March, 2014
Vol. LVIII, No.3

Rhododendron News

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- March 20, 2014
  Regular Meeting
  7:00 PM social time
  7:30 PM meeting
  Program: How Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden's Future Could Benefit from Both Multnomah County and Portland Parks and Recreation
  Speakers: Jim Francesconi and Betsy Redfearn
- March 20, 2014
  1st Day of Spring
- 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

How Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden's Future Could Benefit from Both Multnomah County and Portland Parks and Recreation

By Brenda Ziegler

Our speakers for the March meeting are Jim Francesconi and Betsy Redfearn.

This topic is near and dear to all of us as it concerns the future of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, a Portland Park. Our speakers will talk about what they see in the future, and what they plan to help accomplish. We will try to keep much of the focus on Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

There will be time for questions and answers after their talks.

Jim Francesconi, candidate for Multnomah County Chair, and former Portland City Council member, is an attorney by trade, with an extensive background in community and public leadership. While a Portland City Council Member, Jim managed the Portland Parks Department from 1997 - 2004.

He will be emphasizing the role he played in the Parks department in the past, as well as the role the county can play in helping to maintain the parks for our future.

Betsy Redfearn, Portland Parks Area Maintenance Supervisor, will speak on upcoming plans within Portland Parks and Recreation, in particular for Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Betsy started in horticulture in 1974 by going to school. Her first internship was propagating rhododendrons in a small nursery in Wood Village. She has worked in both retail and wholesale nurseries up and down the Willamette Valley.

Betsy started with the City in 1989. She feels it has been a great adventure the whole time. She was a gardener for the City for 15 years and then promoted to her current position, Park Maintenance Supervisor. Betsy is actually responsible for 2 zones, South and Southeast, consisting of 37 parks, 3 community centers, 1 rose garden, 1 rhody garden, 55 bathrooms which are cleaned daily and many sports fields. We are very fortunate to have her as Supervisor for Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and we are also very happy she loves rhododendrons.

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 Rhodo-dendron Society is registered in Oregon as a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization. Dues and donations are qualified charitable tax deductions.

Meeting Calendar through April, 2014:

March 20, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: How Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden's Future-Could Benefit from Both Multnomah County and Portland Parks and Recreation
Speakers: Jim Francesconi and Betsy Redfearn

March 22, 2014
Spring Work Party
8:00 AM to Noon
Smith Garden

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

April 10, 2014
Annual Meeting !
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: TBA
Voting for Officers
Rhododendron Hybrids Auction

April 22, 2014
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Snow in the offing
The shape of the wind, in the
flexing of shadows

A buffeting snow
--- At first a world defined is
now a world obscured

Snow… more snow; the road
well-traveled is now a road
scarcely visible

Only the breeze from
the flitting sparrow, this breezeless
snow clad morning

To some a symphony
To others...cacophony
...the wind through the trees

Early morning's light
The ice sheathed maple in
a motionless world

The languid creek has
released its ice; the heron
has just taken flight

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. 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 for officers; a program; and the Rhododendron Hybrids Auction.

From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

Hey, all of you super nice members who worked to create, organize and talk at the beautiful rhododendron display garden at the Home and Garden Show ---THANK YOU! It took many helpful people to build the display and to take a shift during the show. When the set-up crew arrived at the Expo, all we saw was the bare floor where the display would be. But with Dick organizing us and J.R. Krueger, Mike Domaschofsky, Steve Hopkins, Fred, Ray Clack and Maria Stewart hauling stones, the garden wall became a reality. Then the trade show people filled up the garden with mulch.

Earlier in the year, Dick and Jean Aalseth picked out a huge quartz boulder for one end of the display and we borrowed it just for the duration of the show. It was 'instant landscaping' when we 'planted' low-growing rhododendrons near the boulder. Also, before the show, Mike Domaschofsky and Ray Clack made a buying trip to Thompson's Nursery and Log Cabin Nursery to select species, early bloomers and hard-to-find hybrids. With those selections, plus a few from Dover Nursery and some vireyas in bloom from Bovees Nursery, the resulting garden truly showed the diversity of rhododendrons. Here a just some of the rhododendrons we planted in the display: R. 'Unique' (variegated); R. radicans; R. mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink'; R. williamsianum (Bovees form) ; R. sinogrande; R. orbiculare (Lily Pad form); R. 'Loderi Queen Mary'; R. 'Peach Charm'; R.'Wanna Bee'; R. macabeanum (Cecil Smith selfed); R. 'Laramie'; R. 'Coastal Spice' and R. wiltonii. There were many more to attract the show attendees to our display. In addition to the garden, Dick set up a display table of information about Smith Garden, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and the steps to take for the control of lace bug. There also were plenty of printed materials for show attendees to take home. Every day, Mike Domschofsky checked on the plants to make sure they were watered and spent many hours talking with the public.

