

September 2020

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

~~ News from Your Board of Directors ~~

Greetings to one and all! September has rolled around, and your ARS Eugene Chapter Board of Directors have resumed their monthly meetings. We had our first experience with meeting via ZOOM last week and while it was good to see everyone, we all agree that we would much prefer to meet face-to-face! For now, though, this will have to do!

The first topic on our agenda was regarding our monthly chapter meetings. Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future we are still unable to get together for meetings. We briefly discussed holding chapter meetings via ZOOM, but to be fully effective, a purchased ZOOM membership would be required, and there is some concern about whether this meeting approach would be embraced by all. If you have strong feelings, one way or the other, about meeting via ZOOM, we encourage you to share your thoughts with one or more Board Members. Their contact information is listed on page 4.



Another topic we discussed was the need to hold Officer and Board Member elections, which were originally scheduled for April, 2020. In the next few days, you will receive an email containing your ballot for the election and all you will need to do is reply to the email with your assent or dissent to the ballot presented. The deadline for receiving those email replies is Wednesday, September 30th at 12:00 noon. All individuals on the ballot are running unopposed.

Those individuals standing for election are:

Terry Henderson - President, 2-year term (2020-2022)

Gordon Wylie - Director, 3-year term (2020-2023)

Jack Olson - Vice President, 2-year term (2020-2022)

Dana Manion - Director, 3-year term (2020-2023)

If you prefer to vote by U.S. mail, simply indicate your name and your assent/dissent to the slate as presented above, and mail to:

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

Votes returned via U.S. Mail must be
received by Tuesday, September 29, 2020

There is one remaining vacancy on the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please let one of the current board members know of your interest!

Next, the board unanimously expressed appreciation to Grace Fowler-Gore for her commitment and reliability as the Newsletter Editor for the past 4 years. Grace is stepping down as Editor in order to address other projects. She has done a wonderful job of photographing and chronicling the activities of our Chapter and she leaves very large shoes to fill! There is a message and thank you from Grace on page 4.

And finally, we hope that everyone in our chapter is doing well in the midst of this triple-whammy we are experiencing - the Covid-19 pandemic, the Holiday Farm Fire, and the incredibly hazardous air quality issues. Please take care of yourselves, reach out for assistance if you need it, and let's all look forward to the time when we can get together again in person to share our interest and love for rhododendrons! One of our board members expressed that what they miss most is the camaraderie we enjoy when we are together for meetings! We closed our meeting in strong agreement with that sentiment!

~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~

by Emily Aune

It has been a little while since the last report from Hendricks Park ... so let's go back to May to catch up!

Beginning in May, the City of Eugene brought back all of their full-time employees who work in the field. This meant that Hendricks Park was staffed with two full-time employees and a part-time volunteer coordinator. We also restarted our volunteer program, following strict social distancing guidelines. These guidelines mean we do not currently provide shared snacks or coffee, everyone is required to be spaced 6-feet apart when working, and volunteers are asked to bring their own tools. This made projects more complicated than weeding a bit challenging to accomplish, (nobody is bringing their own wheelbarrow), but weeding was just what the garden was needing! It also resulted in more bed adoptions and individual projects, which I always like to encourage. Join the group Tuesdays from 9am-12pm or Thursday 1pm-4pm if you have an essential need of pulling some weeds with us!



It has been a longstanding tradition in Eugene to visit Hendricks Park on Mother's Day. Generally, we fully staff the park, change the traffic pattern to add safety and additional parking, plus a trusty group of dedicated volunteers always show up to assist with parking. This year with the pandemic, we were not sure what to expect, but we decided to show up and be ready, in case people showed up en masse! With the sunny weather and the garden in peak bloom, there were lots of visitors leading up to Mother's Day, so it felt like the right thing to do.



This photo is from the early days of wearing masks ... I keep both my nose and my mouth covered these days!

But the problem with so many visitors and most trails being far from six feet wide made it challenging for people to maintain a six-foot distance. People were regularly stepping in to the garden beds and trampling vegetation to let others pass. So, to make room for more visitors on Mother's Day and protect the garden, while still encouraging social distancing, we took a couple extra precautions.



