

Rhododendron News

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter – Volume LII, No. 09 – October, 2008

October
7 Board Meeting, 7 pm Van Veen Nursery (rescheduled from September)
16 Chapter Meeting – Mike Stewart In Scotland, Species Auction
18-19 Smith Garden Work Party

November
20 Chapter Meeting
TBS Board meeting

December
18 Christmas Pot Luck and Chapter meeting
TBS Board meeting

Meeting Time and Place

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in June, July, and August. Meetings start at 7 pm with a social half-hour preceding the main meeting.

Location

All Saints Episcopal Church
At the corner of SE 40th
and Woodstock
Portland, Oregon

PHOTOS: Photos in this issue used by permission. Color versions of the newsletter and photos will be posted on the chapter's website: www.rhodies.org.

October Program...

“Species Rhododendrons From the Land of the Collectors”

Our speaker for the October 16 meeting will be **Mike Stewart**. He and his wife **Maria** recently returned from the Scottish Rhododendron Society's International Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. Delegates from 19 countries had the opportunity of visiting 26 wonderful gardens and listening to 30 speakers. Mike will be speaking about some of the great rhododendron species that have been collected over the past 150 years and were brought to Scotland by their collectors.

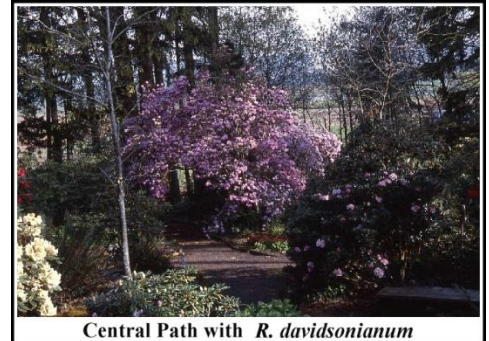
Mike, who is a past president of the American Rhododendron Society, always gives a most educational and entertaining program along with superb photography. He will also bring a few choice species from these collections for you. Don't miss this interesting presentation and opportunity to have some great collectable species rhododendrons.

SPECIES AUCTION: Don't forget that during the month of October we will also have a species auction. Bring your surplus plants (plants in plastic pants please) and check book, and come prepared to bid on fabulous, hard to find plants!

Smith Garden Fall Work Party

Ginny Mapes

The **Smith Garden Fall Work Party** date is October 18 and 19 rain or shine! Snacks, coffee, lunch will be provided on the 18th. Several trees will be removed before the Work Party and clean up help is needed. We also have 'sit-down' jobs available for people who



Central Path with *R. davidsonianum*

Smith Garden work party will treat workers to a fabulous view. (Photograph by Herb Spady. Used with permission.)

are willing to put the new "days and hours stickers" on the flyers. An important job, and it does not take a lot of physical activity. **Bring your gloves, favorite tool, and join the fun!**

September Program in Review

Peter Kendall, long-time chapter member and naturalist, shared a collection of photos taken in southern Oregon where the wild *R. occidentale* grow. He provided a bit of background information on the geology of the area and how that makes the soil there ideal for these special azalea. He even brought a sample of serpentine soils (that *R. occidentale's* really like) for folks to look at.

Peter has quite an eye for photos and shared dazzling plant pictures, as well as photos of steep canyons brimming with frothing rapids. He also shared photos of other wildflowers that grow in the area and compliment the rhododendrons. The rattle snake photos Peter showed undoubtedly gave some members an unexpected jolt... he was so-o-o-o close!

In memory of...

Tom Bowhan

Tom Bowhan, a long-time, active member of the Eugene chapter, passed away recently. He and his wife Emma, used to run a retail nursery west of Eugene. Our sympathies and prayers go to Emma and Tom's family.

Services were held on September 18 at the West Lawn Memorial Gardens. A reception/lunch was held at Greer Gardens on September 18. If you wish to send a card to Emma, her address is 27194 Huey Lane, Eugene, OR 97402-9415

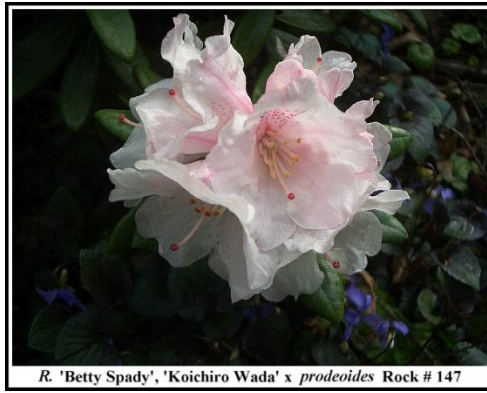
Member Watch

Good news for a change!

