

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- January 15, 2015
Regular Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Program: Collecting in
Australia and Tasmania
in 2013
Speaker: Steve Hootman,
Executive Director and
Curator, RSBG
- 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 40th and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 2013 Expedition in Australia and Tasmania

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold our January meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon.

Our featured speaker will be Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. He will be describing his expedition in the fall of 2013 to collect wild species in Australia and Tasmania. Steve's talks and photographs are always wonderfully entertaining and educational. Don't miss this opportunity to leave the familiar Pacific Northwest behind and travel vicariously to the Australian and Tasmanian 'bush' country!

Australia is home to *Rhododendron lochia*, which was found in 1887 by explorers Sayer and Davidson at the summit of the Bellenden-Ker range in Queensland. The area is now Bellenden-Ker national park. *R. lochia* was named in honor of Lady Loch, wife of the Governor of Victoria, a patron of horticulture in Australia and of the genus *Rhododendron* in particular. For a good account of the *R. lochia* story, see www.vireya.net or type 'Rhododendron lochia' into your browser and select the Vireya Net item.

Rhododendron lochia has been a workhorse in *vireya* hybridizing almost since its discovery. Curiously, no white-flowered forms are known, only a range of bright reds and that color tends to be dominant in crosses. Recently, *R. lochia* has been split into 2 species; if the flowers have curved corolla tubes, the plant is *R. lochia*; if the corolla tubes are straight, the plant is considered to be *R. viriosum*. So, Australia is now home to at least 2 species of rhododendrons. Are there more to be found?

Given the tremendous variety of plants in Australia and Tasmania, we are going to have an interesting talk this month! Please, bring friends and guests to hear Steve Hootman!

Dennis O'Malley and Tom Hoffman

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:

January 15, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Program: Collecting in Australia and Tasmania, 2013

Speaker: Steve Hootman, RSBG

January 20, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

February 11, 2015

First workday at Crystal Springs R.G., weather permitting

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**

February 24, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

March 19, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Program: TBA

Haiku

A midwinter's snow
This morning's sparrow, at up
to double its size

Winter -- so high as
to be almost out of sight --
the circling eagle

A soft winter sun
The exclamation of
a Townsend's warbler

As if from nowhere
a suffocating fog
has erased the world

A day of cold rain
The lichen-studded maple
finding its element

By Peter Kendall

Meeting Calendar, cont'd.

March 24, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

From the President's Corner

By Brenda Ziegler

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Can you believe it is 2015?

I find it refreshing to look ahead at the New Year and all of the opportunities we have, in our personal lives, professional lives and our volunteering lives. Although I generally do not make New Year's resolutions, I do make goals for myself for the New Year. Whatever we choose to call it, resolutions or setting goals, it helps to keep us moving forward.

At our Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, we have a lot of goals for this coming year. Three of them are:

One: We want to be sure all of our members are enjoying their membership and the knowledge and friendships that come with it. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me. My cell 'phone number is 503-314-5834. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Two: Actively recruit new members. This is where all members can help. If you know someone who enjoys rhododendrons, please invite them to attend a meeting, or help you volunteer at one of our activities. We are kicking off 2015 with a world-renowned speaker, Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. I know we can count on Steve to give a great talk, centered on his adventures in pursuit of rhododendrons for the RSBG.

Three: Volunteer; volunteer one more time than you thought you would in 2015! Whether it is at a Home & Garden Show, or working at the Smith Garden on work party days or open garden days, or working at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden at one of the spring shows (or both!) or the work party days. And, there are other opportunities to volunteer - just ask a Board Member!

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who attended the December meeting and holiday potluck.

Thank you! The tables were *beautiful*. The food was *delicious*. The slides were *fabulous*. The **Generosity** of our members' contributions to the homeless outreach program at All Saints Episcopal Church was *inspiring*. **Thank you!**

I also want to thank Jade Tsefalas, Maestro Yaki Bergman, Courtney Ruckman and Sarah Mattox, musicians, for attending our December meeting.

Our Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00 pm at Van Veen Nursery.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the January 15th meeting!

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!

Highlights of the December Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We enjoyed wonderful food and company at our annual holiday party in December. Our monthly raffle was turned into a fun gift exchange for the occasion. We have many *very* good cooks among our members and even a casual observer would notice the beautiful table decorations as well and conclude that this group has raised potluck suppers to an art!

A highlight of the traditional December slide show was a presentation by members Steve McCormick and John Stephens of the construction of their new home and garden on what was originally part of the nursery of J. Harold Clarke, an ARS founder, on the shore of Willapa Bay in Long Beach, Washington.

The December meeting also provided an opportunity for us to contribute to the community outreach efforts of All Saints Episcopal Church, where we hold our meetings. The church hosted a holiday meal and gave gifts to homeless and less fortunate people on the Saturday following our meeting. Our members contributed a substantial amount of items for those gift packages at our meeting.

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.

Coming Soon: The 2015 ARS Seed Exchange

The 2015 ARS Seed Exchange is due to be open for business later this month and if the 2015 list is anything like the 2014 seed list, there will be a great many things on offer to pique our interest and reward our curiosity. The ARS Seed Exchange is a valuable resource and a terrific membership perk. Looking over the annual seed lists, there are Rhododendron species and hybrids as well as companion plants; quite a few are wild-collected. Seed has been sent in from around the world by rhododendron enthusiasts. To access the seed list online, type *American Rhododendron Society* into your browser, or, www.rhododendron.org, and on the home page of the ARS website, click on 'Resources' and select 'Seed Exchange'. By regular mail, please contact: Norman Beaudry, ARS Seed Exchange, 7921 Deepwell Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 or by e-mail: ARSseed@gmail.com with any questions about the Seed Exchange or to contribute seed.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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ADDRESS SERVICE
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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

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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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@
yahoo.com](mailto:tjhoffman56@yahoo.com), or via mail to: 4765 SW
38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-
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Website: www.rhodies.org; web
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline
Enns**

Membershi p Updates: John
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503-663-6987