

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- December 18, 2014  
Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner  
6:30 pm set-up  
7:00 pm dining
- 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

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## Please Join the Portland ARS Chapter for Our *Holiday Party and Potluck Supper* *December 18, 2014*

**Location: All Saints Episcopal Church**  
**SE 40<sup>th</sup> and SE Woodstock, Portland OR**

**6:30 PM: Social Hour AND Set-up/Decorate the Tables**  
**7:00 PM: Dining**

*It is time for our traditional fun and fabulous Holiday Party and Potluck!*

**YOU ARE ALL INVITED!**

Bring your favorite dish to share AND Invite a friend or two! Guests are always welcome.

Also, please remember to bring one or more gifts (inexpensive) to share. It is more fun when they are wrapped.

*This is our biggest door prize festivity of the year! Our goal is that everyone receives a gift.*

NOTE TO TABLE DECORATORS: If you aren't sure if you signed up to decorate a table or have any questions about this, call Brenda at 503.314.5834.

OUR TRADITIONAL PROGRAM is slides and digital images shown by our members and/or their guests. We recommend no more than 15 slides per person. These slides can be of plants, gardens, travels, and memories you would like to share. We will have a laptop with a digital projector. If you need a slide projector, please bring your own, or let us know what you need and we will do our best to get it for you! If you have any questions on this, please call or email Brenda at 503.314.5834 or [bzgift@aol.com](mailto:bzgift@aol.com).

This year, we have an **extra opportunity** to help others. The church where we hold our meetings, All Saints Episcopal Church, hosts a holiday meal and gives gifts to homeless or less fortunate people Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>. They have let us know they would appreciate items such as socks, small size or travel size toiletries, as well as other useful items such as clean clothing, blankets, gloves, etc. to give out. Please do what you can to support their community outreach.

## 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 February, 2015:

**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**

**December 21, 2015: Winter Solstice. Winter begins.**

**No December Board Meeting - Happy Holidays!**

**January 15, 2015**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 pm social time**

**7:30 pm meeting**

**Program: TBA**

**Speaker: Steve Hootman**

**January 20, 2015**

**Board Meeting**

**7:00 pm**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**February 11 - 15, 2015**

**Northwest Flower & Garden Show  
Seattle, Washington**

**February 19, 2015**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 pm social time**

**7:30 pm meeting**

**Companion Plant Auction!**

**Program: TBA**

**February 19-22, 2015**

**Home & Garden Show  
Portland Expo Center**

## Haiku

A matchless fall day  
Even the caw of the crow  
so softly mature

Hanging leaf  
Hanging spider -- from the  
invisible web

Autumn's low slung sun  
through the turning leaves into  
shadow mosaic

Those shifting colors  
of autumn; each day baffling  
expectations

The withering fog  
A brilliant yellow in  
the backlit maples

Blue skies; signal calls --  
Wedge upon wedge of autumn's  
sandhill cranes

The wind in disguise  
has transformed the maple to  
a chaos of leaves

By Peter Kendall

## Meeting Calendar, cont'd.

**February 24, 2015**

**Board Meeting**

**7:00 pm**

**Van Veen Nursery**

## **From the President's Corner**

**By Brenda Ziegler**

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you!

I want to thank each of you for all you do for the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Thank you! We could not have such a vibrant group without each of you. I know we call on you frequently and you come through like shining stars - and, it is noticed and appreciated.

I hope you can all make it to the Holiday Party and Potluck. If you are not able to attend and have a chance to give one of us an update on you, we would appreciate it and will pass it along to the others. You can call me at 503-314-5834, or e-mail me or any one of the other members.

For all of our Board Members, we will NOT be having a December Board Meeting.

Happy New Year too!



## **ARS Convention Reminders**

**By Maria Stewart**

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](http://www.2015rhodo.ca)**

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

## **Home and Garden Show 2015**

**By Dick Cavender**

We are creating a garden again at the Home and Garden Show, Portland Expo Center, on February 19-22, 2015.

I will be looking for help setting up the garden on the 18th, taking it down on the 23rd, and staffing it for the four days of the show.

