

Welcome to the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

This Members' Handbook is intended to be a source of information for new members as well as long-time members. Together with the Members' Roster, the Newsletters, and the chapter website (www.eugene-chapter-ars.org), you will find a great deal of information about the organization and about growing rhododendrons successfully. The intention is to update and publish the handbook every five years so please keep it in a place where you can find and use it.

The **American Rhododendron Society** is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in and to disseminate information about the genus *Rhododendron*. Members' experience ranges from novice to expert. Society activities include public education, flower shows, seed exchanges, scientific studies, and communication through publications and local and national meetings. ARS chapters are located throughout the United States and Canada and in Denmark, Holland, Finland, Scotland, Sweden and Sikkim. Details on the ARS officers and calendar can be found in the quarterly ARS Journal and on the ARS website. The ARS website is www.rhododendron.org.

In the ARS you will find valuable resources that enable you to learn more about the selection and care of rhododendrons. We hope that you will "grow" to appreciate the genus *Rhododendron* and include these wonderful plants in your garden. Among Society members you will find many who share common interests whether you are a professional grower or an amateur gardener, and, if not already a member, we encourage you to join the Society.

Eugene Chapter Membership benefits include:

- Monthly chapter newsletter (except summer).
- Quarterly ARS Journal with valuable plant and Society information.
- Annual conferences offering programs, tours and networking.
- Visits to gardens and nurseries, both public and private.
- An outstanding seed exchange program through the ARS.
- Informative and interesting programs at chapter meetings.
- Plant auctions and sales.
- Cutting exchanges.
- Help in growing rhododendrons successfully.
- Involvement in local flower shows.

Eugene Chapter Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month from October through March at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street in Eugene. The public is invited to join us at no charge.

Before the meeting there is often a no-host dinner with the speaker at a local restaurant to which all members are invited. See the chapter newsletter for details.

Contact for the American Rhododendron Society is:

- American Rhododendron Society
Laura Grant, Executive Director
P.O. Box 525,
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Ph: 416-424-1942 Fax: 905-262-1999
E-Mail: lauragrants@arsoffice.org

- ARS Website: <http://www.rhododendron.org>

The ARS website contains a tremendous amount of information about the organization as well as how to grow rhododendrons successfully and includes hundreds of photos.

District 4 (Oregon) Chapters

The American Rhododendron Society is divided into 12 districts with Oregon being District 4.

- Eugene Chapter meets the 2nd Thursday of the month.
www.eugene-chapter-ars.org
- Portland Chapter meets the 3rd Thursday of the month.
www.rhodies.org
- Siuslaw Chapter (in Florence) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
www.siuslawars.org
- Southwestern Oregon Chapter meets the 3rd Thursday of the month.
<http://www.sworegon-ars.org/>
- Tualatin Valley Chapter meets the 2nd Monday of the month
<http://tualatinvalleyars.org/tualatinvalleyars.org/Welcome.html>
- Willamette Chapter meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
www.arswillamette.org

If you are a member of a chapter, you can become an Associate Member of another chapter by sending that chapter's treasurer a check for \$10. For example, one could send a check for \$10 made out to the Siuslaw Chapter to: Siuslaw Chapter ARS, PO Box 1701, Florence OR 97439-0111.

Eugene Chapter History

James Barto was an early pioneer in the rhododendron world raising thousands of plants in the twenties and thirties on his farm on High Pass Road west of Junction City. He had a vast correspondence with growers around the world and received seed from them and also grew many hybrids of his own. He was initially introduced to rhododendrons by Leonard Raup, a greenhouse grower in Eugene with greenhouses in the Skinners Butte Park area for whom Barto, the carpenter, was doing some work. When Barto died in 1940, his plants were sold by the family and were scattered far and wide. Fortunately, some of those early purchasers were in the Eugene area and developed an interest in the genus. In the 1950s, the Chapter began to assemble a representative collection of Barto plants at Hendricks Park. And the Society awarded him posthumously the Pioneer Achievement award in 1995 at the 50th anniversary convention of the ARS in Portland.

In the early 1940s, a small group of men became interested in growing camellias. Little information was available, so they visited with each other and learned what they could. Bill Riddlesbarger talked them into organizing as a society and became the first President of the "Men's Camellia and Rhododendron Society." The first meeting was held at his home and they later met in the back of Millers Department Store. Marshall Lyons, Dr. Royal Gick, Dr. A.F. Barnett, Del James, Joe Hayward, Merle Saunders, Fred Burton, L.E. Clark, Gordon Clark, Hugh Ford and Dr. Robin Overstreet, Dr. Carl Phetteplace, Dr. Ray Allumbaugh, Dr. Jason Bradley, Dr. Charles Thompson and Dr. John MacKinnon were among that first group. In the late 1940s, they held camellia flower shows in the Eugene Hotel.

Dr. Gick suggested in 1950 that the Society promote the improvement of Hendricks Park with the Society providing plants and the City of Eugene to provide labor and to build paths and an irrigation system. The portion of the park that is now the Rhododendron Garden had been used for years as a deer pen and had little brush. The deer were moved across the road to the elk pen. Tex Matsler was the City Park

Director and Paul Biestel was foreman and they got the work started.

Eugene experienced a bad freeze in the winter of 1950 and many of the camellia bushes died and those that survived had their flowers damaged by spring rains. This caused a loss of interest in camellias and a conversion to rhododendrons. Several members of the Society were also members of the American Rhododendron Society which was then a relatively new (1945) organization based in Portland. Dr. Gick proposed that the Men's Camellia and Rhododendron Society join the ARS as a local chapter and that is what happened. Originally, there was simply the ARS with most of the members in Portland, but with many members elsewhere. So when it was divided up into chapters, Portland became the first chapter, Seattle the second, and Eugene the third. In 1950 there were fourteen members. By 1959 this had grown to 43. In 1961, the Eugene Chapter ARS was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation. The meetings in the 50's were held in a variety of places, though mostly in Lamb Cottage (in Skinner's Butte Park) in the latter part of the decade.

As soon as the irrigation system was in at Hendricks Park, Marshall Lyons, Royal Gick, Del James, Carl Phetteplace and others started donating plants. In the winter of 1952 there were planted about 250 rhododendrons, 99 camellias, and some 3000 azaleas (mostly donated by a greenhouse man named Raup). The azaleas were of the tender varieties which died at the next big freeze. Marshall Lyons donated the well-known R. 'Rosemary Chip' which he had purchased from James Barto as well as many other plants over the years. Plant sales were held frequently with the proceeds used to purchase plants for the park from John Henny of Brooks, Oregon.

Rhododendron shows started at Hendricks Park soon after the garden was started. Plants were heeled into the garden and tables were set up. In 1956, the show was moved down to the Park's picnic shelter in an effort to get out of the rain. But a couple of years later it migrated back into the garden. In the late 1960s the show was moved to the Eugene City Hall's (chilly) covered outdoor area. In 1974, when Tom Bowhan was Show Chair, the Eugene Chapter moved its show to the Valley River Center Mall. As near as I can discern, there was no show in 1973 because of the disastrous freeze in December of 1972 which took many plants and all of the flower buds. In 2003 the show was moved to the recently remodeled Oakway Center. In 2009 the show was held at Valley River Center but moved to the Gateway Mall in 2010.

In 1955, Ernest Allen became caretaker of the Hendricks Park

Rhododendron Garden and in 1961 Ted Trombert succeeded him. At the time of Ernie Allen's death in 1961, there had been about 1,100 plants placed in Hendricks Park. In the 1940s Del James had corresponded with C. P. Raffill, Assistant Director of Kew Gardens in England and was able to get much seed and plant material. This interesting correspondence is recorded in Eugene Chapter member Frances Burns' 2001 book *To Have a Friend*. During his lifetime Del James donated many plants to the park and after he passed away, his wife donated more. Additionally, the Chapter purchased more plants from her. About 3000 plants eventually migrated from the James' home near the park.

Harold Greer first did a program for the Eugene Chapter in 1962. It was a slide show of a trip to Canada. The first Early Show (or Species Show) was in Harris Hall in 1967 with Wales Wood speaking. The next one was at the Celeste Campbell Senior Center on April 5, 1969, and the speaker was Cecil Smith.

