

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

September 15, 2016
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM
Speaker: Steve McCulloch on Tissue Culture and Micropropagation of Rhododendrons and Annual Cuttings Exchange!

September 22, 2016
Board Meeting
7:00 PM
Location: TBA

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



September Program and Cuttings Exchange

By Dennis O'Malley

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its September meeting on September 15, 2016 from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM at our regular meeting place, All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, Oregon.

Our speaker for the September program will be Steve McCulloch of Mountain Shadow Nursery, who will be speaking on “Tissue Culture and the Micropropagation of Rhododendrons”

Steve has been propagating rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants for over 35 years, including a stint at Briggs Nursery. He and his wife have established Mountain Shadow Nursery, where they propagate for breeders, universities, farms and nurseries. Steve will discuss both the basics and the current status of propagating rhododendrons by tissue culture.

In keeping with the theme of plant propagation, following Steve’s program, the Portland Chapter will conduct its annual fall exchange of rhododendron cuttings. This is an opportunity for members to share cuttings of their favorite rhododendrons with each other for home propagation. This exchange underwent a strong revival last year, and we encourage members to again be generous in both quantity and quality, so that there are plenty of interesting varieties to share.

Our meeting is open to members and nonmembers alike; please invite your friends to join us.

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

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 October, 2016:

September 15, 2016

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker : Steve McCulloch

Topic: "Tissue Culture and the Micropropagation of Rhododendrons"

Annual Fall Cuttings Exchange!

September 20, 2016

Board meeting

7:00 PM

Location: TBA

September 30, 2016—October 2,

**2016 ARS Western Regional Rhododendron Conference and Annual Fall Board Meeting
Newport, Oregon**

October 15, 2016

Smith Garden Fall Work Day

8:00 AM—Early Afternoon

October 20, 2016

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker / Program TBA

Rhododendron Species Auction!

October 25, 2016

Board Meeting

7:00 PM

Location: TBA

Haiku

Summer's inaugural
-- sun splashed thunder heads atop
darkness and downpours

The rustling branches
not from the wind but the jump
of summer's squirrel

Beyond a day's heat
-- nightfall, steeped in soundlessness
save the screech owl's call

Photograph of *R. trichostomum* courtesy
Jens Birck.



President's Message for September

By Dennis O'Malley

When I wrote to you last month encouraging new members not to just enjoy the newsletter, but to join us for monthly programs, I did not foresee that we would emphasize the point by delaying or depriving you of your August newsletter. We apologize for the problems we were experiencing with the computer program that we use to generate this newsletter.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a description of our September program, which will include not only Steve McCulloch's talk on micropropagation of rhododendrons, but also our annual exchange of rhododendron cuttings for home propagation. For members who have not attended programs before, I would again encourage you to come early. A number of members gather around 5:30 pm at Woodstock Wine & Deli (across the street from the meeting site) to share food, wine and conversation before the meeting. Please come and join us and take the opportunity to meet each other and the other members.

If there is enough interest, I would like to see us start a New Members Forum to make sure that all of your questions, from the most basic to the most subtle, get answered at our meetings. I know that I still come to each meeting armed with questions to run by our resident experts. And there is no question that what I have learned from them shows up in better results in the garden.

September is a good time to start. It is the beginning of a new year of programs. You can come in and pick up some rhododendron cuttings at our annual cutting exchange, and talk to people about how to take them home and root them into new rhododendrons for your garden. When it works, it feels very good.

On a more personal note, as we go to press I understand that Kathy Van Veen has been released from the hospital and is at home, where she would welcome calls, cards, visits and prayers. (Please call first to make sure she is at home and not attending medical appointments.) Her caretakers request that all calls and home visits not bring up the Van Veen Nursery business; all business-related calls and matters should be directed to Jake at the nursery. The phone number there is 503-777-1734.

Kathy Van Veen: Home phone : 503-775-7364.

Finally, Bob and Barb MacArthur has asked me to include a message thanking all of you for the kind cards, messages and condolences they received on the loss of their son, who passed away last month. Those messages of support were much appreciated by them and their entire family.

Photograph of *R. Loderi* 'King George' courtesy of Susan Lightburn



The King Among the Loderi Hybrids: R. 'Loderi King George'

By Maria Stewart

Why do you suppose that Sir Edmund Loder, in the early 1900's, chose to cross *R. fortunei* ssp. *fortunei* with *R. griffithianum*? Was it the wonderful fragrance that both species provide? Was it the tree-like stature of the *R. fortunei* that drew his attention? Was it the handsome, peeling, reddish brown bark of the *R. griffithianum*? Was it the large flowers of both species that convinced him? Here is an excerpt from the *Rhododendron Yearbook, 1950*, written by Sir Giles Loder that gives us some background about Sir Edmund's thoughts. "This cross was made in 1901 by the late Sir Edmund Loder, who in his later years, turned his versatile brain to gardening...At that time, little had been done or was known about the hybridizing of rhododendrons beyond the various nurseryman hybrids amongst the caucasicum and kindred species. Even at this relatively early date Sir Edmund foresaw what is often overlooked now days--the importance of selecting the very best possible material for the intended cross. In this case, he selected a particularly sweetly scented and large flowered *R. fortunei*, amongst the several he had, as the seed parent. But as he did not consider as good enough any of the *R. griffithianum* which he had, Colonel Fred Godman kindly allowed him to use the pollen from a particularly fine plant of that species which as growing in the cold house at South Lodge."

And so the Loderi "grex" was born! From R. 'Loderi Game Chick' to R. 'Loderi White Diamond', there are at least 13 that are named and still popular. Perhaps the best known Loderi is R. 'Loderi King George'. Here is more about this rhododendron:

It is an elepidote.

The cross is (*R. fortunei* ssp. *fortunei* x *R. griffithianum*).

Flowers: opening pale pink and turning white; large (about 4 inches in diameter); nicely scented.

Foliage: medium green on top and lighter on the bottom; oblong and about 7 inches long.

Height in 10 years: 6 feet. Allow plenty of room so that it can become a tree.

Hardiness: about +5 degrees F. The *R. fortunei* gives hardiness to the cross, but *R. griffithianum* is more tender.



Photographs of the view from the Best Western Agate Beach Inn and the Inn courtesy of the American American Rhododendron Society *Website* Summer 2016.

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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Past President: *Brenda Ziegler*
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2017) **Caroline
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins, Bill
Zanze, Dave Collier, Maria Stewart**
(Through June 30, 2018), **Ann Clack,
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