We marked several garden paths as one way, to keep a flow through the garden so people wouldn't have to regularly pass from the opposite direction. Employees and volunteers wore masks that day. We also asked our marketing to do some outreach and requested that people NOT visit the Garden that day to help avoid high levels of foot traffic and challenge social distancing

protocols on our small trails. The marketing team also created a virtual walking tour of the garden, for folks to see the blooms from home. You can join the City Park's Facebook page and watch this tour, or just follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/EUGparks>.

I think the outreach really reached people and it turned out that this Mother's Day was less busy at the park than any other day that week. In fact, it was so sparse, I invited my own mother to come walk around the garden with me! This was a nice treat for both of us, since the garden looked amazing and we got to share some six-foot distanced time together on a beautiful day in a beautiful garden.

(Continued on page 5)

~~ Rhododendron of the Month ~~

'Elizabeth Red Foliage'

by Harold Greer

This rhododendron has been around since the 1950's but is not widely grown. It was hybridized by Endre Ostbo in the Seattle area and the parentage is uncertain, though it is thought to be a hybrid of 'Elizabeth' Group. It was registered in 1998 by the Willamette Chapter Study Group.

Things to like about this hybrid are the red new foliage that stays red through most of the summer, the showy red spring flowers and the fact that it flowers quite well in the fall. Some people do not consider that to be an attribute, but this plant does flower quite well in the fall and still keeps enough buds for spring flowering. One of the pictures below was taken on September 16th as I am writing this article. If you can find one these plants, it is worth a spot in your garden.

- Height in 10 years: 5 feet
- Hardiness: 0°F
- Color: Bright red
- Rating: 3/4/4 (flower / plant & foliage / performance)
- Ease of propagation: Easy
- Flower: Lax truss, but very bright red
- Foliage: Good, especially the red new growth and summer bronze foliage
- Vigor: Good



Fall Flowering
September 16, 2020



'Elizabeth
Red
Foliage'



~~ Thank You from our Retiring Newsletter Editor ~~ Grace Fowler-Gore

Thank you everyone for being part of my newsletter editor adventure in publishing. It has been a wonderful way to become part of the Eugene ARS family. We have had the pleasure of hosting several potlucks at our Cottage Grove home in which a good number of you were able to attend. Taking pictures and labeling you in the newsletter, enabled me to learn who my fellow members were. I will admit to being able to recognize many more members by their face in a photo than rhododendrons in a photo. Dena, Ed and I joined to develop friendships and I feel we have succeeded. Well, we did want to learn about rhododendrons, too, since our property has mature rhododendrons, but really our involvement has always been about the wonderful people.

While preparing this note, I have been looking back through the online newsletters recalling the enjoyment of taking photographs. Being the editor provided me opportunities to photograph many of you, including my own family visiting wonderful locations filled with rhododendrons.

After 4 years, I am passing the baton of newsletter editor to our new member, Dana Manion, and I'm happy to know that she'll also experience similar rewards from being a member of our chapter and the newsletter editor.

I wish to thank the following newsletter contributors:

- Ted Hewitt, previous newsletter editor, for passing the newsletter to me and then helping me proofread the newsletters over the past four years, as well as providing articles and photos for everyone's enjoyment.
- Emily Aune, who was introduced as a new board member in our May 2017 newsletter, started providing us with *News from Hendricks* in our August/September 2017 newsletter.
- Harold Greer, who in our January 2020 newsletter started contributing 'Harold's Rhododendron Pick' of the month. Along with printing our hard copies and submitting articles and photos, Harold has been a great resource for spotting errors in identification of rhododendrons within the newsletter.
- Terry Henderson, Chapter President, for 'Message from the President' and photos of rhododendrons he's sent me for our newsletter. We have many door prize rhododendrons in our yard donated by Terry at the meetings.
- Jack Olson, who contributed articles with photos. In addition, many rhododendrons in our yard came from Jack.
- Leonard Frojen, for contributing his knowledge and sharing his love of rhododendrons and actual plants with many of us, which resulted in several newsletter articles over the years. Every time the fragrant rhododendron Leonard gave us blooms, we will remember him fondly.
- Gordon Wylie, for his articles and photos.
- Additional photos contributed by Ron Prchal, Michael Robert and maybe someone else I have not mentioned.
- District 4 editors, for their newsletters and kind words over the years.

Thank you, Eugene chapter members, for supporting our group with your membership, friendship, and contributions. Please remember that our newsletter needs your contributions of articles and photos.

