

Siuslaw Chapter  
American Rhododendron  
Society  
PO Box 1701  
Florence, OR 97439-0111



Photo: Sandi Jensen

May 2021

# Macrophyllum

## Chapter Events: Chapter Meeting on May 18th!

We plan to have an in-person meeting and small auction on Thursday, May 18th at 5:00pm. The meeting will be at a hangar at the airport where the doors will be open. We'll gather outside if the weather allows, and be able to shelter indoors if needed. Bring your own chairs.

See the [President's Message](#) for more.

Siuslaw Chapter Members have been invited to tour the gardens of two members on May 8—10. Details [inside](#).

Our virtual flower show continues, where we display pictures of your Rhodies blooming now. Highlights [inside](#).

Our chapter members have been invited to a couple of ARS Zoom meetings. Please keep reading for [details](#).

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### On the internet

- Facebook:  
[Coastal Rhododendrons](#)
- Web site:  
[www.siuslawars.org](http://www.siuslawars.org)

## May 2021 President's Message By Larry Jensen

Greetings to the state of confusion. Unfortunately the U of O students don't believe that the rules apply to them. You see parties with hundreds of people with no masks on the news.

So at the present time we are going to try to have a meeting at 5:00 on May 18th. It will be a chance to renew friendships, review the elections, and have a small auction. Our membership is mostly of retirement age, and most of us have been vaccinated. Also in June, we are hoping to have our picnic and hold our elections.



Enough whining. Today we went to Hendricks Park. WOW! The deciduous azaleas there were incredible! There is also a blooming dove tree next to the road. The large one at the top of the hill was lost a few years ago. The Loderis are in bloom as well as hundreds of other rhodies. This time of year we often drive around University Hill. There are some great old homes and established landscapes there.

When I look at r. strigillosum, I see one of the great year round plants. Also as a parent it is responsible for many of the best early red hybrids. Grace Seabrook, Taurus, and Peter Faulk are just a few.



I look forward to seeing everyone on the 18th. We have yet to send out directions, but one thing I do know, is that everyone will need to bring their own chairs.

*This iris is a possible auction plant*



*Sandi Hennig, our Sunshine Chair, encourages members to reach out to her so she can send a card to those who need some cheer.*

*Email Sandi at [flendish42@gmail.com](mailto:flendish42@gmail.com), or call 541-997-2489.*

## Siuslaw Chapter ARS Nominations for Next Year's Officers

We have several chapter offices opening up in June. Our VP, Bill Hennig, is asking for applications for these elected positions:

- o President
- o Vice President
- o Treasurer
- o 1 member of the Board of Directors

Please email Bill at [billhennig40@gmail.com](mailto:billhennig40@gmail.com) or call him at 541-997-2489 if you are interested in serving or have questions about requirements and duties.

All nominations need to be received by May 14.

## Other Western Chapter Meetings & Events

### Other Chapter Websites

Eugene Chapter:

[www.eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org)

Portland Chapter:

<http://rhodies.org>

SW Oregon Chapter:

Web site inactive

Willamette Chapter:

<http://arswillamette.com>

Tualatin Valley Chapter:

[www.tualatinvalleyars.org](http://www.tualatinvalleyars.org)

Eureka Chapter:

[www.eurekarhody.org](http://www.eurekarhody.org)

Noyo Chapter:

[www.noyochapterars.com](http://www.noyochapterars.com)

Eureka Chapter:

<https://eurekarhody.org>

Mt. Arrowsmith

Rhododendron Society:

<http://marsrhodos.ca>

All other web sites can be found at:

<http://rhododendron.org>

under chapters web sites

Portland Chapter	Meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of the month, September through May. Social time begins at 6:30pm. The chapter meeting starts at 7:00pm, followed by the presentation. On May 20, Ron Rabideau will discuss "A Legacy of Rhododendrons from RareFind Nursery." Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to attend. Details <a href="#">here</a> .
Eugene Chapter	Meets via Zoom during the pandemic. There will be no chapter meeting in May.
Willamette Chapter	Meets via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru April, at 7:00pm. On May 12, they will have a DVD presentation by Ron Rabideau about the International Botanical Expedition to Arunachal Pradesh, India in 2005 Details <a href="#">here</a> .
Eureka Chapter	Will meet on Thursday, May 27 via Zoom. Mike Stewart will talk about Dwarf and Small Leaf Rhododendrons. Please click <a href="#">here</a> by 6:55pm to join the meeting.
Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society	Has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic. On May 6, Marian Mackay will talk about New Zealand Rhododendron Conservation.

