

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **August 18, 2011**  
Smith Garden Soiree  
*Pot Luck*  
5:30PM set up, dine at  
6:00PM  
( See the announcement  
and map in the this issue.)
- **September 15, 2011**  
Regular meeting  
Cuttings exchange  
7:00 PM Social time  
7:30 PM meeting  
Speaker: Norma Senn
- **September 20, 2011**  
Board meeting, 7:30 PM  
Van Veen Nursery
- **October 20, 2011**  
Regular meeting  
Species auction  
7:00 PM social time  
7:30 PM meeting  
Speaker: Bill Zanze

## 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



## The Smith Garden

By Maria Stewart

The Smith Garden is a woodland garden. It manifests Cecil Smith's love of the Oregon woodlands and their native plants. Cecil and Molly Smith started collecting rhododendrons in the 1940's at their old house which was adjacent to the wooded property they obtained in 1951. Cecil was an early member of the American Rhododendron Society (1947) several years before they owned the property.

Many plants in the collection are now 70 years old. Some that have acquired this distinction are the magnificent R. 'Loderi King George' and R. 'Loderi Pink Diamond'. If the season is favorable, you may see these wondrous rhododendrons in bloom and experience their fragrance. Cecil pruned these large-growing plants into their present-day, tree-like forms. The garden is on an ideal north-facing hillside and has adequate water resources.

Cecil subscribed to seed-collecting expeditions and the garden contains some species grown from that seed. Look for fine or unusual species including R. davidsonianum 'Ruth Lyons', R. crinigerum, R. rude, R. proteoides, R. trailianum and many others. There are many Cecil Smith hybrids also, such as 'Noyo Brave', 'Noyo Warrior', 'Cecil's Goal' and 'Yellow Saucer'. Cecil was among the first to grow R. yakushmanum and R. bureavii and to use them in his hybridizing. He combined those two species to produce 'Cinnamon Bear', the signature plant of the garden.

Molly and Cecil freely shared their garden and hosted many garden tours. No one interested in rhododendrons was denied a visit in the garden. In 1983, after more than thirty years of devoted stewardship, Cecil and Molly reached a point in their lives where they could no longer care for their garden. The Portland Chapter of the ARS was able to purchase the property after Cecil and Molly made it possible by selling their land to the Chapter at half its appraised value. The Portland Chapter, along with the help of the Willamette and the Tualatin Valley Chapters, assumed its care and management.

( Continued on page 3 )

## 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 October, 2011:

**August 18, 2011**  
**Smith Garden Soiree**  
**Pot Luck Supper**  
**5:30PM set up, stroll in the garden,**  
**dine at 6:00PM**

**September 15, 2011**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Cuttings exchange**  
**7:00PM social time**  
**7:30PM meeting**  
**Speaker: Norma Senn**

**September 20, 2011**  
**Board meeting, 7:30 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

**October 20, 2011**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Species auction**  
**7:00 PM social time**  
**7:30 PM meeting**  
**Speaker: Bill Zanze**

**October 25, 2011**  
**Board meeting, 7:30 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

**November 17, 2011**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 PM social time**  
**7:30 PM meeting**  
**Speaker: Peter Kendall**

**November 22, 2011**  
**Board meeting, 7:30 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

## Haiku

Beneath the maple  
 flickering shadows, glimmers  
 of sunlight

Its flowers shattered,  
 the peony reborne - keep  
 in its foliage

Not even close - -  
 between rain and sun - -  
 this Spring's reign of rain

By Peter Kendall



Smith Garden in Spring

## Smith Garden

(continued from Page 1)

When the garden was first acquired, some committee members felt it should be preserved as it was when Cecil left it. Gardens do not cooperate with that concept. Plants grow too large and become too crowded. Weather disasters have significantly altered the site. To accommodate crowding in the garden, several new beds have been created and a semi-automated watering system has been installed.

Complementing the rhododendron collection are choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers and bulbs. Each pathway reveals its own treasure; a moss-covered log with plants tucked into bark crevices, a fern garden, and drifts of cyclamen, narcissus, erythronium and trillium. The Smith Garden is truly a botanical treasure.

