

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **December 20, 2012**
Holiday Party
6:30 PM set up
7:00 PM dining
Program: Traditional holiday showing of slides by members
- **No December Board Meeting - Happy Holidays!**
- **January 17, 2013**
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: Steve Hootman, RSF, speaking on his 2012 trip to China
- **January 22, 2013**
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



It's Time to Celebrate the Season!

**At the Portland Chapter Holiday Party,
December 20th, 2012.**

All Saints Episcopal Church,

SE 40th and Woodstock.

Gathering and set-up time is 6:30 PM;

Dining commences at 7:00 PM.

Once again, it is time for our traditional holiday party and potluck supper and you are invited! We know our members are excellent cooks and bakers, so please, bring your favorite dish! Please invite a friend or two if you wish; guests are welcome. And, please don't forget to bring a small (inexpensive) wrapped gift or two for our door prize festivities. We want everyone to receive a gift!

Table decorators:

Loni Welsh; Kate Averill; Ginny Mapes; Dick and Karen Cavender; Dave and Kath Collier; Bob and Barbara MacArthur; Brenda Ziegler and Steve Hopkins; Kathy Van Veen; Peter Kendall; Tom Hoffman and Lynne Hemingway.

Program: Slides shown by our members. We have asked a few members to bring their slide projectors and we will have a laptop with digital projector. If you need additional equipment, please bring your own or contact Brenda Ziegler at 503-314-5834 or bzgift@aol.com to see if she can help locate the equipment you need.

2013 A.R.S. Dues are past due!

Please mail or give your dues to: ARS Treasurer

Dick Cavender

15920 SW Oberst Lane

Sherwood, OR 97140-5020

If you have not received your dues reminder in the mail or at a meeting, please contact: Membership Chair

John Welsh, 37106 SE Lusted Rd

Boring, OR 97009-9706

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, 2013:

December 20, 2012
Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner
With decorated tables and lots of food!
6:30 PM set up
7:00 PM dining
Program: Traditional showing of members' slides, CD, DVD, memory stick images

No December Board Meeting- Happy Holidays!

January 17, 2013
Regular meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: Steve Hootman, RSF, speaking on his 2012 trip to China

January 22, 2013
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

February 21, 2013
Regular meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: TBA

February 26, 2013
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Shifting autumn winds
 The wren and the hummingbird
 -- each in its own way

Autumn underfoot
 The scents, the shadows, the crunch
 all rolled into one

Through shafts of sunlight
 through shafts of shadow, the road
 to parts, yet unknown

From shadow to sun
 Mid fall, the warmth on my back
 A summer recalled

Ending abruptly
 -- the pummel of rain, a burst
 of autumn sunlight

By Peter Kendall

Raffle News

At our last meeting, E. White Smith, our Master of Raffles, reminded us that we are all invited to bring plants and other rhody-related items for our meeting raffles. Remember, too, that if you wear a name tag, you are entitled to 2 raffle tickets!

From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

'Tis the Season to be....I'm sure that you can finish the phrase with many pleasant and happy words. A couple of words that come to my mind are "caring" and "sharing".

One of our members will be recuperating during the holiday season. Mike Domaschofsky, our stalwart Past President, had surgery on his foot on November 28th. His recovery will take several months. For the past three years or so, Mike has been the driving force in putting on the Portland Chapter rhododendron display at the EXPO in February. This display attracts many interested people, who tend to be amazed at the diversity of rhododendrons and it provides a wonderful opportunity for our chapter to educate the public about our favorite genus. *When the clipboard comes around to you at the January meeting, consider giving a little time to make this year's display a project that we can all be proud to claim.*

Another of our members must be recognized for her many years of chairing the Early Show and the Mother's Day Show. Linda Rungay shares her talents with the rest of us on these special weekends, for which we are grateful. Linda's good humor and steady leadership are the attributes that help to create show after successful show.

When we are talking about our shows, Ernie Metcalfe's dedication comes to mind. His hard work, for many years, of setting up and taking down the display benches is legendary! Ernie cares tremendously that the structures of the shows will look right and function correctly.

Without Ann Clack's organizational skills, which are honed to perfection, in running the awarding of the trophies at our shows, we would be lost. The points system is complicated; Ann has created a card system that sorts it all out. Additionally, her jobs lasts far longer than just the duration of the shows. Ann buys trophies, makes cards to encourage and thank trophy donors, photographs the winning trusses with their trophies and announces the trophy winners at our Awards Banquet.

Our chapter is fortunate to have so many caring and sharing members. Thank you all!

Board Meeting Highlights from November 20th

By Maria Stewart

We discussed briefly and then voted to accept the edited version of the Gatehouse Coordinator's Position Description. This was the fourth meeting during which that document has been created and then revised.

It was proposed, discussed and passed that we will donate \$1,000.00 to the A.R.S. to help with a temporary debt problem. Steps are being taken at the national level to alleviate this shortfall in the future.

We discussed the number of events currently being held at Crystal Springs and what we wanted for scheduling events in the future. A committee was formed to work on this and to present a proposal to the board in January, 2013.

