

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

May 2022

~ Spring is Finally Here! ~

Hello, Rhody Friends -

Welcome to the (delayed) May issue of the Eugene ARS Chapter Newsletter! May has been a busy month and there were many things happening that prevented our newsletter from being published on its normal timeline!

Our chapter board meeting was pushed back by one week because a number of our board members were attending the convention in Portland/Vancouver which took place during the first week of May. When the board members got together on May 11th for our monthly meeting, those who had attended the convention reported that it was enjoyable and that it was good to see old friends. Tom Beatty reported a very good showing at the Hardy Plant Sale, which took place the same weekend as the convention. The rhododendrons and azaleas sold well and Tom made sure that each customer received an ARS flyer advertising our chapter with their plant. This event is the one and only fundraiser we will have this year, so we all owe Tom a big thank you for taking charge and representing us. Thanks also to Nancy Burns, who helped set up on Friday, and to Jacs, a Hendricks park volunteer, who helped staff the table for a time on Saturday. And, finally, a word of thanks to Terry Henderson and Log Cabin Nursery for providing the plants.

The board's next meeting is on June 1st and the agenda for that meeting includes some long-range planning for the coming year. If you have thoughts or ideas for speakers/programs, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by calling or emailing ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com. No meetings are planned for the summer months, but we do hope to have a covered dish picnic in September before we resume monthly meetings in October.

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

Monthly chapter meetings will resume in October; Location to be determined.

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~ ~ *News from Hendricks Park* ~ ~
“*Post-Convention Tour Visits Hendricks Park*”
by Emily Aune

Spring is a busy time for plant enthusiasts like ourselves. Many of us attended the 75th Anniversary ARS Conference in Vancouver last month, Florence had their early show, and there have been work parties, tours, Mother’s Day, and plant sales happening every direction we look!

At Hendricks Park, Mother’s Day is known as the busiest day of the year. Staff and volunteers transition a two way-road in to a one-way road, just to add more parking. Plus, we add parking attendants, extra signs, and hire extra staff to keep the restrooms clean and answer questions for visitors.

However, this year, Mother’s Day was a rainy and unusually cold day, so we did not get near the normal amount of visitors. The rain may have put a damper on the usual visitors, but it didn’t stop the post-convention tour bus from showing up! They put on their slickers and grabbed umbrellas and I gave them a tour around the garden. The flowers still look great!



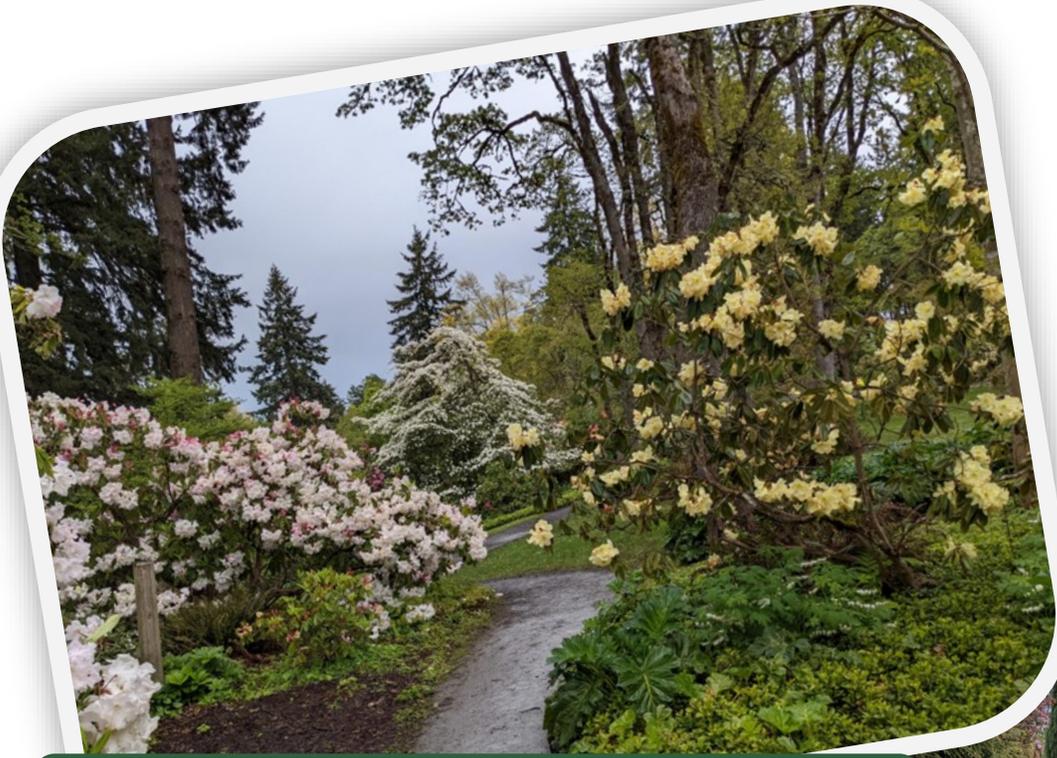
The Tour Bus



Tour guests with umbrellas



Emily leading a tour near the Powell Fountain



Sweet-smelling 'Loderi' on the left, 'Sunspray' on the right and 'Eddie's White Wonder' Dogwood tree in the background

