

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 4

January 2022

Issue 1



Willamette Chapter ARS
Rhododendron Hillside Garden
Bush Pasture Park

CHAPTER MEETINGS: Due to Covid-19, our current chapter meetings are held online via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. The Zoom link is sent via email and listed in the newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until in-person meetings can safely be resumed.

CHAPTER MEETING January 12, 2022



**Speaker - Emily Aune, Head Gardener
of the Rhododendron Garden at
Hendricks Park**

**Title: *The History of Hendricks Park and
the Rhododendron Garden***

Social Time: 6:30pm

Meeting and Program: 7:00pm

Join via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83867185366>

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2022**

***If we are ever to enjoy life,
now is the time, not tomorrow
or next year....
Today should always be our
most wonderful day.***

Thomas Dreier



Hope sees the invisible,
feels the intangible and
achieves the impossible.

~ Anon ~

December Potluck

To quote Robert Burns, "The best-laid plans of mice and men oft go awry".

Plans were made to hold our December potluck at the home of our President, Wally Reed, on Saturday December 4, with the social hour starting at noon and the meal at 1:00pm. But due to illness during the week before, a change of venue was needed. So Keith called our good friend Steve Dunn, owner of Redgate Vineyard and Winery in Independence and asked if we could take over half his "Field-house" for our potluck and he agreed. There would still be open hours for wine tasting for the public but we were more than welcome to use part of the facility. Those who had previously RSVP'd quickly agreed to the change and the potluck was "back on".

The day was overcast and cold but there was a crackling fire in the fireplace, the Christmas music was playing and there was a festive atmosphere inside. The Redgate wine was flowing, the main course food was delicious and the desserts were many and delectable!

The prior pictures are of our host, Steve Dunn, and Redgate Wine. The following are pictures taken at the potluck illustrating the great time we had! No need to identify the participants as you know who you are



Good food,
Good company
and
Good wine





Obviously we all enjoyed seeing one another in person! Only those fully vaccinated could attend.



I think I see a number of empty wine glasses on this side of the page.



Love that blue sweater





Love those smiles!



The food must have been good as all the plates are empty.

Look's like Steve is "holding court" - no pun intended



This last photo of the primary photographer was taken by Ali Sarlak

January Program



Speaker: Emily Aune

Topic: *The History of Hendricks Park and the Rhododendron Garden*

January 12, 2022 6:30 Social 7:00 Program

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83867185366>

Meeting ID: 838 6718 5366

One tap mobile

+12532158782,, 83867185366# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Emily Aune currently works as the head gardener of the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden in Eugene and has been in that role for the last eight years. Prior to that, she was on the garden staff at Hendricks Park for four years.

She began her love of the plants and the outdoors in Bloomington Indiana, where she spent her summers working at a youth camp, and worked at a retail plant nursery during her last few years of high school. She moved to Oregon in 1999, as she had family in Eugene, and quickly fell in love with the mountains, streams and mossy green forests. She picked up gardening jobs for work and started taking Botany classes at Lane Community College. She finished college with an Environmental Science degree, and worked some seasonal positions for the City of Eugene, including as a Botany Assistant, and also in their native plant nursery.

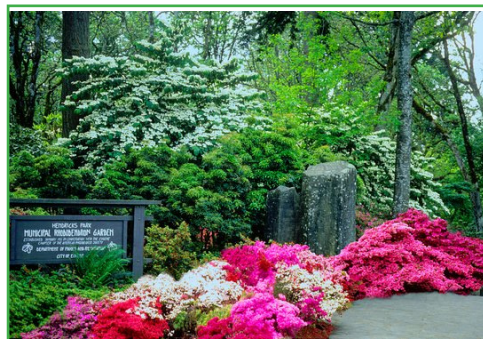
Then she landed a full- time position for the City of Eugene Parks Department on their landscape crew. It was not long until she was permanently assigned to Hendricks Park.

