board Meetings are typically 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 May 17th , at 10:00 am***