

Rhododendron News

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter – Volume LIII, No. 3 – March, 2009

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| March |
| 19 am PDX Garden Club: George's Garden: Mount Vernon Past and Present 19 Chapter Meeting, Clarice Clark and Bob MacArthur 24 Board meeting |
| April |
| 4 Early Show 16 Chapter Meeting, E. White Smith and Kathy Van Veen (see page 5) 16 am PDX Garden Club: Stone Soup: Sculpture is what every garden needs 21 Board meeting Meeting up in Washington |
| May |
| 9-10 Mothers day show 21 Awards Banquet with Harold Greer 26 Board Meeting |

Meeting Info

Regular chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (except in June, July, and August which have other events). Meetings start at 7 pm with a social half-hour preceding the main meeting. We clean up and exit no later than 9:30 pm.

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

Please feel free to join us at the Deli across the street for dinner before the meeting – several members routinely meet there.



Clarice Clark collecting plants at Cold Creek, Alaska.

On March 19...

Rhododendron Hunting In Alaska

Alaska is considered one of the lesser explored areas in the U.S. and is home to several rhododendrons. Ever wonder what might be there? In March, Clarice Clark from Puyallup, Washington will be joining us and describing some of her recent plant hunting trips to Alaska.

Ms. Clark is a member of the Tacoma ARS chapter and formerly propagated plants for the Rhododendron Species Foundation. She is currently working on the Western North American Rhododendron Species Project (WNARSP). Before the meeting you might want to look at the WNARSP website to see the kinds of maps that are available and the enhancements made after field trips like hers. See: www.wnarsp.org

Bob MacArthur will also provide a short educational program on identifying mildew and how to treat it.

This will be a fun presentation that you will not want to miss. See you there!

Early Show

With spring coming soon to Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden that means we are preparing for our **Early Show, Saturday April 4**. Entries accepted 8-9:45 am; judging begins at 10 am.

Many people received cold weather damage. Please bring as many entries as possible so we can make this a spectacular show. Information will be at the March meeting and there are many jobs to be filled. Please feel free to sign up. **Thank you very much.**

Linda Rumgay

President's Message

RUMORS! I heard a rumor the other day that we were going to have shows and sales that were limited to 'members only.' While it might be nice to fantasize about being able to pick through the best of the plants without competition from the public... that situation is **not** going to happen. **THIS RUMOR IS NOT TRUE!**

Let's start a new rumor. We're going to have some great shows with some great plants that you won't want to miss. In fact, you will want to volunteer so that you can get in early and help get things set up (while secretly eyeing plants that you *gotta* take home).

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In This Issue...

- >>Developing Objectives for the **CSRG Master Plan**
- >>In memory of...**Roger Berryhill**
- >>The Reluctant Banker...in memory of **Edmund de Rothschild**
- >>Surfing the Board
- >>**Show reports and schedules!!**
- >>In The Garden...101: **After the storms...Recovering your garden and more!**

In memory of...

'The Reluctant Banker'

Edmund "Eddy" de Rothschild died on January 17 at the age of 93. Some will remember de Rothschild as the senior partner and chairman of NM Rothschild & Sons. The 'nitty-gritty' of banking, according to his obituary in the Telegraph (telegraph.co.uk) was not to de Rothschild's taste.

What many of us will remember about de Rothschild was his involvement on the board of the Smith Garden and his efforts to restore the Exbury Gardens in Hampshire. Those of you who have walked this magnificent 260-acre woodland garden understand the amount of work required not only to create the garden, but also restore and maintain it. The garden had been created by Lionel de Rothschild in the 1920-30's, and the garden was used by the Navy during and after WWII.

Eddy de Rothschild replanted approximately three-quarters of the garden over the next 50 years, and created several dozen new deciduous azaleas. Exbury deciduous azaleas are noted for their strength and color.

Harold Greer invited Edmund and his wife to attend the 56th annual ARS conference in Eugene. He was honored there with the ARS Pioneer Achievement Award and gave a delightful talk.

According to the DVD "The Glory of the Garden" (produced by Nicholas de Rothschild and narrated by Edmund de Rothschild in 1980), Edmund had no interest in Exbury (the garden) or plants until one special day when he was serving as a battery-captain in the 77th Highland Field Regiment in North Africa. 'He had a moment of clarity' the story goes, when lying in a field of countless wildflowers, totally overcome by their beauty. From that day on he turned over a new leaf not only restoring the garden but producing several dozen rhododendron hybrids, and the Solent Range of Exbury deciduous azaleas.

