



# Eugene Chapter

*American Rhododendron Society*

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& Committees**

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

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*R. denudatum*

*2016  
 Spring Rhododendron Show  
 and  
 Banquet*

**Saturday, April 9  
 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Hilton Garden Inn  
 3528 Gateway St.  
 Springfield, OR 97477

**Entries Accepted 3:30 - 4:45**

**Voting 5:00 - 5:45**

**Buffet Dinner 6:00**  
 (\$30 per person)

**Plant Auction 7:00**

**Program 7:30 - 8:20**  
**Speaker: Bob Zimmerman**  
*Not your Grandfather's (or  
 Grandmother's)  
 Rhododendrons*

*Silent Auction*

*Bring money.*

~~~~~

**Raffle**

- Tickets**
- \$1 each
  - 6 for \$5

**What to Bring:**

- trusses and sprays from your garden to enter in the Show
- bonsai, vireyas, photos for the display tables
- checkbook and/or cash for plants and dinner  
 (make checks payable to ARS Eugene Chapter, sorry no credit cards)

RSVP for dinner by April 4 to Helen Baxter

- (541) 461-6082
- [galen.baxter@comcast.net](mailto:galen.baxter@comcast.net)

**For more information see the article in this newsletter.**

## 2016 Spring Flower Show and Banquet

Join us for an evening of flowers, friends and food at the 2016 Spring Flower Show on April 9th!

Bring your blooming flower trusses and sprays to the Hilton Garden Inn (3528 Gateway St. in Springfield). We will also have an area to display your bonsai, vireyas and photos. Come and enjoy an evening dedicated to rhododendrons.

There are seven entry classes. Trusses and sprays can be entered in the following categories:

- Deciduous Azaleas (A)
- Evergreen Azaleas (B)
- Pink Elepidotes (Cp)
- Red Elepidotes (Cr)
- White or Yellow Elepidotes (Cw)
- Other-Colored or Multi-colored Elepidotes (Co)
- Lepidotes (D)

Bring what you have blooming; it will fit in one of these categories!

Entries will be accepted from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Here are the logistics for entering your flowers into the show. Each entry will be given a number. Then you will fill out a form for each of your trusses and sprays. The form will ask for the name of the rhododendron, your name, and the class (A, B, Cp, Cr, Cw, Co, or D). Please also write the entry number at the top of your entry form as this will allow the judges to designate your entry. Volunteers will assist you! Then volunteers will help you place your entries in the correct categories on the display racks.

Voting starts at 5:00 p.m. Each attendee will cast a ballot. This is a great chance to carefully observe and discuss all the entered trusses and sprays. There are seven trophy categories. Mark the ballot with the number of the entry you decide is the best in each of the trophy categories. Trophies will be awarded in these categories:

- Best Azalea (Deciduous or Evergreen)
- Best Pink Elepidote
- Best Red Elepidote,
- Best White or Yellow Elepidote
- Best Other-Colored or Multi-colored Elepidote
- Best Lepidote
- Best Species (azalea, elepidote, or lepidote)

Ballots will be collected and tallied at 5:45 p.m. The winners will be announced prior to diner.

This year dinner will be a delicious buffet. You can dine on tossed green salad with tomato, cucumber, carrot and croutons; arugula salad with asparagus and prosciutto ham; cucumber and tomato salad; bow tie pasta salad; roasted pork medallions topped with fresh peaches and caramelized onions; grilled chicken breast with apples, fennel and sausage; smoked gouda ravioli in a marinara sauce; roasted potatoes; rice pilaf; fresh vegetables; freshly baked rolls with butter; and a generous assortment of freshly made desserts with freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee and hot teas. A no-host bar will be available for beer, wine or mixed drinks. The bar will open at 4:00 this year!

(continued on p. 3)

(continued from p. 2)

Dinner is \$30 per person, including gratuity. The chapter also contributes \$4 for each dinner, thus we need an accurate seat count to give the restaurant by April 4th. Please send your RSVP to Helen Baxter at (541)461-6082 or email her at [galen.baxter@comcast.net](mailto:galen.baxter@comcast.net). You may pay for dinner at the end of the evening with cash or a check. Treasurer Nancy Burns will handle the finances.

Our speaker this year is Bob Zimmerman, owner of Chimacum Woods Nursery in Port Ludlow, Washington. He will speak to us about rhododendron species with a program entitled *Not Your Grandfather's (or Grandmother's) Rhododendrons*.

Throughout the evening there are great opportunities to add to your plant