In 1968 Eugene hosted the ARS Annual Convention at the Eugene Hotel with some meetings being held in the City Hall where the flower show was and the annual business meeting was out at the Eugene Country Club. Dan Morris was Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, Merle Saunders first had the idea of hosting it, Palmer Saunders was Chair of the Show Committee (at which Harold Greer won Best Plant in show and Best Hybrid Truss for 'Trude Webster' and Carl Phetteplace won Sweepstakes), Merv Vator was Chair of the Programs Committee, Jim Gossler was Chapter President and presided at the annual business meeting where Carl Phetteplace was awarded the Gold Medal. The evening speakers were Frank Mossman, Frank Doleshy and Dr. John Creech. Gardens visited included Hendricks Park (of course), Dr. Charlie Thompson's, Dr. Carl Phetteplace's, Ellis Jones' Island Gardens Nursery and the not yet famous Greer Gardens.

At this time, Chapter meetings, which were held on the second Monday of the month (October through June) were changed to the second Thursday. And the meetings were moved from Skinner Butte Community Center to Celeste Campbell Senior Center. Dues in 1968 were raised to \$7.50 – the first increase since 1945! (And then to \$10 in 1972.)

The April 13, 1974 chapter meeting had a plant auction at which the profit was \$225.50! The speaker at that meeting was Jock Brydon who talked about the Species Foundation. The Species Foundation, which was originally dreamed up by Dr. Milton Walker in Eugene was housed at

the Walker place for some years before moving to Mr. Brydon's place near Salem in 1971 and then to the Weyerhaeuser property in Federal Way, WA, in 1975.

Eugene again hosted the Annual Convention in 1977 at the Rodeway Inn in Springfield with Curt Huey as the chair. The tours went to Hendricks Park, Greer Gardens and the Phetteplace Garden. Speakers included Fred Galle, Harold Greer, and John Creech from the National Arboretum, J.D. Vertrees, and Don Hunter of Eugene. Speakers at the Breeders' Roundtable included Art Childers on breeding for yellow and indumentum, and Ellis Jones of Island Gardens.

Roger Gossler spoke to the chapter in January of 1978 on magnolias (surprise!). In 1979 Amy Hitchcock and Ray James completed their Eugene Chapter History, a very helpful document.

Ted Trombert served as Head Gardener at Hendricks Park from 1961 to 1981. When Mr. Trombert retired in 1981, there were some 6,000 plants in Hendricks Park. And this is Mr. Trombert's major accomplishment – the planting out of the whole slope, mostly with James plants and the growing these plants into maturity. This work is easy to appreciate while sitting on the Ted Trombert memorial bench.

Eugene hosted the Annual Convention again in 1987 at Valley River Inn with Curt Huey as Event Chair, Gordon Wylie as Treasurer, Thurston Skei and Charles Amos running the plant sale, Harold Greer doing publicity, Emma and Tom Bowhan and Ruth Amos working registration, Jay Kelley running the show, Curt Huey arranging the speakers and Ron Ivanoff arranging the tours. Speakers included Augie Kehr, Warren Berg, Gordon Wylie, Curt Huey, Herb Spady, Harold Greer, Wilbur Bluhm, Tom Bowhan and Malcolm Manley. The Coast Tour went to the Gerdemanns and the Thompsons, the Eugene Area Garden Tour went to the Wylies, the Williams, the Hueys and Gosslers, the Nursery Tour went to the Bowhan Nursery, Greer Gardens, and Hall Rhododendrons. And everyone went to Hendricks Park.

Also in 1987 Emma Bowhan was elected Eugene Chapter President, the first woman to become president of a chapter that started out as a men's club.

Michael Robert served as head gardener at Hendricks Park from 1981 until 2003. The plantings during this period became more varied with perennials and other companion plants. A crevice rock garden designed

by Josef Halda was added. In 2015, the chapter helped to renovate this rock garden along with Friends of Hendricks Park. The other, less obvious improvements were the modernization of the infrastructure (for example replacing the 50-year-old galvanized steel irrigation system) and the implementation of scientific garden management methods. In 2001, the Forest Management Plan was adopted. The Native Plant Garden was also begun in this period. The most obvious change in the mind of this writer is the changed look as the many plants were moved to turn the park into a garden rather than a collection of plants. Ginny Alfriend succeeded Michael in 2003 and, currently, Emily Aune is the lead gardener.

The Eugene Chapter again hosted the Annual Convention in 2001 at Valley River Inn. The speakers included Bob Baltzer, Slim Barrett, Nolan Blansit, Wilbur Bluhm, Emma Bowhan, Alan Clark, Loretta Downs, Roger Gossler, Harold Greer, Stan Hall, John Hammond, Steve Hootman, Dr. Elaine Ingham, Diane Johnson, Sharon Leopold, Marietta O'Byrne, Michael Robert, Merle Sanders, Jim Smith, Michael S. Thompson and Edmund de Rothschild. There were others, but the star attractions were locals or chapter members! Tours included the Oregon Garden, the Jim Gerdemann garden, Thompsons' Nursery, the Dr. William McHolick garden, the Stan and Doty Hall Garden, the Dr. David Williams garden, the Slim Barrett garden (his 4th), Northwest Garden Nursery, the Maxine Rowan Garden, the Dick Bray garden, the Gordon and Linda Wylie garden, Greer Gardens, the Noel and Pepper Berkeley garden, the Ralph and Frances Burns garden, Gossler Farms Nursery, Senator Bob Kintigh's garden, and, of course, Hendricks Park. The Convention Co-Chairs were Harold Greer and Gordon Wylie, the Registrars were Tom and Emma Bowhan (their 4th time), Rich Aaring did tours, Rick Reed did the finances, Leonard Frojen and Jack Olson did the show, Bob Kintigh and Mike Bones (and a gang of sales staff from the Siuslaw Chapter) did the plant sale in a tent beside the hotel, Gwen Lounsbury was the Facilities Chair, Nancy Greer did the Book and Art Sale, Pepper Berkeley did publicity, Rudy Fecteau ran the Photo Contest, Michael Robert worked Special Events and Gordon Wylie rounded up all the speakers. The highlight of the week was Gordon getting the ARS Gold Medal. He was the fourth recipient of this prestigious award from this chapter.

On September 23, 2005, Hendricks Park dedicated the Grant Chase bench. This was only the most recent of many memorial areas at the park dedicated to chapter members. The James Barto path (okay, he was not really a member, but we claim him anyway), the Del James path

(1963), the Dr. Royal Gick Memorial (May 5, 1957), the B.S. Cole Memorial and the Marshall Lyons Memorial (April 29, 1979). The ongoing generosity of Dr. Phetteplace was honored again when his heirs donated more than twenty significant plants to the park in 1985. The generosity of Curt Huey was also memorialized by a large donation of his greenhouse plants by his widow.

The Eugene Chapter has a long history of hybridizing. Hybrids have come from James Barto, both Del and Ray James, both Marshall and Ruth Lyons, Palmer Saunders, Carl Phetteplace, Art Childers, Dr. Robin Overstreet, Dr. Royal Gick, Gladys and Willard Swenson, Dr. Charles Thompson, Edgar Greer, Harold Greer, Slim Barrett, Stan Hall, Tom Bowhan, Emma Bowhan, Louis Mensing, Everett Hall, Gordon Wylie, Dr. David Williams, Ralph Burns, Frances Burns, Merle Sanders, Dennis Sanders, Nolan Blansit and Jack Olson. These talented people have produced many fabulous plants.

By 1980 the interest in rhododendrons was well established with an active ARS leadership throughout the Northwest including the Eugene Chapter and in 1981 the idea for a regional conference of western chapters was spawned by Harold & Nancy Greer (Eugene), Herb & Betty Spady (Willamette), Ed & Fran Egan (Portland), and Vern & Marion May (Siuslaw). Thus, the first Western Regional Conference took place in Newport in the fall of 1981 starting a tradition that has continued almost annually since.

In 2011, the Eugene Chapter co-hosted the ARS Convention at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA, along with other chapters of ARS District 4. Keynote speakers were Don Hyatt, Hartwig Schepker, and Harold Greer, but there were many other exceptional session speakers including Dennis Bottemiller, Dave Eckerdt, Mike Stewart, Steve Hootman, Don Wallace, and Frank Fujioka.

