

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

October 15, 2016
Fall Work Party,
Cecil and Molly Smith
Garden
October 15, 2016
Parke Diem Work Party
Crystal Springs Rhodo-
dendron Garden
October 20, 2016
Regular Meeting
Social time 7:00PM
Meeting 7:30PM
Program: Digital Photog-
raphy
Speaker: Luurt Nieu-
wenhuis***And***
Species Auction!

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



October Program and Species Auction

By Caroline Enns and Steve Hall

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its October meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM.

Our speaker for the October program will be Luurt Nieuwenhuis, whose program is entitled “Close Up Digital Photography: Theory and Practice.”

Luurt will discuss how to take better close-up pictures, including photographs of rhododendrons. His presentation will explain how digital photography works, with some technical aspects of digital imaging, and how that information can help take better pictures. He will describe how tripods, different lenses, strobe lights and computer programs can contribute to the difference between great and mediocre pictures. He will also illustrate with some close-up photographs how all of these factors contribute to the final pictures.

Luurt has belonged to various chapters of the ARS since 1977. He has been a photographer since 1960. In the days of silver halide film, he emphasized outdoor photography, particularly underground in caves. He now shoots only digital pictures, with particular emphasis on the small and very small. His current interests include subjects that are close at hand but rarely seen, including slime molds, insects, fungi, and, of course flowers. He takes photographs of astonishing clarity of things barely visible to the naked eye.

Following the program, we will hold our **Species Rhododendron Auction !** A great opportunity to purchase some choice plants - bring your check books! We will also need plants; please donate those extras that are taking up space in your shade house or greenhouse - it's for a good cause!

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 December, 2016:

October 15, 2016

Portland Parks

Parke Diem Work Party

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

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: Luurt Nieuwenhuis

Program: Close Up Digital Photography

Followed by: Our Annual

Rhododendron Species Auction!

November 9, 2016

Dormancy Luncheon

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

November 17, 2016

Regular Meeting

Social time 7:00PM

Meeting 7:30PM

Speaker: Wally Reed

Program: Developing the Rhododendron Hillside in Bush's Pasture Park, Salem, Oregon

December 15, 2016

Winter Solstice Party

Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange

Program: Members' Slides and Digital Images

Haiku

By Peter Kendall

Alas, no haiku this month.

Looking Ahead:

April 27-30, 2017

ARS International Convention

Eureka, California

(See page 7)

For more information, call or email June Walsh, 707-443-0604 or Rhody-Hostel@suddenlink.net or on the web at EurekaRhody.org

President's Message for October

By Dennis O'Malley

I have just returned, rejuvenated and energized, from the Western Regional ARS Conference in Newport.

Our thanks and congratulations to Harold and Nancy Greer and to Mike and Maria Stewart for organizing such a fine conference. The programs and speakers were superb. It was hard to choose among the multiple good options during the breakout sessions, and I missed some sessions that I would have very much liked to hear.

It brings home to me just how lucky we are to have such gatherings and national and international speakers available to us in a regional setting. I was also struck by how many of those national and international speakers have made themselves available for programs at our own local Chapter meetings. Among the speakers at the Western Regional were Don Hyatt, Karel Bernady, Dennis Bottemiller, Steve Hootman, Harold Greer, Don Wallace, Mike Stewart, John Stephens, and Steve McCormick, all of whom have given programs to the Chapter at our monthly meetings in the last year or two. People came to Newport from all over the country and beyond to hear them at the Western Regional. We are indeed fortunate to be able to make programs of that quality regularly available to our members and guests right here in Portland. We should recognize our unusual good fortune and support those programs, not only by attending but by bringing guests and inviting visitors to share the bounty.

I certainly learned a lot, both practically and artistically. I was particularly surprised by how much more I got out of Dennis Bottemiller's program on rooting cuttings and Karel Bernady's program on unrooted grafting upon hearing them a second time.

On the craft side of things, I guess you need to have some basics and some unsuccessful attempts under your belt before you start to catch the nuances.

I was also surprised by how much I got out of a short program introducing the new national ARS website, www.rhododendron.org. If you haven't done so, go there and check it out. I fielded a question about plant care on my return on Monday, and was able to quickly and easily refer a new rhododendron enthusiast to precisely the information he sought in two clicks.

I should also mention that the Portland Chapter won the prize for bringing the largest number of members to Newport. The official count was 20 (though it sure seemed to me that I saw more familiar faces than that.) As a result of our good showing, there will be Almond Roca for all at the October meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.



R. pachysanthum. Photo: Jens Birck

R. falconeri. Photo: Mike Stewart



R. rex ssp. *fictolacteum*. Photo: Mike Stewart



R. 'Winsome'. Photo: Herman Van Ree

Attractive and Charming Fits the Description of R. 'Winsome'

By Maria Stewart

Always interesting are the histories of rhododendron hybrids and their hybridizers. In the case of R. 'Winsome', it was created by a prolific hybridizer, Lord Aberconway of Wales. He is credited with hybridizing 259 rhododendrons, mostly in the 1920's and 30's, but also continuing into the 40's and 50's on a lesser scale. Other hybrids of his that you may have in your garden are R. 'Bluebird', R. 'Cilpinense', R. 'Elizabeth', R. 'Ethel', R. 'Fabia', R. 'Medusa', and R. 'Seta'. Quite a few of his hybrids have remained in Groups such as the Fabia group, the Medusa Group, and the Seta Group, meaning that there could be several different-looking hybrids with the same name in each Group. For example, we should not be surprised to see R. 'Fabia' in one garden looking dissimilar to one in another garden. Today's hybridizers, thankfully, choose one hybrid out of a seed lot to name.