collection. We will have a spirited auction for unusual beauties, a silent auction for unique gems, and a raffle for an extraordinary specimen. Bring your checkbook or cash so you can take home a new garden treasure or two or four!

Mark the date, April 9th, to enjoy great food, fabulous flowers, new plants, and, most importantly, the camaraderie of your friends at the annual Spring Flower Show and Banquet!

Dinner and plant purchases can be paid with cash or a check made out to "ARS Eugene Chapter" (sorry, no credit cards).

*Sherlyn Hilton*

(and the Show Committee)



### **Bob Zimmerman - Plant Hunter, Nurseryman, Philosopher**

In his talk entitled *Not Your Grandfather's (or Grandmother's) Rhododendrons*, Bob will talk about a number of reasons why we should be growing species rhododendrons in our gardens. His program will draw from his experiences on several plant hunting trips to China and Tibet as well as experiences as a nurseryman and a gardener.

At their Chimacum Woods Nursery overlooking the Hood Canal on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, Bob and his wife Beth are dedicated to preserving as much of the wild gene pool as possible in species rhododendrons by using plants that have been grown from wild-collected seed. As indicated on the nursery website, "Given the constant threat to rhododendron habitats in China, it may well be that we in the West will be able to return offspring of these plants to China in future generations." To visit the website go to [www.chimacumwoods.com](http://www.chimacumwoods.com).

As with many of us, Bob finds the allure of species rhododendrons to be in the plant characteristics that give them year round interest more than in the blooms. In his travels, Bob has been intrigued with the cultural, political, spiritual, and botanical issues that one encounters in these distant parts of the world and this carries over to his philosophy of life. As he states, the plants "connect me to the earth (with all the questions of why are we here, what's my place in all of this, etc.) to people, to policies of government and to horticultural considerations - how do I keep them alive in my garden so I can stay connected?" Perhaps this is why we feel the garden is such a tranquil place to be in spite of the work we do there.

## President's Message

I had the opportunity to visit an old rhododendron park (Hendricks) with our editor and my friend, Ted Hewitt. It is hard to describe the beauty that this park has year round but especially when the rhododendrons are coming into the bloom.

Just to mention a few of the rhodys that were in bloom on March 4: 'Christmas Cheer', 'Airy Fairy', *R. ririei*, *R. erubescens*, and *R. lutescens*. We noticed one particular rhododendron with very compact, red trusses and were curious what it was but could not see any tag to identify it. I am sure Ted will be back more often to the park and he will key it out.

One thing about the park is that there are many varieties of Magnolias and most of them are coming into flower at this time of year. They are so beautiful. I also noticed mass plantings of Hellebores (Lenten Roses ) that were outstanding. It is always a good idea to do the hellebores as a mass planting which stands out. There were many Hamamelis (Witch Hazels) in bloom that were very attractive shrubs, each in its own way, and that bloom early in the season. There were shrubs that Ted and I came across with tiny white flowers and elegant

small leaves that I noticed were strongly fragrant. I have no idea about the name.

Of course an open lawn area makes a park inviting for a picnic, for a playground, and for relaxing on Sundays. Some of us noticed there is a real estate view of the city also. By that I mean, you have to search for it in order to notice it.

Ted and I were there for less than half an hour but, if a person wants to, he or she could spend half a day there and admire all the trees and unusual plants and an array of rhododendrons.

Now a little bit about what is happening with our rhody society. We will have a rhody show coming on April 9. It's always a fun time and some of us can show off our beautiful flowers while talking with our members about our common interests in rhododendrons.

As you know, my term as president is coming to a close in June and has been quite an experience. I would like to thank our board members who cooperate during our meetings and are always willing to be there and contribute as much as they can. I will continue seeing everyone and sharing our experiences of learning about our love of rhododendrons.

*Ali Sarlak*