To learn more about de Rothschild you might want to pick up the DVD or look for "A Gilt-Edged Life" a Memoir by Edmund de Rothschild (written with George Ireland, 1998), "The Rothschild Rhododendrons" edited by Peter Barber, and "Window on the World" (1949) which detailed his 18-month tour around the world.

Edmund de Rothschild was an honorable man, honored for his many military successes, his hard work for charitable causes, and generosity throughout his life. In 2005, he received the Royal Horticultural Society's highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honour.

A memorial service for de Rothschild will be held later in the year.

K. Collier

President's Message

(Continued)

Sure some of the plants will have had a rough winter and may not bloom. Doesn't mean that they are not as wonderful as could be! It does mean that we may need to do a better job describing to members of the public how wonderful these plants will look like in the near future!

But that is the easy part. We have some great sales people that help with the shows that really know their plants. I can always count on **Bob MacArthur** (CSRG co-chair) to point out a plant (or two) that I just MUST HAVE in my garden. I'm never disappointed!

Each year, we are blessed to have a great many folks volunteer to help out. There is always room for another helping hand. You might want to think about jumping right in and signing up to help with logistics (that way you get to see the winners before anyone else), help with sales (see plants you didn't spy earlier), or just help visitors find their way around. There's no guaranteeing what the weather might do. The better the weather, the more folks come out to shop, the more money we make for the garden, and the more people we get to talk to about rhodos. A bit of sunshine can go a long way and we've had some pretty nice days on our sales (and a few where even the ducks were drenched!).

(Continued on page 5)

In Memory of...

Roger Berryhill

Roger Berryhill of Berryhill Nursery in Sherwood, Oregon died at the age of 75 on February 18. Roger was a well known nurseryman and farmer, along with his wife **Arda**. The Berryhill's have been members of the ARS Portland Chapter since 1978.

A memorial service was held on Monday, February 23 at the Attrell's Newberg Funeral Chapel. Roger is survived by his wife Arda, two sons and a daughter.

"It is better to wear out than to rust out."

--Richard Cumberland

NOTE: An expanded color version of the newsletter typically containing more photos (at the end) is posted on the chapter's website: www.rhodies.org.



CSRG Master Plan Objectives

Kath Collier

Goal -> Objectives -> Measurable results

One of the most difficult challenges in creating any type of planning document is keeping them simple, understandable, and readable (not just in terminology but in length!). This is the second installment of a process description and suggestions for updating the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG) Master Plan. Based on your feedback this information could be used as a starting point for collecting comments from the public (which we will be required by the city to do).

In the last issue, it was suggested that a goal statement like the one below be used to frame the plan:

The goal of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is to provide a tranquil sanctuary that serves as a first class educational resource and botanical garden featuring rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plants.

Once a goal statement has been discussed and agreed upon (which this one has not as yet), then it is possible to develop objectives that help support the goal and set the stage for more detailed tasks. Objectives can be thought of as groups of measurable activities that lead towards the accomplishment of a goal. The mnemonic often used for developing and to evaluate objectives in planning documents is **SMART** representing **S**ensible, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound.

The 1995 master plan version included several bulleted items on page 28 that could be used as a great starting place for creating a list of objectives:

“Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is intended to:

1. Present to the public a major display of significant rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plantings.

- 2. Offer the tranquility of a peaceful refuge away from the hurried pace of urban living.**
- 3. Demonstrate, through skillful use of companion plantings, how a major rhododendron garden may be beautiful and appealing to the public all year round.**
- 4. Offer a natural setting for educational programs of interest to horticulturists, amateur gardeners, and local schools.**
- 5. Provide an opportunity, through annual shows, for the public to see many rare and unusual rhododendrons and azaleas not normally seen in this area.**
- 6. Provide the setting for facilities that will accommodate the functions of groups wishing to use the Garden for special occasions.**
- 7. Provide the setting for physical facilities that will accommodate the meetings and other activities of the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. “**

It may be possible to simplify this list a bit based on the goal statement. It may also be useful to clarify what is meant by “rare and unusual” for instance. Would one classify anything not sold in the normal commercial venues as ‘rare and unusual’? Would ‘rare and unusual’ be something that could be maintained and protected? And then, how might we create objectives from these statements that are SMART? Let’s take the first statement regarding the public display. There are several words within this statement that mean different things to different people. For instance, what would qualify as “a major display” or as a “significant”...planting?

