

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **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
- **October 25, 2011**  
Board Meeting, 7:30 PM  
Van Veen Nursery
- **November 2, 2011**  
Annual Dormancy Luncheon, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

## 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



## A Spirited September, Starring Norma Senn

By Maria Stewart

Our first speaker of the fall season is a member and friend whom we welcome from Canada. She is a member of the Victoria Rhododendron Society and formerly was a member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society.

Norma retired as Director of the Department of Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley in 2008. As a member of the department, she taught a variety of courses in horticulture, biology and agronomy. One of the things she especially enjoyed while working for UFV was having the opportunity to participate in several international projects that led to her having the chance to work in Viet Nam and Bangladesh.

Before joining the faculty at UFV, Norma was the provincial urban horticulturist for the BC Ministry of Agriculture. As part of her duties with the BCMA, she set up and ran the first Master Gardener program in Canada. She still teaches the introductory botany courses and plant propagation courses for the BC Master Gardeners.

While living in the Fraser Valley, she was an active member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society, serving as president of the Chapter for several years. In 2009, Norma moved to Victoria (less rain and warmer winter temperatures.) She likes all rhododendrons, but because she has a small urban garden, is particularly interested in anything small. Her goal is to find and grow as many of the late Warren Berg's introductions as possible since so many of these are such good plants for the small garden.

The title of Norma's talk is "*Walking in the Sasquatch's Footprints: a brief history of gardening in the Pacific Northwest.*"

This meeting is also the time to bring a few cuttings from your garden in a labeled plastic baggie with just enough moisture to keep your cuttings fresh. Maybe some special cuttings that you have wished for will be brought by someone else. 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 enlightening

## 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 November, 2011:

**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 2, 2011**

**Annual Dormancy Luncheon,  
Crystal Springs Rhododendron  
Garden**

**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

The edge of the wood  
A bee in the flower of  
the thimbleberry

In a bolt from the path  
the skittering cottontail  
has covered its tracks

Into the clearing - -  
the grasses, the buzz of insects  
and the dragonflies

By Peter Kendall



**Smith Garden in Spring**

## What I Should Have Known

By Irving G. Snyder, Jr.

In late March I returned to Stevenson, WA to survey my rhododendrons. There were black spots on a number of the leaves, particularly the smaller-leaved rhododendrons. Other larger leaves had spots the size of a quarter where the leaf was completely dead and the color of the spot was gray. I dutifully sprayed the leaves with Bob MacArthur's wonder mildewicide consisting of:

2 tbs of baking soda

1 tbs Murphy Oil Soap

1 tbs canola oil

1 tbs white vinegar

Mixed in one gallon of water.

Unfortunately, the problem did not go away. In fact, it seemed to be spreading, particularly to the rhododendrons that were downwind from the troubled plants. One day as I was trimming around the base of one of the problem rhododendrons, I noticed some rhododendron leaves near the ground that were all black. Further investigation of this rhododendron revealed that the bottom trunk part of the bush was black, black from mildew. I have cut a lot of the lower growth away from the affected rhododendrons and have thoroughly sprayed the trunks with the above mixture. Two weeks later I sprayed the rhodies again with a commercial fungicide. The problem appears to be under control and the new leaves do not have mildew spots.

When spraying your rhodies for mildew and fungus, be sure to spray the trunks of the plants, particularly the base of the trunk.

Irv Snyder, August 30, 2011, via e-mail.

## A Perfect Evening to have a Picnic

**By Maria Stewart**

What an enjoyable evening was had by all at the Smith Garden Soiree on August 18th!

The food was outstanding and the Garden beckoned us to wander among the special rhododendrons and trees.

It was a real treat to be guided through the Garden by **Bob Grasing** and **Jason Ashford** as they pointed out their favorite plants. **Peter Kendall** joined us and spoke enthusiastically about the *Acer griseum* and other features of the Garden.

Members from all three Chapters, Portland, Tualatin and Willamette, enjoyed the evening. It was especially nice to see **Ron** and **Becky Yasenchak** and **Gordon** and **Linda Wylie**, who travelled long distances to attend the Soiree. A big thank-you goes to **Tom** and **Jane Gressler** who facilitated the Event.



Smith Garden Soiree 8/18/2011. Photographs courtesy of Richard Cavender.



## News from Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

After a month as the dedicated gardener for the Jane Martin Memorial Garden, I believe Crystal Springs is home to the biggest Herb Robert and the friendliest mosquitos in town. The dedicated crew of ARS volunteers is inspiring; so is being able to actually garden within Crystal Springs and do something about, for example, the weeds. Working with a group of very knowledgeable gardeners, many of them graduates of the OSU Master Gardener program, I am constantly learning and that's fun. "Name That Weed" is always popular, as we work to clear the garden beds and pathways. In the course of grubbing out weeds in the Jane Martin Memorial Garden, I uncovered several plants of *Gentiana asclepiadea* in bloom; they are in Bed DD, south of the waterfall, behind the *Enkianthus* and the *Sasanqua* camellias above the path. There are also 2 plants of a variegated *Hypericum* on that same slope. Recently, Donna Giguere and I discovered a shrub we could not identify, buried under living black walnut and California bay/Oregon myrtle branches on the north side of the waterfall. Whatever it is, it's a survivor!

Coming up November 2, 2011 is the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden annual Dormancy Luncheon, the end-of-the-season wrap-up celebration. In years past, the Crystal Springs volunteers have used that occasion to clean, sharpen and oil all the gardening tools in preparation for winter; do we want to bring back that event this year?

Tom Hoffman



Crystal Springs

Photograph by Ernie Metcalfe

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

PO Box 86424,  
Portland, OR 97286-0424  
ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
meeting cancellations due  
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Web: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

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Vice President: *Maria Stewart*  
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BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,**  
**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  
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benefits include nine or more newslet-  
ters, discounts, and activities.

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**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  
Welsh, Membershi p Chair, e-  
mai l: [jlwelsh26@yahoo.com](mailto:jlwelsh26@yahoo.com);  
503-663-6987