*R. erubescens* photo by Ali Sarlak



*Magnolia blossom* photo by Ali Sarlak



*Magnolia bud* photo by Ali Sarlak

## Places to Go and Things to Do

- April 2 & 3 11:00-4:00 Cecil & Molly Smith Garden open each weekend through May 22.
- April 2 8:00-4:00 GardenPalooza, Fir Point Farms, 14601 Arndt Road, Aurora.  
This is a large plant and garden art sale with over 40 vendors.  
<http://www.gardenpalooza.com/>
- April 2 & 3 ARS Portland Chapter Early Show and Plant Sale, Crystal Springs Garden.  
Show is noon to 5:00. Sale is 9:00 to 5:00.
- April 2 & 3 Dave & Pat Eckerdt Open Garden, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, 4539 Riverdale Rd. S., Salem 97302. 2-acre collector's garden that includes many rhododendrons. For info and directions see [www.deerlymisseds.mugmug.com](http://www.deerlymisseds.mugmug.com)
- April 9 3:00-9:00 ARS Eugene Chapter Spring Rhododendron Show & Banquet Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield**
- April 12 6:30 p.m. Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group Meeting, Campbell Center, Eugene.  
Speaker: Marty Wingate, *The Armchair Garden Traveler*
- April 13 3:00 p.m. Rhody Hillside Fest, 3:00 p.m. tour with **Tom Beatty**, Salem.
- April 13 6:30 p.m. ARS Willamette Chapter Meeting, First Methodist Church, Salem.  
Speaker: Wally Reed, *The Rhododendron Hillside: Year Round Color*
- April 15 & 16 RSBG Spring Plant Sale, Federal Way, WA. Great plant sale.
- April 16 & 17 ARS Siuslaw Chapter Early Show
- April 17 7:00 a.m. Birding in Hendricks Park with John Sullivan. Meet at Picnic Shelter.
- April 20-24 ARS/ASA Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA. [www.arsasaconvention2016.org](http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org)
- April 22 & 23 ARS Willamette Chapter Truss Show & Plant Sale, River Front Park, Salem.
- April 23 & 24 ARS Southwestern Oregon Chapter Flower Show, Pony Village Mall.
- April 24 1:00 p.m. Native Plant Walk in Hendricks Park with Sasha White.
- May 6 10:00 -3:00 Set-Up for the plant sale** at the Fairgrounds. Volunteers may also shop.
- May 7 9:00-2:00 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds. We are a vendor at this sale and earn a large part of our chapter budget here.**
- May 7& 8 ARS Portland Chapter Mothers Day Show and Plant Sale, Crystal Springs.
- May 7 Hinsdale Open Garden Day. Umpqua River east of Reedsport.
- May 10 6:30 p.m. WVHPG Meeting, Campbell Center, Eugene.  
Speaker: Thomas Johnson, *Shade Perennials*
- May 15 1:00 p.m. Rhododendron Walk in Hendricks Park with **Jack Olson**. Meet at Picnic Shelter.
- May 20 & 21 Rhododendron Species Symposium at the RSBG, Federal Way, WA.
- May 21 & 22 ARS Siuslaw Chapter Late Show, Florence Events Center, Florence.

**Kudos** to Helen Baxter and Terry Henderson for the treats at the March 10 chapter meeting.

Newsletter photos are by Ted Hewitt unless indicated otherwise.

## Ted's Notes

• March is such a wonderful time of year as the garden kicks into gear to emerge from its winter slumber. February was nice with its early bulbs and early rhododendrons but March is when the garden picks up speed heading for its April crescendo into May. In March the hellebores are in full bloom as well as the daffodils and many early rhododendrons, including *R. pemakoense*, *R. schlippenbachii*, *R. lutescens*, R. 'Ptarmigan', R. 'Bob's Blue', R. 'President Roosevelt', R. 'Noyo Brave', and R. 'Razorbill'. All of this is leading up to the grand show in April and May. In the list of *Places to Go and Things to Do* on p. 5 you will find many activities to keep yourselves busy. On April 2, you might enjoy a trip up the valley starting with a little shopping at GardenPalooza in Aurora ([www.gardenpalooza.com](http://www.gardenpalooza.com)) where you might find some special companion plants from Dancing Oaks Nursery, some hostas from Sebright Gardens, some dwarf conifers at Mini Forest by Sky, or some garden art among the 40 or so vendors. From here it is just a short drive to the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden near St. Paul, a beautiful rhododendron garden. (see the article on p. 7) On the way home, take Hwy 219 south to St. Paul and then River Rd. into Salem through beautiful farmland with fields of nursery stock and fields of hops to visit the open garden of Dave & Pat Eckerdt, two

