

Rhododendron News

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter – Volume LIII, No. 6 – June, 2009

SUMMER CALENDAR
June
20 – Membership meeting Bovees, 1 pm
23 – Web focused Board Meeting (no chapter meeting)
July
July – No chapter meeting or newsletter
July 16 – Classification com- mittee meeting Van Veen Nursery, 7 pm
August & September
August – No Chapter meeting
August 21 - Smith Garden Soiree picnic potluck
September – Regular chapter meetings begin

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 Woodstock Wine & Deli (across the street) for dinner or beverage before the meeting – several members routinely meet there.

May Awards Banquet

We celebrated **Harold Greer's** birthday at the May 17 Portland Chapter Awards Banquet. **Harold** presented an entertaining program on some of his favorite (and occasionally naked) rhododendrons. We had a lot of laughs and giggles as he wowed us with fabulous pictures and interesting details about many plants. But before the presentation, we had lots of fun and lots of food!



Based on the voting results at the April meeting, the banquet was a 'combination' potluck where folks contribute \$5 per person and brought some kind of a side dish. We had plenty of food (ham, turkey, beef, salads, veggies, desserts, and on and on!). Next year we will ask members again about their preferences and ideas on how to make this an affordable event for all. **Rita Knapp** did some excellent research on potential caterer's that will come in handy next year when we look at the food options.

The Board raved about a particular item--**Who brought that fabulous mac and cheese dish?** We want that recipe!

There were also a few BIG surprises at the ceremony. Two President's awards were distributed: **Herb Spady** was given an award for his continual efforts to publicize the Smith Garden and get information out to everyone about what is going on there. **Donna Sell** was also recognized for her outstanding efforts in marketing and getting the 'word' out about our programs, sales, etc. Both of these members have really been doing a fabulous job, often behind the scenes, to help support the chapter and gardens. **Kathy Van Veen** and **Bev Watkins** were recognized earlier in the year for their outstanding services in support of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG).

One of the biggest surprises of the evening was the bronze metal which

was awarded to **E. White Smith**. You might remember **E. White's** fun twist on using existing name tags at our meetings (bring your own and get double the door prize tickets!). He has been working on several ideas to increase membership including leading a discussion on June 20 to examine potential changes and get some things happening. All well deserved awards!



Surfing the Board

Motion to donate \$100 to National to help pay for a new copier was approved. Two meeting dates for summer work groups were set:

What's in Your Web? June 23, 7 pm at Van Veen Nursery. Discussion on what you want to see on the website and how we can make this tool more effective. All board members and chapter members are welcome.

Classification workgroup meeting - July 16, 7 pm at Van Veen Nursery. How can we improve our show schedules? A small group will be discussing opportunities for clarification and splitting classes, basic rules, and ideas that can help increase participation in our shows. All board members and chapter members are welcome.

It was also reported that the **Smith Garden** has begun discussing a vision statement for the garden as requested by the Board.

Also In This Issue...

- >>In Memory of **Eleanor Bulgin** (addendum)
- >>**Mother's Day Show Winners**
- >>**CSRG Master Plan**, Developing Criteria for Prioritizing Projects
- >>President's Message
- >>In The Garden...101: **In search of the perfect label strategy**
- >>**Hinsdale Garden Tour**
- >>AND MORE!!!

HAIKU

Peter Kendall

*Topsy turvy spring
Between masquerade and
reality*

*Accelerating
the nuance of green, the
warmth
of affecting sun*

*Through a stand of trees
and its new borne march,
the curve
of the brook*



Addendum:

In Memory of...

Eleanor Bulgin

by Lansing Bulgin

Eleanor Bulgin, a member of the Portland Chapter of ARS since 1976, died on April 9, 2009 at the age of 90 while residing at Capital Manor Retirement Community in Salem, OR.

She was active in chapter affairs for a number of years as long as she was able. She chaired and organized the Arts and Crafts Sale for the 1983 National ARS Convention held in Portland. She and her husband, **Lansing Bulgin**, developed and operated Ellanhurst Rhododendron Gardens located in Sherwood, Oregon for 15 years, retiring from nursery work in 1990.

CSRG Path Update

Emerald Stone Masonry has been hard at finishing up the work on the new path at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. As the masonry is completed, the task is to get the plants back into the soil. The challenge will be to keep the plants moist as they re-establish their root system during the warm weather that is fast approaching.

