

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Rhododendron Society meeting Wednesday, **January 15th**

7:00 PM Talk @ The Springs at Greer Gardens

1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon



Bruce Palmer

“The Plant Hunting Tradition and Joseph Rock, Polymath, ARS Sine Qua Non”

Bruce began his career as a science and math teacher at Ferndale High School in Humboldt County, California, in 1960. In 1968, he started the biology program at the University of Hawaii’s new Maui Community College and retired, in 1993, as Chief Academic Officer of the college, moving back to Humboldt County with his wife, Nelda. Bruce is an active member of the Eureka Chapter of the ARS and volunteers at the Humboldt Botanical Garden. He writes a column on biological terms for the Eureka Chapter’s monthly newsletter as well as quarterly articles for both the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society and the Botanical Guardian of the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Bruce was awarded the American Rhododendron Society’s Gold Medal in 2015.

This talk came about because, while teaching on Maui, I was mentored by a fern specialist who botanized with Joseph Rock in the cloud forests on Maui, so I felt an indirect connection to Rock. I realized shortly after moving back to the mainland and joining ARS, that Joseph Rock had been the only plant hunter who replied to the Portland Chapter’s request for seeds (they asked others) in the late 1940s and thus was probably instrumental in the ongoing success of the American Rhododendron Society. Many of the rhodies in Crystal Springs Park and elsewhere are from seeds he sent back to Portland from China. The talk begins with history, as do all my talks, for context, beginning with the earliest known plant hunters in ancient Egypt and working forward to Joseph Rock, then analyzes Rock’s life and adventures, ending with the argument that ARS might not have succeeded without the kick-start from the seeds that Rock sent to the Portland Chapter in 1947.

5:30 PM Dinner — Pre-Meeting Dinner RSVP

Please contact Harold Greer by phone at 541-554-2342 or by e-mail at hgreer@greergardens.com, so that Harold can let the staff at The Springs know how many will be in our party.



6:30 PM Meet & Greet

**Join us for free Cookies
& Coffee while meeting
our members.**



The 120th Audubon Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 17th Cottage Grove CBC (1st 1971) took place on December 28th, 2019. Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) member Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator & Compiler, was one of 25 participants who identified 84 species and counted 4011 individuals. This is a decrease of 2,570 from last year. The day started out cold and foggy which around noon switched to cold and partly cloudy/clear, but we were lucky and didn't get any precipitation during our count.



New bird for C.G. CBC – American White Pelican.

Six count week birds: Dunlin, Cooper's Hawk, White-breasted nuthatch, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and a Western Screech Owl.



Again, this year, it appears the feeder birds knew when they are going to be counted, so they hid! They returned to the feeders Sunday. We found the Green Heron which eluded us in 2018 the entire count week at the Row River Nature Park. I'm hoping the decreased numbers are a result of visibility during half of the day and not a drop in bird populations. A notable increase in numbers occurred with Eurasian Collared-Doves 17 (2017), 68 (2018) and 100 (2019). The largest numbers occurring on the North part of our circle.

Thanks to fellow zone volunteer leaders: Hydie Lown, Alison Center, Bonnie Samuels, Julie Parker, Barbara Butzer, Tori Morgan, and Tony Willey. To all participants --THANK YOU! This couldn't happen without your effort.

All bird photos by Ed Gore. We thought we'd share some of our birding joy with you all. Happy New Year!



News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

Just when you think it's sleepy wintertime, a time to relax and get caught up on some paperwork, reading, or special projects. It rains, it blows, and a 42" diameter fir tree uproots the wooden boardwalk as it crashes its way through the Founders Path and into the Rhododendron Garden.



Unfortunately, the *Rhododendron arboreum* took a good (or rather, bad) hit. This double trunked specimen, and one of our largest rhododendrons in the park, now has some bare spots. Luckily it is still standing and will heal. Our volunteer pruner, Tom Mickel, first visited the *R. arboreum* and gave good, clean cuts to anything broken.



Continuation of News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune



And the branch is free and unharmed. Hopefully, it will keep the plant more balanced, as it fills in the empty spots. We will continue to haul wood away and remove (and eventually replace) the boardwalk. But for now, all trails are clear to visit with family and friends over the holidays!



*Happy
New
Year!*

Harold's Rhododendron Pick for January

Rhododendron 'Harold Greer'

Where do I begin? There are so many fine rhododendrons. However, I guess I must begin with R. 'Harold Greer'. Some will say it is a vain and selfish pick but remember, while I made the cross and grew the plant, I did not put the name on it. It is yet to be proven garden worthy, but it has hopes. I made the cross by taking pollen from one of the first plants of 'Horizon Monarch' released by Ned Brockenbrough, a rhododendron hybridizer and surgeon in Seattle, that he had one of his sons bring down to me. When I planted it across the walk from 'Very Berry', one of my own hybrids, I thought why not cross them. In an effort to choose the best of this cross, I grew several of the seedlings to fair sized plants. Sadly, the best foliage plant of this group was sold accidentally. Of the remaining plants, I named the one that was bright red and propagated easily.