## An Invitation to Tour the Prchal Garden May 8-10 between 1 and 4pm

In an effort to initiate Siuslaw Chapter ARS activities again, and keeping COVID requirements in mind, there will be a local garden tour this year at Ron and Cheryl Prchal's place. The Prchal garden will be open for viewing by our chapter members from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm on Saturday through Monday, May 8, 9, and 10. The tour will be self-guided with most rhodies and other plants labeled, and Ron and Cheryl will be there to answer any questions. Their address is 5043 S. Jetty Road, Florence. The tour has been scheduled for three consecutive days with the idea of keeping the number of people touring at any one time to smaller numbers. Everyone should bring a mask and expect to wear it.

Ron has several plants he has grown for monthly plant auctions at our regular meetings and has an overabundance of them on hand. He would like to give one to anyone who visits the garden while supplies last.

Gracious thanks to the Prchals from the Board and all members for this opportunity to enjoy a chance to be together and view gorgeous rhodies in a beautiful garden setting.

*In addition to Rhodies, the Prchals  
have many pretty companion plants.  
At right is *Fritillaria meleagris*, the  
checkered lily.*



## An Invitation to Tour Mowbray Gardens

We've also received an invitation from our member Chris Trautmann to visit his Mowbray Gardens and see lots of his unusual rhodies in bloom. The Gardens will be open for visits by our chapter members from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm on Saturday through Monday, May 8, 9, and 10. Chris will be on hand to answer any questions. The address is 88010 Woodlands Drive in the Heceta Beach area "Ocean Woodlands" off Rhododendron Drive just north of Florence. Chris will put out a couple of balloons to mark the end of his driveway. Everyone should bring a mask and expect to wear it.

This tour has been scheduled for the same days and times as the Prchal garden tour. It's another great chance to enjoy our favorite plants and each other in an outdoor setting. Many thanks to Chris for inviting us.

Check out one of Chris's hybrids [here](#).

Florence 114th Rhododendron Festival  
Reverse Grand Floral Parade  
Sunday, May 16, noon to 3pm



This year the annual Rhododendron Festival Grand Floral Parade has a twist ... it's a reverse parade!

The City of Florence is working with community partners to host a COVID safe Reverse Parade this year to continue the tradition of the Rhododendron Grand Floral Parade, to showcase the community's creativity and resiliency, and to celebrate local businesses and organizations. This year, instead of having the floats travel down the parade route, parade attendees will drive along a lineup of stationary parade floats along Oak Street and 27th Street, starting at Miller Park's 18th Street entrance.

*Click [here](#) for more details on the parade*

## Rhododendron Species for Beginners

*Rhododendrons International Vol. 6* is now up on the [ARS website](#). It contains all the "Rhododendron Species for Beginners" articles Dave Banks has written for JARS over the past few years, organized with the lepidote and evergreen azalea species in Part 1 and the elepidote species in Part 2. Each of the two parts is relatively large, as each contains about seven articles, so they may take a while to download.

The articles are intended to introduce rhododendron species as opposed to hybrids to rhododendron enthusiasts who may not have easy access to the many books and websites about rhododendron species. Each article contains a brief summary about the cultural potential and characteristics of the more available species in a taxonomic grouping, their general identifying taxonomic features and cultural aspects, and their characteristics and a truss image.

## New Member Profile: Ty David Reimer HLF

*Ty David joined our Siuslaw Chapter during April. I asked him to fill out a member interest form, and here's some of what he had to say.*

I've been sporadically coming to Florence to enjoy the beauty and wonder of the Oregon coast since about 1990 after moving west from... (wait for it)~ Wisconsin~!

A friend, my vision and an iPhone brought me to the Siuslaw branch of the ARS and all because I have a dream of populating my property full of rare and endangered species of Rhododendrons.

My love of plants started early and has persisted these many years, planting permaculture gardens at many of the residences, (including rentals), I've lived at in Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington State~ Part of my employment in the past has been working for 13 years with the Milwaukee County Park system including the renowned Whitnall Park Boerner Botanical Gardens~

After working @ Chemlawn, (that name alone says enough), I decided never to have grass in my yards nor the chemicals that go along with it but, rather to plant as many varieties and species of plants as possible in protective tiers, adjusting the tiers and soil into pockets to allow shelter from inevitable winter wickedness.

