

# Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 2

Issue 1

## **CHAPTER MEETING January 8, 2020**

**7:00 pm in the Carrier room (600 State Street entrance) of the First Methodist Church on the corner of Church and State Streets, Salem**

**PROGRAM: "The Glory of the Garden" narrated by James Mason**

**You will open the book. The pages are blank. You are going to put words and pictures on them yourself. The book is called, My Year 2020, and the first chapter starts New Years Day!**



### **Calendar of Events**

January 8, 2020	Edmund de Rothschild	"The Glory of the Garden - BBC Video
<b>February 17, 2020</b>	Robert Zimmerman	Arunachal Pradesh
March 11, 2020	Karen Brown	Connie Hansen Garden
April 15, 2020		
May 13, 2020		Spring Potluck & Plant Sale

**The December Potluck** - What can I say that hasn't been already been said in years past. It was absolutely fantastic! Kathy and Wally are such wonderful hosts and do it with such ease, that we don't always appreciate the work they put into decorating the house and cooking the meal.



Kathy Reed, Chef Extraordinaire, once again cooks the Prime Rib to everyone's satisfaction - and I'm so envious of her gravy making skills!



Wally Reed and Dick Lundin perform the carving duties - Dick is so talented he can carve with his eyes shut.

**There were so many great pictures and it's obvious we were having a great time but I can't include them all, so will share a few.**



Mouthwatering display of the food before we devoured it.



Tom and Brada Bailey looking very festive and the smiling Christmas Tree is enjoying the potluck as well.



The delicious desserts - and Anne, I apologize that we didn't get a picture of yours, but I think it was mostly gone by this time.







A variety of pictures illustrating the great time we had! No need to identify the participants as you know who you are

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**January Program:** An Amazing Story - The “Glory of the Garden” is the story of how Lionel Nathan de Rothschild spent a fortune to create one of the most spectacular gardens in the World. It took 150 men 10 years to transform 250 acres of virgin forest into a fairy-tale realm of breathtaking beauty. Lionel built an elegant neo-Georgian house as the hub of this vast enterprise. He constructed a private railway to transport rocks for his rockery, the largest in Europe! He dug wells that never run dry to water the million or so plants in the garden. He co-financed plant-hunting expeditions to the remotest parts of the Himalayas to collect seed of the flower he loved above all others - the rhododendron. He went on to create 1, 204 new hybrids of rhododendron and azalea. In fact, he was the greatest hybridizer who ever lived! The GLORY OF THE GARDEN is a cinematic celebration of his achievements, providing a rare and intimate glimpse of the Rothschild family through the extensive use of their private photographic and home-movies archives.

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**CHANGES TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING:**

The February Meeting will take place on Monday February 17, not Wednesday, February 12. The December Newsletter announced that the dinner and meeting would take place at Kathy and Wally Reeds house. **The change is that the dinner will be at the RAM Pub at 5:00pm with the meeting following at the Reed’s house beginning at 7:00pm.** Please RSVP to Kathy or Wally if you plan to attend the meeting so the appropriate number of chairs will be set up. Robert Zimmerman from Port Ludow, WA will be the speaker.



**DECEMBER 9, 2019** - It was a cold, damp, foggy Monday morning when we started out for the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden to meet Mike Buckman, the man who built the bench dedicated to Bob Grasing. The plaque had finally arrived and today it would be placed on the bench - a glorious tribute to a man who so loved this garden!

The fog lifted by the time we arrived and the sun was out in full glory by the time the last nut and bolt was fastened. I definitely think Bob would approve!



Mike Buckman measuring for plaque placement



**"Think About It"- Robert "Bob" Grasing Jr.  
1926 - 2018**



The completed bench with plaque applied.



Tom Gressler, Mary Ellen and Mike admiring the finished product.

### **UPDATE ON THE 2020 ARS 75 CONVENTION**

Below is the notice of all of the events of the ARS 75th Conference April 17 through the first week in May 2020.

The URL for the entire schedule is at [ars75.org](https://ars75.org)

Registration for the various events is at

<https://ars75.org/register-now/>

Heathman Lodge Hotel reservations are at

<https://ars75.org/hotel/>

By phone 360-254-3100, please be sure to request the "American Rhododendron Society Block" to secure your group discount rate. Standard rate level @\$139; business level rate @\$149 (plus taxes and fees).

