



Fall Picnic at Hendricks Park

September 10th at the Francis M. Wilkins Shelter from noon till 3 p.m.

The chapter will provide a sliced ham, so bring something yummy to share and let's all start the new season off with a wonderful potluck.

Please bring your own service and beverage. You might want to bring your chair if you prefer to sit in the garden.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Family and friends are invited to attend.

We appreciate them joining in our fun!

New – New – New – New – **New**

Location & Day of Month

for all Chapter Meetings

Location

The Springs at Greer Gardens

1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon

Day of the Month for Chapter Meetings

Third Wednesday of Month

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

As the last of the *Rhododendron auriculatum*s around the park fade away, it marks the end of the bloom season at Hendricks Park. However, the rhododendrons won't let me forget about them, as they are quite good at pointing out any irrigation issues. The curling or drooping of their leaves demand my attention, and I spend much of my days repairing irrigation, setting up sprinklers, and pruning vegetation that has grown to block some of the 500 sprinkler heads we have throughout the garden. With the absence of *Rhododendron* blooms, I come to rely on some of our companion plants to cheer up the garden. Hendricks Park has a huge variety of hydrangeas that bring pinks, blues and whites to speckle the hillside. A grove of vitex makes the south slope glow purple, kaffir lilies create swaths of pink, and one of my personal favorites, our ginger lily, brings a tropical look to the garden. If you only have time to drive by, you can also catch the explosion of willow gentian in the Gateway Bed located across the street from the shelter.

Emily Aune is the Lead Gardener at the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. You can come volunteer to weed, prune mulch or water Tuesday mornings from 9am-noon March-October. Call 541-510-4636 for questions.



Hydrichium



Gentian



Vitex

Photos
By
Emily
Aune



Hydrangea

Photos
By
Emily
Aune



Schizostylis coccinea 'Sunrise' with Oak leaf Hydrangea

In the May newsletter, I asked if you have a story to share, I would love to publish your recollections in our newsletter of the April 7-9, 2017 Rhododendron Species Symposium @ RSBG in Federal Way, WA or the April 27-30th ARS Annual International Convention Hosted by the Eureka Chapter and Ted Hewitt has provided us with wonderful recollections.

2017 ARS Convention, Eureka, California, by Ted Hewitt

With the ARS national convention being so close to home this year and in such a beautiful part of the world, it was easy to make our plans to attend and enjoy a mini-vacation as well. On the trip down, the drive along the Redwood Highway from Grants Pass to Crescent City afforded views of the snow-capped Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains, the beautiful swiftly flowing Smith River, and then the magnificent redwoods of the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in northern California. As we neared Eureka on a sunny, blue sky day, we opted to stop at Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve to see some of the earlier flowering *Rhododendron occidentale*. Though only about 10% of the azaleas that grow on this open hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean were blooming, there was still considerable variety in color and petal shape. We walked the short loop trail but I also tramped off the trail to see a few plants further away always thinking that the next one would be better and more colorful. Several plants are tagged to indicate which ones are being studied by someone. What a wonderful introduction this trip was to the convention entitled Rhododendrons in the Redwoods.



Photo by Ted Hewitt

The convention kicked off Thursday evening with a warm welcome to Humboldt County by Tim Walsh, a 5th generation resident and conference co-chair. Then Bruce Palmer started the educational part of the conference with a talk on the Family Ericaceae discussing why the heathers and heaths (Genera *Erica* and *Calluna*), blueberries (Genus *Vaccinium*), rhododendrons (Genus *Rhododendron*) and 120 other genera all belong in the same family based on characteristics of their flowers and leaves. He also talked about why this family and specifically rhododendrons grow where they do around the world. Mike Stewart concluded the evening with another fine program on the rhododendrons that he and his wife, Maria, had seen on their 2015 trip to Sikkim, relating them to the plant explorers who had introduced them to cultivation over the past one hundred fifty years. As always, the talk included Mike's excellent photography, knowledge of rhododendrons, and good stories of travel.