## The Plant Whisperer

On May 27, 2011, the American Rhododendron Society, to say nothing of a number of other horticultural organizations, lost a long-time, stalwart contributor. William Robinson, known affectionately as 'Robbie', passed away peacefully after a lengthy span of 94 years. Robbie was the last surviving charter member of the ARS (from 1945). His interest in horticulture was launched in his early 20's, when he abandoned a nudging to go into law and instead started work for the noted John Bacher of the Swiss Floral Company. After a brief stint with Bacher, Robbie undertook his long association with Portland Parks, where he advanced to and held the top position for decades. This underpinned and abetted what became his multifaceted interest in things botanical.

Recognised for his knowledge over a wide spectrum, he was ever ready to share his enthusiasms in much the same way as his celebrated cousin Linus Pauling, with whom he shared a pioneer heritage from the small eastern Oregon town of Lone Rock.

Having personally benefitted from his mentorship over the last approximately 40 years, I, as many others, say farewell to one who most certainly made a difference.

Peter Kendall

## Smith Garden Soiree Thursday, August 18, 2011

Join us on Thursday, August 18th, to celebrate the beauty of Smith Garden. Bring your favorite potluck dish and join in an enjoyable meal with members of the Portland Chapter, the Tualatin Valley Chapter and the Willamette Chapter. Dinner time is 6:00 PM and if you wish to walk through the Garden, come a little earlier. Help is always appreciated at 5:30 PM, also, to set up the tables.

