



Rhododendron News

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter – Volume LIII, No. 8 – September, 2009

SUMMER CALENDAR

September

17 - Regular chapter meetings begin
22 – Board Meeting
TBS – Classification meeting

October

15 – Regular chapter meeting
20 – 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.

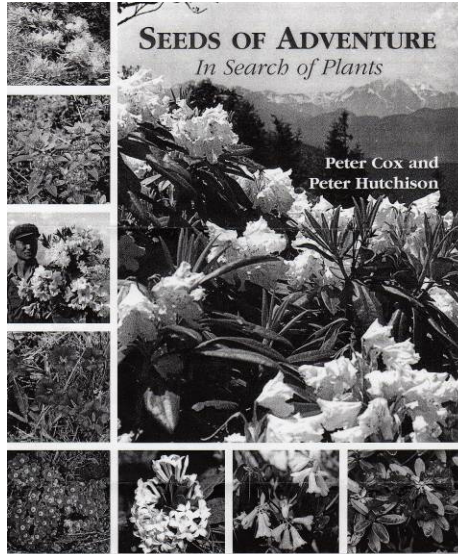
Location: All Saints Episcopal Church - At the corner of SE 40th and Wood-stock, Portland, Oregon

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.

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.

Also In This Issue...

- >>CSRG Master Plan, Public Comment
- >>President's Message – meeting hall blues
- >>In The Garden 101: Dog Days of Summer
- >>Party Down at Smith Garden
- >>AND MORE!!!



Seeds of Adventure, In Search of plants

Seeds of Adventure, In Search of Plants, is a marvelous account of the odysseys of two neighboring Scotsmen over the space of approximately four decades. Their forays take them first to the mountains on the southeast shores of the Black Sea in eastern Turkey in 1962, then in 1965, to the altitudes of northeastern India and then to the western reaches of China, Bhutan, and Tibet—a total of 16 expeditions in all.

Beyond Peter Cox's love of rhododendrons and Peter Hutchinson's fondness for primulas and gentians, a whole panoply of captivating plant material was assiduously corralled and repatriated to two different haunts in Scotland. On the east coast of Scotland (near Perth and the periodic cold winds off the shallow North Sea), Peter Cox's Glendoick becomes a testing ground for hardier genera. Near

Oban on the temperate west coast (under Gulf Stream influence) the two Peters' *Baravalla*, a delightful woodland acreage, accepts plants somewhat more tender in disposition.

Both Peters are driven but delightfully adaptable and humorous individuals—traits which allow a most productive undertaking. In the company of others, who variously tag along, their delving are an inspiration to and reward for us all.

The program on **September 17** consists of selected photos and accounts from a number of the 16 outings. Hopefully, it conveys the flavor of diversity, surprise, and unforgettable experience in the mother lodes of global flora.

Peter Kendall

ARS Western Regional Convention

There may still be a few slots left!

Date: September 18-20, 2009

Location: Federal Way, Washington

Payments: Make checks payable to "ARS 2009 Western Regional Convention"

Send Check drawn on an U.S. bank with completed registration form to:

Bill Miller
806 S Proctor
Tacoma, WA 98405
USA

Questions? Email smile4bill@hotmail.com with the Subject: Western Regional



Ann Gross and Irv Snyder inspect plants at the Smith Garden Soiree.



Wonderful company!



Inviting garden vistas.

Party Down at Smith Garden Soiree

The food was great. The company was wonderful, the garden beautiful, and the weather was just right. Such was this year's Smith Garden Soiree. It would have been tough to top this glorious party... if you missed it—you'll just have to mark next year's party on your calendar!

President's Message *Meeting Hall Blues*

Kath Collier

In the next few weeks the Board will take up the discussion on meeting location. Some of you may remember when we moved over to the All Saints Episcopal Church several years ago. We were pretty excited to find such an excellent meeting location and have been fortunate to be able to meet at All Saints for sometime. *Things may change.*

This summer we began negotiating room rent with the church. Two major concerns were identified:

--The church has proposed that the rent go from \$50 to \$195 per night. This rate is higher than all other facilities we checked on. It is also a fairly significant and unplanned increase that is well beyond our budget.

--The church also advised us to begin periodically patrolling the parking lot during our meeting. Evidently, the church is now housing several homeless folks and reported that a computer had been stolen from a car recently (insinuating that one of their guests may have taken it).

The board will discuss the potential for moving the meeting to a new location, and potentially, to a new meeting date. No changes will be made as yet. I'm hoping that the board will be able to make a decision and that we can announce a final decision in October. In the mean-time, we will be paying significantly more for the room and wondering just how safe we will be.

