

Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Rhododendron Society meeting Wednesday, **February 19th**

7:00 PM Talk @ The Springs at Greer Gardens

1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon

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.

Guest Speaker: Bob Zimmermann

Arunachal Pradesh, Wilderness Untouched (with Rhododendrons)

Bob Zimmermann fell in love with rhododendrons over fifty years ago. He began propagating on his kitchen stove and now grows species rhododendrons from seed in his greenhouse at Chimacum

Woods on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Some 300 species populate the collection in his garden, providing a reliable source of seed for the plants he makes available to gardeners in both the US and Canada. Bob first joined the ARS as a member of the Portland Chapter in 1973 and is a past president of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.



Bob is one of those intrepid plant explorers who has endured adverse weather, leeches, rugged hiking and mountain climbing conditions to study the plants he loves. He has traveled with botanists, five times to China, once to Tibet, once to Japan, and, most recently, to Arunachal Pradesh in NE India. He will share his experiences from that trip – the botanical, cultural, political and spiritual.



6:30 PM Meet & Greet

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

THANK YOU Bruce Palmer
for your talk “The Plant Hunting Tradition
and Joseph Rock, Polymath, ARS Sine Qua
Non” on January 15th. Wonderful hearing
about the colorful character Joseph Rock, as
well as, some of the other great plant collec-
tors throughout history.



From: **mike Bones** <Rhodies@charter.net>
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2020 at 1:07 AM

If you want to learn more about Rhododendrons, this is the place.

We have 12 people from the Siuslaw Chapter signed up for the 75th annual Rhododendron Convention. That's Great. If you are thinking about going to the convention, now is a good time to get registered. We have fantastic speakers from around the world. This is one convention that you really don't want to miss. Check out the website.

[ARS 2020 Vision 75th Anniversary Spring Convention](#)

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

20/20
VISION



ARS75.org

Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

News from Hendricks Park by Emily Aune

I would like to send out a warm thank you to one of our very talented volunteers. Charles Hammer has been volunteering at Hendricks Park since the winter of 2017. After attending a Friends of Hendricks Park tour, he decided Hendricks Park would be a wonderful garden in which to lend a helping hand. His work in gardens began early, at five years old by helping his mother weed the flower borders at his home. During his freshman year of high school, his dad took him to an OSU Extension Service workshop on fruit tree pruning. Hammer states “thereafter, through my senior year I took responsibility for dormant season pruning of the family’s nine fruit trees.” He was also hired at this time by a local landscape company where he learned more about bedwork and ornamental pruning. He went on to attend the University of Oregon, where he completed the Urban Farm sequence and volunteered regularly at the Grassroots Garden. He also started maintaining his own clients at this time. He graduated in 2006, with an MA in Philosophy and has been working full time as an ornamental gardener ever since. His passion shines through on the topics of organic vegetables, berries and fruit trees, and ornamentals. He maintains an heirloom orchard of primarily apples on the North Fork of the Siuslaw and is building a vegetable farm in Alvadore where he currently has 4000 garlic plants growing in the field.



Clearly, Charles showed up at Hendricks Park with extensive knowledge, experience and passion. I was grateful for the expertise and put him to work on special projects immediately. His first project was a mature stand of camellias surrounding the main Rhododendron Garden restrooms. These camellias had suffered through some cold temperatures and winter snow loads. Many had cracks and broken branches, and some were getting spindly and weak towards the top. He started on a several year reduction and rejuvenation pruning on these camellias teaching other staff and volunteers along the way. He shaped these shrubs into a much more manageable size while maintaining their natural form. The true test to these camellias came in the winter of 2019 where 18” of snow fell at Hendricks Park. Many plants broke and fell that winter, but the camellias stood strong and healthy. When Charles prunes, I can rarely see his cuts, and when he is complete, I only see a smaller, fuller, healthier plant still demonstrating its natural form. Because this is the aesthetic I am looking for, and because I learn so much from him, we often visit problem shrubs or small trees together and discuss ideas of how to correct overgrown, poorly pruned or storm damaged shrubs. These plants can take a lot of time, but the pruning helps the plant grow wonderfully for years. Now, when I walk around the garden, I still see plenty more sites to visit, but I also see the successful areas we have worked on and I know the garden is going in a good direction.

Continuation of News from Hendricks
Park by Emily Aune



Before pruning



After pruning



A great article featuring Emily Aune and Hendricks Park can be found in *The Eugene Magazine* Winter 2019-20 on page 122, "Into the Garden: An international showcase rooted in local history at Hendricks Park" written by Victoria Sanchez.

Harold's Rhododendron Pick for February

Rhododendron 'Lee's Scarlet'

As I write this on January 9th, 'Lee's Scarlet' is in full flower and it is nice to have some color in the garden. Actually 'Lee's Scarlet' can flower almost any time in the winter to early spring. When it freezes fairly hard, it will freeze the flowers that are open, but it generally has more unopened buds that will open when the weather warms a bit. It can take quite a bit of sun and will bud heavier in sun. It is a hybrid of *R. caucasicum*. The other parent is not known, but could be *R. arboretum*. It is an elepidote with larger leaves and flowers than the early flowering lepidotes like *R. dauricum*.