Mike Bones and Rich Aaring co-chaired the Western Regional meeting in Seaside in 2003, and Harold Greer chaired the one in Newport in 2005 (the 25th anniversary of these fall meetings) and again in 2007. In 2013, the chapter co-hosted the ARS Western Regional Rhododendron Conference at the Agate Beach Inn in Newport, OR. Keynote speakers were Harold Greer and George Woodard. Session speakers from the chapter included Dick Cavender, John Hammond, Andrey Karpov, Terry Henderson, and Gordon Wylie.

Reflecting our smaller and aging membership 2010 was the last year that the chapter held a two-day flower show in the Gateway Mall.

Starting in 2011, we have held a one-day show combined with an evening banquet with speaker and a plant auction at the Hilton Garden Inn.

We continue to study these fine plants along with our green-thumbed friends. And we continue to buy, hybridize, and propagate rhododendrons. We are always grateful for a new member with an empty yard needing our “extras”.

Compiled by Rich Aaring, 2005
edited by Ted Hewitt, 2010, 2015

An editorial note: The Eugene Chapter has hosted ARS Conventions in 1968 (at the Eugene Hotel), 1977 (at the Rodeway Inn in Springfield), 1987 and 2001 (both at the Valley River Inn) and co-hosted in 2011 in Vancouver, WA.

Eugene Chapter Award Winners

The ARS issues Gold and Silver Medals to individuals who have contributed outstanding service to the organization over a number of years. The ARS Bronze Medal is the highest honor that can be awarded to a chapter member by the chapter Board of Directors.

ARS Gold Medal Awards

1961 Del James
1968 Dr. Carl Phetteplace
1989 Harold Greer
2001 Gordon Wylie

ARS Silver Medal Awards

1990 Curt Huey

ARS Pioneer Achievement Award

1995 James Barto

Bronze Medal Awards

1969 Edith Mosher
1970 Merle Saunders
1971 Merv Vator
1975 George Saunders
1977 Curt Huey
1979 Carl Phetteplace
Jim Blackford
1980 Amy Hitchcock
Ray James
1984 Harold Greer
Galen Baxter (Siuslaw)
1986 Ed Seigmund
Dr. David Williams

1987 Gordon Wylie
Emma Bowhan
Tom Bowhan
1988 Dee Wojniak
Everett Hall
Stan Hall
Nora Hanke
Winston Hanke
1991 Slim Barrett
Ron Ivanoff
Joyce Saunders
1994 Frances Burns
Michael Robert
Helen Baxter (Siuslaw)

Bronze Medal Awards (cont)

1995	Linda Wylie	2011	Helen Baxter
2000	Mike Hopewell Nattie Hopewell		Joyce Reed Rick Reed
2002	Gordon Wylie Harold Greer	2012	Terry Henderson John Fry Bob Kintigh
2004	Rich Aaring		
2005	Leonard Frojen	2014	Paula Hewitt Ted Hewitt
2009	Jack Olson Merle Sanders		
2010	Rudy Fecteau		

Chapter Special Recognition Awards

1988	Polly Acaiturri Charles & Ruth Amos Ron Ivanoff Thurston Skei	1995	Grant Chase Maxine Freeman
1990	Slim Barrett Ray & Nancy Klein Michael Robert Merle Sanders	1996	Ray & Nancy Klein
1991	Dee Wojniak Alice Stroda Frances Burns Michael Robert	1997	Joyce & Richard Reed Rich Aaring
1992	Merle Sanders Frances Burns Michael Robert	1998	Barbara Williams Mike Hopewell Rich Aaring
1994	Nancy & Harold Greer Dr. David Williams Linda Wylie	2000	Leona Maricle
		2004	Ray Klein
		2005	Rudy Fecteau
		2008	Pepper Berkeley
		2009	Gordon Wylie
		2011	JoAnn Napier

Past Eugene Chapter Presidents

1949	Dr. Royal Gick	1959	Dr. Milton Walker
1951	Dr. Charles Thompson	1961	Palmer Saunders
1953	Del James	1963	Mervin Vator
1954	Dr. Charles MacKinnon	1965	Daniel Morris
1955	Jack Simmons	1967	James Gossler
1956	Merle Saunders	1969	Raymond Curt Huey
1957	Dr. Carl Phetteplace	1971	George Saunders
1958	Wallace Ruff	1973	Clarence 'Slim' Barrett

Past Eugene Chapter Presidents (cont)

1975	Tom Bowhan	1997	Bob Kintigh
1976	Palmer Saunders	1999	Michael Robert
1977	Ed Seigmund	2001	Rich Aaring
1977	Curt Huey	2004	Jack Olson
1978	Harold Greer	2006	Jack Olson
1979	Dr. David Williams	2008	Helen Baxter
1981	Stan Hall	2010	Ted Hewitt
1983	Day Farrald	2012	Ali Sarlak
1985	Gordon Wylie	2014	Ali Sarlak
1987	Emma Bowhan		
1989	Michael Robert		
1991	Jack Olson		
1993	Jay Kelley		
1995	Mike Hopewell		

As an aside, several of our Eugene Chapter members have gone on to become officers in the American Rhododendron Society:

W.P. Riddlesbarger	Vice President
Dr. Royal Gick	Vice President
Curt Huey	Vice President
Dr. Carl Phetteplace	VP and President
Daniel Morris	Treasurer
Harold Greer	VP and President
Gordon Wylie	VP and President
Frances Burns	Secretary

Eugene Chapter American Rhododendron Society By-Laws

Article I. OFFICES

Section 1. Principal Office. The principal office of the corporation shall be at Eugene, Oregon, and its mailing address shall be as the governing body designates.

Article II. PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of the Chapter is encouragement of the culture of rhododendrons, including azaleas, and the increase in the

general understanding of and interest in all aspects of these plants. In addition, the Chapter will support the American Rhododendron Society.

Section 2. Affiliation. This organization shall be affiliated with the American Rhododendron Society as a chapter thereof, and will allocate a portion of the dues paid by members as provided in the By-Laws of the A.R.S.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Section 1. Eligibility. Membership in the Chapter shall be open to all persons interested in rhododendrons and azaleas. All members of the Chapter will be members of the American Rhododendron Society and entitled to all privileges thereof. Classes of memberships shall be as provided in the By-Laws of the American Rhododendron Society. All members of the Chapter shall be entitled to participate in all meetings and other activities of the Chapter, including shows and exhibitions. A single membership in any class entitles the holder or holders thereof to one vote at meetings of the membership and to one copy of the periodic publications or notices of the Chapter.

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be as fixed by the American Rhododendron Society. The treasurer shall remit to the American Rhododendron Society an amount for each member as prescribed by the latter. Those who already belong to another chapter of the American Rhododendron Society may become associate members of the Chapter by payment of the annual Chapter dues.

Section 3. Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter in March of each year. The purpose of the meeting shall be for the election of officers and directors and the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Notice of each annual meeting shall be mailed to members in the week prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called for any purpose by the President or by the Board, and shall be called by the President at the request of one-third of the Chapter members. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed to all members of the Chapter at least one week before the meeting, with the notice to state the purpose of the special meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. One-third of the membership, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of members. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of those members represented at the meeting shall be the act of the membership.

Article IV. GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. Definition and Meetings. The governing body of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past

president, and five directors. A majority of the governing body shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The governing body shall be vested with authority to carry on the business of the Chapter and management of its affairs. It shall meet on call from the President or, in his absence, Vice President.

Section 2. Directors. Directors shall hold office for a term of three years, with the terms of office to be staggered so that at least one member's term shall expire and be filled by election at the annual meeting each year.

Section 3. Officers. The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Each officer shall serve for two years. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the governing body, and shall perform the recognized functions of the President. The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall perform the recognized functions of that office in the absence of the President or upon the request of the President. The Secretary shall keep appropriate records and minutes of activities of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting dues and handling all funds of the Chapter, including such financial reports and records as may be required by the American Rhododendron Society.

Section 4. Term of Office. Newly elected members of the governing body shall take office on July 1 of each year following their election at the annual meeting that year. Mid-year vacancies in the governing body may be filled by a special meeting of the members called for that purpose, and any officer or director thus elected shall take office immediately.