Rooms are going fast. Wally

[Alternative hotel information on the website.](#)

### **Additional Convention Note from Harold Greer:**

December 12, 2019

The Oregon Chapters of the ARS are hosting the 75th Anniversary convention in Vancouver this spring. In order to make this an exceptional convention and to offer more than our normal registration would allow for this special convention, we are going outside our normal parameters and asking some of our friends to provide some tax deductible donations for this event. We are a 501 c3 organization. \$100, \$250, or \$500 or whatever you feel is right would be appreciated. The con-



vention is going well with great speakers and attendance from around the world.

Thank you for help in making this international convention something to remember. Please send any tax deductible donations to Loni Welsh, 905 N. Harbor Drive, Unit 5, Portland, OR 97217-8400. Please know that I have asked not to know the results of donations other than total amounts as I don't want to pressure friends. If you wish to be recognized you will be listed in our convention handout, but without a donation amount.

Please make checks payable to Portland Chapter ARS.

Warm regards,

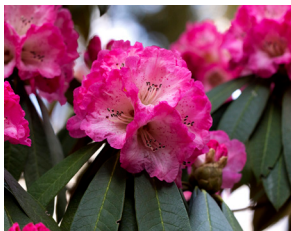
Harold

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**JANUARY QUIZ - For your edification and amusement (my Latin teacher said this every time he gave a test)** Name these closely related rhododendron species and identify the Sub-section of Genus Rhododendron of which they all belong. This sounds more complicated than last month's quiz, but Keith says it is easier - He's taking into consideration all the holiday wear and tear on your body and mind. The answers are on the last page.



#1



#2



#3



#4

## SPRING 2020 RHODODENDRON SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT DISTRIBUTION

The Willamette Chapter of the ARS is a member and donor to the RSBG. As such, our chapter is eligible to get first choice of available plants at each biennial distribution. This is especially valuable to those who are not RSBG members but would like to order plants.

The link to the 2020 Spring Catalog is:

<https://rhodygarden.org/shop/order-plantsseeds/>. Steve Hootman, the curator, gives good descriptions of the plants.

You can look them up for appearance on Hirsutum via google or just google the species. You can also see some on the ARS website. My RSBG photo committee is working on getting all the species photos of the RSBG collections on line. Also, I and our library have extensive species photos. I can email you a photo of the flower of almost any plant that you request.

I have ordered plants every spring and fall for over 25 years. Ordering is very easy. If you would like to order, email me the accession number\* I will put your order down on my paper copy of the order forms, then scan and email it to the RSBG. Let me know if you would like more than one of any selection. Multiples are often available.

**I suggest that you try to make your choices by January 14th because the distribution begins on the 16th.** I need a day or two to get the order done. Choices submitted by that date are the most likely to be filled. . The later you order after January 16th, the less likely to receive your choice, given that some plants are in short supply. But if you see something later that you would like I will try to get it for you. For more common plants there is a good supply. Also, there is a shipping fee for plants. For batched orders I will split the fee.

For questions call me at: 503 559 5796.

Keith White

\*The accession number is the number the RSBG assigns to the verified specimen in their collection from which cuttings are grown on for the clones of the mother plant that are offered for sale...so you are getting the real thing! The history of its collection including date, place, altitude, collector and field notes are documented and botanists such as Steve Hootman and the staff at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh have verified that it meets the criteria for that species. An example of an accession number is 102-64. This means that this plant was the 102nd plant added to the RSBG collection in 1964. The RSBG maintains strict records of its accessions.

# Identify the Rhododendron Species

## Answers:

#1: R niveum

#2: R arboreum ssp. cinnamomomeum

#3: R lanigerum

#4: R arboreum ssp. arboreum

**They all belong to subsection: Arborea**

If you disagree, please connect with Keith White to discuss!

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## 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 very wide range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee of 4% to 25% 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. Wally Reed - President

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## MONTHLY EVENTS

### EUGENE CHAPTER

The Springs at Greer Gardens 1280 Goodpasture Island

Rd. Eugene, OR Third Wednesday Oct to May at 7:30 pm

### SIUSLAW CHAPTER

First Presbyterian Church 3996 Highway 101, Florence, OR

Third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

### PORTLAND CHAPTER

All Saints Episcopal Church

4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR

Third Thursday, and the program begins at 7 pm.

### SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday of the month 7:00pm

Willamette Heritage Center

1313 Mill Street SE Salem, Or. 97301

### TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER

First Tuesday of the month at 7 pm Washington County

Fire District 2 31370 NW Commercial Street North Plains, OR 97133

## DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Arswillamette.org

eugene-chapter-ars.org

rhodies.org (Portland)

siuslawars.org

tualatinvalleyars.org

All other web sites can be found on [rhododendron.org](http://rhododendron.org)

Under chapters under web sites

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All ARS Bulletins are

now available on line at:

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

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## Willamette Chapter Officers

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