

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

December 15, 2016
Winter Solstice Party
Potluck Supper and
Gift Exchange
Set-up 6:30PM
Dinner 7:00PM
**Program: Members’
Slides and Digital
Images**

(Continued on page
2)

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



December Program

By Dennis O’Malley

Please join the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for our traditional Winter Solstice holiday party and potluck supper Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 6:30 PM—9:00 PM.

Nonmembers, friends and guests are always welcome; please invite a friend or two, and please bring a favorite dish to share and an inexpensive wrapped gift for our door prize gift exchange.

The social hour and the set-up and decoration of tables will start at 6:30 PM, with the potluck dinner to follow at 7:00 PM.

(Thank you to our table decorators; we enjoy seeing your creations! Ed.)

After dinner, there will be a showing of slides and digital images by our members of their favorite garden photos from the past year—plants, gardens, travels and memories. We recommend no more than 15 slides per person. This is always a warm and fun way to bring the year to a close. We very much hope that you can join us.

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

Location: All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE 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 January, 2017:

December 15, 2016

Winter Solstice Party

Set-up 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange

Program: Members' Slides and Digital Images

**No December Board Meeting -
Happy Holidays!**

January 19th, 2017

Regular Meeting

Social time 7:00PM

Meeting 7:30PM

Speaker: Norm Jacobs

Program: Japanese Maples, Their Use in Mixed Plantings

February 16, 2017

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker: Harold Greer

**Program: Small Rhododendrons
— and —**

Companion Plant Auction

March 16, 2017

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker: Richard Murcott

Program: East Coast Rhododendrons: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Haiku

By Peter Kendall

So varied —
the definition of shadows
This fall afternoon

Not a breath of wind
The last leaf awaiting its
nudge toward the ground

The fluttering bird
A textureless overcast —
and a leaf-strewn world

Traced in sharp shadow
by low, autumnal sun —
Image of the pine

The posture of fall
in a leaf's vivid color
in its fall to earth

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 December

By Dennis O'Malley

I am reminded that Portland is a gardener's heaven as the 2016 calendar year winds down, with the holidays to help us get through the shortest days of the year. Our friends who had a nursery in Northeast Iowa would have long ago closed down for the winter, with many months to go before reopening. But we won't have long to wait for a new gardening season to present itself. Not much time for catalogs and tool repair for us.

Early camellias are already blooming around the neighborhood. Spring bulbs are already emerging in defiance of winter weather predictions. Even some rhododendrons and azaleas are having a second go at blooming in 2016, led on by last spring's record early start on bud formation. One does hope for a return of some semblance of normal for the sake of our scheduled spring plant sales and flower shows. But, as always, we will take what nature dishes out.

In the meantime, we have our own Winter Solstice holiday gathering and potluck supper to look forward to and to brighten up a December evening. The details are described elsewhere in this newsletter, but I always look forward to the idea of favorite photographs from the past year being collected and presented to us by our fellow members.

Someone will have gone on a 'bucket list' trip to a world-renowned garden, and brought back photos allowing us to vicariously share the experience. Others will have captured that perfect garden moment in their own backyard. All in all, a potluck meal with friends and a sharing of favorite moments from the past year is a fine way to help bring the old year to a close.

And looking forward to next year, please remember that an ARS membership is a great gift for that gardening friend whose company you (and the rest of our members) would enjoy at our meetings in the upcoming year.

Best wishes to you and your families for the holidays,

Dennis O'Malley

Online Shopping and the ARS Store: How to Help Fund the ARS With Your Shopping

From the Willamette Chapter's newsletter and back by popular demand:

Anytime you shop online for just about anything, please consider first going through the American Rhododendron Society Online Store. The ARS Online Store is reached by this link: <http://arsstore.org> . On this site you will find a very wide range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee of 4% to 25% on each sale "referred" by arsstore.org. Just use a link from the ARS Online Store to go to a merchant's site and buy something as you normally would. You get the same low price and help the ARS, too!

Basics of Using Amazon on ARSStore.org:

1) **Go to ARSStore.org and from there click on the Amazon logo.**

Amazon sells just about everything. As long as you go to Amazon from ARSStore.org, the ARS gets a referral fee.

2) **Do NOT use Amazon Smile!**

Due to the possibility that the ARS would lose most of the over 5.6% it typically receives on each purchase and also the probability that the wrong one of the 55 different ARS 501(c)(3) numbers could be used, use of Amazon Smile is too risky. Let's only use ARSStore.org and not Amazon Smile and get over 5.6% rather than hoping we get 0.5%.

3) **Don't worry about privacy.**

Amazon reports to the ARSStore.org Manager on every item purchased because the commission the ARS receives depends on the price and from which department it was purchased. Amazon states the department and amount and the ARS commission but does not disclose who ordered the product, so there is complete privacy.

4) **Every purchase, no matter how large or how small, contributes. Please remember to use the ARSStore.org.**

Photographs of *R. strigillosum* on page 5 courtesy of Jens Birck.

A Species to Brighten the Early Spring: *R. strigillosum*

By Maria Stewart

There are two beautiful rhododendron hybrids that are well-known in the Pacific Northwest. They are 'Taurus', hybridized by Dr. Frank Mossman and 'Grace Seabrook', hybridized by Seabrook. What do they have in common besides their great foliage and red flowers? They are both 'Jean Marie' x *strigillosum* hybrids. Hybridizers know that *R. strigillosum* contributes strong red color and an earlier blooming time to their crosses. In fact, *R. strigillosum* blooms from the middle of March into early April. There are other traits to enjoy about *R. strigillosum*, such as its dark green recurved leaves, its noticeable bristles and its somewhat rounded limb structure.