The Early Show Dates are April 6th and 7th, 2013.

Growing and Nurturing Germinated Rhododendron Seedlings

By Dr. David Goheen

(Editor's notes: You may have noticed that this article is the third in a series of articles written by Dave Goheen entitled " Rhododendron ABC's". They were published originally from 1992 to 1997 in the Portland Chapter newsletter. Thanks to Polly Mendlin, long-time member, we now have copies of all 26 articles. Please see the *October and November, 2012* newsletters for the first and second articles preceding this one.)

The last discussion focused on germinating rhododendron embryos (seeds) to form new seedlings. Keeping the seeds at about 70 degrees F. on moist, milled sphagnum, 'no-damp-off' seed starter is really the easy part. The next step can be more difficult. "Growing on" or getting seedlings to the stage where they can be set out and treated as specimen plants can be fraught with a number of pitfalls.

I remove the light barrier from over the propagating case as soon as the first signs of germination occur. Seeds typically split their covers and produce light green sprouts which quickly grow into the germinating medium and produce two nascent leaves (the cotyledons). The transparent cover is left on the case to keep the moisture in. Water need not be added for several weeks. It is extremely important that the seed bed not dry out.

The provision of plenty of illumination is the next important step. A fluorescent fixture mounted about a foot above the seed bed gives good results. A "Grow-lux" tube may be somewhat better than an ordinary tube, but the latter actually serves quite well. Some growers believe that a 12-16 hour light period, followed by a dark period, gives better results than continuous illumination. I have found the 24 hour illumination works well and find it more convenient. The important thing is the light so that the plants develop strong, chlorophyll-containing stems and leaves.

About two weeks after illumination begins, I begin fertilizing, which is a good way to provide the extra nutrients the growing plants need. I have used 'Miracid' (Now 'Miracle Gro 30-10-10 Azalea Camellia Rhododendron Plant Food' - Ed.) with success. Begin applying 'Miracid' at about 20% of normal strength solution. Also, you may begin uncovering the seedling box and allowing air to enter. Add the soluble fertilizer weekly and gradually increase the solution strength over time.

In about two to three months, these seedlings should have two or three sets of leaves and be ready to transplant. Even though crowded, the germination bed and container have provided a very protective situation. Transplanting is critical and may result in heavy losses if precautions are not taken. The steps and conditions for transplanting, which can be compared to weaning in the growth and maturation of mammals, will be discussed in the next article, If done carefully, one can have vigorous new plants ready to challenge natural conditions in the landscape in from eight months to one year after the seeds are sown.

Highlights of the November 15, 2012 Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We were treated to an entertaining and educational program by Peter Kendall at our November meeting, with slides of his recent trip to western and southwestern Colorado to see the mountain ranges when the aspen trees were in full fall color. To accompany his talk, Peter gave us a written synopsis of the geology of Colorado which was a very useful and concise background for the images he showed us. It is fun to discover how many members share an interest in geology, geologic history and mountain terrains and the plants native to those regions. Peter gave us a most enjoyable presentation.

Rhododendron companion plants in our gardens: *Oxydendrum arboreum*, brought by Maria Stewart, has fall color and Pieris-like flowers, grows to 75 feet in height; *Aronia arbutifolia* 'brilliantissima', with bright red berries and fall foliage, grows to 5 feet wide by 6 feet tall; *Fothergilla gardenii*, with multi-colored fall foliage, is low-growing, to 3 feet wide by 3 feet high; *Pernettya* (*Gaultheria*) *mucronata* is an evergreen ground-cover or shrublet, with beautiful berries, which can be red, white, pink or purple; *Aronia*, *Fothergilla* and *Pernettya* brought by Peter Kendall. In addition, Dick Cavender brought a very late-blooming azalea hybrid, *R. arborescens* X *prunifolium*, which can bloom in late September on into fall. Please remember to look around your garden for examples to share at our next meeting.

Herb Spady gave us an update on the Smith Garden and spoke of the need for greater participation by the Portland Chapter membership in maintaining the Smith Garden. The annual Smith Garden spring work party is just around the corner in 2013. A new rhododendron garden has been created in Bush Park in Salem, with the unintended consequence of diverting volunteers from the Smith Garden. This is an opportunity for our members to suit up and pitch in.

Mike Domaschofsky covered the upcoming February Home and Garden Show at the Expo center. February 16 and 17 will be set-up days; show days February 20-24th, with tear-down scheduled for the 24th. Our presence at this show is helpful in recruiting new members; we also have the opportunity to compete for the 'Best Display' award. Sign-up sheets will be making the rounds, so please consider volunteering to help.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden: Bob MacArthur reported that the annual Dormancy Luncheon on November 7th had a smaller attendance this year, despite a fine fall day and great food and company. Retaining wall repairs in the Jane Martin Garden are on track with completion expected before New Year; replanting and irrigation system restoration follow, with no shortage of rain and mud anticipated. Wednesday work parties will resume in mid-February, weather permitting.