It does not flower all at one time as many of the later flowering rhododendrons do, but it is nice to have early color that extends for a fairly long time, depending on the weather. And no the color is not really scarlet, but I am not the one that named it! It was hybridized by Lee in Europe probably before 1851 so it has been around a long time.

Rhododendron 'Lee's Scarlet':

- Height in 10 years: 5'
- Hardiness: -5° F.
- Color: reddish pink
- Rating: 3/3/3 (that is for flower / plant & foliage / performance)
- Ease of propagation: easy
- Flower: good
- Foliage: good
- Vigor: good
- Would I buy it for its flowering time? yes
- Would I buy it for its color? yes



Photo of R 'Lee's Scarlet' by Harold Greer

From Our Eugene Chapter Hybridizer — Jack Olson

Growing seedlings from the hybrids that I create is lots of fun, but also takes lots of time. To make a hybrid rhododendron, I take pollen from the anthers at the end of the stamens in the flower of one plant and place it carefully on the stigma at the end of the pistil in the flower of another plant which takes time and accuracy. This is called “making a cross”. So as not to contaminate the desired cross, I first remove the petals and the anthers from an unopened bud of the receiving plant making sure that the bud is almost ready to open. This assures that only the pollen from the first plant gets on the stigma of the second plant. After making the desired cross, I cover the stigma and pistil with foil so no other pollen will get on it, again assuring that the cross is not contaminated. The stigma is covered with a sticky substance that helps the pollen stay in place so it can find its way down through the center of the pistil to the ovary at the base of the pistil, thereby completing the fertilization and the “cross”. This union forms a seed pod consisting of approximately 100 tiny seeds each of which can be grown into a seedling of a new plant.

In planning a cross that I want to make, I consider the traits of the two parents that I want to achieve - flower color, foliage, plant size, time of bloom, fragrance, etc. A great deal of thought should be put into the choices of parents. Trust me, you rarely get what you think you are going to get but that is part of the fun. I have found that seed pods from the same cross can yield very different plants since the seeds, even within the same seed pod, carry different genes. Each parent will give 13 chromosomes to the new hybrid plant but each chromosome holds many genes. One can see the variations are numerous, like in people.

There can also be mutations within the genes, which I find to be desirable in plants, creating even more variations. Below is a link to an article on “ploidy” by John and Sally Perkins, which I have read many times and still learn from it.

https://www.azaleas.org/wp-content/uploads/azalean/37/12/articles/Exploring_the_Ploidy.pdf

At the end of this article are photos of blossoms from some of my as yet unnamed hybrids and a photo from a hybrid that I have named and registered as Rhododendron ‘Kahlua’.

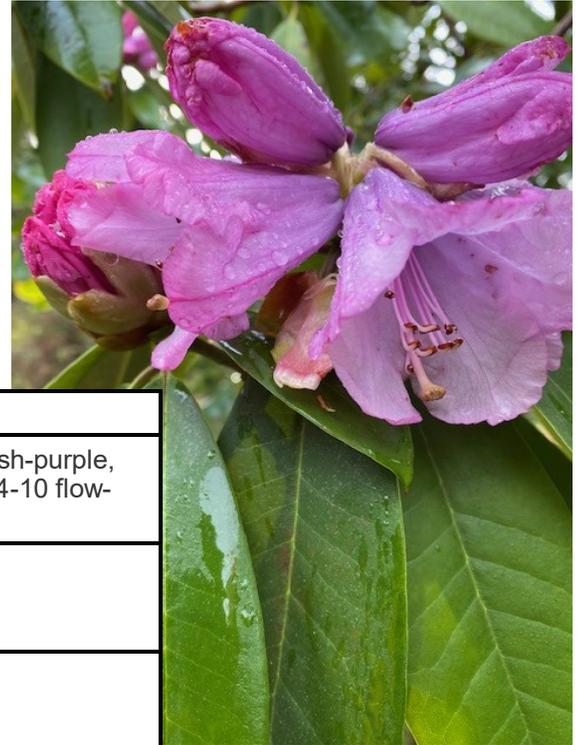


R. ‘Kahlua’

Jack Olson:

Each January, *Rhododendron ririei* (a species rhododendron) is the first rhododendron to bloom in my garden starting the chain of color for many months. I always look forward to its blooms.

Photo by Jack Olson



Predominant Flower Color:	Purple
Flower / Truss Description:	Campanulate, lilac-purple to reddish-purple, with nectar pouches. Truss holds 4-10 flowers.
Fragrant:	No
Bloom Time:	Very Early
Height (ft.) in 10 Yrs:	5
Cold Hardiness Temperature:	-5°F (-21°C)
Foliage Description:	Leaves elliptic to oblanceolate, up to 6½" long, thin, compacted whitish indumentum.
Plant Habit:	Erect, bushy shrub or small tree
Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L):	E
Sub Genus:	Hymenanthes
Section:	Ponticum
Sub Section:	Argyrophylla
Geographical Origin:	China (Sichuan, Guizhou)

Note: Bloom time and 10 year height information are approximate and can vary dependent on weather and growing conditions. Hardiness temperature is also an approximate value.

Table copied from:

http://www.rhododendron.org/descriptionS_taxon.asp?ID=372

American Rhododendron Society
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HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY

Event Calendar 2019 – 2020

- Feb. 19 Bob Zimmermann –
Arunachal Pradesh, Wilderness Untouched (with Rhododendrons)
- 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