Recommendations for locations preferably near Crystal Springs that could accommodate 40-60 folks are welcome. So far we have looked into several churches, a restaurant, Reed College, and two community centers. *Your ideas are welcome!*

Surfing the Board

Some of the issues that the board will work on include:

--Can we afford to stay put? Meeting hall increases!

--Review of the web progress (thanks to **Steve Kaminski** it already has a new face! *Great job Steve.*)

--Proposals for improving our shows coming from the classification work-group.

--Updating position descriptions and policy records.

--Potentially offering advertising in the newsletter and on the website (to drum up extra funds to pay the rent!?!).

--Potentially developing an online store on the website to make products (such as our cool vests, bags, etc.) more readily available.

--2009-2010 Program proposals (**THANK YOU Mike Domaschofsky** for finding us some exciting speakers and topics).

--How to support the 2011 Convention.

--Membership recruiting and retention. Which ideas can we incorporate into our meetings? What kind of membership bonuses can we offer? Can we offer more?

--There undoubtedly will be more. If you have some issues that need to be addressed by the board, be sure to let any of the chapter officer's know your concerns. *We're listening!*

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.



CSRG in early summer is filled with color!

CSRG Master Plan Public Comment

Kath Collier

Goal -> Public Comment

This is the seventh article related to building a updated master plan for the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG). In the past, extensive planning documents were created and there was the goal of creating updates on a cyclic basis. These plans described many projects and budgetary issues in great detail. The only flaw with this strategy is that there are a number of these projects that have never been started, and there is no way to get a fairly accurate cost estimate when there is no start date.

So the plan this time, is to create a brief update to meet the planning requirements and split out the projects into more detailed, and separate, plans as needed. This is the sixth installment that outlines potential text for the brief master plan update. Once the update is drafted, we can take the next big step which will be to open this document up to public comment and review by the city.

In summary, we have a draft 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 which include:

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.

Next, we have some basic criteria for prioritizing projects. Projects that warrant a higher priority would include one of more of the following elements:
-- **All garden projects must contribute to the overall goal and one or more objective.**

-- **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.**

-- **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.**

As previously mentioned, the master plan would have updated factual information such as current managers and contact points, garden activities and needs, funding resources, proposed memorandum of understanding with the city, and lists of potential projects. It would also include size, location, history, etc. as found in the original master plans. Finally, it would most likely need to include information on the process for coordinating “major” projects with the city and also meeting any regulatory types of processes (such as options for getting public review). We may need to define what a ‘major’ project might look like and what our expectations might be for city and garden collaboration.

Collecting public comments is a fairly new process that most governments are required to do. Comments can be collected in a variety of ways such as during an open house, a public meeting, in writing, over the web, via email or
(Continued on page 4)

HAIKU

by Peter Kendall

*Limb of the maple
with the moon in its grasp
yet slipping away*

*Rasp of the wren
The pink of the clover
having
turned to brown*

*Sun behind the ridge
Only the shadowed outline
of a shadowed world*

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 Work Party Schedule

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 efforts in the garden and **Rose Kress** in the gatehouse.

For more information, contact Bob at **360-256-2522** or Rose at **503-654-4318**.

In memory of

Dr. Mike Robinson

We were surprised to hear of the recent and sudden death of **Dr. Mike Robinson**. Dr. Robinson was the Chair of the RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group. Condolences may be sent to Dr. Richard Robinson, FFynnonudr, Glynarthen, Llandysul, Ceredigion, Wales, SA44 6PS UK.

CSRG Master Plan Update (Continued)

postcards, etc. We can even use our bulk permit to blanket the neighborhood with information or an invitation for comments. There are many options and the garden managers will need to determine which method to use for each future comment requirement.

Will the city need more? At this point it is hard to tell without talking more with them. Attempts to contact the city have not been particularly successful this summer. This puts us in a very trying situation. We'll keep trying and see if we can get some action going on not only discussing the master planning strategies but also the restroom improvements that the city is funding.

In the next issue, we will explore what a memorandum of understanding is and how the content could affect us for the next several years...

District Meeting Highlights

Dave Collier

The District 4 Presidents, alternate district director (me), and other representatives met at the home of **Nancy** and **Harold Greer** in August. It wasn't all tough work with the fabulous snack spread that Nancy put out for us! She made coming to the meeting a joy!

