



# Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 3

March 2021

Issue 3



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 March 10, 2021

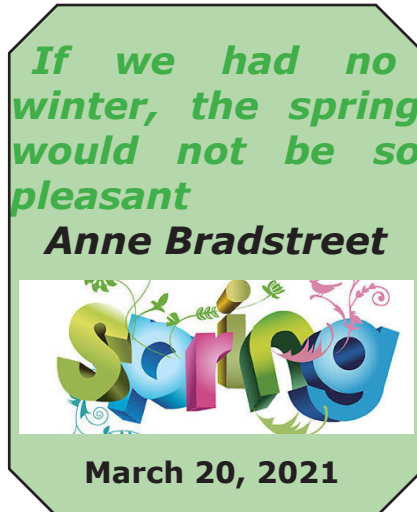
Speaker - Dr. Richard Hebda

Speaking on: The Future of Rhododendrons: The Ancient Past,  
Modern Distributions and Climate Change

Join via Zoom Conference at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81338525497>



Cornus Kousa in our yard  
2/13/2021



From the Spring photos at the  
RSBG website

# February Minutes



## Mary Crofts Secretary February 10, 2021

The “doorbell” rang loud and clear for all the Zoom attendees, whether a member, associate, or visitor. I’m not sure how many people “attended”, but I’m assuming it was about the same number as last month.

Our President-4-Life, Wally Reed opened the meeting by announcing that there wasn’t any business (not even funny business) so we could go right to our speaker of the evening, Wally Reed. No one objected so it was on to “Mapping Your Yard”. Program Chair, Keith White, did introduce Wally, in case no one had figured out who he was. And since everyone knew Wally, all we needed was refreshment provided by ourselves and the talk could begin. As was done in January, Wally’s talk was recorded for those who either missed tonight or wanted to hear it again.

“So why make a map” of your garden or yard or anything else. Wally had plenty of reasons for doing so. You might want to “see” what your garden looks like now and how it might look with changes or additions. It can help you decide which plants to put in your garden or leave out.. How much space do you have for which plants. You wouldn’t want to plant R. Rockhill Ivory Ruffles (Wally’s back yard beauty) in a spot fit for only R. pendulum. A map helps you figure out what plants died over the winter, or which plants just haven’t surfaced yet, thinking the plant is dead when it’s just a late bloomer. A map is most useful when you can’t remember where you planted what. If you’ve carefully put name tags or “sticks” with each plant, chances are the ink is gone. Or the tag blew away, or over time, just “wore out”. A map is “a representation of the real world ...flattened and reduced to a scale”, and in this case it’s your garden.

Wally showed us how to do a basic map for a small territory, which can be expanded as your garden grows, using his garden map(s) as an example.

To start you need a rough map of your garden as is it now or as you want it to be using the space you have allocated. Just sketch it out on anything, that’s not valuable or belongs to someone else, or already has writing on it, “eyeballing” the size of your plants. Now you get serious. You need essential equipment: maps or photos (or both) of your property, various measuring tools such as a yardstick, tape measures, a protractor, lots of graph paper and tracing paper, and lots of “space to spread out”.

You gather material for figuring out how much space you have for your garden by checking other sources. If possible find someone who’s already made a map of your property. The best source for old maps and/or measurements are found at the city hall. They have tax assessors’ measurements which are accurate. Aerial photos provide good pictures of your property as you can visualize garden space in relationship to your house and other structures. He also suggested having your grandkids take photos with their drones, but he wasn’t sure how accurate they’d be! Wally showed us the map he did of his yard and that pointed out another plus for tax maps. They showed his property was NOT oriented “true North” and the four sides were not the same measurements.

After the city recorder has made a copy of the tax assessor’s map and/or arial view photos, make enlarged copies of them, so that when you draw your map you have larger grid cells and more space to work in. Decide what measurement each cell (little box) in your grid will represent. (Each cell equaling 2 feet, for example) If your math skills are still honed and you still have your high school protractor, you can measure any odd angles in your garden area. Make a grid of the same size on your property photo, so that your grid paper map and your property map are on the same scale.

Then put in the plants already in your yard/garden. Find permanent features near the four corners, such as a fence, a large tree, a bird house. Also identify the yard area as this makes a great baseline for measuring plants. Using his glorious R. Rockhill Ruffles White, Wally had measured two angles from the base of Ruffles to the edge of the yard. He could then place it on the exact amount of space it used in the garden...how many cells on the graph paper it “used” up. Doing this with each plant showed, flattened, his garden to a much smaller but equally accurate size.