Emily joined the Eugene Chapter Rhododendron Society in 2017 and became the secre-

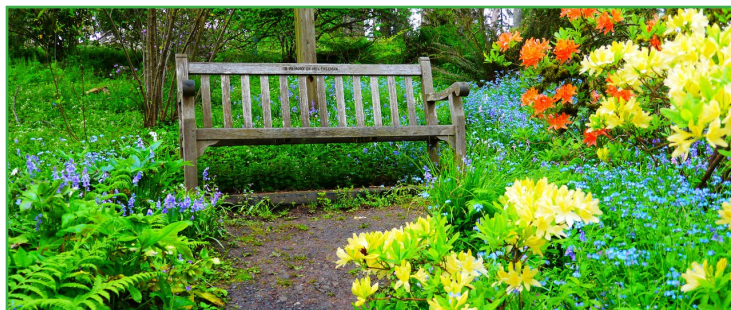
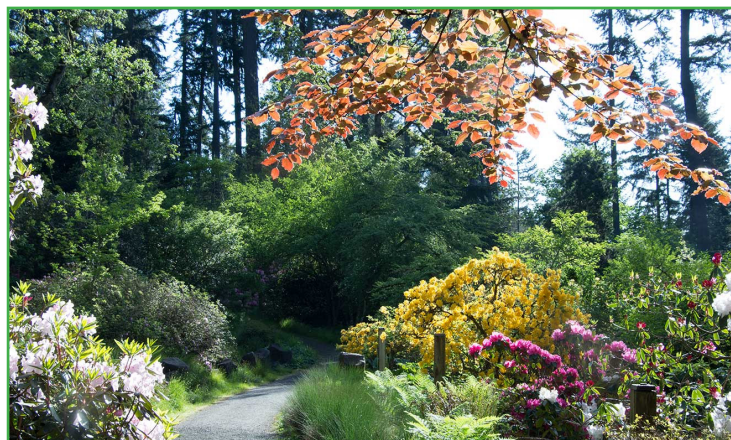
tary in 2019. She contributes to their newsletter every month, with updates and news about Hendricks Park. She has had two articles published in the ARS journal and continues to get more involved with the local societies.

One of her favorite parts of her job is working with the volunteers who show up every Tuesday morning to help weed, prune, plant and take care of the garden. She relates to this group of folks who are equally dedicated and excited about maintaining a beautiful garden. When not at work, she is out adventuring with her dog Rhody, or spending time with family and friends.

Emily's talk will follow Hendricks Park from when it was first established in 1906 as the first City of Eugene Park to the amazing garden and open space that it is now.



Hendricks Park and the Rhododendron Garden



Otis S. Tallan Jr

8/6/30 - 12/9/21



Otis S. Tallan Jr., 91, passed peacefully while surrounded by his loving family on December 9, 2021.

Otis was born on August 6, 1930 to Otis Sr. and Mildred Tallan in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up in the Des Moines area and graduated from Urbandale High School in 1948. After graduation he spent a year in college studying Business Administration. In 1950 Otis enlisted in the Air Force, serving during the Korean War. During his service, Otis was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal. After his discharge in 1954, Otis spent a short time in Colorado and Alaska. He then moved to Portland, Oregon where he started his career in banking.

Otis met his wife Joan in 1960 while they were both working at the Multnomah Bank in Portland. They were married on April 15, 1961 and enjoyed 60 years together. Otis and Joan were blessed with four children; Donald, Daniel (Ann), Darrell (Irene) and Diana (Paul). The family initially lived in Portland before moving to Sherwood, Oregon in 1967.

Otis decided to make a career change after working for 12 years at banks in the Portland area and in Canby, Oregon. In 1971 he began

working as a landscaper and also worked as a contractor. In the early 1970's, Otis built new houses in Sherwood, Cannon Beach and Dundee, Oregon. He also landscaped the grounds around these new homes and many others. During this same time frame he also became a part-time landscape gardener responsible for maintaining a large, 10 acre estate in the Raleigh Hills area of Portland.

