

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- November 13, 2013
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
Time: 12:00 Noon
- November 21, 2013
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM Social time
7:30 PM Meeting
Program: The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden
- November 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



November Program: Thankful for Our Own “Cecil and Molly Smith Garden”

By Brenda Ziegler

Our presentation this month is very near and dear to our hearts. There will be highlights on why we are thankful for the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, a natural woodland garden. This garden is owned and operated by The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. The Portland Chapter could not maintain the garden without the support and hard work of volunteers and members from additional A.R.S. Chapters, including Tualatin Valley, Willamette, and more. We also want to be sure new members and guests are aware of our “Treasure”. There will be slides, information on the upcoming book, and there are stories...

Participants highlighting this month’s presentation are: Ginny Mapes; Herb Spady; Don and Dorothy Patrick; and Tom Gressler. Each plays a significant role in the garden. We are going to hear why they are thankful for Smith Garden, and also about their roles over the years with Smith Garden.

Topics will be:

- *History of the Smith Family
- *The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden
- *Friendships formed because of Rhododendrons, in particular species
- *The Portland Chapter’s purchase of the Smith Garden
- *Propagation and sales of plants from the Smith Garden
- *Life and living at The Garden

We could have included so many other people and stories, and wish time would have allowed for it. We want to give special recognition and thanks to Dick and Karen Cavender, Ed and Fran Egan, and Anne Gross. We hope at the end of the talk we will be able to hear some additional stories...Dick?...Karen?...Anne?

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in keeping The Smith Garden vibrant and fabulous. It would not be so grand if it weren’t for all of you.

We also invite each and every one of you to visit the garden and volunteer there. This is a ‘secret’ worth sharing.

For a little preview, you can view the garden at: www.smithgarden.org

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, 2014:

November 21, 2013

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: The Smith Garden

Speakers: Herb Spady, Ginny Mapes, Tom Gressler, Don and Dorothy Patrick

November 26, 2013

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

December 19, 2013

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 and digital images

No December Board Meeting - Happy Holidays!

January 16, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: TBA

January 21, 2014

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Fall's diminished sun
Beneath the maples, the birth
of renewed coolness

The arc of the koi
beneath the punctuation
of falling raindrops

Fall's subsiding sun
The calligraphic dark side
of billowing cloud

Early autumn dusk
The stature of the garden
slip sliding away

Swirling autumn storm
Hunched up, motionless -- those
powerline pigeons

Trying to devine
sounds of the drumming gutter
this day of puddles

Skirting the hillside --
waves of undulating fog
The tree has vanished

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 ?

President's Musings for November

By Maria Stewart

Oh, what a fine October this has been, with blazing leaves and sun-filled days! It's difficult to keep your eyes on your work when all around you there are brightly colored deciduous trees and shrubs in transition to a colder season. The Cyclamen hederifoliumsnuggle under the blankets of fallen leaves. Above the Cyclamen's pastel mauve flowers, the lingering lace cap and mop head Hydrangeas still display their summer blue hues here and there. Their colors are subtle and beg you to notice them, but not the deciduous azaleas! Their brilliant orange, amber, peachy pink and maroon leaves shout out at you to notice them. Like a second blooming season, azaleas such as R. 'Mandarin lights', R. 'Weston's Lollipop', R. 'Mary Poppins', R. 'Northern Hi-Lights', R. vaseyi, R. schlippenbachii and R. 'Washington State Centennial' flaunt their amazing foliage. If you choose your deciduous azaleas for their fall leaf color, you gain the additional benefit of none or very little mildew on the leaves. That's always a bonus! Structurally, also, the compact-growing and small-leaved azaleas make fine shapes in your garden. We enjoy the R. viscosum by our back walk because it grows at a moderate speed; its branches form a rather dense and attractively rounded shape. However, its structure is not the only reason R. viscosum was chosen to grow by our back walk. In June, its tubular white and very fragrant flowers send a sweet-smelling signal to come and find the source of that alluring scent. Now you see, with selected deciduous azaleas, there are three reasons to be attracted to them: colorful fall foliage without mildew, fragrances, and attractive structures.