I entertained myself with numerous landscaping self employment opportunities as well as working for established companies as a foreman and master stone mason~

Moving to Oregon was a revelation of sorts after discovering the climate here was suitable for pushing the boundaries of all kinds of exciting plant "impossibilities" whose roots and waters I could research and defy~ A new friend insisted we stop at this fantastic Rhododendron nursery in Florence... Enter Mike Bones~

So many varieties of what looked to me to be "tropical goodness wonder plants" and all presented with Mike's effervescent and charming self~ I was enchanted with it all and returned randomly throughout the years to bring that wonder into my own residences~

Today, I own my own small spread of Northwest paradise and am developing a complex ecosystem-biome using permaculture and xeriscaping techniques I've learned and developed over the years~ Part of that includes collecting various hybrids and species of rhododendrons~

I researched and sought out the invaluable pioneers here in the field: Mr. Bones, the late and dearly missed Cathy VanVeen, Dick Cavender, Bob Zimmerman and others, who patiently endure my excitement and endless craving to learn more and nurture a collection of Rhodies.

My hope is to carry on some part of the Northwest Rhododendron legacy and keep the doors open to pass on the Baton when the time comes~ We MUST keep this alive~!

I would love to see some event bringing together and celebrating the Rhododendron Pioneers of the northwest, honoring their contributions over the years~ It's long overdue and should be formally recognized and documented~ Rhododendron Pioneers~!

I come to this chapter to learn and share.~



## Rhododendron Go On Yello A Hybrid by Chris Trautmann

Chris considers his hybrid Rhododendron Go on Yello to be one of his best plants to date.

It's a cross of Thompson's 'Avery' ( 'Mauna Loa' x 'Unique Marmalade') x Suzy Goldlust.

Suzy has proved to be the best plant for passing on dark yellow genes for Chris's hybrids.

Suzy was developed in Cincinnati, and surely enjoys the benign climate of the Oregon coast.

The name, 'Go on Yello' is a drag-racing term....and that means that if you 'leave' on the green light, you are late!! and will lose the race! There is a split-second time between the last yellow light and when the green light comes on, and that's when you want to 'hit the pedal'.



## Support Our Local Member Nurseries



*One of Mike Bones's beauties.*

Mike Bones  
Bones Nursery  
541-597-3082

Lisa Walter-Sedlacek  
Laurel Bay Gardens  
541-997-5973

Chris Trautmann  
Mowbray Gardens  
541-999-5425

Michelle Thompson  
Thompson's Nursery  
541-653-3676

## Siuslaw ARS Chapter Virtual Rhododendron Show: Rhodies of the Week

The Siuslaw ARS Chapter started our first Virtual Flower Show in February. We invited chapter members and then other local plant lovers to send in pictures of the Rhodies blooming right now in their gardens.

The show is in its 10th week and is still going strong. Here are the winners from weeks 6 through 9.



*Week 6 (left):*

*R. maddenii from Mike & Kathy Bones*



*Week 7 (right):*

*R. davidsonianum from  
Floyd Hutchins*

Check out our Virtual Show at  
[https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqAxEq\\_Z8DoHqcqSQpBFc3VQAzXFWQ?e=Y9lu1W](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqAxEq_Z8DoHqcqSQpBFc3VQAzXFWQ?e=Y9lu1W)

## Virtual Rhododendron Show: Rhodies of the Week (continued)

In Week 8 we decided to expand the Rhody of the Week to four categories: species Rhododendron, hybrid Rhododendron, evergreen Azalea, and deciduous Azalea. We had winners in three categories:



*Week 8 species Rhododendron (left):*

*R. davidsonianum 'Ruth Lyon' from  
Floyd Hutchins*



*Week 8 hybrid Rhododendron (right):*

*R. 'Red Majesty' from Ron & Cheryl Prchal*



*Week 8 evergreen Azalea (left):*

*R. 'Girard's Fuchsia' from Myles &  
Patricia Swift*

## Virtual Rhododendron Show: Rhodies of the Week (continued)



*Week 9 species Rhododendron (left):  
R. behallii from Ted Hewitt*



*Week 9 hybrid Rhododendron (right):  
R. 'Laramie' from Chris Trautmann*



*Week 9 evergreen Azalea (left):  
R. obtusum from Ron & Cheryl Prchal*



*Week 9 deciduous Azalea (right):  
R. schlippenbachii from Floyd Hutchins*

## Virtual Rhododendron Show Please Send In Your Digital Pix

Do you have Rhododendrons blooming in your garden right now? We would like to see them and share them with other Rhody enthusiasts in our Virtual Show.

The Siuslaw Chapter of the ARS is having a flower show on the internet where we display pictures of these beauties as they bloom. We'd also like to show any especially lovely buds and foliage. Day Farrald, our flower show chair, will select the best picture as Rhododendron of the Week. There is no award for the 'best'; this is just for fun and it shares your beautiful flowers with the world.