~~ The ARS-Eugene Board of Directors ~~ Contact Information

President	Terry Henderson	jentersruger@aol.com
Vice-President	Jack Olson	rhodyjack@msn.com
Secretary	Emily Aune	emilaune@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nancy Burns	nancyinor@msn.com
Director	Gordon Wylie	lgwone@gmail.com
Director	Helen Baxter	galen.baxter@comcast.net
Director	Grace Fowler-Gore	gracelovesbirds1@gmail.com
Director	Tom Beatty	muddlethruthis@gmail.com
Director (pending)	Dana Manion	danajmanion@gmail.com
Past President/Director	<vacancy>	

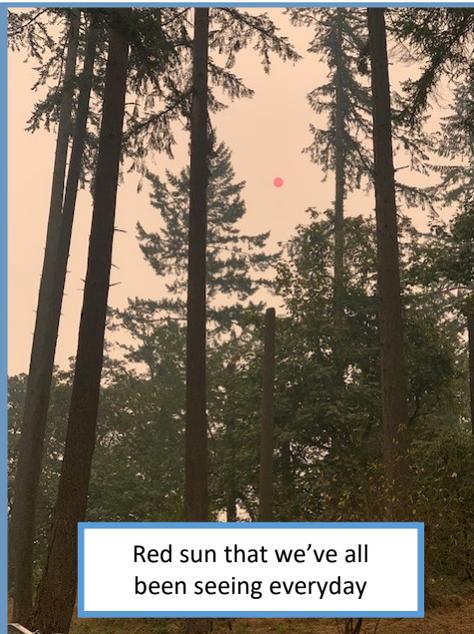
News from Hendricks Park (continued from page 2)

And now this!

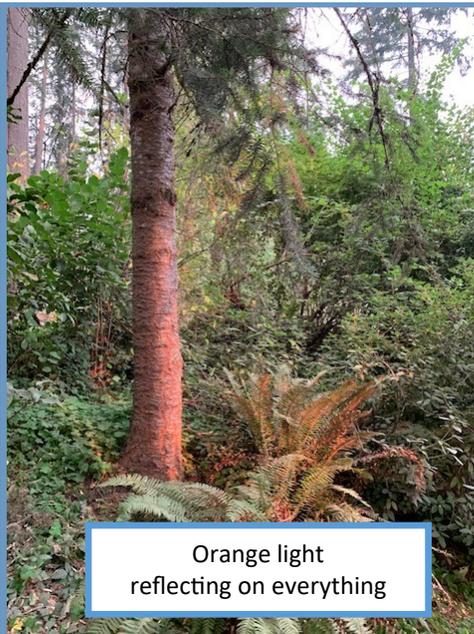
Wildfire smoke is making for hazardous outdoor working conditions. My co-worker and I take turns making sure someone is working at Hendricks Park every day, opening restrooms and taking out the trash. I've also been focused on making sure the irrigation is up to par. But even with my N-95 mask on, I have only made it until 1pm every day, until it's time for me to come home to my filtered air. My eyes burn and I can still taste the ash. We were having a good run with the volunteer program, but had to cancel all this week, and we will need to wait until fresher air returns. I hope everyone is safe and well, and has a place to find clean air.



