

# American Rhododendron Society



## Eugene Chapter Newsletter

April, 2022

~ Hello, Rhododendron Lovers ~

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend a **Garden Work Party** on **Saturday, April 16th**, from **10 am until 2 pm**. Our goal is to give a little TLC (Tender, Loving Care) to the small plot of land and all the rhododendrons immediately next door to Nancy Greer's home, which is located on the property of The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, in Eugene. For many years, this plot of land was lovingly cared for by Harold Greer, although neither he nor The Springs actually owned the property ... it is currently owned by the City of Eugene. We hope to spruce up the natural garden area (with the city's blessing) in preparation for anticipated visitors following the ARS International Convention being held in Portland during the first weekend of May.

We will meet at Nancy Greer's home (1280 Goodpasture Island Road) beginning at 10:00 am and we will have coffee and tea available. We encourage you to bring potluck-style finger-foods and light brunch items for sharing (muffins, donuts, Danish pastries, quiches, sandwiches, etc.) - nothing will be turned down! This gathering will double as our April Chapter meeting and it will be a good chance to see everyone in an outdoor setting, do a little socializing and snacking, and enjoy being in the garden. We especially need our resident rhododendron experts to be in attendance, as we hope to identify and tag many of the unmarked plants in the garden. What else should you bring? Your garden gloves, your favorite weeding tool(s), your water bottle (to stay properly hydrated), and even a friend or two! Come for the entire time, or just drop in to help for as long as you are able ... we want to encourage everyone to be involved in this clean-up project which would mean so much to Harold, and definitely is much appreciated by our dear Nancy! (see page 5 for some current photos of the area where we'll be working)

### Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, October through March, unless otherwise specified.

### Upcoming Chapter Meeting

**Saturday, April 16th**  
**Garden Work Party**  
**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
(see article for details)

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~ ~ *News from Hendricks Park* ~ ~  
*“New Planting of the Harold Greer Bed”*  
*by Emily Aune*

As you may recall, last fall a group of Eugene ARS members, along with Hendricks Park volunteers, began planning a new bed of rhododendrons in memory of Harold Greer. I am happy to report that the vision has become a reality!

On the 8th of March, we planted twenty new hybrid rhododendrons, specifically, Harold Greer’s hybrids, in the newly established Harold Greer Bed. This was accomplished as part of our regular Tuesday morning volunteer work party



when our trusty volunteers show up every week and work in the Rhododendron Garden between 9 am and noon. Planting a new bed was a treat in place of their usual weeding and mulching tasks. At Hendricks Park, we plant rhododendrons a little differently than the other plants, so expert instruction was given for the plantings. Here’s Emily giving a planting demonstration.

We make gentle mounds of a mixture of compost and fir bark, dig a hole in the middle of that to incorporate some soil below, and then plant the rhododendrons on top. This allows their roots good drainage, while also having mulch to retain moisture, and provides a good medium for the roots to grow.

We went through various stages of planning this bed, both virtual and on-site. Ted Hewitt and Gordon Wylie offered their knowledge and contributed thoughts on placement of these hybrids. Our seasonal employee, Seth Eddy, who is also a Landscape Architect student at the University of Oregon, sketched up a very nice planting map, with existing and proposed plants. This helped our virtual planning, and will be a nice historical document.



The majority of the new hybrids were planted in the new expansion of the bed, on the southwestern edge. This expansion was needed because although these plants are small now, many of Harold's hybrids tend to grow into larger plants, and prefer a little more sun than what the other end of the bed provided.

The photo to the right shows most of the plants right before the work party. If you notice the cardboard box in the background, it is holding a visual spot for the boulder we will install this summer. On that rock we will install a plaque naming the bed "Harold Greer Bed" and it will include a message to be determined by Nancy Greer and the Eugene ARS Chapter. The Eugene ARS Chapter is accepting donations to pay for this plaque. To date, this project has been accomplished with generous plant donations from Log Cabin Nursery and Nancy Greer, as well as with plants purchased by the Friends of Hendricks Park.