One suggestion from our November meeting: make notes, share your observations with regard to lacebug infestations - what's attacked, what's untouched in your garden or neighborhood. This might be a useful project for Master Gardeners and interested members, perhaps to help create a database or a spreadsheet to log our information and allow us to share our observations online?

New Sponsor for Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

From Michael Bybee

We're very enthusiastic to have PosterGarden as a major new sponsor of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Early this coming Spring watch for "Garden Volunteers Needed" banners near the garden and a colorful new 10x10 tent at the Mother's Day Show and Sale. These are being provided to us free of charge by PosterGarden, a long-time supporter of gardens and the arts in Portland. We are teaming up with PosterGarden to offer a special Holiday promotion to our garden friends that will directly benefit Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

Between now and January 31st, 2013, any garden friend who makes a donation of \$250.00 or more to Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden will receive a coupon redeemable for a free Limited Addition trekking pole specially designed for nine Portland parks and gardens by PosterGarden. That special garden friend will also receive one free admission to each of four Portland area parks* and gardens* valued at \$29.00. Do you know someone who would also love to support the garden and personally would enjoy or share these valuable gifts? For more information about this holiday promotion benefitting our garden please call Michael Bybee at 503-970-6456.

The 9 Portland parks and gardens are: Audubon Society of Portland; Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden*; Forest Park Conservancy; Hoyt Arboretum; Portland Japanese Garden*; Lan Su Chinese Garden*; Leach Botanical Garden; Pittock Mansion*; Washington Park Rose Garden.

An Ornament to Brighten Your Garden: R. 'Mary Briggs'

By Maria Stewart

Bright red campanulate flowers cover R. 'Mary Briggs' when it blooms in May. The striking color of this rhododendron practically begs us to choose a photograph of it for the December newsletter.

More information about 'Mary Briggs':

The cross: haematodes x 'Elizabeth'

Flower : bright blood red; funnel-campanulate in compact trusses of 8-10 flowers. Bloom time: early to mid-May.

Foliage: medium to dark green leaves, 3" long. It likes a little shade to show off its best qualities.

Plant habit: low-growing, wider than tall; height in 10 years: 2 feet. Cold hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Classification: elepidote.

Hybridizer: Vernon Wyatt.

Photograph courtesy Mike Stewart.



O. Howard Hinsdale Garden Update, Fall 2012

By Gordon Wylie

It's time for an update to Oregon rhododendron enthusiasts after a mid-September visit to the garden and, also, checking out reports of naked ladies cavorting on the lower Umpqua. As often true during the seasonal transition period marking summer's close, the date chosen proved particularly pleasant with clear skies, moderate temperatures and the beginnings of fall color seen as we drove south from Creswell and then turned west toward Reedsport.

Our longtime BLM associates, Archaeologist Steve Samuels and Botanist Jennie Sperling, greeted us as Linda and I arrived around 10:00 AM. Dennis Turowski and Glenn Harkleroad, Field Manager and Asst. Field Manager of the BLM Umpqua Office soon joined us. Also present and new to the project was Mike Kelly, a Park Manager representing the recreational side of BLM efforts. We formed a loose circle to talk over aspects of past, present and future reclamation efforts. Major projects in the near future include installing the bridge spanning the slough between the main and east garden/parking area, and gradually removing the house in a manner it is hoped will encourage resident bats to move to the barn down river from the garden.

Mainly, though, we focused on a means to assure the long-term future of the garden via a non-profit "Friends of Hinsdale Garden" organized under Oregon law. With its roots in nearby Reedsport and adjoining coastal areas, this entity would assure longevity. It would not supplant the ARS District 4 partnership agreement with the BLM; rather, the latter would continue with our group acting as expert advisors and providing other sorts of plant-related assistance to the garden and its supporters. Of course, individual ARS members could also join the Friends organization.

After lunch it was time for the real fun: touring the garden. The Neighborhood Youth Corps has continued working at the garden each year doing general clean up, spreading mulch and other such tasks. They had completed their final efforts this year a few days before, and it was a real pleasure to be able to see and walk freely through an increasingly weed-free environment. Steve and Jennie worked with a local supplier installing a drip irrigation system for donated rhododendrons and those purchased with the ARS Endowment grant, which were planted by our members over the last couple of years. As a result, those plants are becoming well-established and there have been only a few minor losses. And, I'm delighted to report, all of the often-difficult big-leaf species are doing fine.

Oh, yes, the naughty ladies...quite a good number of the South African native, *Amaryllis belladonna*, with their late-appearing pink flowers atop naked stems nodded to us from a driveway island bed. In prior years I noticed only one or two stems; now many more signaled yet another reward from cleaning up and rejuvenating the garden.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: *Maria Stewart*
Vice President: *Brenda Ziegler*
Past President: *Mike Domaschofsky*
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2014) **Ann Clack,**
Ray Clack, Bud Bowen, Kathy Van
Veen, , and Betsy Soifer
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline**
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,
Mike Stewart, Dave Collier

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:

Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522

Tours/Volunteering:

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
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meeting. Send materials to either:
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mail.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, or via mail to: 4765 SW
38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-
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7565.

Website: **www.rhodies.org**; web
master: **Steve Hall and Caroline**
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