- **Ann Gross** is up and feeling much better.
- **Betty Goheen** is also getting better .

Weed Update

The Oregon Department of Agriculture indicated in their August 2008 **Nursery News** that the sale of *Buddleja davidii* (butterfly bush) is now prohibited throughout Oregon regardless of variety. Import and propagation prohibitions begin in 2010.



R. 'Betty Spady', 'Koichiro Wada' x *prodeoides* Rock # 147

Photographs in this article by Herb Spady.
(Used with permission.)

Our Chapter Treasure

Herb Spady

Betty and I had been members of the ARS for several years, but were busy with our family and my work so never attended meetings. However, in 1974 we noticed an article in the *Bulletin* related to the annual convention being held in Portland. As that appeared interesting and convenient, we attended. By the end of the convention we were rhodoholics.

One of the other major reasons for our malady was a visit to **Cecil and Molly Smiths'** garden. It was so beautiful and the Smiths were so gracious. I naively thought that I could grow a garden like theirs. Little did I realize the marked differences in the climate in only 40 miles. I visited with Cecil many times and he was so generous with cuttings that I was able to stock my property with many of the hardier plants in his collection.

As time passed I learned more about Cecil. He was one of the pioneer members of the ARS. Those pioneers struggled to obtain famous hybrids and true species plants from overseas. They were the founders of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, that we now take for granted as a source of species. One of the methods of obtaining species was to subscribe to plant expeditions. Cecil did and then had wild collected species seed to establish plants in his garden. As the plants grew and bloomed he hybridized and sent seed to the ARS seed exchange. Cecil was a major contributor. Many of the plants grown from those seeds have been registered and are grown worldwide. Many of those hybrids have also

been used as parents for more crosses. His was a great legacy to the ARS and rhododendron lovers.

Cecil's garden declined somewhat in his later years. As is so common it was easy to find space for a plant in a new garden. But those plants just keep growing, even after that magic ten year size! As the years passed Cecil's reduced physical ability to maintain the garden became apparent and he decided he would have to leave. Some 10 years after I first met Cecil, he offered the garden to the ARS. It was considered, but was not a practical option for the Society. In 1984, the Portland Chapter gained a financial position making it able to purchase the property. That purchase was made at considerably less than the appraised evaluation. The reduced price was at the Smiths' request

So what did we acquire? There was a fine collection of historic hybrids, Cecil's hybrids and selected species. There were many special specimen trees and companion plants. The understory of herbaceous plants in the early spring was breathtaking. On the other hand there were many problems. From the beginning the Willamette Chapter was involved in dealing with those problems. **Jason Ashford** and his crew began tackling the maintenance while **Sharon Leopold** began curating the garden with Cecil's help. Cecil did not have good written records so we still have some unidentified plants and probably some misidentified. Major changes were made to the pathways, with widening, removal of the bark chips and application of fine gravel.
(Continued on page 4)



Helleborus hybrid



R. *augustinii* 'Cerulean Mist' RSF2004/145

(Photos in this article by Bruce Duffy, used with permission)

Vacancy Advertisements

Newsletter Editor. Do you have about 8-10 hours a month to spare? The chapter needs to a new newsletter editor to work with a small team of folks. Average computer skills and strong word processing skills will make the job easy and interesting. Some writing possible. Those who want to develop stronger writing or computer skills may also find this an enjoyable task (editing, consultation, and technical assistance will be provided). Depending on your skill level, the process may take 8-10 hours or more per month. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Van Veen , 503-777-1734 (or vanveennursery@hotmail.com) or Kath Collier, 503-663-7917 or talk2write2@wildblue.net

Singing the Blues...

Ginny Mapes

Part of the fun of belonging to a Rhody Club is all the unusual plants you can collect. Ron and I love *R. augustinii* and over the years we have collected much from **Dr. Bump** who has always been so generous with his plants and cuttings. Here is what we have. Yes, we are always looking for more!