'Misty Moonlight', ready to burst into bloom

'Very Berry' on the left, 'Kimbeth', 'Kimberly', 'Heat Wave', 'Plum Beautiful' and more on the ground, and 'Misty Moonlight' is the tall plant in the back. The wheelbarrow is full of *Rhododendron kiusianum* 'Komo Kulshan'



I am certain that this bed will be a destination when visitors from the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ARS Convention come to visit the Rhododendron Garden on Mother's Day. Hendricks Park was only recently added to the post-convention tour due to recommendations to the convention committee by our Eugene ARS Board members. Thank you, Eugene Board members!

A few days after the planting, 'Whispering Rose' began to bloom. These plants will be surrounding the boulder and plaque.



The completed planting ... plenty of room for these beautiful hybrids to grow and fill out.

**Editor's Note:** If you wish to make a donation toward the cost of the plaque, please remit to:  
 Eugene Chapter of the ARS  
 P.O.Box 50004  
 Eugene, OR 97405  
 Please make your check payable to the Eugene ARS, with a notation on the memo line that it is for "Harold's Plaque".



That Thursday tour includes a visit with catered lunch at the **Stewart Garden**, formerly Dover Nursery, where Mike and Maria have been installing new beds, boulders, and beautiful trees and plants over several years for the occasion—not to be missed.



**Sebright Gardens, Woodburn Nursery:** also new to northwest conventions. And the pre-tour and post-tour are both packed with destinations sure to thrill plant lovers.



**Dan Hinkley** is now scheduled to do talks on Thursday and Saturday. You're probably aware what a treasure he is to the northwest plant world. Thursday evening he'll be talking about the development of his own garden, and his book recently published, *Windcliff*. As one of the intrepid plant explorers, he'll be sharing his 22 years of botanizing in Vietnam at the Saturday lunch—a nice balance to Steve Hootman's treks seeking species rhodies there.

## We're getting down to the wire!

Join your rhody friends! We are under-booked (about half of the number registered in 2020), so **we would really appreciate your support**. Registration & details at [www.ars2022.org](http://www.ars2022.org).



Click [HERE](#) for the revised convention video.

**Come one Come all!** It's time to get on board for the long-awaited 75<sup>th</sup> (plus 2) ARS Anniversary Convention. There's still room on the tours, in the hotel, in the special meetings and banquets.

If you're in the area, please register and attend one or more of the events. All on Saturday, daytime, are free with registration—the morning clinics and afternoon sessions with three excellent speakers: Juliana Medeiros, Steve Krebs, Valerie Soza. Check out the [schedule](#). The **Plant & Book Sale** will have some wonderful plants and you'll find an amazing collection of books (three lists are included on the [website](#)).



And just in case you think you've "been there, done that" – the chance to tour **Iseli Nursery** (Thursday) is a rare one. This is one of the most outstanding conifer displays and collections in the world (above).



**The Stewart Garden** (formerly Dover Nursery)

Indoors at the Lane County Fairgrounds

Returning after 2 Years!  
Saturday, May 7, 2022  
9am-2pm



**Vendors from throughout Oregon!**

Ferns & Natives • Herbs • Rock Garden Plants • Hosta • Iris • Dahlias  
Fuchsia • Trees • Conifers • Succulents • Air Plants • Food Plants  
Rhododendrons • Drought-Tolerant • Shrubs • Hydrangea and more!

**PLEASE, SERVICE DOGS ONLY!**

## *Volunteers Needed!*

Volunteers are still needed to help staff our booth at this year's Hardy Plant Sale, which is being held on Saturday, May 7th, at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Many thanks to Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery and Tom Beatty for making it possible for our chapter to have a booth this year, along with Nancy Burns who will be assisting with set-up. If you have an hour or two available on that Saturday and you could help out, please email your availability to [ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com) and Tom will get back to you with more information. No special skills or knowledge is required - just a friendly nature and an enthusiasm for rhodies and azaleas! This is the only fundraiser event for our chapter this year, so please consider helping out if you are available.