When the final grid map is done, date it and sign it. Take the tracing paper and trace off the map, nice and neat and no grid lines. There are, somewhere, a list of the symbols used by garden landscapers for identifying the plants. Sources like Good Housekeeping books probably would have these.

Finally, you need to inventory your plant. This should include each plants location on the final grid map. Use the same number on the inventory as is on the grid map. Using a rhody as an example, (of course...what else??) Wally had written down the side of the garden where it was, the name, and the size. Wally did this for all his plants on all 4 sides. The number of the plant should be the same on the grid map, the traced map and the inventory.

Depending on the size of your garden or how many plants you have or both, you can make separate maps for different things: one for rhodys, one for annuals, one for perennials, one for bulbs etc. For large gardens or yards, this might work out the best. Another idea was mapping according to the season they bloom.

At this point, your Secretary's brain went elsewhere, as Wally started talking about putting all this in/on the dreaded computer. I'm computer-illiterate. Computers not only use words I've never heard before; they take the English language and change the original meaning to something computer-related. I did get his recommendation for computer programs: the Systems Institute and Google. And with all this information, Wally had a final thought: Go Forth And Map!! And we were on to questions.

The first came from Springfield, a gentleman (no name) who has 2000 azaleas, wanting to know what size grid paper he should use. Wally recommended a 2 to 3 foot grid for a 1/2 acre lot. Glen Jamison (not a member of WCARS but one of our Zoomers) suggested doing the initial mapping of plants using a water-proof pen and paper. Ali Sarlak asked about a map of Bush Garden Park in Salem. Wally said he can put Ali in touch with people who have that. With that, we closed the meeting officially, but Zoomers hung out for awhile to chat, even without cookies and coffee.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Mary Crofts** - Secretary - WCARS

**The following are some informational slides from Wally's presentation.**

### WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A PROFESSIONAL MAP?

SUBJECT -- YOUR AUDIENCE

TYPE OF MAP, POINTS LINES AREAS

COORDINATE SYSTEM -- (GRID)

PROJECTION -- FLATTEN THE EARTH

ORIENTATION -- ( N )

SCALE -- GRID (10 FT PER SIDE)

SYMBOLS -- SUBJECT (RHODY HERE)

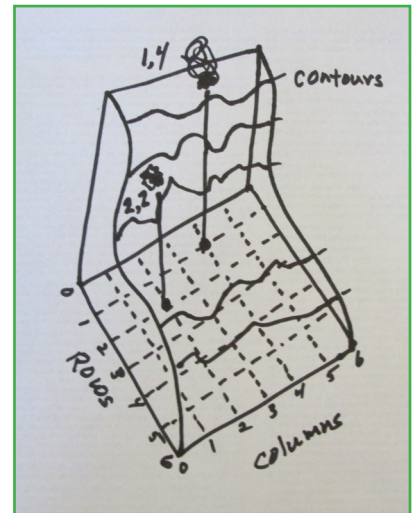
AUTHOR, DATE, ACCURACY

"A Map For Me" N ↑  
orientation

Projection = Conformal Shape Preserved  
 Rectangular Coordinates  
 1 Grid Cell = 10 Feet = Scale

Wally Reed Jan. 18, 2018

**This demonstrates the height to placement in the garden**



#### MAPPING ANOTHER LAYER OF PLANTS ALONG REED'S WEST LOT LINE – SAME METHODS WITH REGISTRATION POINT

Example of Information Layers

## TRIANGULATING REED'S ROXIEANUM FROM A KNOWN BASELINE



LAYOUT WITH TAPE BASELINE, 10 FOOT VERTICAL BASE LINE AND TRIANGULATING TAPES



DISTANCE FROM THE BASE LINE SOUTH



DISTANCE FROM THE BASE LINE NORTH

### RELATIONAL DATA BASES -

NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR PLANTS MAPPED, WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY ABOUT WHAT IS LOCATED WHERE?

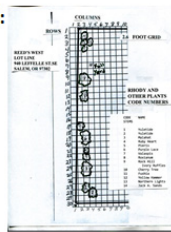
HOW TO RELATE DATA ON RODIES AND OTHER FEATURES TO YOUR MAP LOCATIONS, AND YOUR MAP LOCATIONS TO DATA ON YOUR PLANTS AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS :

#### RELATIONAL QUESTIONS WE CAN ASK A DATA BASE:

FOR MY ROXIEANUM IN ROW 12 , COLUMN 3 , WHAT ARE ITS CARE REQUIREMENTS? GO FIND AND LINK THE DATA

I HAVE DATA ON ROXIEANUM RHODIES, WHERE IS MINE LOCATED SO I CAN LINK THAT DATA TO IT? ROW-COLUMN CODE

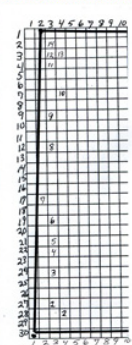
WHAT IS AROUND MY ROXIEANUM THAT MIGHT AFFECT IT? SOILS, SHADE, WATER, AIR FLOW, POLLEN, SEASONAL TEMPS.