In 1977 Otis purchased a farm south of Canby where he started both a small dairy and a nursery. He operated the dairy until 1990. He maintained and cared for several hundred rhododendrons and a variety of evergreen plants during that same time in addition to continuing his part-time landscaping job in Portland. After retiring as a dairyman and also the landscaping job in the mid 90's, Otis continued to work every day caring for and nurturing his plants. He enjoyed propagating many varieties of his rhododendrons and growing them in a greenhouse located near the farm. Otis and Joan were members of the American Rhododendron Society and the Hardy Plant Society. Otis enjoyed attending many plant shows each year where he sold some of his plants and also purchased new varieties to add to his collection.

Otis and Joan moved to Tualatin, Oregon in 2019. Otis brought several plants with him and proudly displayed them for his new neighbors to enjoy. Otis was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Molalla.

Otis is preceded in death by his parents; brother Thomas; and sister Ann. Survivors include his wife; four children; eleven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and brother Michael (Judy). A graveside service for immediate family members will take place in the Spring of 2022.

The obituary and the following 3 pictures were provided by Otis's family. The pictures are of his rhododendrons on his farm in Canby.



Lane”, since one neighbor’s Noble Fir Christmas tree farm was right on the corner where our road branched off. Otis did the necessary administrative work with Marion County to name the road.

At the same time, I found out that I was physician to Otis’s son and daughter in law and had delivered Otis’s 4 grandchildren via that union.

We also met coincidentally at meetings of the Willamette Chapter ARS. After talking a while about early blooming rhododendrons, Otis offered me one of the R Seta that he had grown from cuttings. That Seta has done very well, forcing me to extend the flagstone path around it as Seta grows.

We will miss Otis.



R. seta by Hank Helm

Addendum from Keith White:

I was fortunate to know Otis via rhododendron, via family and via real estate. Otis was a good guy and good with rhododendrons.

I met Otis in 1995 when I purchased my home in South Salem. His father had owned the land on our hilltop. His brother, Mick and wife Judy, were our neighbors. When it came time to officially name the road that we and other neighbors shared, the task was Otis’s responsibility. We and our neighbors decided that we would name the little road “Noble Fir



Rhododendron ‘New Hope’ for a New Year and New Beginnings photo by Chris Anderson



Too Much Water

by Keith White

On my "To Do" list for this winter is "Move Sprinklers" . By this I mean in an area where I have two sprinklers overlapping patterns, plants have died because I have been giving them too much water.

One solution is to combine two sprinklers into one, if the pattern of that one left will cover the area sufficiently.

Another solution is to apply less water by, in my case, cutting down on the watering time for that automatic sprinkler station.

And yet another solution is to "lift" the plants in that area.

I have a bed of named hybrid azaleas. One of the plants in front in the bed has succumbed after having a good start in life. Two others flanking behind that one have started to die back. These are in an area where I have overlapping sprinkler patterns. The die back may well be from fungus encouraged by too much water. This fall I lifted the two still living but ailing azaleas by digging them up and, on the same spot, raising them on an underlying mound of a combination of fine gravel, soil, and potting mix, such that moisture will be retained but drainage will be fast. This experiment may be too late to save these plants if fungus has already destroyed and continues to destroy the roots.

But to prevent the same fate from other azaleas in that bed, I am removing a sprinkler from in front of that bed, then moving what was a nearby sprinkler with pattern overlapping the one removed. I am sure that the remaining sprinkler will provide enough water for the areas previously covered by both sprinklers.

While researching this topic I found an article in the JARS archives that addresses the "Too much water" issue as well as other causes of rhododendron death.

