

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- Sep. 16—**Chapter Meeting and Cutting Exchange**; Speaker **Dave Eckerdt**
- Sep. 21—**Board meeting** @ 7:30 pm, Van Veen Nursery
- Oct. 8-10—**ARS Western Regional Conference**, Florence, OR, Oct. 8-10 (BOD)
- Oct. 21—**Chapter Meeting and Species Auction**; Speaker **Dennis Bottemiller**
- Oct. 26—**Board meeting** @7:30 pm, Van Veen Nursery

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## Gardens, Plants, Rhododendrons of New Zealand

Maria Stewart

### September 16 Program

Come join us for a wonderful talk on The Gardens and Plants of New Zealand with an Emphasis on Rhododendrons given by **Dave Eckerdt**.

In November of 2009, Dave and his wife, **Pat**, attended the New Zealand Rhododendron Conference in Auckland. All

together they spent five weeks visiting 58 gardens and taking 8,000 photos.

Dave's presentation will showcase the best of what they saw.

Dave and Pat live in Salem in a 117-year old home surrounded by a two acre "collector's garden."

The 20+-year-old garden, known as **Deerly Missed**, has been featured on television and in newspapers. While Dave claims *Rhododendrons* as his favorite plant and is a

member of the Willamette Chapter, the Eckerdts are also members of the American Conifer Society, the North American Rock Garden Society, the International Clematis Society, and several Oregon plant groups. Dave is past president and the current president of the Salem Hardy Plant Society.

*You won't want to miss this program!*

## CUTTING EXCHANGE—Share the Wealth!

Maria Stewart

During our September 16th meeting, you have the opportunity to receive cuttings and make new plants from them.

Just bring 3 to 5 cuttings in a moistened baggie with a label telling the name of the cuttings to the meeting. Be sure to choose some cuttings from the table for yourself.

It's always nice to write the name of the giver on the label, too. Then you can chat with that person about your new cuttings.

We might ask a couple of people to tell about the

cuttings they brought to the rest of the group. Often rhododendrons have stories about where they

came from and who hybridized them, etc. So, bring your stories, too!

## 2010 Western Regional Convention

It's time to register for the **ARS Western Regional Convention** scheduled for Friday, October 8 through Sunday, October 10, 2010. This conference will be held at the **Three Rivers Casino and Hotel**, 5647 Highway 126 in Florence, Oregon.

The conference features 13 seminars, banquets, and speakers. There will also be many tempting plants offered in the plant sale.

One rhododendron highlighted for this sale will be **Gene Cockeram's** hybrid named 'The Pink Ribbons' offered for the first time. Gene will donate the profits from its sales for breast cancer research.

There will also be a quilt offered in a drawing featuring rhododendrons called "The Pink Ribbons Quilt" made by **Darlene Christean** who is a member of the Siuslaw chapter. (Continued on page 4)

## Purpose

To encourage interest in and disseminate information and knowledge about the genus *Rhododendron*.

To provide a medium through which all persons interested in the genus may communicate with others through education, scientific studies, meetings, publications, and other similar activities.

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is registered in Oregon as a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization. Dues and donations are qualified charitable tax deductions.

# Passing of a Gentle Giant

## In Memory of... Betty Sheedy

**Peter Kendall**

The year was 1959. Joining the ranks of the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was an individual whose dedicated participation in Chapter activities became obvious to all whose good fortune it was to make her acquaintance. **Elizabeth (Betty) Sheedy**, in her characteristically understated way, became friends with, and a support of, virtually all who shared her love of the genus *Rhododendron*.

For a number of years, in the late 1960's and early 1970's, she was editor of the Chapter newsletter which substantially contributed to the edification and well-oiled functioning of a vibrant entity. Later, in the 1980's, when the Chapter acquired the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, she, along with **Fran Egan, Adele Jones, and Eileen Landregan**, authored the Smith Garden newsletter to inform people of this remarkable assemblage of plants, and to assist in their endowment.

Over the years, Betty became a stalwart of the group fostering the preservation and ameliorization of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron

Garden (this came to gathering an tending plants, to organizing and hosting celebratory events, and to other supportive endeavors). In 1989, with Betty presiding, and her later companion of many years **Bill Ferguson** as secretary, the

Friends of Crystal Springs was conceived and brought into play.

For a long span of time, she would invite people to her lovely garden where she would share her interests in plants and often things culinary (she was a marvelous cook) with all those privileged to attend. In later years, a specific convention to witness the annual blooming of Magnolia 'Caerhay's Belle' became a staple. Betty's undertakings in hybridizing and plant selection was rewarded with *R. 'Betty's Bells'* (*R. camptogynum* x *R. racemosum*) and *R. 'Night Editor'* (an outstanding *R. russatum* selection).