## DATA BASE: SPREAD SHEET EXAMPLE

REED'S YARD RHODY LOCATIONS ON A 2.6 FOOT GRID

SPREAD SHEET OF THE MAPPED RHODYS WITH ROXIEANUM LOCATION AND DATA

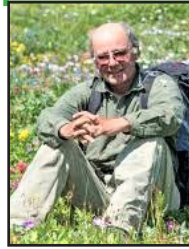


USING A 2.6 FT GRID, REED'S PLANTS ALONG THE WESTERN FENCE WERE CODED AS FOLLOWS USING ARS RHODY DATA BASE.

CODE	NAME	GRID ROW	CELL COL	BLOOM TIME	HEIGHT 10 YRS	COLOR
1	Yuletide	27	3			
2	Yuletide	28	4			
3	Malahat	24	3			
4	Ruby Heart	22	3			
5	Pieris	21	3			
6	Purple Lace	19	3			
7	Valaspis	17	2			
8	Roxieanum	12	3	E M	3FT	WHITE
9	Rock Hill	9	3			
10	Ivory Ruffles					
11	Cherry Tree	7	4			
12	Fushia	4	3			
13	Yellow Hammer	3	3			
14	Northern Lights	3	4			
	Jack A. Sands	2	4			

For those of you who did not catch Wally's program or want to share it or see it again, contact Keith White at [www.rhodoc@msn.com](mailto:www.rhodoc@msn.com) or 503-559-5796.

# March Program



## The Future of Rhododendrons: The Ancient Past, Modern Distributions and Climate Change

Richard Hebda joined the Royal BC Museum in 1980 and retired after 37 years in 2017. Richard was Curator of Botany and Earth History from 1986 until retirement and remains active in museum research projects. Since 1984 he has held a faculty position and taught at the University of Victoria (Biology, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Environmental Studies). His PhD in botany is from the University of British Columbia.

Richard studies plant fossils and their distribution over time and place to shed light on the condition, history and evolution of BC's landscape and climate. He also studies ethnobotany of BC First Nations, restoration of natural systems and processes, ecology and origins of Garry Oak and alpine ecosystems and botany of grasses.

With his graduate students, he has written more than 130 scientific papers and 250 popular articles. He has co-authored or co-edited eight books and major reports, and served as the province's expert advisor on Burns Bog and science advisor on paleontology. He has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal for his work in paleontology and the national Bruce Naylor award for natural history curatorship.

Education:  
PhD, Botany, University of British Columbia

**March 10, 2021 6:30 Social 7:00 Program**

Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81338525497>

Meeting ID: 813 3852 5497  
One Tap Mobile:  
+12532158782,,81338525497# US (Tacoma)

**Comment by Keith White:** Dr. Hebda gave a great presentation at the 2019 ARS Western Regional Conference at Parksville. If you watch this presentation, you will be pleased and informed about our Rhododendron gardening future.





## Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

I don't know about you, but I am more than ready to get out of the house, gather with friends, travel and experience new adventures, eat something besides my own cooking, laugh at someone else's jokes and begin to live again. This month marks a year since the Covid quarantine began and I'm hopeful that as we continue with safe practices and become immunized, the incidence of disease will lessen, places will open up and new opportunities will arise. I equate this as a metaphor to springtime in the garden: an awakening and time for new beginnings. To quote **Lady Bird Johnson**, "**Where flowers bloom so does hope**".

**Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG), wrote the following article for his "Hootmanodendron" blog in March 2020 and encourages us to visit the Garden in March 2021 to witness the beauty and splendor of the Magnolia Grove for ourselves.**

After the ice storm on Valentine weekend, I'm ready for splendor and beauty. I definitely feel a road trip coming on and I hope you do too!



### It Pays to be Patient When Dealing with Some Plants

"A project I started well over 20 years ago has come into fabulous floral fruition this spring with the Magnolia Grove here at the RSBG in glorious full bloom for the first time. A combination of several factors has led to this grand display including, most importantly, the necessary length of time having passed that is needed for these slow-growing species of Magnolia to mature. In addition, we have not had a late hard frost which would have destroyed the delicate flowers and even the swelling buds of these early bloomers.