As with most rhododendron conferences, the activities on Saturday started early with bus trips to private gardens, a public garden, a nursery, Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve and a redwood grove. One trip went north from Eureka and the other trip went south. Paula and I had registered late for the convention so were not able to get on either tour, but this did not prevent us from having a good day as we drove north to visit Singing Tree Gardens, the nursery of Don Wallace. Termed as an arboretum style nursery, it has beautifully designed shrub borders that feature variation in color, shape, texture, and size, primarily with just foliage. Between the borders are island beds in which the plants for sale are arranged by type, e.g. red rhododendrons, dwarf *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, dwarf pines, etc. Since this trip was part mini-vacation, we continued north a short distance to the village of Trinidad, originally a small fishing village, for lunch at a cafe overlooking the pier and rocky inlet and then along the old highway where we spied a *R. occidentale* in full bloom featuring primarily just yellow and white in the blossoms.

Back at the brand new Sequoia Conference Center in Eureka, the conference program continued at 3:00 with a talk by Paula Trinoskey, a Eureka chapter member on Japanese garden design with photos taken on her trips to Japan and her own experience of developing her garden based on these principles. At 4:00 Steve Sillett, a professor at Humboldt State University, presented a most interesting program on his research into the ecology of the canopy of a mature redwood forest. In his 25 years of study, he has climbed many a tall tree measuring aspects such as the amount of soil debris accumulated in the crotches and crevices, the amount of water held in these little eco-systems, the plant life and animals that live here. Often huckleberry shrubs, ferns, and various trees all grow in these niches high above the forest floor. After an evening social hour and catered dinner, Dr. Peter Raven, a retired Stanford University professor and former director of the Missouri Botanical Garden gave an impassioned and thought-provoking talk on the need for biodiversity and species conservation around the world.



Rhododendron occidentale

on Stagecoach Hill

The schedule on Saturday was very similar to Friday, but Paula was able to get on the bus tour that went south visiting two private gardens, the Humboldt Botanical Garden, and the Founders Grove in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park while I went for a walk in the well preserved old town of Eureka, drove back to Singing Tree Gardens to buy a special plant, and browsed the plant sale and art sale at the conference. Also on Saturday there was a bus tour oriented toward the architectural history of the area including breakfast at the remarkable Carson mansion in Eureka and then a tour of the town of Ferndale.



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden on the many new species that have been found on his treks in the Himalayas over the years, always an exciting program.

At 3:00 the program continued at the state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center with a talk by Don Wallace on creating and developing his arboretum style nursery with photos showing the development over the years. At 4:00 Marc Colombel, an ARS member who lives in Brittany, France, gave a detailed talk on his hybridizing and propagating with a wonderful and humorous use of PowerPoint software. Following another excellent catered dinner, Ann Mangels, the incoming ARS president, lead a society business meeting in which a number of Silver and Gold Medals were awarded to people who have given long and devoted service to the ARS. This was followed by the keynote address by Steve Hootman from the



The convention ended on Sunday morning with the ever-popular Rhododendron Enthusiast's Round Table lead by Don Wallace. Paula and I finished our mini-vacation with a drive north to Bandon, a route that we think is one of the most beautiful in the country. Along the way, we saw 4 herds of elk not far from the highway, poked along through the majestic redwoods, looked for whales off the pier in Port Orford, and admired the scenic rocks near Bandon. Finally, I commend the members of the Eureka Chapter for the work they did in putting on very good

conference under the leadership of June and Tim Walsh. Keep in mind that the next few ARS conventions are in Bremen, Germany, in 2018, in Philadelphia in 2019, and in Portland in 2020.