In many cases, we are not creating something new but building on or maintaining existing plantings and structures. This can make using the SMART guidelines a bit tricky, see if this fits...

Continue the development and maintenance of a large and varied public display of rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plantings.

(Continued on page 7)

HELP WANTED!

Do you dream of being a writer? We’ve got just the job for you! We need a Newsletter Editor.

Qualifications: Depending on your skill level, the process may take as little as 8-10 hours per month. Average computer and word processing skills will make the job easy and interesting. You will need to provide your own computer and printer; some writing and photography possible.

If you are interested, please contact **Kathy Van Veen** , 503-777-1734 (vanveennursery@hotmail.com) or **Kath Collier**, 503-663-7917 (talk2write2@wildblue.net).

Changing your address?

Contact **Ray Girton**, Membership Chair for questions or assistance.



Damage at Smith Garden-- hopefully your garden does NOT look like this!

Looking for something?

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

In the garden 101...

After the Storm(s,s,s) Recovering your garden

The volume of storm damage, particularly on plants other than the rhododendrons and azaleas can be pretty overwhelming. What to do first?

Think triage. Triage involves taking a look at the overall picture, prioritizing the need, and diving in. In the garden, this might include pulling heavy limbs off of other plants so that you can inventory the damage. Removing the debris in general will help air circulation and minimize the potential for disease. Removing the weight will give the plants a chance to rebound and also make it easier to examine the plant. In our garden it meant taking out trees and fences that were now on top of plants, saving the greenhouse, and repairing equipment building roofs.

Another 'low hanging fruit'-type task is to 'right' plants (that are otherwise healthy) so that they stand up straight and so that the roots do not dry out. Checking for leaning plants (particularly trees) in this process might also identify some quick fixes and protect you and your family from trees that are in the process of falling.

Getting a fairly good idea of the level of damage is important. You might consider if you have a large yard or a lot of damage, making a list. High priority items could include 'low hanging fruit' mentioned above, and anything that might pose a safety risk. The next thing on my list is damage that might affect the health of the plant. This could include torn and shattered branches, major damage areas, and plants with a significant amount of moderate damage. Generally, plants will tolerate light damage and this can be cleaned up during regular garden maintenance.

Finally, it is time to sharpen and oil the pruning tools, select a method for sanitizing tools between plants (I like

Clorox wipes), and begin the clean up process. Two other tasks: (1) Check the wheelbarrows or other tools that will work hard in this process. Tires that are not inflated properly are difficult to move – especially on heavy loads. (2) Determine what you will be doing with the cuttings. Do you plan to recycle, chip, burn, etc.? There are many choices and you may need to employ all of them if you have a lot of material.

The clean up may take several weeks or months. We undoubtedly will get more opportunities for clean up and will discover more damage over time. So keep your cuts straight (at least for rhodos), tools sharp and clean, and wheelbarrows ready... we're not out of the woods on the weather yet! **Kath**

May Banquet Choices

A ballot will be distributed at the March meeting to ask members what kind of banquet they would like to have in May. Last year, we switched to a potluck for-mat, from a more formal catered dinner. The board had concerns in their meeting that the expense (somewhere between \$25-30) may be more than a number of members would be willing to pay.

Three options will be offered: (1) a catered dinner (like 2007 and before); (2) a potluck (like 2008); or (3) a hybrid potluck where the chapter pays for the main course and members are asked to bring certain types of dishes (like folks with the last name starting with A through G would bring one thing, H through M something else, etc.).

Let us know what you think at the next meeting!

PDX Garden Club Events

All presentations are free and open to the public and held at the Portland Garden Club, 1132 SW Vista, Portland. Coffee served at 9:30 a.m. For additional info call: 503-222-2845 or www.portlandgardenclub.org

Thursday, March 19, 2009,
10:15 am

George's Garden: Mount Vernon Past and Present.
Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon, talks about how George Washington kept his garden.

Thursday, April 16, 2009,
10:15 am

Stone Soup: Sculpture is What Every Garden Needs.
D.J. Garrity, former sculptor-in-residence at Mount Rushmore, talks about using art to enhance the landscape.

COMING IN APRIL

How to Present Your Trusses in Shows short educational program from **Kathy Van Veen** followed by **E. White Smith's** presentation on ***Propagation at the Rhododendron Species Foundation.*** These guys always put a great program and you won't want to miss this or the HYBRID AUCTION either!