Please email your pix taken during each week to [pcswift@outlook.com](mailto:pcswift@outlook.com) Include the Rhody variety and your name. Pictures will be grouped by week, Mondays through Sundays. We have only a few rules:

- Pix must be current (no old pictures, please) and taken by you.
- The plants must be in your own garden.
- Rhododendrons and azaleas only, please.
- Pix must be clear enough to judge the flower (or bud or foliage).

We reserve the right to select pictures suitable for posting, and we may also use your picture in places such as our newsletter and Facebook page. This is our first virtual show, so the rules may change as the show matures.

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## ARS Next Gen Photo Contest Closes May 25th

The ARS ~ Next Gen Program has tried to highlight the importance of sharing our interests beyond the confines of the ARS, reaching out to a new, younger cohort. The Photo Competition of the ARS ~ NG hopes to do just that through a tangible involvement with the ARS.



### ARS ~ Next Gen Program

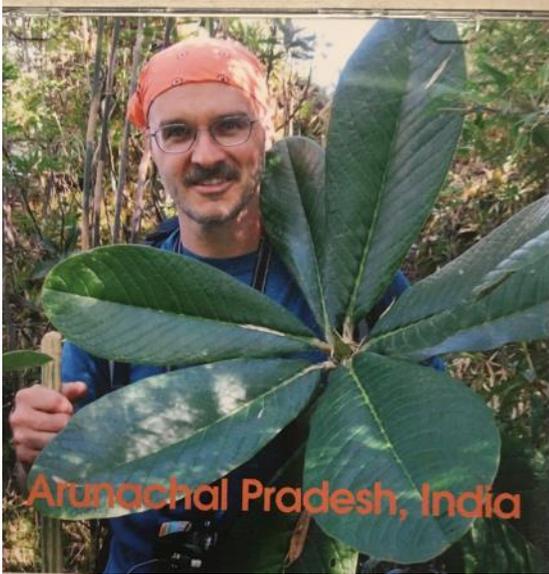
### Rhododendron Through Your Lens Photo Competition

Our Siuslaw Chapter members can help with this effort in two ways:

- Tell the young people you know who are students of botany, biology, and photography. Three cash prizes are offered in the student category! High School students are eligible as well as older students.
- Send in your own photos (recent shots, or those stashed in your archives). They will contribute to a growing library of photographs ready for use in future projects. ARS ~ Next Gen will not be stingy with recognition!

The competition entry deadline is May 25th. Click [here](#) for more info.

**A Zoom Invitation from the Willamette Chapter  
Ron Rabideau on the  
International Botanical Expedition to Arunachal Pradesh, India in 2005  
Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00pm**



*The speaker puts these leaves in scale for us!*

Siuslaw Chapter ARS members are invited to join the Zoom meeting hosted by the Willamette Chapter on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm. This will be a DVD presentation.

An international "Who's Who" of plant explorers tackles this difficult, unexplored corner of India bordering Bhutan, Tibet, China, and Burma.

Ron is also the speaker for the Portland Chapter meeting on May 20, and we hope this video is a good prelude to that program.

*Here's the ZOOM link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505198981>

## Siuslaw Chapter ARS Mission Statement

The mission of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is to promote the genus Rhododendron by:

- ◇ Creating enthusiasm for the genus Rhododendron through meetings, shows, publications, and social activities that provide the opportunities for members to share experiences and build friendships.
- ◇ Providing educational opportunities to successfully grow and enjoy these wonderful plants.
- ◇ Encouraging propagation and hybridizing of species and hybrid rhododendrons.
- ◇ Furthering the planting and use of rhododendrons in home, business, and public landscapes.
- ◇ Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native rhododendrons and the habitat along the Oregon coast.
- ◇ Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.

*The ARS Photo Contest is open until July 31, 2021.  
Please email entries to Glen Jamieson at [ars.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ars.editor@gmail.com).*

A Zoom Invitation from the Portland Chapter  
Ron Rabideau on *A Legacy of Rhododendrons from RareFind Nursery*  
Thursday, May 20 at 7:00pm



Siuslaw ARS Chapter members are invited to join the Portland Chapter's Zoom meeting to hear from Ron Rabideau on the Rhodies from [RareFind Nursery](#).

