

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- January 16, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: Terry Olsen,
Emerald Stone Masonry on stonework in the landscape
- January 21, 2014
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery
- February 20, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: TBA
Companion Plant Auction
Continued on page 2

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 Design and Integration of Stonework, Native Plants and Rhododendrons into Landscapes

By Terry Olsen and Chris Randles

The speakers for our January meeting will be Terry Olsen, President & Craftsman, Emerald Stone Masonry; Chris Randles, Designer & Craftsman, Emerald Stone Masonry; and Steve Housel, Owner, Changing Landscapes, Inc.

Terry Olsen began his career in stone masonry in 1997. In 1999, he and his wife Jenny started Emerald Stone Masonry, Inc. focusing on quality craftsmanship with a creative twist. In 2003, they invited Chris Randles, an artist and designer, to join the company. Since then, their projects have ranged from custom residential remodeling of landscapes and buildings, to unique commercial and public works. They enjoy collaborating with landscape designers, architects, artists and contractors.

Terry always says how grateful he is to have worked in Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Some of their projects at CSRG are: the Peninsula Terrace walls, steps and flagstone landings; the flagstone on the Concrete Bridge; and the long Stone Bench in the wildlife viewing area near the low bridge.

Additional high-profile public projects on which Emerald has worked are: The Portland Children's Museum Outdoor Adventure Area (opening on Earth Day, 2014); Randal Children's Hospital ER entrance garden; Willamette Falls Hospital Emergency Turnaround; Oneonta Pedestrian Tunnel Restoration in the Columbia Gorge; and many exciting residential projects around the Portland metro area.

They are also known for their quality and creativity when it comes to residential work. They specialize in creating hardscapes within the landscape that are as much of a feature in the garden as the planting design. In their presentation, we will see how unique, well-crafted stonework adds unmatched value and beauty to gardens in the Northwest. From their portfolio of nearly 15 years' of projects, they will show us photos of feature projects and specialty elements within the gardens they construct.

For a sneak preview, Emerald Stone Masonry's website, esmasonry.com, has photos of their work.

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, 2014:

January 16, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: Design and Integration of Stonework in Garden Landscapes

Speaker: Terry Olsen

January 21, 2014

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

February 12, 2014

Tentative start date at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

February 20-24, 2014

**Portland Home & Garden Show
Volunteers needed!**

February 20, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: TBA

Companion Plant Auction

February 25, 2014

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

March 20, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: TBA

Spring begins

Haiku

Plunging temperatures
A night sky with its moon and
stars beyond counting

Those few scattered leaves
In the window, ice crystals
in the morning sun

Hills in silhouette
A crescent moon and Venus
in cold clear brilliance

From a morning's fog
the frost-rimed garden, before
the sun has its way

Engulfing the chill
an impenetrable fog
and the sun -- so near

By Peter Kendall

Question from last Month:

What process makes the leaves of rhododendrons roll up during freezing weather? We know that the plant is conserving moisture by reducing the exposed area of the leaves, thus reducing the amount of transpiration that takes place. But *how* does that process happen? There is an article about this process in the Fall 2013 *ARS Journal* on page 196. The author is Rajeev Arora of Iowa State University. Dick Cavender has contributed photos and temperature readings from the Cavender garden in Sherwood for this newsletter, from early December, 2013.



Photo by Bob MacArthur

From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

In the absence of a snowy winter wonderland for the holidays, we instead are searching for the beauty in fog and mist. We should remind ourselves, however, that Mother Nature provides visual attractions even in weather that is quiet and slow moving. If it gets cold enough at night, you may see delicate crystals of ice that have formed on the leaves of the rhododendrons in your garden. You may notice the details of red or purple berries showing against the green backgrounds of your rhododendrons. The fat, tawny brown buds of your R. 'Mardi Gras' and the large, pointed red buds of your R. 'Taurus' may attract your attention this month. If you are fortunate enough to have a large R. sinogrande or a R. macabeum with huge buds proudly sitting atop the enormous leaves, there is not another sight more glorious in the genus. Even the bare branches of the deciduous azaleas such as R. viscosum and the deciduous species such as R. mucronulatum offer contrast with the deeply pigmented and verdant background of the evergreen rhododendrons. Our rhododendrons are truly beautiful in all of the four seasons.

This month's newsletter focuses on winter's subtle beauty and on the effects of winter on our rhododendrons. Please take a little time to enjoy the photos that we included in this issue. Then, go walking in your garden and discover or rediscover the beauty of your rhododendrons.

