



Rhododendron News

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter – Volume LIV, No. 6 – June, 2010

Summer Activities

June

No Chapter meeting
13 – Last Cavender open garden date
15 - Pruneopolis @ CSRG
22 – Board Meeting – focus on the web and outreach

July

17 - Chapter picnic @ Stewart's Dover Nursery (see page 2)
No newsletter or board meeting

August

19 - Smith Garden Soiree
No chapter meeting or board meeting

September - Chapter meetings start up again watch the newsletter and website for program information!

May Awards Banquet

Didn't we have fun? We postponed the program on the famous artist **Dale Chihuly** to a later date to give us more party time. And party we did!

Irv and **Jan Snyder** were stunned when their names were called as recipients of this year's Bronze Medal award. This is the highest



Irv and Jan Snyder accept Bronze metal Award. (Photo by Donna Sell)

award possible at the chapter level and they certainly have earned it. The Snyder's have graciously hosted many garden events at your beautiful home for the benefit of both local Rhododendron Society members and members from abroad. They have served on the board and as Vice President and President. They have often helped out during special events. Certainly a well-deserved award.

Tom Gressler was also surprised with the President's Award for his help with caring for and protecting the Smith Garden. **Bruce Krohn** was not at the party to receive his President's Award but was surprised the day after. He is being honored for his invaluable help with our budget and taxes. And finally, a President's Award was given to **Mike Domaschopfsky** for his outstanding work

with the multiple plants sales, transporting plants, membership recruiting, help at the garden...and the list goes on and on.

Finally, **Ann Clack** announced trophies from the Mother's Day Show and we sang Happy Birthday to her... ***I told you it was a party!*** We even gave out door prizes as gifts and two new members joined the fun!

Cavender Open Garden

The **Cavender** garden is a delight to visit. **Dick** and **Karen** have amassed a large collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, and other interesting plants. The last open garden day is **June 13** from 10 am - 5 pm.



They are also open by appointment just about any time, please call first.

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 by 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

A Prune-o-what?

A **Pruneopolis** will be held on Tuesday **June 15** from 3 pm until dusk at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. The evergreen azaleas in our seven-acre garden have not been pruned in several years and this is the time to shape up for the National Convention in 2011.

Support from Parks is appreciated as **Betsy Redfearn**, Area Supervisor, has contributed a group of pruners AND offered to provide food. If you enjoy pruning, mark your calendar, bring your favorite attack tools, and join us on Tuesday, June 14. Please respond to: Carol Barrett, alderx@q.com

Haiku

by Peter Kendall

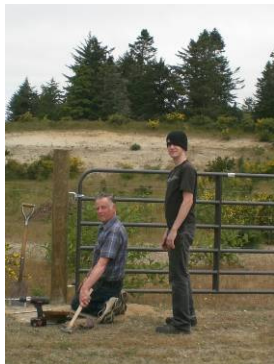
*Through the mossy woods
the winding path from
hither
to thither*

*Suddenly, the croak
of the frog, at once so clear,
has faded away*

*Explosions of rain
--explosions of sun, in a
single unfolding*

*A pervasive chill
The unfolding flower—
brought up
in its tracks*

*A breezeless morning
In a cloudless sky, the sun
has brushed the maple.*



Dave and son Thomas working on the new south gate where the greenhouses will eventually be built.

President's Message

Last dance. This month, I pass the baton of presidency over to the capable hands of **Mike Domaschopfsky**. Mike has been fabulous to work with and will bring a lot of positive energy to the Chapter.

I leave you in great hands, with a very capable President, a superb vice president (**Maria Stewart**), and an outstanding board. I have a few tasks to finish up this summer for the Chapter and Garden, and will continue to help out as I can. **So much to do, so little time.**

Building a new home and garden is quite an adventure. We passed the first county rezoning dance and await the date for our public meeting hearing. Hopefully, we will make a great impression in our 15 minutes of fame and be granted the rezone this summer. It will be the least they can do considering all the driving we will have to do to be there (11+ hours) and the number of scotch broom shrubs we are pulling..

The new house plans are looking great. I've resolved the plumbing running through doorway problems and will be ready to turn over our draft plants to a designer by August. If we pass the rezone test, we will be able to apply for a building variance, put our current house up for sale, and get really serious about the move.

For now, we can dream. We are making the hard decisions now....where to put the house, the barn, the holding bins, vegetable garden, healing garden, big leaf rhodos, fruit trees, etc. We are dreaming about what the garden should look like, where to build pathways, and how to keep the deer at bay. We have walked the property nearly monthly and noted changing conditions. We were looking for wet areas, dry areas, areas with erosion, areas with good grass and weed growth, areas with stunted trees (that might make good bonsai).

We've been digging in the soil for some time, looking to see how deep the layers are, where the soil is missing (due to erosion), and where it forms a thick chocolate cake layer. During this process, we will be capturing our findings electronically with the use of a GPS system. There has been talk about using such a system to capture plant locations and health information for the plant database

at CSRG. The technology is so accessible and easy to use that anyone can use it to document their collection and build an inventory.

We took soil samples earlier this month, and will begin analyzing the soil in more depth. My plan is to also dig and pot up some of those stunted pine trees, clear more gorse and scotch broom, and encourage the cows to eat more blackberries.

At our current home, we will continue painting and cleaning up inside and begin digging and potting plants (iris) outside. This fall the azaleas and rhodos will be dug and we will build protected raised holding beds, and move plants during the winter. We have a lot of plants to move before March rolls around which is when we plan to put the 'old' house up for sale.

In the meantime, I am beginning to like the cows more and more. Somehow they seem cute as they chomp down the blackberries and weeds. Blank but cute. I think I recognize that blank look... as in before coffee most mornings.

