

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- November 20, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting-
Speaker: Harold Greer
Program: "The Rhododendron Species Foundation: Early Years and Founders"
- November 25, 2014
Board Meeting
7:00 pm
Van Veen Nursery
- December 18, 2014
Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner
6:30 pm set-up
7:00 pm dining

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



“The Rhododendron Species Foundation: Early Years and Founders”

We are honored to be able to present Harold Greer as the speaker for our November program. Mr. Greer is of course the owner and long-time operator of Greer Gardens, which is justly famous worldwide as a place to find rare and unusual plants. Harold and his wife Nancy have built Greer Gardens into one of the leading mail order companies in the country.

Mr. Greer is an internationally-recognized expert and speaker on all aspects of rhododendrons and azaleas. He is the author of *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, which is widely considered to be the indispensable reference for information about both species and hybrid rhododendrons. He is the recipient of the Gold Medal award of the American Rhododendron Society and has served the Society as its International President.

Mr. Greer will be speaking about the founders and the early history of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, which celebrated its 50th anniversary at its Botanic Garden earlier this year. Over the years, Harold built relationships with many people, among them Jim Capercii, Cecil Smith, Halfdan Lem, John Eichelser, the Thompsons, Bill Whitney, John and Rudolf Henny, Ruth and Marshall Lyons, Carl Phetteplace, Ray James, and Milton Walker. His remembrances of the early years and of the founders, who were among the pioneers of rhododendron culture in the Northwest, are not to be missed. In addition, Mr. Greer is an excellent photographer, with an extensive collection of photographs. His program is sure to be superbly illustrated.

Dennis O'Malley
Publicity Chair
Portland Chapter ARS

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 January, 2015:

November 20, 2014

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Speaker: Harold Greer

Program: History of Rhododendron Species Foundation and Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden

November 25, 2014

Board Meeting

7:00 pm, Van Veen Nursery

December 18, 2014

Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner with Decorated Tables and Lots of Food!

6:30 pm set-up

7:00 pm dining

Program: Traditional Showing of Members' Slides and Digital Images

No December Board Meeting - Happy Holidays!

January 15, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Program: TBA

January 20, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

Haiku (Kyoto Sojourn)

Punctuating
silent waters, the leap
of the koi

Kyoto morning
In and out of sight -- phantom
dragon fly

Kyoto sundown
Above the Kamo River
a tapestry of bats

Against a spring sky
the old pine, playing out rhythms
of contortion

The noiselessness
of the tea garden; a poem
in stone

In the shallows
atop the falls, the night heron
stalks its image

The heat of this day
One after another --
sidewalk umbrellas

Beneath the trees of
Saihoji*, the black butterfly
finds its sun

Such heat; in a swirl
beneath cool waters, the many
koi become the one

By Peter Kendall

* World-renowned moss garden.

From the President's Corner

By Brenda Ziegler

Fall has truly arrived! I hope you are all staying warm and dry!

Our October meeting was great. The speakers were terrific! Thanks to Dennis O'Malley, our Vice President and Programs impresario and the speakers committee. Please see Dennis' message in this newsletter for details about our November speaker and his topic.

October was a fun and busy Rhododendron time for me, and for our many volunteers. I visited Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden to see where the pruning is going to be done. Betsy Redfearn and Alan from the City Parks Department, with Betsy Soifer and Dan McLaughlin, 2 of our 3 Garden Co-Chairs for Crystal Springs, were there to do a walk-through and to educate me on exactly where the 'Island' is! Portland Parks has taken on the responsibility of the pruning. We are thankful for that, as it brings their considerable experience, expertise and equipment to tackle the job and allows our volunteers to remain focused on other tasks.

I was able to see the rock wall that was recently reconstructed near the duck-viewing area. Since that rebuild was finished, Parks employees and our volunteers have been working together to re-plant and mulch the bed the wall encloses. At the time I was there, it was already looking good. In addition to the planting crew, there were several volunteers working on their chosen projects in other areas of the garden. They are all truly dedicated, as it was quite rainy!

The garden volunteers have a message for each of you. They said to let you know that there is always room for more volunteers, so, please keep that in mind in 2015.

The work party at Smith Garden was October 25th. The weather cooperated - it stayed dry for the most part. I counted 21 people there. That was a good turnout, however, there could have been more. There is plenty of work!

There was a lot of delicious food, from snacks for breakfast to homemade clam chowder, homemade baked beans, desserts and fruit for lunch. Many great conversations were going on during lunch.

One of the best things about volunteering at Smith Garden is that there are people from several Chapters there, all working together for a common goal, the beautiful Smith Garden.

Reminder: Our November meeting is back to the regular time, the third Thursday of the month, November 20th at 7:30 PM. Social time starts at 7:00 PM and, you are always invited to join members across the street at Woodstock Wine and Deli as early as 5:00 PM for a meal or a beverage.

Also, our Board of Directors meeting will be on November 25th at 7:00 PM, the new 'regular' time, at Van Veen Nursery.

