

American Rhododendron Society



Eugene Chapter Newsletter

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

~~ December Chapter Meeting ~~ Membership 'Show & Tell'

Wednesday, December 16th

6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm Business & Program

As in years past, the program for our December Eugene Chapter meeting will be ... <drumroll, please!> ... **YOU** and the pictures of your flowers, gardens, projects ... along with anything else you'd like to share with your fellow members. Our ZOOM format will lend itself wonderfully to this program, but only if you send in your photos in advance! Harold Greer will need your photographs no later than Sunday, December 13th, so that he can assemble them into a slide show for the meeting. Please email them to him at: hgreer@greergardens.com. You will be able to narrate your photos LIVE during the ZOOM meeting. Please consider sending at least one or two photos to share, although unfortunately, we will need to limit each member to 12 photos total.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81001009130?pwd=YVRMd2N6ajBVdk1lcG1kMXc5R1lwdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 0100 9130 Passcode: 871907

Please Don't Fall for this SCAM!

In recent weeks, we have become aware of an attempted scam using one of our board member's email address. In this scam, you receive an email requesting personal assistance in providing support to veterans by purchasing gift cards. We want to encourage you to be alert for suspicious requests of this nature and to avoid replying to any such request from a board member - or anyone else, for that matter!

December 2020

Chapter Meetings

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, October through March, unless otherwise specified. Unfortunately, face-to-face meetings are currently suspended due to Covid-19.

Upcoming ZOOM Chapter Meetings

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 p.m., Social time

7:00 p.m. Meeting &
Program

Wednesday, January 20

6:30 p.m., Social time

7:00 p.m. Meeting &
Program

In This Newsletter

December Meeting Info	Page 1
Rhododendron of the Month	Page 3
News from Hendricks Park	Page 4,5
Invitations from District 4 Chapters	Page 6

Our Mission

Encourage the culture and interest of rhododendrons

Use our meetings for educational opportunities and building friendships

Grow both species and hybrid rhododendrons in our gardens

Educate ourselves and the community about the world of rhododendrons

Nurture the idea of garden design with rhododendrons

Exhibit our knowledge and the beauty of rhododendrons to the community

Last Call for 2021 Renewals!

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2021 ... there are so many benefits to maintaining your membership, even in these pandemic days! Renewal forms for regular members and associate members can be found at:

<http://eugene-chapter-ars.org/membership.html>

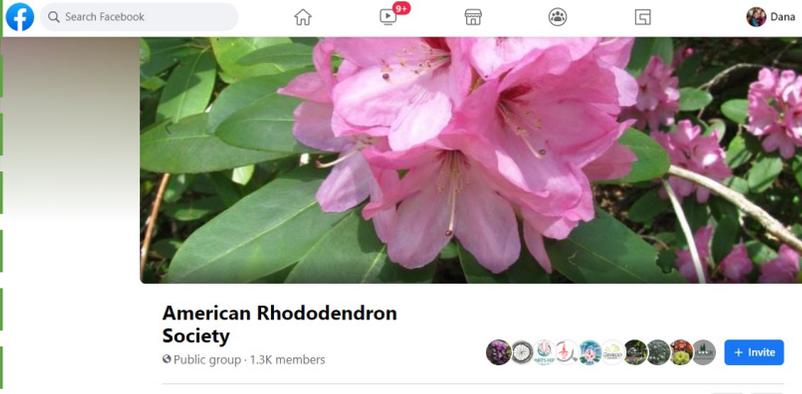
Please renew by the end of December so that you won't miss out on the quarterly ARS Journal, the monthly Eugene Chapter ZOOM meetings, the invitations to other chapters' ZOOM meetings and this monthly newsletter!

You can also renew online by visiting

<https://www.arsoffice.org/renewal/renew.asp>

An Opportunity Awaits!

