

Calendar

- **March 19, 2015**
Regular meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Program: 2014 RHS
Chelsea Flower
Show
Speaker: Bud Bowen
- **March 24, 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



The 2014 Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show

By Dennis O'Malley

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold our March meeting on Thursday, March 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 Bud Bowen. Bud has been co-owner of Ainsworth House and Garden in Oregon City for 10 years. Ainsworth House is an historic property, built in 1851. It is surrounded by two acres of lush gardens and hosts weddings and many other types of gatherings and events.

Last summer, Bud traveled to the U.K., where he attended the 2014 Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show and took approximately 1000 photographs. He has selected the best of those photos and will be showing them to us at our March. It promises to be a sight to behold!

First Annual Rhododendron Tour on the Long Beach Peninsula, May 2nd, 2015

You're invited to a first annual Rhododendron Tour on the Long Beach Peninsula, Saturday, May 2nd. Included among the properties on the tour will be the former Clarke Nursery, founded by former ARS Gold Medal Winner and past President, Dr. J. Harold Clarke, and now the residence of Portland Chapter members John Stephens and Steve McCormick. You'll see many historic species and hybrid rhododendrons along with newer specimens displayed in handsome residential garden settings. The day will be highlighted by an optional breakfast to be held at the historic Shelburne Inn in Seaview, featuring a talk by Dr. Clarke's grandson, Steve Clarke, owner of the continuing Clarke Nursery landscape business. The event is produced by the Water Music Festival, which benefits music education in the Ocean Beach school district.

Details and ticket information are posted at <http://watermusicfestival.com/>.

Tour tickets are \$10.00 and breakfast will start at 10:00 am; breakfast cost is estimated to be \$8.00.

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 April, 2015:

March 19, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Program: The 2014 RHS Chelsea

Flower Shower

Speaker: Bud Bowen

March 24, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

March 28, 2015

Smith Garden Work Party

8:00 am 'til early afternoon

Lunch provided

Save the Date!

April 4th through May 17th, 2015

Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Smith Garden Open Days

April 11-12, 2015

Daffodil and Early Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

April 16, 2015

Annual Meeting

7:00 pm social time

7:30 pm meeting

Program: TBA

Hybrid Auction

Haiku

Movement of the wind
in orchestrated shadow
on winter's weathered fence

A warm winter's day
Calling out -- a bird, or two,
nudging the silence

An invitation
to throw off a winter's grip
to absorb the sun

In the mare's tail clouds
high in a clear winter's sky,
traces of high winds

By Peter Kendall

Meeting Calendar, cont'd.

April 21, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

April 24-25, 2015

Willamette Rhododendron Show & Plant Sale, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Riverside Park

Salem, Oregon

April 25-26, 2015

Tualatin Valley Plant Sale

Saturday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Washington County Fairgrounds
Hillsboro, Oregon**

RHODODENDRON & DAFFODIL SHOW AND SALE

AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN



SATURDAY, April 11th - SUNDAY, April 12th
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
will host the

Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Daffodil Society's
Annual Show and Sale

The garden is located at:
5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland

Free Admission

Show opens at 12:00 pm on Saturday

TO ENTER YOUR OWN FLOWERS in the show bring them to the exhibit hall
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

More information: www.crystalspringsgarden.org or 503 771-8386

Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

The Importance of Volunteers

By Herbert Spady

My membership in the American Rhododendron Society dates back almost forty-five years. One of the most impressive things about the Society then was that it was based primarily on volunteers; people spent hours of their time and resources working for the benefit of the Society and its members. If a monetary value were placed on their volunteer work and use of personal resources, it would be a very large amount. Today we face a steady decline in our membership, which has led to financial difficulties, as well as a decline in participation. I am convinced the declines are social phenomena; there isn't a decline in gardening or the attraction of rhododendrons at present. There have been numerous suggestions on how to increase our membership; all are worthwhile, but may have limited effectiveness. I am concerned that our membership may continue to decline at least in the near term, leading us to become a small Society with a few dedicated people. That requires more of our members to volunteer to support all the responsibilities we have assumed. That translates to more attendance at garden work parties, more members eager to accept officers positions and more. Let's make all our events attract big crowds! Educational outreach and volunteerism is the way to increase our growth and guarantee our survival.

