

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Officers, Board Members, & Committees

President	Ali Sarlak
Vice-President	Terry Henderson
Treasurer	Nancy Burns
Secretary	Sherlyn Hilton
Past-President	vacant
Membership	Nancy Burns

Jack Olson	2014-2016
Gordon Wylie	2014-2017
Helen Baxter	2015-2018
Grace Fowler-Gore	2015-2018

Committees

- **Show:** Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, Terry Henderson
- **Nominating:**
- **Welfare:** Nancy & Harold Greer
- **Hospitality:**
- **Programs:** Board of Directors

Newsletter

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January 2016 Chapter Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2016

6:30 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center
155 High Street in Eugene

- Join us for cookies, coffee, and conversation at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7:00.
- **Program:** *Rhododendron Companion Plants*
by Marietta O'Byrne

With her husband Ernie, Marietta has owned and operated Northwest Garden Nursery west of Eugene for many years. Since their retirement, the nursery is no longer open for retail sales and they have limited plant production to their high quality hellebores. Over the years Marietta has hybridized her own special line of Winter Jewels® in a variety of colors.

Their large and intensively planted garden continues to evolve and contains thousands of plants from alpiners to specimen conifers and is frequently pictured in national garden publications such as Horticulture, Martha Stewart Living, Sunset, and Fine Gardening. Marietta has also written for several of these magazines. Tucked here and there, though mostly in the woodland garden, rhododendrons appear where they add to the overall composition of the garden. As one follows the pathways through the garden, one finds many kinds of gardens from the woodland garden to the shade garden to the rock garden with many dwarf conifers to the perennial garden with riotous color in the summer, to the vegetable garden, and finally to the xeric garden that receives no supplemental water. Particularly in the woodland garden, one will find layers of plants so that a visit every couple of months will show a new set of plants taking center stage. The companion plants will include hellebores, arisaema of many kinds, anemones, spring bulbs, plus many more.

(cont. on p.2)

Cookie Team

- Leonard Frojen and Grace Fowler-Gore have volunteered to provide goodies for the January 14 meeting. Thank you.

(continued from p. 1) Marietta says, "I garden with my heart, body, soul and mind. I am a hands on gardener, a digger of dirt, a multiplier of plants, may it be by seed, cutting, or division. All I want to do is garden. What has brought about this lifelong urge to bury my hands in soil and greenery, I don't know. I grew up in large cities, but forever yearned for the countryside. In my earlier life I moved from Germany to California, back to Europe and finally to Oregon. Beloved by landlords for leaving a trail of gardens at every rental, I finally was able to settle down in 1972 on the farm near Eugene that I share with my husband, Ernie, numerous animals, and thousands of plants. We grow anything we can get our hands on—vegetables, tiny alpiners, colorful perennials, or huge trees. In 1991 we began breeding hellebores and now specialize in them, working constantly to improve the color, shape and vigor of our Winter Jewels® strain of hybrid hellebores."

January 14 Pre-Meeting Dinner

Prior to the January 2016 chapter meeting you are invited to join us for dinner at Cafe Soriah located at 384 W. 13th Ave. in Eugene which serves Mediterranean dishes with a Northwest twist. This is a nice, informal time to visit with our speaker Marietta O'Byrne and her husband, Ernie, before the program. You may view the menu at <http://cafesoriah.com/dinner-menu/>. Parking is available along 13th Ave. or around the corner on Lincoln St. south of 13th.

So that we may let the restaurant know how many people to expect, please RSVP to Helen Baxter by Tuesday, January 12, by e-mail at galen.baxter@comcast.net or by phone at 541-461-6082

2016 Membership Renewal

We are almost there. Just a very few members have not renewed their memberships for 2016 yet. This will be the last reminder and your last newsletter. We do not want to lose you so please take care of this soon.

Are you interested in becoming more active with planning chapter events?

- This year there will be one Board of Director seat that will be available.
- Also, the offices of President and Vice-President will be on the ballot in March.