The Magnolia Grove began as a simple idea that I had in the late 1990s of adding more species magnolias to the garden. I really love species magnolias and wanted more in the garden, which was sorely lacking these aristocratic beauties at the time. The other reasons include the primary criteria for why anything gets planted in the RSBG – does it occur naturally with rhododendrons in the wild; does it like the same (or at least similar) cultural conditions as rhododendrons (these two pretty much go hand in hand the vast majority of the time); does it add to the display and overall appearance of the garden. Magnolias, along with camellias, maples, other Ericaceae, etc. fit these requirements perfectly.

Fortunately, one of the finest collections of species magnolias in North America occurs in the Asian Garden at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden just north of us in Vancouver. With the permission of Peter Wharton, then Curator of the Asian Garden, I was allowed to collect scion wood of many of the more desirable species in their collection, including those of wild origin and spectacular named selections from some of the famous British estate gardens in Cornwall and other parts of the United Kingdom. Among these were species such as sprengeri, dawsoniana, sargentiana var. robusta and the queen of them all, the mighty campbellii including var. mollicomata. These are all large deciduous trees that flower quite early in the spring, well before the leaves emerge. They are mostly white to pale or deeper pink and quite spectacular when in full blossom. An interesting side note: the majority of the Magnolia collection at UBCBG was the result of Peter's collection of scions from the documented and original specimens in the estate gardens of the United Kingdom many years prior.

My scions were shipped to Oregon for grafting by Lucile Whitman at Whitman Farms nursery. Lucile did a fantastic job and I received a call about two years later and was told I could come and pick up my magnolias. I ended up with even more than I could use in the garden and so I sent a copy of each clone to Peter Cox at Glendoick Gardens in Scotland to plant out in that fabulous garden. At the RSBG, a copy of each clone was planted out into the garden in a new bed that had been developed in an area that had contained the old mucky rotten sawdust and where all the old plantings had died. This large area was right along the road in a prime location and was full of weeds and salmon berry – a real blight. To fill this area and

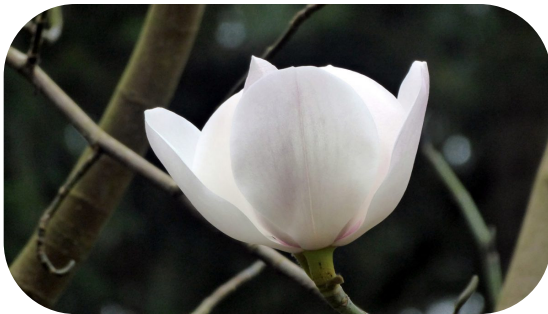


create a suitable space for planting, I used the soil removed during the excavation for the new propagation greenhouse in 2004. As the soil was excavated I had it dumped in the swampy area, which ultimately created a very large raised bed. Once we had sculpted the new bed and put in drainage, we rototilled our usual coarse sand mix into the top layer of the excavated soil, which was mostly clay. We now had a fantastic new location in full sun in which to plant out the new members of our Magnolia collection, which by this time had grown into landscape-size specimens in the nursery.

In addition, I focused the remaining plantings on rhododendrons and companion plants that would bloom at the same time as the magnolias, usually in March. These plants were limited to those with either pink, white or yellow flowers. No reds and no blue/purple which would be distracting and clash with the softer blend of colors. Rhododendron species such as *denudatum*, *latoucheae*, *coeloneuron*, *lutescens* and *ciliatum* are dominant along with companion plants such as *Corylopsis sinensis* from China and the stunning *Viburnum furcatum* from Japan. All these plants are of course of wild origin. Beneath the overstory magnolias and shrubby companion plants and rhododendron are sweeps of naturalizing Tenby Daffodil (*Narcissus obvallaris*) and our native *Erythronium revolutum*. **It really is quite gorgeous in full bloom and I hope you have the chance to see it in March of 2021 when it should be even more spectacular than it is this year."**

**Steve Hootman - March 29, 2020**

**Photographs from the Magnolia Grove**



**Fact: Magnolia flowers are pollinated exclusively by beetles; they are not adapted to pollination by bees or other more specialized insects.**



I know many of you have been to the RSBG, but I also know many of you have not. I would like to give you a little history and view of what the Garden has to offer.

"The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, located between Seattle and Tacoma, is a 22-acre woodland garden that is home the largest collection of Rhododendron species in the world. Visitors will experience a diverse botanical collection in a forest of Douglas fir, western red cedar, hemlock and other native plants. The garden is also home to beautiful companion plants, including the famous Himalayan Blue Poppies, Camellias, Magnolias, Japanese maples, and many rare plants."