We can say with confidence that all the members who pitched in to make the garden display a success can feel very good about fulfilling both of the Purposes of the ARS. These Purposes, or goals, have to do with encouraging interest in and giving out information about the genus Rhododendron. The members who built the display and the members who took shifts during the show should feel very proud of their contributions to the education of the public about our favorite genus.

Smith Garden Spring Work Party, Saturday, March 22nd, 2014:

Save the Date!!

Give your gift of time, an Hour or Two is Appreciated

Bring a Friend -- Breathe in the Fresh Country Air

Coffee and Goodies for Early Morning Workers

Many Hands Make Light Work

Lunch Provided

RSF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

April 25 to 26

REGISTER NOW

Early Registration $65 / After March 1st $75

Meals Additional

Register at RhodyGarden.org

RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

1964 TO 2014

Everyone Welcome

Speakers:

David Chamberlain, Harold Greer, Steve Hootman, Douglas Justice

Garden & Nursery Tours, Reception & Banquet

at the Hampton Inn & Suites & the Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters

Spring Garden Tour on Saturday, April 19th, 2014

By Maria Stewart

Spring is fast approaching and we are organizing a tour of gardens for the Portland Chapter on April 19th. So far, we have The Bovees Nursery, The Cloud Forest Garden and the Cavender Garden on our itinerary. If you would like to have your garden included, please contact Maria Stewart by March 14th.

February Chapter Meeting Highlights

By Tom Hoffman

Our February meeting featured a goodly quantity of "Sweets for the Sweet", our traditional Valentine's Day celebration, and an interesting program presented by Dave and Kath Collier. With E. White Smith attending the Vireya Convention in Hawaii, we nonetheless managed a low-key raffle on our own. Thanks to Dick Cavender in the role of auctioneer, we Chapter members and our visitors bought up everything we donated for the Companion Plant Auction; some choice plant material was on hand.

Kath Collier reminded us that there is more to gardening than weeding, and offered suggestions for our gardens to reduce clash and conflict between plants; although it's too early to be sure what survived this winter and what did not, casualties do offer opportunities to remake parts of a garden. Time of bloom is an important factor in the design and evolution of our gardens; plants that clash together can be separated and integrated into other groups of plants, plantings where they offer contrast instead of conflict. To leverage light and color to create interest, and with numerous illustrations from their travels to gardens around the world to demonstrate successful approaches to achieving that goal, Kath and Dave gave us a lot to think about where our own gardens are concerned.

For the second half of their program, Dave and Kath discussed their work on the ARS International Board, where Kath is Secretary and Dave is Chair of the Budget Committee. Dave noted that ARS Committees need volunteers.

Our new Portland Chapter 2014 Member Directory is back from the printer and copies were distributed to attending members at the meeting.

An Early Bloomer to Enjoy: R. 'Maya'

By Maria Stewart

A few years ago, Mike and I had the pleasure of attending a Tualatin Valley Chapter summer potluck at Forrest and Rosemary Bump's home. After a delicious meal and congenial conversation, we exchanged rhododendron cuttings. We also enjoyed touring Dr. Bump's garden and hearing him talk about his special rhododendrons. Some of the cuttings from that day have become blooming plants. Two cuttings of R. 'Maya' have grown to three feet high and three feet wide. They are blooming now inside a greenhouse, so outside, they would bloom probably about the third week in March. It is always so enjoyable to see early blooming rhododendrons. They brighten up the rainy season with their refreshing colors.

Here is more to know about R. 'Maya':

The cross is R. rirei x R. sutchuenense.

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

Leaves: medium green, smooth on the top and bottom sides; about five inches long.

Flowers are clear pink with just a hint of pale lavender and each bell-shaped corolla shows off a prominent deep purple blotch. There are about 11 corollas in each very large truss. Blooms in March.

