

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

April 21st, 2016  
Regular Meeting  
Social Time 7:00 PM  
Meeting 7:30 PM  
Speaker: Dick  
Cavender

### **Topic: "Hybridizing Rhododendrons"**

Hybrid Rhododendron  
Auction

April 26th, 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 April Program:**

### **By Dennis O'Malley**

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

Our speaker will be our own Dick Cavender, the owner and operator of Red's Rhodies in Sherwood, Oregon. Dick is a past President, current Treasurer, and life member of the Portland Chapter, and is also a member of the Tualatin, Willamette, Hawaii and Eugene Chapters. He holds a Silver Medal from the ARS and a Bronze Medal from the Portland Chapter.

On their five acres in Sherwood, Dick and his wife, Karen, maintain a garden of 2.5 acres, containing 1000 species and hybrid rhododendrons, together with maples, magnolias and other flowering trees. They have another 2 acres devoted to growing rhododendrons from seed. They specialize in the native western azalea, *R. occidentale*.

Never one to be provocative, Dick has chosen to entitle his program "Hankey-Pankie in the Garden: Having Sex with Your Rhodies." He will show us how to harvest pollen, how to store it, how to prepare flower buds for pollination, how to transfer the pollen to the flower, and how to judge whether the pollination has been successful.

Prior to the program, the Portland Chapter will briefly hold its annual meeting and elections.

After the program, Dick will put on his auctioneer's hat and conduct the Chapter's annual hybrid rhododendron auction. Bring donations of fine hybrids to auction and bring your checkbooks, to insure that you go home with more plants than you brought.

Open to members and nonmembers alike. Invite your friends to join us.

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 June, 2016:

**April 2nd - 3rd, 2016**  
**Early Show and Sale with The Daffodil Society**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**April 21st, 2016**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Social Time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**Annual Meeting Business Program: How to hybridize Rhododendrons**  
**Speaker: Dick Cavender**  
*and, our annual*  
**Hybrid Rhododendron Auction!**

**April 26th, 2016**  
**Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

**May 7th and 8th, 2016**  
**Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**May 19th, 2016**  
**Portland Chapter Annual Awards Banquet**  
**6:30 PM Set-up**  
**7:00 PM Dinner**

**May 23rd, 2016**  
**Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

**June, 2016**  
**No regular meeting**

**June, 2016**  
**No Board meeting**

## Haiku

By Peter Kendall

Capturing the sun  
 -- a thousand cherry blossoms  
 tumbling in the wind

From bloom to new green  
 metamorphosis of  
 the cherry

Interlacing song  
 of sparrow, of robin this  
 April shower day

Photograph of *R. hodgsonii* in Sikkim  
 courtesy of Mike Stewart.



## President's Message for April

By Brenda Ziegler

I hope you had a Happy Easter and are enjoying our wonderful Spring.

Thank you to EACH and EVERY VOLUNTEER we had for our Chapter's Early Show and Sale this past weekend.

The weather could not have been any more perfect. If you didn't remember to show up to volunteer for the Show and/or the Sale, be sure to mark your calendars now to help out for the **Mother's Day show and Sale**. It is a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun. You learn about Rhodies as well as spend quality time with members of our Chapter and other volunteers. **Remember**, Mother's Day weekend is the largest Sale and Show. Bring your Trusses! You could win a great trophy.

**Our Early Show and Sale this year included the Daffodil Society as well as Cracked Pots Artists.** We had FREE ADMISSION into Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden both Saturday and Sunday. Our goals were: for the public to feel "invited"; to sell plants; and to have a successful truss show.

Mike Domaschofsky, Bob MacArthur and Betsy Soifer organized the plant sale ( along with others.) In addition, Dan MacLaughlin and the other volunteers worked hard at making the garden even more beautiful. Mike D. arranged for security and the necessary porta-potties. Dick Cavender got everyone ready with the new 'Squares' for receiving payments. **Linda Rungay, our Chair for the Show**, organized judges, recorders, runners, and the team that classified the trusses properly. She also made sure we had plenty of coffee and donuts. She is amazing and somehow manages to stay calm! Ann Clack arranged for and organized the trophies and point system for the awarding of the trophies.

Our next show and sale is Mother's Day weekend, May 7th and 8th. **We need more volunteers** for Mother's Day weekend.

We look forward to seeing each of you at our meeting on Thursday, April 21st. We will have a great speaker - of course our Vice President Dennis O'Malley has written an enticing article for you to read. It is also our **Rhododendron Hybrid Auction. Please BRING hybrids to donate for the auction and BRING money to buy plants!**

April is also our Annual Meeting, with nominations for board members. Please plan to attend and become more involved.

Photograph of R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' courtesy of Mike Stewart.



