

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- February 20-23, 2014
Portland Home & Garden Show
- February 20, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: All That Glitters: Light and Color in the Garden
Speakers: Kath and Dave Collier
Plus: Companion Plant Auction
- February 25, 2014
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

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



“All that Glitters”: Light and Color in the Garden

By Brenda Ziegler

Our speakers for the February meeting are Kath and Dave Collier. Their first topic is leveraging light and color to create interest in our gardens, featuring several tour gardens from recent conventions and regional meetings in a multi-media presentation. The Colliers will be highlighting gardens around the world that demonstrate the concepts of light and color, and how those can enhance our own gardens. I am sure it will be a beautiful show.

In addition, for their second topic, the Colliers will give us a quick overview of some of the International ARS Board decisions that will impact the Chapter. This will include the new IRS rules for non-profits and budget challenges, and opportunities to share your thoughts with the international Board. There will be time for some discussion and questions. Since we are always trying to make the ARS a better organization and recruit new members, it is important that we are informed members.

We realize most of our members know Kath and Dave Collier, however, here is a little background on our speakers: the Colliers have both been active in the ARS since 1990. During that time, they have participated at many levels: Local: each has been Chapter President, Dave from 1996-1998, Kath from 2008-2010; each has won the Bronze Medal: Dave in 2001, Kath in 2002. In addition, they are both currently serving at the International level, Kath as Secretary, Dave as Chair of the Budget Committee. We appreciate their service!

In addition to this fabulous presentation, February is the month for our Companion Plant Auction. Please bring a plant or two to donate to the Auction, and be prepared to purchase some amazing companion plants, too!

To top it off, February is our Valentine’s Day candy celebration, “Sweets for the Sweet”. Please feel free to bring candy for the “Sweet” and plan on having a “Sweet” time!

As always, please invite friends and family to participate and meet others with “like” interests. We look forward to having you and your guests join us.

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:

February 12, 2014

Tentative start date at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

February 20-23, 2014

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

February 20, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: All That Glitters:

Light and Color in the Garden

Speakers: Kath and Dave Collier

Companion Plant Auction and

Sweets for the Sweet

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

March 20, 2014

Spring begins

March 25, 2014

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

April 5 & 6, 2014

Early Show & Sale with the

Daffodil Society

Crystal Springs Rhododendron

Garden

Haiku

A world edged in white
As so quickly it appeared
slip slipping away

A radiant sun
Skies -- infused with contrails, cloud
and a New Year's warmth

Winter's evening light
off extended high cloud and
peaks looming underfoot

A winter's sundown
A wisp of moon; that first star
A world in relief

Winter's rising sun
The robin's call starts it all
--A stitchwork of song

By Peter Kendall

Meeting Date Change

Mark **April 10, 2014** on your calendars as our April Chapter meeting date. This is one week earlier than usual. We will meet on the *second Thursday* in April for that month only. The reason for the change is that all Saints Episcopal Church will be using the meeting hall for an Easter event on our regular meeting night. Please don't miss the April meeting! It is our Annual Meeting, with voting; a program; and the Rhododendron Hybrids Auction.

From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

One of the features of our February 20th Meeting is the *Companion Plant Auction*. Every year we look forward to the treasures our members bring from their gardens for this auction. It is fun to see these companion plants and hear why they are enjoyed by the members who contribute them. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about plants that are not familiar. One of the plants that we will bring to the auction has lost its name tag, so I will ask E. White Smith if he can help us with the name. It forms a diminutive ground cover in the shade and I am fairly certain that I bought it from Bovees Nursery.

Speaking of plants that grow in the shade, our garden is situated under a Douglas fir tree canopy that provides dense shade. This is all well and good for the tender rhododendrons with their large leaves such as *R. macabeanum*, *R. sinogrande*, *R. arizelum*, *R. protistum* and *R. magnificum*, as the fir trees offer some protection from the cold and wind. Finding companion plants that enjoy the shade, also, is a challenge I enjoy. Fortunately, hydrangeas love both the sun and the shade and they display outstanding summer color. A group of plants that are blooming now in winter, love the shade, and give off a sweet fragrance, are the evergreen *Sarcococca* species. Hostas: once I counted how many different varieties of hostas we have among our rhododendrons and came close to one hundred. Variegated hostas are wonderful for giving color to a shady garden. A favorite variegated grass that nestles beautifully on the edges of pathways, is *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'. Another favorite is the Celandine Poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*, that blooms its bright yellow flowers in deep shade. Of course, a more inclusive list of other shade-lovers is too long for this article, but here are more plants that we enjoy: *Arisaema* species; *Aruncus aethusifolius*; *Astilbe* hybrids; *Brunnera*; *Cyclamen coum*; *Dicentra spectabilis*; ferns; hardy *Fuchsia* hybrids; *Helleborus* species and hybrids; *Heuchera*; *Ligularia* hybrids and species; *Polygonatum odoratum*; *Primula* hybrids and species; *Rodgersia* species; *Sanguinaria Canadensis*; *Selaginella kraussiana* 'Aurea' and *Trilium* species.