There are many gardens within a garden at the RSBG, all with a beauty of their own and many aspects of the garden that I cannot begin to adequately describe.

[Click here](#) to see a short video of what the garden has to offer or [click here](#) to visit the website.

## Snap, Crackle, Pop and Things that go Crash in the Night

When I started thinking about the March newsletter and gathering information, this article was not on the drawing board. Then came February 12 and I felt like I was whisked back in time to my teenage years watching The Twilight Zone on Friday evening. The ice storm that occurred in our Valley wreaked havoc everywhere. Downed trees, branches and powerlines damaged homes and businesses, prevented travel and left thousands without heat, power and any form of communication. For many it was a nightmare that lasted well over a week. The following are some pictures I received from a couple of our members I feel like I would have received more but many of our members were still without power or internet.

**From Dick and Karen Cavendar:**



**Witch Hazel**



**R spinulifereum on a bender but straightened back up**



From Wally Reed who was without heat and power for 9 days:



Downed primary electric line

I received the following from Paul and Susan Doellinger and it wasn't until posting it to this newsletter that I read Paul's very clever sign-off:

Keith calls this: Custom Car Design



We never thought the beautiful maple tree in front of our house was a danger. But when we heard the crash at 3:01 am on Saturday morning and looked out, we saw that it had hit both our pick up Truck and Nissan Altima. (Fortunately, I had purchased a VW Beetle when I retired in 2011 as my retirement gift from me to me. It was safely in the garage.)

The ironic part of it all is that I normally park the Nissan behind my pick up truck. But when we heard that an ice storm was coming, on Friday night we parked it beside the pick up truck because the spot where we normally park it is under our huge Atlas Cedar. We were afraid branches from the Atlas Cedar might hit the Nissan. (None of them came down on the driveway.)

Paul D. Doellinger

**"As for me and my house,  
we will stay where we are at."  
1 Isolations 3:16**

Wally's 70 yr old 30 ft tall Decorum



I received this picture from our friends Bob Zimmermann and Beth Orling who live in Port Ludlow, Wa. Bob owns Chimacum Woods Nursery and has presented several programs at our monthly chapter meetings. It seems Bob was surveying for damage on his rhododendron hillside property and this is what he found: I think you call it a B & B (Bob and Bernie).

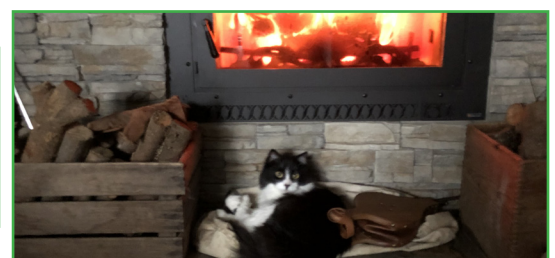
From Keith White and Mary Ellen Ramseyer:



Ice on a blueberry bush



Our cat claimed the warmest spot in the house





I took the following pictures at the Rhododendron Hillside Garden on 2/20/21. I only saw 3 big rhodys on the paths I could walk that had branches split off. There was lots of debris from other trees that had fallen on all the plants - big and small.



A sign of hope and recovery - R seta in bloom

## Your Help Is Needed Now More Than Ever!

The Smith Garden work day is Saturday, March 20, which happens to be the first day of Spring, and **your help is needed now more than ever.** The ice storm over Valentine weekend took a toll on the plants and trees and there is much work to be done to ready the garden for Open Garden days in April and May. Tom Gressler and Dick Cavendar walked through the garden on February 20th and noted many downed limbs and debris, but also a fallen Honey Locust tree, Cherry tree and some big Rhody's that will require an expert evaluation to determine if they can be saved. **The following are some photos taken by Dick Cavendar.**







As you can see, there is much work to be done and many hands are needed to restore the beauty of this Garden. So, **Come One, Come All** to the clean up party on March 20. It will take place rain or shine. Plan to start around 9am or whenever you can manage and work as long as you want. Bring gloves and your favorite hand tools. **Also needed are gas chain saws, wheelbarrows and heavy duty pruners.** There are chores for all skill levels. It is suggested that you bring your own lunch and coffee break snack as food will not be served but coffee and water will be available. Contact Dick Cavendar at 503-625-6331 for more information.

**Remember to Spring Forward at 2:00AM on March 14, 2021**



# Open Garden Days at the Smith Garden

## Volunteers Needed

Now is the time of the year that I start begging for volunteers to work at the Smith Garden on open garden days selling plants and/or taking admissions. It is only for 5 hours from 11:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday or a Sunday in April or May. It is easy. The plants usually sell themselves. And there is Greer's Guide for back up.