Placement in your garden: a tree nearby would help to protect the early blooms from frost.

Height in 10 years: 6 feet tall and wide.

Hardiness: -5 degrees F.

Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

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

Photographs By Dick Cavender

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 www.rhododendron.org and www.GreatLakesRhodies.org for more information. Early registration deadline is March 15, 2014.**
Spring, 2015	**ARS Annual Convention, Victoria, B.C.**

Submitted by Maria Stewart

Remembering Fran Egan

By Herb Spady

I have been asked to write a memorial article about Fran Egan. One of the sad aspects of outliving your peers is that one is asked to perform this function. On the other hand, it is a pleasure to remember such wonderful people. This brief commentary is not an obituary summarizing her history or achievements, but rather my recollections of Fran as a person.

It is hard to write about Fran without including Ed. They were a well-integrated team and eagerly supported each other. They both provided great service to the ARS, Fran as Secretary and Ed as Editor. These were major responsibilities, but they also did many other things.

Betty and I spent many evenings with them in their home enjoying Fran's delicious and inventive cooking, and discussing rhododendron society events, people and problems. On occasions we would dine with them at their favorite restaurant, the Stock Pot. We also had the good fortune to accompany them and their daughter on a trip to Europe. That was along with a group of high school young adults!

Theirs was a lovely house surrounded by distinctive and well-tended landscaping. Ed had done much of the planning and construction. Adjacent to the garden was Ed's nursery, where he developed methods to propagate difficult deciduous azaleas. Their home was in a pleasant area high up on Bull Mountain Road. As time went on, it became surrounded by urban sprawl. It's sad that after Ed's death, their garden was to succumb to the same fate.

Fran and Ed were very close friends of Cecil and Molly Smith. They were very supportive in the Portland Chapter's effort to obtain the property and subsequently preserve it. One way that we can honor these two people is to continue active support of this garden that they loved so much. It is people like Fran and Ed who show how the ARS and its Chapters can prosper.

Fran and Ed Egan

Fran Egan

O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, Spring 2014: Open Garden Days & Other News

By Gordon Wylie

The growing vitality of the community-based 'Friends' group supporting this historic collection of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias, is reflected in their commitment to provide manpower for three public open days this year. The scheduled dates include a late April Saturday, and two Saturdays in May: **April 26; May 10 and May 24.** The open hours will begin at 10:00AM and continue to 2:00 PM. Ample parking will be available at the Elk Viewing Area Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, and free transportation will be provided from there to the main garden.

Attend on one or more of these dates to both enjoy the garden and lend your support via expertise about the rhodies and their companions while visiting with folks attracted by the blooming spectacle. A rewarding means, by the way, of carrying out the ARS mission of promoting interest and knowledge of rhododendrons, all while in the midst of a beautiful array of those very plants.

(If some Chapter(s) also wish to make a group visit on another date, I suspect that can be arranged. Contact me: lgwone@gmail.com or 541-895-2864)

2014 marks the beginning of the second decade in reclaiming the Hinsdale Garden. In addition to the annual chore of removing rough grass and weed growth, the Northwest Youth Corps will clear a way for permanent paths this year. The routes for these have been marked with ARS member assistance, and they will be completed over a weed barrier topped with relatively coarse wood chips. Other investments this year by the BLM will include tree pruning work following up on that done several years ago, and installation of an attractive arched wooden pedestrian bridge between the main and east garden segments.

The Friends group is exploring the possibility of securing a water supply from the City of Reedsport for a robust irrigation system throughout the garden. Planning and other BLM agency/volunteer work continues for identified long-range goals of restoration and perpetual maintenance of the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, which is well on its way to becoming a permanent feature in the Deans Creek area of officially designated "Scenic Highway 38".

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Gordon Wylie

Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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

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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, 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 Rhododendron Society. Combined annual dues to both the national society and local chapter are $40. Membership benefits include nine or more newsletters, discounts, and activities.

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter meeting. Send materials to either: **Kathy Van Veen**, veteran Proofreader, at: (email) **vanveennursery@ hotmail.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 directed to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-7565.

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

Membership Updates: John Welsh, Membership Chair, e-mail: jlwelsh26@yahoo.com; 503-663-6987