The tour of Hendricks Park was followed by a visit to the home of Nancy Greer to see Harold's rhododendrons and then over to The Springs at Greer Gardens for their evening meal. The group stayed overnight at The Valley River Inn before continuing the tour the next day.

Convention guests walking through the rock garden



Hendricks Park 2022 Sunday Tours

There are two remaining Walking Tours scheduled at Hendricks Park this spring ...

***Sunday, June 5th, 1:00 p.m. -
"Kalapuya Ways"***

For thousands of years the Kalapuya people visited the land we call Hendricks Park. Elizabeth Starr Lily, an instructor at Singing Creek Educational Center and long-time student of indigenous people, introduces us to the food, clothing, and cultural practices of the Kalapuya.

***Sunday, June 19th, 7:00 a.m. -
"Birding"***

Join long-time birders and avian educators Donna Albino and Mieko Aoki for this early morning park stroll. Learn bird identification through observation of field markings, behavior, listening to bird songs and calls, and hearing stories and nature lore.

Please note that attendance is limited for these tours and you must register to claim your spot! For more information and for the link to the sign-up page, please visit:

<https://friendsofhendrickspark.org/tours/>

A Remembrance . . .

Editor's Note: We recently received word that a member of our Eugene ARS Chapter has passed away. Sharon Ayers (along with her husband, Jack) has not been active in recent years, but that doesn't mean she won't be missed. Her obituary is reprinted below, with Jack's permission.

Sharon Ayers, of Roseburg, Oregon, died unexpectedly on February 19, 2022, while on vacation in Mexico with her husband of 59 years, Jack Ayers. She was 81 years old. She will be remembered by her family and friends as a lively, loving and a strong woman who cared deeply for family, friendship and community.

Sharon grew up in Tacoma, Washington, where she graduated as valedictorian from Stadium High School in 1959. She and Jack were married in 1963, after attending Stanford University. During their long marriage they lived in four other states before settling in Roseburg in 1998. Sharon and Jack traveled widely, including a year in England with their young family and a year in Sweden with their children. In total they visited 96 countries.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Jack; her daughter, Gayle Ayers Elam; her sons, Bryan Ayers and Stuart Ayers; Gayle's two children, Erika and Mitchell Elam; and her brother, Marvin Denny. She was cremated in Mexico and no memorial service is planned.

*A Very Successful Work Day
at Greer Gardens*

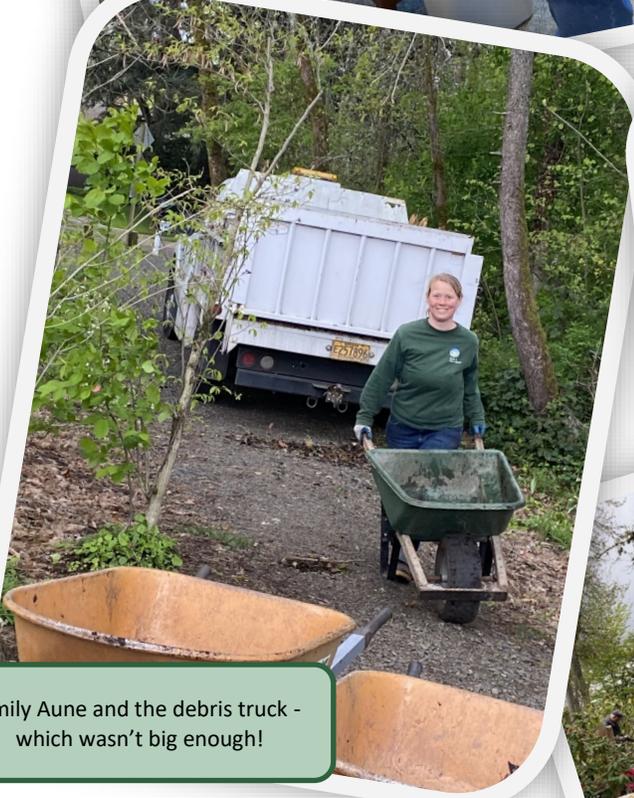
We appreciate the many folks who came out to the Greer Gardens Work Party to spruce up Harold and Nancy's woodland garden in advance of the visit from convention guests. Despite moments of rain and hail, and more debris than Emily's city truck could manage, we all had a great time spiffing up the garden. We even identified a couple of (previously unidentified) rhododendrons in bloom. A big thank you goes to Nancy for opening up Harold's old office space for our potluck, and giving us a place to hide from the weather. We must acknowledge that this group is GREAT at potlucks!