Highlights of the February Meeting

By Maria Stewart

At our February meeting, we welcomed a full house of members and guests who were eager to hear Russell Graham speak about trilliums. He is an expert on the genus *Trillium* and it was fascinating to learn that there are so many species in the genus. They grow across the temperate regions of North America and Asia. The white, yellow, purple or red flowers are either supported on a short stalk above the leaves (pedicellate) or grown directly on top of the leaves (sessile). Russell included his thoughts about propagation by seed, suggesting that we leave our special trilliums in place to seed around and grow their own seedlings, instead of collecting the seeds and trying to germinate them in a different medium. Russell's talk reminded us that trilliums are wonderful companion plants for rhododendrons.

Thank you to the members who treated us to the ever-popular "Sweets for Sweet" potluck. The table was laden with goodies to tempt us to indulge.

And that brings us to the companion plant auction, which was ably run by Dick Cavender and his helping hands, Karen Cavender, Dave Collier and Dennis O'Malley. The bidding was spirited and the crew auctioned off a nice variety of plants brought in by our members.

Rhododendron 'Calfort': Gorgeous Leaves Crowned By Impressive Flowers

By Maria Stewart

During our trip to New Zealand in October, 2014, we experienced the pleasure of visiting many fine gardens. We soon found rhododendrons in these gardens that we also grow in the Pacific Northwest. It was fun to see that we shared a common interest with people living over 7,000 miles away from Oregon and in another hemisphere. One of the rhododendrons catching our eye was R. 'Calfort'. It quite easy to see both parents in this beautiful hybrid. They are R. calophyllum and R. fortunei. It may not be easy to find this rhododendron in the Pacific Northwest, however, finding it may lead you on an adventure!

Here is more about R. 'Calfort':

Parentage: R. calophyllum (seed parent) x R. fortunei (pollen parent). Described as being part of the Calfort Group

Hybridizer: L. France, circa 1921

Leaves: Lanceolate in shape, medium green, similar in length to R. calophyllum

Flowers: slightly scented; white with red blotch; blooms April to May

Height: about 12 feet in 10 years

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Placement: partial shade
will be of benefit to this rhododendron.



Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

From the President's Corner

By Brenda Ziegler

It certainly is beautiful outdoors! We are very lucky to have such an early spring and I hope the weather holds! Watching plants bloom is always such a refreshing experience this time of year.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers. I know I have said this before, however I do truly believe it and appreciate all of you!

The Portland Home and Garden Show was last weekend, February 20th-22nd. Our Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was invited to stage a 'Display Garden' at the Show. We had many volunteers setting up the garden, working the show, and then taking it down on Monday the 23rd. THANK YOU all so much! Our display garden was truly beautiful. One of the most frequent comments from visitors was that the plants "...all had names on them." Our exhibit was so busy that we had to restock the fliers before the conclusion of the show. We also acquired a list of potential members, which points out the importance of our efforts to meet and greet our visitors. And, we can always use more volunteers; if we ever forget to ask you to volunteer, please let us know!

Garden work days have started at both Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and the Smith Garden. The works days are: Wednesday mornings at CSRG and Monday mornings at the Smith Garden. One benefit to working in the gardens is the plants that are starting to flower; there are approximately 3 dozen rhododendrons blooming at CSRG along with many magnolias; the un-crowded Smith Garden has a smaller number of rhodies and magnolias in bloom, with perennials-cyclamen, trilliums, erythroniums, daffodils- carpeting the forest floor.

The Early Show and Sale weekend has moved this year to April 11th and 12th due to Easter Sunday falling on the first weekend of April, our customary date for the Early Show. We are NOT charging an entrance fee into Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden that Saturday or Sunday. Our goals are for the public to be "invited" and also to sell plants and have a successful truss show. We are currently getting organized for this event and need a lot of Chapter members and guests to help. Please e-mail Betsy Soifer at: soiferb@hotmail.com if you are interested in learning more about opportunities to volunteer. You are also welcome to e-mail me at: bzgift@aol.com regarding volunteering.

The Smith Garden Work Party is Saturday, March 28th. This is a great time to work hard, meet and catch up with other passionate gardeners and enjoy a free lunch! If you have not yet visited the Smith Garden, you really should see it. It is a world-class woodland garden.

We look forward to seeing each of you at our meeting on Thursday, March 19th.

Portland Home & Garden Show, February 2015

Photos courtesy Dick Cavender



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,
dvmclau@comcast.net

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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
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ters, discounts, and activities.

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