Then there was the multicolored one with good foliage that I kept thinking I would find a good name for in the future. However, things got busy and someone else living nearby decided that it should be named 'Harold Greer'. So, now we move on.

Rhododendron 'Harold Greer':

- Height in 10 years: 5' • Hardiness: -5° F. • Color: pink and cream
- Rating: Hopefully at least 4/4/4 (that is for flower / plant & foliage / performance)
- Ease of propagation: medium • Flower: very good • Foliage: very good
- Vigor: good • Would I buy it for its name? no • Would I buy it for its color? yes

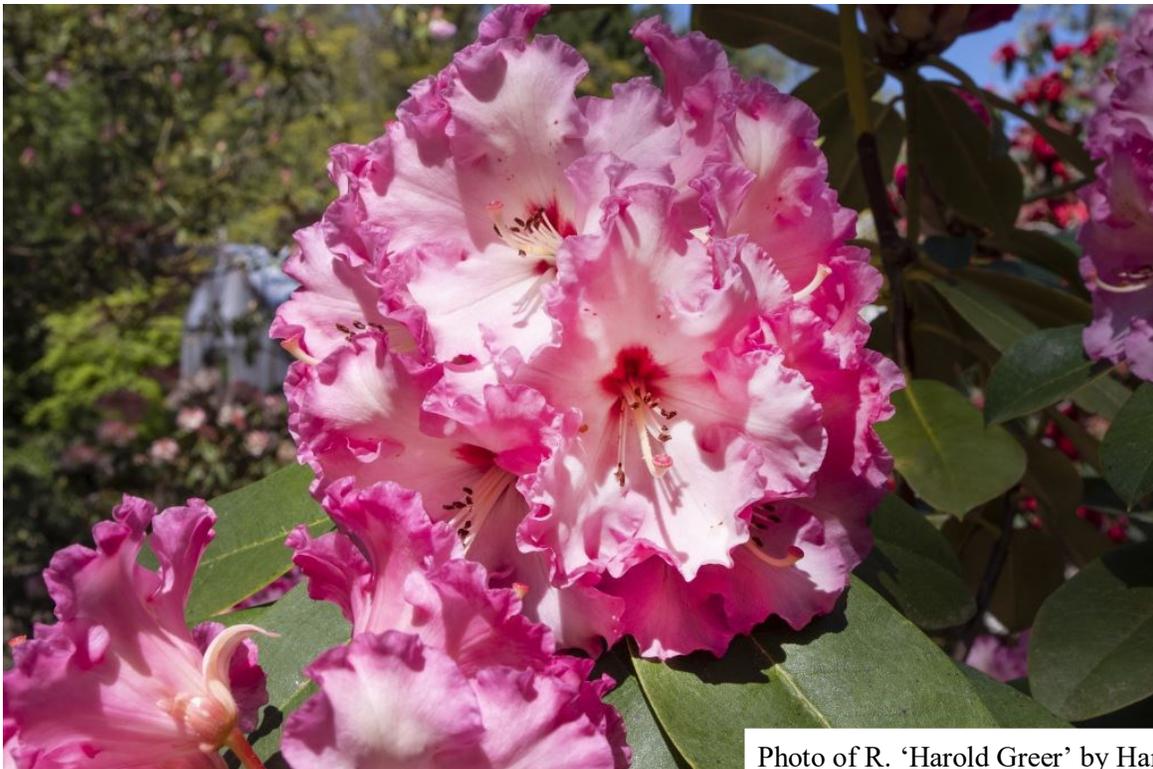


Photo of R. 'Harold Greer' by Harold Greer

Convention Details @

www.ars75.org

Planning to Attend?
Have you Registered?



Photo of R. 'Harold Greer' by Harold Greer

75th Anniversary Convention of The American Rhododendron Society

Hosted by ARS District 4, April 29-May 3, 2020,
at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA.

**Registration for the 2020 convention opened December 2nd, 2019:
Available online at www.ARS75.org**

AND

Registration forms are also available as an insert in the Winter (January distribution) quarterly edition of *Journal American Rhododendron Society*.

Information on the ARS, including membership, is available at www.rhododendron.org.

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

20/20
VISION



ARS75.org

Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

Start going through your photos or considering taking some new photographs for the photo contest . Details @ <https://ars75.org/photo-contest/>

Contest Categories **Photos Ready ??**

1. Flower, truss, or spray
2. Landscape: plants in the wild or in a garden setting
3. People, insects, or animals
4. Foliage, bark, or seedpods

Philadelphia 2019 winner, Flower, truss, or spray:

Jackson McCarter – ‘Hachmann’s Charmant’



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

Thank you
members for
renewing your
membership.

Event Calendar 2019 – 2020

Jan. 15 **Bruce Palmer**
“The Plant Hunting Tradition and Joseph Rock, Polymath, ARS Sine Qua Non”

Feb. 19 Bob Zimmerman – Species

March 18 Glen Jamieson Journal ARS editor

April **75th Anniversary ARS Convention, April 29th – May 3rd**

May 9 Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Sale @ Eugene Fairgrounds

May 30 Eugene Chapter Flower Show and Banquet