We are open to the public only 16 days out of 365. Please help me out and volunteer.

**Saturday April 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday April 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday April 10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday April 11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday April 17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday April 18** **Steve Hall & Caroline Enns**

**Saturday April 24** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday April 25** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday May 1** **Joanne Turner** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday May 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday May 8** **Ann & Ray Clack** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday May 9** **Steve Hall & Caroline Enns**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **(Mother's Day)**

**Saturday May 15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday May 16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday May 22** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday May 23** \_\_\_\_\_

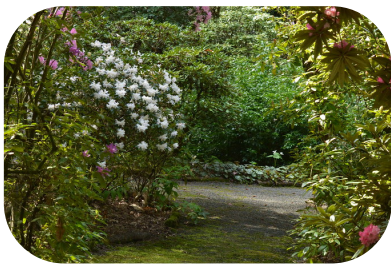
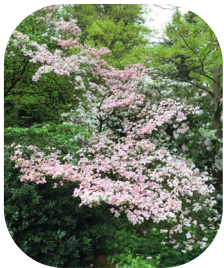


We only need 2 people a day minimum but 4 people is nice as it is a good time to enjoy visiting with another person or couple. Sometimes it is so busy that you hardly have time to visit, but visiting with customers is fun also and maybe you can talk them into joining the rhododendron society.

It is only for 5 hours not including travel time. Bring a sack lunch if you like, munch cookies (yours) and enjoy the day. The garden is gorgeous in the spring.

Please call me (503-625-6331), e-mail me or snail mail me. Thank You,  
**Dick Cavender red@redsrhodies.com**

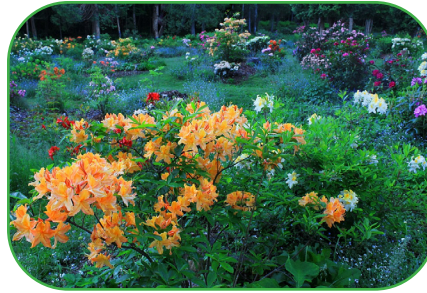
After seeing the destruction to the Garden from the ice storm, I feel it's important to remember how beautiful it really is.



And as the saying goes, I "saved the best for last" as this is one of the prettiest red headed rhodies in the Garden. Please click on the following link and you will see what I mean.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtZwxX8Q4Zs>

## Rhodos Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region



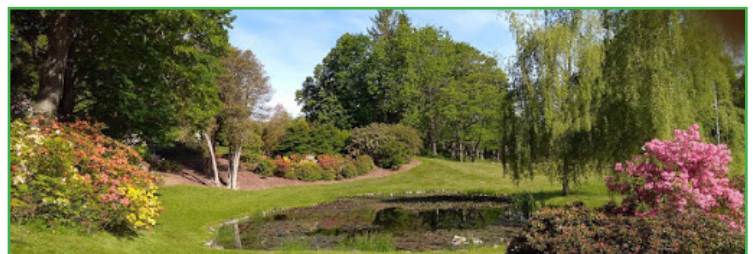
The 2021 ARS Convention is taking place in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, from June 3-6.

I, like you, am very dissapointed that I

can't attend in person, but **feel a need to support this group** that is offering both a virtual and in person convention. I know this has to be costly and applaud the ARS for making it available to virtually (no pun intended) everyone. What a fantastic opportunity for those of us who can't travel due to Covid restrictions, or wouldn't travel regardless, to experience the workshops and see the gardens from the comfort of our own Lazy Boy and computer. And if the date and time of the tours and workshops don't work in your schedule, the virtual presentations will be available online for a period of time following the convention - **but only for registered participants**. Registration for virtual participants starts at \$65.00 (US) with a processing fee of \$5.59. This is a fantastic price and there are options available if you want to include lectures and workshops. For the complete schedule and to register visit <https://ars2021.org>  
**The rates will increase on April 1.**

If you register, the gardens visited by virtual tour are:

### Kentville Research Station



From the 1950s to the 1980s, Dong Craig and George Swain ran a research program hybridizing and growing hardy rhododendrons at the Kentville Agricultural Experimental Farm. (see "Recognizing an Inheritance: the Kentville Rhododendron Legacy" by Sheila Stevenson, p. 205-210, JARS Winter 2020). Each year in early June the "Farm

