

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- September 19, 2013
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Cutting Exchange
Speakers: Mike
Stewart and Kathy
Van Veen
Program: Deciduous
Azaleas and their
Propagation
- September 24, 2013
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery
- September 25, 2013
12:30 PM Cool House
Crystal Springs R.G.
Garden Maintenance
Committee Meeting

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



September Program: Deciduous Azaleas and Their Propagation

By Brenda Ziegler

Our speakers will be Mike Stewart and Kathy Van Veen. Mike and Kathy will give our Chapter a preview of their talk for the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference. They will collaborate in a seminar demonstrating various methods of propagating deciduous azaleas. These two propagating experts will help you understand the difficulties in propagating deciduous azaleas and how to succeed in rooting these beautiful plants. They will also show pictures of many outstanding varieties that are generally not available in the trade. Cuttings of these increasingly rare plants were taken in the spring this year and will be available to you in 2014.

A little about our speakers:

Kathy Van Veen owns the world-renowned Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon. It is said she “can put roots on a pencil”. As the third-generation owner of the nursery, she is well known for her ability to root rhododendron and azalea cuttings. She is sent cuttings by people all over North America to be rooted for them since her ability is so widely known. She also has a vast knowledge of rhododendron and azalea varieties. Kathy is a recent recipient of the prestigious Gold Medal from the American Rhododendron Society and has served the ARS in many ways over the years. She always gives an entertaining program that provides much knowledge.

Mike Stewart is a rhododendron expert from Sandy, Oregon. With his wife, Maria, he owns Dover Nursery which is known for its outstanding selection of rhododendrons, both species and hybrids, the best to be found. He is a Gold Medal recipient (the highest award from the ARS) and a professional with excellent speaking skills that everyone enjoys. Mike is very active with the ARS, having been a recent ARS president. Mike is currently the President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. He never knows when to say “no” in the service of rhododendrons and has a speaking schedule that few people could keep up with. What he says is always worth hearing!

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 November, 2013:

September 19, 2013

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Cutting Exchange

Speakers: Mike Stewart and

Kathy Van Veen

Program: Deciduous Azaleas and Their Propagation

September 24, 2013

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

September 25, 2013

Crystal Springs R. G.

Garden Maintenance Committee Meeting

12:30 PM in Cool House

October 5, 2013

Smith Garden Fall Work Party

8:00 AM - or when you can get there! Lunch will be served

October 17, 2013

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Speaker: Dick Cavender

Program: Rhododendron occidentale, The Outlaw Species

October 22, 2013

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

The poet's garden
The depth of bird song--whether
within or without

First light, then shadow
Breezes-- above and below
-- a world in motion

The sinuous road
Tracing its own path, shadow
of the butterfly

Tumble of the falls
Above ripples of the pond
waterstriders at play

What a mare's tail cloud
Horizon to horizon
in a single sweep

By Peter Kendall

Show and Tell

Please remember to bring a show and tell item from your garden to our meetings. 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

What a glorious summer this has been and September promises more of the same good weather! We had better savor this fall because if we believe in the Farmers Almanac's weather predictions, we are in for a dry and cold winter. That's *not* the kind of winter that our rhododendrons appreciate, so let's hope that the Almanac prediction is off the mark!

The Smith Garden Soiree, on August 15th, was a lovely evening of great potluck food and convivial conversation. Members Ted and Paula Hewitt, and Gordon and Linda Wylie, came from as far away as the Eugene area! We all admired the newly painted Cecil and Molly Smith house with its carefully coordinated earth tone colors. (See the article in this newsletter written by Jane Mays about the work done on the house.) Another highlight was Tom Gressler speaking about his life and his connections to the Smith Garden. The Garden was beautiful and we left feeling that it was a special evening.

There is still time to register at the lower rate for the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport, Oregon on September 27th-29th. You save \$10.00 if you register before September 10th. See the insert in the Summer Issue of the ARS Journal for registration details. Don't miss the opportunity to hear 18 speakers on a wide variety of rhododendron and gardening topics.

Have you been looking around your garden for some cuttings to bring to our September meeting? Your treasures will enhance another member's garden when you bring a few cuttings to our exchange on September 19th. It's always fun to see the varieties that appear on the table and the ensuing conversation about the mother plants is priceless. See you at the meeting!

Sellwood Bridge Southbound Off-Ramp Now Closed

Courtesy of Paul Rogers and The Oregonian newspaper

Until a new a new structure is built in the future, the "...little curlicue ramp southbound..." on the west end of the Sellwood Bridge is now closed. Motorists who are southbound on Oregon 43 must now drive north on SW Macadam (Oregon 43) to SW Taylor's Ferry Rd. and make a U-turn onto the southbound Taylor's Ferry Rd. loop in order to get back onto southbound Oregon 43. So that's a U-turn onto an often crowded SW Taylor's Ferry Rd. in order to get through the traffic signal at the intersection of SW Taylor's Ferry Rd. and SW Macadam (Oregon 43) and back onto southbound Oregon 43. Fortunately, Oregon 43 usually has both southbound lanes open again by nightfall. Heading to our September meeting, eastbound over the Sellwood Bridge should not pose a problem. To avoid the Sellwood Bridge going home, your editor takes SE Woodstock to SE 28th and SE 28th to SE Holgate, at which point there are two options: take SE Holgate to SE McLoughlin and turn north on SE McLoughlin and follow the signs to the Ross Island Bridge, or, take SE Holgate to SE 26th, SE 26th to SE Powell, go west on SE Powell and cross the Ross Island Bridge to SW Barbur or other points SW.

