



Eugene Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Officers, Board Members, & Committees

President	Ali Sarlak
Vice-President	Jack Olson
Treasurer	Nancy Burns
Secretary	Sherlyn Hilton
Past-President	Ted Hewitt
Membership	Nancy Burns

Nolan Blansit	2013-2014
Helen Baxter	2012-2015
Tom Beatty	2012-2015
Barbara Novak	2013-2016
Terry Henderson	2013-2016

Committees

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

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March Chapter Meeting Thursday, March 13

The Humboldt Botanical Garden

Tim Walsh, ARS District 5 Director

We are in for a treat on Thursday, March 13, when Tim Walsh presents a program on the development of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens in Eureka, California. Join us at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street in Eugene at 6:30 p.m. for social time with the annual business meeting at 7:00 followed by the program. The following is a bio of Tim written by his wife, June, who you will also enjoy meeting.

Timothy Patrick Walsh, born and raised 4th generation Humboldt County, Eureka Calif.

After attending University of Southern California, Tim became a sheep boy on the ranch of his dad's long time friend. He thought his prospects of making a living as a ranch-hand were poor so he became a real estate broker and finally settled in as a Stock Broker for more than 30 years.

Tim had an epiphany in Eugene's own Hendricks Park Garden in the '80s when he discovered Rhododendron 'Loderi King George', his first contact with a scented Rhododendron. Before that he had grown up with the thousands of R. 'Countess of Derby', which in Eureka were planted by Cottage Gardens for the cut flower trade and sold as R. 'Eureka Maid'. As a little boy he would break off branches of the pink flowers and carry them up the street to sell for candy money (his dad was a dentist).

As the Rhodo-bug hit him hard, he spent many Saturdays at Westgate Garden Nursery with Catherine Weeks. One day she said that he needed to join the American Rhododendron Society to learn more about rhodos and meet other people who had the same affliction. Thus began a long relationship with the ARS, first as chapter President (an office he has reprised more than once), then treasurer, then Treasurer of ARS, and currently District 5 director where he sits on the Executive Board. He is thoroughly Rhodo-holic.

(Continued on page 2)

(Newsletter photos by Ted Hewitt unless otherwise indicated)

(Tim Walsh continued from page 1)

In 1991 a Eureka lady called all the local garden/plant societies together to see if there were enough people interested in exploring making a botanical garden in Humboldt County. Tim was on the first board of directors for the newly formed Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation. Tim and June have been very actively involved at all levels of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens, both at the board and at the "hands-in-the-dirt" levels. We hope you will enjoy Tim's program on the new Humboldt Botanical Garden, just possibly the best place anywhere to grow Rhododendrons (...and a few other special plants as well)!

If you want to do some homework before the program, you might want to visit the website for the Humboldt Botanical Garden at www.hbgf.org.

Pre-Meeting Speaker's Dinner

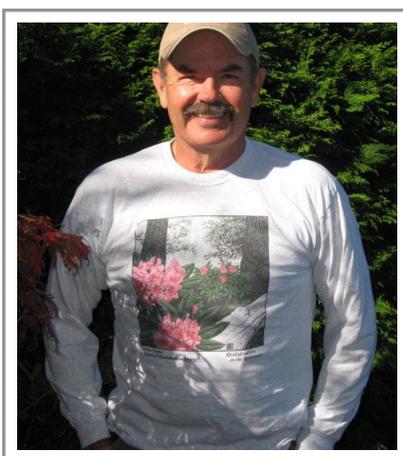
For a chance to visit with Tim and June, come to the pre-meeting no-host speaker's dinner at 5:00 p.m. at El Torito Mexican Restaurant at 1003 Valley River Way. There is good parking and it's a great place for food and talk. Please RSVP to Ted Hewitt by e-mail at ted.hewitt@comcast.net or by phone at 541-687-8119 by Tuesday, March 11, so that I can let the restaurant know how many to set the table for.

Ted's Notes



Due to illness, Barbara is not able to create this month's newsletter so I am subbing for her.