- R. augustinii* (From **Dr. Bump**) unknown
 - R. augustinii* Barto Blue 401-Clear, medium blue flowers
 - R. augustinii* Barto Blue 407.1
 - R. augustinii* by Coultor
 - R. augustinii* California Blue **Greer**
 - R. augustinii* Clemmer
 - R. augustinii* Caperci Best Purple RSBG #0/R1/6
 - R. augustinii* Cox
 - R. augustinii* Dark Purple Warren Berg
 - R. augustinii* Early Blue
 - R. augustinii* Electra —Bluest flowers
 - R. augustinii* Electra's Son —reddish-lavender flowers with yellowish-green blotch on upper lobe
 - R. augustinii* Grieg
 - R. augustinii* Grieg's form 'Phoenix'
 - R. augustinii* hardyi -White flowers RSF 1978/065 (Agate Beach 07)
 - R. augustinii* Hobbie
 - R. augustinii* Lackamas Blue -Periwinkle, flat-faced blooms
 - R. augustinii* Lem's Light Blue
 - R. augustinii* Magor
 - R. augustinii* Marine -Deep lavender blue with purple spotting
 - R. augustinii* OSU
 - R. augustinii* Smoke (Cox cross)
- Dr. Bump**



R. *augustinii* Electra
(Photo by Bruce Duffy, used with permission)

- augustinii* Star Trek
- R. augustinii* Towercourt
- R. augustinii* var. *chasmanthum* 'Blue Cloud' - Fluffy blue flowers (TVARS Auction 05)
- R. augustinii* var. *chasmanthum* - Pale lavender flowers
- R. augustinii* Whalley - Small smoky blue flowers
- R. augustinii* Willard Grey
- R. augustinii* Wine



R. *augustinii* "Marine" (Photo by Bruce Duffy, used with permission)

Photos are from **The Rhododendron Guide** by Bruce Duffy from the Willamette Chapter which is available on DVD from the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Photos used with permission.

Haiku

By Peter Kendall

A summer's night pond
Tonight 's golden moon yet to touch
the golden koi

In the floating moon
the nuance of color to
infinity

The ascending moon
A hikau by Buson
Can we ask for more?

Our Chapter Treasure

(Continued from page 2)

One of the early requirements for the garden was installation of a new watering system and a new well. Since the plants were very crowded, several new beds were created and plants were moved. Over the years some new plants, mostly species, have been added. Most of those have been from **Warren Berg** and **June Sinclair**. Some plants have died, but some of those have been replaced. The goal however has not been to keep the garden just as the Smith's left it. That would have been impossible. All gardens change.

There are more changes in store. At the last committee meeting the following are up for consideration and action. There are several irrigated areas that have room for more plants. The consensus was to consider newer hybrids. Removal of the brush and invasive plants from the undeveloped area is pending. We hope to restore some woodland paths in the area. Extending the garden is not practical because the watering system does not go into that area. There is not enough volunteer help to even keep the present developed area in tip-top condition.

Staffing was discussed. The option of having Sunday opening was considered. Seldom are four people needed for staffing, so we can use the same number of people with two on Saturdays and two on Sundays.

Since the **Patricks** have retired, **Sharon Leopold** has offered to do the propagation. She is already taking cuttings. We think we have a facility suitable for potting and growing on.

This includes some good news, but there is also some bad news. There appears to be little physical support for the garden from the Portland Chapter. I wonder how many of our members have never been there or perhaps have only been there once.

Tom Gressler, our resident tenant, is doing a fine job in the garden. **Bob Grasing**, **Anne Gross**, and I are the only consistent volunteers. We are willing to change the work day if that would help. Bob and I are declining in our abilities to do much heavy work. It takes us twice as long to do half as much! Walking

steadily up the hill is becoming much more difficult. Although we try to plan so that we stay down hill when we are working there, it always seems another tool is needed!

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden is indeed a treasure. It is owned by the Portland Chapter. It is not grandiose, but rather an intimate woodland garden that should appeal to the owners of small gardens. It reminds me of Glen Arn, my favorite garden in Scotland. This contrasts with Crystal Springs where we only own the plants. The City of Portland has the option of using that property any way it wishes. How about a new football stadium there!

This is an effort to remind our members what a treasure we have and an appeal for more help.



Liquidambar



R. schlippenbachii

Species Rhodo Auction

Dick Cavender

A great opportunity to purchase some choice plants! Bring your checkbooks! Members and non-members WELCOME!

