

# Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society

Volume 3

February 2021

Issue 2



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 February 10, 2021

Speaker - Wallace Reed

Speaking on: Mapping Your Garden -The Base Map You Need To Create

Join via Zoom Conference at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84046408013>  
Socializing begins at 6:30, followed by the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm

Watch your email for the link for the scheduled Zoom practice on Tuesday,  
February 9 at 7:00pm



# January Minutes



## Mary Crofts Secretary January 13, 2021

Our January meeting was once again on Zoom as Covid-19 continues to try to wipe humans from the face of the earth. So for now, we are still stuck in our own personal bubbles. Although your Secretary misses our rhody feasts before the meeting, and our good-natured approach to Chapter business, and our delight in what the baker-of-the-month has produced and catching up on all our latest adventures, including those that involve rhodys, Zoom does have something real to offer. It means more people can attend more rhody meetings in more places. Our Zoom Host/Program Chair, Keith White, counted 59 happy WCARS members, associates, family, visitors from other chapters, visitors from somewhere outside the USA...maybe even other places on Earth and Outer Space. Who knows, since the internet doesn't seem to have any limit. Also thanks to Keith for covering for me in December. He does great minutes because he actually knows what he's talking about. I just wing it and refer often to my rhody "bible".

Since we had no business (funny or otherwise), we hopped right into Speaker Time. First, though, Wally Reed, who is still our President-for-Life, whether he's Zooming or not, had the usual problem of getting one and all quiet so that all could hear Kathy. In spite of Zoom, the background noise was the same dull roar as in our "non-Zoom" meetings. Added to the chatter, there was also the "doorbell" ringing in more visitors. Someone suggested Keith put us all on "mute" which he didn't do at first because he couldn't hear the suggestion. Finally he got the message and peace came over all. Now if Wally could somehow manage that when we once again meet in "real time".....

Our speaker for the evening was the delightful Kathy Lintault. She's an associate of ours since she lives closer to Portland. But she and her charming husband, Roger, are with us so often and do so much with us and for us, that we consider both of them "ours". Both are well-known in the gardening world. Kathy is Past-President of the Oregon Camellia Society. I know they are members of the Hardy Plant Society and Kathy is an associate member of the Scottish Rhododendron Society. They could easily be members and/or associates of a whole bunch of other

plant groups. They certainly are Masters at Gardening. I've had the pleasure of attending several rhody functions at their house, and spent a wonderful weekend as their guest, taking many photos.

On to Kathy's talk: **CAMELLIAS: BEAUTIFUL AND VERSATILE**. Her talk was illustrated by many excellent photos, which I'm assuming she or Roger took themselves as they are world travellers plus they probably have most of them in their massive yard. Camellias have one distinctive feature that most flowers don't have. They can bloom for many months of the year. They flower from October to June in the Pacific Northwest. Some bloom into two seasons, like C. x 'Apple Blossom'. Sasanquas and hybrids flower from fall through early winter. Japonicas, reticulatas and hybrids do best from early winter through spring. Since there are about 280 species and even more hybrids, there's a lot to pick from. The forms camellias can take range from the very simple to the overly busy. The single form has five-to-eight petals with visible stamens. Those that look flat with lots of stamens are called Higos. My favorite single was the C. japonica 'Tama-no-ura', which is red with a white border. The semi-double has two or more rows of petals, like C. japonica 'Oo-La-La!'. Third is the Anemone form. It looks like the plant it's named after...an anemone. In keeping with naming camellia forms after other existing flowers there is the Peony form and also the Rose form double. My favorite in the Anemone form was C. japonica 'Tinsie' which is red with a white puff center. In the Rose Form Double, I like the C. japonica 'Ruth Tinkle'. Finally, there is also the Formal Double, like C. japonica 'Nuccio's Pearl'. To see many of these forms, go to Newberg, Oregon, where they have about 40 in pots ranging down both sides of their main street. (And right here, your Secretary wants to apologize to Kathy and to the newsletter readers...I was writing a rough draft of the minutes last night and somehow lost two pages, which had the forms with examples that were a lot clearer than what you just read. As of today I still have not found those 2 pages.)

