

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- August, 2014
No regular meeting
- August 17, 2014
Potluck at Oxbow Pointe
Noon set-up, 1:00 pm
dining
- August 21, 2014
Smith Garden Soiree pot-
luck supper
5:30 set-up, 6:00 pm sup-
per time
- August 26, 2014
Board Meeting
7:00 pm
Van Veen Nursery
- September 18, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Cuttings Exchange
Speaker: Don Hyatt

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



Smith Garden Soiree

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Join us on Thursday, August 21st, to celebrate the beauty of Smith Garden. Bring your favorite potluck dish and join in an enjoyable meal with members of the Portland Chapter, the Tualatin Valley Chapter and the Willamette Chapter. Dinner time is 6:00 pm, and if you wish to walk through the Garden, come a little earlier. Help is always appreciated at 5:30 pm, also, to set up the tables. See you there! The address is: 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, Oregon.

Directions:

From Portland:

Take I-5 south to Exit 278 (Donald exit)

Go west (right) at exit onto Ehlen Rd. for 7 miles to end of road at Hwy 219. Turn right onto Hwy 219 for 3/4 mile and look for blue Heirloom Roses sign. Follow Heirloom Roses sign going left onto Champoeg Rd.

Go straight onto Raybell Rd. at dairy barn where Champoeg Rd. turns right. Smith Garden is at 5055 Raybell Rd. NE, about 1/3 mile on right.

Parking and entrance are just past the house with the Garden address.

From 99W:

Go south or north on 99w to Newberg.

Turn south onto Hwy 219 jus north of downtown Newberg.

Go south for 3 miles to the Willamette River bridge; at less than 1/2 mile past the river, look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Follow Heirloom Roses sign right onto Champoeg Rd; go straight onto Raybell Rd. where Champoeg Rd. turns right. Garden is at 5055 Raybell Rd. NE, about 1/2 mile on right. Parking and entrance are just past the house.

Important Announcement!!

The October Portland Chapter meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 9th**, one week earlier than usual. All Saints Episcopal Church has scheduled a meeting that conflicts with our regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Please mark your calendars now and we'll see you on the second Thursday in October. Don't miss this meeting because one of the highlights will be our species auction!

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 October, 2014:

August: No Regular Meeting

August 17, 2014

**Summer Party 2014 at Oxbow Pointe, potluck supper;
Meet and set-up at noon,
Dining at 1:00 pm**

August 21, 2014

**Summer Soiree at Smith Garden,
potluck supper;
Meet and Set-up 5:30 pm
Meal time 6:00 pm**

August 26, 2014

**Board Meeting
7:00 pm, Van Veen Nursery**

September 18, 2014

**Regular Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Cuttings Exchange
Speaker: Don Hyatt**

September 23, 2014

**Board Meeting
7:30 pm, Van Veen Nursery
Autumn begins**

October 9, 2014

**Regular Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Species Auction
Program: TBA
This meeting is one week early**

October 21, 2014

**Board Meeting
7:30 pm, Van Veen Nursery**

Haiku

Pillow clouds, blue skies
Yesterday's forecast spot on
and all day, no less

This spring's expression
of green, after the lightning,
after the thunder

Summer's approach
through textures of the garden
ripples of the wind

The sound of light rain
-- its punctuation atop
the pond with no fish

In the way of clouds
the new leaves of the maple
after an evening's rain

By Peter Kendall

To our ARS Portland Chapter Members and other Plant Lovers

You Are Invited!!



OXBOW POINTE

Summer Party 2014

When: Sunday, August 17, 2014

Time: Party starts at noon; 1 P.M. Potluck

Potluck: Main course of salmon will be provided
Bring your favorite side dish to share

Beverages: We will provide soda pop and water
Bring your own alcohol

Utensils: We will provide plasticware, plates, etc.

Where: *Steve and Brenda's Home*

4450 SE Oxbow Parkway, Gresham, OR 97080

(We do not receive any mail at this address)

Please refer to mapquest.com or GPS

If lost, Call 503-663-1500

Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 13 to 503.314.5834

or by email to bzgift@aol.com or stevehopkins@prodigy.net

If you prefer mail: 1490 NE Village Street, Fairview, OR 97024

Well-behaved children accompanied by responsible adults are welcome.

**Please come to enjoy the Food, the View,
the Garden, and the Fellowship**

Garden Tours available after lunch!



We hope you can join us!





Smith Garden Soiree, August 2013

Photographs courtesy of Ginny Mapes



Smith Garden Soiree, August 2013
Photographs courtesy of Ginny Mapes

Smith Garden

By Maria Stewart

The Smith Garden is a woodland garden. It manifests Cecil Smith's love of the Oregon woodlands and their native plants. Cecil and Molly Smith started collecting rhododendrons in the 1940's at their old house which was adjacent to the wooded property they obtained in 1951. Cecil was an early member of the American Rhododendron Society (1947) for several years before they owned the property.

Many plants in the Garden collection are now over 70 years old. Some that have attained that distinction are the magnificent R. 'Loderi King George' and R. 'Loderi Pink Diamond'. Cecil pruned these large-growing plants into their present tree-like forms. The Garden is on an ideal, north-facing hillside and has adequate water resources, which benefits the rhododendrons and companion plants.