Parrotia persica, Persian Ironwood, a member of the witch-hazel family, in fall foliage.
Photograph courtesy of Mike Stewart.

October 22nd Board Meeting Highlights

By Maria Stewart

We were pleased to hear Rachael Moloney give her report on a successful events season at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Rachael and her crew have managed 33 events this spring and summer season, making hundreds of attendees comfortable at the Garden. Rachael has also expanded the Garden's publicity outreach by using Facebook. You can view the beautiful photos of events that Rachael has posted by going to our website www.rhodies.org and clicking on Crystal Springs. You can then click on the Events Facebook page on the right-hand sidebar.

We learned from Kathy Van Veen and Betsy Soifer that there is a demand for tours to be given at Crystal Springs. We need volunteers to give the tours in the spring of 2014. The tours will start in April and continue through June. There is a script about the Garden that the tour guides can use. If you are interested in volunteering to give tours, please contact Maria Stewart at maria@dovernursery.com

We are considering planning a spring garden tour for members who are interested. We can either visit gardens in the Portland area or travel farther out of the local area. Stay tuned for additional information.

Please pay Your A.R.S. Dues Now! A.R.S. Dues are Due!

Make everyone happy that *you* are a member of the American Rhododendron Society *and* make sure you receive your A.R.S. *Journal* on time by sending in your dues now.

Dick Cavender is intently waiting for your dues. Please mail your dues to:

A.R.S. 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:

A.R.S. Membership
John Welsh
37106 SE Lusted Rd
Boring, OR 97009-9706

October 17th Chapter meeting

By Tom Hoffman

Dick Cavender gave us a fascinating look at *R. occidentale* across its range, which is primarily the west slope of the Coast Ranges and the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains, in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. Dick shared his terrific selection of photos from over 50 years of hunting and collecting *R. occidentale*. Like *R. macrophyllum*, *R. occidentale* can burn to the ground in a forest fire and resprout from the roots; it revels in the reduced competition brought about by fire. *R. occidentale* is also adapted to serpentine soils, and seasonal flooding, which again reduce competition from many other plants. One special 'companion plant' in a limited area in the wild is *Kalmiopsis leachiana*. Thrives in disturbed areas, resprouts after fire, tolerates flooding and serpentine soils? That's our native azalea! *And* it's beautiful and fragrant! In the 2006 A.R.S. *Journal*, Mike Oliver's article, "R. occidentale and its Habitats" is a good follow-up and has additional references listed.

Mike Stewart reported on the success of The Western Regional Conference in Newport, Oregon, September 27-29. Also, Mike brought up the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the founding of the A.R.S. and the idea of putting Portland's name in place of an east coast location to host that celebration.

We heard reports that the October 5th work party at the Smith Garden was a success, with beautiful weather, good food and a good group of workers.

A similar project, 'Parke Diem' at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on October 12th was also well-attended and productive.

Our traditional rhododendron species auction featured an interesting range of plants, not to mention tempting. Of particular note were the dwarf rhododendrons brought by Jay Lunn, which were suitable for rock gardens and containers, and *R. occidentale* from Dick Cavender. An amusing history of plant-swapping among our members emerged in the course of the auction, with such sharing coming full circle at the auction.

E. White Smith conducted our raffle, and we had a variety of companion plants on offer. E. White reminded us to bring rhody- and garden-related items for the raffle.

Our monthly 'show-and-tell' saw a collection of fall foliage from Peter Kendall's garden, and an arrangement of *Tricyrtus formosanus* in flower, with *Disanthus cercidifolius* foliage in brilliant fall color, brought by Bill Zanze. *Disanthus* is another quietly attractive member of the witch hazel family, like *Parrotia*, until the arrival of autumn, when it becomes a blaze of color in the garden.

