

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **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 shown by members, decorated tables, and lots of potluck food!

## 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 Legacy of the Kerr Gardens

By Peter Kendall

By all accounts, the Northwestern corner of the United States is recognized as a premier location for those with a horticultural bent of mind. Over the decades of the 20th century, a select number of people have found themselves singularly disposed to take advantage of this inviting set of circumstances. Jane Kerr Platt is certainly to be found among them. The evolution of her particular plot of land in Portland's West Hills into a collection of the choicest assemblage of plants arranged with the highest standard, came as no accident.

Jane was the second daughter of Scotsman, Peter Kerr, a prosperous grain merchant of the last part of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. Kerr, himself, developed one of the foremost gardens in the Portland area, Elk Rock. Jane's elder sister, Lady Anne McDonald, also had a notable horticultural bent in her own right and produced a remarkable garden near Elk Rock. This garden is presently in the able hands of Susan Bates, who carries on in a most salutary fashion.

Our speaker, Peter Kendall, will show us with wonderful photos and commentary, 'The Legacy of the Kerr Gardens.' Peter is a landscape gardener specializing in ornamental pruning and horticultural design and consultation. He has practiced in the Portland area for some 25 years. Over the last decade or so, he has combined his interest in plants with his love of photography to photograph a number of outstanding public and private gardens in the immediate area. Foremost among these have been the garden of the Bishop's Close at Elk Rock and the Jane Kerr Platt garden. He has photographed these gardens in each season to allow a glimpse of what is integral to well-designed gardens—their ability to delight continuously because of layout and the meticulous selection of exquisite plant material.

*Put November 17th on your calendar so you can take a fascinating tour of the gardens of the Kerr family via Peter's beautiful photos.*

## 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 February, 2012:

**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**

**February 16, 2012**  
**Regular meeting**  
**7:00 PM social time**  
**7:30 PM meeting**  
**Speaker: Diana Reeck**  
**Topic: Companions for your Rhododendrons**  
**Plants for sale from Collector's Nursery**

## Haiku

So hard to define —  
 that gathering of autumn  
 in the frog's first croak

A fall evening's shift  
 of cloud, of color as day  
 gives way to nightfall

A fall sky beyond blue  
 The intensity of green  
 in the forest trees

A crisp, clear fall day  
 Conversations of geese, yet  
 nowhere to be seen

Counting the flowers  
 to emerge next spring; the buds  
 tell the tale

By Peter Kendall

## Meeting Calendar through February, 2012, cont'd.

**February 21, 2012**  
**Board Meeting, 7:30 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

## Blockbuster Speakers — 3 more in a row!

Plan ahead, bring a friend, enjoy the presentations of these three fantastic speakers.

***Diana Reeck, Collector's Nursery, February 16, 2012***

*Steve Hootman, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, March 15, 2012*

*Harold Greer, Greer Gardens, April 19, 2012*

## A Re-cap of our October 20th Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

Bill Zanze, assisted by his wife Sarah, gave us an inspiring presentation on the newest garden addition in Washington Park, the *Cloud Forest* rhododendron species garden.

Working with his colleague, Stefan Bump, and a dedicated crew of volunteers, and with the enthusiastic support of his boss, Bill led the charge to reclaim a large area in the northeast corner of Washington Park from invasive plant species, years of accumulated trash and destructive, illegal activity. His dramatic before-and-after photos gave striking visual testimony to the size of the undertaking and the thousands of hours of labor involved. One surprise was the importance of enhancing public safety in the process of clearing the area, allowing all of us to add to the public 'presence' needed to turn around a long-neglected and abused section of the park, not exactly what we might expect in an urban horticulturalist's job description.

Bill and Stefan developed their exciting vision for the newly-reclaimed areas over time, as the underlying land emerged from its cocoon of English ivy, laurel, hawthorne, Himalayan blackberry and other weed species. Since the site is on a hillside, it has been possible to showcase the new rhododendron plantings by constructing paths both above and below those plantings, giving visitors a much better look at the special character of species rhododendrons and their companion plants. Bill gave us a 3-page handout listing all the established rhododendrons and the new species in Washington Park. One point Bill stressed in his talk is the importance of accurate, comprehensive records of all the plants in the new garden, which affected the choice of suppliers for plants.