- Just 2 weeks ago, we had 8" of ice-crusted snow and no electric power making for a difficult week. Now we have had some sunshine with warmer temperatures and there are flowers bursting into bloom around the garden which sends the psyche to a much better level. The little spring bulbs that Ali mentions in his message as well as the early rhododendrons help to relieve the anxiety of wondering what kind of bloom we would have after the severe cold in December.
- A couple of days ago, Paula and I went up to Hendricks Part to see if the *R. ririei* was in bloom as I had noticed 3 weeks ago the blossoms were just starting to open. Unfortunately the Rhododendron Garden is still closed due the ice storm damage to the trees 2 weeks ago.
- I enjoyed our February chapter meeting with Truls Jensen speaking on *The Shady Rock Garden* and was pleased that we had so many guests - from Mapleton, Noti, Corvallis, Roseburg, and Eugene. One of the guests from Roseburg even brought several beautifully grown rock garden plants for door prizes and Truls brought a great selection of plants from his nursery Wild Ginger Farm to sell - sort of like bringing a specialty nursery right to us. I went home with new additions for our rock beds.



Tim Walsh, ARS District 5 Director
(photo courtesy of June Walsh)



Meconopsis sp. in the Humboldt Botanical Garden
(photo by Tim Walsh)



R. mucronulatum 'Crater's Edge'
(photo by Sherlyn Hilton)

From the President

Rhododendrons and Companion Plants

I have been asked by many people who have the same interests as I do what are my favorite plants? And my response to their question is “plants of any kind”.

I work around plants and trees of all kinds and they all give me enjoyment in various ways. I like rhododendrons and azaleas (evergreen and deciduous) but, at the same time, I want the varieties which add interest in my yard all year round. There are so many options to combine rhododendrons with other plants in the landscape. Here are some suggestions as ground cover: lily of the valley, wild ginger, so many interesting ferns, cyclamen (spring and fall blooming one), crocus, snow drops, our native clover (*Oxalis oregana*), primulas, hostas and many more. These plants not only give interest in the landscape but also keep the weeds low and create a cool atmosphere for the rhododendrons' roots during summer heat.

Options for shrubs to combine: here I mention a few - *Kalmia latifolia* which is in the rhododendron family (Ericaceae), fuchsias, our *Mahonia aquifolium* (Oregon Grape), *Hamamelis* or (witch hazel) (many varieties of it and some kinds have been blooming for a while now), other native plants, such as huckleberry and elderberry go well with the rhododendrons, *Pieris japonica* (comes with so many foliage and flower kinds), and our Western native plant *Manzanita*. A thing to keep in mind with this particular one is to plant it in a sunny spot with not much water. There are many *Viburnums* with my favorite one in my yard being *tomentosum* and I have *Nandina* with their beautiful foliage all around the yard.

A few choices for trees along with rhododendrons are: Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*), *Parrotia* (Persian tree), all sorts of interesting Japanese maple trees, some deciduous *Magnolias*, *Camellias*, *Styrax japonica* and even some hardy varieties of Palm trees. Speaking of palm trees, I have one in my yard that is almost 30 feet high and is doing great even with the unexpected cold and snow we had weeks ago.

So, as you see, these are just a few which I can think of. I am sure you have plenty of choices of plants on your own to add to your yard to create more year round interest.



Cyclamen coum



Snowdrops



Nandina 'Firepower'



Japanese Umbrella Pine

*ARS
Eugene Chapter
Spring
Rhododendron*

Show and Banquet
SATURDAY, APRIL 19
3:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
HILTON GARDEN INN

*Plant Sale
at the
Fairgrounds*

SATURDAY, MAY 10
9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

*Annual
Plant Sale*

Each year the largest income producer for our chapter is the plant sale that we do in conjunction with the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group Plant Sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds, which this year will be on Saturday, May 10. We hope that you will be able to help us either on the set-up day, Friday, May 9, or on Saturday. Ted will have a sign-up sheet at the March 13 chapter meeting and at the April 19 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet for you to volunteer for a 2 or 3 hour shift. Your help in answering rhododendron questions of the gardeners is much appreciated and you do not have to handle the money at all.

**RHODODENDRON &
DAFFODIL SHOW AND SALE**
AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN



SATURDAY, April 5th - SUNDAY, April 6th
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden will host the **Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Daffodil Society's Annual Show and Sale.**

The garden is located at:
5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland

Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Show opens at 12:00 pm on Saturday

TO ENTER YOUR OWN FLOWERS in the show bring them to the exhibit hall
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

More information: www.rhodies.org or 503 771-8386

Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

Thanks go to Paula and Ted Hewitt for furnishing the cookies and grapes at the February meeting. Also, thank you Nancy Burns and Linda Wylie for making the coffee.

