

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **March 15, 2012**
Regular meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: Steve Hootman, R.S.F.
Topic: Species Rhododendrons
Companion plant auction
- **March 20, 2012**
Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery
- **April 14-15, 2012**
Early Show and Plant Sale with the Daffodil Society,
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 40th and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



Meritorious March

By Maria Stewart

We are extremely fortunate to have **Steve Hootman**, the Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, as our speaker for the March 15th meeting. Through his photos and dialogue, Steve will share with us his 2010 expedition into Chongqing, Guizhou and Guangxi in southwest China.

With credit to Steve's leadership, the Botanical Garden has amassed one of the finest and most complete collections of species rhododendrons in the world. Under the auspices of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, the Botanical Garden conserves, researches, acquires, evaluates, cultivates and distributes the rhododendrons and other plants that have been carefully selected to be protected there.

Steve has led many rhododendron expeditions into Asia and is considered to be one of the world's best collectors and expedition leaders. In the fall of 2011, he led a two-week expedition into Papua, New Guinea to hunt for vireya rhododendrons in the wild and is planning another expedition to Asia in 2012. Steve is very generous and is always willing to speak to plant groups throughout the country and abroad. He is a recipient of the American Rhododendron Society's highest award, the Gold Medal.

To see descriptions of Steve's expeditions online, go to rhodygarden.org

Bring a friend to hear Steve's program! This is a great opportunity to spotlight the joys of attending Portland Chapter meetings and learning about rhododendrons from presenters who enjoy sharing their love of the genus.

And, we will have a companion plant auction at the March 15th meeting. Please bring companion plants that you want to put up for auction! Proceeds of the auction benefit the Chapter General Fund.

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 Mid-May, 2012:

March 15, 2012
Regular meeting
Speaker: Steve Hootman
Topic: Species Rhododendrons
Companion Plant Auction

March 20, 2012
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

April 14-15, 2012
Early Show and Sale,
Crystal Springs Rh. Garden
(With the Daffodil Society)

April 19, 2012
Regular Meeting
Speaker: Harold Greer
Annual Meeting / Hybrid Auction

April 24, 2012
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

April 28, 2012
Portland Japanese Garden Plant Sale

May 12-13, 2012
Mother's Day Weekend Show and Plant Sale
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

May 17, 2012
Annual Awards Banquet
Regular Meeting Hall

Haiku

A midwinter's night
 In a gathering fog, the blue
 of a rising moon

The first snow flurry
 The first to show its whiteness
 -- the top of the fence

Winter's crumpled leaves
 -- their cracks and crannies -- the
 first
 small catchments of snow

Smatterings of snow
 The two-dimensional fir
 is suddenly three

On heels of the wind
 a frenzied chatting -- bushtits
 in winter's smoketree

By Peter Kendall



Blockbuster Speakers — 2 more in a row!

Plan ahead, bring a friend, enjoy the presentations of these two fantastic speakers:

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

Harold Greer, Greer Gardens, April 19, 2012

February Fun Re-Cap

By Maria Stewart

Diana Reeck, owner of Collector's Nursery, shared her expertise about shade-loving companion plants for our rhododendrons with us at our February 16th meeting. Her photos and descriptions of not easily found trilliums, erythroniums, polygonatums and epimediums enticed us to think of places to put them in our gardens. She has a collection of epimediums that greatly expand the range of flower colors and flower shapes.

The epimediums were fascinating! Be sure to see Diana at the Mother's Day show where she will have a booth displaying many more of her unusual and uncommon selections.

We also celebrated Valentine's Day at this meeting with a table full of sweets for the sweet.

It was good to see Barry and Carol Kast at the meeting and to welcome Robert Herald, our new member from Philadelphia.

In Memory of Carol Barrett

By Bev Watkins

Carol Barrett, who died January 24th, 2012, was a retired English teacher, a keen gardener, a great reader and a devoted friend of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. With professional degrees in teaching, horticulture and the completion of the Master Gardener Program, Carol was a treasured source of information that she shared freely.

In addition to her volunteer work at Crystal Springs, she was a member of the Portland Chapter Board, and in 2011, the Portland Chapter honored her by awarding her the Bronze Medal for her outstanding service.

Her volunteer activities went beyond showing up for maintenance work at Crystal Springs nearly every Wednesday. She was instrumental in developing a Garden Committee composed of Portland Parks personnel as well as a representative from the Portland Chapter Board, garden chairmen, wedding coordinator, volunteer coordinator and gatehouse coordinator.