Vol. 48: No. 2: Year 1994

Top Causes of Death in Rhododendrons

Jan D. Kelley
Drain, Oregon

Our hopes soar with the coming of spring as we anticipate another excellent growing season for our rhododendrons with their exquisite flowers. As we ponder the fantastic new hybrids in the pages of the several catalogs that we receive our vision of being successful gardeners bursts forth. However, as you reflect upon last year's plant losses a ray of doubt creeps into your consciousness, and the nagging question emerges: "Why did that plant die?"

For the past 15 years I have enjoyed raising rhododendrons. During that period of time I believe that I have killed rhododendrons in every conceivable way. In the remainder of this brief article I would like to identify some of the various ways that rhododendrons succumb in our yards and gardens. My experience indicates that most rhododendrons die from about seven causes.

To begin with, excessive water kills about 75 percent of all rhododendrons purchased. Rhododendrons are fibrous, shallow rooted plants that need good drainage to perform well. Historically, gardeners have been told to dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the root ball. After the hole is completed put the plant in the hole and back-fill it with a mixture of peat, soil and other amendments. Many rhododendrons die from this guidance. The result of digging the hole and planting the rhododendron in it is nothing more than putting the plant in a bathtub that holds ex-

cessive water. The continual presence of water around the root ball prevents the roots from taking in vital oxygen as well as serving as an excellent incubation chamber for fungus diseases. It seems that most of the native soils around the country have an excessive amount of clay in them. The presence of clay in the soil prevents good drainage, which is vital to the growth of the rhododendrons. Anyone who has ever been to the several locations around the world where rhododendrons originate knows that rhododendrons grow in shallow beds of highly organic matter. The drainage is typically excellent.

Another cause of rhododendron death is lack of water. Rhododendrons do not have tap-roots like trees: their roots grow very near the surface. Therefore, they need frequent watering. The acquisition of new plants in the spring requires regular watering. During the first couple of years watering the plants at least twice a week is a must. As the time goes by and the plants increase in size and root development, watering less frequently works well. After about five or six years it is possible to water weekly or even bi-weekly. Frequently sunburned leaves are the result of the lack of water. For many varieties that have burned in the sun in the past, the cause was lack of water not too much sun. Burned tips on this year's new growth is typically indicative of lack of water as the plant withdraws water from the tips of the new foliage first.

Another cause of rhododendron death is the excessive application of fertilizer. This is particularly true of applying fertilizer directly at the base of the trunk of the plant. A good rule of thumb is to fertilize more frequently with smaller amounts, rather than one large dose. This is especially true for small plants or newly transplanted plants.

A fourth reason for rhododendron death is planting too deep. As indicated earlier, rhododendrons are shallow rooted plants. Their roots grow just below the soil line. If they are placed too deep in the ground, the soil that covers the roots serves to smother them. I

have found that planting too deep will basically stop the plant from growing. Eventually this leads to the death of the plant.

Another reason that rhododendrons die is from cold winter temperatures. Most rhododendron sources indicate the lowest temperature range in which rhododendrons can be successfully grown. This hardiness rating is a guide not an absolute! In general, the lowest temperature during the past five years is a good guide for making selections based on hardiness. Years ago there were very few plants that were hardy in -25°F for the extreme climates. Now we have over 100 varieties that will survive those winter temperatures. Gardeners in the East should select hardy varieties in the beginning. With time and experience less hardy varieties can be successfully tried. A rhododendron rated hardy to 5°F , no matter how beautiful it is, planted in Green Bay, Wisconsin, will not survive.

As more and more home gardeners in the Southern and Midwestern states begin to grow rhododendrons, increased attention must be paid to the hot summer sun. Most varieties exposed to unprotected all-day sun are doomed. However, there are available rhododendron varieties that can stand direct sun. In general rhododendrons in extreme climates benefit from filtered light and partial shade. Planting in a southern exposure without any protection from the sun nearly guarantees plant death.