Do you have knowledge of or interest in maintaining, updating and building websites? If so, you might be interested in helping out with our Eugene Chapter website, which continues to be wonderfully maintained by Ed Gore (thank you, Ed!). If you would like to volunteer to help out in this area, please get in touch with the Board of Directors at ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com for more information about this opportunity! Thank you for your consideration!



If you enjoy connecting with people using Facebook, you might enjoy joining this Facebook group, which is made up of people from all around the world and from right here in our neck of the woods, too! As you scroll through the many wonderful pictures and comments, you will come across folks you know! Plus, it can be a wonderful forum for identification of flowers and diseases. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/35429932192>

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.

ZOOM link (recurring through June, 2021):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978426753?pwd=WU5pRHBPbnF1Zm9XZmh3SGd3OHPyQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 7842 6753 Passcode: 017524

~~ Rhododendrons of the Month ~~
'Christmas Cheer' & 'Rosamundi'
by Harold Greer



'Christmas Cheer'



'Christmas White'



'Rosamundi'

Here are two hybrid rhododendrons that are confused and are used interchangeably. Actually, 'Christmas Cheer' is the name and the plant that is seen more often. I feature this now because it is a rhododendron that can be a winter bloomer.

Now let us look at the history of both. 'Christmas Cheer' came from T. Methven & Son in Edinburg, Scotland, probably sometime in the mid- to late-1800's. It was used in France as a plant for early forced greenhouse bloom in the early 1900s. The parentage is unknown, but it is sure to have *R. caucasicum* in its parentage.

'Rosamundi' (as it is written much of the time) is listed in the **International Rhododendron Register** as 'Rosa Mundi'. It came from C. Noble of Bagshot, Surrey, England about 1860, so you know both of these two hybrids have been around a long time. Plus, to confuse things more, there are more than one clone of each hybrid in cultivation. For example, one of the more white forms of 'Christmas Cheer' was sold in our area as 'Christmas White' for some years, though I have not seen any plant sold under that name for many years.

The true 'Christmas Cheer' can flower near Christmas, but generally flowers February to April, depending on the weather. On the Oregon Coast and in similar climates, it may flower any time from December to March. 'Rosamundi' will flower closer to April.

'Rosamundi' opens near white and deepens to pink. It does not fade, but gets deeper in color as it ages. 'Christmas Cheer' has pink buds which open to lighter flowers. The leaves on 'Christmas Cheer' are slightly more bullate (rough, veined) than 'Rosamundi', but the difference is very small and hard for most people to see.. So which one do you grow? Chances are it will be 'Christmas Cheer' since I know of nurseries that have sold 'Christmas Cheer'. Either is nice, but from experience you will see nine 'Christmas Cheer' for every one 'Rosamundi' you see. I do have both and enjoy them both.

~~ News from Hendricks Park ~~
by Emily Aune
“Alpine Bed Replanting”

Volunteers recently planted the second main garden bed renovation of the year, the Alpine Bed. The volunteers completed the planting right before the governor’s two-week freeze, which has again halted all of our volunteer work parties until outdoor social gatherings can continue. This bed is smaller than Bed #9, which I wrote about in the March newsletter. However, the plants are smaller, and there weren’t as many established plants in this bed, so we packed FIFTY new species and hybrid rhododendrons into this one-thousand square foot bed.



This bed was originally planted as a bed for small rhododendrons over forty years ago with design and plant contributions from Harold Greer. Unfortunately, many plants were almost immediately stolen, a problem the park has faced in the past, but not something I have seen as much of during my tenure. What was left was a good looking *Rhododendron williamsianum* and a vibrant ‘Blue Diamond’ as well as some very prolific groundcovers beneath a couple of small oak trees.

