

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- October 9, 2014
Regular Meeting
6:45 pm social time
7:00 pm meeting
Species Auction
Speakers: Barbara Hilty; Barbara Simon;
Marion McNew &
Alyse Lansing
Program: "Photos & Impressions of a Kyoto Garden Tour in autumn"
This meeting is one week early
- October 21, 2014
Board Meeting
7:30 pm
Van Veen Nursery

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



"Photos and Impressions of a Kyoto Garden Tour in Autumn"

In November of 2013, four landscape designers from Oregon went on a garden tour of Kyoto, Japan together. They will present their photographs and impressions of the distinctive gardens they visited. Our speakers will be landscape designers Barbara Hilty, Barbara Simon, Marion McNew and Alyse Lansing.

Barbara Hilty has owned and operated Barbara Hilty Landscape Design, LLC since 1982. She is an APLD certified professional landscape designer. She will open the program with an introduction to Kyoto and an overview of its garden development.

Marion McNew (APLD) owns Mount Hood Gardens, Inc. in Hood River, Oregon. Mount Hood Gardens has created more than 250 private and commercial gardens and parks in the mid-Columbia region. She will speak on Japanese garden design techniques.

Barbara Simon (APLD) has operated her own landscape design practice since 2002 and is a member of the Friends of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. She will take us through several of Kyoto's fine gardens.

Alyse Lansing was formerly a freelance writer and photographer. She obtained her landscape design certification in 2002 and has operated her own design firm since. She is also currently staff designer for Joy Creek Nursery. Alyse will close the program with a discussion of the maintenance of Japanese gardens.

Following the program, we will hold our annual auction of species rhododendrons for the benefit of the Chapter. Please bring plants to donate for the auction and don't forget to bring your checkbook!

Dennis O'Malley
Publicity Chair
Portland Chapter ARS

Important Announcement!!

The October Portland Chapter meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 9th**, one week earlier than usual. 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 November, 2014:

October 9, 2014

Regular Meeting

6:45 pm social time

7:00 pm meeting

Species Auction

**Program: "Photos & Impressions
of a Kyoto Garden Tour in Au-
tumn"**

**Speakers: Barbara Hilty; Barbara
Simon; Marion McNew & Alyse
Lansing**

This meeting is one week early

October 21, 2014

Board Meeting

7:30 pm, Van Veen Nursery

October 25, 2014

**Smith Garden Fall Work Party,
St. Paul, OR**

9:00 am - Noon

November 20, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Speaker: Harold Greer

**Program: History of Rhododen-
dron Species Foundation and Rho-
dodendron Species Botanic Gar-
den**

November 25, 2014

Board Meeting

7:30 pm, Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Flower to flower
The evening hummingbird
--a pause--so briefly

Beyond the window
weaving orbital anchors
the bobbing spider

Beyond the thunder
not a breath of winds, not
the slightest of sounds

Soft breezes, soft sun
Even the shadows, softly
in summer's embrace

A still summer's night
In the voice of the cricket
the slide into fall

By Peter Kendall

Portland Chapter Board Meeting September 23, 2014

By Carol McCarthy

Honesty is the best policy; in the interest of full disclosure, I did not attend the September Board Meeting. However, inside sources told me that the main topic discussed was the “Policies of the Board of Directors.” Mike and Maria Stewart have worked tirelessly over the course of several years compiling the 24 policies that define the organization of our Board and provide guidance for its operation. The document outlines the responsibilities of the officers and Board members, as well as the operation of the standing committees. The draft policies are expected to be finalized and adopted at the November Board Meeting.

Chapter Meeting Highlights from September 18th, 2014

By Tom Hoffman

Our first meeting of the fall season was a great success, with attendance estimated at 50 people, A.R.S. members, their guests, and visitors, who came to hear a wonderful program. They also found delicious, homemade treats in abundance, our annual cuttings exchange and a fun raffle, overseen by E. White Smith.

Our speaker was Don W. Hyatt and his program was titled “America’s Rhododendron Treasures - Native Rhododendrons and Azaleas.” Mr. Hyatt began with the rhododendrons and one azalea native to the Western U.S. and then took up the more numerous species native to the Eastern U.S. His excellent photographs of all the different species included many of the habitats they occupy. In his talk, Mr. Hyatt discussed the present status of our native species and the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve existing populations. He was a source of interesting facts about both the plants and their habitats, for example, the majority of native deciduous azaleas are very fragrant, and can often be detected by their fragrance before they are sighted. Habitat loss is a constant concern, with many azalea species found only in very limited areas.

Dennis O’Malley, our Chapter Vice-President, adds: “ We would like to thank all of you who attended or helped publicize our September 18th program with Don Hyatt, which was delightful in every way. It was good to see so many visitors and new faces. Our thanks also to our Board for creating and funding the Speaker’s Committee, and to Dave Collier and Mike Stewart for their efforts in making it all happen.”

The cuttings exchange brought a fine offering of mostly hardy rhododendrons and a few vireyas. Now to see what roots!

Finally, our kitchen crew and the cooks and bakers among our members deserve our thanks - we enjoyed a really delicious selection of homemade treats to tempt us.

From The President's Corner

By Brenda Ziegler

Thank you all for such a great turnout for our September meeting with world-renowned speaker Don Hyatt. It was the perfect way to start off the season. It was fabulous to see each of you and to be able to walk around and greet so many guests.