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Here's the ZOOM link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87363177926>

Meeting ID: 873 6317 7926

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Ron Rabideau is a propagator, hybridizer, finder of rare plants, and experienced photographer. Many ARS members know Ron from his numerous programs and the exceptional plants offered at RareFind Nursery in Jackson, New Jersey, where he served for 18 years as General Nursery Manager. He developed the stock plant collections of rare and unusual Rhododendron and other genera through networking, purchasing, and sharing. He researched and wrote detailed and interesting plant descriptions for the nursery's mail-order catalog and web site. Ron will share with us some of his favorite rhododendrons from that time, focusing on those that went through production and turned out to be good performers.

Ron is currently Horticulture Lab Instructor/ Greenhouse and Arboretum/Teaching Garden Manager at Mercer County Community College.

Ron puts his passion for new plants to work seeking out new and noteworthy specimens. He has participated in four plant and seed collection expeditions to Asia: China (2000), Tibet (2002), Arunachal Pradesh, India (2005), and the Altai Mountains, Siberia (2007). Hybridizing since the mid-1980s, his first introduction was 'Absolute Citron' and he has recently added 'Jersey Mammoth' (*R. brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x *R. macabeaenum*).

The cross was made by June Sinclair, who sent seed to the ARS Seed Exchange. Ron grew the seed at RareFind and selected this individual for its much larger leaves.



*R. 'Jersey Mammoth'*

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## Rhododendrons Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region

### ARS 2021 Spring Convention

June 3, 2021 - June 6, 2021

Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to learn about growing, breeding, and gardening with rhododendrons. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 American Rhododendron Society Spring Convention will be offering all the presentations, garden tours, and networking opportunities on line.

In addition to many speakers, there will be three virtual garden tours:

#### **Kentville Research Centre – June 3 2021**

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. 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 the breeding program, the resulting Rhodies which were distributed throughout Atlantic Canada and the interpretive plaques that tell the story to all visitors.

#### **Gardens of Annapolis Royal – June 4 2021**

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 – June 5 2021**

The tour includes 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.

It costs \$85.59US to register for the virtual convention. The virtual presentations will be available to convention participants for a period of time following the event.

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*Check the [convention website](#) for the latest info and full details.  
Registration for the virtual convention is open until May 31.*

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## Harold's Rhododendron Picks for May: R. 'Laramie' and R. 'Powder Snow' by Harold Greer



*R. 'Laramie'*

This month I am highlighting two plants which are from the same cross and possibly the same seed pod. In 1981 Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington crossed two of the most regal Rhododendron species, *R. degonianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* and *R. macabeum* resulting in two plants which he named. One is 'Laramie' which he registered in 1998 and 'Powder Snow' which he registered in 1999. They both are similar with 'Laramie' having a creamy white truss (what other color would you expect when you cross a white with a creamy yellow) with a red throat with the red color extending nearly all the way around the base of the flower. It has the

campanulate flower shape and truss form from *R. macabeum*. The foliage is mid-sized, showing *R. macabeum*, though not near as large as that parent. The leaves a good matt green on a plant that is well covered with foliage.

'Powder Snow' on the other hand, has basically the same flower except the red throat (nectar pouches) are only red on the top lobes. The foliage is like 'Laramie', but generally a little smoother and more shiny. Both have light indumentum on the underside of the leaf. 'Powder Snow' also makes a very attractive shrub in the garden.



*R. 'Powder Snow'*

Both of these plants are in the trade, but are not commonly seen in nurseries, so pick one up for your garden if you can find one.

**Hardiness:** 0° to -5°F

**Height in 10 years:** 4-5'

**Color:** cream

**Ease of propagation:** medium

**Foliage:** great

**Vigor:** good

**Rating:** 4-5/4-5/4-5 (flower / plant & foliage / performance, 5 is best 1 is least)

## Calendar of Events 2021

May 12	Willamette Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm DVD presentation by Ron Rabideau about the International Botanical Expedition to Arunachal Pradesh, India in 2005. Invitation and link <a href="#">here</a> .
May 20	Portland Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm Ron Rabideau will discuss "A Legacy of Rhododendrons from RareFind Nursery." Invitation and link <a href="#">here</a> .
May 25	Competition entry deadline for ARS Next Gen Photo Contest.
May 27	Eureka Chapter Zoom at 6:55pm Mike Stewart on Dwarf and Small Leaf Rhododendrons. Meeting link <a href="#">here</a> .
June 3-6	Rhododendrons Down East ARS 2021 Spring Virtual Conference online More <a href="#">here</a> .
July 31	Deadline for ARS Photo Contest.

## Calendar of Events 2022

Apr 27—May 1	ARS Annual Convention Portland, Oregon Info <a href="#">here</a> .
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*Floyd Hutchins's garden in May, 2020*

## Chapter Contacts

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