Early this year we started acquiring plants and removing groundcovers and crocosmia that had become overgrown. We added yards and yards of new soil mixture mixed with rock, and raised the boulders that had sunk over the years. We were almost ready to plan the planting when COVID-19 first hit. We no longer felt safe meeting as a planning committee, thus postponing the planting until the fall. I kept



Masked Garden Consultants
 Rachel Foster, Friends of Hendricks Park
 Ted Hewitt, Rhododendron Society
 (Paula Hewitt was not able to join us)

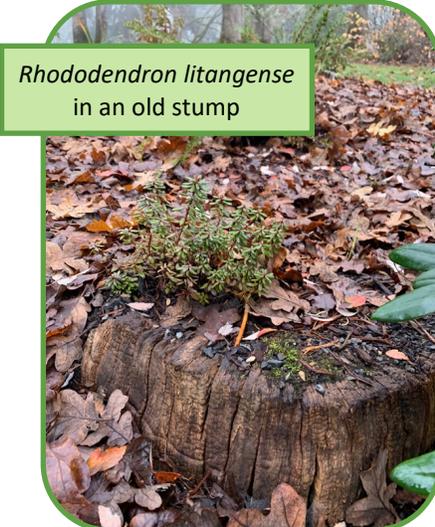
the plants alive in the lathhouse through summer, and when we felt safe to meet again outside, I called upon my garden consultants. Rachel Foster from Friends of Hendricks Park and Ted Hewitt from the Rhododendron Society showed up in masks and gloves and helped place the plants with me. We did this work on a Friday, but because volunteers work on Tuesdays, we flagged and labeled where each plant would go, and I brought them back out on the morning of the planting. It was a lot of work, but not as much work as getting them all in the ground!



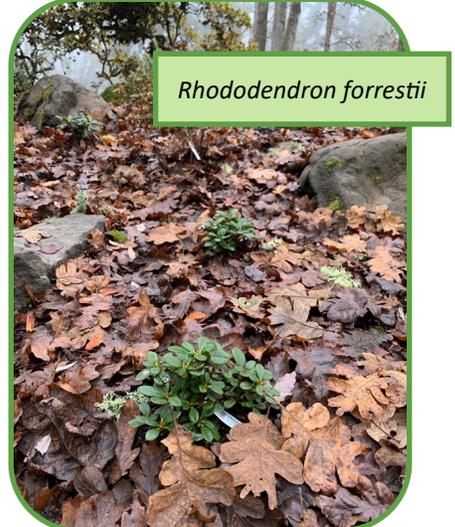
Rhododendron moupinense
 wrapping around an established
Rhododendron trichanthum



Afterwards, I topped it all with fir bark and then a layer of leaves fell, tucking the plants in for the winter when they can work on their root systems. I look forward to the early blooms of the *Rhododendron moupinense* wrapped around the edge of this bed. You can also find a *Rhododendron litangense*, planted in an old stump, and two tiny *Rhododendron forrestii* which will creep along the ground and bloom red. We threw in a couple of non-rhododendrons as well. A *Kalmia 'Tiddlywinks'*, some pacific coast iris hybrids and clumps of *Hepatica nobilis*, and a *Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana'*. I can share a full plant list for anyone interested.



Rhododendron litangense
 in an old stump



Rhododendron forrestii

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

You're Invited!

Please consider attending other District 4 ZOOM Chapter meetings scheduled in December:

ARS Willamette Chapter

December "Virtual" Holiday Party

Sunday, December 13, 1:00 pm

This is a meeting to socialize and raise a glass or bend an elbow in celebration of our organization and of our good fellowship. Instead of potluck food, members are encouraged to queue up a series of images depicting their home/garden/activities, etc. that take no more than 10 minutes to show. Colonoscopy images are discouraged.

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89197786445>

Meeting ID 891 9778 6445

ARS Portland Chapter

Special ARS Portland Chapter

Incremental Zoom Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 7 pm

Program: **"Growing Rhododendrons from Seed"**

hosted by Ann and Ray Clack

Guest Speaker: Doug Keough

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81293967072>

Meeting ID: 812 9396 7072

Regular Portland Chapter Meeting

Thursday, December 17

Program: **Member Slides**

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733059492>

Meeting ID: 897 3305 9492