

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **December 17, 2015
Holiday Party &
Potluck Supper
Set-up 6:30 PM
Dining 7:00 PM
Program: Tradi-
tional Showing of
Members' Slides &
Digital Images**
- **No Board Meeting
this month
Happy Holidays!**

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



Please Join the Portland ARS Chapter for Our *Holiday Party and Potluck Supper* *Thursday, December 17, 2015*

Location: All Saints Episcopal Church
SE 40th and SE Woodstock, Portland OR

6:30 PM: Social Hour AND Set-up/Decorate the Tables
7:00 PM: Dining

It is time for our traditional fun and fabulous Holiday Party and Potluck! YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

Bring your favorite dish to share AND Invite a friend or two!
Guests are always welcome.

Plates, "plastic"ware, and napkins will be provided.

Also, please remember to bring one or more gifts (inexpensive) to share. It is more fun when they are wrapped.

This is our biggest door prize festivity of the year! Our goal is that everyone receives a gift.

Thank you to our Table Decorators. It is always fun to see your creations.

OUR TRADITIONAL PROGRAM is slides and digital images shown by our members and/or their guests. We recommend no more than 12 slides per person. These slides can be of plants, gardens, travels, and memories you would like to share. We will have a laptop with a digital projector. If you need a slide projector, please bring your own, or let us know what you need and we will do our best to get it for you! If you have any questions on this, please call or email Brenda at 503.314.5834 or bzgift@aol.com.

This year again, we have an **extra opportunity** to help others. The church where we hold our meetings, All Saints Episcopal Church, hosts a holiday meal and gives gifts to homeless or less fortunate people Saturday December 19th. They have let us know they would appreciate items such as socks, small size or travel size toiletries, as well as other useful items such as clean clothing, blankets, gloves, etc. to hand out. Please do what you can to support their community outreach.

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, 2016:

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 & Digital Images

No December Board Meeting -- Happy Holidays!

January 21st, 2016

Regular Meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speakers: Mike and Maria Stewart

Topic: Trekking For Rhododendrons in Sikkim

January 26th, 2016

Board Meeting

7:00 PM

Van Veen Nursery

February 18th, 2016

Regular Meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Companion Plant Auction

Speaker: Truls Jensen, Owner, Wild Ginger Farm

Topic: Companion Plants for Rhododendrons

February 25-28, 2016

Spring Home and Garden Show

Portland Expo Center

Marine Drive, Portland, OR

Haiku

By Peter Kendall

The chill this morning --
a reminder of a sun
in autumn posture

A thin veil of rain
This morning's falling leaves, so
few and so measured

A pummeling rain
In mounting flood, the chaos
of leaf chasing leaf

Leaf of the ginko
Its shape and autumn color
-- a class of its own

A drum beat of rain
A swirling of wind, leaves and
a darting of crows

Under leaden skies
a sienna world about
to disintegrate

Meeting Calendar, continued:

March 17th, 2016

Regular Meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker: Kathy Lintault

Topic: Garden Touring

March 22nd, 2016

Board Meeting

7:00 PM

Van Veen Nursery

President's Message for December

By Brenda Ziegler

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each and every one of you!

I want to thank each of you for all you do for the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. **Thank you!** We could not have such a vibrant group without each of you. I know we call on you frequently and you come through like the shining stars you all are. It is noticed and appreciated.

I hope you can all make it to the Holiday Party and Potluck. If you are not able to attend and have a chance to give one of us an update on yourself, we would appreciate it and will pass it along to the others. You can call me at 503.314.5834 or email me or any one of the other members. My email is: bzgift@aol.com.

For all our Board Members, we will **NOT** be having a December board meeting.

Happy New Year!



R. 'Mary Briggs' Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

Highlights of the November Meeting

By Kathy Van Veen

Karel Bernady entertained and educated us with his excellent presentation on grafting. He has been active in propagating plants for members -P4M- with his ARS Chapter in Philadelphia and decided to try grafting for several reasons, but mainly because certain plants root, then die during the summer from root rot. These are often plants in high demand, and often they are yellow-flowered. One of these is 'BFBY', Bob Furman's Big Yellow, which is on the cover of the current ARS Journal. Very good article by Don Hyatt accompanies that picture, by the way.

Karel has been playing around with grafting for several years now, and keeps detailed records of results. He uses what he calls the German method, whereby two unrooted cuttings are each sliced down one side and bound together. The understock can be one of a number of rhodies; so long as it is easy to root and readily available. Most widely used is 'Cunningham's White' in Germany, or for big cuttings the thick-stemmed 'County of York'; for cold-hardiness 'Roseum Elegans' and for heat tolerance 'Charles Loomis' or other hyperythrum hybrids.

Compatibility is of course an issue and theirs is still a work in progress. Some grafts fail right away when the cuttings do not grow together, some fail after a few years when the scion and the rootstock decide they don't like one another after all, and others die because the grafting wrap/tie girdles the plant.

That last point was interesting to me and I promptly ordered the yarn he recommended. We have been doing side-by-side grafting by request at the nursery for years (I am not fond of grafting so you must cross my palm with dark chocolate if you want me to graft something for you.) The nice root we have worked so hard to produce can get damaged when the grafting wrap/tie is removed. The yarn Karel has come to use, after experimenting with standard rubber ties and butcher's string, rots away after a time. I am so excited because it arrived today and I am all ready to do a few grafts with it.