2009 HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

DICK CAVENDER

The 2009 Home & Garden Show was a great success due to the hard work of many members of the Portland, Tualatin Valley, and Willamette Chapters. Thanks to all that volunteered their time. We owe a BIG thank you to **Lucy Sorensen-Smith** and **E. White Smith** of Bovees Nursery for doing the design, providing most of the plants, and installing the plants. **Mike Stewart** of Dover Nursery also provided and transported plants. **Ray Clack, Dave Collier, Mike Domaschofsky** and I setup the garden frame, filled it with bark, unloaded plants and took it down at the end of the show. While Karen and I only worked the last shift on Sunday, we were busy with visitors all the time. I have had similar reports from other staff. **Great work folks!!**

A little bit of history is needed. Some 15 or more years ago the Society was offered free booth space at the Home & Garden Show presented by O'Loughlins. The show seemed like something we should do to educate the public and get the word out about the Society. Our booth evolved over the years as new display panels were built, instructions sheets produced, garden information folders added, photos assembled. While response to our efforts was not always evident, we did gain a number of members and we did 'Get The Word Out' This is all part of our duties as a non-profit organization.

In mid-2008, **Phil Parker** of O'Loughlins contacted me about doing a garden at their February 2009 Show. I thought it sounded like a great idea. Our space would be 15' x 15' and we would have an information table next to the garden rather than a separate booth. Since few rhodies are in flower in February, my first thought was a garden featuring rhodies with good foliage. Phil had, a number of times, offered high praise for the garden that Lucy and White had

done at the show a number of years ago. Since I am not a designer, I asked Lucy if she would do the design. She agreed. All I really expected was some sort of drawing and a list of plants. However, Lucy dove into the project full bore. Her past experience proved invaluable!

Lucy came up with the idea of connecting the plants to the areas of the world where they were native, ***Think Globally, Grow Locally.*** Most people are not aware that Rhodies are found on all continents north of the equator. Vireyas are the only section of the genus from the Southern Hemisphere. Lucy really took over the project, much to my great delight and relief! Bovees could supply most of the plants and **Mike Stewart** could fill in the blanks. The idea was to have maps of the world on a frame in the center of the garden and have the plants laid out by region. Ribbons would connect the plants to the map. E. White built the frame, acquired the maps and laid out the garden in their driveway. Bark for the garden would be provided, free, and we could use stone as a frame for it. Things were progressing nicely.

There were a couple of catches, however. We would be charged for the stone but the charge would be refunded if we returned it clean, unbroken and stacked on a pallet. Placing 60' of concrete blocks 18" high was going to be a lot of work. E. White then suggested that we use pressure treated 2" X 12"s instead. I did a bit of shopping and found the right material at a good price.

We decided to set up on Saturday, February 21. I had the lumber prepared and E. White had the map frame ready. I hauled them to the Expo center. **Ray Clack, Dave Collier,** and I assembled the frame and filled it with bark. I got to run a BobCat. **Mike Domaschofsky** and I met Lucy and White Sunday morning to unload the plants and group them by area. An unexpected advantage was that the garden was located right next

(Continued on page 6)

Member Benefits!

Order your books through the ARS Portland Chapter and receive 10-25 percent discount off the list price. 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 (<http://press.princeton.edu/catalogs.html>)
- **Storey Publishing** - 25% discount (<http://www.storey.com>)
- **Timber Press Publishing** - 25% discount (<http://www.timberpress.com>)
- **Workman Publishing** - 25% discount (<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)

2009 Garden Show

(Continued)

to a large rollup door and we could drive right next to it. Lucy and E. White installed the plants on Monday and Tuesday.

I haven't spoken to most of the people that staffed the information table but I think they kept busy. The Willamette Chapter's Growers List was a nice addition and popular. I had also obtained a sheet on what to do with 'That Too Big Rhodie.' It also proved popular. Our location was right next to the Orchid Show & Sale and I am sure that helped.

I met Lucy and E. White Monday morning and we loaded out the plants. Mike had picked his up Sunday evening, a big help! I then disassembled the frame and started loading out the bark. I had not realized until a week prior, that we were to take the bark after the show. Since there was about 14 yards, I now have a nice supply for my new garden. Another unexpected bonus was that the Home Builder's Assn. **paid** us to do the Garden. All our expensed were covered by this payment and we had a bit left over.