Let Ali know if you are interested in being nominated for these positions.

- *Special thank you to Nancy Burns for organizing the December Holiday Dinner and cooking the ham.*
- *Another thank you to Harold for providing the technical audio-visual help for the Members Slide Show.*
- *Thanks to all of you who provided the delicious meal.*

Ted's Notes

- In keeping with the chapter by-laws, each March is our annual business meeting at which we have our election for leadership positions on the Board of Directors. This year we will be electing the offices of president and vice-president as well as selecting one Board seat. Each year it seems to be more difficult to find candidates for leadership positions, partly due to our declining membership, partly due to the increasing age of our members, and partly due to the fact that many of our members have already served a term (or several terms) in leadership positions. When I look at our chapter membership list, it is easy to see that we have a wide and diverse membership, even though the attendance at meetings is declining. We are a chapter with a number of international members from England, Russia, Panama, Japan, and New Zealand, as well as members who are more local but are still a lengthy drive from Eugene being from Medford, Jacksonville, Ashland, Talent, and Myrtle Creek. Ultimately, our pool of members from which to draw leadership candidates is shrinking. Therefore, I urge you to contact Ali very soon if you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) for one of the open positions and he will have a big thank you ready.
- As you know, the year 2015 was a difficult year for me with the health issues that I faced and it appears that the recovery time will continue into 2016. As much as I enjoy editing the chapter newsletter, I have reached the decision to step down as newsletter editor effective with the May/June 2016 issue which will give the new editor time to become comfortable with the position.
- I feel that the newsletter is one of the most important ways of communicating with our membership about upcoming events and

activities as well as about rhododendrons. If you would like to have a way to be helpful to the chapter, to exercise your creativity, and to improve your computer skills, the editorship would be a good position for you. Feel free to contact Ali or me if you have questions.

- I have also decided to step down from being webmaster as I have not been able to maintain the website as well as I would like, so this is another opportunity for you to venture into a new area, challenge your brain cells and help the chapter. When Rudy Fecteau, the original webmaster, brought the chapter into the late 20th century by creating its first website, he used website building software that required significantly more skill than what is necessary today. In 2010, when he announced that he was stepping down, I became intrigued with how one builds a website and investigated a few different programs that were available for an Apple computer since that is what I use and found them fairly difficult to use for me as a neophyte computer user. Since GoDaddy.com was our webhost, I found that they have website building software that lives at their website and that is accessible by both Apple and PC platforms. I was able to quite easily learn enough about building a new website (along with the help of their very patient customer service reps) that I could reconstruct our chapter website into a more up-to-date website. With this feature, it will be quite easy for a new webmaster to take over the current website, or, if she or he likes, to create a new and improved version. All it takes to access the tools to work on our website is access to the GoDaddy.com website, enter our user name and password and go to it. We are paid up until July 2016, so I will continue until then. It is an interesting adventure and I would be happy to share more information with you if you have questions. Thank you.

Ted

*January 2016
Newsletter*



2016 ARS Convention

Williamsburg, Virginia
April 20-24, 2016

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

2015

EVENT CALENDAR

2016

CHAPTER EVENTS:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| January 14, 2016 | Chapter Meeting - Marietta O'Byrne on <i>Companion Plants</i> |
| February 11 | Chapter Meeting - Loren Russell on <i>Kalmiopsis</i> |
| March 10 | Chapter Meeting - Bill Hicks on <i>Lepidote Rhododendrons</i> |
| | Annual Business Meeting with Elections |
| | This year the offices of President, Vice-President, and one Board Seat will be elected. Let Ali know of nominations that you have (including yourself). |
| April 9 | 2016 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield
Speaker: Bob Zimmerman |
| April 20-24 | 2016 ARS Convention, Williamsburg, VA - www.arsasaconvention2016.org |
| May 7 | Chapter Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 2:00 |
| June ?? | June Picnic, details TBA |