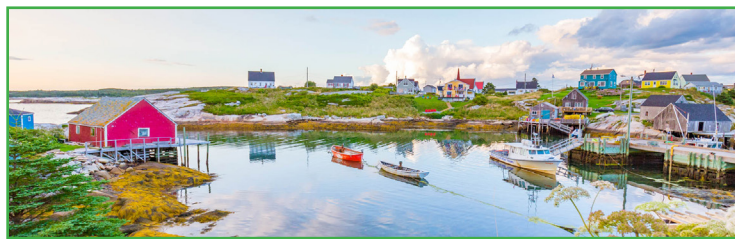
Pond Bank" is ablaze with many of these rhododendrons and azaleas. This tour will include the story of breeding program, the resulting Rhodies which were distributed throughout Atlantic Canada and the interpretive plaques that tell the story to all visitors.

### Annapolis Royal Gardens



In Annapolis Royal, we will first visit Gramercy Park, a country garden started just eight years ago by a couple of garden-crazed ruralists who needed a vegetable garden, a rock garden, an experimental collection of hydrangeas, and over 70 kinds of rhododendrons. Second, we visit the main attraction of this tour, the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, a lovely seventeen-acre public garden with meticulously cultivated plantings of roses, magnolias, perennials, conifers and much more. Overlooking a tidal river valley, the Historic Gardens is a premiere Nova Scotia attraction. Home to over 140 species and varieties of rhododendrons from hybridizers such as Steele, Craig, Breuckner, and Weagle, this garden has one of the most complete collections of mature rhododendrons suitable to Eastern Canada

### Peggy's Cove Coastal Barrens



The tour starts with an all-seasons lake side garden, on the better part of an acre in a large suburb, gloriously ram-jam-packed with rhodies, magnolias, and other delights. It then proceeds to a coastal garden established within the barrens habitat where you will see how, by judicious use of shelter and niche plantings, a wonderful collection of dwarf rhododendrons and other garden plants have flourished. The tour also includes the granite coastal barrens of Polly's Cove, a fascinating habitat for such ericaceous vegetation. Large patches of bog have their own flora, including

pitcher plants and orchids. Tour guide David Patriquin who loves these barrens.

Once again, there are many fantastic speakers and workshops as well. For more information and to register go to: <https://ars2021.org>

## Numerous Zoom Opportunities in March



**June Walsh** from the Eureka Chapter has invited us to watch the presentation given to their chapter on 2/25/21 by Steve McCormick and John Stephens titled "Rhododendrons in Finland".

It will be available for viewing until 3/18/21 and you can see it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhgNbJxpSqY&feature=youtu.be>

**Marguerite Kaufman** from the De Anza Chapter in California has extended an invitation for a Zoom program by Sharon Bryson on "Peonies - Bloom and Beyond" at 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. The Zoom link to join is:

<https://zoom.us/j/93353606729?pwd=Z-VFzY0l0SmxXV2o2SjBURGhxdFURUT09>



**Seed Collecting on the South Island of New Zealand**  
**March 25 at 5:00pm PST**  
[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

In this immersive presentation, explore the unique flora of the South Island of New Zealand, where the RSBG's Assistant Horticulturist Kyra Matin studied local flora and ecology. As part of the University of Washington's Pacific Connections Garden program, Matin spent four months working at Dunedin Botanic Garden and collecting wild, native seed. The talk includes photos of the plant-rich hinterlands and even a few photos of the celebrated Rhododendron Dell at the Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Your registration fee directly supports the conservation of the Rhododendron genus.



# Eugene Chapter March 17, 2021



**Speaker: Tim Walsh from Eureka, California**

**Topic: Diversity of Plant Material and Rhododendrons at the Botanical Garden**

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

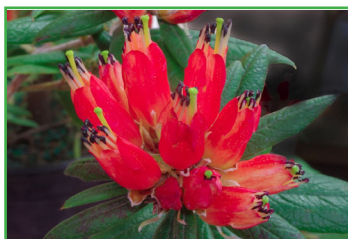
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmpRMXNkdz09>

Tim's fascination and passion with rhododendrons began in the late 1980's. Soon after, he joined the ARS and Eureka Chapter. He was awarded the ARS Silver Medal in 2008. Tim was one of the founding directors of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens (HBG). He has recruited other Chapter members as they continue to develop, select and care for plants at the HBG 'Temperate Woodland Garden'. Tim is a UC Extension Master Gardener. He is a past president of the Eureka Chapter and currently the District 5 Director of the American Rhododendron Society.

Of note is the very rare *Wollemia pines* (*Wollemia nobilis*) which was recently discovered in Australia. This is one of best specimens in the U.S. There is an extensive collection of rhododendrons which Tim highly prizes and will describe for you. You are sure to see a "must have" plant for your garden in his presentation.