Rhododendrons Showing *Thermonasty* (Rolling of Their Leaves)

By Dick Cavender

On Saturday, December 28th, I was a guest on the Mike Darcy "In the Garden" radio program. Among other subjects, we talked about how rhododendrons roll up their leaves during sub-freezing temperatures. Here are the temperatures that I recorded during that cold stretch of weather in early December and some of the photos I took of our plants reacting to the cold. I also sent these photos to Mike Darcy as illustrations of *thermonasty* in rhododendrons.

December 7th: morning low as 16 degrees F. and daytime high was 22 degrees F.

December 8th: morning low was 10 degrees F. and the high was 21 degrees F. It was 18 degrees F. when the photos were taken.

December 9th: morning low was 12 degrees F. and the high was 25 degrees F.

December 11th: the low was 22.5 degrees F. and the high was 33.3 degrees F. This was the first day above freezing.

December 12th: the low was 18.3 degrees F. It was 33 degrees F. at 5:50 PM and 39.9 degrees F at 11:30 PM.

December 13th: the low was 41.5 degrees F. and the high was 46 degrees F.

The photos below show rhododendrons in the Cavender garden near Sherwood, Oregon during both sub-freezing temperatures and also after the temperatures rose above freezing. I am happy to report that our *R. macabeanum*, rated at +20 degrees F. hardiness, is undamaged and that its buds look good.



West Bed on 12/8/2013



R. macabeanum on 12/8/2013

**Rhododendrons Showing
Thermonasty, continued**



West Bed 12/28/2013

Photos courtesy of Dick Cavender



Do you recognize this stonework? Photo from 2009, courtesy Emerald Stone Masonry.

A Star in the Rhododendron Universe: R. 'Starbright Champagne'

By Maria Stewart

The flowers of R. 'Starbright Champagne' are strikingly different from other hybrid rhododendron flowers. You can imagine Frank Fujioka seeing his creation blooming for the first time and almost instantly thinking that the corollas look like five-pointed stars. Emphasizing the star-like quality is the dominant creamy color of champagne. Bursting out of the center of every champagne corolla is a fiery, deep orange-red flare. All of this visual energy sits atop a medium-growing, compact plant. Here is more about this wonderful rhododendron:

Corollas: five pointed petals with creamy champagne background and a fiery, deep orange-red flare bursting out of the center; blooms in May

Leaves: medium green and somewhat pointed

Form: compact growing, dense and rounded; grows to about 4 feet in 10 years

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Parentage: (('Yaku Sunrise' x 'Hansel') X 'Lem's Cameo')

Hybridizer: Frank Fujioka; hybridized in 1983 and registered in 1995



Photograph courtesy Mike Stewart

67th Annual Portland Home & Garden Show, February 20 - 24, 2014

By Dick Cavender

It's that time of year again. Portland Chapter of the ARS will have a rhody garden at the Portland Home & Garden Show, February 20 - 24, 2014. I will be looking for volunteers to staff the information table at the show. I will have the sign-up sheet at the January and February meetings. However, for the best choice of day and time, call me at 503-625-6331 or e-mail me at: red@redsrhodies.com. Portland Chapter members need to be aware that the Portland meeting is on February 20, so they will only have the January meeting to choose a shift.

As in the past few years, there will be no admission tickets for ARS volunteers. Instead, volunteer staff need to check in at the "Will Call" window and get their hands stamped, which will allow them free admission to the Show. Shifts will be 3 or 4 hours each.

The show this year is only 4 days instead of 5 and will occupy only 2 buildings rather than 3 as in the past. Our garden will be just inside the main entrance to building E, a prime location.

Show hours:

Thursday, 2/21/2014: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Friday, 2/22/2014: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday, 2/23/2014: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday, 2/24/2014: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

We will also need help setting up and removing the Garden. I am not sure what day we will set up but quite possibly on 2/17/2014, Monday. We will take down the Garden on the 24th. I am not certain of this yet, but there may be about 2 or 3 pickup loads of FREE mulch to be removed, so bring your truck.

Event Calendar 2014 - 2015

April 5 & 6, 2014 Portland Chapter Early Show and Plant Sale with the Daffodil Society at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

May 10 & 11, 2014 Portland Chapter Mother's Day Weekend Show and Plant Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

May 16 - 18, 2014 ARS Annual Convention, Painesville (Cleveland), Ohio. See also the ARS website and www.GreatLakesRhodies.org for more information.

Spring, 2015 ARS Annual Convention, Victoria, B.C.

Submitted by Maria Stewart

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

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
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