The agenda was packed with topics such as membership recruitment and retention, life membership clarifications, changes in the upcoming annual ARS dues, and 'local' memberships. A recommendation regarding life membership was made to **Bob MacIntyre**, our new District Director, for presentation at the national level.

There was a rousing discussion on 'local' memberships which some chapters use. These memberships are very limited and generally only provide a copy of the local newsletter and meeting access. 'Local' memberships do not include copies of the journal, seed exchange opportunities, no votes or opportunities for participating as a chapter officer. In some ways it is similar to an Associate membership.

Mike Bones provided an exciting update for next years Western Regional Fall Conference that will be held in beautiful Florence, Oregon, Oct. 7-10,

2010. At this point they hope to hold the conference at a local casino (first time ever!) and are currently negotiating some of the fine details (like a great deal on room costs!). Plans include garden tours, sales, foliage and bonsai displays, seminars, speakers, dinners, door prizes, and other fun stuff. There are also plans to put together some opportunities for salmon fishing and sand dune trips. There will also be an ARS Board Meeting.

Gordon Wylie provided an update on the work at the Hinsdale Garden and the fantastic job the Bureau of Land Management has been doing on restoring the site.

Mike Stewart and **Harold Greer** are leading the charge on the spring 2011 national convention which will be held in Portland, Oregon area. Mike and Harold are currently looking at locations for the convention, speakers, and other details. If you would like to help out with this, be sure to contact them.

Chapter presidents were reminded about submitting their bi-annual accomplishment reports (we did ours already). We were also reminded about the national roster (you can now purchase one from **Laura Grant** for \$6 or a printable version can be downloaded from the website).

Most Chapters were represented at the meeting. The group will be meeting regularly each February and August.

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 access to a 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).

Member Book 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)



Sunscald in relatively full shade

In the garden 101...

Dog Days of Summer

by Kath Collier

Just when we thought the weather was going to get better than the brutal winter, summer heat waves have been beating our gardens to a pulp. A dry pulp....in some cases a dry, dead pulp. In other cases, plants will be showing leaf damage...even those that have been in speckled shade may have sunburn.

This may be the time to review what sunburn looks like versus other common problems. It may also be the time to give your plants a bit of extra TLC (**T**ender, **L**oving, **C**are) to help prepare them for winter.

Sunscald can include odd-shaped brown blotches of dead tissue located mostly on the central portion of the top leaves. Symptoms are usually more severe on the south and southwest side of the plant or in areas where the plant was not sufficiently shaded. Leaf color may be light yellow, with under leaves that have been protected showing a deeper green. The amount of damage is often impacted by the portions of the plant



This one may not survive...

that might have been shaded from the direct sun by leaves or other upper story plants. The damaged tissue might be reddish brown or gray. The plant, even if totally scalded and dead looking, may not necessarily be dead and may resprout from the roots next spring.

What are you doing to help your garden prepare for winter?

-- cut back fertilization – new tender growth can sustain a great deal of damage from wind, cold, and ice.

-- avoid pruning much which could signal the plant to put on new growth (and besides, you will probably be cutting off the bloom!).

-- clean up debris around plants and spread some thin mulch to help retain moisture around the soil.

-- weed. Weeds seem to go into dormancy and will continue blooming, seeding, and being a pest all through winter.

-- check for critters... especially the tunneling kind and other opportunistic insects that are more than happy to attack a weak plant.

-- consider where to move badly sunburned plants once the rains come. You may be able to place them in a more shady location in the garden. Planning now may give you time to prepare the area.

-- snap off a twig or two from the plant to see how much of it might have died. If twig is flexible or the core is green there's still some life left and the plant may pull through. Dead wood (and perhaps some of those dead leaves) can be carefully pruned away.

(References: *Landscape Plant problems—A pictorial Diagnostic Manual* by Byther, Ralph, *et al.*, *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons* by Harold Greer, and *How to Identify Rhododendron and Azalea Problems*, WSU Extension Bulletin 1229.)

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Seeds of Adventure with Peter Kendall

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: *Kath Collier* Past President: *Irv Snyder*

Vice President: *Mike Domaschofsky*

Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*

Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS (Thru June 30, 2010):

Kathy Van Veen, Dave Collier, Ray Girton, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart

(Thru June 30, 2010) *Steve Hopkins, Brenda Ziegler, Donna Sell, Ray Clack, and Carol Barrett.*

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Chair:

Bob MacArthur & Barbara Keller, 503-775-5205

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: talk2write@wildblue.net, or via mail to: *Kath Collier*, newsletter editor, 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 master: *Steve Kaminski*