See you on February 20th!

Fran Egan

By Maria Stewart

With great sadness, we tell you of the passing of Fran Egan on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at her home in Shasta, California, surrounded by her daughters Carolyn and Susie and other family members. Fran was always a vibrant person who enthusiastically embraced life. Only very recently, she learned that she had advanced bone cancer and shortly thereafter, went into hospice. A private family memorial is planned in Chico, California and Carolyn will visit Ed and Fran's azalea garden at Crystal Springs when the azaleas are in bloom this year. In the March newsletter, there will be a memorial article about Fran's life.

Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden Celebrates 50 Years April 24th, 25th, 26th, 2014

By Mike Stewart, RSF President

As we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington, I am humbled by the reality of how much has been accomplished in these last 50 years. These accomplishments, of course, are only due to the efforts by you, the members and supporters and staffs of this great organization. Fifty years sounds like a lot of time, but that time is dwarfed by how much you have gotten done. From the beginning organizational meetings in 1962-64, to the first steps in collecting and propagating the original mother plants, to the maturing garden that you see today, those so distant beginnings have turned into a beautiful reality. The efforts of many very devoted people have left their mark on this garden and organization, and ultimately have left a significant contribution to the rhododendron world.

As the current President of the RSF, I wish to invite all of you to our celebration. Registration information is available on the RSBG website, www.RhodyGarden.org. Early bird registration ends March 1st and all registrations must be in by April 14th. Speakers include David Chamberlain, Douglas Justice, Steve Hootman, and Harold Greer. There will be guided tours through the RSF Botanical Garden as well as other gardens in the local area. Those who will gather at the RSF to celebrate will come together as friends to reminisce, and to raise a glass in honor of all who have contributed through the years. If you are unable to attend, please take a moment the next time you are enjoying the beauty of your own garden, and the special species rhododendrons that you so cherish, to remember the many efforts and sacrifices through history that were given in the name of making species rhododendrons available for all of us to enjoy. Celebrate the beauty of those rhododendrons, and celebrate the day that the Rhododendron Species Foundation was born.

As in any healthy, living, growing organization, the RSF is in a constant state of evolution. Yes, the RSF has many new ambitions, and the culmination of those ambitions will be realized only with your continuing support. We are working hard to develop new methods of reaching out to further strengthen and grow our membership, and to find additional ways to meet the demand for needed funds so that we may accomplish the 50 years of dreams for the RSF. This is an exciting time for the Rhododendron Species Foundation, as we not only celebrate each of you, but as we work towards the bright future for which you have laid such a solid foundation to build upon. Among the several presentations given during the "celebration event", you will hear about some of the plans for the future, and you will be amazed and enthused by what the future holds for the RSF. Our task is large, but with continued resolve, and your help, we will build upon that foundation to accomplish the goals that we have planned for the future.

With my deepest gratitude and best wishes to all of you, the Rhododendron Species Foundation members and supporters, I look forward to meeting each of you at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Board Meeting Highlights From January 21, 2014

By Maria Stewart

A rough draft of the 2014 Chapter Phone Book was reviewed by the Board Members, voted on and passed. It will now be printed and distributed, starting at the February Chapter Meeting. Dick Cavender reported that all is going well on the organizing of the Portland Chapter rhododendron garden display at the Home and Garden Show, February 20-23. Dick, Mike Domaschofsky and Bob MacArthur are working hard on this project, which meets the Chapter goal of encouraging interest in and giving out information and knowledge about rhododendrons. We started a discussion about some additions to our Policies of the Board; the proposed additions have been passed by the national ARS Board. Some Board-approved changes for our calendars are:

April 10th is the date of our April Chapter Meeting. The Church needs the room on our regular meeting night.

Mondays and Tuesdays are now the free admission days at CSRG from March 1 to Labor Day.

In place of the Dead-Heading Party at CSRG on June 19th, the Chapter is invited to a Solstice Picnic on June 21st at Mike and Maria's home.