Camellias have a large variety of colors to select from...all the way from white through every shade and color of red until they get to a sort of bluish-reddish-burgundy color. They also come in shades of yellow but at this time, they can't be grown outdoors in the N.W. Too cold. California can grow them outside. Hybridizers are working to produce more yellow camellias. One of the closest to yellow in our area is C. x 'Jury's Yellow'.

Within the wide variety of colors, the camellia can have interesting patterns to both petals and leaves, such as C. japonica 'Tsuki-no-wa' with its white clouds on red petals. Or C. japonica 'Fire Dance Variegated' which has white lightening bolts on its red petals. Our wet weather does



look good on the foliage of the camellia. It brings out a shine because they reflect light. The leaves run from the "usual" to long and elegant like C. x 'Apple Blossom'. Or weird like the fishtail leaves of the C. japonica 'White Mermaid'.

Camellias handle pruning very well, but the best time is right after they bloom. Kathy suggested pruning so the leaves look like they are in layers...she was told the camellia should be pruned so a bird can fly between the layers of leaves. It's best to either cut a branch right to the trunk or prune back to a lower leaf. Camellias can be pruned in just about any way you can think of. You can prune them to the shape in which they grow naturally...tall, short, wide, skinny, drooping. You can make a "standard" out of one, or with some imagination and pruning, you can make trees out of them. They handle bonsai-type pruning very well, and if you've bought a lot of camellias, you can make a hedge: short hedge if a short camellia; high hedge if you have tall camellias and a tall ladder. Kathy showed a photo of the Isole Bella in Lake Maggiore in Italy which has hedges that have to be between 15 and 20 feet.

Two disease problems camellias have in the Northwest are sooty mold and petal blight. For sooty mold, leaves can be washed with dish soap or horticultural soap and then, if needed, sprayed with horticultural oil. There is no cure for petal blight. To help lessen the blight, clean up dropped blooms. If camellias get sunburned, the leaves will turn yellow and orange; they will turn pale for lack of iron or nitrogen. There are many companion plants for camellias: cyclamen, hellaboros, hosta, to name a few.

First in China, Camellia sinensis was grown for tea, but eventually the beauty of decorative camellias was valued as well. After the Portuguese and Dutch began trading in Asia in the 16th century, the camellia made its way to Europe where it's now widely grown. The seed pods of a number of camellias are beautiful and interesting on their own.

Probably most all of the newsletter readers have at least one camellia in their garden. But if you are like me...the pre-Kathy's-talk me...you've thought they grew too large or that they were hard to grow. With all the rain and damp we have here, it's been hard to think of trying to grow one only to have its flowers look dreary as they turn from a beautiful white to mush. Kathy's made a convert. Your Secretary is going to try growing one. Happily, her talk contained good information on how to do just that.

Since mine will be in a pot, I'll be selecting one that doesn't grow too tall even in the ground. The pot should be large enough to allow for a few years of the camellia's

growth. I can **NOT** attempt to put a 10 foot tall (when grown) camellia into a pot...like I've been known to try with other plants. They like acid-based potting soil with adequate moisture. Don't plant too deep. Camellias like to be close to the surface. Cover with a light mulch. Feed with a time release fertilizer like my old favorite, Osmocote. Generally, camellias like morning sun and afternoon shade though many are happy in either full sun or full shade.

The best camellias for our climate are the group of hybrids developed by J.C. Williams in England and are known as the Williamsii hybrids (C. saluenensis x C. japonica). Among these Kathy suggested 'J.C. Williams', 'Donation', 'Coral Delight', 'Debbie', and 'Freedom Bell'. Oregonians have developed some great camellias: C. japonica 'Lily Pons', C. japonica 'Ruth Tinkle', C. japonica 'New Moon rising' and C. japonica 'Fir Cone Variegeted', to name a few.

And with a resounding silent applause (our hands in our little windows flapping to and fro), our fabulous Kathy closed her talk. Keith unlocked our "mutes", and we were adjourned to talk amongst ourselves.

Somewhere someone must have been eating a cookie.