I also want to take a moment to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and to thank you for all you do as members and volunteers. Thank you!

Re-Cap of the ARS Western Regional Conference in Everett, Washington

By Maria Stewart

On September 25th-29th, District 2 in Washington treated us to an enjoyable and informative conference. It was held in Everett, which is a great jumping-off place to explore the northern Cascades mountain range. Starting with an evening speaker on Friday and ending with the Executive Director's Forum on Sunday morning, the schedule included a wide range of topics to catch your interest. From the evolutionary history of rhododendrons shown through the study of genetics to the varieties of Japanese maples and their placement in your garden, it was difficult to choose which talk to attend next. From "The Siren Song of Species" to digital photography in the garden, topics were inviting us to choose our favorites. Fortunately, most of the talks repeated in the schedule. On Saturday evening at the banquet, Steve Hootman, Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden, entertained us with magnificent photos of and detailed dialogue about, the flora of Australia.

Like frosting on a cake, the plant sale, the silent auction and the raffle added fun to the conference. We saw many happy attendees gathering up their treasures from the plant sale to prepare them for transport to their new homes.

The next time you consider attending a regional Conference or a National Convention, think of the great places you will go, the fascinating speakers you will hear, and the good times that you will have with fellow rhododendron lovers.

Speaking of which, here are two conventions in the future to think about attending:

2015 May 6-10 ARS Annual Convention -- 70th Anniversary of the ARS -- Sidney By The Sea, BC, Canada. For information regarding the Convention, please go to: www.2015rhodo.ca

2016 April 20-23 ARS/ASA Annual Convention -- Williamsburg, Virginia

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.

Fall color!

Photograph of *Parrotia persica* courtesy of Mike Stewart.



October Meeting Highlights

By Tom Hoffman

Our October meeting was really busy! First off, it was good to see Mike Domaschofsky on the mend and at our meeting. Secondly, Mike Stewart gave us his impressions from the Western Regional conference in Everett, Washington - great speakers, plant sale sold out, had a great time, lots of fun, and now it's time to register for the ARS Convention in Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC, Canada! Then Mike shared some worrisome news: the Weyerhaeuser corporation is selling their office park in Washington, which happens to be the site of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, RSF Botanic Garden and a large bonsai collection as well. Rhododendron enthusiasts are exploring possible scenarios to preserve those treasures and Mike promised to keep us posted.

Our program was a fascinating look at classical Japanese gardens in Kyoto. Our speakers were Barbara Hilty, Marion McNew, Barbara Simon and Alyse Lansing, four landscape designers from Portland, who together went on a tour of gardens in Kyoto, Japan in November of 2013. Our speakers gave us an overview of the history of Kyoto and garden development there, the principles of Japanese garden design, a visual tour of several gardens, and a discussion of the maintenance involved in Japanese gardens. Chapter members who work at Portland's Japanese Garden in Washington Park as volunteers are very familiar with the maintenance requirements of that garden.

The historical and philosophical differences between classical Japanese gardens and gardens such as Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden or the Smith Garden are interesting and worth considering. To assist in that endeavor, our speakers gave us a handout, "Japanese Garden Design Principles" and recommended a book: *Japanese Garden Design*, by Marc Keane.

Following our speakers, we held our traditional rhododendron species auction, which featured many tempting plants donated for the occasion. Dick Cavender was our veteran auctioneer. We should have a report on the funds raised by this year's auction at the November meeting. Our annual plant auctions are always lively, fun events Next up: our companion plant auction at the February meeting, followed by the hybrid rhododendron auction at the April meeting. That's just around the corner! Please give some thought to plants you might want to donate for those auctions or for our raffles, another highlight of our meetings.

Flowers in Motion: Rhododendron ‘Pink Pinwheels’

By Maria Stewart

When Frank Fujioka named this hybrid ‘Pink Pinwheels’, he must have seen the pink and white colors of the corollas as suggesting a twirling movement. The name is apt for the trusses do look like pinwheels with their ruffled edges and two-tone corollas. Supporting these amazing flowers are strong branches covered with dark green leaves. Each of these handsome leaves has a covering of beige indumentum underneath. What a great combination of attributes: twirling flowers, handsome foliage and felty indumentum!

Here is more information about R. ‘Pink Pinwheels’:

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

The parents: R. ‘Flirt’ X R. arboreum ssp. nilagiricum ‘Noyo Chief’

R. ‘Flirt’: (R. ‘Britannia’ X R. degronianum ssp. yakushmanum ‘Koichiro Wada’

The hybridizer is Frank Fujioka, Whidbey Island, in 1983.

Trusses: are very full with strong pink on the outside of the corollas and along the very ruffled edges of the corollas. The inside of the corollas is white.

Leaves: are dark green on top with beige indumentum.

Bloom time is early May.

Height in 10 years: about 5 feet.



Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Vice President: **Dennis O'Malley**
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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:

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

Dan McLaughlin

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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
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a local Chapter of the American Rho-
dodendron Society. Combined annual
dues to both the national society and
local chapter are \$40. Membership
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