This project will not only provide access to portions of the garden that were limited to some folks in the past, but also generally improve the quality of the pathway making it safer for all. We need to thank the volunteers at CSRG for all of their hard work and the City of Portland Parks department for their assistance.

Come out and check it out! It is looking GREAT!

Mother's Day Show Winners!

The weather was sunny and pleasant for the Annual Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale in May. This is the Garden's premier fund raising event of the year. Initial results indicate that the number of visitors was nearly the same as last year (1,486 in 2008, 1,476 2009). Sales figures appear to be slightly (\$29) lower compared to last year's level. Total profits for the garden are being worked on as the bills (such as security, porta potties, etc.) come in.

Awards! Each exhibitor is awarded points for ribbons won. Those points are tracked as shown below. The exhibitor with the greatest number of points is awarded a sweepstakes trophy, which this year was won by **Gene Cockeram**. The point spread for this show follows:

Points	Exhibitors
103	Cockeram
90	Cavender
79	Snyder
72	Van Veen
71	Kendall
55	MacArthur
38	Metcalfe
37	Collier
35	Clack
33	Girton
19	Goheen
11	Kimball
5	Sharp
3	Mannen
3	Ziegler

Trophies! There were two trophies that had no entries and thus were not awarded. Probably the most exciting award was to **India Sharp**, a five-year-old who won the Novice Trophy and a year's membership to the Chapter. We understand that India has been tenderly caring for the winning rhododendron which at times includes singing to it. Maybe that's what some of us are doing wrong... or right as the case may be! Check out the list of trophy winners on page 7.

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)

Changing your address?

If you are changing your physical or electronic mail address, be sure to let **Ray Girton**, Membership Chair, know so that we can continue to get the newsletter to you!

CSRG Master Plan Prioritizing Projects

Kath Collier

Goal -> Objectives -> Measurable results -> Potential Activities -> Criteria for Prioritizing Projects

One of the most difficult challenges in creating any type of planning document is keeping it simple, understandable, and readable. This is the fifth installment of a process description and suggestions for updating the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG) Master Plan. The goal will be to lift this information and your comments and use this as a basis for a new plan.

So far we have a goal statement of *“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.”*

We also have four (rather than seven) SMART (Sensible, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) objectives:

1. **Continue the development and maintenance of a large and varied public display of rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plantings.**
2. **Develop and maintain a peaceful, tranquil refuge away from the hurried pace of urban living.**
3. **Offer educational opportunities in a natural setting that demonstrates year round beauty to horticulturists, amateur gardeners, and local schools. Examples of educational activities typically include shows that include a wide variety of plants, garden plantings that include companion plants, demonstrations, etc.**
4. **Develop and maintain facilities and structures that will accommodate the public and groups. This includes both pathways, restrooms, and an exhibit hall that could support educational activities, as well as other activities that would provide public benefit or support special occasions.**

In the last issue, we began developing some basic criteria for prioritizing projects:

All garden projects must contribute to the overall goal and one or more objective.

Projects that warrant a higher priority would include one or more of the following elements:

- **Capital Investment Protection, Maintenance, and Development such as safety and accessibility, or public education.**
- **Enhance partnership opportunities or share funding with the City and other public service groups.**
- **Develop or restore new garden features that may renew or enhance public interest.**

One of the current projects underway is to improve the restrooms that are located near the Meadow. This project involves all three priority-raising elements mentioned above in some way in that needed maintenance and improvement of the facilities are being made through a partnership grant from the City. Improving these basic services will enhance the public's ability to enjoy the garden, especially during events and peak bloom seasons.

Large projects such as upgrading the exhibit hall will need to pass more rigorous review involving the Chapter, City, and members of the public. Public comment will be needed along with extensive building plans, environmental studies, and cost estimates. Creating a more suitable building that could feature educational exhibits and events, training and workshops, and some revenue generating activities (such as a wedding or two) has been a long-time dream of the original master plan creators.

To move forward on such a vision, we need to get public feedback and approval from the city on the basic master plan (as outlined in the newsletter) and work with them to develop detailed project plans for any large projects, such as the replacement of the exhibit house.

We would also need to establish a long-term team of Chapter members, Garden managers, members of the public, and the City. This group would oversee the project and keep the process moving. This would include overseeing the creation of a basic project plan.