A Beauty with Three Outstanding Attributes: R. 'Klondyke'

By Maria Stewart

This Exbury deciduous azalea has a long history. The Exbury hybrids were developed by Lionel de Rothschild in Southampton, England starting in the 1920's and continuing through the 1930's. Many of the seedlings were nearly lost during World War II, but, fortunately, the Exbury Gardens and the azalea seedlings were carefully restored after the War. The date recognized for R. 'Klondyke' is 1947, but that could be the year it was named.

Now here is more about R. 'Klondyke' and its three attributes of brilliant flowers, attractive foliage, and fragrance:

Flowers: golden yellow with orange tones; very showy. They attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

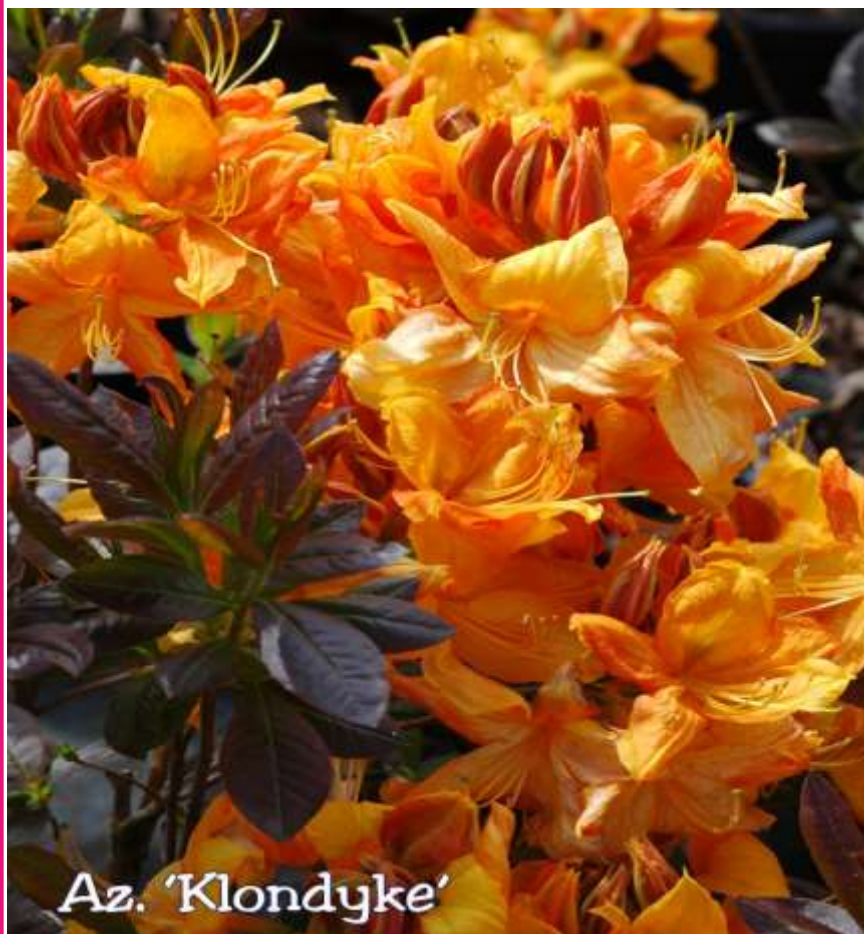
Fragrance: Yes!

Leaves: The new growth is bronzy and all the leaves are mildew-resistant.

Growth rate: moderate grower to 5 feet wide and tall at maturity.

Hardiness: -15 degrees F.

Sunlight needs: partial to full sun



Az. 'Klondyke'

Photograph courtesy of Don Wallace.



Smith Garden photo courtesy Don Patrick



Don and Dorothy Patrick, long-serving volunteers at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden. The Patricks will be speaking at our November meeting on the Smith 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, 2015) **Caroline
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins, Bill
Zanze, Dave Collier**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:

Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522

Tours/Volunteering:

csrgvol@me.com

Gatehouse:

Tom Hoffman, 503-452-0975

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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dues to both the national society and
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mail.com** or via mail to: 4201 SE
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,
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yahoo.com**, 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
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Membershi p Updates: John
Wel sh, Membershi p Chair, e-
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503-663-6987