We will also need plants! Bring those extra plants taking up space in your shade house or greenhouse. All plants are welcome. The focus will be on species rhododendrons. This will be a great opportunity to purchase those rare and unusual rhodies you won't find in the garden center. Remember these auctions help pay for our hall rent, newsletter printing and mailings, and other chapter activities. The Chapter was \$1,500 in the 'red' last year, so we really need your support.

Surfing the Board...

Members of the Chapter Board have been busy this past summer with a variety of events. The last Board meeting was held April 22 at the Van Veen Nursery.

Show chairmen reported profits from Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG) Mother's Day and Early shows to be around \$10,000, with another nearly \$5,000 being taken in by the ticket booth. Several suggestions for ways to improve the plant sales and marketing were also made by **Mike Domaschofsky** that should result in happier customers, increased attendance, and improved methods for holding plants.

All profits from these events are plowed back into the garden to cover maintenance costs and new projects such as a proposed North Lagoon improvement, bathroom expansion, and the dream of replacing the cool house with a more functional building. The Cool House was originally designed to hold non-hardy rhododendrons.

Both the original master plan and the update, detailed the need and concepts of replacing the Cool House with a real exhibit hall. **Kath Collier** and **Kathy Van Veen** discussed a proposal to use the Cool House for Master Gardener training (maybe next time!) during the winter. More work on the building is needed before it can be comfortably used during the winter.

Carol McCarthy met with the Japanese Garden Assn. to learn how they work so successfully with the City for development projects like the Cool House. **Kath Collier** has also been talking to the Portland Parks and Recreation staff about what types of documentation they might need as part of an updated Master Plan, and began roughing out a draft that would greatly simplify the Master Plan maintenance process.

The yellow iris at CSRG is commonly known as 'Yellow flag' or *I. pseudo-corus*. While beautiful in bloom, this introduced iris (from Europe) is considered a noxious weed in Oregon. Plants at CSRG are currently interfering with groundwater discharge into the lake. Seeds spread via water could damage the local watershed.

A small web committee (appointed earlier in the spring) had begun discussing how to improve the website. Several ideas were kicked around by the committee and board members through a rather wild exchange of email and discussions. A larger committee volunteered to assist in the process and workload tasks reorganized among the committee. More work is planned and we should see some exciting changes soon.

BOOKS—BOOKS BOOKS—BOOKS

Order your books through the ARS Portland Chapter and receive 10-25 percent discount off the list price. The Chapter receives 5 percent of each book. Contact **Loni Welsh** via:

- email – oregon1853@yahoo.com
- phone – 503-663-6987
- ARS Chapter meetings

The following publishers and book sellers offer discounts to us:

- **Princeton University Press - 25% discount** (website: <http://press.princeton.edu/catalogs.html>)
- **Storey Publishing - 25% discount** (website: <http://www.storey.com>)
- **Timber Press Publishing - 25% discount** (website: <http://www.timberpress.com>)
- **Workman Publishing - 25% discount** (website: <http://www.workman.com>)
- **Southern Oregon book dealer - 10% discount** (catalog listing available on request)
- **Rain or Shine - 10% discount** (any other books they have in their store)

Looking for something?

Surplus copies of past journals and bulletins are available for FREE from Kathy Van Veen (503) 777-1734 (or vanveennursery@hotmail.com).

Thinking about Christmas?

You might want to take advantage of the special **Christmas sale** of:

"The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story... the Hybridizers, Collectors and Gardens"

This fabulous book was created by the Portland Chapter with the help of **Sonja Nelson** and is now on sale! Softbound copies - regularly \$29.95 - are on sale for just **\$19.95!** Hard bound copies – regularly \$38.95 – are on sale for just **\$29.95**. Get your shopping done early by contacting **Loni Welsh** for copies of this fabulous book (full contact information appears in the far right hand books article).

Fall Plant Auction – Tualatin Valley ARS

The Tualatin Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (TVAR) is holding their Annual Fall Plant Auction at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 13, at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the First Baptist Church, 177 NE Lincoln Street, Tualatin.

Club members donate rhododendrons they have grown in their gardens or nurseries. While the focus is on rare, hard to find, special species and hybrids, a wide range of companion plants and trees share the auction stage. Remember, the rhododendron is Hillsboro's City Flower. This event is one of TVAR's major sources of funding to plant and maintain the rhododendron garden at The Jenkins Estate and the Lloyd Baron Rhododendron Garden at Hillsboro's Rood Bridge Park.