And then suddenly it is the last dance. Thank you all for your support and great ideas. May your rhodies bloom like gangbusters, the weeds forget to seed, and your paths always lead to new adventures. **Happy trails to you.**

*Kath, ye outgoing pres.
not totally gone...yet*

July Picnic Fun!

Something new, something fun...

What: Chapter Summer Picnic

Where: Mike and Maria Stewart's Dover Nursery, 42125 SE Kleinsmith Road, Sandy, Oregon, 503-668-3522

Time: 12:30 pm **When:** July 17

Activities: (1) **Food:** The Stewarts will provide the hamburgers, paper plates, cups, and drinks (unless someone else want to help with this). Your salads, desserts, and side dishes will make lunch perfect!

(2) **Walk about** the 30 acres of plants and 2 acres of greenhouses at one of the finest rhododendron nurseries in the Pacific Northwest. The Dover Nursery has around 1,000 varieties including 20 deciduous azaleas, 100 species, and 80-900 hybrids. As we walk about, we will be discussing of care, fertilizer, trimming, planting, and contrasting commercial and home garden techniques.

HOW: With lots of laughing, talking, and fun! **Don't miss it!**

Surfing the Board

HELP WANTED!

Like to write? We've got just the job for you! Our editor is retiring soon and we need your help!

Qualifications: 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.

Time Commitment: Depending on your skill level, the process may take as little as 8-10 hours per month.

Interested? If so, please contact **Kathy Van Veen**, 503-777-1734 at (vanveen.nursery@hotmail.com), or **Kath Collier**, 503-663-7917 (talk2write2@wildblue.net)

CSRG Work Parties Underway

Work parties at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden meet every Wednesday (around 9 am) through November. If you are interested in hosting at the gate contact **Rose Kress** at 503-654-4318. If you are interested in arranging for a group tour, call **Barbara Keller**, 503-775-5205.

Our Board meetings are typically interesting and productive discussions, the May meeting was no exception. We talked about how much fun the Awards Banquet was, how successful the CSRG Mother's Day Show and Sale was (and ideas to make it even more successful next year), programs for next year, and activities at the gardens.

The Board also approved partnering with the Daffodil Society at the Early Show. They may have as many as 2,000 blooms which, with our normal early show offerings, will fill the exhibit hall. The show will be extended to two days, which will include a plant sale and daffodil bouquets for sale. It should be an exciting time. Be sure to watch for more details on this event.

Tests for distributing the newsletter via email will be tested this fall, with paper distribution being optionally offered. The mechanics of this change haven't been discussed yet but stay tuned.

In a related matter, the board also recommended the printing of a local roster for next year. A prototype will be created for this once the membership records have been verified.

It was suggested that we send around a sign-up sheet for folks to contribute door prizes at the meetings. What do you think about this idea? We also discussed how important it is to have plants for new members at each meeting.

Finally the idea of hiring an administrator for the CSRG was discussed. Research is on-going. This person would help with the administrative and supervisory tasks in the garden, as well as, write grants, attend city meetings, prepare planning documents, etc. Further discussions are anticipated.

The **June board meeting** will be devoted to a review of the website and strategizing what kinds of information needs to be added to help our publics. The focus will primarily be on the Chapter and on Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden pages. Please join the board at **7:30 pm** on **June 22** at the Van Veen Nursery to contribute your ideas or get involved.

Great meeting. Thanks to all Board members and officers for working hard yet again on behalf of the chapter!

Smith Garden Potluck

Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 19, 2010, at 5 pm--but come whenever you can, there will be plenty of food! This is the date of the Smith Garden Potluck to celebrate the beginning of the fall season and the end of summer.

Bring your chairs and your favorite potluck dish to share and join us in the delicious food and camaraderie. The potluck starts at 5 and runs until dusk. All chapter members and friends are invited so come join the fun and food. If you have never visited this lovely garden, please plan to join us.

A map and driving directions are available on www.rhodies.org or by calling **Ginny Mapes** at 503-312-2879.

Things to do at a Chapter meeting...

- Visit with friends.
- Enjoy the snacks.
- Admire trusses folks have brought in.
- Wish your plant was that big and beautiful.
- Drink tea, coffee, or juice.
- Exchange a book and drop a buck in the jar.
- Introduce yourself to someone new.
- Introduce a new member to several other people in the room.
- Get at least one door prize ticket and make sure the new member has one too.
- Bid like crazy at the plant auction.
- Lust for someone else's plant, ask for a cutting.
- Pretend you are bringing a cookie to someone else and eat it yourself.
- Coerce the trophy winners to divulge their secrets of success.
- Sign up to help with a chapter or garden event.
- Have a great time!

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: *Kath Collier* Past President: *Iv Snyder*
Vice President: *Mike Domaschofsky*
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS (Thru June 30, 2010):

Kathy Van Veen, Dave Collier, Ray Gitton, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart; (Thru June 30, 2011)
Steve Hopkins, Brenda Ziegler, Donna Sell, Ray Clack, and Carol Barrett.

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Chairs:

Bob MacArthur (360-256-2522) and

Donna Giguere (503-777-1177)

Tours: **Barbara Keller**, 503-775-5205

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

Friends: **Kathy Van Veen**, 503-777-1734

Events: **Rita Knapp**, 503-256-2483

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden Chair: **Ginny Mapes**, (503-647-2896).

Newsletter, membership, and ownership: Dick Cavender, Temp. membership Chair, (503) 625-6331. 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 editor, 37235 SE Lusted Road, Borling, OR 97009, Portland Chapter Delivery: Questions should be directed to: **Maria Stewart** at (503) 668-7565.

Website: www.rhodies.org; web master: **Steve Kaminski**