

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- February 11, 2015
First workday at Crystal Springs R.G.
- February 11-15, 2015
Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Seattle, Washington
- February 19, 2015
Regular Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Desserts potluck
Companion Plant Auction
Speaker: Russell Graham
Program: Trilliums

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



Touting Trillium - A Skeptic's View

By Dennis O'Malley

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold our February meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon.

Our featured speaker will be Russell Graham. Russell and Yvonne Graham have grown Trilliums and other specialty woodland perennials, both native and exotic, since 1972. For 25 years, until 2006, they operated a mail-order nursery - Russell Graham Purveyor of Plants - from West Salem, Oregon. Since then, Russell has been obsessed with Trillium. He will be talking about "Lies, Lore, Myths (and a few Facts)" including propagation, culture and companion plants.

Russ will be bringing in some potted plants to sell. His presentation will be followed by the auction of other companion plants, sponsored by the Portland Chapter. And...

"Sweets for the Sweet" Potluck is Back!



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 March, 2015:

February 11, 2015

First workday at Crystal Springs R.G., 9:00 am start time. "Nor Rain nor Snow nor Gloom of Cloud!" shall stay our volunteers

February 11 - 15, 2015

Northwest Flower & Garden Show Seattle, Washington

February 19, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

"Sweets for the Sweet" Potluck

Companion Plant Auction!

Program: Trilliums

Speaker: Russell Graham

February 19-22, 2015

Home & Garden Show

Portland Expo Center

February 23, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

Please Note Date Change for this

Board Meeting to Monday

March 19, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Program: TBA

March 24, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

A dusting of snow
The first tantalizing glimpse
of patches of white

Late January
The rush of east winds -- a
mountain's clarity

Not a trace of wind
That bone-chilling cold for yet
one more day

The sky, a slate gray
Laying bare winter's first light --
the rasp of the wren

The grip of the freeze
has all but passed on; one bird
begets another

By Peter Kendall

Meeting Calendar, cont'd.

March 28, 2015

Smith Garden Work Party

8:00 am 'til early afternoon

Save the Date!

From the President's Corner

By Brenda Ziegler

Hello, everyone!

Please join us for our February meeting on Thursday, the 19th!

February brings our Chapter many opportunities to socialize, share, and volunteer.

The evening will be "sweet" and lively with the Potluck Sweets for the Sweet and the Companion Plant Auction. You are invited and encouraged to POTLUCK some type of sweet for our "Sweets for the Sweet" February hospitality event. It was started a few years ago by our then-President Mike Domaschofsky and is back by popular demand. Social time starts at 7:00 pm, so be sure to join in the spirit of the evening and share and enjoy treats while catching up and getting to know some of the other members and guests.

Our speaker has spent over 3 decades working with the plants he will discuss with us. This is sure to be an excellent talk! Please read Dennis O'Malley's article on page 1 of this newsletter for more information.

Following our speaker's presentation we will have our Companion Plant Auction. We encourage each member to bring one or several plants to donate for the auction - the more, the merrier! When it comes to companion plants for rhododendrons, the possibilities are numerous. Ferns, grasses, bamboo, bulbs and perennials, shrubs and trees - what's growing with your rhodies? Share the bounty of your garden and help the Chapter raise money, too.

Other activities going on this month: the Home and Garden Show, taking place February 19th-22nd at the Portland Expo Center. Three local ARS Chapters will be on site staffing the rhody display.

And, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden 2015 Volunteer Season starts February 11 at 9:00 am, rain or shine, snow, hail, sleet. The volunteers work in the garden every Wednesday morning through November 11th. The new Volunteer Coordinator for Crystal Springs is Dottie Alberg. Thank you, Dottie!

I hope this year is off to a great start for each of you. I look forward to seeing you. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please call or e-mail me. My 'phone number is 503-314-5834 and my e-mail is bzgift@aol.com.

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 January Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We had a good turnout, members and guests, to hear Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, describe his collecting expedition in the fall of 2013 to Australia and Tasmania. Thank you all for attending.

Steve's photographs of Tasmania in particular caught my attention; I definitely want to visit Tasmania! The ongoing re-classification of certain elements of the floras of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand has placed those plants in the Ericaceae, rhododendron relatives. Will expeditions such as Steve's lead to new, hardy in the Pacific Northwest, companion plants for our rhododendrons? Our climate is more like the conditions in Tasmania; can we learn to grow those fascinating plants Steve showed us?

Learning that kangaroos function like deer in Australian gardens was a reality-check. It turns out there is an ongoing discussion in Australia regarding 'kangaroo proof plants', with lots of material on the internet. Type "kangaroo proof plants" into an internet web-browser if you're curious. The beautiful botanic gardens Steve showed us seem all the more remarkable when we consider the destructive plant pests and diseases that gardeners face in Australia and Tasmania.

A fun raffle, presided over by E. White Smith, and lively conversations over coffee and cookies, thanks to our kitchen volunteers, made a good meeting even better. Here's looking forward to seeing you at our February meeting!

A Diminutive Rhododendron With Big Appeal: R. 'Wee Bee'

By Maria Stewart

Warren Berg hybridized many rhododendrons to admire and plant in our gardens. When he named them, he gave them rhythmic names such as 'Patty Bee', 'Queen Bee', 'King Bee', 'Wanna Bee', 'Whid Bee', 'Peter Bee', 'Ginny Gee', 'Honey Bee', 'Must Bee', 'June Bee', and 'Wee Bee'. Warren Berg's hybrids are known for their excellent foliage characteristics. For example, 'Queen Bee', 'King Bee', 'Wanna Bee', and 'Must Bee' all have impressive indumentum. Another example of attractive foliage is 'Whid Bee' with its dark red undersides of the leaves combined with the dark green top sides. The rest of the hybrids mentioned above are mounding dwarfs with small leaves that densely cover the plants. That includes the dwarf R. 'Wee Bee'.

Concerning R. 'Wee Bee':

Parentage: R. campylogynum 'Patricia' x R. keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'

Flowers: pendant trusses of 3 to 5 flowers, strong reddish-pink on the outside of each corolla, with strong pink fading to a lighter pink on the inside; each lobe has a ray of strong pink through the center.

Leaves: small leaves densely cover the plant; each leaf has thick scales on the underside, which makes it a lepidote rhododendron.

Structure: a well-branched plant, becoming twice as wide as tall. In ten years, expect it to be 12" high and at least 24" wide.

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: sun to partial shade.

Soil: wants good drainage



Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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: **Herb Spady**, 503-874-1445

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
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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
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