Smoky view of Eugene



Red sun that we've all been seeing everyday

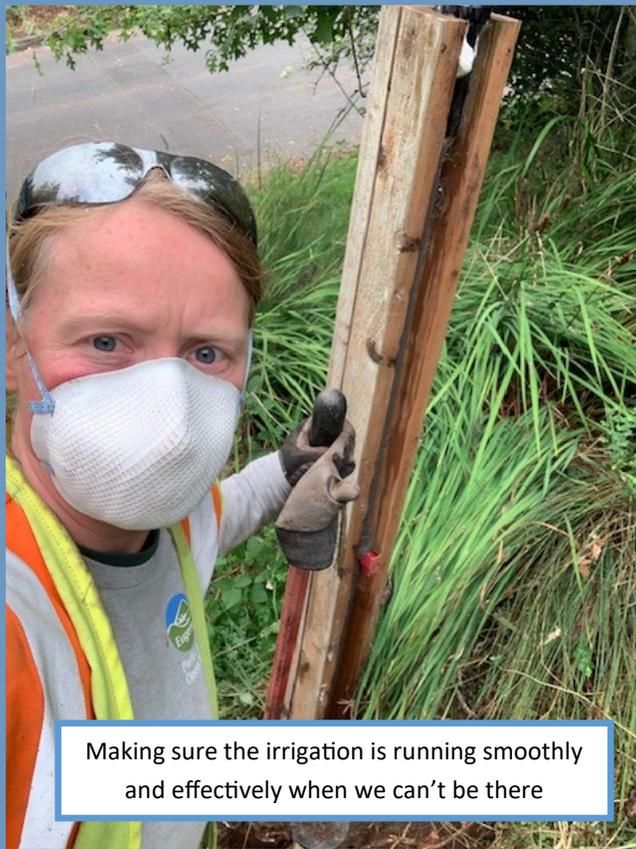


Orange light reflecting on everything

The night the fires began, there were also heavy winds. Debris is covering the ground, but luckily nothing big came down.



However, the Gunnera was pretty windblown!



Making sure the irrigation is running smoothly and effectively when we can't be there

Over the next several newsletter issues, we are pleased to share the following article and pictures, detailing the history of the Carclew Mansion and Gardens, located in Cornwall, England. It also traces the origination of the rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon'. One of these rhododendrons can be found in Hendricks Park here in Eugene, Oregon. We hope you enjoy this fascinating story which explains the background of the plant and where it actually came from.

Article and photographs are reprinted with permission from the author.

The Development of Carclew Mansion and Garden at Mylor in Cornwall, and The Raising of Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon' from Wild-Collected Seed

~ An Historical Perspective, Part I ~

By John M Hammond

Introduction:

Each spring I look forward to the schedule of garden visits that have been in the planning stages over the past year, together with the inevitable discussions and entertaining banter that accompany the detailed inspection of the wide variety of plants that happen to cross our path. One of the plants that often invokes comment and speculation as to its provenance is Rhododendron 'Sir Charles Lemon', with its distinctive foliage and white flowers; so, the following notes aim to provide some historical background and answer some of the queries that are often raised in connection with this interesting cultivar. Equally, it is somewhat surprising that Sir Charles Lemon has remained a somewhat elusive character in historical terms, given the part he played in the establishment of a large garden containing exotic plants at a time that predated the period when horticulture became fashionable, and he was a key activist in encouraging ships captains to seek new species of plants from India, the Far East and the Americas.



William Borlase's 1758 engraving, from a photograph,
of the original unfinished Carclew House.
The Natural History of Cornwall, 1758

As a longtime Garden Tour Organizer, over the years I have arranged several week-long tours to Cornwall and many readers will be familiar with some of the names of major gardens in the County, such as Burncoose, Caerhays Castle, Chyverton, Helligan, Lamellen, Lanhydrock, Pencarrow, Penjerrick, Trebah, Tregrehan, Trelissick, Trengwainton, Tresco and Trewithen, to name but a few. In reality, the majority of springtime visitors tend to unknowingly miss many interesting gardens, as some years ago I listed a staggering total of 76 public and private gardens with significant plantings of rhododendrons in the County. So much to see, and so little time! This is the story of one of the infrequently visited 'Lost Gardens of Cornwall', a onetime extensively designed landscape, of which just a skeleton remains today.

William Lemon (1696-1760), often referred to during his lifetime as 'The Great Mr. Lemon', was the proud owner of two imposing houses and two gardens. His town house in Truro was Princes House in Princes **(continued on page 7)**

(continued from page 6)

Princes Street and was built in around 1739 to the design of Thomas Edwards, an architect based on the River Thames at Greenwich, who was creating fine houses for the Cornish Gentry at the time. Carclew, Lemon's country estate, was already built, but effectively unfinished, when he purchased the estate from the Bonython family in 1749. Thomas Edwards was commissioned to extend and embellish the house so it could be a fitting dwelling for the increasingly wealthy Mr. Lemon, whose remit was to, 'Alter, enlarge and fit up with colonnades and offices the carcass.' Meanwhile, the Bonython family, for whom Cornwall was their ancestral home, split-up, each going their separate ways to either Australia or North America.

Off the beaten track, hidden away behind the development of other properties along the A39, around 5 miles from the well-known Trelissick Garden (NT), is the remnants of the Carclew Estate at Mylor, in the Parish of Perran-ar-worthal 3.5 miles north of Penryn. St. Perran was the most distinguished of the Irish missionaries who converted the people of Cornwall to the Christian faith. Overlooking Restronguet Creek, an inlet from the Carrick Roads, the location of the Estate is close to the historic Port of Falmouth, the first port of call for most sailing ships arriving back in England from India, the Far East, Australasia, or the Americas, in the 18th & 19th Centuries.