Finally, if you create the right conditions most rhododendrons will be subject to fungus diseases. Typically we combine several fungus diseases into a general category of "die-back." The results of the disease are seen during the late spring when the plant is just beginning to grow and all of a sudden it drops dead. It is also seen during the summer when a branch turns brown and dies. Frequently the ailing plant will be lost. These phytophthora-type diseases are generally the result of conditions created by the gardener, as it is believed that the disease spores are present in the soil all over the country. Some of the ways that we promote these organisms is by planting the

rhododendron too deep, thus providing a water culture for the development of the disease organisms. Puddles of water that remain more than an hour after watering also harbor disease. Watering in the late afternoon or evening encourages disease development. Finally, failure to use fungicides during the late spring and summer encourages the development of fungus.

In conclusion, you are not alone if you have lost plants to any of the above mentioned causes of rhododendron death. Most of the causes can be overcome with the intelligent selection of plants that are suited to your geographical area. Finally, think about where and how you planted your rhododendrons and what you did to promote their death.



Winter Blooming Camelias

Add Color to a Dreary Winter Day

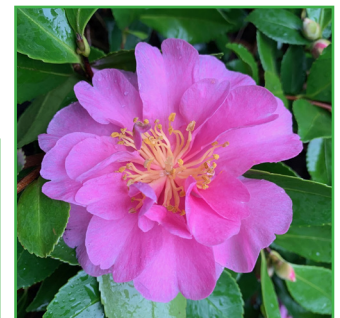
by Keith White

We have three camellias, One spring bloomer and two winter bloomers. These winter bloomers are great plants. The flowers brighten up the winter and are amazing in their ability to withstand the cold weather. I believe that both winter bloomers are sasanquas. The red one is a tree about 12 ft high. It starts blooming in October. I have to prune it in order to keep it from taking over the patio. The second winter bloomer is pink. It blooms a couple of times a year. It is also a vigorous grower. If we did not prune it, after 15 years it would be 10 ft high and 15 ft wide. The snow is gone now and the red tree camellia still has a respectable number of flowers. Note that both camellias have dark green shiny foliage which is decorative year 'round.

To better illustrate specific winter blooming camellias to brighten your landscape, I went to our camellia expert, Kathy Lintault, who provided the following pictures.



Camellia x 'Snow Flurry'



Camellia sasanqua 'Showa-no-sakae'



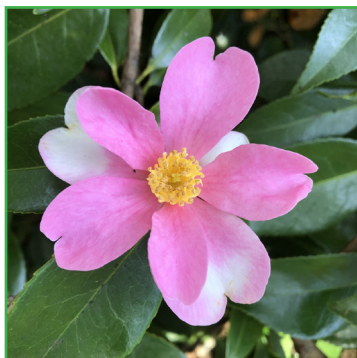
Camellia x 'City of Newberg'



**Camellia sasanqua
'Narumigata'**



**Camellia 'Fukurin-
Wabisuke'**



Camellia x 'Yume'



**Camellia x 'Apple
Blossom'**

If you would like color from a January blooming rhododendron, take a look at R. 'January Rose'. It is a hybrid of R. degonianum ssp. yakushmanum x R. arboreum. The plant has very dark-green glossy leaves with a thick layer of indumentum on the backs of the leaves, and makes a very dense and lush plant. In 10 years the plant will only be 3 feet tall and 4 ft wide. The pink flowers come out in January every year, and if there isn't a frost when it opens, you will get a grand show. But on years when there is frost in January, the flowers all turn brown. Still, it is a worthwhile plant for the garden.



This rhododendron is a Singing Tree Garden original. Click [here](#) for more information.

Don't Let January Zoom By Without You

Eugene Chapter January 19, 2022



Speaker: Emily Aune

Topic: The History of Hendricks Park and the Rhododendron Garden

Social Time 6:30pm Program Time 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900120737?pwd=dC9IOXpUWWhwTU13TIVXQUF1VzhHdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0012 0737 Passcode: 907426

Emily will be giving the same program as our chapter. If you miss our program, you can join in this one.