Realizing that the usual number of volunteers was insufficient to keep up with the pruning of the many overgrown shrubs in the Garden, Carol was responsible for creating the 'Pruneopolis' last year, in which a combination of Parks employees and volunteers met at the Garden for a concerted effort to perform long-needed pruning of many of the overgrown shrubs there.

Her intelligence, warmth and cheerful demeanor endeared her to many. Her touch is everywhere in the Garden; she will be greatly missed as the seasons unfold.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 2:30 PM, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 3228 SW Sunset Blvd., Portland, Oregon.



Photographs of 2012 Home & Garden Show courtesy of Dick Cavender.



Board Meeting Highlights from February 21st

By Carol McCarthy

Brenda Ziegler gave a detailed summary of the work that Rachael Maloney has been doing with the coordination of events at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

The Early Show was discussed. Bob MacArthur is going to work with Betsy from Portland Parks to clean up the Gatehouse, particularly the 3” of moss on the roof, and the Cool House. He is also going to clean the tables and chairs. Rachael is going to set up a table at the Cool House during the Show to advertise weddings.

The Board is considering hiring a third party to open, clean and close the restrooms because the City may not provide that service anymore.

Two trees fell into the lake at the far end of the peninsula at CSRG.

The set-up for the Home and Garden Show was completed on schedule thanks to: Mike Domaschofsky, Bob and Barb MacArthur, J.R. Kruger (Willamette Chapter); E. White Smith made the signs for the plants; Dick and Karen Cavender supplied the printed materials for handouts. (Take down was accomplished by: Mike Domaschofsky, Dick and Karen Cavender, Ray Clack. Ed.)

Steve Hopkins is looking into renewing Workman’s Compensation insurance.

Steve Kaminski now has the site-mapping software and data from Dot Dunstan for CSRG. There was a brief discussion about the mapping process.



Rhododendron ‘Laramie’

A Structural Beauty: Rhododendron ‘Laramie’

By: Maria Stewart

With its textured deep green leaves, its large, very pale yellow flowers and its handsome branching pattern, ‘Laramie’ is a rhododendron that beckons you to take a closer look. Thank you, Jim Barlup, for crossing two notable parents to create this wonderful hybrid. Here are some more details about ‘Laramie’:

It is an elepidote.

The parents are yakushmanum (Exbury form) X macabeum.

It was hybridized in 1981 by Jim Barlup, grown on by Jim Barlup, named by Jim Barlup and registered by Jim Barlup in 1998.

The trusses imitate its macabeum parentage and are large, with funnel-campanulate corollas. The edges are wavy and deep inside each corolla is a dark purple-red flare. It blooms in April.

The dark green leaves are obovate and semi-glossy with tawny indumentum. Depending on its placement, ‘Laramie’ should grow to 3 feet by 3 feet in about ten years.

Smith Garden Work Party :

The Smith Garden Spring Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th, 2012. Lunch will be provided.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, world-renowned for its collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons, will be open during the blooming season, Saturdays and Sundays, April 7th through May 20th, 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. This three-acre natural woodland setting also features choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers and bulbs, including Cyclamen, Trillium, Erythronium and Narcissus which complement the over 600 rhododendrons and azaleas. Established in the early 1950's, the garden contains many rare species grown by Cecil Smith from seeds imported from China and cuttings from England, as well as hybrids he developed. The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society purchased the garden in 1983, and, along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, now manages and maintains it. A selection of plants featured in the garden is available for purchase. There is a modest admission fee of \$3.00. Due to the sloping site, the garden is not considered handicap-accessible. The garden is located at 5056 Raybell Road, St. Paul, Oregon 97137, 7/10ths of a mile west of Hwy. 219 between St. Paul and Newberg. Turn west on Champoeg Road (look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign) and continue straight on to the garden. Parking and entrance are on the right just past the house with the garden address. For more information, please call Ginny Mapes at 503-647-2896 or see <http://www.smithgarden.org>. This spring, don't miss this hidden gem which has been featured in *Horticulture* magazine and several television programs. By Ray Lintault, Willamette Chapter ARS

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for
meeting cancellations due
to weather

Web: www.rhodies.org

Post Master: Time sensitive
mail; please deliver before
February 12, 2011

U.S. Postal Service statement of
Ownership, Management, and Cir-
culation (as per 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Publication Title: *Rhododendron News*
Total number of copies mailed per is-
sue: **225**

Owner: **Portland Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**,
PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-
0424

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

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chairs:

Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522, and
Donna Giguere, 503-777-1177

Tours:

csrgvol@me.com

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.

Rhododendron News is mailed by first
class postage (permit #1134, Port-
land). Photographs and images may

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