

# Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume  
2

Issue  
5

## **WCARS RAINCHECK**

As a result of the cancellation of the WCARS May 13th Potluck and Plant Auction due to the ongoing COVID 19 restrictions, you are hereby issued this **WCARS Raincheck** good for gourmet dining, delectable desserts, fine wine, tasty brews, sparkling water and possibly a chance to sharpen your bidding skills on plants from around the world - all provided by YOU. The date to be determined, but hopefully in the near future. Stay tuned.....



# How Easy It Is To Spread Fake News!!

Many of you wonderful plant people in our Willamette Chapter ARS received a forwarded e-mail from me recently involving the rediscovery of a species of iris in the Willamette Valley. When I received the message from our WCARS Member, John Poole I opened it on a small screen and did not blow it up for further inspection. John had sent it to a small number of friends. I forwarded it to the multitude.

John is a master of many things including it seems, pranks. Mary Crofts was the first to inspect the image and report that the blooms had a distinct Scottish plaid pattern reflecting John's information on its likely origin. The blooms are certainly a wonderful scissors clipping effort overlain on an image of stems.

What John has done is demonstrate how easy it is to do virtual hybridization and not wait for nature to enjoy the results. There are likely many other examples of such hybridization on the web. In this case, I believe the proper name for the iris should be **species: Spoofus variety Pooleiiiiii**.

A much edified and increasingly vigilant Wally Reed. Go John Poole.



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## Update on the Rhody Hillside Garden

Last month's newsletter included an article regarding the history and development of the Rhody Hillside Garden in Bush's Pasture Park, with a listing and pictures of original plantings and those added over the years. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to visit the garden and experience its beauty during this period of quarantine and social distancing, you can do so vicariously through the following update submitted by our own (and I quote Mary Crofts) Prez-4-Life, Wally Reed.

RHODODENDRON HILLSIDE IN SALEM, OR'S BUSH'S PASTURE PARK—THE GLORY OF SUNDAY, APRIL, 26, 2020 ----

April 26, 2020 saw the glory of the early season rhodys, azaleas and companion plants on Bush's Pasture Park's Rhododendron Hillside. The 60 year old plantings were just coming into flower and the later blooming plants are yet to come. Here are some of the wonders of the Rhody Hillside sponsored by the Compton Family Foundation and the City of Salem.



Approaching the South Overlook



Just Over the South Overlook



Klondike Azalea



Augustinii OHSU - Dover Nursery



60 Year Old Rhodys Along Trail



Horizon Monarch Along Trail



Hino Crimson Azalea - From Statue



Viennese Waltz by Hino Crimson



The South Overlook of the Rhody Hillside from the East

**COME SEE IT ALL IN ITS EARLY MAY BEAUTY**

# For All To Whom This Applies



**Dick Cavendar** sent photos taken at 2 different times during the month, which made choosing only a few very difficult. But I have to admit, the **Blue Belle** in the last photo is the best!



**Coastal Spruce**



Wanting to include a photo from someone who only grows plants in pots gave Keith and I the excuse to pick up a pizza, a bottle of wine and make a social distancing visit to **Mary Crofts**. It was a lovely evening all the way around as **Jack A Sand** was in full bloom.



# April Showers Bring May Flowers



Last month I issued a challenge for you to send me a few pictures of what you have blooming in your yard to brighten our May newsletter. The colorful collection of photos I received certainly inspired me, brightened my day and lifted my spirits. I don't have room to include all of them but will include a few in hopes they have the same effect on you.

**Bill Vagt** was quick to respond with this **R mucronulatum**. Love the contrast of the purple with all the greenery.



I was extremely pleased to receive the following pictures from **Ted and Paula Hewitt**, who are associate members of WCARS and chapter members of the Eugene club. It was encouraging to hear from them and a reminder that we have associate members in our club.



**Rhododendron 'Golfer'**



**Rhododendron lysolepis** - a natural hybrid of **R. flavidum** x **R. impeditum**



**Rhododendron keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'** x **R. mekongense** ssp. **mekongense**



**Rhododendron 'Bambi'** x **proteoides #17**

**Paul Doellinger** sent his **Loderi King George Rhododendron** along with a note that he wished his phone had "smell-o-vision" as the fragrance was simply beautiful - and I wish it did too!



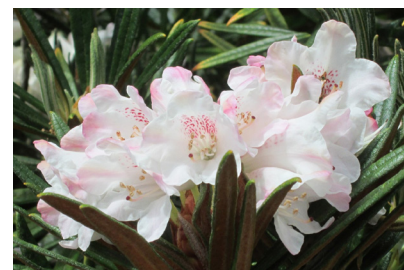
In addition to being a Chef Extraordinaire, it's obvious that **Kathy Reed** knows how to grow Rhodies, as well as vegetables and fruit trees.



**Arnison Gem AZ**



**Occidentale**



**Roseanum Pink**



**Malahat**

**Anne Gross** said she had not taken pictures with her phone before but was going to give it a try - 43 different rhododendron blooms later, I have to narrow it down to 4 pictures for this newsletter. It's tough but somebody's got to do it. One of the perks, however, is getting to enjoy all the blooms while choosing.