Article V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Amendments. These By-Laws may be amended or new By-Laws adopted at the annual meeting, or any other meeting of the members called for that purpose, by a two-thirds vote of those present in person or by proxy and voting. Notice of the proposed change or changes shall be given in a notice mailed to all members not less than 21 days from the date of mailing prior to the holding of such meeting.

Section 2. Regulation and Policy. The governing body shall at all times have the power to and may make further and supplemental rules and regulations to these By-Laws which are not in conflict herewith, and as it may deem necessary or expedient for the carrying on to the business or the Chapter.

Section 3. Parliamentary Law. The most recent revision of Robert's Rules of Order shall, at all meetings of the governing body and members, govern rules of procedure and matters considered unless otherwise provided by these By-Laws.

Spring Flower Shows

Almost from the beginning the ARS Eugene Chapter has had a Spring Flower Show for the community to see the beauty and variety within the genus *Rhododendron*. Whether in Hendricks Park, the Eugene City Hall, or one of the local shopping malls, the truss shows have also been an enjoyment to members who have a bit of competitiveness. On the chapter website you will find a page devoted to the flower shows.

The Early Show

Initially the Early Show was to display the species rhododendrons that bloom earlier than many of the hybrids, but in recent years the Early Show has been an evening of flowers, camaraderie, food, program, auction and fun. The classification is simpler with only nine categories - Hybrid & Species Deciduous Azaleas, Hybrid & Species Evergreen Azaleas, Hybrid & Species Elepidote Rhododendrons, Hybrid & Species Lepidote Rhododendrons, and "Other". Trophies are usually awarded for "Best Azalea", "Best Elepidote", "Best Lepidote", and "Best Species Rhododendron".

2007 Winners

Best Azalea	unknown pink	Gene Cockeram
Best Elepidote	<i>calophytum x sutchuenense</i>	Gordon Wylie
Best Lepidote	<i>R. johnstonianum</i>	Gene Cockeram
Best Species	<i>R. roxieanum</i>	Laura Loucks

2009 Winners

Best Azalea	R. 'Coral Bells'	Terry Henderson
Best Elepidote	R. 'Grace Seabrook'	Steve Butdorf
Best Lepidote	R. 'First Date'	Laura Loucks
Best Species	<i>R. schlippenbachii</i>	Gene Cockeram

2010 Winners

Best Azalea	R. 'Sylvester'	Harold Greer
Best Elepidote	R. 'Viennese Waltz'	Gene Cockeram
Best Lepidote	<i>R. russatum</i>	Terry Henderson
Best Species	<i>R. tsariense</i>	Larry Jensen

The May Show

Traditionally the May Show was a time to display the wide variation in rhododendrons with a truss show that included over two hundred classes. On the chapter website you will find a key for these classifications. Twenty-one trophies were awarded. Over the years, this large flower show was held in places such as Hendricks Park, the Eugene city hall, and different shopping malls.

The following is a list of trophy winners for the last two years that this large show was held.

TROPHIES 2009 (Show at Valley River Center)

1. Best Cut Specimen, Deciduous Azalea Hybrid — *R. luteum* hybrid - Harold Greer
2. Best Cut Specimen, Evergreen Azalea Hybrid — ‘Sherwood Orchid’ - Harold Greer
3. Best Cut Specimen, Species Azalea — *R. luteum* - Harold Greer
4. Best Yellow Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Phyllis Korn’ - Harold Greer
5. Best Orange Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Fumi’ - Jack Olson
6. Best Red Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Martian King’ - Jack Olson
7. Best Pink Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Margaret Mack’ - Jack Olson
8. Best Blue/Purple Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘True Blue’ - Harold Greer
9. Best White Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — *R. degronianum* ssp *yakushmanum* x *campanulatum* - Jack Olson
10. Best Cut Specimen Species, Subgenus Hymenanthes — *R. orbiculare* - Jack Olson
11. Best Cut Specimen Species, Subgenus Rhododendron or — *R. campylogynum* - Jack Olson
any Subgenus except Hymenanthes
12. Best New Genus Rhododendron or Azalea Truss or Spray — ‘Naselle’ x ‘Viennese Waltz’ - Jim Smith
13. Best Previously Shown New Genus Rhododendron or Azalea — ‘Kubla Khan’ x ‘Cream Glory’ - Greer
Truss or Spray
14. Best Species *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum* Truss — *R. yakushmanum* small leaf - Jack Olson
15. Best Hybrid Truss with One Species Parent — ‘Shogun’ - Harold Greer
16. Best Subgenus Rhododendron Hybrid — ‘Conroy’ - Larry Jensen
17. Best Elepidote (Hymenanthes) Spray — ‘Mindy’s Love’ - Nolan Blansit
18. Best Novice Truss or Spray — ‘Mrs. Betty Robertson’ - Dean C. Burkhart
19. OVERALL - Best Truss in Show — ‘Naselle’ x ‘Viennese Waltz’ - Jim Smith
20. OVERALL - Best Spray in Show — *R. campylogynum* - Jack Olson
21. SWEEPSTAKES - Most Points in Show — Jack Olson

TROPHIES 2010 (Show at Gateway Mall)

1. Best Cut Specimen, Deciduous Azalea Hybrid— Orange Mollis
Harold Greer
2. Best Cut Specimen, Evergreen Azalea Hybrid — ‘Concho’ – Terry
Henderson
3. Best Cut Specimen, Species Azalea — *R. calendulaceum* – Leonard
Frojen
4. Best Yellow Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Phyllis Korn’ – Jack
Olson
5. Best Orange Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘MaBelle’s Star’ –
Harold Greer
6. Best Red Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Martian King’ - Jack
Olson
7. Best Pink Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Viennese Waltz’ – Galen
Baxter
8. Best Blue/Purple Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Black Eye’ –
Terry Henderson
9. Best White Hybrid Truss, Hymenanthes — ‘Art C’ - Jack Olson
10. Best Cut Specimen Species, Subgenus Hymenanthes — *R.*
orbiculare - Jack Olson
11. Best Cut Specimen Species, Subgenus Rhododendron or any
Subgenus except Hymenanthes— *R. keiskei* – Leonard Frojen
12. Best New Genus Rhododendron or Azalea Truss or Spray — ‘Jean
Marie ’ x ‘Kiliminjaro’ – Harold Greer
13. Best Previously Shown New Genus Rhododendron or Azalea or
Spray— ‘Kubla Khan’ x ‘Cream Glory’ – Harold Greer
14. Best Species *R. degronianum* ssp.*yakushmanum* Truss — *R.*
yakushmanum “Mist Maiden’ – Harold Greer
15. Best Hybrid Truss with One Species Parent — ‘Shogun’ – Harold
Greer
16. Best Subgenus Rhododendron Hybrid— ‘Arctic Tern’ – Harold
Greer
17. Best Elepidote Spray— ‘True Blue’ – Galen Baxter
18. Best Novice Truss or Spray — ‘Cynthia’ - Chris Johnson
19. OVERALL - Best Truss in Show— ‘Art C’ - Jack Olson
20. OVERALL - Best Spray in Show— ‘True Blue’ – Galen Baxter
21. SWEEPSTAKES - Most Points in Show— Harold Greer
- 22a. Best Artistic Design, Amateur – Eldoris Cobban
- 22b. Best Artistic Design, Open—Lorene Martinson

Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet

In 2011, the chapter Board decided that we no longer had the membership that could sponsor a large show and that we would combine the Early Show and the May Show into one show and banquet called the Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet and would hold it at a local banquet hall. In 2011 and 2012, it was held at Mookies Restaurant and in 2013, 2014, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The show has 7 classes in which to enter trusses or sprays and 7 trophies are awarded. The judging is done by members attending the show and encourages a great deal of discussion and camaraderie. Following the show is a no-host banquet, a plant auction, and a speaker - all part of a day of fun and friendship.