The Development of the Carclew Estate:

The timeline of ownership of lands of Carclew, previously known as Cruclew or Cruclaw, can be traced back many centuries to D. Augero, a Norman, then on down to the Daunger family, from whom it passed by marriage into the hands of the Bonython family in the 15th Century. This family continued in occupation until the end of their male line in 1677, when the Estate was inherited by Samuel Kempe of Penryn, who began to construct the first significant mansion on the land and planned extensive formal gardens. Said to be a profligate rogue, he died before either could be completed, leaving his wife in possession of an unfinished and uninhabited house and garden. Carclew Estate, including Kempe's late-17th Century incomplete mansion, was purchased by William Lemon, Esq., in 1749 for the sum of £3,300 .00.

William Lemon grew up in Breage, West Cornwall, and came from a relatively humble background. Fortunately, he had inherited wealth through Isabella, his wife, and used it shrewdly to develop the Gwennap Mine, and to promote wider business interests. He very quickly became an important member of the Local Community, being twice elected Mayor of Truro and was also Sheriff of Cornwall. He soon recognized the importance of commissioning a larger and a more splendid home in which he could entertain on a more lavish scale. Thomas Edwards, who had been the architect for William Lemon's town house in Truro in 1739 (Princes House), was ten years later commissioned to enlarge and fit up, etc., Lemon's newly acquired country house at Carclew. The original building, standing unfinished when Lemon bought the estate, is shown as the central feature in William Borlase's drawing and engraving of 1758 in *The Natural History of Cornwall*.¹ Edwards gave it a colonnade and pavilion on either side, in the Palladian manner, and constructed in good quality granite from St. Just.

William Lemon died in 1760 worth £300,000, making him the equivalent of a multi-millionaire today, and was succeeded by his grandson, also William Lemon (1748-1824), who was literally a very fortunate and prosperous heir. He was created a Baronet in 1774 and represented his county in Parliament for half a Century. He eventually found the house too small for his needs and initiated a series of additions beginning around 1799 under the supervision of William Wood (1746-1818), born in the village of Germoe, near Breage. William Wood began his architectural apprenticeship with John Bland in Truro. Bland had worked under Edwards on St. Michael's *(continued on page 8)*



View looking across the 'Pleasure Garden' in an engraving from a photograph taken in 1874, with the trunk of a Luscombe Oak in the foreground.

Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener, 1874

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(continued from page 7)

Church in Helston and St. Mary's Church in Truro in the 1760s, and it is suggested that this association accounts for the influence of Edwards' work on Bland's young apprentice, William Wood.

The East Wing was built first, in 1800, and the West Wing added in 1802. Compared with Borlase's print, Carclew had grown massively, with raised extensions where Edwards' colonnade had been, and his little pavilions replaced with large Palladian windowed wings. The dates for these additions can be found in the receipts for masons' work 'taking down part of the Cornice at the East Wing of Carclew House to make the way clear for the New Office and for cutting the New Stone Cornice' dated December 1800, and in 1802 'Day work done by Mansell and man at the West Wing or New Addition at Carclew, by Mr. Wood's order'. (No less an authority than Sir Howard Colvin, who has written about Carclew agrees that Wood was the architect). At this time the property tax payable was based on the number of windows in the House, or houses, on the Estate, and the tax bills confirm further evidence of Carclew's enlargement between 1800 and 1802: 124 windows were assessed at Michaelmas 1800 for the great house plus 13 windows (Home farm) £65-8-3d — before west wing is finished. On Ladyday 1803 the assessment was for 128 windows in the main house.

By the early-1800's the House was surrounded by a fine shrubbery and beautiful gardens, walks and ponds that were described as being remarkable for a combination of natural and artificial beauties, and an extensive park contained a large herd of deer. It is said that John Luscombe, who first discovered the evergreen Luscombe Oaks, was a gardener at Carclew before he started his famous nursery in Devon.² 'A quiet and gentlemanly old man', Sir William Lemon died on 11th December, 1824 at Carclew, 'one of the most beautiful mansions in Cornwall', which he had embellished.

~~ Look for Part II in the October Newsletter ~~