

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **September 17th, 2015**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Social time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**Speaker: Dennis Bottemiller on Propagating Rhododendrons by cuttings & Cuttings Exchange!**
- **September 22nd, 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



## September Program and Cutting Exchange

By Dennis O'Malley

Last fall, after our September meeting, we received an e-mail from member Jay Lunn. He talked about how popular the annual Cutting Exchange had been in years past, with many members contributing cuttings and many others taking cuttings home to root. He wondered why participation had diminished over the years, and suggested that an effort should be made to restore the Cutting Exchange as a major focus and a major event.

Jay did his part by writing up some instructions on how to make cuttings, which are posted on the Chapter's website at the bottom of the activities page ([http://www.rhodies.org/chapter/pdx\\_activities.htm](http://www.rhodies.org/chapter/pdx_activities.htm)).

It seems that the skill and ability of amateurs to propagate rhododendrons from cuttings is becoming more important, not less. For years we have been able to rely on places such as Dover Nursery and Greer Gardens to provide not just quality rhododendrons but also the unusual and special varieties that fuel our members' interest in rhododendrons. As the Greers and the Stewarts and others like them reach well-deserved retirement, we can hope that other growers will step up to provide the kind of breadth of selection and availability that we love and have long enjoyed. But we may be facing a time when the ability to propagate plants from cuttings shared with us by our fellow members will once again be crucial to our gardening enjoyment.

When I walk by a neighbor's garden and see something unusual and spectacular, I would like to have the confidence in my propagation skills to justify asking my neighbor for cuttings.

So, if you are a past master at propagation, please come to the September meeting prepared to share your knowledge and advice with those of us who are less fortunate. If it is a new skill for you, please come prepared to learn it and take home cuttings to practice it.

Let us all try to be particularly generous in sharing cuttings. Let's make sure there are plenty of labeled cuttings to share. Let's also bring some varieties that will rekindle a fire in those of us who may have lost some interest in propagating in recent years.

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## 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 December, 2015:

**September 17th, 2015**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Dennis Bottemiller on Propagating Rhododendrons by Cuttings**

**Cuttings Exchange!**

**September 22nd, 2015**

**Board Meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**October 15th, 2015**

**Regular Meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Karel Bernady /TBA**

**Species Auction!**

**October 17th, 2015**

**Smith Garden Fall Work Party**

**Start: 8:00 AM**

**Lunch: Noon**

**October 20th, 2015**

**Board Meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**November 19th, 2015**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Don Wallace on Hybridization**

## Calendar, continued:

**November 24th, 2015**

**Board meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**December 17th, 2015**

**Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner with Decorated Tables and Lots of Food!**

**Set-up 6:30 PM, Dining 7:00 PM**

**Program: Traditional Showing of Member's Slides and Digital Images**

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

## Haiku

**By Peter Kendall**

A summer's nightfall  
wrapped in warmth, soundlessness and  
the trill of crickets

A stroll at sunset  
A summer's shadows merging  
into inky black

The heat of summer  
-- its lapse into an evening  
of sublimity

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## September Program and Cutting Exchange

Our speaker and program for September are perfectly suited to the theme of the meeting. Dennis Bottemiller has been the Propagator and Nursery Manager for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden for almost 20 years. In that capacity, he has been rooting cuttings and growing seedlings of plants collected from all over the world. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is home to the largest collection of species rhododendrons in North America, and also has outstanding collections of magnolia, Japanese maples, primula and Liliaceae.

Dennis has titled his program: "Propagating Rhododendrons from Cuttings: Variables Involved in Rooting Cuttings and How to Increase Success."

He says that the focus of his program will be on illustrating some of the variables in plant growth, culture and physiology which can be manipulated to your advantage for greater success in getting cuttings to root. He notes that while the program will focus on rhododendrons, the principles involved are applicable to most plants that can be grown from cuttings.

## September Cutting Exchange: How to Take Cuttings

By Jay Lunn

Collect cuttings that you wish to donate during the cool part of the day and as close to the meeting date as practical. Select those from stems that are not developing flower buds. Although the recipient could remove the flowering bud before sticking the cuttings in the cutting medium, they never root as easily as ones that have no flowering bud. Also, select cuttings that do not have apparent lace bug damage because they will likely have this insect's eggs in the leaves. Those eggs most likely will hatch and infest this and other cuttings in the recipient's cutting bench. Once the cuttings are removed from the plant, dip them into water to thoroughly wet them, place in a plastic bag (without shaking off the water), along with a tag that shows the name of the plant and your name, written in pencil. Place the bags in the refrigerator until it's time to leave for the meeting. Provide three cuttings for each donation if there are enough available. Three is the optimal number of cuttings for the recipient to have a reasonable opportunity for success. If they are successful with all the cuttings, they will have plants to offer as door prizes or to our two yearly plant sales. The individual cutting should have a stem that is long as practicable. Since the stem tends to heal itself somewhat, the recipient of your donation will want to re-cut the stem before applying a hormone.

This is a good opportunity to encourage propagation of rhododendrons vegetatively and make much goodwill with your fellow members. Some recipient may even thank you for your generosity!

## **You are invited to the Annual Smith Garden Fall Work Party!**

**When: October 17th, 2015**

**Where: Cecil and Molly Smith Garden , 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, OR**

**Start: 8:00 AM. Come any time after 8:00 AM. Lunch will be served around noon.**

**Please bring appropriate hand tools you may want to use. Remember, many hands will speed up the work - please lend your hands!**

**Members from the Portland, Tualatin Valley and Willamette Chapters of the ARS and their friends are all welcome.**

Directions:

From Portland:

I-5 south to Exit 278 -Donald/Ehlen Rd. exit.