Trophies - 2014

Best Azalea	R. 'Alice de Steurs'	- Terry Henderson
Best Pink Elepidote	R. 'Margaret Mack'	- Jack Olson
Best Red Elepidote	R. 'Martian King'	- Jack Olson
Best White/Yellow Elep	R. 'Lady Rothschild'	- Jack Olson
Best Other/Multi-color	R. 'Starbright Champagne'	- Noel Berkeley
Best Lepidote	<i>R. primuliformum</i> var. <i>cephelanthoides</i> 'Doker La'	- Ted Hewitt
Best Species	<i>R. glaucophyllum</i>	- Larry Jensen

Trophies - 2015

Best Azalea	R. 'Arnesen Gem'	- Jack Olson
Best Pink Elepidote	unnamed seedling	- Jack Olson
Best Red Elepidote	R. 'Leo'	- Jack Olson
Best White/Yellow Elep	R. 'Icon'	- Jack Olson
Best Other/Multi-color	R. 'Seaview Sunset'	- Jack Olson
Best Lepidote	<i>R. augustinii</i>	- Ali Sarlak
Best Species	<i>R. benhalli</i>	- Paula Hewitt

Rhododendron of the Year Awards

Each year the American Rhododendron Society selects four plants that have done well in our region, the Pacific Northwest. These might be helpful for selecting new plants for your garden. For more information see www.rhododendron.org/roy15nw.htm.

	2011	2012
Elepidote Rhododendron:	'Lem's Cameo'	'Lem's Monarch'
Lepidote Rhododendron:	'Bob's Blue'	'Blue Baron'
Evergreen Azalea:	'Girard's Fuchsia'	'Hino-Crimson'
Deciduous Azalea:	<i>R. luteum</i>	'Nifty Fifty'

	2013	2014
Elepidote Rhododendron:	‘Windsong’	‘Fire Rim’
Lepidote Rhododendron:	‘Razorbill’	‘Ginny Gee’
Evergreen Azalea:	‘Purple Splendor’	‘Komo Kulshan’
Deciduous Azalea:	‘White Lights’	‘Homebush’

	2015
Elepidote Rhododendron	‘Noyo Dream’
Lepidote Rhododendron:	‘Egret’
Evergreen Azalea:	‘Koromo-shikibu’
Deciduous Azalea:	‘Totally Awesome’

Proven Performers

Several years ago a Study Group of the ARS Eugene Chapter selected a list of rhododendrons that have consistently done well in our gardens. This list is included here as modified and added to by Harold Greer.

Dwarf

‘Mother Greer’	‘Mother Greer’
‘Crimson Phippen’	‘Elizabeth’
‘Ginny Gee’	‘Kimbeth’
‘Pink Snowflakes’	‘Odee Wright’
‘Patty Bee’	‘Golden Gate’
<i>R. dichroanthum scyphocalyx</i>	‘Dora Amateis’
‘Cilpinense’	

Dense

Small

‘Vibrant Violet’
‘Elizabeth’
‘Noyo Brave’
‘Kimberly’
‘Nancy Evans’
‘Golden Gate’
<i>R. degroonianum</i>
<i>ssp. yakushmanum</i>

Loose

‘Colonel Coen’
‘Britton Hill’
‘Platinum Pearl’
‘Horizon Monarch’
‘Whitney Orange’
‘Loderi King George’
‘Yaku Angel’

Large

‘Senora Meldon’	‘September Song’
‘Taurus’	‘Naselle’
‘Hallelujah’	‘Flaming Star’
‘Trude Webster’	‘Loderi King George’
‘Perfectly Pink’	
‘Phyllis Korn’	
‘Horizon Monarch’	

Shade Lovers

‘Colonel Coen’
‘Taurus’
‘Perfectly Pink’
‘Capistrano’
‘Whitney Late Orange’
‘White Gold’

Early Bloomers

'Queen Victoria' ('Dan's Early Purple') 'Red Eye'
R. mucronulatum
'Paul Linke'
'Everything Nice'
'Goldilocks'
'Mary Fleming'
'Cilpinense'

Sun Tolerators

'Jean marie de Montague'
'Hallelujah'
'Cream Crest'
Deciduous Azalea 'Corringe'
'Dora Amateis'

Late Bloomers

'Blue Lagoon'
'Good News'
'Grand Slam'
'Evening Glow'
'Whitney Late Orange'
'Loderic Iceberg'

Appropriate for Pots

'Mother Greer'
'Carmen'
'Pink Snowflakes'
'Wren'
'Fabia'
'Winter Snow'

Foundation Plants

'Vibrant Violet'
'Titian Beauty'
'Kimbeth'
'Goldkrone'
'Bergie Larson'
R. degronianum ssp.
yakushmanum "Yaku Angel"

Open Tree-Like

'Loderi King George'
R. niveum
'Taurus'
'Perfectly Pink'
R. macabeaumum

Screen Plants

R. augustinii
'Taurus'
'Pink Walloper'
'Phyllis Korn'
Deciduous Azaleas
'White Pearl'

*Ted's Favorites *

'Cilpenense'
R. campylogynum myrtilloides
'Loderi King George'
R. barbatum
'Hotei'
R. primuliformum var. *cephelanthoides*
'Doker La Form'

Fragrant Rhododendrons: (fragrant rhodies tend to be tender; these are some of the hardier ones) Loderi grex, *R. fortunei*, *R. discolor*, Loderic, Polar Bear, *R. occidentale* (the native azalea), *R. luteum*, and most deciduous azaleas

Companion Plants

In our gardens, most of us want to have a large number of companion plants as well as rhododendrons. Here are some to consider.

Trees:

- Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple) - 5' to 35'
- Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple) - 3' to 25'
- Cornus kousa* (Korean Dogwood)
- Enkianthus campanulatus* (Redvein Enkianthus) - 6' to 12' high
- Stewartia pseudocamellia* (Japanese Stewartia)
- Stewartia monodelphus*

Shrubs:

- Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Gracilis' (Dwarf Hinoki Cypress)
- Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Lutea' (Dwarf Yellow Hinoki Cypress)
- Corylopsis pauciflora* (Winter Hazel) - 3' by 7' eventually
- Corylopsis sinensis* (Winter Hazel) - 12' to 15' high
- Enkianthus campanulatus* and *Enkianthus perulatus*
- Fuchsia magellanica* - 6' tall by 3' wide
- Hamamelis* (Witch Hazel) - 9' to 12' high
- Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf Hydranges) - 4' tall by 6' wide
- Pieris japonica* 'Flaming Silver' - 2' to 3' tall
- Vaccinium glauco album* - 2' tall by 2' wide
- Vaccinium ovatum* (Evergreen Huckleberry) - 3' tall by 3' wide
- Vaccinium viti-idaea* (Cowberry) - 16" high spreads by underground runner
- Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* 'Mariesii' and 'Summer Snowflake'

Perennials:

Aconitum napellus (Monkshood), *Anemone blanda* (English Wood Anemone), *Aruncus aethusifolius* (Dwarf Goatsbeard), *Asarum europaeum* (European Wild Ginger), *Asarum* 'Splendens' (Chinese Wild Ginger), *Astilbe* (all are nice), *Astrantia major* (many cultivars are nice), *Beesia deltophylla*, *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' (lightens up the shade), *Cardamine triflora*, *Cardiocrinum giganteum* (Giant Himalayan Lily - Wow!), *Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry), *Cyclamen hederifolium* (wonderful leaf patterns), *Cyclamen coum* (bright winter flowers), *Disporum cantoniense* 'Night Heron', *Disporum flavens* (Fairly Bells), *Epimedium* (There are many nice ones), *Erythronium oregonum* (Fawn Lily), *Hakonechloa macro* 'Aureola' (Japanese Forest Grass - lightens up the shade and has good texture), *Helleborus* hybrids, *Helleborus argutifolius* (Corsican hellebore), *Heuchera* (There are many

nice ones, such as ‘Obsidian’), *Hosta* (You can never have too many, but the slugs love them.) *Omphalodes cappadocica* ‘Starry Eyes’, *Polygonatum odoratum* ‘Variegata’ (Variegated Solomon Seal), *Primula* (There are many nice ones), *Pulmonaria*, *Saxafraga umbrosa* ‘London Pride’, *Thalictrum delavayi* (Yunnan Meadow Rue), *Thalictrum kiusianum* (Kyoshu Meadow Rue), *Tricyrtis* (Toad Lily), *Trillium ovatum* (Western Wake Robin)

Ferns:

Ferns are a wonderful way to create contrast in shape, form, and texture in the rhododendron garden and there are many from which to choose.

Polystichum munitum (Western Sword Fern) is one of the best as it adds a pleasing architectural element to the garden and is evergreen.

Polystichum neolobatum has beautiful, shiny green fronds and has year-round interest.

Polystichum polyblepharum (Japanese Tassel Fern) has softer texture in the summer but unrolls fronds magnificently in the spring.