Some of the details for a project plan to replace the existing Exhibit house can be drawn from the previous Master Plans which identified two goals for this activity:

(Continued on page 5)

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).

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.

Rhodomania picture

In the garden 101...

In search of the perfect Label Strategy

Kath Collier

One of the most frustrating things is to have a plant in the garden that you love, but you can't identify. Sure you might remember purchasing it, planting it, but the name can escape you. There are a few things that you can do to remedy this problem: (1) Make a map of the garden with every plant identified, (2) Keep a database history of every plant purchased and planted, (3) Make sure you have a fool proof labeling system.

OK, I confess. For several years I did #1 and I envied another member for her ability to do both #1 and #2 well, and actively sought the Holy Grail of fool proof labels. The quest began around 1984 when a friend's child pulled up all of my stakes in a large herb garden planted earlier in the day and not yet documented. "Look Daddy at all of the little flags I found!" were words that brought tears to my eyes. We had a great herb garden. Unfortunately, we didn't know what most of the stuff was.

It pays to think about fool proofing your labeling strategy and taking precautions against all of the bad things that can *and will* happen to your labels. Dave and I now label plants at least two different ways. The first label created is fairly large standing about 21-inches tall (from **Paw Paw Everlast Label Company**, www.everlastlabel.com – they advertise in the ARS Journal). Even this label, however, can be covered up by growth or accidentally pulled out, run over, etc. We either paint the tag or affix a special computer generated tag to this stake.

We have also been experimenting with some weatherproof white labels from Avery (#1550) that are designed for laser printers (which we don't have) that are supposed to stand up to the toughest weather conditions. These guys resist moisture, scuffing, tearing, and smudging if they are printed on a regular laser printer. Once printed, these labels can be attached to glass, plastic, metal, and more. The American Iris Society used these to create labels for an international tour in 2005. The labels were put out in 2004 and we still have some stakes that look nearly brand new—very readable

and still firmly attached to metal posts. In lieu of the laser printer, Dave carefully sprayed the finished labels with a couple coats of clear sealer. We'll see how this works. The label itself may last, but the ink (which is water based, rather than a laser's wax based ink) may fade. The quest goes on.

There are some wonderful enamel based pens in the craft store that will write on nearly everything including these metal labels. One could easily write on labels made from metal mini-blind pieces or metal strips made from the inside of a soda can, wood stakes, and probably rocks. The trick is to let the paint dry before handling and inevitably smearing the paint.

We also typically create another smaller metal tag using a pen or stylus. '**Impress-O-Tag**' from Amerkron Products in California (559-568-1600) is almost indestructible with its dual metal layer and embedded writing. The tag is not highly readable from a distance, but once it has been loosely wired onto a stem it may last forever assuming it doesn't get ripped off or mangled.

Finally, if you are really worried about losing the label, take a plastic label and write on it with a #2 pencil. This label will last for several years, particularly when buried in your compost pile (where it does lots of good). What this tells me, however, is that these labels will not fade and might last for YEARS if they are protected from the sun and buried near the plant. They would also be vastly more useful out of the compost pile. *Ah yes, the quest continues.*

RhodoMania!

Kathy Van Veen and **Dave and Kath Collier** met with Dutch Chapter members that were touring the Pacific Northwest gardens in early May. **Amelita Doornik, Rinus Manders, Ine Van Tussenbroek,** and **Lou Traas** had a unique opportunity to see the Portland area at its best (it was cold and rained like crazy!). Our reputation for bad weather will remain untarnished once more. The tour took it all in good spirits with one of them dragging out a new raincoat purchased in anticipation of the weather. Imagine that! P.S. *RhodoMania* is the name of their newsletter... one can only wonder how they will describe their visit here!

CSRG NEEDS YOU!

Work parties at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden meet every Wednesday at 9 a.m. beginning in February and wrapping up in November.

If you have a few hours to spare, we could use your help both in the garden and in the gate house. **Bob MacArthur** will be directing the effort.

For more information, contact Bob at 360-256-2522.

ARS Tacoma Western Regional Convention

Date: September 18-20, 2009

Limits: This convention has 160 spaces so early registration is important since we expect a capacity crowd.

Payments: Make your check payable to "ARS 2009 Western Regional Convention"

Send Check with completed registration form to: Bill Miller, 806 S Proctor, Tacoma, WA 98405 USA

Note: All checks must be drawn on a U.S. bank.

