

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **October 20, 2011**
Regular meeting
Species auction
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: Bill Zanze
Please remember to wear your Halloween costume!
Bring your favorite candy!
- **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

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



Portland's New Garden: *The Cloud Forest*

By Bill Zanze

Bill Zanze, our speaker for the **October 20, 2011** meeting, describes himself as an extreme rhododendron enthusiast. He loves the species rhododendrons with their interesting foliage, rich history and collectors' tales and appreciates the need for the conservation of these unique plants. As a gardener in Washington Park, one of Bill's greatest joys has been the creation of *The Cloud Forest*, a rhododendron species garden nestled on the hillside in the northeast corner of the park. What began as a large-scale, multi-phase invasive plant removal project in this misused corner of the park, quickly morphed into an opportunity to implement a collection of rhododendrons to complement many of the existing ones in the park. Furthermore, the goals are to profile the range of types of rhododendrons that can be grown there and to enhance the ground layer with an eclectic mix of herbaceous companions of similar geographic origins. Bill will share his vision for this fledgling garden and discuss how it came to fruition, who the key players are, what the existing site characteristics are, as well as the process and sweat equity that has gone into getting the garden to this place.

Bill is a horticulturist for Portland Parks and Recreation, working in Washington Park and surrounding northwest neighborhood parks for the past seven years. Prior to this, he was with the Horticultural Services division where he maintained a field nursery at Mt. Tabor, growing, harvesting and marketing large caliper shade and flowering trees for the City and other non-profits. He also engaged in environmental education programs and native plant restoration projects. His strong interest in removing invasives and reclaiming park areas overgrown with such species including English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, English holly, hawthorn and others has been a driving force in his dedicated efforts in preserving and enhancing city parks.

Earlier in his career, while working in the retail nursery industry in Eugene, Bill developed a true passion for ornamental plants. He loves working with people and getting them excited about potential planting possibilities and has discovered that, ultimately, he really enjoys talking plants with people.

Following Bill's talk about the Cloud Forest, we will have fun with a species auction, so put October 20th on your calendar!

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 January, 2012:

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

December 15, 2011
Christmas Party
7:00 PM
Program: Slides by members
Decorated tables, lots of food!

January 19, 2012
Regular meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: TBA

January 24, 2012
Board meeting, 7:30PM
Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Scarcely September
 This evening, the first cricket
 'twixt summer and fall

The fluttering leaf
 with the sun in its flutter
 this brilliant fall day

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

By Peter Kendall

A Request:

**Please remember to wear
 your name tag!**

**Doesn't matter where you
 got it, originally; please
 wear it!**

**Not only do we enjoy all
 those different tags, it may
 even help save money on
 stick-on labels in the long
 run *and* you get 2 raffle
 tickets instead of just one,
 if you remember to wear
 your name tag!**

Species Auction---October 20th !

Bring your wish list and your wallet to the October 20th meeting.

It's time for our wonderful species auction. Not only can you bid on the plants, you can bring some of your favorites from your own garden for other bidders. Join in the fun and help to support the activities of the chapter!

Please remember, too, to wear your Halloween costume and bring your favorite Halloween candy treats. Help make this a 'spooktacular' evening for all!

A Re-cap of our September 15th Meeting

By Maria Stewart

Our speaker, Norma Senn from Victoria, B.C., treated us to a whirlwind trip into many beautiful gardens of the Pacific Northwest, *Walking in the Sasquatch's Footprints*. She showed us fine examples of plants happily growing in every kind of soil from bogs to screes and rock outcroppings. Moreover, Norma talked about the style of gardening that works with nature, not against nature, to create a "fusion" of the two. Certainly, planting among the fir trees and sword ferns is a style with which we are familiar and it is good to know that kind of gardening is actually called a style. Norma pointed out that it is fortunate, also, that we can embrace the influences of the European, the Japanese and the Chinese traditions when we garden here.

Norma integrated history about the people who influenced gardening in the Pacific Northwest, such as Dr. John McLoughlin, who created a seven-acre kitchen garden at Fort Vancouver out of necessity, into her talk. Archibald Menzies botanized and distributed our natural flora along with John Townsend and Thomas Nuttall (*Rh. nuttallii*) who explored the Pacific Northwest in the 1830's.

After Norma's talk, Kathy Van Veen demonstrated the art of making cuttings. Her signature "big thumb" that protects her from the sharp knife that she uses was firmly in place. Kathy also emphasized the importance of clean, fresh mix for cuttings and dipping cuttings in 'Phosan' to make sure the cuttings are free from bacteria and fungi. Kathy passed around her demonstration cuttings so everyone could get a closer look. Then, to end the meeting, we chose cuttings to try rooting at home.

Note: Bob MacArthur, who attended the meeting, was in considerable pain from his back, and was scheduled for surgery Saturday, October 8. We hope to have an update on his condition in time for the October meeting. In the meantime, we wish you a speedy recovery, Bob!

Join Us for a Workday of Fun and Food

By Maria Stewart

On Saturday, **October 15, 2011**, the Smith Garden will host the annual Fall Work Party. Tom Gressler will have a list of jobs posted on the garage door opening. Please bring gloves and favorite tools and help out. When we join together to get the garden ready for the winter, work gets done very quickly. We appreciate any time you can donate to this event. Hope to see you there!

Lunch will be served to all workers.

Board Briefs: September 20, 2011

The first topic of discussion was about increasing the amount of compensation we give to our speakers. It was moved, seconded and passed to increase the amount up to \$200.00 per speaker. The hope is that we can afford a greater diversity of speakers by offering more generous stipends.

Rachel Moloney, our Crystal Springs Garden Events Coordinator, gave her annual report. She said that all of the events forms have been updated and that the 2011 events season went well. Fourteen events have already been scheduled for 2012.

A Crystal Springs project that is working its way through the permit process is the Alpine Garden renovation. Other areas of focus are the need for more weeding help and the need for a knowledgeable person to botanically map the entire Garden.

Announcements: October 15, 2011 — Smith Garden Work Party
Fall, 2013— District 4 Western Regional



Crystal Springs: Otters!
Photographs by Patricia Frobes

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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
local chapter are \$40. Membership
benefits include nine or more newslet-
ters, discounts, and activities.

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