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



**C. x 'Jury's Yellow**  
Closest to Yellow in NW



**C. japonica 'Tinsie'**  
Anemone Form



**C. japonica 'Oo-La-La'**  
Semi Double

# February Program



**C. japonica**  
**'Tsuki-no-wa'**  
Unusual pattern



**'Donation'**  
Williamsii Hybrid



**C. japonica**  
**'Lily Pons'**  
Developed in  
Oregon



**C. japonica**  
**'New Moon**  
**Rising'**  
Developed in  
Oregon



## Mapping Your Garden The Base Map You Need to Create

High quality free programs to manipulate base map information to produce beautiful maps are readily available. But none provide the base map locations of the information to be manipulated into those maps. This talk covers simple, primitive, inexpensive methods to develop the base map of your yard or garden. Most home owners have all the tools needed to put pencil to paper, or cursors to screens. The focus is on creating a base map for a yard, but is applicable to larger areas. So dust off your tape measures, your protractor, and your memory or photos of what you planted where and when. We'll help you get to the base mapping needed for your garden book, or for your map program.

**Wally Reed** enjoyed a long research and teaching career with the Environmental Sciences Department of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. His research focused on land use, air quality, and geographic information systems. He joined the Willamette Chapter of the ARS after retiring in 2001. He was soon elected President of the chapter, and subsequently President for Life, 14 years and counting. For the past 10 years, he has been deeply involved in developing the Rhododendron Hillside Garden in Salem's Bush's Pasture Park located in front of his home in Salem. And of course, planting every rhody and companion plant that Kathy, the real plant person, wanted in their yard. His talk is about how to create the base map of where what was planted.

**Editor's Note:** Something tells me there is going to be homework involved, so be prepared with pencil and paper. The test will follow in the March newsletter. 🤗👉

February 10, 2021 6:30p Social 7:00 Program  
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83697977860>

Meeting ID: 840 4640 8013

One tap mobile  
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# Seeds or Plants

## Take Your Pick



### ARS Seed Exchange Now Open For Sales

Seeds collected by Society members are offered for sale at the 2021 ARS seed exchange. **Until March 15 only, members of the American Rhododendron Society may order seed.** After March 15 anyone may purchase seed. View the seed list and order online at the [ARS seed exchange](#) page.

Direct any questions to Ann and Ray Clack, ARS Seed Exchange Chairs, at [arsseedex@outlook.com](mailto:arsseedex@outlook.com)

# 5 Tips to Improve Your Garden Soil

## The Most Important thing You Can do For Your Plant's Health is to Take Care of Where They Live.

The following is an article from the February 2021 issue of *Fine Gardening Magazine*. The author is **Ea Murphy, a soil scientist in Tacoma, Washington, and author of *Building Soil: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. The photography is by Steve Aitken.**

If you garden, you know soil is important. You have undoubtedly witnessed that as gardens grow more bountiful, the ground beneath them becomes proportionately darker, richer, and looser. You have probably also developed an intuition for something not quite right: a hard-to-dig bed, yellowing leaves, a water-logged corner, or a general feeling that some plants could grow bigger and better.

How can good soils be made even better? How can problem areas improve with a little TLC? Just like the plants they support, the soil is alive. With an intuition for growing living things, the experienced gardener can grow healthier and more fertile soils with these five simple tips.



### Tip 1: Keep the ground covered

If you're already mulching, and no doubt you are, then good for you! Covering the soil is one of the best ways to boost soil biology. In addition to providing shelter and conserving moisture, organic mulch literally feeds the living soil.

By this measure, the quality of the cover--that is, the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (C:N)--determines the cover's



### RSBG Spring Plant Sale Shop Online Now

Plants propagated at the RSBG are now offered for sale to members and non-members. **They are going fast**, so don't delay if you see something you've wanted for a long time, can't live without, or for no good reason whatsoever. You can view the catalog and order online at the [RSBG website](#).