*Garden Work Party / Chapter Meet-Up*  
*Saturday, April 16th, 10:00 am until 2:00 pm*  
*Next to the home of Nancy Greer*



*Join us to give this  
woodland garden  
some love.  
Raking, weeding,  
and plant i.d.*

*Work a lot or  
work a little,  
brunch potluck  
and visiting  
friends also  
encouraged!*



# Simple Pleasures ... Meeting Together!

We have had two very sociable chapter meetings as we emerge from two years of a pandemic! If you missed these meetings, you missed a good time! We are looking forward to next fall for more fun and informative gatherings!



Ed & Grace Fowler-Gore  
Jack & Sandi Olson



Our speaker for the  
March Meeting - Tim Walsh of  
Eureka, California



Helen Baxter, Esther  
McAllister, Lorrie Zeller



Our fearless leader and President -  
Terry Henderson



Tim & June Walsh, Nancy  
Greer, and Tim's sister, who  
dropped in to say hello



Terry Henderson, Gordon &  
Linda Wylie, Tom Beatty



Emily Aune, Nancy Burns,  
Mark Manion

# ARS Portland Chapter ~ ~

## “South Pacific Paradise - Flora of New Caledonia and Lord Howe Island”

Speaker: Seth Menser

Thursday, April 21

Session opens 6:30pm; meeting at 7 pm

The islands of Lord Howe and New Caledonia are everything you’d hope from a South Pacific paradise. Tropical weather, swaying palm trees, sandy beaches, and crystal-clear waters. What makes these islands so spectacular is the rare and endemic flora that has evolved on these isolated islands, situated in the biggest ocean in the world. Seth will explore the botanic treasures of the French territory of New Caledonia and Australia’s volcanic, Lord Howe Island.

Seth Menser is the Horticulture Manager at the Oregon Zoo. Previously he served as Parks Supervisor for Portland Parks and Recreation, overseeing Washington Park, including the International Rose Test Garden and Hoyt Arboretum. Prior to returning home to Oregon in 2016, he spent over a decade at the San Diego Zoo, serving as Horticulture Supervisor. During his career at the San Diego Zoo, he worked closely with various government agencies across Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Costa Rica, and Hawaii on conservation projects. Seth is a native of Florence, City of Rhododendrons, on the Oregon Coast.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89487327728>



## ~ ~ Spring is Here! ~ ~

Spring is here, notwithstanding several chilly days forecast for this week! All our gardens, especially our rhodies, are bursting into bloom ... please feel free to snap a few pictures to send in and I will share them in next month’s newsletter. If you know the name of the rhododendron be sure to share that with me, also ... but it’s not an imperative! I am more than happy to share your pictures, with or without labels! Send your photos to: [ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com) ... or text them to me at 832-768-4147. Let’s fill the May Newsletter with all the beauty from our gardens! The newsletter deadline for the May issue will be May 12th at 5:00 pm.

To get you in the mood, here are some photos I received from Grace Fowler-Gore this past week. The Fowler-Gores live in Cottage Grove.



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

## *Board Elections*

It is time to hold our Board Elections for 2022 and we are happy to report that everyone who is currently serving has expressed their willingness to continue serving for another term! The ballot as listed below is presented for approval by acclamation. Chapter members are asked to assent to the following slate of officers and director by sending an email to [ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com).

**Terry Henderson**, to serve a 2-year term as President

**Jack Olson**, to serve a 2-year term as Vice-President

**Tom Beatty**, to serve a 3-year term as Director

There remains one vacancy on the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving, please contact the chapter at [ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com) to volunteer!

Thank you to these individuals for agreeing to serve another term!

## *ARS Eugene Chapter Officers*

Terry Henderson, President  
Jack Olson, Vice President  
Emily Aune, Secretary  
Nancy Burns, Treasurer

## *Directors*

Helen Baxter      Dana Manion  
Tom Beatty      Gordon Wylie  
Grace Fowler-Gore

Board Meetings are held via ZOOM on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am, and are open to the public.

To request the ZOOM link to the meeting, please send an email to:

[ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com](mailto:ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com)