

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- Jan. 20 — Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: E. White Smith  
Topic: Vireyas
- **Jan. 27—Board Meeting**  
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery
- Feb. 17 — Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: Steve Vinisky  
Topic: Daffodil Growing in  
The PNW  
Plant Auction: Companion  
Plants
- Feb. 22 — Board Meeting  
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery
- Mar. 17 — Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: Kathy Van Veen  
Topic: Rhododendron  
Names
- Mar. 22 — 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



## Vibrant Vireya Varieties

By Maria Stewart

On January 20, 2011, our chapter will have the pleasure of hearing E. White Smith speak to us about the vireya rhododendrons. He will tell us about both the species and hybrids of this very colorful group. Since vireyas are native to places far away from the Pacific Northwest, E. White will describe the proper growing medium for them and the correct fertilization of them.

E. White has studied and grown vireyas for decades. In his travels to New Zealand and Australia to pursue his interest in vireyas, he made long-lasting connections with rhododendron groups in both countries. He was one of the first growers here in the Pacific Northwest to take an interest in these special plants and he helped the Rhododendron Species Foundation expand its collection. E. White currently produces “The Vireya Vine” newsletter, published several times a year in conjunction with the Rhododendron Species Foundation, and distributed world-wide.

He is a Past President of the Tacoma Chapter of the ARS and received a Bronze Medal from that chapter for his efforts to attract new members and for his generous support of the chapter. The rhododendron plantings in Point Defiance Park in Tacoma are largely due to E. White’s energy. In 2009, the Portland Chapter also awarded the Bronze Medal to him for his enthusiastic goals to attract new members.

In the 1990’s, E. White combined his collection of vireyas with Lucy Sorensen’s collection. The happy result of that collaboration is that Bovees Nursery has the largest collection of vireyas in the world! The Bovees Nursery is the only nursery in the mainland U.S. that specializes in vireyas and it ships world-wide.

You won’t want to miss the opportunity to hear E. White talk about some of his favorite plants and how to take care of them.

Check your e-mails for your January Newsletter!

This is the first month we are sending e-mailed newsletters to those of you with e-mail addresses. Please check your “junk” mail boxes to make sure your spam filters did not send your newsletter there.

Thank you so much for helping the Chapter save money by reducing the number of paper newsletters we send out.

## 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.

## Meeting Calendar through May, 2011:

**Jan. 20 - Chapter Meeting**  
**Speaker: E. White Smith**  
**Topic: Vireya Rhododendrons**

**Jan. 27 - Board Meeting**  
**7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**Feb. 17 - Chapter Meeting**  
**Speaker: Steve Vinisky**  
**Topic: Daffodil growing in the PNW**  
**Plant auction: companion plants**

**Feb, 22 - Board Meeting**  
**7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**Mar. 17 - Chapter Meeting**  
**Speaker: Kathy Van Veen**  
**Topic: Rhododendron names**

**Mar. 22 - Board Meeting**  
**7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**April 2-3: Early Show**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**  
**2 day plant sale !!!**

**April 21 - Annual Meeting**  
**Chapter Elections**  
**Speaker: Jack Olson**  
**Topic: Truss Selection**  
**Plant Auction: Hybrid Rhododendrons**

**April 26 - Board Meeting**  
**7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**May 7-8: Mothers' Day Show and Plant Sale**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**May 11-15: National Convention**  
**Heathman Lodge**  
**Vancouver, WA**

**May 19 - Awards Banquet**  
**Dinner, Awards**

**May 24—Board Meeting?**

## Haiku

Filigrees of fog  
 Insinuating the hills  
 Before the last leaf

A subsiding moon  
 At sunrise; its light, the light  
 Of day...frozen solid

Smatterings of snow  
 The maple's last leaves...a whirl  
 To oblivion

Snow in the offing  
 The bright morning sun offers  
 Little suggestion

Cut in soundlessness  
 Under autumn's pewter skies  
 The course of the jay

By Peter Kendall

## Other News Shorts:

**December board meeting cancelled due to its proximity to the holidays**

**Lost silverware box:**

**If you know where a silverware box is, please contact Carol McCarthy. She thinks that she left it at the Christmas party. **Stop press: silverware box has been found!****

**Please note that there will be a 2-day plant sale at the Early Show on April 2-3 this year.**

**Siuslaw ARS Rhody Early Show dates moved up to April 9 and 10, 2011, per Bill Hennig, Chapter President.**

## Christmas Party, 2010

**By: Maria Stewart**

All was merry and bright as we celebrated the season at our December 16th meeting. The food tables were laden with delicious pot luck dishes such as salmon, meatballs, hearty salads, stuffed mushrooms and enough desserts to last a year. There was a large lemon pie that was gone in a flash! It was tempting to go back for second and third helpings.