I will have sign-up sheets at the December, January and February meetings. Since February 19th is the Portland Chapter meeting night, I will try to staff that night with TVARS and Willamette Chapter members.

Volunteers do NOT need to be ARS members; shifts will be about 4 hours. Admission will be free to staffers!

## **Colorful Fall Foliage in Our Gardens**

**By Tom Hoffman**

I potted up a rooted layer of *Rhododendron mucronulatum* and parked it in a group of rhodies in my backyard for protection. For the past few weeks, I've been enjoying a bright splash of color in the midst of the evergreen rhodies as the deciduous *R. mucronulatum* puts on a display of green, yellow, orange and red leaves. I like the effect so much I'm thinking of planting it right where it is, and it's got me to thinking about other unplanned fall 'color spots' that showed up this year. In terms of smaller shrubs, *Enkianthus* have put on a show, primarily bright yellow. Larger but equally colorful are *Hamamelis*, which follow up with fragrant yellow, orange or red flowers after leaf-fall. All are mixed in with evergreen rhododendrons and seem to be at the right scale compared to the plants around them. Gardening by accident? What's been a good autumn foliage plant in your garden?



## **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](http://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.

### **Rutherford Conservatory at the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanic Garden**



## November Meeting Highlights

By Dennis O'Malley

Our speaker for the November meeting was Harold Greer, who attended with his wife, Nancy. They are the owners and operators of Greer Gardens in Eugene, Oregon, which for decades has been a leading source for rhododendrons and other rare and unusual plants, known throughout the world. Mr. Greer is the author of the indispensable *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons* and co-author with Homer Salley of *Rhododendron Hybrids*. He is the recipient of the Gold Medal award of the American Rhododendron Society and has served as the International President of the ARS. We were lucky to be able to present such a nationally and internationally recognized authority and sought-after speaker.

In the course of the evening we learned that Mr. Greer hybridized R. 'Trude Webster' in 1955 when he was 10 years old and that the Greer Gardens business was placed in his name when he was only 12 years old. The Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden celebrated its 50th anniversary earlier this year, and that was Mr. Greer's topic. At age 19, Mr. Greer was present at the inception of the RSF as recording secretary at the meeting at which the RSF was founded. He was a key participant and a keen observer of that 50-year history.

For his program, Mr. Greer gathered historical photographs of the founders and subsequent leaders of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, telling the story of its founding in high hopes and its precarious existence over the early years, up to its emergence as a mature and well-established organization. Mixed in were his personal memories of the events in which he participated and the people he knew so well during those decades. Pictures of Steve Hootman and Dennis Bottemiller in their early years at the RSF were another entertaining highlight.

It was a warm program of important memories and events, which was graciously presented and warmly received. Our thanks to Harold and Nancy for visiting us again.

## Outstanding Foliage and Elegant Blooms: *Rhododendron pachysanthum*

By Maria Stewart

*Rhododendron pachysanthum* catches your eye when you walk near it and it stands out from other plants at a distance, also. The beautiful combination of the silvery tomentum on the tops of the leaves and the thick, tan indumentum on the undersides of the leaves makes this species one of the most desirable rhododendrons in the world.

Here is more information about *R. pachysanthum*:

Classification: it belongs to Subsection Maculifera

Distribution in the wild: Central Taiwan, at 10,000 - 10,500 feet in elevation, in full exposure above the treeline.

Structure: compact and dense in the sun, becoming somewhat less compact with age.

Flowers: white to pale pink and usually spotted. Expect to wait a few years for blooms.

Leaves: The foliage provides continual beauty throughout the year. The persistent silvery tomentum on the tops of the leaves and the thick, tan indumentum on the undersides of the leaves make a distinctive combination.

Height: 3 feet tall and wide in 10 years.

Hardiness: -5 degrees F.



Photo 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:

**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522  
**Betsy Soifer**, [soiferb@hotmail.com](mailto:soiferb@hotmail.com)

**Dan McLaughlin**

Tours/Volunteering:

[csrgvol@me.com](mailto: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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