It has been a busy month for our volunteers on the Board and also at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. The Board is working hard at finalizing our Policy Manual so we are up-to-date. It is truly a "work in progress". At CSRG, work has begun on rebuilding the rock retaining wall near the duck-viewing area. Also, some new, safer orchard ladders for pruning work have been ordered. And, we have an arborist and his team coming in mid-October to do some badly-needed pruning on the "Island" at the south end of the Garden. All good things! We hope you can take some time to visit the garden this fall and winter.

By the time you receive this, a Western Region meeting will have taken place in Everett, Washington. There are several people attending from our Chapter. I hope we will have time for them to give us a brief update at our October meeting.

Our rhododendron Species Auction will follow the October program on gardens in Kyoto. Please bring species plants to donate for the auction and your checkbook. Dick Cavender will be our auctioneer. Dick always makes our auctions fun!

The **October meeting** will be earlier in the month, the *second* Thursday, October 9th. We will start with our social time at 6:45 pm, the meeting at 7:00 pm, and speakers at 7:15 pm. You are always invited to join members across the street at Wine and Deli as early as 5:00 pm for a meal or a beverage.

Also, if anyone has updates on people in the Chapter, please let us know. For updates on Mike Domaschofsky, please go to www.caringbridge.org and sign in as a guest. You may then type in Mike's name and will be able to see updates. And, last - but not least, please remember to invite friends and family. We always like to meet and greet new faces.

See you Thursday, October 9th!

Smith Garden Fall Clean Up is October 25th, 2014 -- Save the Date!
The Smith Garden Fall Clean Up is Scheduled for 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Bring Your Favorite Tools and Rain Gear, Just in Case.

The American Rhododendron Society Convention May 6th-10th, 2015 in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada

The American Rhododendron Society Chapters on Vancouver Island are hosting the ARS 2015 Convention in beautiful Sidney-by-the-Sea, from Wednesday, May 6th through Sunday, May 10th. Registration is set to begin in mid-November, 2014.

Speakers at the Convention include: Jim Barlup; Marc Colombel; Kenneth Cox; Laura Grant; Harold Greer; Dr. Ben Hall; Guan Kaiyun; Lionel de Rothschild and Hartwig Schepker. Both all-day and half-day garden tours will be available Thursday through Sunday, including an all-day, up-island tour on Sunday. Not enough temptation? The plant sale will be open 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Thursday through Saturday, and 9:00 am to noon on Sunday.

For more information, please go to the ARS website, www.rhododendron.org; click on 'Activities' and under Activities, click on 'Meetings'. That will bring up the 'Calendar of Coming Events', which has a link to the convention website under the 2015 listing for the convention.

CVRS Southwest England Garden Tour May 14-25, 2015

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, of British Columbia, Canada, has organized an 11-day tour to the U.K. in May of 2015, commencing just a few days after the 70th Anniversary ARS Convention in British Columbia next May.

The list of historic sites and world-class gardens includes Kew Botanic Garden, RHS Wisley, RHS Rosemoor, Hidcote Manor gardens, Blenheim Castle and Gardens, travelling through Devon and Cornwall all the way to Land's End, with stops at Stonehenge and onward to Oxford for the combined purposes of garden visits, sightseeing and shopping. Subject to the ups and downs of the foreign exchange markets, the cost of the tour is estimated at \$3,000.00 Canadian, exclusive of airfare, for double room and single accommodation for approximately \$700.00 Canadian more. Depending on interest, there may be a group-rate flight booking available which could reduce airfare cost.

For more information, please go to the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society website, cowichan.rhodos.ca and pull up their advertisement for the tour. November 1st, 2014 is the deadline to place your deposit for the tour with CVRS, with only 48 seats available.

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society led a tour of Oregon and California earlier this year, and visited Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on the homeward leg of their trip. Portland ARS Chapter representatives met that tour group at the Garden to serve as guides.

A Joy to Behold in Spring: Rhododendron ‘Songbird’

By Maria Stewart

There is so much hyperbole surrounding the gorgeous yellow and orange rhododendrons that are the newer hybrids today. They attract our attention even if their plant structure is not what it should be. So, this article is dedicated to a dwarf rhododendron that has been around for a long time and deserves some of our appreciation. Rhododendron ‘Songbird’ has deep green, shiny little leaves that cover the twiggy branches. Its compact form is decorated with bright purple blue flowers that seem to glow.

Here are more descriptions about R. ‘Songbird’:

It is a lepidote, which means it has scales on the undersides of its leaves.

The cross is: (R. russatum x R. ‘Blue Tit’)

The hybridizer is Horlick, who made the cross in 1954.

The clustered corollas are bright purple blue and the bloom time is April.

The very small leaves are shiny and dark green.

Depending on its placement in your garden, its height should be around 3 feet in 10 years.

Hardiness: -5 degrees F. (or colder)



Photograph of R. ‘Songbird’ courtesy of Mike Stewart

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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, 2015) **Caroline
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins, Bill
Zanze, Dave Collier**
(Through June 30, 2016) **Bud Bowen,
Ann Clack, Ray Clack, Mike Stew-
art, Kathy Van Veen**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Co--Chairs:

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Betsy Soifer, soiferb@hotmail.com

Dan McLaughlin

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Friends of Crystal Springs:

Kathy Van Veen, 503-777-1734

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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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