THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Members Worldwide

Juliana S. Medeiros, Ph.D., Chair
Holden Forests & Gardens
9500 Sperry Rd.
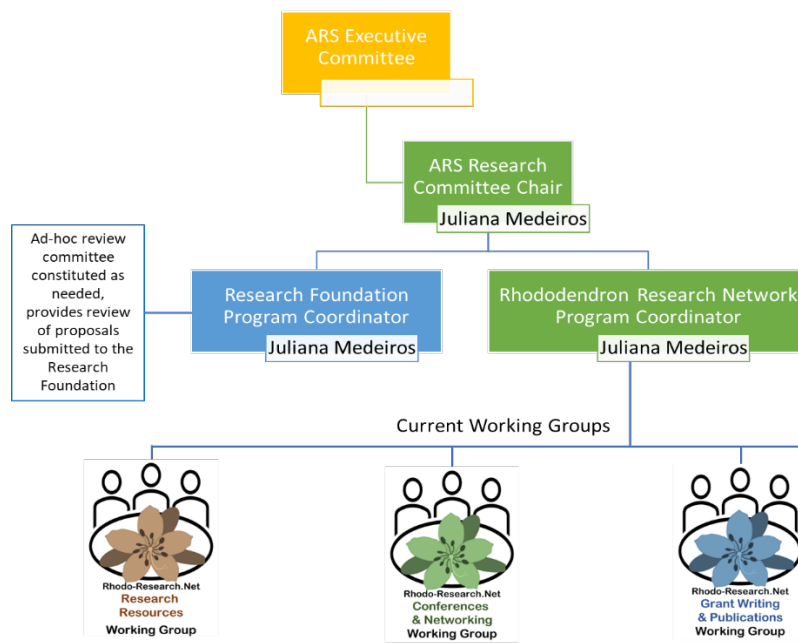Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Phone: 440-602-3819
Email: jmedeiros@holdenfg.org

Contents

Governance changes

In Fall of 2022 ARS BOD approved a proposal for restructuring of the ARS Research Committee. The Rhododendron Research Network was subsumed under this committee, with head of ARS Research Committee Serving dual role Coordinator for the Foundation and Head of R-RN. The steering committee of the R-RN was transformed into a working group model (see below).

ARS Research Committee Chair is nominated by The Trustees of the Research Foundation and appointed by ARS President in consultation with the Executive Committee.

ARS Research Chair supervises activities of the Rhododendron Research Network and is the grant program coordinator for the Research Foundation Grant program.

The R-RN and Foundation Program Coordinators define activities and recruit participants for limited terms to lead specific activities.

Spending

From August 2022-March 2023 Juliana Medeiros spent $180 for an annual pro zoom account to accommodate meetings of Rhododendron Research Network.

ARS Pioneer Award Nomination

In 2022 we nominated Dr. Erik Nilsen for a Pioneer Award. This award has been approved and will be presented at the 2023 convention pending Dr. Nilsen's ability to attend the meeting. We expect to nominate another individual for this award in 2023.

Research Foundation Grants Management

For the outcome of 2022 grants management please see the BOD report submitted for Fall 2022. Three research proposals received for the 2023 funding cycle are currently in review. Six early career researcher applications received for the 2023 Harold Greer Memorial Conference Award were reviewed. All applicants were funded, and their research will be featured in a poster session hosted by the Rhododendron Research Network (see below) and a Research Roundtable. To facilitate better planning in funding early career researchers, we plan to initiate discussions concerning our poster session with the 2024 convention organizers at the 2023 convention.

Rhododendron Research Network

2022 activities and 2023 plans described briefly below. 2023 details are shown in the following section.

Grant Writing & Publications

Funding to support research

In 2022 members of the R-RN worked to develop collaborative proposal submissions to programs within the National Science Foundation. This effort will continue in 2023.

Publications for ARS members

In 2022 we planned to publish an article in JARS discussing accomplishments and future on 5-year anniversary of R-RN. Expected completion 4/1/23. In 2023 we will seek articles for second research edition of Rhododendrons International.

Conferences & Networking

ARS National Convention Poster Sessions

2022 featured posters by 3 early career researchers, plus 5 other posters. 2023 will feature posters by seven early career researchers plus one other poster.

Virtual Connections Series

A Facebook Live mini-conference was scheduled for August 18-20, 2022. This initiative was abandoned due to lack of volunteer resources.

Newsletter

In 2022 we revised our mailing list. We removed people who have never opened our email. Our 2022 goal to publish a quarterly newsletter was put on hold due to lack of volunteer resources. Until such time as we identify more volunteer resources, we will return to twice-yearly

newsletter. To better-accommodate announcements of ARS Research Committee funding opportunities, in 2023 we will shift the timing of the newsletter to April and October. Should more volunteer resources become available we will re-establish the quarterly system with publication in January, April, July, and October

Social media

This effort has been put on hold due to the loss of our volunteer and inability to identify additional volunteers. Occasional re-posts have been made for the podcast.