It is hard to determine what results our efforts will yield. However, the show newsletter offered 2 for 1 admissions to CSRG and Smith Garden. It also included a membership application. Since it is on colored paper, it should be noticeable if we get a response. I think everyone involved felt that it was a worthwhile and fun project. It is a great opportunity to meet the public and tell them our story. I am always amazed at how many people have never heard of CSRG. Even fewer people know about the Smith Garden, Jenkins Estate, or that the ARS is a worldwide organization and was founded in Portland.

I would **REALLY** like to do this type of display again next year. However, I have been vigorously informed that Lucy and E. White will **NOT** do it. Any volunteers? It's not too soon to start planning!

February in Review...

Sweets for the Sweet

Most years we celebrate the holiday season with a potluck party. This year, however, the party was rescheduled because of the bad weather.

Over 40 members were present for the February 'Sweets for the Sweet' Valentine's Day party. Several regular members were absent from the meeting—leaving more sweets for everyone else!

Surfing the Board

Topics discussed at the board meeting included show logistics and a review of the 2009 Garden show (see page 5), as well as upcoming speakers and programs. There were several suggestions, such as making the show schedules available online, ideas on membership recruiting, potential changes at the national level to our rosters, and some improvements for the newsletter. Several newsy items were shared (and appear in this newsletter). Future discussion topics include garden projects, speakers, outreach, local versus national memberships, web support, and more!

President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

See **Linda Rumgay's** (Early Show Chair) article on page 1 for more details and think about coming out to play at the Early Show. Participating in our shows is a wonderful way to spend your day—and something you won't want to miss... In the meantime...spread the word—we're going to have some wonderful choice plants, lots of fun, and visit with good friends...you won't want to miss them! **Kath**

Smith Garden

The garden is awakening

By Herb Spady



There are two clones of *R. moupinense* in the garden. **Dorothy Patrick** provided the garden with a fine new plant that has much more red color than the one that has been in the garden for many years. The plant that has been in the garden for so long, is still only about three feet wide and somewhat lower than it is wide.

The early flowering bulbs like *Narcissus cyclamineus* and *Galanthus* are blooming, as are the *Helleborus*.

Editor's Note: You can see more of Herb's photos for this story at: <http://www.arwillamette.org/SmGar200903/SmGar200903.htm>. We are working at copying this over to the newsletter site.

HAIKU

Peter Kendall

A shifting jet stream
A winter's joys and travails
leaping further east

Betwixt and between
with its light dusting of
snow—
this morning's cherry

Boring its way through
gusts from the east, the
heron
to its own rhythm

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

*This fabulous book created by the Portland Chapter (with the help of **Sonja Nelson**) is now on sale! Soft bound 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.*

CSRG Master Plan

(Continued)

This statement acknowledges the past efforts, yet sets the stage for continued activities. Development activities, such as improving trails, can be easily measured along with maintaining plants and plant diversity. We also know that this fundamental activity should be continued in the garden forever.

Tasks that might fall under this objective could include things that have been recognized in the existing master plan. This includes compiling and maintaining a plant inventory (we have this now, but it could be made available in the future online). It could also include evaluating planting bed design or path design to determine if the public access or display could be improved, developing a plant collection policy, creating a map of the garden, collecting information about the plants in a database, etc. Each of these tasks would follow the SMART design by setting out specific timelines for getting things done, measuring the effectiveness of what is done, and looking for opportunities to improve the garden while minimizing the resources needed to maintain it.

This objective supports the goal by keeping the focus of the garden on rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plants. Various activities, such as a plant inventory, help support the educational side of the house.

In the next newsletter, we will propose some draft objective for the other six elements listed in the revised master plan, and begin to look at performance measures.

Feedback to this discussion and these concepts and proposals is welcome. Your thoughts and ideas are an essential part of the process. Please call, write, email, or stop me at a meeting and share your thoughts.
THANK YOU Kath

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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) *Kathy Van Veen, Dave Collier, Ray Girtton, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart,*

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Chair:

Bob MacArthur and *Beverly Watkins*

Ticket booth: *Rose Kress*, (503) 654-4318

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

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden Chair: *Ginny Mapes*

Newsletter membership and Ownership: *Ray Girtton*, Chair, (503) 659-7275. 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, 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 *Kath Collier* at: talk2write2@wildblue.net, or via mail to: *Kath Collier*, newsletter production, 37235 SE Lusted Road, Boring, OR 97009, Portland Chapter Delivery: Questions should be directed to: *Maria Stewart* (503) 668-7565.

Website: www.rhodies.org – web team: Steve Kaminski, Ray Girtton, Dave Collier, Kath Collier

