

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

January 19, 2017
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: Norm Jacobs

**Program: "Japanese
Maples: Their Use in
Mixed Plantings"**

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



January Program

By Caroline Enns & Steve Hall

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its January Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017 from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM.

Our speaker for the January program will be Norm Jacobs of Arbutus Garden Arts, whose program is entitled "Japanese Maples: Their Use in Mixed Plantings."

Norm Jacobs is the co-proprietor with Deb Zaveson of Arbutus Garden Arts. Their nursery emphasizes woodland gardens. Norm favors a more formal Japanese style and approach, while Deb's view is more eclectic. While their nursery focuses on Japanese maples, small conifers and Epimedium, they use a much wider palette of plants, including rhododendrons, to build the over-story, mid-story, under-story and ground cover tiers of a naturalistic woodland. Japanese maples take a significant role in all four tiers, thanks to their diversity of size, growth rate, form, foliage texture and seasonal color. Norm will present a synopsis of this diversity in the various species known as Japanese maples, *Acer palmatum* and beyond, with views of woodland gardens.

Norm began gardening under his grandmother's tutelage in New Jersey sometime around age 6. In high school, he moved to California's Bay Area, where he landscaped the lot of his family's tract home. College at Berkeley emphasized math and physics, but fledgling programs for public "pension" gardens drew his involvement, as well as Alice Waters' first "edible classroom" a few blocks from where he lived. A few years after college, he met Deb—a botany grad from UC Santa Barbara

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message for January

By Dennis O'Malley

I have learned my lesson and will not include any weather forecasts in this or any future column.

It was with great regret that we had to cancel the Solstice Potluck and Holiday Party last month due to the bad weather. From the emails that I received, I know that I was not the only one who considered this gathering to be one of the highpoints of our Rhododendron Society year, a very special social occasion for our Chapter. As I talked to numerous members at the time, it became clear that a large number of our regular attendees live well outside the city of Portland and did not feel that they could make it to our gathering at all, or could not make it safely.

We explored trying to reschedule during the holiday period, but family schedules and commitments were already set for the holidays at that point. We also explored trying to move the event to the January meeting, but the consensus seemed to be that we would not be able to reignite the spirit of the holidays in the third week of January. It just wouldn't feel the same.

What we ultimately decided to do was to move as much of the Potluck and Party as we could to the MAY meeting. The program for that date was still open, and presenting members' favorite photos of the calendar year easily evolves into presenting our favorite photographs of the program year (back to January 2016 of course. No need to change your photo presentation unless you want to do that.) The May meeting and Awards Banquet is already an end of the year party and involves a lot of potluck, too, so that both the potluck and end of the year theme will transfer well. The May Awards Banquet and program, like the Holiday Party, tends to focus on the members rather than outside speakers and outreach to the public, so that works, too. That leaves the gift exchange, with many of the gifts already wrapped in Christmas giftwrap; my inclination is to just bring them on in, in all their out-of-season glory, and exchange them at that time. (Some editing for perishables would be in order, however.) But I am open to other suggestions on that topic. Feel free to let me know what you think.

PS: I also think we should dress it up with centerpieces and real plates, if possible, though that may be asking a lot of our volunteers.

Our January Program, continued from page 1:

and lifelong ornamental gardener whose father grew the edibles. That they would garden was a foregone conclusion and partnering in Arbutus Garden Arts a natural outcome. They moved onto 20 acres of bare land in Yamhill in the early 1980's, where they immediately began a garden under a canopy of Garry oak, *Quercus garryana*, with limited water and poor soil. Beginning in 2009, they began to develop a new garden in SE Portland with more sun, water and alluvial soil, moving themselves and their nursery in mid-2015. Deb has retained an eclectic taste in plants, while Norm's interest has been drawn to Asian plants, gardens and garden design, in which he has some formal training.

**Spring Home and Garden Show
February 23-26, 2017
At the Portland Expo Center,
Marine Drive, Portland, Oregon**

This year's show may be larger and have more attendance due to the cancellation of the Yard, Garden and Patio Show at the Convention Center the week prior.