I was especially lucky to have bought property near this lovely lady in 1985 and for every year thereafter to enjoy her support and friendship.



For me, as well as legions of others, she leaves a void that will be difficult to fill.

**A celebration to remember all of the good times with Betty is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 3 at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden at 1 pm. Friends, acquaintances, and fellow workers are welcome to join us for this casual potluck.**

## Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden News

**There have been a lot of activities in the garden this summer that you will want to know about...**

—A portion of the Berry Botanical Garden's fern collection now has a home at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG). As you may know, the Berry Garden is closing and moving their long established seed bank to Portland State University.

Thanks to their generous gift, we now have an unusual collection of ferns along the paths between the low bridge and the exhibit hall.

A donation to the Berry Seed Bank will be made to help assist in the success. A small sign at the Crystal Springs Garden will identify the collection and honor Rae Selling Berry.

Our hats are off to Crystal Springs volunteer and Portland ARS Board Member **Carol Barrett** who pursued and carried out this acquisition.

—Our volunteers are working hard to get the Garden ready for the 2011 conference, weeding, pruning and planting. In some areas, a band-aid approach will just not work. Plans are being made to spruce up many areas,

but it will take time. As always, we can always use more volunteers especially for planting this fall. It's a lovely place to do volunteer work.

—Bathroom renovation finished. We overran the money from the city, but only by \$58. People are now happily changing their babies on the new changing table, and brides are using the new Bride's Room.

—**Ernie Metcalfe** cleaned and refinished the entire donor wall in the gatehouse entranceway

—Gate receipts are down a bit from last year, but 28th street has been blocked off by construction.

## Other News Shorts

### Editor Found!

Starting next issue, **Tom Hoffman** steps in as the new *Rhododendron News* editor.

Tom describes himself as a plant nut; he grows Vireyas and orchids on the one hand, and a whole bunch of hardy and sub-tropical palms, bamboos, conifers and rhodies, Lapageria and Clematis, on the other. "It's kind of what survives despite everything that happens here," he said.

In addition to membership in the ARS, I belong to four alpine garden societies. He raises a lot of plants courtesy of their seed exchanges. Of those, Cyclamen are a favorite. He is also trying his hand at 'bulbs': Crocus, Colchicum, Iris and lilies, Romulus.

"I'm looking forward to editing the newsletter," Tom said, "and being able to spend more time with the chapter, working on the Smith Garden and Crystal Springs."

**Welcome aboard Tom!** Kath will continue her work as Past President, CSRG, and at the international level as Society Secretary.

### Hinsdale Restoration Continues

Efforts continue to collect and propagate plants to restore the original collection at the Hinsdale Garden near Reedsport. Recently, 65 rooted cuttings (expertly done by Van Veen Nursery) were delivered to District Director **Bob MacIntyre**. With a little help from friends, the cuttings were potted and set up for the growing on process.

The cuttings were donated by around 15 different members across the country. "Word went out," Bob said, "and folks indicated they had this and that" to contribute to the restoration project. Bob indicated that there are still another 20 species yet to go this fall, but they are getting

close to completing the collection process. Many of these plants, Bob said, were "old hybrids from England" and are hard to find here.



**Lost, but only temporarily, the Hinsdale Garden is bouncing back beautifully.**



Conventions usually include fabulous displays and exotic plants in their sales.

## 2010 Western Regional Convention (Continued)

Monies from the sale of the quilt will also be donated for breast cancer research.

The plant sale will be open on Friday, Oct. 8, from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. It will reopen on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 8:00 a.m. and close at 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, the sale will open at 8:00 a.m. and wrap up at 11:00 a.m.

Come and join us here for a “great” conference. For more information, visit [www.siuslawars.org](http://www.siuslawars.org) and <http://web.me.com/siuslawars/wrc2010>.

This conference is sponsored by the Siuslaw Chapter in conjunction with ARS District 4. **Bob MacIntyre** is the District 4 Director.

## INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS!

### Kath Collier

The City of Gresham in partnership with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (503-652-7477) and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (503-281-1132) have put together a very informative booklet entitled *Home-owners Guide to Common Invasive Plants in Gresham*.

My guess is that they have other versions for other neighborhoods of this publication and that one could inquire about this through either watershed council.

One might think that the title of this article is over the top a bit, but that viewpoint changes when you learn how destructive the Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) has been at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG) and at other watersheds. CSRG is one source of the Johnson Creek Watershed.

This iris is akin to the *Rhododendron 'ponticum'* in Europe—pretty but invasive. Fortunately there are other and much better choices for both of these plants..

