

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- June: No Regular Meeting
- June: No Board Meeting
- June 21st, 2014 Summer Solstice Potluck at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and Dover Nursery, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- June 29th, 2014 Eugene Chapter Picnic at Ali and Gloria Sarlak's home in Corvallis
- July: No Regular Meeting
- July: No Board 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



Our May Meeting: Awards, Banquet, and a Most Interesting Presentation!

By Tom Hoffman

We enjoyed a busy, festive meeting May 15th, with good food and great company and an engaging speaker. Following the Awards Banquet, our speaker, Teresia M Hazen, M.Ed., HTR, QMHP gave an intriguing talk on the health benefits of gardens. We generally do not think of gardens in that way, yet we are surrounded by evidence which supports such a conclusion. Those of us who work in the Smith Garden or Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden see on a daily basis how visitors enter the garden bearing the weight of their cares, and leave some time later with renewed energy and smiles on their faces. It's magical, and it can be put to good use, according to our speaker. Ms. Hazen did not go into detail regarding the process of arriving at a design for a therapeutic garden, instead showing examples of completed gardens in our area, which proves it can be done. If we needed another reason to cherish and sustain the Smith Garden and Crystal Springs R.G., perhaps "health benefits" could be added to our list.

In Memory of Dave Hammond

Dave Hammond,, well known for his nursery, Hammond's Acres of Rhodys, in Arlington, Washington and his tireless work on behalf of the ARS Komo Kulshan and Pilchuck Chapters, passed away from sudden cardiac arrest on May 24th. Condolences can be sent to Joan Hammond, P.O. Box 160, Hump-tulips, WA 98552.

Kathy Van Veen

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 June, 2014:

June: No Regular Meeting

June: No Board Meeting

June 21, 2014

Summer Solstice Potluck at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and Dover Nursery, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Gathering time 1:00 PM

Meal time 1:30 PM

Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert to round out the meal.

June 29, 2014

Eugene ARS Chapter Picnic at Ali and Gloria Sarlak's home in Corvallis, Sunday afternoon

Gathering time 12:00 noon

Meal Time 1:00 pm, potluck

Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

July: No Regular Meeting

July: No Board Meeting

August: No Regular Meeting

August: No Board Meeting

August 21, 2014

Summer Soiree at Smith Garden, potluck supper;

Meet and Set-up 5:30 pm

Meal time 6:00 pm

September 18, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Cuttings Exchange

Speaker: Don Hyatt

Haiku

Spring's unfettered sun
The accumulating cast
of evening shadows

A spring's evening clouds
curtaining all traces of
a shadow-filled world

Accepting the rain
in so many ways -- the first
leaves of spring

Into the garden
shafts of sun, darkening cloud
this April morning

After the freshet
an evening flush with birdsong
and the drift of cloud

By Peter Kendall

From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

As I look back on the four years that I have served as the Portland Chapter's Vice-President and President, I feel honored that you placed your trust in me. It is not easy to hold those two offices without the help of many dedicated members. The Portland Chapter is charged with maintaining two major gardens, putting on two shows and plants sales every year, and promoting rhododendrons through our programs for a large metropolitan audience. It takes active members to successfully fulfill the goals of our Chapter. And, we seem to have fun while we're accomplishing those goals! The friendships that we have because we share a love of rhododendrons, makes our work a lot easier. We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors and a membership that works together in a congenial way. I thank all of you personally for helping to make my term enjoyable. As for the future, I hope to finish a couple of projects that need some more time and I will always be an active member. Your new Vice-President, Dennis O'Malley, and your new President, Brenda Ziegler, have already shown their positive leadership skills. Our Chapter has much to look forward to in the next four years.

Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights, May 20th, 2014

By Maria Stewart

We discussed the May Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale and made suggestions for improvements that we could make for next year. One conclusion was that we need more help at the plant sale. We talked about what combination of devices we would need for faster cashing out, too. Next year, we hope to have wood chips instead of soggy mulch for our plant sale area. For the breakdown of the show, we need to put more things away so that the garden volunteers do not have to do that. Otherwise, the Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale went well.

The Finance Committee will meet this summer. There will be a summer Board Meeting, TBA.

New E-mail Address for Don and Dorothy Patrick

Don and Dorothy Patrick have a new e-mail address:

dpscoty@frontier.com

Judging at the Mother's Day Show, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Photo courtesy of Jay Lunn



You Are Invited to a Summer Solstice Potluck!

Mark Saturday, June 21st, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, on your calendars to celebrate the first day of summer at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and nursery. **Portland Chapter members and members of all Chapters in District 4 are invited.** Gathering time is 1:00 pm followed by meal time at 1:30 pm. We will supply the meat entrée, beverages, plates, cups and utensils. Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or desert to round out the meal.