The Society will have a booth and garden at the Spring Home and Garden Show. **We need people to set up the garden, staff the booth, and take down the garden.** Garden setup will be Wednesday, 2/22/2017 and take down on Monday, 2/27/2017. **Bring your truck or trailer on Monday and take home a free load of mulch.** We will need several willing workers to stack the wall, move bark and install plants. Booth shifts will be 3 or 4 hours and I hope to have 2 people in the booth per shift. This will allow you to take turns looking at the show during your shift. Dick will have a sign-up sheet at the January and February meetings. Our staff will receive free admission to the show; just go to the 'will call' desk and get your hand stamped. General Admission to the show is \$10.00, so this will be a bargain. On site parking is \$8.00. Sorry I can't do anything about that. However, MAX does run out to the Expo Center.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, hand out information and sign up new members. No experience necessary!

Hours are 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM Thursday-Saturday and 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sunday.

For the best selection of shift time and day, please call Dick Cavender at 503-625-6331 or email him at red@redsrhodies.com.



Photograph of R.
'Something Lovely'
courtesy Mike Stewart

Two Rhododendron Beauties for Your Garden: R. 'Honsu's Baby' and R. 'Something Lovely'

By Maria Stewart

It is with pleasure that I say there will be several articles this year touting the virtues of hybrids created by our own Portland Chapter members. For this newsletter, we feature those of Herb Spady, a long-time member of the ARS, Gold Medal winner, Past ARS President and Past Portland Chapter President. His hybrid, R. 'Honsu's Baby', is named after his property in the Willamette Valley, Honsuchachac Rhododendron Garden. This dwarf grows wider than tall, showing its R. keiskei 'Yaku Fairy' parentage. Herb also grew, selected, named and registered R. 'Something Lovely' from a group of open-pollinated R. 'Lori Eichelser' seed. This rhododendron grows compactly, with its pink trusses adorning its attractive foliage. To see a previously-written article about R. 'Something Lovely', go to rhodies.org, click on Newsletters, then click on Maria Stewart's Portraits of Rhododendrons.

Here is more about R. 'Honsu's Baby':

It is a lepidote..

The cross is: R. keiskei var. ozawae 'Yaku Fairy' X R. scabrifolium var. spiciferum
(note: R. keiskei cordifolia became renamed as R. keiskei var. ozawae in 1997)

Flowers: White centers with pastel pink edges opening from strong pink buds; the flowers cover the plant so well that the leaves are hidden. It blooms in April.

Foliage: Small, medium green leaves, with scales on the back, covering the entire plant.

Height in 10 years: 1 to 1.5 feet; the width is double the height.

Structure: a low-growing dwarf..

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: Morning sun, afternoon filtered sunlight.



Photograph of R. 'Honsu's Baby' courtesy of Dick Cavender.

O. Howard Hinsdale Garden Spring 2017 Open Days

Despite today's gloomy outlook, the earth will continue orbiting about the sun. Longer daylight hours and warming will soon trumpet Spring's re-awakening, and our days will be cheery while enjoying fresh new growth and flowers. A not-to-miss place in that quest is the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden on the lower Umpqua River. Located a short five miles east of Reedsport on Scenic Highway 38, it's a pleasant day's outing from virtually anywhere in western Oregon.

Mark your calendars now for April 15, April 29 and May 13, 2017. Yes, we know there will be many other garden events and visits competing for attention, but don't miss out because you overlooked the date. And we promise no hiccup as occurred last year, when unforeseen events led to cancellation of public open garden days. There is now a footbridge to the east garden and an ADA-compliant path throughout, so everyone may enjoy the entire garden. Those who have visited before will also notice the former Hinsdale home has been removed. We're excited about the opportunities that will present, in continuing improvements to the garden and facilities for visitors.

The open hours will be from about ten in the morning until two in the afternoon. Parking will be available at the Elk Viewing Kiosk, about a mile west of the Garden, with complimentary transportation to and from the Garden. That service is provided by the Friends of Hinsdale Garden, who will also man an information booth in the garden. Your voluntary donations to their generous support of the garden will of course be welcome. Visits by groups of perhaps 10 or greater on other than these dates may also be possible by prior arrangement.

The O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, likely the oldest rhododendron-centric garden in the state, contains a stunning collection of rhododendrons intermixed with many fine magnolias, camellias and other companions. Publicly-owned and maintained via the Bureau of Land Management, that agency's assistance also plays a vital role in making open garden days possible.

Gordon Wylie

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
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Society

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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
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.

Website: **www.rhodies.org**; web masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline Enns**

Membership Updates: John Stephens & Stephen McCormick, Membership Co-Chairs, e-mail: j.d.stephens@outlook.com ssmccormick@outlook.com