January Chapter Meeting Highlights

By Tom Hoffman

Our January 16th meeting was lively, busy, and informative. Several visitors attended because they saw our notice in The Oregonian's garden section, or another forum. Credit there goes to our publicity person, Dennis O'Malley. Jean Aalseth told us of a proposed State of Oregon "planting license" for landscape designers; this would be a "middle path" between designing and contracting licensure requirements. Jean designed our display garden for the Home and Garden Show.

We were saddened to learn of the death of George Watson, of Bovee's Nursery, from E. White Smith. George worked for many years at Bovee's.

This appears to be the winter we get to compare notes on how our rhododendrons fared through the cold and wind and snow and ice. The consensus at the meeting was, "wait at least until summer" before giving up on a rhododendron.

Our presentation by Terry Olsen and Chris Randles of Emerald Stone Masonry was all too brief for this writer. Several beautiful examples of their work and the philosophy behind it can be seen at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. One secret ingredient in their work is natural patterns that create stability. Examples include soap bubbles, dragonfly wings, wasp nests and honeycombs, fish and reptile scales. The underlying mathematics, geometry and physics are unforgiving, as is stone, and yet these two masons are able to use those elements in very creative ways.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!!

If you would enjoy showing your garden in April, we're organizing a one-day tour of Chapter member's gardens. Please talk to Maria Stewart if you are interested.

New Phone Books!

We have updated and printed a new Portland Chapter Phone Book. You may pick up your copy at the Chapter Meeting on February 20th. Thanks to Loni Welsh, John Welsh, Kathy Van Veen and Maria Stewart for your hard work on producing this new phone book.

Handsome Foliage + Hardiness: *R. rex* ssp. *fictolacteum*

By Maria Stewart

Remember that very cold weather in early December? And now we're in for several more days in February of that same dry cold air that our rhododendrons do not appreciate! Well, here's a species large-leaved rhododendron that does not seem to mind these Arctic blasts as long as its leaves are not whipped around by strong winds. *R. fictolacteum* grows into a small tree with quite large, shiny, dark green leaves. The undersides of those leaves are covered with rusty brown or dark brown indumentum. This is a species rhododendron that will delight you year after year! Here is more information about *R. fictolacteum*:

Its name means *false lacteum*

Its geographical location is: SE Tibet; NW Yunnan (China); and NE Burma.

Classification: Sub-Genus: Hymenantes Section: Ponticum Sub-Section: Falconera

It is an elepidote, meaning that its leaves do not have scales.

Leaves: smooth, oblong-obovate to oblanceolate in shape, up to 12" long, and the undersides are covered with rusty brown or dark brown indumentum

Siting: It will grow happily under a tree canopy, but should be sheltered from strong winds so that its leaves do not get whipped around. Otherwise, it does not need winter protection in the Pacific Northwest.

Height in 10 years: 5 feet

Hardiness: -5 degrees F.

Flowers: Each tight, ball-shaped truss holds 12-30 flowers in a range of colors from white to pale lilac to light pink to rose. Each bell-shaped corolla is decorated with a dark crimson blotch and sometimes the corollas are heavily freckled. The flowers are not fragrant.

Bloom time: Early May



R. rex ssp. *fictolacteum*
Photograph courtesy Harold Greer

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 - 23, 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 of 2/6/2014, there were 3 shift openings left.)

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, 2/20/2014: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

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

Saturday, 2/22/2014: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday, 2/23/2014: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

We will also need help setting up and removing the Garden. We will set up on 2/18/2014, Tuesday. We will take down the Garden on the 23rd. 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

PO Box 86424,
Portland, OR 97286-0424
ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for
meeting cancellations due
to weather

Web: www.rhodies.org

Post Master: Time sensitive
mail; please deliver before
February 13, 2014

U.S. Postal Service statement of
Ownership, Management, and Cir-
culation (as per 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Publication Title: *Rhododendron News*
Total number of copies mailed per is-
sue: **225**

Owner: **Portland Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**,
PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-
0424

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, 971-239-9016
Friends of Crystal Springs:
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
ownership: The Portland Chapter is
a local Chapter of the American Rho-
dodendron Society. Combined annual
dues to both the national society and
local chapter are \$40. Membership
benefits include nine or more newslet-
ters, discounts, and activities.

Rhododendron News is mailed by first
class postage (permit #1134, Port-
land). Photographs and images may

only be reproduced with permission
from the owner.

Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
Kathy Van Veen, veteran Proofread-
er, at: (email) **vanveennursery@ hot-
mail.com** or via mail to: 4201 SE
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,
newsletter editor, at: **tjhoffman56@
yahoo.com**, or via mail to: 4765 SW
38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-
rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-
7565.

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

Membershi p Updates: John
Welsh, Membershi p Chair, e-
mai l: **j l wel sh26@yahoo.com**;
503-663-6987