Nothing more romantic in February than the hybrid rhododendron 'Hearts Delight'



nutritional value as soil food. If you buy and apply bagged commercial mulch, try switching to higher-quality arborist mulch (freshly chipped green trees; photo above) or leaf mold (deciduous leaves composted for one to two years; photo top). Both have a much lower C:N ratio, which means more food for both plants and soil organisms, and when decomposed, leaf mold becomes soft and crumbly, losing the water-repellent tendency of a mat of fresh leaves. Apply 2 to 4 inches of arborist mulch or 1 to 2 inches of leaf mold in fall or spring to help feed the soil, retain moisture, and keep weeds at bay all season long. Be sure to water extra-dry soil before and after adding mulch to jump-start soil biological activity. Connect with a local arborist, or try [ChipDrop.com](http://ChipDrop.com) to get a load of wood chips.



### Tip 2: Don't waste your resources

Natural systems efficiently recycle organic material to nurture a living soil. As gardeners, sometimes we need to get out of the way and let nature take its course. One way to do this is by noticing what is right in front of you.

Lots of techniques take advantage of the organic resources naturally generated in your garden. Mulching with chopped up seed-free weeds, recycling pesticide-free grass clippings on the lawn or as garden mulch (photo above), and lopping perennial prunings on the soil surface (photo right) all mimic natural processes in grasslands and forests.



A biologically active soil will decompose and incorporate most of these materials on the soil surface within a year or two. Take care to spread out the material for good soil contact and air/water flow, as a moist pile of weeds can harbor slugs and other pests in damper climates. If you prefer a cleaner garden look, use these recycled resources under another, more uniform mulch. Not only do these efficient ways of composting feed the living soil,

but they also conserve another precious garden resource: your time.



### Tip 3: Let it rot

As with all good things, too much soil food is still too much. Like the human gut, soil needs time to digest—a process otherwise known as decomposing or composting. If the organic material you add disappears, then your feeding regime is successful. If you start to notice undecomposed material building up, then you are feeding the soil faster than it can eat.

Excessive fresh organic residues can cause drainage problems or harbor damp-loving pests or disease in wet climates. As built-up materials decompose, they can lock up nutrients. Too much organic compost, manure, and fertilizer over the years, on the other hand, leads to problems with excess nutrients.

A lab can measure the percentage of organic matter in your soil, but there are too many variables, both between labs and between soils, to give a standard goal. A better approach is to evaluate soil quality by the three visible stages of organic matter decomposition: undecomposed material that looks like the leaves, roots, or stems it once was; partially decomposed material still recognizable as plant-derived, but not from what; and humus, microscopic organic material that stains your fingers black. A good-quality soil, one with neither too much nor too little organic matter, has about equal proportions of all three, a sure indication of a soil with good metabolism.



### Tip 4: Invest in a soil test

We have all heard how we should get a soil test, but how many of us actually follow through? A soil test, like a visit to the doctor to get a clean bill of health, is always worth the investment. It doesn't necessarily help to fine-tune fertilizer choices, however. Well-balanced organic inputs and the occasional organic fertilizer take care of this naturally. A soil test mainly serves to ensure that nothing important is missing. This is priceless information to have before you invest in a new garden if it reveals a serious underlying nutrient deficiency. What's more, you'll get a good baseline for soil pH and texture, two important factors in soil care decisions.

Alternatively, a soil test can point to nutrient buildup due to excessive soil feeding. In these cases, leaching and erosion of surplus nutrients have unfortunate environmental consequences for surface and groundwater. In extreme cases, excess nutrients can also burn plants, lead to excessive leafy growth, or make plants more susceptible to pests and disease. Phosphorous, in particular, is a good indicator of a glut of organic matter. Soil phosphorous results in the high-to-very-high range indicate that it is time to take a break from organic fertilizers and amendments.

If your garden is going gangbusters, then a soil test, either from a home version or a more-thorough university lab, probably will not yield any new information. However, a soil test, like a trip to the doctor, should be one of your first actions if you notice problems in plant health.



### Tip 5: Watch your plants

With all the testing and fertilizer recommendations involved in discussions about soil improvement, we can lose sight of our most basic and powerful tool: observing the plants themselves. How are your plants doing? Nine times out of ten, the answer will tell you something about the soil.