Thanks to the talents of many members, each table was decorated in a festive way. **Peter Kendall** placed a vase of cotoneaster with its bright orange-red berries in the center of his table. We very much appreciated the extra efforts of **Brenda Ziegler** and **Steve Hopkins, Karen and Dick Cavender, Maria and Mike Stewart, Barb and Bob MacArthur, Carol McCarthy and Bill Kielhorn, Kath and Dave Collier, Loni and John Welsh, and Dorothy and Don Patrick**, who all generously contributed to the holiday mood with their table decorations.

After we were sufficiently stuffed, we saw a slide show on a wide variety of photo subjects given by our members. **Mike Stewart** started the slide show with some pictures of his youthful school days in a small rural school and a few of Yosemite's vistas of Half Dome. **Dick Cavender** showed us the amazing growth, over the course of a few weeks, of the Agave parryi inflorescence in his garden. **Bob MacArthur** treated us to the splendors of the Grand Canyon. **Don Patrick** shared with us some of his favorite rhododendrons. ( And ours, too! ) **Kath Collier** described **Dave's** and her new property near Bandon so vividly that we could "see" it while she talked. **Peter Kendall** shared some of his favorite rhododendrons with us, also.

Throughout the evening, President **Mike Domaschofsky** called out numbers for the gift exchange and everyone went home with something new. What's more, Mike played a game of 'heads and tails' with us with real money. That got us out of seats!

This party certainly was a great way to end the year of 2010.

See you on *January 20, 2011* for our first meeting of the new year.

## Western Regional Fall Conference 2010, Part 3

### Small Water Features

By Irving G. Snyder, Jr.

Loretta Downs spoke at the Western Regional on 'Small Water Features for Your Garden'. She is the co-founder, with her husband George, of the 'Downs-By-The-Pond' company in Eugene. I have a pond, but it was build with a lot of guess and by golly. I learned how I should have built it in Loretta's session. The following are some hints for pond construction.

1. Carefully choose the location for the pond. Water lilies require 6 hours of sun per day. If the pond is under or near fir trees, you will get lots of fir needles and cones in your pond. I can affirm that a fir tree seems to drop *all* its needles in my pond each year.
2. Locate the pond so you can see it from inside the house. Watching a pond with a waterfall is a great way to relax.
3. Ponds should be 30 to 36 inches deep with a planting ledge 12 to 15 inches wide and deep. Ponds more than 36 inches deep can present a drowning hazard. Line the pond with "Fish safe" EPDM rubber. The rubber should be stamped 'Pondguard' to guarantee it is safe for fish. Other products may look the same, but they may contain chemicals which can leach over time and make the fish ill. The rubber should be 45 mils thick. Even concrete portions of the stream, waterfall and pond should be lined with EPDM rubber. Concrete cracks and then leaks. Make sure to purchase an overly big piece of EPDM for your pond liner, with as much as 2 feet extra rubber all the way around the pond. If you start to lay the rubber membrane in the pond and you come up short, you are in big trouble. Also, extra pieces of rubber are useful to put under big rocks that are to sit on top of the pond liner.
4. For the recirculating pump, figure you need 100 gallons per hour of capacity for every inch of width of the waterfall. The Downs recommend magnetically-driven pumps for their low energy consumption and oil-free nature.
5. The filtration system should be designed so that it circulates all the pond water through the filter every two hours.
6. The Downs recommend 100 gallons of pond capacity for every 7-inch fish. A 12-inch fish probably takes three times that amount of pond capacity. I have about 70 fish, but they average about 1 1/2 inches and the pond stays clear. However, as those fish grow, I will be in trouble. Comets and shubunkins are best for small ponds since they only grow to the size the pond can support. However, they are prolific breeders, and if there are places where the little fry can hide in the pond, they will multiply and overpopulate the pond. Koi are less prolific breeders, but they are best suited for larger ponds because they grow rapidly
7. If you can do without fish, it is a whole lot easier to keep the pond water clean.