Photos by Ted Hewitt



Rhododendron occidentale near Patrick's Point

As most of you know, we lost a member of the Eugene Chapter, Nolan Blansit, on July 9th. I got to know Nolan during our last national convention here in Eugene. Nolan was a hybridizer, who made approximately two hundred crosses a year. When we had our Spring pot luck at their home East of Cottage Grove, I was really impressed by the number of plants he had grown. There were thousands of plants carefully planted in rows with the name of the cross in each row. He was very organized. There were many beautiful trusses, many on miniature plants. It was his goal, to develop a small plant with above average flowers. He was on his way, having some beautiful creations. *R.* 'Teachers Pet', *R.* 'Childs Play', *R.* 'Neon', and *R.* 'Prism', were just a few. There are many of his plants in our Northwest Gardens. Nolan hybridized for over ten years. He shared knowledge with Jim Barlup, and others to get the plants he was seeking. Many of his hybrids were grown from pollen exchanged with others. Some of it was frozen from earlier blooming plants.



Nolan kept very careful records, numbering each of his crosses by year, and by number of the cross. Nolan not only grew rhododendrons but was excellent at making pottery. He produced many beautiful pieces. Nolan used his expertise, to develop the first yellow African violet. He was an excellent gardener and plant collector. Our Rhody group had the privilege of walking through his beautiful garden and seeing first hand how good a gardener he was. Nolan will be missed in our group. He was a nice man with good values, and saw the beauty in everything.

By Jack Olson

The ARS Eugene Chapter Mission Statement.

- E**ncourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons.
- U**se our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships.
- G**row both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens.
- E**ducate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons.
- N**urture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons.
- E**xhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community.

Officers	The Board	Term	Phone	E-mail
President	Terry Henderson	2016-18	541-953-9316	jentersruger@aol.com
Vice President.	Jack Olson	2016-18	541-988-9133	rhodyjack@msn.com
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	Emily Aune	2017-19	541-255-5315	emily.r.aune@ci.eugene.or.us



Committees

- *Shows:** Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, Terry Henderson
 - *Nominating:** Available
 - *Welfare:** Nancy Greer and Harold Greer
 - *Hospitality:** Helen Baxter and Nancy Burns
 - Programs:** Board of Directors
 - Newsletter Editor:** Grace Fowler-Gore
 - Newsletter Printing & Mailing:** Harold Greer 541-686-1540 hgreer@greergardens.com
 - Webmaster:** Ed Gore webmaster@eugene-chapter-ars.org
- ARS chapter websites can be found at www.rhododendron.org

You can join Emily Tuesday mornings at Hendricks Park. She'd love to have your help.
<http://friendsofhendrickspark.org/volunteers.html>

ARS Membership Renewal Time

In the near future, you will be receiving your ARS membership renewal forms in the mail. The cost for a regular membership that includes membership in the Eugene Chapter remains at \$40.00 including the ARS quarterly Journal and the chapter Newsletter. Please return the completed forms to Membership Secretary Nancy Burns as soon as possible by mail or in person at the September picnic or the October chapter meeting.

Please make your checks payable to "Eugene Chapter ARS."

Thank you for your membership and support.

American Rhododendron Society
Eugene Chapter
PO Box 7704
Springfield, OR 97475

Event Calendar 2017 – 2018

- Sept. 10** **Fall Potluck @ Hendricks Park in Francis M. Wilkins Shelter
Noon to 3 p.m.**
- Oct. 18 Chapter Meeting @ The Springs Speaker & Topic TBA
- Nov. 15 Chapter Meeting @ The Springs Speaker & Topic TBA
- Dec. 20 Holiday Potluck
- Jan. 17 Chapter Meeting @ The Springs Speaker & Topic TBA
- Feb. 21 Chapter Meeting @ The Springs Speaker & Topic TBA
- March 21 Chapter Meeting @ The Springs Speaker & Topic TBA
- April 18 Chapter Meeting @ The Springs Speaker & Topic TBA
- May 5 Flower Show and Banquet
- May 13 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds

Please mark your calendar with the new meeting date and location.