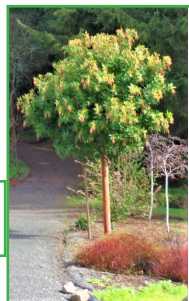
**Arboreum**



**Spinuliferum**



**Wollemia nobilis**



**Arbutus Marina**

# Portland Chapter March 18, 2021



**Speaker: Richie Steffin**

**Topic: The Miller Garden, Legacy of a Plantswoman**

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82580943492>

**Meeting ID: 825 8094 3492**

**One tap mobile:**

**+12532158782,,82580943492#**

**Dial Option: (253) 215-8782**

When Mrs. Miller began gardening in the early 1950's no one could have predicted where her passions would take her. During her lifetime she created a garden with over 3000 different species and cultivars including many rare and unusual plants that she procured from around the world. Her collection lives on today through the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and the [Great Plant Picks](#) program. The garden has built on her extensive collection with special attention to favorite plant groups including many plants from the Ericaceae family and now holds over 5000 taxa. Join Richie Steffen as he shares some of the remarkable plants along with a glimpse of this beautiful garden.

Richie is the executive director for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, northwest of Seattle, overseeing the development of the garden, its programs and the rare plant collections. Using over thirty years of experience in the horticultural field, with the last 20 years spent at the Miller Garden, he maintains the classic Northwest aesthetics while celebrating the tradition of Elisabeth Carey Miller by discovering, displaying, evaluating, and disseminating information about plants suitable for landscape use in the Pacific Northwest.

Richie is currently past president of the Northwest Horticultural Society and president of the Hardy Fern Foundation as well as a noted lecturer, writer and horticultural personality. Richie recently co-authored the "Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns".



# WCARS Chapter Speaker for April 14, 2021



I just received word that the speaker for our April 14, 2021 WCARS Chapter meeting will be Nancy Moore, a Landscape Architect from British Columbia, Canada. Her program is titled, "All Season's Interest in the Garden". All details, including the Zoom link will be provided in the April newsletter. Her talk **will not be recorded**, so keep that evening open and plan to Zoom in for a fascinating and entertaining program.

## Currently Blooming in Our Yard



**R.  
sutchense  
geraldii**



**Hellebore**



**Ypsilandra**



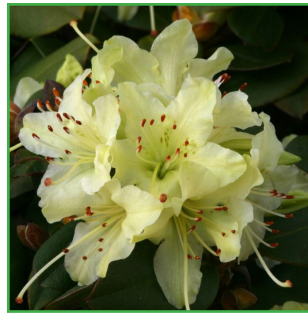
**C. O' question-  
markia**



**Wicklow's  
Flame**

# O' Rhododendron For March

Aren't all rhododendrons Irish on March 17th? Well, here's one that definitely is.



**Rhododendron  
'Shamrock'**

Shamrock is a dwarf variety of rhododendron with loads of small, yellow-green flowers, and small leaves. It is sun and drought tolerant which makes it suitable for rockeries. Very hardy. It is usually blooming on March 17.

**Predominant Flower Color:** Yellow

**Flower/Truss Description:** Flower tubular funnel-shaped, 1½" across, brilliant yellowish green with slight strong yellow-green spotting. Flowers fade to light yellow. Flat trusses of 8-9 flowers.

**Bloom Time:** Early to Early Midseason

**Foliage Description/Plant Habit:** Leaves elliptic, apiculate apex, cuneate base, 1¾" long, yellowish-green, retained 2 years. Dense and spreading shrub.

**Height:** 2 feet in 10 years.

**Cold Hardiness Temperature:** -5°F (-21°C)

**Parentage (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent):** keiskei, dwarf form x hanceanum 'Nanum group'

**Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L):** L

**Hybridized or Selected by:** Tichnor 1978

**Registration Reference:** ARS 784

Plant information obtained from the American Rhododendron Society website.





# 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.

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## 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

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## DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Willamette Chapter	<a href="http://arswillamette.com">arswillamette.com</a>
Eugene Chapter	<a href="http://eugene-chapter-ars.org">eugene-chapter-ars.org</a>
Portland Chapter	<a href="http://rhodies.org">rhodies.org</a>
Siuslaw Chapter	<a href="http://siuslawars.org">siuslawars.org</a>
Tualatin Valley	<a href="http://tualatinvalleyars.org">tualatinvalleyars.org</a>

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

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

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## 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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## WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS

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V-President:  
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Secretary: Mary Crofts.....503-838-4122  
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