

Calendar

- **April 16, 2015**
Annual Meeting
7:00 pm social time
7:30 pm meeting
Election of Nominees to the Board;
Program: Azalea
Lacebug in Oregon
Speaker: Tom
Valente from ODA;
Hybrid Plant Auction!
- **April 21, 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



Our April Meeting

Our April meeting will feature entomologist Tom Valente, PhD from the Oregon Department of Agriculture speaking on azalea lacebug in Oregon. Dr. Valente works with the Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program at the ODA and is involved in lacebug research. His talk for our meeting is entitled "Out of Control? Azalea Lacebug in Oregon and What We Need to Know Now" This will be a timely revisiting of lacebug issues for both members and the general gardening public.

April is also our Annual Meeting, and we are electing 5 Nominees to our Board for a two-year term ending in 2017. The nominees are: Dave Collier; Caroline Enns; Steve Hall; Steve Hopkins; and Bill Zanze.

Following our program, we will have our annual auction of rhododendron hybrids. If you have hybrid rhododendrons you wish to donate to the Chapter for the auction, please bring them to our April meeting!

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 ticket cost is \$15.00.

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 May, 2015:

Smith Garden Open Days:

**April 4th through May 17th, 2015
Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**

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

**Election of Nominees to the Board
Program: Azalea Lacebug in Oregon**

**Speaker: Tom Valente, PhD
& Hybrid Rhododendron Auction**

April 21, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

Other Events in April:

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

Haiku

Through the trees, glimpses
of sunset, in a distant
shift of winter cloud

Just before bed time --
blossoms of the magnolia
lighting up the night

February sun
Gusts from the east, buffeting
the drawn out shadows

A late winter's sun
In the elm tree's high reaches
suggestions of green

February plum
From gnarled branch to a world
of breaking blossom

By Peter Kendall

Meeting Calendar, cont'd.

May 9-10, 2015

Mother's Day Show and Sale

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Show opens at 12:00 pm on Saturday

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron
Garden**

Portland, Oregon

May 21, 2015

Portland Chapter Awards Banquet

6:30 pm Set-up

7:00 pm Dining

Program: TBA

May 26, 2015

Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Van Veen Nursery

**Mother's Day Weekend
Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 9, 2015

9:00* am to 5:00 pm

***Flower Show opens at noon on Saturday to provide time for judging**

Sunday, May 10, 2015

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
5801 SE 28th Avenue
Portland, Oregon**

Just across SE 28th Avenue from Reed College

**To enter your own rhododendron flower trusses in the show,
bring them to the Exhibit Hall 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Friday night
or 7:00 am - 9:30 am Saturday.**

**Judged Flower Show in the Exhibit Hall
Big Plant Sale in the Front Parking Lot**

Highlights of the March Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We enjoyed a most interesting presentation at our March 19th meeting, when Bud Bowen and Kevin Yell took us along on their trip to the 2014 Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show. Kevin, who hails from Leicester, north of London, gave us a brief history of the Chelsea Flower Show, which is held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London. The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded by King Charles II in 1682 to care for former members of the Armed Forces; Christopher Wren was the architect.

The year 2014 marked a full century since the First World War began, and remembering the cost of that conflict was a theme for the 2014 Chelsea Flower Show. That war permanently changed agriculture and gardening across Great Britain. It is hard to imagine a world without gardeners and horses; some exhibits incorporated untended plots and thickets of weeds to show the consequences of the Great War. The opening ceremonies referenced the poppies of Flanders' fields with a display of thousands of red ceramic poppies on long stems, which were sold after the show to raise money for charitable causes.

The Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show itself is over 100 years old. The site now covers 11 acres and attendance is capped at 157,000 visitors over the 5-day show. Bud Bowen showed us his images of the incredible variety of exhibits and vendors at the Show. There were fruit and vegetable displays and seed companies in abundance. Individual cities also created exhibits and competed for prizes. The setup leading up to the show and the tear down after the show have exhibitors literally moving heaven and earth on very tight schedules. Sound familiar?

E. White Smith presided over our raffle, which included several choice plants in the Ericaceae and other good companion plants suitable for planting with rhododendrons.

Cecil and Molly Smith Garden Open Days

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden will be open Saturdays and Sundays, April 4th through May 17th, from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm on those days.

The entry fee is still only \$3.00.

Because the garden is on a steep hillside with gravel paths and not terraced, it is not handicapped - accessible.

For further information, please see the garden website <http://www.smithgarden.org> or contact Dick Cavender at redsrhodies.com. Garden chair is Herb Spady, rhodophile@alum.wustl.edu.

A Special Plant Given the Names of Two Honorable Men: *Rhododendron benhallii*

By Maria Stewart

In the late 1700's, a Scottish surgeon named Archibald Menzies made several trips on sailing ships to North America, Hawaii and China. On board the ships, he was in charge of keeping the sailors healthy, but he also found time to collect plants. His discoveries include *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir), *Arbutus menziesii* (Pacific madrone), *Araucaria araucana* (Monkey Puzzle tree) and *Menziesia*, a genus of ericaceous shrubs. For over 200 years, these botanical names have been honoring Menzies' discoveries. In the last 10 years, however, the entire genus of *Menziesia* has been moved into the genus *Rhododendron*. Today's research has verified that relationship to *Rhododendrons*. One of the shrubs in the former genus *Menziesia* is *Menziesia ciliicalyx*. Since that name was previously assigned to a *rhododendron*, *R. ciliicalyx*, a new name needed to be found for *Menziesia ciliicalyx*.