### Highlights of our March Meeting

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a modest wearin' of the green and a wonderful program on the romantic gardens of Portugal and Northern Italy presented by Kathy Lintault. It was surprising to discover the antiquity of some of the gardens and buildings Kathy showed us. The extravagant gardens of the lake district in Italy might have been the inspiration for several generations of theatrical set designers all over the world. All of the gardens seemed to both use and transmit all sorts of ideas, ranging from garden design and plant selection to architecture and building decoration. It was also clear that climate and water resources were major constraints across the region. Certainly the gardens we saw had employed a sizable number of designers, gardeners, carpenters, masons, potters and painters over the years. In our era, we have added plumbers and electricians to the roster; so, the economic history of gardens should be an interesting study to pursue.

## A Regal Rhododendron: R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'

By Maria Stewart

Every time I walk by R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' during these last two weeks, it seems to say, "Look at me!" Probably its magnificence, during this early Spring, was created by the mild winter. All the buds have opened into full trusses of white and the leaves show no damage from the weather. Since its hardiness is only about +5 degrees F., this rhododendron really likes mild winters!

From its dark green leaves with their undersides covered in bright cinnamon-colored indumentum to the white flowers held in large trusses, R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' is a handsome plant.

Here is history from [www.hirsutum.info](http://www.hirsutum.info) about R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'. "Rhododendron Sir Charles Lemon is sometimes labeled in gardens as R. arboreum ssp. cinnamomeum 'Sir Charles Lemon'. This is in fact a natural hybrid of R. arboreum ssp. cinnamomeum x R. campanulatum. Seed pods were harvested by Sir Joseph Hooker during his trip to Sikkim, Assam and East Bengal in 1849-1851, and sent to England. The plant grew in Sir Charles Lemon's gardens, in Carclew, Cornwall. During a trip to Cornish gardens, Henry McLaren, Lord Aberconway, spotted the rhododendron and took cuttings for propagation in 1937.

As the plant had no name, he called it Sir Charles Lemon in memory of his grower and owner. Grown from cuttings, all the plants distributed worldwide come from this specimen. Unfortunately, the original plant was deliberately destroyed after WWII. Though being more than 100 years old, it was in good condition."

Here is more about R. 'Sir Charles Lemon':

It is an elepidote.

The cross is (R. arboreum ssp cinnamomeum x R. campanulatum) It is a natural hybrid found in the wilds of Sikkim, Assam and East Bengal.

Flowers: white with a few light spots; held in large trusses of about 16 corollas.

Foliage: dark green on top with bright cinnamon brown indumentum on the underside. ( The indumentum in the photo is a bit too orange, but bright cinnamon brown really does describe it.)

Height in 10 years: 5 feet

Hardiness: about +5 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: needs some shelter from the coldest weather.



# MOTHER'S DAY SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>

SUNDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SHOW OPENS

12:00 PM

SATURDAY

## CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN

will be at peak bloom time. Come and join us to view the garden.

There is a **JUDGED FLOWER SHOW** in the Exhibit Hall  
and a big **PLANT SALE** in the front parking lot.

### COMPETITION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.

TO ENTER YOUR OWN RHODODENDRON TRUSSES IN THE SHOW,  
bring them to the Exhibit Hall

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

The garden is located at: **5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland**  
across from Reed College.

Questions about rhododendron care and culture?  
Ask the **MASTER GARDENERS** who will have a table in the sale yard.

More information: [www.crystalspringsgarden.org](http://www.crystalspringsgarden.org) or 503 771-8386

Presented by  
The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

## Coming Events

### April 21st, 2016 : Hybrid Rhododendron 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 shadehouse or greenhouse. All plants are welcome, but the focus will be on hybrid Rhododendrons. Remember these auctions are what pays for our hall rent, newsletter printing and mailing, and other Chapter activities. Your auctioneer would really appreciate if you would put 'pants', bags, on all plants as that helps keep both the auctioneer and the floor clean. Dick Cavender

### Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

#### Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport, Oregon

#### September 30th - October 2nd, 2016

An event is coming that you won't want to miss. It is *For the Love of Rhododendrons...and Other Good Friends*, the 34th Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Newport, Oregon on the beautiful Oregon Coast. The dates to remember are September 30th through October 2nd. The Oregon Chapters of District 4 welcome you to a fun time at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn, a great place to meet.

The conference will feature outstanding speakers from across North America and the world. This event emphasizes learning about rhododendrons and companion plants for your garden. Additionally, this year it will be held in conjunction with the annual Fall Board meeting of the American Rhododendron Society, which will bring attendees from all over North America.

On the schedule for Friday evening, after the welcome and dinner, is a program which highlights rhododendrons growing around the world.

Saturday morning brings seminars that give many choices of educational subjects, from propagation of rhododendrons, to selection of rhododendrons, and a multitude of subjects on plants you might want to use as companions to make your garden sparkle. Saturday night will feature Don Hyatt, an outstanding and well-known speaker from Virginia, plus a sight and sound program called *Rhododendrons, Up Close and Personal*, which will make you look at rhododendrons in a different way. This promises to be a delightful and entertaining way to end the evening.

Sunday morning will bring more educational and fun seminars which then end with a continuation of Friday night's theme of seeing and learning about rhododendrons growing around the world. You would not want to miss these last programs, which complete our world tour of *For the Love of Rhododendrons...and Other Good Friends...*

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, 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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Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,  
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