All garden members, as well as members of the general public are invited to participate in our annual ritual by buying and planting for the Fall garden. Fall planting provides a start for beautiful plants in the spring.

Refreshments and door prizes are included in the evening of fun!

For more information contact Ron Mapes at 503-312-2879 or through e-mail: ronsrhody@coho.net

Renewal Time!



October is ARS membership renewal month. **Think Halloween!** By the time I receive your renewal envelope, update the Portland Chapter's data base, report your renewal to **Laura Grant** (our national Executive Director), and she updates the Journal's mailing list, it is mid-December and just in time to print the January Journal. That's why the renewal envelope says **"DUES MUST BE POST-MARKED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1ST."**

Enclosed with this newsletter please find YOUR renewal envelope. Each member of the ARS gets their own renewal envelope with which to renew their membership. That envelope becomes a permanent record of your membership, so please check your information carefully, enclose your check and mail it early. Also, this year our new National Membership Chairperson, **Shirley Rock**, has asked that all member couples and families that have been renewing as Individuals renew at the \$40.00 Family rate.

To facilitate the renewal process, you have a choice of how to return the renewal envelope to me. You, of course, can mail it. My address is already on the front. Or, you can bring it (or have it brought) to the October Portland Chapter meeting.

By the way, your information in the renewal envelope becomes your listing in the annual Portland Chapter Roster booklet. If there is a change or additional information you want in the Roster for 2009, include it in your renewal envelope. **Thank you.**

Ray Girton
Membership Chairperson



Evergreen azalea "Ho Oden" blooming in the Collier Garden last October (photo by Dave Collier, used with permission)

In the garden...101

Finally – it's FALL!

October is a great month for propagating a wide variety of rhododendrons and azaleas in this part of the country. One does not need a greenhouse or complicated structure to successfully propagate small numbers of plants from their garden each year. One year we propagated about a dozen small azaleas in a one-gallon milk jug for a presentation.

The chapter periodically has programs demonstrating how to propagate materials, and there are several books on it. It is easy and fun. If you don't know how to do this and would like to get some help, please let one of the board officer's know and I'm sure that we can set up a field trip at one of the local nurseries.

When propagating, consider trying your hand at a few companion plants, such as blue berries, and other shrubs. The process is basically the same.

The weather in October is beginning to change and plants are preparing for winter. We will continue to have some hot days and some of the plants may need a bit of water. If you see plants that are wilting, investigate them. Critters will often burrow around the plant causing dry pocket. Dry pocket will kill well established trees and shrubs (I lost a cherry tree last year to it). Additional stress going into the winter season may be just enough to tip the survival scale for some plants.

(Continued on page 7)

PDX Garden Club Events

Coffee served at 9:30 a.m.
All presentations are free
and open to the public.
Held at the Garden Club.
For additional information
call 503-222-2845 or check
www.portlandgardenclub.org.

Thursday, October 16,
10:15 a.m.: **Caught on Film:
Columbia Gorge
Untouched** – Curator Terry
Toedtmeier previews the
seminal photographs of
the Columbia Gorge before
dams, now appearing at
the Portland Art Museum.

Thursday, November 20,
10:15 a.m.: **Judge's Choice:
Flower Power.** Lee
LaPointe of Florida brings
us her Garden Clubs of
America award-winning
flower arranging secrets.

Corrections

In the August newsletter it
was reported that Kath Collier
had not attended the
Regional meeting in Eugene.
Both Kath and Dave attended
the meeting (they simply
arrived late).

In the Garden... (Continued)

You may also notice a variety of
insects on your plants. Several mem-
bers asked about specific insects at the
last chapter meeting that you may want
to look for in your garden as well. The
lace bug was mentioned by a few
members. Adult lace bugs are 1/8-inch
long, are flattened and dark brown or
black, with lace-like wings. Lace bugs
attack the undersides of leaves,
creating a grayish mottled appearance
on the upper surface (the chlorophyll
has been destroyed during the feeding).
Plants in the sun are often attacked
more frequently than those in the
shade.