In honor of Dr. Ben Hall's work in genetics at the University of Washington, *M. ciliicalyx* has been renamed as *Rhododendron benhallii*. Dr. Hall runs the lab that has done much of the genetic research on *rhododendrons*. Furthermore, Dr. Hall has been very generous to the *Rhododendron* Species Foundation over many years.

Here is more information about *R. benhallii*:

Native to Japan, in woodland areas.

Flowers: small, nodding, urn-to-bell-shaped, 4 to 5 lobes per flower; white with purple-pink edges; blooms late spring.

Leaves: deciduous; leaves are bright green and oval to obovate, about 3 inches long in clusters.

Habit: slow growing, bushy, a 3 feet wide and tall at maturity.

Placement in your garden: grow in moist, but well-drained, humus-rich, acidic soil in partial shade. Shelter from cold, drying winds. Likes cool, damp summers.



Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

From the President's Corner

By Brenda Ziegler

It is official -Spring is here! We have been fortunate to feel like it has been here for over a month, now. The outdoors persist in becoming more beautiful every day!

There were 26 people working at the Smith Garden work party Saturday, March 28th. What a great turnout! The weather was fabulous, the companionship appreciated, the food delicious! It was a rewarding collaborative effort and a lot of work, chipping the debris piles, weeding, cleanup, ivy removal, was done. Everyone also got quite a workout! It was very nice to see Don and Dorothy Patrick; Beverly Smith drove the farthest (again!), coming all the way from Jacksonville, Oregon. Thank you ALL for pitching in.

As we were 'winding down' the work party, some relatives of Cecil and Molly Smith came by. They had not been to the garden in quite a few years, since they were teenagers, in fact; Molly was their grandfather's sister. We invited them to enjoy the garden.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers. I know I say this almost every month, however, it is more obvious every single day. Thank you all! Your *monthly reminder*: even when we have volunteers, we can truly always use more. If we ever forget to ask you to volunteer, please let us know!

Garden work days are on-going at both Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and the Smith Garden. The organized work days for volunteers are: Wednesday mornings at Crystal Springs R.G. and Monday mornings at the Smith Garden.

Our Early Show and Sale for the Portland Chapter of the ARS and the Oregon Daffodil Society will be held April 11th and 12th this year, due to Easter Sunday falling on the first weekend in April. We are giving **Free Admission** into Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden **both** Saturday, the 11th and Sunday, the 12th. Our goals are for the public to feel 'invited', to sell plants, and to have a successful truss show.

At our Early Show, early-blooming rhododendron trusses and amazing daffodils are displayed and judged; we encourage you to join in! Flowers may be brought to the Exhibit Hall on Friday evening, April 10th, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm or on Saturday morning, April 11th, from 7:00 am to 9:30 am.

Mike Domaschofsky, Bob MacArthur, Betsy Soifer and crew have been organizing the plant sale, arranging security and facilities; Dick Cavender has re-done the lace bug flyer with colored photos; Linda Rumgay our Show Chair, has organized judges, recorders, coffee and donuts and will oversee the Show; Ann Clack has organized the trophies and the point system for awarding the trophies. If you would like to help and volunteer, please contact Betsy Soifer at soiferb@hotmail.com, or e-mail me at bzgift@aol.com. To help with recording and judging, please contact Linda Rumgay directly.

We look forward to seeing each of you at our meeting on Thursday, April 16th. It is our Annual Meeting, with the election of nominees for our Board, and even more fun, it is our Rhododendron Hybrids Auction. This auction is an opportunity to bring in hybrid plants to offer up for the benefit of the Chapter as well as join in the bidding for that special plant. Happy Easter! Happy Spring! Happy Volunteering!

O. Howard Hinsdale Garden Open Days

From Gordon Wylie

Never been to the garden? Been there for a visit, but weren't able to have a close look at the east side because of the long and rather unpleasant walk inside the highway guardrail? Been to both parts of the garden but wondering how they may have changed? Want to see how the house fit into the garden one last time? Or maybe just want to enjoy an informal woodland garden with lots of mature rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias?

The Friends of Hinsdale Garden organization is generously hosting three open garden days this year. All are Saturdays: April 18th, April 25th and May 9th, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Please park at the Elk Viewing and Interpretive Center, about a mile west of the garden. Transportation will be provided to Hinsdale Garden, which you may then explore at your leisure before catching one of the shuttles to return to your vehicle.

The largest change visitors who have been to the garden before will notice immediately is a gracefully arched footbridge between the main garden and the east garden. Definitely a far more pleasant experience - and much shorter journey - than the walk next to the highway. Not only that, it provides a brand new perspective on the entire garden; one that invites pauses to look and perhaps capture a few pictures with your smart phone or camera. This year will also be the last chance for a nostalgic look at the Hinsdale residence, as demolition and removal is scheduled for later this summer after the flowering season has passed. Other plans include re-establishing irrigation to the entire garden, enabled through the Friends having helped secure an adequate water supply from the City of Reedsport.

There's no charge or entry fee, but please consider making a donation to the Friends to aid their efforts in supporting improvements to the garden and opening it to the public.

Group visits may be possible at other dates. Please contact me at lgwone@gmail.com or 541-895-2864.

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

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Betsy Soifer, soiferb@hotmail.com
Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net

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Events:

Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: **Herb Spady**, 503-874-1445

Newsletter, membership, and
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