

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **February 13, 2013**
First workday at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
- **February 21, 2013**
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: E. White Smith of Bovees Nursery
Program: The RSBG Rutherford Conservatory
Plus: Companion Plant Auction!
- **February 26, 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



The Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden's Rutherford Conservatory

By Tom Hoffman

Our speaker this month will be E. White Smith. Many of us know him, however there may be a few things we did not know. For instance, did you know he was in the very first Master Gardener class in the world? It was conducted in Fife, Washington and started by Dr. David Gibby, WSU Extension Service in 1972, 40 years ago!

E. White Smith has had greenhouses for over 40 years, where he has propagated rhododendrons, including vireyas. E. White now has the world's largest private collection of vireyas. He has been a member of the ARS since March, 1960 and is a Life Member. He and his wife, Lucie Sorenson-Smith, have named and registered several vireyas; Lucie has named more hybrids than E. White, to date. Lucie owns Bovees Nursery in Portland, where they make their home. The nursery is 60 years old and is a world-class garden and nursery specializing in sub-tropical rhododendrons and rare alpine, rock garden and other choice woodland plants. If you haven't visited Bovees, make it a destination for 2013. You will feel as though you were in a tropical paradise.

E. White's topic will be "The Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden's Rutherford Conservatory". The Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden is very near to his heart: he was on the original crew which unloaded and planted the very first rhododendrons there. He is now the sole surviving member of that work crew.

The presentation will be a multi-media one. If you want to get a preview, you can go to: <http://www.rhodygarden.org/conservatory.html> online.

In addition to a fascinating talk, this meeting has our traditional companion plant auction and Valentine's Day candy event, "Sweets for the Sweet" so please, remember to bring plants for the auction and candy for the "Sweet"!

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 March, 2013:

February 13, 2013
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Work Day
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, weather permitting

February 21, 2013
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: E. White Smith, Bovees Nursery
Topic: The RSBG Rutherford Conservatory
Plus: Our companion plant auction and "Sweets for the Sweet"

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

March 21, 2013
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: TBA
March 23, 2013
Smith Garden Work Party
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, weather permitting

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

Haiku

The golden maple
--an eye-jarring leap into
disintegration

Heavenly bamboo
-- a fall night's rain leaves the world
in its reflection

Winter's rising sun
In its fullness to the west
cloud-crossed golden moon

Another New Year
Winds from the east-- relentless
A cutting night chill

The east winds have ceased
To the west, a valley's clouds
accept a sinking sun

By Peter Kendall

Show and Tell

Please remember to bring a show and tell item from your garden to the meeting. We are establishing a new tradition, sharing information about our rhododendron companion plants with our fellow members. What's in your garden? Or greenhouse, for that matter, sharing space with vireyas and other tender rhododendrons, perhaps ?

From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

Plants are stirring in our garden on the late January days. The Cyclamen coum are free of snow and are showing bright spots of color even on a rainy day. The Viburnum X bodnantense 'Dawn' has been bravely trying to fully bloom for a month now. Close to the house, where the shade is heavy, the Sarcococca's tiny white blooms will soon fill that area with fragrance. By the front walk, the reticulata iris are poking through the soil. And everywhere, the buds on our rhododendrons are swelling and proudly displaying themselves on the tops of their branches. Is it too much to hope for, that we won't have an arctic blast of very cold weather in February?

Now is the time to sign up for two events that bring the public to us and give us the opportunity to encourage people to learn about us. First up is the *Home and Garden Show at the EXPO on February 20-24*. Please contact Dick Cavender to help set up our display garden February 16-17, to take a shift during the show, or to help take down the display. His telephone number is: 503-625-6331, or e-mail him at red@redsrhodies.com.

For a series of 14 Saturdays and Sundays, 14 days total, starting on April 6th, the *Smith Garden will hold its open garden days in St. Paul* when the garden is open to the public. This is another wonderful opportunity to talk with visitors and encourage them to learn about rhododendrons. Please contact Dorothy Patrick to take a shift from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Dorothy's telephone number is 503-625-6584, or you can e-mail her at dpscoty@starband.net.

See you at our regular meeting on February 21st when we treat everyone to "Sweets for the Sweet!"

Remembering John Platt

By Maria Stewart

As a Portland Chapter member for about 60 years, we remember John Platt as a generous and hard-working man; he worked diligently with his wife, Jane Platt, to create one of Portland's finest private gardens. John was a member of the Portland Chapter until he passed away on January 9, 2013 at the age of 100. His family wrote these words about John in recognition of his many fine qualities: "...For the next 20 years, he devoted himself to helping his wife, Jane, develop and perfect one of Portland's finest gardens. There was never a rock he could not move, a hole too deep or a limb too high. Until his very last days, he held on to the wonder and splendor of the natural world. And to those who had the good fortune to know him, he remained a model, one of the last great gentlemen."

In 1995, when we held the 50th Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society in Portland, one of the highlights of that convention was touring the Jane Platt Garden. Then, in 2011, during the convention in Vancouver, Washington, attendees were again very fortunate to be able to tour that garden. It was through the generosity of John Platt and the Platt Family that we were able to view the beauty of the garden during both conventions and we are grateful for those wonderful experiences. It is good news that the family intends to preserve and care for the garden well into the future.

Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights: January 22, 2013

By Maria Stewart

The board voted and passed the update of the Events Coordinator for CSRG Position Description document. It will now be included in the Policies of the Board.

Another document that describes the number of events allowable during one event season was discussed and it will be edited further before it is voted on.

Mike Domaschofsky reported on the Portland Chapter display garden to be created at the EXPO on February 16-17. The show runs February 20-24 and the take-down is on February 24-25.

The rock retaining wall repair in the Jane Martin Garden at CSRG is almost finished. The new bike racks have been installed near the CSRG gatehouse entrance.

We also discussed the spread of the lace bug on rhododendrons and how we could provide a public service to inform people about the problem. This discussion will continue during the next board meeting. We will have a poster about the lace bug at our display at the EXPO show.

Highlights of the January 17, 2013 Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We were only the 2nd group to enjoy Steve Hootman's account of the Rhododendron Species Garden's collecting trip to China in October, 2012. Steve is the Executive Director and Curator of the RSBG in Federal Way, Washington. Steve and his colleagues returned to Sichuan, Guizhou and Guangxi provinces in southern China to explore several mountains, winding up their trip in Taiwan. In addition to a treasure-trove of rhododendron species, Steve's presentation showed us a beautiful range of gesneriads, ferns and unusual, rare shrubs and trees, which the crew at the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden are hoping to coax to survive and grow from the seeds, cuttings and plants Steve brought back. Watch for updates on that project!

Steve shared his images of the dramatic growth underway in those three regions of China, with a running commentary on the food they encountered along the way, ethnic and tribal groups and environmental concerns. Steve gave us an educational, informative and very enjoyable presentation.

E. White Smith presided over our raffle and asked us to remember to bring plants and note cards for the raffle.

Peter Kendall spoke briefly in memory of John Platt and shared with us the good news that the Platt's garden will remain in the family.

Bob MacArthur reminded us that regular Wednesday workdays commence at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on February 13th this year, and Herb Spady spoke again of the need for more volunteers at the Smith Garden in St. Paul.

Dick Cavender talked about the upcoming Home and Garden Show this month at the EXPO Center and Mike Domaschofsky covered the Early Show and Mother's Day Show preparations; because this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Portland Japanese Garden, we will not have rhodies for sale at the Japanese Garden this year. At this point, we have not had any contact from the Portland Chinese Garden and must assume we will not have plants for sale there this year.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Receives New Garden Tent and Banner from PosterGarden

Please turn to page 7 in this newsletter for photos of the new garden tent and banner received from PosterGarden at no charge to Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. The banner is up on S.E. 28th and Woodstock and the tent is stored at the garden. The photographs reproduced on all four sides of the tent are drawn from the work of Ernie Metcalfe, Bob MacArthur, Pat Frobes and Donna Giguere, depicting Crystal Springs scenes. Crystal Springs volunteer Michael Bybee deserves our thanks for facilitating this gift to the garden.

Volunteer Opportunities At The Smith Garden

By Dorothy Patrick

Hello everyone!

Now is the time of year that I start recruiting volunteers to work at the Smith Garden open garden days, selling plants and/or taking admissions. Shifts are 5 hours, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on a Saturday or a Sunday in April or May, beginning Saturday, April 6th and running through Sunday, May 19th, 2013. The garden is only open a total of 14 days out of the year. We need only 2 people per day, minimum, although Don and I prefer 4 people, as we really enjoy visiting with another person or couple. The sign-up sheet will be at the February meeting, but you can call me, e-mail me or snail-mail me: 'phone: 503-625-6584; e-mail: dpscoty@starband.net; mail: 24031 S.W. Morgan Lane, Sherwood, OR 97140

...and don't forget to save Saturday, March 23, 2013 for the Smith Garden Work Day!

Many thanks!

A Brilliant Beauty for Your Garden: R. 'Candycorn'

By Maria Stewart

When asked to choose his favorite one among his many hybrids, Don Wallace says that R. 'Candycorn' still stands out as his favorite. With its full dome trusses displaying all of the colors of the traditional Halloween candy of the same name, this rhododendron is sure to please. Briggs nursery is currently producing many of this clone, so it may be more readily available for you to acquire. Thank you, Don, for creating a wonderful rhododendron for us to enjoy. Here is additional information about R. 'Candycorn':

The cross: (Nancy Evans x Orange Marmalade) X (Orange Marmalade x Lem's Cameo)

Flowers: All the colors of candy corn including cream blending with brilliant yellow, orange-pink edging and a red throat.

The truss: a full dome with 15 flowers per truss; height 4", width 6"

Corolla shape: funnel campanulate; lobe margins are wavy

Buds: vivid red; heavy budding every year

Leaves: dark, strong green; 4" long, 2" wide, elliptic

Height in 10 years: 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide

Habit: low and mounding

Hardiness: plant hardiness is 0 degrees F and bud hardiness is 5 degrees F.

Exposure: Grows well in sun or shade

Photo courtesy of Don Wallace



New Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Banner and Tent, Courtesy of PosterGarden



Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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Veen, , and Betsy Soifer
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline**
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,
Mike Stewart, Dave Collier

GARDEN INFO:
Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

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Rose Kress, 503-654-4318
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Kathy Van Veen, 503-777-1734
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Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: **Ginny Mapes**, 503-647-2896

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a local Chapter of the American Rho-
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dues to both the national society and
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