Grafting has worked well for the 'P4M' program, and even members who have no experience grafting have successfully made grafts. Members are continuing to learn, but along the way, they have been able to offer more of those in-demand plants to their Chapter and to the public.

This is a good thing, guys. Too often someone buys a yellow-flowered rhododendron and it promptly dies; that person is turned off to rhododendrons and ends up telling everybody he knows how awful rhodies are. If instead he buys a grafted rhody and it lives and blooms magnificently, makes the front page of the newspaper...Oh, sorry I must update that...it goes viral on the internet, and we get 1000 new members in a short time.

Karel left a copy of his PowerPoint presentation with me so please let me know if you want to see it.

For Lovely Pendant Flowers: *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *R. xanthocodon* By Maria Stewart

The flowers of the Cinnabarina Subsection are so variable that their classification leads to interesting discussions. The colors range from yellow to orange to red to plum-crimson to purple and include bi-colored flowers.

Two species are recognized in this subsection: *R. cinnabarinum* and *R. keysii*. The three subspecies that are classified within the species *R. cinnabarinum* are: ssp. *cinnabarinum*, ssp. *tamaense* and ssp. *xanthocodon*. Within ssp. *cinnabarinum*, are the Blandfordiiflorum Group with its bi-colored corollas and the Roylei Group with its glaucous leaves and rich red to plum-crimson corollas. So where does *R. concatenans* with its pendant apricot corollas and glaucous leaves belong? It is classified under ssp. *xanthocodon* in the Concatenans Group. Also included within ssp. *xanthocodon* is the Purpurellum Group, which seems to be related to *R. oreotrephes*.

Not to be ignored, *R. keysii* is a distinct species from *R. cinnabarinum*, but is classified in the Cinnabarina Subsection. Its bi-colored and tubular flowers range from deep red to orange to green with yellow or orange lobes which hang from willowy branches with non-glaucous leaves.

Identifying the members of the Cinnabarina Subsection depends on recognizing their pendulous flowers with nectaries held in drops in the base of the corollas. Often, they have attractive glaucous leaves.

Classification: *Subgenus* Rhododendron, *Section* Rhododendron (most lepidotes), *Subsection* Cinnabarina, *Species* *cinnabarinum*, *subspecies* *xanthocodon*

Distribution in the wild: Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan, South Tibet, 10,000 to 14,000 feet

It is a lepidote, which means its leaves have scales. (Small dots on the underside of its leaves.)

Flowers: fleshy and tubular-campanulate; yellow, orange, apricot; pendulous.

Foliage: oval leaves are gray-green and new leaves are blue-green; scales are plentiful on the undersides.

Structure: upright-growing and somewhat compact; 4 to 5 feet in 10 years.

Hardiness: +5 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: well-drained soil and filtered sunlight; protect from the coldest areas of your garden.

(Photograph on page 6 -->)



R. cinnabarinum ssp. R. xanthocodon

Photograph courtesy of Mike Stewart

Coming Events

By Dick Cavender, Treasurer

February 18, 2016

Companion Plant Auction

A great opportunity to purchase some choice plants!! Bring your check books! Members and non-members are WELCOME!

We will also need plants! Bring those extras that are taking up space in your shade house or greenhouse. All plants are welcome but the focus will be on companion plants for Rhododendrons. Remember these auctions are what pays for our hall rent, newsletter printing and mailing, and other Chapter activities. Your auctioneer would really appreciate it if you would put 'pants', bags, on all plants as that helps keep both the auctioneer and the floor clean!

Continued on next page

Coming Events, continued:

February 25-28, 2016

Spring Home and Garden Show

Portland Expo Center, Marine Drive, Portland, OR

The Society will have a booth and garden at the Spring Home and Garden Show again this year. **We need people to set up the garden, staff the booth, and take down the garden.** Garden set-up will be Wednesday, 2/24/2016 and take down on Monday, 2/29/2016. **Bring your truck or trailer and take home a free load of mulch.** We will need several willing workers to stack the wall, move bark and install plants. Booth shifts will be 3 or 4 hours and I hope to have at least 2 people in the booth per shift. That will allow you to take turns looking at the show during your shift. I will have a signup sheet at the January and February meetings. Remember, working in our booth and display allows you into the Show for free; otherwise, general admission to the Show is \$10.00, so this will be a bargain. On-site parking is \$8.00 and unfortunately I can't do anything about that. However, MAX does run out to the Expo Center.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, hand out information and sign up new members. No experience necessary! Show hours are 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM Weds-Fri; 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Sat and 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Sunday.

For best selection of shift time and day, call Dick Cavender at 503-625-6331 or email him at red@redsrhodies.com.

Chapter Receives Donation in Memory of Robert Bondira

By Dick Cavender, Treasurer

At the meeting on November 19th, Janet Richert gave me a check in the amount of \$250.00 as a memorial gift in honor of her late husband, Robert Bondira. He was a good friend of our speaker, Karel Bernady, and grew a large number of Rhododendrons before moving to Washington.

We appreciate Ms. Richert's generous donation and will use it to help fund future speakers.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

PO Box 86424,
Portland, OR 97286-0424
ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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Web: 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 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** 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 di-
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7565.

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

Membershi p Updates: John
Welsh, Membershi p Chair, e-
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503-663-6987