Cecil subscribed to several seed-collecting expeditions and the garden contains some species grown from that seed. Look for fine or unusual species including R. davidsonianum 'Ruth Lyons'; R. crinigerum; R. rude; R. proteoides; R. trailianum and many others. In addition, there are many Cecil Smith hybrids, such as R. 'Noyo Brave', R. 'Noyo Warrior', R. 'Cecil's Goal' and R. 'Yellow Saucer'. Cecil was among the first to grow R. yakushmanum and R. bureavii and to use them in his hybridizing. By combining those two species, he produced R. 'Cinnamon Bear', the signature plant of the garden.

Molly and Cecil freely shared their garden and hosted many garden tours. No one interested in rhododendrons was denied a visit to their garden. In 1983, after more than thirty years of devoted stewardship, Cecil and Molly reached a point in their lives where they could no longer care for the garden. The Portland Chapter of the ARS was able to purchase the property, and, along with the help of the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, assumed its care and management.

When the Garden was first acquired, some members of the newly-formed Smith Garden Committee felt it should be preserved as it was when Cecil and Molly left it. Gardens do not cooperate with that ideal. Plants grow too large and become too crowded. Weather disasters have significantly altered the site. To better accommodate crowding in the garden, several new beds have been created and a semi-automated watering system installed.

Complementing the rhododendron collection are choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers and bulbs. Each pathway reveals its own treasure through the seasons: a moss-covered log with plants tucked into bark crevices, a fern garden, and drifts of cyclamen, narcissus, erythronium and trillium. The Smith Garden is truly a botanical treasure.

The 2014 ARS Western Regional Conference: “Fall Into Rhodies”

You are invited to attend the 2014 ARS Western Regional Conference in Everett, Washington on September 26-28th. You won't want to miss the array of speakers that this conference has collected. These speakers have been selected to expand your rhododendron knowledge and to excite your fascination with gardening. Look for information about this conference by going to: rhododendron.org and clicking on “2014 ARS Western Regional Conference” on the right side of the home page. You will find the registration page there, along with the backgrounds of the speakers, the conference schedule and the directions for reserving a hotel room. Make your plans now to enjoy visiting with rhododendron enthusiasts from up and down the West Coast and beyond!

A Special Advance Notice for Our September 18th Meeting

Save the Date to Hear Don Hyatt September 18, 2014!

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to announce that the featured speaker at our regular Chapter meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2014 (7:00 - 9:00 pm) will be renowned azalea expert Don Hyatt. As you may know, Mr. Hyatt is recognized nationally and internationally, both as an authority on azaleas and rhododendrons and as one of the most sought-after and entertaining speakers you will ever encounter. In 2012, he was the recipient of the prestigious Gold Medal from the American Rhododendron Society. Here is the opportunity to hear an outstanding speaker who delights his audiences with his knowledge and humor. Please mark your calendars now for this special presentation and think about inviting friends who would also enjoy hearing Don speak. Let's fill up the meeting hall for this program!

More detailed information will be forwarded to you with our usual monthly announcement, but in the meantime please make your plans to attend and assist us in providing Mr. Hyatt with a warm welcome by passing this information along to both your Chapter members and other gardening friends.

Maria Stewart and Dennis O'Malley



R. 'Cherries and Merlot'. Photograph courtesy of Mike Stewart.

Outstanding Flowers and Amazing Foliage: R. ‘Cherries and Merlot’

By Maria Stewart

When you see this hybrid by Frank Fujioka for the first time, the colorful undersides of the leaves attract your attention so much that you forget to ask about the flowers. When you hear that the flowers are a deep, bright red, the combination sounds intriguing. In fact, the flowers are so rich in color that they meld well with the foliage to form a truly superb new hybrid.

Here is more about R. ‘Cherries and Merlot’:

It is an elepidote. It has no scales on its leaves.

The cross: (‘Pretty Baby’ x R. pachysanthum) X ‘Whid Bee’

The red flowers come from these parents in this cross: ‘Cornubia’, ‘Noyo Chief’, ‘Kilimanjaro’ ‘Rubicon’ and ‘Rosevallon’. The red-purple undersides of the leaves come from ‘Rosevallon’.

Flowers: The trusses are rounded and are constructed of deep, bright red corollas that are funnel-campanulate in shape. The bloom time is early April.

Leaves: Dark green on top, and red-purple on the undersides.

Height: 3 feet in 10 years

Hardiness: Unknown at this time. Two of the parents, R. pachysanthum and R. yakushmanum, may lend some hardiness to the cross.

Placement in your garden: Protect it from the cold until you know its hardiness. Some shade is desirable.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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
August 17, 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: **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.

Rhododendron News is mailed by first
class postage (permit #1134, Port-
land). Photographs and images may
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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
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mail.com](mailto:vanveennursery@hotmail.com) or via mail to: 4201 SE
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,
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newsletter editor, at: [tjhoffman56@
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masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline
Enns**

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