Nancy Burns has volunteered to bring the refreshment treats to the March 13 meeting.



Rhododendron baileyi is a rare and unusual species with attractively brown-scaly foliage and stunning deep red-purple flowers in late spring. It is an alpine species found in the high Himalayas, hardy to 0° F, and will get to 4' in 10 yrs.



R. baileyi
(photo by Harold Greer)

Elections at March 13 Meeting

It is that time of year again when we elect officers and Board members to leadership positions. This year we elect President and Vice-President for two-year terms and one Board member to fill Nolan Blansit's seat for a 3-year term and one Board member to complete the final two years of Terry Henderson's term. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Helen Baxter, Sherlyn Hilton, and Terry Henderson is nominating a slate of:

- Ali Sarlak for President
 - Terry Henderson for Vice-President
 - Gordon Wylie, 3-year term on the Board
 - Jack Olson, 2-year term on the Board
- The election will take place at the March 13 chapter meeting.

2014 Spring Rhododendron Show & Banquet

by Sherlyn Hilton

Somewhere in our region a bud is forming. This bud persevered through frigid temperatures, snow and ice storms. In April this bud will burst forth and bring a smile to all who see it. Is it in your garden?

Help us find the winning truss for the 2014 Spring Rhododendron Show!

On April 19th bring your entries to the Hilton Garden Inn of Springfield. This year we celebrate our gardens. We invite you to share your garden tragedies and triumphs. Please bring digital pictures (in .jpeg format) and we'll display them during dinner. You may also take a few minutes to tell us about your adventures. Travel and family photos are also welcome!

We will dine on a delicious buffet of various green and pasta salads, vegetables, smoked Gouda ravioli, grilled chicken, roasted pork medallions, and a generous selection of desserts.

Look in the April newsletter for prices, times and flower show specifics.

There is Going to be Bloom, After all

by Ted Hewitt

After the strange winter we have had with cold and snow in both December and February, many of us have wondered what kind of bloom there would be on our rhododendrons in the spring. Though it is a bit later than usual, color is now popping out on 'Christmas Cheer', 'Seta', and *R. erubescens* in our garden along with quite a number of perennials.

R. 'Seta' is often considered to be bud tender but ours is covered with buds showing color with only a couple of brown buds on the plant. This lovely plant is a hybrid of *R. spinuliferum* and *R. moupinense* and gets its upright, somewhat tubular flowers from *R. spinuliferum*. The flower buds look like pieces of bright pink and white candy opening to flowers that are light pink with deep pink on the back. Our plant has now been in the garden for 6 years and is about 30" tall and two feet wide so has more of an upright stature and will be about 4' - 5' tall after 10 years.

Though the foliage is not great, it received an Award of Merit back in 1933 and a First Class Certificate in 1960, both of which are British awards. 'Seta' was hybridized by Lord Aberconway and registered in 1933 at his famous estate of Bodnant in Wales so has been around for quite some time. It makes a very nice, early flowering, mid-sized plant for our gardens with unusually shaped but very pretty flowers. Certainly *R. spinuliferum* has produced a number of nice plants for our gardens among its progeny.



R. 'Seta' in bud



R. 'Seta' in bloom

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EVENT CALENDAR

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CHAPTER EVENTS:

- March 13 • *The Humboldt Botanical Garden* with Tim Walsh, ARS District Director
 • Officer and Board Member Election
- April 19 • 2014 Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn
 • A member slide show will be held in lieu of a speaker
- May 10 Plant Sale at Lane County Fairgrounds
- June Picnic Date and Details TBA

CONFERENCES 2014:

- April 25-26 RSF 50th Anniversary Celebration, Federal Way, WA
- May 16-18 ARS Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH
- May 20-31 ARS Tour of Northern Europe Gardens, Germany and Denmark
- September 26-28 ARS Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA

**CONFERENCES 2015:**

- Spring ARS Annual Convention, Sydney, B.C.

American Rhododendron Society
 Eugene Chapter
 PO Box 7704
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March 2014
Newsletter

ARSSore.org

Where every purchase benefits the
 American Rhododendron Society