Polystichum setiferum ‘*Divisilobum Multilobum*’ is a wonderfully soft twisted mass of fronds. Terrific change in texture for rhododendrons and a lighter green.

Adiantum aleuticum (Western Maidenhair Fern) is a terrific, light and airy plant.

Athyrium angustum forma *rubellum* (Lady in Red). Red stipes. Spreads very slowly.

Athyrium filix-femina x niponicum ‘Ghost’ has a silvery sheen on the green fronds.

Blechnum spicant (Deer Fern) is a very interesting native fern.

There are many good *Dryopteris* ferns but among the best is *Dryopteris wallichiana* ‘Molten Lava’, a large handsome fern. Most *Dryopteris* are deciduous.

Great Plant Picks

Great Plant Picks is a program that is funded by the Pendleton and Elisabeth Miller Charitable Foundation and administered by the staff of the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle. Its goal is to recommend a variety of plants that are reliable and attractive west of the mountains. They include plants of all kinds. Some of them are rhododendrons, but they also include trees and perennials. Check out their website: www.greatplantpicks.org

More Garden-Worthy Plant Suggestions:

Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden offers the following list of Garden-Worthy Plants:

- **Shrubs:**
 - vaccinium
 - phylliopsis cultivars
 - gaultheria
 - witch hazel family
- **Perennials**
 - epimediums
 - hedychium (wild gingers)
 - asarum (the native and the Chinese)
- **Woodland Lilies**
 - polygonatum (true soloman's seal)
 - smilacina (false Soloman's seal)
 - disporum
 - disporopsis
- **Ferns**
 - polystichum polyblepharum
 - athyrium otophorum
 - dryopteris wallichiana
 - adiantum venustum (a ground cover maidenhair, 6 inches and spreads)
- **Magnolias**
 - Any campbelli including mollicomata
 - sargentiana
 - springeri 'Diva'
 - dawsoniana
 - nordmanniana
- **Abies (firs) (almost any)**
 - forestii
 - delavayii
 - firma
 - holophylla
- **small maples:** any *acer palmatum* or *acer japonicum*, especially stripe-bark varieties
- **small flowering trees:** *stewartia*, dogwoods, and *styrax obassia*

Reference Books for Your Library

- **Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons, species & hybrids** (third edition) by Harold E. Greer - 1996
- **Dwarf Rhododendrons** by Peter A. Cox, 1973
- **The Smaller Rhododendrons** by Peter A. Cox, 1985
- **The Larger Rhododendron Species** by Peter A. Cox, 1990
- **The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species** by Peter A. Cox & Kenneth N. E. Cox, 1997
- **Rhododendrons of the World** by David G. Leach, 1961
- **Rhododendron Species, Vol. I • Lepidotes** by H. H. Davidian, 1982
- **Rhododendron Species, Vol. II • Elepidotes Arboreum - Lacteum** by H. H. Davidian, 1989
- **Rhododendron Species, Vol. III • Neriflorum - Thomsonii** by H. H. Davidian, 1993
- **Rhododendron Species, Vol. IV • Azaleas** by H. H. Davidian, 1995

- *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species* by J.F.J. McQuire, 2009
- ***Rhododendron Hybrids*** by Homer Salley and Harold Greer, 1992
- yearbooks of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, 2006-2015
- *Rhododendrons in the Landscape* by Sonja Nelson, 2000
- *The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story* by Sonja Nelson, 2001
- *Hardy Rhododendron Species*, by James Cullen, 2005
- *Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons* by Peter Cox & Kenneth Cox, 1995
- ***To Have a Friend : C.P. Raffill, Ray and Del James*** ed. by Frances Burns, 2001
- ***History of the Rhododendron Species Foundation*** by Clarence Barrett, 1994

Note: Emboldened titles are written by members of the ARS Eugene Chapter

2nd Note: Many of these books are available locally in used book stores or are available from on-line used book stores.

Chapter Library

Due to little use over the last several years and the closing of Greer Gardens in 2015, the chapter library has been reduced in size and moved to the home of Terry Henderson. Since the old editions of the ARS Quarterly Bulletins and the ARS Quarterly Journals are now on-line at [www.http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS), the chapter Board decided to dispose of the paper copies in the library. However, a number of the books are still available for your use.

BOOKS BY EUGENE CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|
| • <i>Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons</i> | Harold Greer | 1982 |
| • <i>History of the Rhododendron Species Foundation</i> | Slim Barrett | 1994 |

OTHER BOOKS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| • <i>The Azalea Book</i> | Frederick R. Lee | 1958 |
| • <i>The Rothschild Rhododendrons</i> | Philips and Barber | 1967 |
| • <i>Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook</i> | RHS | 1969 |
| • <i>Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook</i> | RHS | 1965 |
| • <i>The Glen Dale Azaleas</i> (two copies) | Benjamin Morison | |
| • <i>Rhododendrons and Azaleas</i> | Judith Bennisford | 1965 |
| • <i>Cuttings Throughout the Year</i> , 2 nd ed. | Metheny/Michaud | 1966 |
| • <i>Azaleas, Kinds and Culture</i> | H. Harold Hume | 1948 |
| • <i>Rhododendrons</i> | ARS | 1956 |
| • <i>Rhododendron Information</i> | ARS | 1967 |

• Rhododendrons for Your Garden	ARS	1961
• ARS Yearbooks	ARS	1945-1949
• <i>Dwarf Rhododendrons</i>	Peter Cox	1973
• <i>Rhododendrons</i>	F. Kingdon Ward	1950
• <i>Plant Hunting in China</i>	E.H.M. Cox	1960
• <i>The Story of the RHS 1804-1968</i>	H.R. Fletcher	1969
• <i>Rhododendrons and Azaleas</i>	Clement Bowers	1936
• <i>Rhododendrons and Azaleas</i> , 2 nd ed.	Clement Bowers	1960

Where to See and Buy Rhododendrons

This section lists public gardens and nurseries together since one will sometimes find plants for sale at the gardens and one will often find beautiful display gardens at the nurseries. One does not have to travel far to see a wide variety of rhododendrons.

Eugene Area

• Hendricks Park

Hendricks Park is Eugene's oldest city park. Its 78 acres include a mature forest, a world-renowned rhododendron garden, and a native plant garden. Laced with trails, the park is a haven for hikers, birders, and others who enjoy retreating to the tranquility of nature. Without leaving the city, visitors can walk among Douglas fir trees two hundred years old, ferns, and wildflowers, such as trilliums and irises, and over six thousand varieties of rhododendrons and other ornamental plants.

In 1906 T.G. Hendricks, a prominent banker, donated one-half of the land of Hendricks Park to the City and the City bought the other half for \$5000. Little was done to change the park except in the mid twenties an observation tower was built in the southwest corner. Deer and elk pens were constructed in the thirties and the F.M. Wilkins shelter was built with WPA labor in the 1930s. From about 1930 until after World War II, Fred Lamb was the only employee of the Parks Department and had care of Hendricks Park.

Founded in 1951 through the joint efforts of the American Rhododendron Society and the Eugene parks, the 12-acre garden displays more than 6,000 rhododendrons and other ornamental plants, including azaleas, magnolias, and viburnums. In the early winter, witch hazels, magnolias, bulbs, and other early blooming flowers begin the long garden year. The rhododendron season extends from February through July and peaks in April and May. Many other beautiful and unusual

trees, shrubs, vines, and perennial flowers make this garden inviting throughout the year. It is open during daylight hours everyday.

For information on the park, see the section of the Eugene City website dealing with parks and open spaces:

www.eugene-or.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/80

or see the website of the Friends of Hendricks Park for activities such as tours:

www.friendsofhendrickspark.org

• **Greer Gardens**

After 50 years of business, this nursery closed in 2015 as Harold and Nancy decided it was time to retire. We wish them well in their retirement and will continue to enjoy their friendship at our meetings.

This well-known nursery was started as a hobby in the early 1950's by Edgar Greer. Over forty years ago, Edgar's son, Harold, took over the business with his wife, Nancy, and developed the display garden that was over two acres and had the most complete collection of local rhododendron hybrids as well as many other plants. Over 4,500 varieties of plants were sold in the nursery and the variety of rhododendrons was the largest in the area.