My final suggestion is to find an establishment that supplies materials for ponds and spend a lot of time there talking to people and asking questions *before* beginning your pond.

## Save the Azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum

By: Don Hyatt

On November 8, 2010, Aaron Cook, the President of the Azalea Society of America, learned that the U.S. National arboretum plans to remove the mature azalea display on Mt. Hamilton. The Garden Unit Leader at the National Arboretum. Mr. Scott Aker, announced that the azaleas will be cut down in the summer of 2011 and their stumps painted with herbicide. Many of us are upset by this decision.

The azaleas on Mt. Hamilton create one of the prime floral attractions in our Nation's Capital. The lovely mature azaleas, many of which are over 60 years old, occupy perhaps 3 to 6 acres of the 446-acre Arboretum. There is no space issue. The azaleas are not overgrown or in decline. Working with many volunteers during the past 20 years, Ms. Barbara Bullock, the Azalea Curator, has restored the beauty and health of the collection after years of neglect. The azaleas are among the oldest and most spectacular specimens in the U.S. They are a National Treasure.

Historically, these azaleas are of particular importance to the U.S. National Arboretum since they were developed by its first Director, Benjamin Y. Morrison. They represent the top 2 to 3 % of the 50,000 to 75,000 seedlings he raised when developing the famous Glenn Dale Azaleas. Morrison's colossal breeding project has had no equal, and it produced the first large-flowered azaleas hardy in the Middle Atlantic region.

An irrevocable decision such as cutting down the Glenn Dale Azaleas would not likely have been made if the Arboretum had considered its ramifications. Originally, the Arboretum had an Advisory Board that provided expert advice to its leadership, but that group was dissolved in 1994. You can still advise USDA officials of your concerns:

1. Dr. Judith St. John, Deputy Administrator, National Program Staff, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705 Phone: 301-504-6252 Fax: 301-504-4663 E-mail: [judy.stjohn@ars.usda.gov](mailto:judy.stjohn@ars.usda.gov)
2. Dr. Joseph Spence, Beltsville Area Director, 10300 Baltimore Blvd, Bldg. 003, BARC-West, Room 223, Beltsville, MD 20702 Phone: 301-504-6078 Fax: 301-504-5863 E-mail: [joseph.spence@ars.usda.gov](mailto:joseph.spence@ars.usda.gov)
3. Dr. Ramon Jordan, Interim Director, U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002 Phone: 202-245-4539 Fax: 202-245-4574 E-mail: [ramon.jordan@ars.usda.gov](mailto:ramon.jordan@ars.usda.gov)
4. The website for the Save the Azaleas effort is: <http://savetheazaleas.org/#anchorbackground>. (If you just Google "savetheazaleas" you will find a lot of information and several related links. Ed.)

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

PO Box 86424,  
Portland, OR 97286-0424  
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Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
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Web: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

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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: The Portland Chapter is  
a local Chapter of the American Rho-  
dodendron Society. Combined annual  
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local chapter are \$40. Membership  
benefits include nine or more newslet-  
ters, discounts, and activities.

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter  
meeting. Send materials to either:  
**Kathy Van Veen**, veteran Proofread-  
er, at: (email) [vanveennursery@ hot-  
mail.com](mailto:vanveennursery@hotmail.com) or via mail to: 4201 SE  
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,  
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,  
newsletter editor, at: [l.hemingway@  
comcast.net](mailto:l.hemingway@comcast.net), or via mail to: 4765 SW  
38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-  
rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-  
7565.

Website: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org); web  
master: **Steve Kaminski**

Membershi p Updates: John  
Wel sh, Membershi p Chair, e-  
mai l: [jlwelsh26@yahoo.com](mailto:jlwelsh26@yahoo.com);  
503-663-6987