We invite you to tour our greenhouses, nursery and garden after the meal. The plants are labeled, so you can enjoy knowing what you are seeing. Or you can relax with friends and conversation instead! Our home and Dover Nursery is located 5 miles southeast of the town of Sandy. We have plenty of indoor space for eating, so if the weather is rainy, don't let that keep you from joining in the fun. We are looking forward to having you as our guests on June 21st! ***Please RSVP to 503-668-3522, so we can plan food and seating.***

Directions to Mike and Maria's home 42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd. Sandy, Oregon

From the last signal light in the City of Sandy, take U.S. 26 east out of town, for 2 miles.

Exit right onto Firwood Road. The landmark at this exit is a gas station/store combination called 'Shorty's'. Go 3/4 of a mile on Firwood Road, and then turn right at the 4-way intersection at the top of the hill. There is a Dover Nursery sign on a utility pole, pointing to the right, at this intersection. There is also a Dover Community Church sign, pointing to the right, at this intersection. This right turn will keep you on Firwood Road.

Go 2 1/2 miles further on Firwood Road until you get to a 4-way stop at the intersection of Wildcat Mountain Drive and Firwood Road. Cross over Wildcat Mountain Drive and take the middle road which is Kleinsmith Road. It goes slightly to the left and down the hill. There is also a sign pointing to Dover Nursery at this intersection. Our home and nursery is 8/10ths of a mile more on Kleinsmith Road, on the left side, across from the Dover Community Church. **503-668-3522**

Wood Ducks at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

Photo courtesy of Donna Giguere.





Mike and Maria Stewart in their nursery, with *R. sinogrande*.
Photo courtesy of the *Oregonian* newspaper.

Time to Picnic, Time to Party: Sunday, June 29th, at the Home of Ali and Gloria Sarlak

All ARS members in District 4 are invited to join us for our annual June picnic at the home of Ali and Gloria Sarlak in Corvallis. Come about noon for a walk around the lovely garden, filled with roses, perennials, sculptures, shady nooks, a rock garden - vignettes that show Ali's artistry in gardening.

The potluck picnic will begin at 1:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share - side dish, salad or dessert - to serve 10-12 people. Don't forget a serving utensil. Also, please bring your own dishes, silverware, napkins and your beverage of choice. For the main dish, Ali will be grilling salmon supplied by the Chapter, but please feel free to bring an alternate main dish, if you like. Ali has a number of chairs and tables but you might bring a favorite lawn chair.

As we have traditionally done at our June picnic, there will be a plant exchange (entirely optional) so feel free to bring a nicely potted plant to exchange for a different one. Please choose a rhododendron, azalea or companion plant that would make a nice addition to a garden - it's a nice way to add a new plant to your garden.

The Sarlaks live at 4150 NE Fair Acres St. which is on the northeast side of Corvallis and is easy to find. From Eugene, you can drive to Corvallis on HWY 99 and 99W, or on I-5, or on beautiful Peoria Road, which goes from HWY 99E on the north side of Harrisburg to Hwy 34 just east of Corvallis.

No matter which way you get to Corvallis, you will want to look for signs for Hwy 20 toward Albany. This will be 2nd Street in Corvallis. If you are coming into Corvallis on Hwy 34, cross the Willamette River and turn right onto Hwy 20. From the bridge, drive 3.2 miles north to Asbahr Ave. Turn right on NE Asbahr for 495 feet to Fair Acres Street. Turn right and the Sarlak home is the first house on the right.

If you get lost, their 'phone number is: 541-758-9190. There is room for 4 cars in the driveway for our members who need to park the closest. There is room for 7 or 8 cars along Fair Acres off of Asbahr Ave.



R. insigne

Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

A Remarkable Species: *Rhododendron insigne*

By Maria Stewart

Along about the second week in May, *Rhododendron insigne* shows off its pink and white flowers with pink stripes decorating the outside of each corolla. The foliage is handsome, also, with the stiff dark green leaves framing the flowers. The tawny indumentum is so plastered-on that it reminds you of skin and its coppery sheen is quite attractive.

Here is more about *R. insigne*:

Classification: *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Argyrophylla

Natural origin: Apparently only grows on Wa Shan where it may be extinct, in Central Sichuan at 7,000 to 10,000 feet elevation in woodlands. May have been found recently in N.E. Yunnan and South Sichuan.

It is an elepidote, meaning it has no scales on its leaves.

Flowers: The bell-shaped corollas range in color from light pink to deep pink with distinctive deeper pink stripes on each lobe. Blooms in mid-May and later.

Leaves: The word “*insigne*” means remarkable and the foliage is certainly worthy of that epithet. The tops of the thick leaves are shiny and dark green. They feel stiff and rigid. The undersides of the lance-shaped leaves are tightly covered with a shiny, coppery indumentum.

Height and structure: 3 feet in 10 years and grows slowly in the sun.

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: *R. insigne* grows best in sun to show off its compact form. It gets leggy in the shade.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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to weather

Web: www.rhodies.org

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: **Brenda Ziegler**
Vice President: **Dennis O'Malley**
Past President: **Maria Stewart**
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

Co--Chairs:

Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522
Betsy Soifer, soiferb@hotmail.com

Dan McLaughlin

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.

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
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er, at: (email) [vanveennursery@ hot-
mail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

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