Questions? Email smile4bill@hotmail.com

Subject: Western Regional

CSRG Planning (Continued)

-- Provide facilities that can accommodate visitors and proposed activities (such as flower shows, plant clinics, weddings, ceremonies, chapter meetings, and other garden activities).
-- Locate and design facilities that are architecturally compatible with the Garden's woodland character and natural quality; with other structures; and with an acknowledged theme throughout the garden.

First things first. We need to get a basic plan compiled that includes the information featured in the newsletter and other related background materials (such as physical description of the property, description of the Garden staff organization, and funding.

And then the fun begins with the review process with the City and publics. In the meantime, think about if you would like to be a part of the planning committee for a new exhibit house. It could be a very interesting and rewarding project. This fall I would hope that we could ask for volunteers and begin discussing strategies for replacing the exhibit hall and get things moving.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. We'd love to hear from you. Comments can be made to me at Chapter meetings, via phone (503-663-7917), or electronically at talk2write2@wildblue.net. *Kath*

President's Message

Kath Collier

One of my favorite field trips is to Powell's Book Store in downtown Portland. For us, this is a bit of a trek so we usually like to schedule most of a day to take our time and give it a good 'look, see.' Dave, Thomas, and I recently visited there to spend Birthdays and found a wealth of bargains and garden books.

I have a rule about making purchases at Powell's: *I can only buy that which I can carry out.* This rule was necessary when I was working downtown and zipped out to sales during lunchtime. Imagine streaking through a hugely discounted sale, with a mountain of books in hand, sweat pouring down my brow as the load became heavier. I

finally worked my way through the crowd to the cash register only to have my treasures piled into a relatively flimsy paper bag. The bags strained against the weight as I boarded a bus, train, and walked quickly back to work. *All this in a half hour.*

The idea of actually using lunch to eat never crossed my mind. The idea of asking someone to carry my books (for cash of course) did cross my mind. I can only imagine the weird looks I might have gotten offering money to someone to help carry my books, and the weirder looks I might have gotten running after the person I hired as they took off running with my precious treasures... whoa if they were caught! Not a good thing to get between a gardener and their books.

Powell's has a huge assortment of garden books and several that focus on rhododendrons. They carry both new and used books and have some serious sales (particularly the Square Deal Book Sale in the fall in Pioneer Square).

I was thrilled to pick up "Rhododendrons and Azaleas" by I. F. La Croix for a mere dollar. Even though this book has been out for a while it still includes some great historical information, wonderful line drawings, suggestions and tips, plus details on several plants. A bargain!

Several years ago, at one of the conventions in California, there was a speaker who provided a great presentation on *Creative Garden Lighting* by Michele Osborne. At the time, the \$75.00 price tag on the book was just too much for my budget. The updated version and half off price tag I found at Powell's made the waiting worth it as this book includes stunning photographs, creative suggestions to make your garden a real showcase. Our then pre-teen son, Thomas, was with us at this talk and before we had left had outlined a plan to light our garden and like at many of our plant auctions he could virtually spend money faster than I could.

The list of treasures go on and I am desperate to find additional time to read this summer. In the future, I will provide book reviews of some of these (and perhaps the *Creative Garden Lighting* book as well) for the newsletter. You can look forward to review of :

(Continued on page 6)

Smith Garden NEEDS YOU!

Work parties at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden meet at 9 a.m. on most Mondays beginning in February and wrapping up in November. The special all-day work parties in February and in October kick off the season and close the garden for the winter. If you have a few hours to spare, we could use your help. For more information contact **Ginny Mapes** at 503-647-2896.

Everett Wrap Up

The ARS Journal will feature details from the Everett Convention including minor changes in membership fees and other administrivia.



One of the best things, of course, was the tours (like to Frank Fujioka's garden pictured above) which were absolutely fabulous! There were great speakers that presented enjoyable and educational presentations. Probably the best event was when **Mike Stewart** received his gold metal award (as mentioned in our May Banquet). Again, well done Mike and to all that helped pull such a fabulous convention together. **FUN STUFF!**



Hinsdale Garden

On Saturday, May 23 several District 4 members made their way into a wonderland of rhododendrons at the Hinsdale Garden. You may remember the article about this garden in the ARS Journal. Things have changed since that date and the huge push to prune and clean up the site is bearing fruit.