Are leaves yellow, or is growth stunted? Look up symptoms of common nutrient deficiencies to check against your less-than-thriving plants. Is overfeeding the soil locking up important nutrients? Check to see if added organic matter is decomposing at the rate you are i

adding it. Is waterlogged soil preventing optimal growth? Watch the flow of water through the garden, or perform a simple infiltration test. Do plants continue to look sick, even after you have fixed any obvious soil problems? Try a soil test.

But if your plants are vibrant, growing, and green, chances are that your soil is also bustling with life. Take a handful to check. Breathe in the earthy smell, and let your growing experience guide you in feeding, covering, and caring for the living soil.

### ADDENDUM: Unlocking Your Soil Test Results

Though immensely valuable, a soil test is not a crystal ball. A little knowledge goes a long way in making the most out of your test results.

#### Nitrogen is complicated

Soil tests were invented by chemical agriculturalists to measure chemical nitrogen, which is often lacking from being leached out by rain or taken up by plants. The complex organic nitrogen of rich garden soil, however, is not captured by a standard soil test. Steady soil building (with the moderate-to-high phosphorous test results to prove it) means that the supply of organic nitrogen is likely sufficient.

#### PH is important

A home soil pH meter rarely is as reliable as a soil pH test. Though most plants tolerate a wide range of pH, a test gives a good baseline, as well as an indicator of how easy or hard it is to change. Clay soil resists change (and will need a lot of lime), while sandy soil reacts quickly to lime or acidity.

#### Ignore (or reduce) fertilizer recommendations

Fertilizer and lime recommendations are based on agricultural crops and rarely relate to your garden plants. Instead of fertilizer application rates, use the test result ratings. If they are low or moderate, consider adding some fertilizer. If they are high or very high, your organic soil is supplying enough nutrients to meet your plants' needs.

## RSBG Symposium Update

I connected with Britt Board, RSBG Program and Outreach Manager, for clarification on the Species Symposium which is usually in April. It is definitely in the talking and processing phase but dates and details are yet to be determined. I doubt it will be a "live" event but interesting things are being discussed. Stay tuned.....



## Volunteers Do Not Necessarily Have the Time; They Have the



### Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for the money, it's not for fame.

It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman.

It's just to lend a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not medals won with pride.

It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's that feeling that you've been a part.

Of helping others far and near,  
that makes you be a Volunteer!

**Author Unknown**

Organizations could not survive without the help of volunteers. They are the lifeblood that keep the wheels turning and get the work done. Volunteers come with a multitude of skillsets that insure all the required activities and functions and the mission and purpose of the organization are accomplished. No matter what your limitation, there is most likely some way you can volunteer.

**So I know you are wondering, "What is this all About"?** Well, you are being presented with a prime opportunity to volunteer!

**From Dick Cavendar: The Smith Garden Spring work day** is Saturday, March 20 (the first day of Spring - no pun intended). Start around 9am or whenever you can manage and work as long as you want. Bring gloves and your favorite hand tools. There are chores for all skill levels. Lunch **will not** be served but water and coffee will be available. We suggest that you bring your own coffee break snack and lunch.

**We would really appreciate all the help we can get.** There is lots of room in the garden to 'social distance'. I will be doing my sun dance but this will be a rain or shine event so come prepared. It is also a good opportunity to visit the garden. If anyone would like more information, give Dick Cavendar a call at 503-625-6331.

There is discussion as this is being written regarding opening the garden to the public in April and May. If this occurs this will be another opportunity to volunteer. Be prepared to sign up....



## New Discoveries From Old Plants

This year I have discovered two new things in our garden

First, I noticed that *R. ririi*, which started blooming on January 15th, looked pinker this year. This rhodie's flowers are usually light lavender. But this year they are pinker. I do not know what causes this. I am not imagining this. I compared pictures from yesterday to those one year ago. Any enlightening comments?