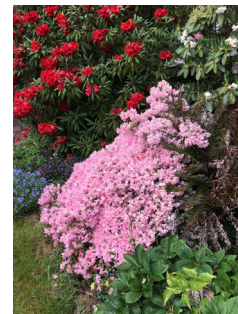


**Peach Charm**

Being quarantined in his care facility, **Herb Spady** was not able to get to his home to photograph some of his prized plants. But if he could have, I know Herb would have submitted this years performance of his Rhody Hybridized creation - **Honsus Baby**



**Kathie Jo**



**Helene Schiffner**

**Keith and I** are combining our photographic efforts but all the identifying comes from him. If I named the pictures I took, it would just be the white one or the orange one, or I would make up a name. Regarding the first picture, Keith said this is a special rhododendron for our chapter. "When in Sikkim in 1992, Herb Spady, Bob Grasing and I collected seed at Yaktse, North Sikkim of **R niveum**. Don Selcer, also along on the trip, grew on the seed and sent each of us a resultant plant. Don could not keep them in his Oakland, CA climate so distributed them to his Northern friends."



**Horizon Lakeside**



**R niveum**



**R Table Favor**  
**(Buttered Popcorn x Lem's Tangerine)**



**R keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'**



**R Belle Heller**



**Lilac 'Sensation'**

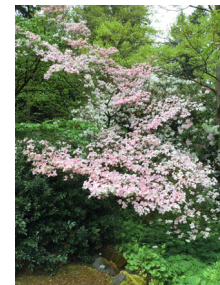


**Keith & Mary Ellen's front yard**



And last, but certainly not least, some pictures from a quarantine walk through the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden. So peaceful, calming to the soul and spiritually uplifting.....

Keith and I recently toured the Eckerdt garden (Deerly Missed) led by **Pat and Dave**. Among the hundreds of remarkable plants we found **Calycanthus 'Hartledge Wine'**. This is an outstanding garden on the same level as the Portland Japanese Garden. Pat and Dave are plantspeople extraordinaire. Their garden should be preserved just as the Cecil and Molly Smith and Connie Hanson gardens are.



**Calycanthus 'Hartledge Wine'**





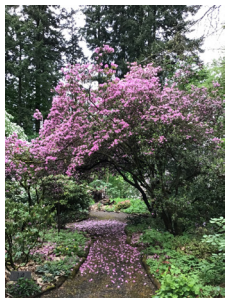
**Acer Griseum**



**R Loderi King George**



**Primula Questionmarkia**



**R davidsonianum**



**Hellebore**



**Bob Grasing's Bench**



**Trillium kurabayashii with fallen pink flowers**



**R yakushmanum**



# DVD Program Review

Frank Fujioka

## Program for Societe Bretonne du Rhododendron

Last night I watched a super good show that Frank Fujioka gave to the French Rhododendron Society in 2006. The photography is excellent. There is no narration...Instead there is beautiful, upbeat symphonic music. Every plant is labelled. Segments are introduced in French script. However, the subject of the following is so obvious that you are bound to learn some new French words. First there is an overview of Frank's garden (located on Whidby Island with a fantastic view of Hood's Canal). Then a cavalcade of Frank's many successful hybrids, including good views of the plant out of bloom highlighting the perfect foliage that Frank is famous for. Then a series documenting the hybridizing process, from pollination to seeds to sewing, transplanting et al, to the development of a cross over the years, including the rows of crosses in his growing area arranged by years in which the cross was made. Then pictures of a number of desirable traits followed by pictures of undesirable traits a cross may have and photos of Frank's waste pile where reject specimens are piled unceremoniously. The next segment shows the results of several crosses that are beautiful but he had not yet named or released. The whole program is peppered with fun fake photos including the last segment which shows rhododendrons superimposed on fanciful situations such as penguins admiring rhodies in antarctica, rhodies in the desert with camels, etc.

Our WCARS library has just acquired a set of 8 DVD's from the ARS collection. I will get this one or any of the others to you at your request. I am not sure if I will burn you a new disc, send the file over the net or put it in the cloud, or YouTube or what. We are still exploring possibilities.

Other new DVD's yet to be reviewed:

**Garden Walks 2006** - Gardens visited during the joint convention of the ARS and ASA in 2006 in Rockville MD area.

**Arunachal Pradesh, India** - Narration by Ron Rabideau

**The Zurich Garden** - Narration by garden creator, Dr. William Zurich

**Rhododendrons at the Golden Gate** - 2007 Annual Convention With Narration

**Rhododendrons in the Wild West** - 2007 Annual Convention with narrations

**Nepal: Our Ultimate Rhodo Flowering Experience!**  
Narration by Ian Chalk, Australia

**Oban Scotland 1996 ARS Convention Revisited** -  
Narration by Win Howe

Look under the "Programs" tab in the ARS Store website for more detailed program descriptions.

Keith White

## R 'Seaview Sunset' in the next 2 pictures



# 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. Wally Reed - President

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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>
Suislaw Chapter	No current website
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 Wermlinger	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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