R-RN website

We did not conduct activities on the website in 2022. For 2023 we will add 2022 accomplishments and 2023 initiatives to the website, revise network governance page and maintain as required other R-RN web content.

Research Resources

Literature database

In 2022 we added new references from Google Scholar and made backups quarterly. We also determined that the functionality of the Mendeley platform had declined to a point of being not usable. We made a choice to transition our database to Zotero, a free platform. References are still updated in Mendeley, but Mendeley is deprecated with Zotero now being the preferred platform. During 2023 we will maintain the database and seek new volunteers to continue adding JARS and Charles Andrews items.

Rhododendron trait database

During 2022 we worked on a prototype rhododendron trait database using initial data provided by Jean and Juliana. Database will be searchable online at the R-RN website. This work will continue in 2023.

R-RN 2023 Working Group Activity Details

New working group structure

- **Working Groups** are formulated, as needed, by the R-RN Program Coordinator under the supervision of the ARS Research Committee Chair and the ARS BOD.
    - Anyone may suggest a new working group for consideration.
- **Working Group Leaders** are appointed by the R-RN program coordinator under the supervision of the ARS Research Committee Chair.
    - Anyone with the following qualifications can apply to be a Group Leader
        - A member of the American Rhododendron Society
        - A positive recommendation by a current or former R-RN Working Group Leader or another ARS member
        - An idea for a specific Working Group Activity
    - Group Leaders are appointed for 2-year terms, with indefinite possibility of renewal, given satisfactory outcomes of Activities.
    - There may be more than one Group Leader per Working Group.
- **Working Group Activities** are formulated on an annual basis by the Working Group Leader(s) in collaboration with the R-RN Program Coordinator.

- Anyone may offer suggestions for Activities for consideration by Working Group Leader(s).
- There may be more than one Activity in a Working Group, and these may be managed in concert or separately.
- Working Group Activities are proposed to the R-RN Program Coordinator from July to December for implementation in the following year.
- Working Group Activities are shared with and receive feedback from all R-RN Working Group Leaders.
- Decisions about Working Group Activities rest with the Group Leader(s) in collaboration with the R-RN Program Coordinator.
- **Working Group Participants** are sought for Activities, as needed, by the Group Leader(s).
  - Participants may or may not be ARS members.
  - Participants are listed on the R-RN website on the webpage for the Working Group Activity.

Grant Writing & Publications

Submit one or more grant proposals to NSF by 12/15/23
Group Leader(s): Juliana Medeiros
Participants: Jean Burns, Adam Roddy, Richard Flavell, Vanessa Koelling, Eric Goolsby, Lisa Unico, Naod Kebede + MORE TBD
Leader responsibility: Write drafts of the proposal, conduct meetings to gain feedback and incorporate feedback into proposal, coordinate the NSF proposal submission process
Participant expectations: Three 2-hour Zoom planning meetings August, September, October 2023. When-is-Good calendar and invitations will be sent June 1. Proposal draft for review sent 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Zoom meetings are recorded. Contribute text and feedback for draft proposal. Contribute Biosketch, COI, and other required NSF forms.

Solicit articles for Rhododendrons International Research Issue
Group Leader(s): Glen Jamieson, Juliana Medeiros
Participants: Authors, TBD
Leader responsibility: Glen will serve as editor, Juliana will serve as assistant editor
Participant expectations: Craft a short, informative report (<4000 words) highlighting research in rhododendron, including major findings, how the general public might use or benefit from the study results, along with the next steps suggested by this work. Use language accessible to a general, high school educated, public audience: avoid technical jargon, mathematical formulas, and acronyms. Deadline for submission December, 2023. Expected publication late 2024.

Research Resources

Develop Rhododendron Traits Database
Group Leader(s): Bob Weissman
Participants: Jean Burns, Juliana Medeiros
Leader responsibility: Define and implement database technology

Participant expectations: Contribute data, contribute information about data management practices in biology, provide feedback on database design and retrieval.

Maintain Rhododendron Literature Database
Group Leader(s): Juliana Medeiros
Participants: Bob Weissman (others TBD)
Leader responsibility: coordinate database maintenance, supervise volunteers, conduct maintenance activities in the absence of volunteer help
Participant expectations: Data entry & cleaning as available, testing & troubleshooting of software updates/changes

Conferences & Networking

Newsletter
Group Leader(s): Juliana Medeiros
Participants: Story contributors
Leader responsibility: find stories, publish newsletter
Participant expectations: Share stories, opportunities etc. Publish in April, October as well as January and July as volunteer resources allow.

2023 & 2024 Convention Poster Sessions
Group Leader(s): Juliana Medeiros
Participants: conference chairs, poster presenters
Leader responsibility: work with conference organizers to include the poster session in the program, work with Research Foundation to promote funding, advertise program, serve as host during the poster session.
Participant expectations: Attend the convention and present a poster on a project they have done.