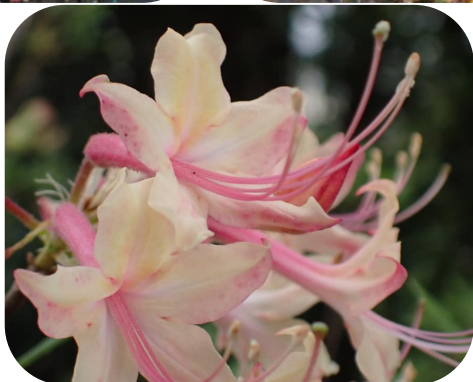
Second, I have two *R. austrinum* growing side by side. Both were named and labelled accessions from the RSBG, so they should bloom true, given that they were propagated vegetatively from cuttings. The first I planted was the named selection, "Moonbeam" which is an intense yellow. Next to it I later planted a second *R. austrinum*. But when it bloomed pink I was sure that somebody at the RSBG made a mistake. The *R. austrinum* that I donated to the Cecil and Molly Smith garden was orange with yellow pistil and stamens. I accepted this as a nearby variation. So, my thinking is that all *R. austrinum* specimens must be in the orange - yellow range.

However, in the excellent article "**The Secret Lives of Rhododendron austrinum**" by Charles Andrews, published in the Winter 2021 issue of JARS was a revelation about the great variety of flower color that *austrinum* can have. Thus, I am now reassured that my pink *austrinum* is the real thing! Be sure to read this fascinating article in the latest JARS.

The following pictures on the next page are natural color variations of this species.



Rhododendron R. austrinum



# Additional February District 4 Programs And You're Invited to Zoom In

## Eugene Chapter Meeting:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

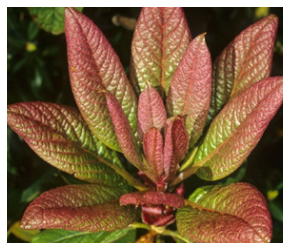
Speaker: **Dennis McKiver of Fort Bragg, California**



## Rhododendron Species and Hybrids That Grow in a Perfect Climate

The **Genus Rhododendron** contains many different rhododendrons, from tropical to arctic alpine. No individual location can grow every variety, but if one were to select the best location in which to try, Fort Bragg, California, would be the place. It is never too hot or cold. It is dry in summer, but water is available when needed. Dennis will show us month-by-month (as something seems to be in bloom all year in Fort Bragg) what can be grown there. Many of these plants can be grown in the colder northwest. But you will also see rhododendrons that those of us in the northwest can't grow. Things like **R.nuttalii** grow well for Dennis. Don't miss this chance to see some outstanding rhododendrons ... some you can grow, and some you can only admire. Dennis will give you a chance to see really great rhododendrons. Don't miss it!

Dennis McKiver has been a member of the Noyo Chapter, Mendocino County, since 2001. Dennis has 200+ species and 1000+ hybrid rhododendrons growing on his property just north of Fort Bragg, California. He is an active member and volunteer at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Each spring he leads weekly tours of the gardens with an emphasis on how to plant and raise rhododendrons and which ones will do the best in different climate zones. Dennis retired from a career as a Patrol Lieutenant for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



**R. nuttalii foliage**

**R. nuttalii bud**





**R. nutalii  
bloom**

The social time is 6:30pm      Program time is: 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312  
Passcode: 741695

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### **Portland Chapter Meeting:**

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Speaker: **Justin Blackwell**

**"Chinese and Japanese Gardens: a comparison"**

Justin grew up in Seattle near the University of Washington among Chinese and Japanese families, instilling an early appreciation for Asian cultures. Justin went on to earn a degree in Landscape design and Horticulture, hoping to interpret visions of nature to the tranquility of Asian style gardens. Justin will speak on his 12 years as a Japanese garden practitioner at Portland Japanese Garden, Japanese garden builder and writer as well as his current role as Curator of Lan Su Chinese garden—the fundamental difference in how to see and enjoy and see both types of gardens and the fundamental and aesthetic influences from China to Japan and vice versa. Another essential thread in the discussion is Western influence on both garden expressions and how that plays a role in our cultural education of these traditions built in North America. Justin can also shed light on why having your own Japanese or Chinese garden is illusive and not as easy as one might think.