There are chemical and non-chemical
methods for controlling the lace bug.
Seek advice from your local county
extension agent on the best and safest
chemical treatments for your area. If
you are a bit shy of using chemicals you
might want to do what G. G. Nearing
described in *"The Organic Way to Plant
Protection"* by the Editors of Organic
Gardening. G. G. Nearing reported that
he looks for the characteristic leaf
mottling in May, and goes around
squeezing mottled leaves between his
thumb and finger which kills the young
bugs. He indicated that this technique
has nearly eliminated the problem in his
large collection.

Like many trees, rhodos and azaleas
alike will begin to show off their fabu-
lous colors. Several of the evergreen
azaleas sport burgundy winter leaves
that are just outstanding. And finally,
look for areas in your garden where you
might want to add a species plant...and
bid, bid, bid at the October species
auction for some fabulous plants!

President's Message

Kath Collier

I am honored to serve as your
President. I'm also lucky to have folks
serving as officers, board members,
and committees that bring a broad
wealth of skills and experience to the
table. We as a chapter are lucky to have
as many volunteers and helpers as we
do. Even with all of this luck, we, like
other organizations, are challenged
with really tough problems. I figure if

the problems were easy, you wouldn't
need a board to solve them. If they
were infrequent, we might only need to
meet on an *ad hoc* basis. If they were
simple, you really wouldn't need us.

Like all organizations, we need to
address issues that arise from changing
conditions, and from 'opportunities'
that are complicated and difficult to
resolve. These challenges will always
exist as long as the Chapter has re-
sources worth protecting and man-
aging. The good news is that we have
been able to work together and hash
out solutions over time to even the
most dire situations.

Some of our greatest challenges are
not new. We will need to become
much more proactive in leveraging and
managing our available resources (such
as the gardens, website, and newslet-
ter) to recruit and retain members (see
the **Renewal Time** article on page 5).
We will also need to figure out how to
tame an ever-increasing paperwork
blizzard that is required for managing
and enhancing our gardens and
chapter. Finally, we will need to figure
out ways to have fun. **FUN?** Yes, fun.

There are several ways to have fun.
We all have our preferences and ideas
about having fun. Some people have
fun doing things. Some people have fun
learning things. Having the opportunity
to talk and socialize with other people
might be fun. And finally, some people
have fun knowing that a few hours of
their labor will charm the public into
loving the Chapter's gardens and join in
their care.

No matter how you like to have fun,
you can't if you don't participate. I
found it interesting to learn that some
cultural groups generally do not volun-
teer or participate in activities because
of past experiences. A Russian friend
shared her story of the enforced
'volunteerism' required to maintain city
parks and streets where she grew up.
Everyone was required to participate.
There was no choice and very little fun.

Our chapter knows how to make
things fun. And the only way to have
fun is to get involved. I'm looking
forward to many opportunities to
participate in Chapter activities and
having fun in the year ahead. **I hope to
see you there!**

Post Master: Time sensitive mail; please deliver before October 15, 2008

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Mike Stewart - "Species Rhododendrons from the Land of the Collectors" - Details inside!

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Vice President: **Mike Domaschofsky**

Secretary: **Carol McCarthy**

Treasurer: **Dick Cavender**

BOARD MEMBERS (Thru June 30, 2009) **Steve**

Hopkins, Brenda Ziegler, Steve Kaminski, Donna Sell, Ray Clack

(Thru June 30, 2010) **Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart, Kathy Van Veen, Dave Collier, Ray Girton**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Chair:

Bob MacArthur and Beverly Watkins

Rose Kress (Ticket booth) 503-654-4318

Friends: **Kathy Van Veen** (503) 777-1734

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden Chair: **Ginny Mapes**

Newsletter membership and Ownership: The Portland Chapter is a local Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined annual dues to both the national society and local chapter are \$40. Membership benefits include nine or more newsletters. Rhododendron news is mailed by non-profit class postage (permit #1134) paid at Portland. Photographs and Images may only be reproduced with permission from the creator or owner.

Articles: Deadline is the chapter meeting. Send materials to either: **Kathy Van Veen**, Interim Managing Editor, at: (email) **vanveenursery@hotmail.com** or via mail to: 4201 SE Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland, Oregon 97286, or to **talk2write2@wildblue.net**, or via mail to: **Kath Collier**, newsletter helper, 37235 SE Lusted Road, Boring, OR 97009. Portland Chapter Website: **www.rhodies.org**

Delivery: Questions should be directed to: **Maria Stewart (503) 668-7565**