• **Gossler Farms Nursery**

This is another family-run nursery with a wide assortment of interesting and unusual plants including many species rhododendrons and a wonderful display garden.

1200 Weaver Rd, Springfield

541-746-3922

www.gosslerfarms.com

North Willamette Valley

• **The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden**

The garden was established in the early 1950's northwest of Salem near the Willamette River by Cecil Smith, an early member of the ARS. Cecil became a sponsor of plant expeditions in the Himalayas, participated in early seed exchanges and experimented with hybridizing for outstanding characteristics. The garden is about five acres sloping down to the north under a canopy of Douglas Fir with pathways that weave from the top of the garden to the bottom. The large-leafed species such as *R. falconeri* are, for the most part, found in the lower reaches where they receive protection. Many old logs and decaying stumps were retained for their natural beauty and as a medium in which to plant.

R. proteoides finds its niche in one such place. Early on, Cecil was drawn to *R. yakushmanum* and hybridized with it. Crosses include *R. "Noyo Brave"* and *R. "Cinnamon Bear"* which still grow in the garden. In 1984, after over thirty years of stewardship, Cecil reached the point where he could no longer care for the garden so the Portland chapter of the ARS found itself in a position to acquire the garden and, along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, assumed its care and management. The work is supported in part by admission fees and sales of rhododendrons, alpine, and native plants propagated by volunteers at the garden. It is open to the public on most weekends in the spring. For information see the website www.smithgarden.org.

• **Red's Rhodies and the Dick and Karen Cavender Garden**

This garden is southwest of Portland in Sherwood, not far from the Smith Garden. Dick and Karen bought the property in 1979 when there was only one rhododendron and one azalea on the property. Now there are over 400 varieties of *Rhododendron* and 300 of *Azalea*. They have many forms of *R. occidentale*, most of the Eastern native azaleas, the largest collection of *Pleione* orchids in North America and a greenhouse of *Vireya*. There is also a rock garden with many choice rock garden plants. The garden is on the top of a hill with spectacular vistas. This is also an operating nursery.

503-625-6331

• **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

Located in southeast Portland on seven acres in a beautiful woodland setting, the pathways of Crystal Springs wind through more than 2,500 rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants. Crystal Springs Garden was started in 1950 by the Portland Chapter of the ARS with the support of Portland Parks and Recreation. The site, originally covered with brush, blackberries and native trees, includes a lake and several waterfalls.

Originally, the Garden was called a "Test Garden," which meant that new rhododendrons could be evaluated over a period of several years. In 1964 the garden became "Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden." The original garden, on what is now called "The Island," was designed by Mrs. Ruth Hansen, a landscape architect and chapter member, while the portion known as "The Peninsula" was later designed by Wallace K. Huntington, a well-known Portland landscape architect, and dedicated in 1977. The care of the plants and the general maintenance is provided by a devoted group of volunteers from the Portland Chapter.

SE 28th Ave, Portland, near Reed College www.rhodies.org

• **The Portland Japanese Garden**

Founded in 1962, this garden is one of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan. The garden combines plants, stones and water to produce five and one-half acres of serene, quiet beauty. Overlooking downtown Portland, plantings, placement of stones, and the route of pathways all give the garden wanderer constantly changing views. This is a beautiful garden any time of the year. Bring your camera.

611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland 503-223-1321
www.japanesegarden.com

• **Portland Classical Chinese Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden**

This is the largest authentic urban Suzhou-style garden ever created outside China. Within this enclosed garden, serpentine walkways, a bridged lake, and open colonnades will guide you through a meticulously arranged landscape of rock groupings, delicate trees and shrubs, lattice screens, and pavilions. With nearly 100 mature specimen trees (Gossler Farms Nursery was one of the donors), hundreds of rare and unusual shrubs, water plants, orchids (Red's Rhodies was a donor), and more, nature will be putting on a show year round at the Garden. Portland's garden was designed and constructed by architects and artisans from Suzhou, Portland's sister city and most of the materials used in the garden, from the wood beams to the roof tiles, the rocks to the lattice windows, also came from Suzhou. The plant collection includes many mature species rhododendrons: including *R. rex*, *R. montroseanum*, *R. sinogrande* and *R. sulphereum*.

NW 3rd & Everett, Portland 503-228-8131
www.lansugarden.org

• **Elk Rock Garden at The Bishop's Close**

For about 60 years, Peter Kerr worked on his 13 acre garden and, upon his death in 1957, the estate was deeded to the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. A large lawn surrounded by beds with magnolias and rhododendrons and paths with wonderful vistas of the Willamette River below and Mt. Hood in the distance offer a wonderful strolling experience.

11800 SW Military Lane, Portland 503-636-2092
www.elkrockgarden.org

• **The Bovees Nursery**

This is one of the early rhododendron nurseries in Oregon and now is famous as a purveyor of vireya rhododendrons. The tropical rhododendrons in the greenhouses here are a must see and the mature rhododendrons in the garden are very large. Many unusual plants are

available to buy.

1737 SW Coronado Street, Portland
www.bovees.com

503-244-9341

• **Jenkins Estate**

A facility of the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, the grounds consist of wooded, wild natural growth areas in the perimeter which give way to cultivated plants, and a tamed landscape of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and winding gravel pathways. Trail maps are available to guide you to the rhododendron garden, perennial garden, rock gardens, primrose path, herb garden and rose pergola. The rhododendron garden is maintained by the ARS Tualatin Valley Chapter.

8005 SW Grabhorn Road, Aloha 503-642-3855

<http://www.thprd.org/parks-and-trails/detail/jenkins-estate>

The Oregon Coast

• **Thompson's Nursery**, 3 miles east of Waldport

Thompson's Nursery was founded in 1968 when Margaret and Willard Thompson decided to turn some of their 140 coastal, timber acres into a field-grown, wholesale and retail Rhododendron nursery. Joined a few years later by their son and daughter-in-law, Roy and Evelyn Thompson, Willard and Margaret began hybridizing and later introduced such popular rhododendron hybrids as 'Ring of Fire', 'Cupcake', and 'Dad's Indian Summer'. They have also raised many species, with a special fondness for subsection Taliensia. Roy and Evelyn have continued to hybridize and have released such hybrids as 'Flaming Comet', 'Red Gold', and 'Pom Pom,' and have released F1 hybrids such as 'Proteopron,' *R. bureavii* x *pronum* and *R. proteoides* x *macabeanum*. They have since been joined by their daughter and son-in-law, Michele Thompson and Patrick Osborn, in continuing the nursery's growth and traditions. This is a large and wonderful working nursery. Call for hours and directions.

2874 Alsea Hwy (34), Waldport 541-563-3676

• **Jim Gerdemann Botanical Preserve**, Yachats

Gerdemann Botanical Preserve is tucked within a wooded hillside facing the Pacific Ocean, bordered by the Siuslaw National Forest in Yachats, Oregon. This is a wild place, created as an experimental outdoor laboratory magically co-existing with a native canopy of Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock. The eclectic plant collection includes many species not typically grown in Oregon such as New Zealand tree ferns, Protoaceae such as Australian Grevillia, Chilean Flame and Lantern trees, and Telopia. Original plantings of rhododendrons include

species and hybrids not commonly cultivated in Oregon: *Maddenia*, *Arborea*, *Grandia*, *Falconera*, and *Vireya*. The survival and size of many unique and rare plants is a tribute to the genius and persistent plant tending of Dr. James Gerdemann from 1982 to 2008. The 3.5 acre estate was purchased in 2008 by Jerry and Kathleen Sand and remains private property and their home. The Sands granted a conservation easement which protects the property from any future subdivision and preserves the Gerdemann botanical collection as a scenic, historic, educational, horticultural resource. This special garden is occasionally open for viewing and is well worth a trip. A public trail meanders along the south edge of the garden beginning across the road from the northeast corner of Over Leaf Lodge.

- **Bones Nursery**, just north of Florence

Owned by long-time ARS members Mike and Kathy Bones, this is a small nursery where you can find some unusual plants. Mike is also a good resource for using rhododendrons in bonsai. Call for hours.

90379 Hwy 101, Florence 541-997-3082

- **Gallagher's Park**, Florence

This Florence city park, in a forest setting, is maintained in part by the Siuslaw Chapter of the ARS and the Florence Garden Club. Many of the plants have been donated by one of the local nurseries. Recently the Chapter dedicated the Willard and Margaret Thompson Memorial Walk, planted exclusively with Thompson hybrids.