Nancy Greer puzzling over where to put all the food!



Terry Henderson and Nancy Burns



Emily Aune and the debris truck - which wasn't big enough!



'Working hard ...
... or hardly working?



Saturday, April 16th



Beautiful Blooms



R. 'Canadian Sunset'



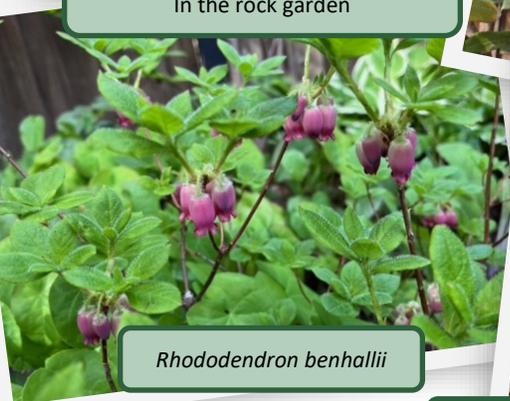
Rhododendron keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'
In the rock garden



R. 'Lem's Monarch'



R. 'Bambi' x *proteodes* #17



Rhododendron benhallii



Rhododendron tsaii

From Ted Hewitt's Garden



From Jack Olson's Greenhouse

Look at this amazing photograph that Jack Olson took in his greenhouse! He described this as a Black Swallowtail ... she's just gorgeous! The bloom is from an unregistered seedling (a sister to R. 'Prism") and it is beautiful as well Your newsletter editor first saw this photo on Facebook!

So, just an FYI ... if you have a Facebook account, you can join the American Rhododendron Society group and enjoy pictures of rhododendrons daily ... As your editor, I have learned quite a bit from the many rhododendron lovers who exchange information and pictures via this platform.

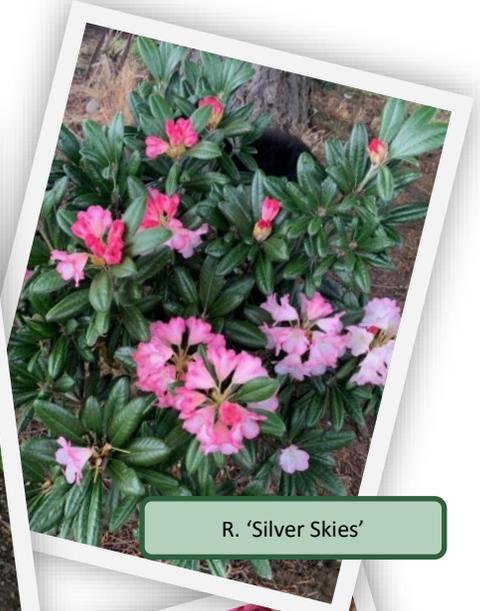
If you are interested in hearing more about how to join the Facebook group, feel free to send me an email at ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com

Beautiful Plants

R. 'Extraordinaire'



R. 'Silver Skies'



R. 'Pink Pinwheels'



R. 'Arneson's Gem'



R. 'True Blood'



R. 'Horizon Monarch'



From Terry Henderson
Log Cabin Nursery

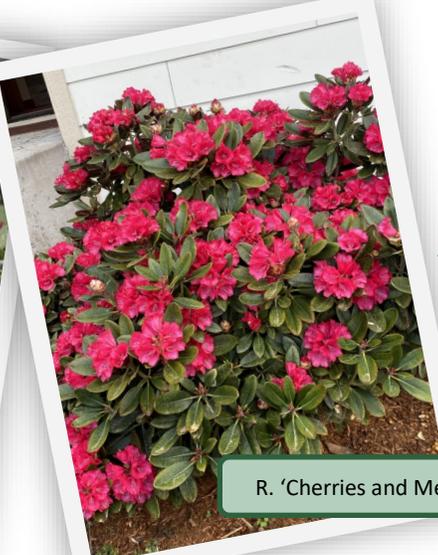
R. 'Barto Alpine'



R. 'Max Sye'



R. 'Cherries and Merlot'



From
Mark &
Dana
Manion's
Yard

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



R. 'Seaview Sunset'



R. 'Lady de Rothschild'

Two more from the Manions

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