You can recognize this iris by the yellow flowers and sword-like leaves that are long and flat. It will grow in either dry land or in the water! It can be found all over CSRG and at our neighboring golf course. The iris interferes with wetland function by out competing other native plants that filter pollution out of the water. It can severely restrict or redirect water flow (as it is currently doing at CSRG), is very expensive and difficult to remove, and can, if not handled carefully infect an entire watershed, essentially taking over the entire body of water.

In September, the City of Portland will begin applying low-toxicity glyphosate herbicide to iris and

begin the eradication process focusing on a section of the garden/golf course at a time. It will take years to get the plant under control, and more to eliminate it.

If you have Yellow Flag in your garden be sure to contact your local watershed council for treatment options... Any little bit of plant materials or seed will continue the problem. Do not put it in your compost pile! One option might be to carefully collect every little bit (roots and all) and putting it a black plastic bag for a couple of weeks in the sun before disposing of it.

Occasionally, I've seen Yellow Flag offered plant sales. Should you see this, be sure to help enlighten the vendor and have the plant removed from the sale and from production. It is on the State Invasive Plant list and should not be sold or distributed to anyone.



## ARS Annual Meeting – 2011

Pull out the calendars and mark the date: May 11-16, 2011 for the next ARS National Convention. The convention will be held at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, Wash. just off of I-205, near the Vancouver Shoppingtown Mall.

The Heathman is a beautiful facility and the

room price for those of you traveling is very reasonable. The restaurant there is excellent, and of course the shopping around the corner provides an alternative destination.

**Harold Greer** and **Mike Stewart** along with a cast of others from across the District have

done a great job getting the accommodations and speakers lined up. This meeting is hosted by ARS District 4 Oregon Chapters. Be sure to be ready to register and get rooms when the ARS Convention announcement comes out.

**Membership Renewals Start in October!**  
The gift of membership is a gift of fun and friendship year around!

## Thank You Volunteers!

### Maria Stewart

While enjoying our walk around the **Smith Garden** during the Soiree on August 19, it was evident that many volunteers work to keep the Garden beautiful. Let me take this opportunity to tell you about several volunteers who work there.

**Dick and Karen Caven-der** were busy setting up tables and getting ready for the Soiree when we arrived, but that is just a small part of what they contribute. Karen organizes and leads the private group tours and she does that during the very busy spring season. Dick likes to tackle any problem and solve it. You can find him working on a wide variety of projects in the Garden. We've never known Dick to shy away from fixing something.

**Don and Dorothy Patrick** are essential to the success of the Garden, also. For many years, they have been growing Smith Garden plants from cuttings or seeds for the plant sales. They also work on the open garden schedule so it goes smoothly. I would volunteer at Smith Garden just on the chance that I could get one of Dorothy's lemon sandwich cookies once in a while.

While at the Soiree, **Peter Kendall** was remarking about the beauty of the *Acer griseums* with their red and peeling bark. Peter helps with the tree selection for the Garden and he mails the Smith Garden newsletter.

*(Look for more about Smith Garden volunteers in October's newsletter.)*



Photo of the Smith Garden Soiree' kipped from the Eugene Chapter Newsletter! Thanks Wally!

**Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society**

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Post Master: Time sensitive  
mail; please deliver before  
**September 14, 2010**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Portland, OR  
Permit No. 1134

**U.S. Postal Service statement of  
Ownership, Management, and Cir-  
culation (as per 39 U.S.C. 3685)**

Publication Title: *Rhododendron News*  
Total number of copies mailed per is-  
sue: **225**  
Owner: **Portland Chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society**,  
PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-  
0424

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President: *Mike Domaschofsky*  
Vice President: *Maria Stewart*  
Past President: *Kath Collier*  
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

(Thru June 30, 2011) **Steve Hopkins,**  
**Brenda Ziegler, Donna Sell, Ray**  
**Clack, and Carol Barrett.**  
(Thru June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,**  
**Dave Collier, Kathy Van Veen, Mike**  
**Stewart, and Steve Kaminski**

**GARDEN INFO:**

**Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden**

Chairs:  
**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522, and  
**Donna Giguere**, 503-777-1177  
Tours:  
**Barbara Keller**, 503-775-5205  
Gatehouse:  
**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: John Welsh**, Member-  
ship Chair, (503) 663-6987. The Port-  
land 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, discounts,  
and activities.

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**Articles:** Deadline is the chapter  
meeting. Send materials to either:  
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hotmail.com](mailto:vanveenursery@hotmail.com) or via mail to: 4201 SE  
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master: **Steve Kaminski**