*Following Bill's presentation, we held our annual rhododendron species auction, with our own Dick Cavender in the role of auctioneer. Many rare and unusual plants were available and we grossed \$461.00 this year.*

## A Workday of Fun and Food

**By Tom Hoffman**

On Saturday, October 15, 2011, the Smith Garden hosted the annual Fall Work Party.

Tom Gressler had a list of jobs posted on the garage door opening. The Tualatin, Willamette and Portland Chapters were well-represented. Herb Spady and a crew of stalwarts, with Tom Gressler manning the Honda yard crawler, successfully moved a large Rhododendron Yellow Rolls Royce which had overgrown its original spot at the front of the house. Weeding and mulching and pruning were the order of the day. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch, with lasagna and baked salmon featured. The weather was perfect, not too hot, not too cold, not raining—all in all, a great fall day among friends.

## Crystal Springs Update

**By Kathy Van Veen**

In case you missed it, the August newsletter had an article about a Cynthia rhododendron that has been residing at Van Veen Nursery since May 25th. Three of us from the nursery carefully dug it up that day and removed it from its home of many years about a block from the nursery. It was at the former residence of the parents of Mrs. Mary Ann Nicola, who passed away in December. Not so long ago I told her we were looking for Cynthias to replace the original ones that had been dying off in the meadow area at the garden. Her son, who lives in his grandparents house, was planning a remodel and so the time was right this spring to carry out his mother's wishes.

We Van Veens have known the family for 60 years at least. We were all from a time when families and extended families remained in the neighborhood, all centered around St. Ignatius Catholic Church and School. There were grade-school kids in most of the houses around here, and guess what?! We all actually played outside with each other, running around in the streets, sidewalks and yards. No TV and no electronic gadgets. We had stuff like bikes, scooters, swings and roller skates. Rainy days we still played, but it was in somebody's garage or basement, like ours where we had a ping pong table and lots of room to roller skate.

Anyway, on October 19th, the Cynthia was carefully removed from the box we had built for it in our lath house and was transported to Crystal Springs by Betsy Redfearn and her crew from the Parks Department. Bob MacArthur picked the spot and they prepared the area ahead of time by locating pipes and removing big roots. Cynthia is planted high and will have mulch put around it in hopes of avoiding wet ground and root problems. All the best to you my lady!!

**2012 Membership dues for the Portland Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society are due on November 20 to ensure receiving the Winter 2012 ARS Journal.**

Regular Membership dues are \$40.00 per year. You can write a check payable to ARS Portland Chapter and mail it to:

Dick Cavender — ARS Treasurer  
15920 SW Oberst Lane  
Sherwood, OR 97140-5020

Reminder notices are in the mail and include a convenient envelope for your remittance. Please don't delay—we don't want to lose you!

Please take a minute to make sure your address, telephone and e-mail address in the Member Phone Book for 2011 are correct; there are lines for Phone and Email on the Membership Renewal envelope, or you can e-mail any changes to: John Welsh, Membership Chair at: [jlwelsh26@yahoo.com](mailto:jlwelsh26@yahoo.com) .

Membership benefits include 9 or more newsletters, 4 ARS Journals, discounts and many activities.

## Blueberry Pizza

**From: Maria Stewart, by popular demand**

**Crust:** Combine 2 packages of fine graham-cracker crumbs to equal 2 1/2 cups with 1/3 cup sugar and 3/4 cup melted butter or margarine; mix. Press firmly into a 9 1/2" X 13 1/2" (or 9"X13") Pyrex pan. Bake in a moderate oven (375) for 6 to 8 minutes or until edges are browned. Cool.

**Topping:** Combine 6 tablespoons cornstarch and 3/4 cup sugar. Add to 3 cups of blueberries and 2/3 cup water. Mix and cook until clear and thickened. Cool.

**Cream cheese mixture:** Cream together 16 oz. cream cheese, 1 teaspoon vanilla and 3/4 cup sugar. Spread this mixture over the cooled, cooked crust.

Spread the blueberry topping over the cream cheese mixture. Keep cool until served.

( Note: I have reduced the sugar in each layer by 1/4 cup from the amounts in the original recipe. This is a doubled recipe. MS )

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