

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

January 21, 2016  
Regular Meeting  
Social time 7:00 PM  
Meeting 7:30 PM  
Speakers: Mike and  
Maria Stewart  
Topic: Searching for  
Rhododendrons in  
Sikkim

January 26, 2016  
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



## Our January Program: “Searching for Rhododendrons in Sikkim”

By Dennis O’Malley

After a warm and entertaining Holiday Potluck, it is time to turn our attention to the New Year.

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its January meeting on January 21st, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Our program will be: “Searching for Rhododendrons in Sikkim”, with speakers Mike and Maria Stewart.

This program chronicles an adventurous trip to the Himalayas in the summer of 2015 in search of wild species rhododendrons, sponsored by the Rhododendron Species Foundation of Federal Way, Washington.

Mike and Maria Stewart are the owners of Dover Nursery in Sandy, Oregon and each is a past president of the Portland Chapter of the ARS. In addition, Mike is a past president of the American Rhododendron Society and currently serves as the President of the sponsoring Rhododendron Species Foundation. As most of you know, they are gifted and entertaining speakers and photographers. The program is sure to include both breathtaking views and striking photos of unusual species in their natural habitat, combined with a wealth of information.

This is a program that will appeal to members and nonmembers alike. Please join us and invite all your traveling and gardening friends.

Free. Sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Meeting place: All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 S.E. Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon.

## 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:

**January 21st, 2016**

**Regular Meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Speakers: Mike and Maria Stewart**

**Topic: Searching for Rhododendrons in Sikkim**

**January 26th, 2016**

**Board Meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**February 10th, 2016**

**First Work Day, Weather Permitting, at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**Start: 9:00 AM**

**End: 12:00 Noon**

**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 circling eagle  
From winter apogee --  
a glide to its roost

Snow on the fence  
and last spring's clematis  
-- a gift in disguise

Japanese maple  
emerging slowly from its  
chrysalis of ice

## Meeting Calendar, continued:

**March 17th, 2016**

**Regular Meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Kathy Lintault**

**Topic: Garden Touring**

**March 19th, 2016**

**Spring Work Party at Smith Garden**

**Start: 8:30 AM**

**End: Early afternoon**

**Weather permitting**

**March 22nd, 2016**

**Board Meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

## President's Message for January

By Brenda Ziegler

### HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!

I hope your 2015 ended on a bright note and that 2016 is off to a wonderful beginning. Steve and I rang in the New Year with Irv and Jan Snyder in their new fulltime hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. We enjoyed dinner, the symphony, and fireworks! The fireworks were double what they were a couple of years ago when we visited them in Florida ( and yes, it was WARM outside!) *Thank you for your hospitality!!*

As we look forward to our New Year and all of the opportunities available to us, we know we will be busy and productive. Our focuses will be on our personal lives, professional lives and our volunteer lives! We have MANY volunteer opportunities.

At our Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, we have many opportunities for you in this coming year. A few are:

**One** - Enjoy your membership and the knowledge and friendships that come with it. If you have any questions, please call me. My 'phone number is 503.314.5834 and my email is bzgift@aol.com. I always enjoy hearing from you.

**Two** - Recruit new members. This is where all members can help. Whoever you know that enjoys Rhododendrons or would enjoy our group, please invite them to visit a meeting or to help you volunteer at one of our activities.

**Three** - Volunteer one more time than you did in 2015! Whether it is at a Home and Garden Show (COMING SOON!), working at Smith Garden on work party days or open garden days, or working at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden at one of the shows (or both!) or the work party days. We will be adding a new dimension to the EARLY show this year -- Crack'd Pots will have artists displaying their wares for sale. Thanks for Betsy Soifer, who is an ARS member as well as one of their artists, we will have a smooth transition with this! Become involved in one of our committees, or ask about joining the Board of Directors. There are other ways to volunteer also. Just ask any current or past board member!

I want to thank all of you who attended the December meeting and holiday potluck. **Thank you.** The tables were **BEAUTIFUL**. The food was **DELICIOUS**. The slides were **FABULOUS**. The **GENEROSITY** (once again this year) of our members and what you provided for the homeless was **TREMENDOUS**. **THANK YOU!!**

Our Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, January 26th at 7 PM at Van Veen Nursery.

I look forward to seeing you at the regular meeting, Thursday, January 21st!

## Highlights of the December Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

Our Chapter President and Vice-president have captured the warmth and good cheer of our Holiday Potluck and Party in their respective articles for this newsletter. The table decorations were inventive and fun; the food was delicious - we are blessed with many good cooks! - and the slides and digital images were interesting and entertaining as well. Our gift exchange was fun as always and our members also responded to the opportunity to contribute to All Saints' holiday community outreach efforts with a generous donation of requested items. I hope everyone who attended, enjoyed our December meeting as much as I did. Here's to many more!



Early Spring at Smith Garden, 2015. Photo courtesy of Ray Clack.



## Handsome Foliage, Bark and Flowers: *R. hodgsonii*

By Maria Stewart

The species, *R. hodgsonii*, with its rounded structure, slowly grows into a small tree in the Pacific Northwest. So, to see this rhododendron growing to heights of 20 feet in its natural environment of the Himalayas, is a real treat. There, you may first notice the smooth trunks with peeling bark, because the trunks have a striking creamy to cinnamon color. Then, you see the large pink trusses displayed beautifully on the ends of its branches. To complete the impact of seeing *R. hodgsonii* in the wild, you discover its large, dark green leaves have a thin layer of silvery to tawny or cinnamon colored indumentum on the undersides.

Natural hybrids of *R. hodgsonii* in the wild merit attention also. They are *R. hodgsonii* affinity with its thick, dark chocolate-brown indumentum and *R. x decipiens* which is a natural hybrid of *R. hodgsonii* and *R. falconeri*.

Here is more about *R. hodgsonii*:

Classification: *Subgenus* Hymenanthès, *Section* Hyemnanthes (most “typical” rhododendrons), *Subsection* Falconera, *Species* *hodgsonii*

Distribution: Nepal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan, South Tibet, at 9,500 to 14,000 feet.

It is an elepidote.

Flowers: about 20 tubular-bell shaped corollas in a large and compact truss; pink through purple to cherry-red, with or without a blotch.

Foliage: large, oblong, dark green on top with a thin layer of silvery to tawny or cinnamon indumentum on the undersides.

Structure: rounded when young, growing erectly with age; in the Pacific Northwest, grows to about 5 feet in 10 years.

Hardiness: +10 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: well-drained soil, filtered sunlight; protect from the wind and cold.

( Photograph on page 6 )



R. hodgsonii. 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](mailto:red@redsrhodies.com).

Photograph of ARS display at the 2015 Spring Home and Garden Show courtesy Dick Cavender.



Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
meeting cancellations due  
to weather

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Post Master: Time sensitive  
mail; please deliver before  
January 14th, 2016

U.S. Postal Service statement of  
Ownership, Management, and Cir-  
culation (as per 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Publication Title: *Rhododendron News*  
Total number of copies mailed per is-  
sue: **225**

Owner: **Portland Chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society**,  
PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-  
0424

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.

*Rhododendron News* is mailed by first  
class postage (permit #1134, Port-  
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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-  
rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-  
7565.

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