

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

May 19, 2016

Awards Banquet

Set-up: 6:15 PM

Dining: 7:00 PM

Program: "Other Gardens"

Speaker: Ken Lister

May 24, 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 40th and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



Our May Program:

By Dennis O'Malley

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its May meeting on May 19, 2016 from 6:15 PM to 9:00 PM.

At the May meeting, we will be presenting our annual Awards Banquet, featuring the winners of the Mother's Day flower show trophies. Banquet setup will be at 6:15 PM, with the dinner to follow at 7:00 PM. Main dishes will be provided. Please bring salads and desserts.

This is typically a fine occasion to celebrate and recognize the hard work that went into the Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale and to recover from our labors. The winners of trophies in the various categories at the flower show will be presented.

There will be a photographic slide show and program presented by Ken Lister, whose career in horticulture started at age 15, and spanned gardens from the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh, through 37 years at Klupenger Nurseries, to our own Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. He has entitled his program "Other Gardens" and will present pictures of his favorites and reminiscences of his years with rhododendrons. He is a joy to listen to.

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:

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

May 19th, 2016
Portland Chapter Annual Awards Banquet
6:15 PM Set-up
7:00 PM Dinner

May 24th, 2016
Board Meeting
7:00 PM
Van Veen Nursery

June, 2016
No regular meeting

June, 2016
No Board meeting

June 18, 2016
Almost Summer Solstice Potluck
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Mike and Maria Stewart's Home and Nursery

Happy Birthday, Peter Kendall!!

Many Happy Returns!!

It just so happens, May 19th is Peter Kendall's Birthday !!

So, no haiku this month, good wishes for Peter from us, instead.

How many Chapters have a resident poet?

Thank you, Peter, for all your contributions!

Photograph of *R. tsariense* courtesy Jens Birck.



President's Message for May

By Brenda Ziegler

I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting, our **AWARDS BANQUET** and our last official meeting for this "season". It will be Thursday, May 19, 2016.

The May Meeting has an early start time. Here is the Schedule:

Set-up: 6:15 PM to 7:00 PM

Dining: 7:00 PM

The Chapter will provide the Main Dishes: Meat Entrees and Potatoes.

Please bring a Potluck Side Dish such as salads and desserts.

Coffee and Tea will be provided.

We will do our best to present the Trophies to the WINNERS from the Early Show and Mother's Day Show. Ann Clack will be out of town, so, the "show" will be a little different!

If any Bronze Medals are awarded, they will also be announced at this meeting. The Bronze Medal is the highest award given to a Chapter member.

We had a great group of volunteers at the Early Show and Sale. I am hopeful we will have the same or more at the Mother's Day Show and Sale. I am writing this prior to Mother's Day weekend, so, no results until the meeting! I know a lot of people have already worked really hard on this and I want to say Thank You. Thank you to all of you! This show will be Linda Rungay's last one of being in charge - so, show your support and thank her when you see her. I think she said it is 30+ years. I have been very fortunate to have her handle this as it means no worries for me!

Once again, I want to acknowledge that we could not do all of this without all of you wonderful volunteers.

We will give you a recap on the Mother's Day Show and Sale at the meeting - we are in the final preparations for it now.

Garden work days are on-going at both Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and Smith Garden. The organized volunteering days are: Wednesday mornings at CSRG and Monday mornings at Smith Garden. Please let us know if you need directions or more details.

We look forward to seeing each of you at our meeting on Thursday, May 19th.

Highlights of our April Meeting

By Ray Clack

Our April program was presented by our own fellow member Dick Cavender. Dick and wife Karen have a beautiful garden outside of Sherwood and also run Red's Rhodies. Dick titled his program "Sex in the Garden", which triggered errors on more than one newspaper 'document editor' tool.

He started by showing us photos demonstrating the process of doing a 'controlled pollination.' Pick the right floret of an unopened truss, one that is just ready to open. Remove the flower petals and the stamens so no accidental (self) pollination will occur, then apply your selected pollen to the stigma. **Keep records of your crosses** with the important info, seed parent, pollen parent, date and maybe where in the garden to find it later. Because after pollination, it is simply a waiting game to see if any seed capsules will grow and mature. Since it will be 6-7 months later when you will be collecting the brown, mature seed capsules, location might be very handy! Dick mentioned that it is best to have a rhododendron goal in mind when you are picking parents for your new rhododendron creation. Be thoughtful about what traits each parent plant is bringing to the genetic mix. **Keep records of your crosses!!!** Dick showed us some great trusses, all examples of the fruits of his labors.