Corner of Hwy 126 and Spruce St. on the east side of Florence

- **Hinsdale Garden**, Umpqua River

Located on the banks of the Umpqua River east of Reedsport, this garden has one of the oldest large rhododendron collections in Oregon. Originally planted in the 1950s and '60s, the garden lay abandoned for many years until the BLM developed a project to reclaim it in the early 2000's. The garden also contains a significant assortment of large camellias and other companions, including many magnolias. You will be rewarded with a mature garden at this remarkable and beautiful location against its scenic river backdrop. Restoration is well underway through major investments by the Bureau of Land Management, with advice and some physical assistance by our members, and financial support for plant replacement from the ARS Endowment Fund. Improved plant health and bloom from these efforts over the last several years is more and more evident. Though the garden is not yet open to the public on a regular basis there are open garden days that are well worth attending. Watch the Eugene Chapter Newsletter for announcements.

A Special Place for Rhododendron Lovers

- **Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, WA**

The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1964 by members of the American Rhododendron Society in order to secure the finest authentic forms of Rhododendron species, and to develop a comprehensive collection of this plant genus. Conservation has become of primary importance in recent years due to the destruction of Rhododendron habitat in many areas of the world.

Just south of Seattle, Washington, the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, is home to one of the largest rhododendron collections in the world. Over 10,000 rhododendrons grow in a beautiful 22 acre woodland of tall native conifers. The flowering season in western Washington begins in early January and continues through late July with the majority of species in bloom from March to May. Eugene chapter member Slim Barrett wrote an excellent book on the history of the Foundation that is available in the chapter library as well as the Eugene City Library.

“The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and distribution of Rhododendron species. The Foundation provides education relating to the genus and serves as a unique resource for scientific, horticultural, and general gardening communities worldwide.”

Visiting this garden in the spring is worth an excuse to go to Seattle. See the website for hours and location. Many special rhododendrons and companion plants are available for purchase.

www.rhodygarden.org

Expanding Your Rhododendron Collection

- **Visit our many local nurseries, plant sales, and plant auctions at meetings.**

- **Propagate your own plants:**

Many of our chapter members enjoy propagating plants from stem cuttings or grafting. Stem cuttings are often available through cutting

exchanges or from individual members who generously share their plants. Information on how to do this is readily available from chapter members.

• **Grow plants from seed:**

There are seed exchanges available on the internet including the ARS Seed Exchange program, www.rhododendron.org/seedexchange.

Some good information from ARS Eugene Associate member Dick Cavender:

The Cavender Pollen and Seed Method

I have been collecting and storing seed and pollen for many years and my method is as follows:

Pollen collection: I use #00 size gelatin capsules that I purchase at the drug store in boxes of 100. A box lasts a long time. I have a small kit that I take into the garden. It contains empty capsules, small very pointed tip forceps, Scotch tape (the opaque type not clear as it last longer and does not become gooey), short soft lead pencil and 1/4 in. by 2 in. strips of white paper. The small pointy forceps allow me to harvest just the pollen capsule with no stem. The plant name is written on the strip of paper and taped to the cap of the capsule. Filled capsules are placed in a bottle containing silica gel. Silica gel is often found in small packets in electronics or medication or available at a hobby store. It can be heated in the oven at low temperature after a few uses and reused. The capsules of pollen are left on the silica gel for a week or two to dry. I then store the dry pollen in the freezer in a bottle.

When you want to use the pollen, it will be thawed by the time you get out to the plant. The pollen is usually falling out of the anther and I use a tooth pick to apply it to the flower. Be sure to wipe the tooth pick between crosses or use a new one.

When making a cross, I always label the truss with the names of both parents. I also make a list of the crosses and their location so I can find them later.

Seed collection and storage: Starting around early October I check the pods weekly and pick them when they start to turn brown. I pick them into 35 mm film canisters along with the tag. The OPEN canisters are allowed to dry on my computer desk or on top of the hot water heater. They will usually open in a week or two. I clean the seed when I have time, could be 2 week or 2 months after picking, on a sheet of white paper. The capsules have opened and seed can be shaken out or the

capsule taken apart if necessary. Doing this on white paper contains most of the seed and allows chaff to be sorted out. The cleaned seed is returned to the film canister and stored open on my desk again.

I do NOT recommend plastic bags to store either seed or pollen. Both will mold in plastic. Seed should be stored in paper which will allow any remaining moisture to evaporate. I use a 2 inch square of paper, pre fold it in thirds, place the seed in the center, close the folds and fold the ends over and tuck together. This packet can be labeled or, for mailing, place the packet in a coin envelope. Coin envelopes are available at hobby shops or stationary stores. They are "gummed" and can be sealed. If the packet is to be mailed, use a padded mailer as postal equipment will crush the seed. Small seed such as Rhodie seed usually in ok if the packed is folded in a couple of layers of paper. Larger seed such as Magnolia seed requires padding, bubble wrap or a ridged container.

Shipping pollen in gel capsules is a bit trickier. A 35mm film canister works well. If left in the canister for more than a few days, however, a bit of silica gel should be included. I have also cut a small hole in 1/2 inch thick foam and placed the gel capsule in the hole and cover both sides with paper or thin cardboard.

I have found that I have better germination if I wait until February - March to sow the seed. Less damp off, etc.

Dick Cavender

Red's Rhodies

- Some more good information on potting mix is from ARS Eugene Member, Rich Aaring, but other members will have their own preferred growing medium:

Planting and Potting Mix

I make my own potting mix. It is about 60% bark-o-mulch, 30% pumice, and 10% peat moss. I make this by driving the pickup out to my favorite landscape supply company and having them dump in a yard of bark mulch, then dump in a half-yard of pumice, and then throw on top a bale of peat moss. I then drive home and get a shovel out and mix it right there in the pickup bed.

Several growers use straight bark mulch. And some use a mix that includes some additives such as fertilizer. The Rhododendron Species Foundation recommends this mix for species: 2 parts fine bark or fir

bark, 1 part peat moss or coarse compost, and 1 part perlite or pumice.

I garden where the native soil is pure clay. I believe rhododendrons hate clay. Therefore I only plant in something I bring in. For planting hybrids, I like to use a straight loam. And then I throw a couple of inches of bark mulch over the top. This allows me to control the fertilization.

For planting species, which I rarely fertilize, I use a mix of 2 parts river sand and 1 part bark mulch. And then I put a couple of inches of bark mulch over the top. This gives perfect drainage.

Rhododendrons will grow in straight bark mulch on the ground. My experience with using this is that it works really well for a while, then the mulch breaks down into muck and they don't like that at all. So I don't recommend it except as a short-term, heeling-in solution.

Rich Aaring

- If you get interested in the tropical rhododendrons called vireyas, here is some useful information.

Vireya Rhododendron Culture

(This is straight out of the Bovee's literature):

Vireya Rhododendrons are native to New Guinea, Borneo and many other South Pacific islands. They are often epiphytic (living in trees), like orchids, and are very easy to grow at above freezing temperatures. Unless you live in Southern California or Florida, keep them in a pot outside in morning sun and filtered afternoon sun until late fall. Then bring them inside to a well-lighted window or sunroom for winter. To modify dry house air a small "plug in" dish fountain nearby is essential. Occasional misting is not enough.

Grow in a soil-free, acidic mix, preferably 50% being non-organic material such as pumice or perlite, and the other 50% being coarse peat and orchid bark and coconut chunks.

Three simple growing practices are very important:

- Do not over-water.
- Do not over-pot.
- Do not over-fertilize.

Water thoroughly from the pot, and then wait to water again when the pot feels light. Don't keep your plant dry; just let it become dry. A

restricted root area means there is less media to stay soggy after watering. Vireyas like being slightly root-bound.

Use Bovee's gentle fertilizer. At least twice a year, sprinkle a rounded teaspoon on the surface and water well.

A final note is to urge you to explore the Eugene Chapter website www.eugene-chapter-ars.org for more information and links to other interesting websites.

The End. Much of this handbook was written and compiled by Rich Aaring in 2006 but was edited and updated by JoAnn Napier, Paula Hewitt, and Ted Hewitt in 2010 and then updated again in 2015 by Ted.

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