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83724836893>

Meeting ID: 837 2483 6893

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,83724836893#

# Rhododendron For February



## Rhododendron 'Seta'

**A Special THANK YOU to Harold Greer, from the Eugene Chapter, who submitted this for our Rhododendron of the month!**



'Seta' is an early flowering rhododendron that, depending on the weather, can flower in February or early March, so it is great for ending the "winter blues" or, in my opinion, the lack of rhododendron flowers. 'Seta' was hybridized by Lord Aberconway of Bodnant, a famous garden in Conway, Wales. There were three Lord Aberconways, the first prior to 1900, the second 1879 – 1953, and the third 1913 – 2003. The third Lord Aberconways introduced the plant in 1933, the same year it received an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. It also received a First Class Certificate from the RHS in 1960.

'Seta' is a hybrid of *R. spinuliferum* x *moupinense*. Like many of the early hybrids the entire group of seedlings from that cross were named Seta Group with one clone selected to be registered as 'Seta', which means there may be more than one clone of this plant grown under the name 'Seta' as you might note in my pictures.

The pink and white flowers have an interesting tubular shape originating from its parent *R. spinuliferum*, which has one of the most unusual tubular flowers in the Genus *Rhododendron*. It is certainly a worthwhile plant to grow for its early flower and unique flower shape. It is a leptodote rhododendron, meaning that the leaves have natural scales. Generally, the plant can be compact, though I have seen some leggy plants without light pruning when young.



**Height in 10 years:** 5'  
**Hardiness:** 5° to 10°F (may lose buds at 15°F)  
**Color:** Light candy pink with deeper pink on edges of the petals  
**Rating:** 4/3/3 (flower, foliage, performance, 5 is best 1 is least)  
**Ease of propagation:** Relatively easy  
**Foliage:** Good, sometimes gets red spots on leaves in winter  
**Vigor:** Good



**Harold Greer is the author of "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons, species & hybrids" the Third Edition**

## Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Needs Your Help

Crystal Springs has not escaped the fallout from the pandemic. A loss of admissions means less operating income essential to properly care for this unique garden. In addition, Crystal Springs now faces an even more crucial challenge. In November, the retaining walls below the gatehouse began to pull away from their banks, due to damage from erosion and underground springs, and were threatening to collapse. An engineering assessment indicated that the walls below the gatehouse urgently need to be replaced. Estimates are **upwards of \$600,000**—an unanticipated expense.

Your generous support to keep this treasured garden safe and beautiful for all our visitors would be greatly appreciated. We hope to have this essential work concluded before the spring bloom. Thank you!

[Click here to make a gift to support the garden.](#)

## Witch-hazel Currently Blooming in Our Yard

Witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) are a genus of flowering plants in the family Hamamelidaceae, with three species in North America (*H. ovalis*, *H. virginiana*, and *H. vernalis*), and one each in Japan (*H. japonica*) and China (*H. mollis*). The North American species are occasionally called winterbloom.

Witch Hazel is an autumn-flowering shrub that measures approximately 3-4.5 m. in height. Witch Hazel can also reach tree size. The flowers are radially symmetrical and have distinctive, narrow, long crumpled petals that turn deep yellow as they mature. The leaves are long and have wavy margins. It is **Very Fragrant**.

It comes in several colors but these are the 2 we have in our yard.



# 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

President: Wally Reed .....503-588-3666  
V-President:  
Programs Chair: Keith White ...503-559-5796  
Secretary: Mary Crofts.....503-838-4122  
Treasurer: Dana Malby ..... 503-393-6463  
Librarian: Keith White .....503-559-5796  
Newsletter  
Editor: Mary Ellen Ramseyer .....503-689-3733  
Print. & Mail: Mary Ellen Ramseyer - 503-689-3733  
Board Members:  
Tom Bailey .....503-364-7741  
Bill Vagt .....503-581-8654  
Susan Doellinger .....503-838-4884  
Greeter Susan Doellinger.....503-838-4884  
Past President: Chuck Dehn .....503-362-9271  
Web Site Kathy Lintault.....503-434-5472