Ivan and Robertha Arneson's Azalea Nursery was mentioned as an example of planning your parents. Arneson's successfully sold deciduous azalea seedlings. They were very successful because their breeding program had been developed over many plant generations. For example: they knew that when you crossed a certain pair of yellow parents, you would get nothing but yellow offspring. The years of breeding had narrowed the genes involved so that it was very predictable. Visiting the Arneson's nursery was always a feast for the eyes! Now a Fred Meyer store sits in the site of the old nursery on the north edge of Canby, but you can visit a 2-acre tribute garden right behind the store that displays many of their azaleas.

Dick finished by encouraging all of us to try our hand at creating some new rhododendron hybrids. It is a lot of fun seeing your creation bloom for the first time!! Oh, and did I mention, **Keep records of your crosses!!**

After the program, Dick put on his auctioneer's hat to conduct the Chapter's annual hybrid rhododendron auction, which benefits both the Chapter and our gardens.

A Species for Beautiful Foliage and Flowers: *R. tsariense*

By Maria Stewart

As it is an early spring bloomer, you will be able to enjoy the white with light pink flowers of *R. tsariense* in April. Following the flowers, this species puts on a second show, of new foliage. These new leaves are covered with changing colors of white to fawn indumentum and are white on their undersides. They contrast perfectly with the established leaves that are dark green on their topsides with dense and dark cinnamon-brown indumentum on the undersides. Once the new leaves become established, you can appreciate, also, the compact structure and the slow-growing habit of *R. tsariense*. This species is a good choice for smaller gardens.

Here is more information about *R. tsariense*:

Classification: Subgenus *Hymenanthus*; Section *Hymenanthus*; Subsection *Lanata*; Species *tsariense*. It is an elepidote. This is a variable species and includes the Poluninii Group and the Trimoense Group. Differences are seen in the size of the leaves and the color of the indumentum in these two groups.

Distribution in the wild: SE Tibet, Arunchal Pradesh, Eastern Bhutan at 10,000 to 14,500 feet.

Found in conifer and rhododendron forests and on open hillsides, cliffs.

Origin of its name: derived from the area of Tsari in SE Tibet.

Flowers: white, flushed pink, often with crimson spots; bell-shaped; 1 1/2 inches long; held in loose trusses of 3-4.

Foliage: dark green on topsides with dense, dark cinnamon-brown indumentum on undersides; 2 1/2 inches long.

Structure: broadly upright and slow-growing; well-branched; 3 feet tall in 10 years.

Hardiness: 15 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: **needs well-drained soil**; filtered sunlight to protect the early blooms.

Photo of *R. tsariense*
courtesy of Jens Birck.



You Are Invited to an *Almost* Summer Solstice Potluck!

Mark Saturday, June 18th, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on your calendars to celebrate the third annual solstice party at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and nursery. **Portland Chapter members and members of all the chapters in District 4 are invited.** Gathering time is 1:00 PM followed by meal time at 1:30 PM. We will supply the meat entrée, beverages, plates, cups and utensils. Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert to round out the meal

Thanks to a very generous donation from Debra and Jeff Cheyne, a special presentation will take place at 3:00 PM. They have arranged for a Birds of Prey demonstration as part of the day's activities! This is a unique opportunity to experience raptors out in the open air. Please feel free to bring family members if you wish.

You are also welcome to walk through our nursery and garden after the meal. The rhododendrons and companion plants are labeled and we enjoy talking about our plants, too. Our home and Dover Nursery is located 5 miles southeast of the town of Sandy. We have plenty of indoor space for eating, so if the weather is rainy, don't let that keep you from joining in the fun. We are looking forward to having you as our guests on June 18th! **Please RSVP to 503-668-3522, so we can plan food and seating.**

Directions to Mike and Maria's home, 42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd., Sandy, OR:

From the last signal light in the city of Sandy, take U.S. 26 east out of town, for 2 miles.

Exit right onto Firwood Road. The landmark at this exit is a gas station/store combination called Shorty's. Go 3/4 of a mile on Firwood Road and then turn right at the 4-way intersection at the top of the hill. There is a Dover Nursery sign on a utility pole pointing right at this intersection. There is also a Dover Community Church sign pointing right at this intersection. This right turn will keep you on Firwood Road.

Go 2 1/2 miles further on Firwood Road until you get to a 4-way stop at the intersection of Wildcat Mountain Drive and Firwood Road. Cross over Wildcat Mt. Drive and take the middle road, which is Kleinsmith Road. It goes slightly to the left and down the hill. There is also a sign pointing to the Dover Nursery at this intersection. Our home and nursery is 8 tenths of a mile more on Kleinsmith Rd., on the left side, across from the Dover Community Church. **503-668-3522**

Coming Events

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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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:

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Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
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csrgvol@me.com
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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

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meeting. Send materials to either:
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