Smith Garden Report

By Jane Mays

Hello All,

As one of the hundreds of life forms happily living at Smith Garden, I want to welcome each of you to come and see the amazing transformation that has taken place.

As you walk from the public parking lot, notice the refreshed gate house that Tom has repaired and re-stained. Notice also the wooden shelf below the window recently refurbished by Bob and Tom.

As you turn toward the sales area, notice that you do NOT SEE the harsh white house beyond the picnic table. Thanks to Dick and the Smith Garden Committee, the exterior of the house has been repaired and repainted in a warm chocolate brown and caramel tan: the house finally recedes into the background, visually popping the rhodies, fir trees and other plants forward!

The weathered gables of the house have been repaired and resurfaced. Our contractor, Mike Buckman, suggested that he put vertical battens on the gables to echo the vertical ridges on the roof and the brown siding. The frumpy white mildewed gables have disappeared and now flow with the rest of the esthetic of the architecture.

For the first time you will be able to see how the horizontal porches cantilever forward, because they are painted a buttery tan against the siding on the main structure. The wooden guard rails added to the porches several years ago make sense now, echoing the Frank Lloyd Wright style rectangular projection.

Tom and I looked for a green color that resembled sunlight on rhody leaves for the exterior doors. We found a color named 'balsam' but I call it 'happy green'. When Tom and I finished painting the doors we noticed that the work room door now glows to warmly welcome the guests who need to use it.

So please join us in October for the Fall Work Party when we snug Smith Garden up and put her to bed for the winter, and see the changes for yourselves! The Spring Work Party (usually in March) will be a good time to see the early daffodils and other bulbs emerging as we prepare the garden for the riot of color that blossoms during Open Garden weekends. In all cases, we will gather to savor good friends and care for the beauty of this little-known jewel along the Willamette.

The Garden is cohesive now; the house seems to have snuggled into a comfortable place, no longer arguing with the plants for prominence. The sky is bluer, the firs taller, the leaves greener, and even R. 'Cinnamon Bear' has stepped forward when viewed against the brown house...I think Cecil and Molly are smiling at the lovely mature garden they envisioned.

Information and location of the garden can be found here:

<http://smithgarden.org/smithgarden.org/Welcome.html>

Please join us!

Jane

Smith Garden Fall Work Party

By Herb Spady

Mark **Saturday, October 5th** on your calendar for the Fall Smith Garden Work Party. Join with other enthusiasts in caring for rhododendrons and companion plants in a beautiful setting. Starting time is 8:00 AM or whenever you can arrive. *The usual delicious lunch will be served.* Major tools are supplied, but if you have favorite light gardening tools, please bring them along. Directions are available in the garden website: <http://smithgarden.org>. (See also the August issue of *Rhododendron News*. Ed.) Come to support the garden and experience a jolly garden time with your friends.

Smith Garden house showing its new colors.



Smith Garden Soiree', August 15, 2013.
Photo courtesy of Dick Cavender.

Az. 'Washington State Centennial'

By Don Wallace

This spectacular deciduous azalea was chosen to be Washington State's Centennial Celebration flower, and if you have one, you will know why. It was created by the late Frank Mossman, who spent many years trekking through the natural habitat of *R. occidentale* looking for the best and most unusual forms. The hybrid is a cross between the Western Azalea and the East Coast native *R. cumberlandense*, then crossed again with an Oregon hybrid, Az 'Santiam'.

The flowers are like the Western Azalea, *R. occidentale*, on steroids. The cream, pink, yellow and orange flowers are huge and showy. Also, the foliage is very dark green and textured, offering interest. The plant grows slowly to 4 feet tall and wide. Stunning!

Photo courtesy Don Wallace.



September Cutting Exchange From Brenda Ziegler

The first meeting of the fall provides an opportunity for you to bring a few cuttings from your garden, and also to choose a few cuttings brought by another member. Please bring your cuttings in a labeled plastic bag with just enough moisture to keep them fresh. Your label should include the name of the plant as well as your name. Including your name is helpful, so the recipient can ask you questions and get details on the plant.



Smith Garden photo courtesy Don Patrick

The Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

September 27-29, 2013

At the Best Western Agate Beach Hotel in Newport, Oregon

The Chapters of Portland, Tualatin, Willamette, Siuslaw, Southwestern and Eugene invite you to attend this excellent conference.

You will experience a wide selection of clinics on Saturday and Sunday mornings and two banquets with evening speakers from different corners of the world.

18 speakers ---- a big plant sale ---- lower room prices than in 2007!

Start planning now to attend this great conference in your own backyard.

Look for registration details in the Summer ARS Journal.

The beautiful Pacific Ocean beckons to you in the warm days of September.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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Veen, and Betsy Soifer**
(Through June 30, 2015) **Caroline
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,
Mike Stewart, Dave Collier**

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