Here is more about *R. strigillosum*:

Classification: Subgenus *Hymenanthes*: Section *Hymenanthes*; Subsection *Maculifera*

Note here that *R. strigillosum* is closely related to the newly introduced *R. ochraceum* which has smaller leaves and indumentum covering the lower leaf surface.

Distribution in the wild: Szechwan and NE Yunnan at 7,000 to 11,000 feet, in thickets or in the open on cliffs and slopes.

About its name: It means "with short bristles".

Flowers: deep red; 8-12 corollas in a truss; flat-topped trusses.

Note here that if a rhododendron looks like *strigillosum*, but is blooming pink to white, and it has shorter leaves, it is *R. pachytrichum* instead.

Foliage: distinctly bristly; dark green; oblong lanceolate; strongly recurved edges; bristles on young leaves are white.

Structure: grows into a shrub or small tree; rounded in habit; branchlets covered with bristles.

Hardiness: +5 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: early flowers and new growth need some protection in most climates.



November Meeting Highlights

By Tom Hoffman

We enjoyed a fun, interesting talk by Wally Reed, President of the Willamette Chapter, ARS, on the origins and development of the Rhododendron Hillside garden in Bush's Pasture Park in Salem. The inspiration came in part from hearing Bill Zanze speak on the Cloud Forest Garden in Washington Park here in Portland. As we also learned, there is an existing planting of 50-year-old rhododendrons in Bush's Pasture Park which Wally described as typical of the sorts of hybrids available in the late 1960's. The Willamette Chapter volunteers faced the typical thorny mess that Bill Zanze and his team had the privilege of clearing in Washington Park, and the founders of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden tackled in the early years of the garden—large, healthy blackberry vines, weeds, brush — and it always translates to 'manual labor' and hard work. Fast-forward from blackberry eradication to creating rhododendron plantings and pathways; Wally's presentation showed us the before and after, and the surrounding environment of Bush's Pasture Park. There are 5 distinct environmental areas, including native white oaks (*Quercus garryana*) which are a treasure.

The different areas all require specific irrigation regimes and do influence which rhododendrons are planted and where. Speaking of location, the Rhododendron Hillside project happens to be in front of Wally Reed's home in Salem. Wally said the Rhododendron Hillside has been a "science project" and a "public sector management project" and a lot of fun from the beginning.

Our raffle had an unusual group of large sacks seeking new homes; these turned out to be root divisions of *Petasites japonicus*, Japanese Coltsfoot, which has large leaves, typically 2 feet across, and which prefers moist to wet conditions, such as streambanks.

Photos of *Oxydendrum arboretum*, Sourwood tree, courtesy of Maria Stewart.



Coming Events

***Rhododendrons in the Redwoods
Annual International Convention
American Rhododendron Society
Eureka, California
April 27-30, 2017***

Register now for the American Rhododendron Society's annual Spring Convention April 27-30, 2017. The Eureka Chapter will host the Convention which will bring visitors to world-famous Humboldt County, California from across the nation, Canada and around the world. Top-notch speakers will be featured every day, along with tours of redwood forests, private and public gardens, azalea reserves and Victorian architecture.

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. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new, state of the art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue Friday and Saturday. Visitors can walk, drive or take a shuttle between the hotel and the center; abundant parking is available at the center.

For many ARS members, seeing the Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must-see "bucket list", as are the rugged North Coast of California, with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith-Mossman 1966 collections of *Rhododendron occidentale* azaleas.

In addition to the area's redwood parks and other natural wonders, Eureka and its neighboring towns abound with well-preserved Victorian-era homes displaying the famous Queen Anne "Carpenter Gothic" style. The Carson Mansion (now a private club) is the most famous example from the late 19th century era of the "Lumber Barons" in northwestern California.

Eureka is served by United Express twice daily from San Francisco. Flying to San Francisco and transferring to Eureka is the usual air transport option. Renting a car in San Francisco and driving to Eureka is a very scenic alternative. Drive time from San Francisco is about seven hours through the wine country with its rolling hills and on north through the Coast Range mountains and redwood forests. From the north, PenAir flies from Portland, Oregon to the Eureka/Arcata airport. An alternative to flying directly to Eureka from Portland might be to fly to Crescent City or to Medford, Oregon, then rent a car. Drive time from Crescent City is about two hours, from Medford about four hours. Both routes are quite scenic, with wild rivers, rugged mountains and redwood forests well worth visiting. Several car rental agencies operate at the Eureka/Arcata airport. The Red Lion Hotel offers free shuttle service for convention attendees to and from the Eureka/Arcata airport. However you choose to get here, we look forward to hosting you and showing you our beautiful northwest corner of California.

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

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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President: *Dennis O'Malley*
Vice President: *Caroline Enns*
Past President: *Brenda Ziegler*
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2017) **Caroline
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Zanze, Dave Collier, Maria Stewart**
(Through June 30, 2018), **Ann Clack,
Ray Clack, Mike Stewart, Kathy
Van Veen, Joanne Turner**

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