Right at the exit onto Ehlen Rd for 7 miles ( Ehlen becomes Yerger then McKay.)

Turn right onto Hwy 219 for 3/4 mile - look for blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Turn left onto Champoeg Road NE.

Go straight ahead on Raybell Road at the 'Y' ( Champoeg Road NE bears right.)

Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE about 1/4 mile on right.

Parking and entrance are just past the house.

From the south via I-5:

I-5 north to Exit 278 - Donald/Ehlen road exit.

Turn left onto Ehlen Road, pass under I-5 and continue on Ehlen Road for 7 miles ( Ehlen becomes Yerger then McKay.)

Turn right onto Hwy 219 for 3/4 mile - look for blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Turn left onto Champoeg Road

Go straight ahead onto Raybell Road at the 'Y' ( Champoeg Road NE bears to the right.)

Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/4 mile on right.

Parking and entrance are just past the house.

From 99W:

South on 99W to Newberg.

Turn left (south) at light onto Springbrook Road.

Turn left at the intersection with Hwy 219.

Drive south for 3 miles, over the Willamette River bridge.

Watch for a blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Turn right onto Champoeg Road; go straight ahead onto Raybell road at the 'Y' ( Champoeg Road NE bears right.) Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/4 mile on right. Parking and entrance are just past the house.

## **An Amazing Species From the Himalayas: *R. thomsonii***

**By Maria Stewart**

If you are fortunate enough to travel to Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan or Tibet in search of species rhododendrons, a real treat will be to gaze upon groves of blooming *Rhododendron thomsonii*. From their peeling bark to their masses of deep red flowers, this species is an outstanding example of nature's artistry.

Here is more information about *R. thomsonii*:

Classification: section *Hymenanthes*, subsection *Thomsonia*, subspecies *thomsonii*

Distribution in the wild: Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet at 10,000 to 14,000 feet.

Flowers: 2 1/2 inches long, bell-shaped, deep red with a striking calyx of red, green or cream. The trusses are loose, but are displayed in great profusion on mature plants. Usually, it takes many years for *R. thomsonii* to reach maturity and to start blooming.

Foliage: The leaves are about 4 inches long and are orbicular in shape. The tops are dark green and the undersides are blue-white to pale green and are glaucous.

Bark: In shades of red; the peeling bark is quite attractive.

Structure: Upright and open.

Hardiness: + 5 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: Some light shade is fine.

Photograph by Mike Stewart



## President's Message

From Brenda Ziegler

### First Meeting and Cutting Exchange of Season 2015-2016, September 17th at 7:30 PM

Suddenly summer is feeling over...this signifies back to fall and routine for many people. I am hoping the THIRD Thursday of each month becomes your "routine" and you attend the Portland Chapter Meetings. They officially start at 7:30 PM, however, many people believe they begin at 7:00 PM at the Social 1/2 hour, or even earlier and meet at the Woodstock Wine & Deli across the street - this seems to start around 5:00 PM. You are welcome to join in on ALL of these times.

I am sorry to have missed the Smith Garden Soiree this year, It is rare to put anything in front of our "Rhodie Group", especially a social function. However, this year we made the decision to go to Jamestown, New York to cheer Steve's grandson and his baseball team on at the Babe Ruth World Series for 13 and under. We were so thrilled that this team with great kids made it to the tournament. What a "once in a lifetime" experience. I hope someone will step up at the meeting and fill us in on the Soiree.

Steve and I hosted our annual Rhododendron Party August 30th. The weather was perfect - it quit raining at 11:30 AM and the guests started arriving immediately after. We were delighted that about 70 people showed up. The guests are always who make the party what it is. Thank you all! The food was good - we served fresh King salmon along with the largest array of potluck I think I have ever seen!

Our membership team, John and Loni Welsh, along with our treasurer Dick Cavender, were all at the party handing out membership forms and envelopes. Remember to bring them to the meeting and give them to Dick, or, mail them in. We will also be emailing a reminder along with a copy of the membership form and the envelope. Gift memberships are available. Many great members started out as guests! And, we can always use a few new members.

Our CUTTINGS EXCHANGE will also be at this first meeting. Remember to bring some cuttings from your favorite rhododendrons to the meeting. I know some of you have 400+ favorites (Irv and Jan...among others!) Bring what you can. Be sure to label them so others know what they are getting, where to plant them, and how to take care of them.

One of my favorite things is being able to publicly thank our volunteers monthly. Thank you to the board, the committee members, and to the many volunteers who "work" in Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and/ or Smith Garden. We are so fortunate to have so many of you to keep the gardens beautiful. THANK YOU.

See you all the 17th!

**Rhododendron thomsonii, in the wild.**



Photograph courtesy of Mike Stewart.

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
meeting cancellations due  
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Web: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

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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, 2017) **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

**ltcmacret1@aol.com**

**Dan McLaughlin**,  
**dvmclau@comcast.net**

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 Rhododendron Society. Combined annual dues to both the national society and local chapter are \$40. Membership benefits include nine or more newsletters, discounts, and activities.

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter meeting. Send materials to either: **Kathy Van Veen**, veteran Proofreader, at: (email) **vanveennursery@hotmail.com** or via mail to: 4201 SE Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland, Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman, newsletter editor, at: **tjhoffman56@yahoo.com**, or via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be directed to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-7565.

Website: **www.rhodies.org**; web masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline Enns**

Membership Updates: John Welsh, Membership Chair, email: **jlwelsh26@yahoo.com**; 503-663-6987