The garden restoration partnership between the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the ARS District 4 members is well underway. It was a fabulous day to explore this garden with the help of the BLM staff. They had not only undertaken a major pruning of the trees, but had also mapped nearly all of the plants and were busy identifying them. Some ARS members were able to help with that task.



The garden is located approximately 5 miles east of Reedsport on Highway 38 opposite the BLM's Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. The garden is on the north side of the highway between the roadway and the Umpqua River. The eastern, off island portion of the garden is more easily reached from the parking area via a generally flat dirt and gravel path. One may also see part of

the main garden and house from that vantage.

The BLM carved a basic parking lot for visitors and are working to make access easier and safer. There is still a lot of work to do to make this a 'must see' garden, but it is well on its way to getting there. Some of the ideas being tossed around include building a more formal parking lot (and protecting the river bank from further erosion), tearing down the house and retaining the fireplace as part of a interpretive site, restoring the brass plaque that used to be on the fireplace, and more.

BLM and the local garden clubs are doing a fabulous job to restore this site. I can't wait to visit there again! Kath



President's Message (Continued)

- *Gardens by Design—expert advice from the world's leading garden designers* by Noel Kingsbury
- *The Well Planned Garden—a Practical Guide to Planning and Planting* by Rupert Golby
- *Gardening Your Way to Health and Fitness* by Bunny Guinness and Jacqueline Knox, and
- *Guerrilla Gardening* by David Tracey

Enjoy your summer! Kath

MOTHER'S DAY SHOW - TROPHY LIST - 2009

Class	Trophy	Winner	Bloom
42	Brotherton Trophy	Van Veen Nursery	Cupcake (open pollinated)
1	Dr. S. Berthelsdorf Trophy	Ernie Metcalfe	R. augustinii
50	Elsie Bailey Memorial Trophy	Dick & Karen Cavender	R. occidentale SM 703
49, 49H	Rae Berry Memorial Trophy	Dick & Karen Cavender	R. alabamense x R. canescens
1-AFJLOS	Bob Bovee Trophy	Peter Kendall	R. trichostomum
32ABC	George & Melba Clarke Memorial Trophy	Irv & Jan Snyder	Pink Walloper
45	Collier Nursery Trophy	India Sharp	Topsvoort Pearl
*	Ralph & Faith Christensen Memorial Trophy	Dave & Betty Goheen	Hybrid Azalea
35,1Z	Christensen Family Trophy	Van Veen Nursery	Virginia Delp
48	The Egan Trophy	Van Veen Nursery	Koromo Shikibu
48	Fred Meyer Trophy	Dave & Kath Collier	R. amonenum (kussianum)
0	Flora Lan Nursery Trophy	Van Veen Nursery	Tahitian Dawn
47AB	Robert L. Furniss Memorial Bonsai	Peter Kendall	Egret
1-R-1	Goheen Macrophyllum Trophy	Dave & Betty Goheen	R. macrophyllum
48C	Henny & Wennekamp Trophy	Peter Kendall	R. luteum
41	Joe W. Jones Memorial Trophy	Gene Cockeram	The Pink Ribbons
43	Klupenger Nursery Trophy	No Entries	No Entries
37F	Kasch's Garden Center Trophy	Irv & Jan Snyder	Etta Burrows
*	Portland Nursery Trophy	Bob MacArthur	Glenna
1Y 1 & 3A&B	Red's Rhodies Trophy	No Entries	No Entries
22	Stewart Trophy	Ernie Metcalfe	Oliver Twist
*	Cecil & Molly Smith Trophy	Peter Kendall	Egret
10	Betty Spady Memorial Trophy	Gene Cockeram	Susan
*	Van Veen Nursery Trophy	Ray Girton	Blue Peter
11A	Theo. Van Veen Sr. Memorial Trophy	Ray & Ann Clack	Medusa
*	John & Loretta Welsh Trophy	Bob MacArthur	Bibby
*	Ella K. Sersanous Memorial Trophy	Ernie Metcalfe	R. augustinii
*	Claude I Sersanous Memorial Trophy	Irv & Jan Snyder	Etta Burrows
*	ARS Portland Chapter Trophy	Gene Cockeram	103 points

Post Master: Time sensitive mail; please deliver before June 15, 2009

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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 Girton, 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 Girton, Membership 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 news-letters. 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) vanveenurser@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** at (503) 668-7565.

Website: www.rhodies.org – web technical support: **Steve Kaminski**