The address is: 5055 Raybell Road NE,  
St. Paul, OR

### Directions:

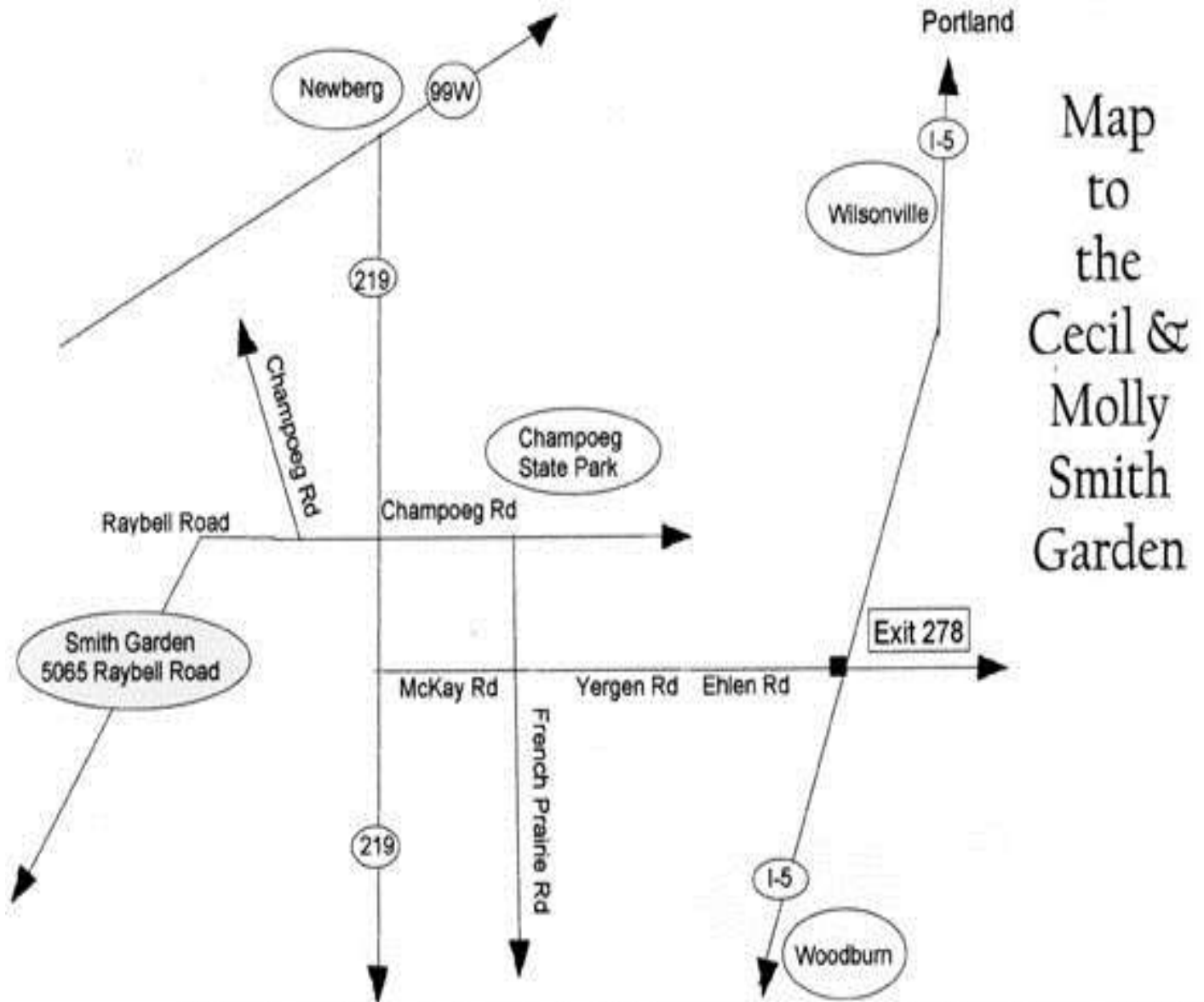
#### ***From Portland:***

Take I-5 south to Exit 278 ( Donald exit.)  
Go west (right) at exit onto Ehlen Rd. for 7 miles to end of that road at Hwy 219.  
( Ehlen becomes Yerger, then McKay .)  
Turn right onto Hwy 219 for 3/4 mile and look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign.  
Turn left onto Champoeg Road NE.  
Go straight onto Raybell RD - at the 'Y' - where Champoeg Rd. bears right.  
Garden is at 5055 Raybell RD NE, about 1/4 mile on the right.  
Parking and entrance are just past the house with the garden address.

#### ***From 99W:***

Go south on 99W to Newberg.  
Turn south (left) at light onto Springbrook Road.  
Turn left at the intersection of Hwy 219.  
Go south for 3 miles over the Willamette River bridge.  
Look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign.  
Turn right onto Champoeg Rd.  
Go straight onto Raybell Rd - at the 'Y' - where Champoeg Rd. bears right.  
Garden is at 5055 Raybell Rd NE, about 1/4 mile on right.  
Parking and entrance are just past the house with the garden address.

( See map in this issue.)



Map  
to  
the  
Cecil &  
Molly  
Smith  
Garden

## Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden News

On May 25, 2011, in a big rain and hail storm, the crew at Van Veen Nursery at long last dug out the donated 'Cynthia' rhododendron. It was at the home of Tony and Sharon Nicola, a block from the nursery. Tony owns Merchants Paper Company and supplied a pallet jack. 'Cynthia' was thereby transported in honor to her new temporary home in the lathhouse at Van Veen Nursery. She is on a pallet and the Van Veen crew made a box of plywood around her and filled it with composted wood chips. Her next move is expected to be in October to the meadow at Crystal Springs, where she will join the other 'Cynthias' in the hope that the area will someday return to its former glory.

Kathy Van Veen

## September 15th Meeting Preview

By Maria Stewart

Our first speaker of the fall season is a member and friend who hails from the north. Canada, to be specific! She is a member of the Victoria Rhododendron Society and formerly was a member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society.

Her name is Norma Senn. You might have become acquainted with Norma at conferences and conventions. We had the good fortune to travel with her in China about five years ago.

Norma will speak about a subject dear to our hearts. The title of her talk is: “Walking in the Sasquatch’s Footprints: a brief history of gardening in the Pacific Northwest”

At September’s meeting you also have the opportunity to bring a few cuttings and acquire some cuttings, too. Kathy Van Veen will give us some tips about rooting our cuttings in our own homes. You don’t need a greenhouse to root rhododendrons!

So mark ***September 15th*** on your calendar. The evening promises to be illuminating.



Crystal Springs

Photograph by Ernie Metcalfe

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
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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

(Through June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,  
Dave Collier, Kathy Van Veen, Mike  
Stewart, and Steve Kaminski**  
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline  
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,  
Brenda Ziegler, Ray Clack and Carol  
Barrett**

#### 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:

**Rachael Moloney**, 503-975-6743

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  
dues to both the national society and  
local chapter are \$40. Membership  
benefits include nine or more newslet-  
ters, discounts, and activities.

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