Portland Chapter January 20, 2022



Speaker: Loree Bohl

Topic: Fearless Gardening

Social Time 6:30pm Program time 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86537607714>

**Meeting ID: 865 3760 7714
One tap mobile: +12532158782,,
86537607714#
Dial Option: (253) 215-8782**

Embrace your inner rebel and create the garden you want—even if it breaks the rules. Loree Bohl, the voice behind the popular blog The Danger Garden, shows how it's done in her book Fearless Gardening, with zone-busting ideas and success stories. Bohl's own gorgeous home garden inspires, with agaves that shrug off ice storms, palms that thrive in the rain, and planting risks that are beautifully rewarded.

ARS 2022

Return to the Northwest



A belated 75th Anniversary Celebration of the ARS

**Hosted by the chapters of
ARS District 4
Portland – Tualatin Valley – Eugene – Willamette – Siuslaw**

Plans are going full speed ahead for the ARS Spring Convention, celebrating the (belated) 75th anniversary of the Society.

Registration is now open and you don't want to be left behind.

For complete conference information regarding schedules, pre and post tours, housing, etc. click on: ARS2022.org



Volunteers will be needed. Contact Steve McCormick to get on the list: ssmccormick@outlook.com.

Don't delay and I hope to see you there!



Lee's Scarlet is the Flower for January



Photo by Stuart Imrie

Predominant Flower Color: Red

Flower/Truss Description: Flower dark rosy crimson fading to deep pink with bright red spots and blotch. Held in trusses of 10 flowers.

Fragrant: No

Bloom Time: Very Early - December to March

Foliage Description / Plant Habit: Thin plastered indumentum on the leaf undersides makes us believe that its unknown parent is probably *arboreum*

Height: 4 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: -5°F (-21°C)

Parentage (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent): caucasicum x unknown

Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L): E

Hybridized or Selected by: Lee

Registration Reference: RHS 58

Plant information obtained from the American Rhododendron Society website and Harold Greer's "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rododendrons"

Online Shopping and the ARS Store - A Reminder to Help

Anytime you shop online for just about anything, please consider first going through the American Rhododendron Society Online Store. The ARS Online Store is reached by the link <http://arsstore.org/>

On this **site you will find** a range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee back on each sale "referred" by ARSStore.org. Just use a link from the ARS Online Store site to go to a merchant's site and buy something like you normally would. You get the same low price and help the ARS.

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

EUGENE CHAPTER

Third Wednesday from Oct to March at 7:30pm
The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, OR

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Third Thursday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR

SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday from Oct to May at 7:00pm
Dye House at Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR

SUISLAW CHAPTER

Third Tuesday at 7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, 3996 Highway 101, Florence, OR

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER

First Tuesday from Sept to April (except for Jan) at 6:45pm
Washington County Fire District 2, 31370 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Willamette Chapter arswillamette.com
Eugene Chapter eugene-chapter-ars.org
Portland Chapter rhodies.org
Siuslaw Chapter siuslawars.org
Tualatin Valley tualatinvalleyars.org

All other web sites can be found on rhododendron.org
Under "chapters" under web sites

ARS BULLETINS are available online at:
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS AWARDS HISTORY - 1978 to 2019

GOLD ---

Herb Spady	1991
Betty Spady	2001

SILVER ---

Richard "Dick" Cavendar	2003
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BRONZE ---

June Brennan	1987
Jason Ashford	1990
Constance Hansen	1991
Betty Spady	1991
Bob Grasing	1997
Sharon Leopold	2002
Wilbur Bluhm	2006
Chuck and Maxine Dehn	2006
Keith White	2007
Helen Malby	2008
Anne Gross	2009
Dick and Carol Lundin	2011
Wally and Kathy Reed	2012
Syd and Don Werminger	2013
Dick and Carol Lundin	2019
Mary B. Crofts	2019
Roger and Kathy Lintault	2019

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