I like Harold Greer's description of R. 'Winsome'. "The plant is compact with healthy looking, small, pointed foliage. It sets attractive, reddish flower buds that you will enjoy all winter. It flowers extremely heavily with beautiful, rosy cerise flowers."

Here is more about R. 'Winsome':

It is an elepidote.

The cross is: 'Humming Bird Group' X R. griersonianum
(R. haematodes ssp. haematodes x R. williamsianum)

Flowers: red flower buds in winter and deep rosy-red bells in late April or early May.

Foliage: medium to dark green, small pointed leaves

Height in 10 years: 3 feet and a compact grower.

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.



R. 'Winsome' Photo by Rinus Manders, courtesy hirsutum website.

Highlights of our September Meeting

Our speaker was Steve McCulloch, Mountain Shadow Nursery, and his program was titled “Tissue Culture and the Micropropagation of Rhododendrons”. Steve gave us lots to think about and brought an illustrated handout covering the main points of his talk. Tissue culture is used in research, and has gradually spread into most areas of horticulture. For example, we see mass-produced orchids in the market, thanks to tissue culture. One of the most significant uses of tissue culture and controlled growing environments is freeing plants of viruses and other pathogens. Another ‘high-tech’ project is preserving “clonal germplasm” which could be from hybrid rhodies or fruit trees, typically plants that do not ‘come true’ from seed, for posterity. Steve’s talk covered a range of potential benefits from using tissue culture and he included a list in his handout of dozens of rhododendron species which have already been successfully propagated using tissue culture. Interesting that tissue culture is only 80+ years old. Clearly it is a powerful tool and widely adaptable. How will it affect us as rhododendron enthusiasts? More and better plants seems possible.

After our speaker finished his program, we proceeded with our annual cuttings exchange. There were all sorts and sizes of rhododendrons on offer, some very choice material, and no leftovers by the time we wrapped up! Our thanks, as always, to our hard-working crew in the kitchen for your sinfully good treats and coffee.



R. quinquefolium. Photo: Mike Stewart

Coming Events

American Rhododendron Society

2017 International Convention

April 27 - 30, 2017 - Eureka, California

Red Lion Hotel and Sequoia Conference Center

The Venues and the Area

Mark your calendar now for **April 27-30, 2017**. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will host the annual national convention. The convention will bring Rhododendron enthusiasts from across the United States, Canada and around the world to world-famous Humboldt County, California.

The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99.00 per room per night. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. The new, state of the art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the hotel, will be our meeting and program venue. Convention attendees can walk, drive or take a shuttle between the hotel and the center.

For many ARS members, seeing the Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must-see "bucket list". Humboldt County has the greatest concentration of ancient redwood groves, with over 50,000 acres in Humboldt Redwoods State Park alone. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park contains herds of Roosevelt Elk and Fern Canyon, one of the sites used in filming "Jurassic Park". Patrick's Point State Park shows off replicas, still in use, of local first-nation buildings and magnificent views of the rugged coastline with an opportunity to pick up agates on a cliff-edged beach.

Rhododendron macrophyllum (synonym: *R. californicum* Hooker) can be found in abundance among the redwoods. Many open areas in the county host the Western Azalea, *Rhododendron occidentale*. Stagecoach Hill, famed among rhodoholics for the Smith-Mossman collections of *R. occidentale*, is just North of Patrick's Point State Park. Fern Canyon is not accessible by bus, but convention tours are in the planning stages to furnish opportunities for attendees to visit as many of the other attractions as possible.

In addition to the area's redwood parks, Fern Canyon, rugged coastline and Stagecoach Hill, Eureka and its neighboring towns abound with well-preserved Victorian-era homes displaying the ornate Queen Anne "Carpenter Gothic" style. The Carson Mansion, one of the most photographed homes in North America, is the best-known example. The home is now a private club, but the exterior shows the lavish lifestyle of the "Lumber Barons" in the late nineteenth century. A tour is planned that will allow attendees to view a large number of Victorian buildings in Eureka as well as in the Victorian Village of Ferndale.

For more information call or email June Walsh, 707-443-0604 or RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net, or on the web at EurekaRhody.org.

We expect to have more details in our Portland Chapter newsletter in the months ahead, as well.

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,
Ray Clack, Mike Stewart, Kathy
Van Veen, Joanne Turner**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

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Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: **Herb Spady**, 503-874-1445

Newsletter, membership, and
ownership: The Portland Chapter is
a local Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined annual dues to both the national society and local chapter are \$40. Membership benefits include nine or more newsletters, discounts, and activities.

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter meeting. Send materials to newsletter editor, at: **tjhoffman56@yahoo.com**, or via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be directed to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-7565.

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