inveterate plant collectors. Directions are on Dave's website, [www.deerlymissedsnugmug.com](http://www.deerlymissedsnugmug.com). This large garden contains many rhododendrons with a myriad of companion plants and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- At our March 10 chapter meeting, speaker Bill Hicks not only gave us a very nice presentation on the many lepidotes that he grows in his garden but also brought 35 plants as gifts - enough for each of us to take home two. What a generous man to whom we owe a big thank you. Certainly generosity seems to be a trait of so many people who belong to the ARS as they share their interest and knowledge.
- With the rhododendron blooming season upon us, I urge you to visit Hendricks Park regularly to see the changes in what is in bloom from week to week. At 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, Jack Olson is leading a walk through the Rhododendron Garden of the park for all who are interested. This is an activity sponsored by the Friends of Hendricks Park and a donation of \$3 per person is requested. Meet at the picnic shelter. Mark your calendars.
- I want to thank Ed Fowler-Gore for stepping up and assuming the role of chapter webmaster in July. Ed has considerable experience with websites as he has created and manages several business sites of his own. Not only that, he is able to host the chapter website saving the chapter money. Many thanks, Ed.

Ted



2015 Spring Rhododendron Show



2015 Spring Rhododendron Show Beauties



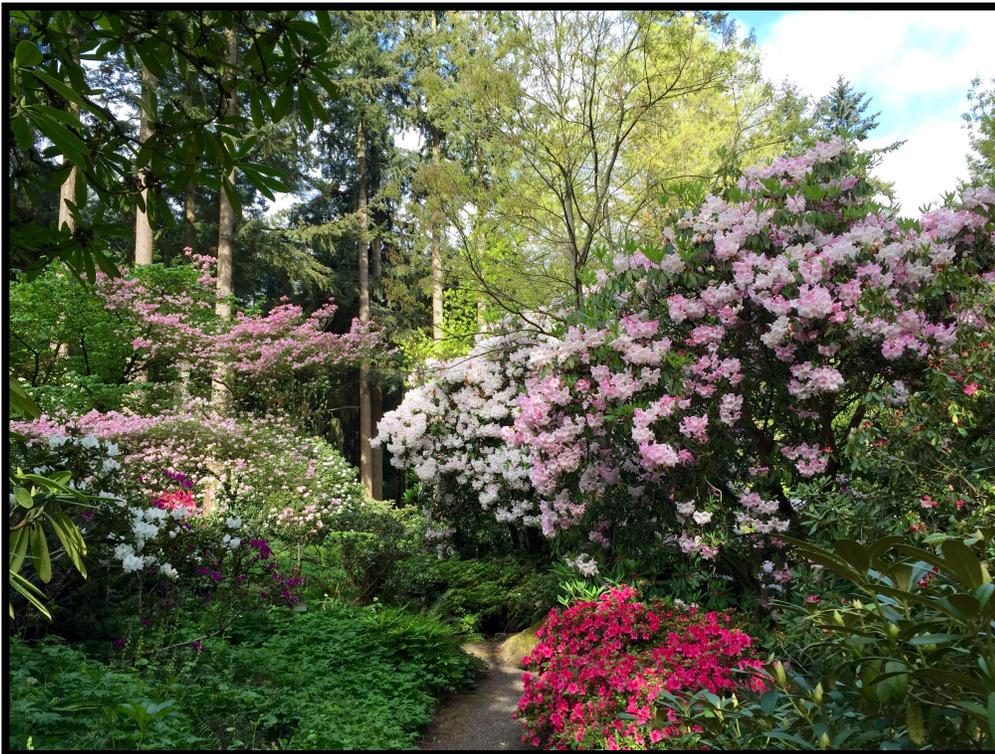
2015 Spring Banquet

## Cecil & Molly Smith Garden Open this Spring

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, world renowned for its collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons, will be open during the blooming season, Saturdays and Sundays, April 2 –May 22, 2016, 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

This three-acre natural woodland setting also features choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and bulbs, including Cyclamen, Trillium, Erythronium and Narcissus which complement the over 600 rhododendrons and azaleas. Established in the early 1950's, the garden contains many rare species grown by Cecil Smith from seeds Imported from China and cuttings from England, as well as hybrids he developed. The Portland Chapter of the American

Rhododendron Society purchased the garden in 1983 and, along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, now manages and maintains it. A selection of plants featured in the garden are available for purchase. There is a modest admission fee of \$3.00. Due to the sloping site the garden is not considered handicap accessible.



Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Photo by Roger Lintault

The garden is located at 5055 Raybell Road, St. Paul, Oregon, 97137. 7/10ths of a mile west of Highway 219 between St. Paul and Newberg. Turn west on Champoeg Road (look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign) and continue straight on to Raybell Road to the garden. Parking and entrance are on the right just past the house with the garden address. For more information, call Dick or Karen Cavender at 503-625-6331 or see <http://smithgarden.org> This spring, don't miss this hidden gem which has been featured in *Horticulture* magazine and several television programs.

Thanks for your assistance,

Roger Lintault



Trillium

Photo by Roger Lintault

*April 2016  
Newsletter*



**2016 ARS Convention**

Williamsburg, Virginia  
April 20-24, 2016

ARS EUGENE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

2015

**EVENT CALENDAR**

2016

**CHAPTER EVENTS:**

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 9     | 2016 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield<br>Speaker: Bob Zimmerman Program: <i>Not Your Grandfather's (or Grandmother's)<br/>Rhododendrons</i> |
| April 20-24 | 2016 ARS Convention, Williamsburg, VA - <a href="http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org">www.arsasaconvention2016.org</a>                                                          |
| May 6       | Set-Up for Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 10:00 - 4:00                                                                                                                    |
| May 7       | Chapter Plant Sale, Lane County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 2:00                                                                                                                        |
| June ??     | June Picnic, details TBA                                                                                                                                                        |

**September 30 - October 2**

**2016 Western Regional Rhododendron Conference  
Agate Beach Best Western Hotel, Newport OR**

Click for a great video: <https://youtu.be/nUGRWXdoppU>