

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

February 16, 2017  
Regular meeting  
Social time 7:00 pm  
Meeting 7:30 pm  
Speaker: Harold  
Greer  
**Program: "How the  
West Was Won: the  
History of Hybrids  
and Hybridizers"**  
Plus, our Companion  
Plant 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 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## January Program

**By Caroline Enns & Steve Hall**

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its February Meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM.

Our speaker for the February program will be Harold Greer, whose program is entitled "How the West Was Won: the History of Hybrids and Hybridizers"

Harold Greer has been interested in rhododendrons longer than most of us can remember. He was the owner, along with his wife, Nancy, of Greer Gardens in Eugene for 50 years. He was the youngest person to receive a Gold Medal from the ARS, and the youngest president of the ARS. He served on the Board of Directors for over 25 years. He is the organizing founder of the Western Regional Conferences some 37 years ago. He is internationally recognized for his expertise concerning rhododendrons, for his books on the subject, for his plants, and for his service and dedication to rhododendrons. He is an accomplished photographer whose pictures have been published widely, including on the cover of the Smithsonian Magazine. The combination of his extensive knowledge, his excellent illustrations, and his engaging style invariably make for informative and enjoyable presentations.

Harold will discuss how and why the rhododendrons that we grow today have roots in the west.

Following Harold's presentation, we will hold our annual Companion Plant Auction while enjoying "Sweets for the Sweet" from our potluck treats in honor of Valentine's Day.

( Continued on Page 3 )

## 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 March, 2017:

**February 8, 2017**  
**First Workday at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**  
**9:00AM - Noon**  
**“Weather permitting”**

**February 16, 2017**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Social time 7:00PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**Speaker: Harold Greer**  
**Program: “How the West Was Won: the History of Hybrids and Hybridizers”**  
**+ Companion Plant Auction**  
**+ “Sweets for the Sweet” Valentine’s Day treats**

**February 23-26, 2017**  
**Spring Home & Garden Show**  
**Portland Expo Center**  
**Rewarding Opportunities to Volunteer!**

**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”**

**Incidentally, we need a volunteer or two or three to bring treats for our March meeting. Please contact Steve Hall, [sbh@ohsu.edu](mailto:sbh@ohsu.edu) or at the February meeting, if you want to volunteer.**



Storm Damage at Crystal Springs R.G.  
 Photographer: Arturo Ceballos

## Looking Ahead:

**March 25, 2017**  
**Spring Work Day**  
**Cecil & Molly Smith Garden**  
**St. Paul, Oregon**  
**8:00AM - early afternoon**

**April 27-30, 2017**  
**ARS International Convention**  
**Eureka, California**  
**(See page 8)**

**For more information, call or email June Walsh, 707-443-0604 or [Rhody-Hostel@suddenlink.net](mailto:Rhody-Hostel@suddenlink.net) or on the web at [EurekaRhody.org](http://EurekaRhody.org)**

## President's Message for February

By Dennis O'Malley

I have been chomping at the bit to write a SPRING Column, but the weather hasn't really quite made a commitment yet. I am leery of declaring victory prematurely. I hope that your plants and flower buds have come through the ice and snow in good condition. I am cautiously optimistic from what I have seen.

Regardless of what is going on outside, the Spring season of Rhododendron Society activities is upon us. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find information on the upcoming Home and Garden Show. Dick Cavender is again coordinating that, with major assistance from Mike Domaschofsky, Mike and Maria Stewart and a host of others. It isn't just a matter of fulfilling our educational mission. The display and booth that we set up there and the time we spend talking to the people that stop by, have been an important source of new members for us in recent years. The people that we meet seem increasingly to have some serious interest in rhododendrons and some knowledgeable questions. It is just plain fun to talk to them. So please give generously of your time, whether it be in setting up the display, covering time slots during the show, or tearing down. Volunteers earn free admission if they are on Dick's signup sheet.

Speaking of Mr. Cavender, he will also be our auctioneer for the companion plant sale at the February meeting, which will also include a powerhouse program from Harold Greer. I won't repeat the description of the program, but I want to try a bit of an experiment with the meeting schedule. On nights when we have both a great program and an auction to follow, the evening has tended to run later and later. Often our poor auctioneer doesn't get started until almost 9:00 pm when we should be looking to close out the evening. Yet, we don't want to cut back on questions and conversation with someone like Harold Greer, and we want to encourage, not discourage, lots of auction plants and a lively auction.

To deal with the time crunch, I want to try cutting back a bit on the opening social half hour (for this meeting only) and start the Chapter business meeting at approximately 7:20 pm. If you need more socializing, come on over to the Woodstock Deli beforehand and graze and talk to your heart's content. Just a small effort to try to keep our auctioneer awake and happy. Looking forward to seeing you then.

### Our February Program, continued from page 1:

Quoting Dick Cavender: "The Companion Plant Auction is a great opportunity to purchase some choice plants!! Bring your checkbooks! Members and nonmembers are welcome! We will also need plants! Bring those extras that are taking up space in your shade house or greenhouse. All plants are welcome but the focus will be on companion plants for rhododendrons." **Please remember to put a plastic bag over the bottom of the pots so your donations won't leak on our auctioneer when he holds them aloft.**

**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](mailto:red@redsrhodies.com).

R. 'Autumn Gold' Photographer Everard Daniel



R. 'Evening Glow' Photographer Paul Wurz



## The Glowing Colors of Three Van Veen Hybrids: E. 'Autumn Gold', R. 'Evening Glow', and R. 'Old Copper'

By Maria Stewart

Continuing on with a series of articles about hybrids created by Portland Chapter members, this month we feature three hybrids with vibrant colors. In the late forties and fifties when yellow and orange rhododendrons were not generally available, Theodore Van Veen, Sr. and Ted Van Veen hybridized and grew these to expand the interest in new colors. Other hybrids of theirs are R. 'Lucky Strike' and R. 'Anna Rose Whitney'. The cross for both of these is:

R. griersonianum X R. 'Countess of Derby'

The radiant color pigments running through R. 'Autumn Gold', R. 'Evening Glow' and R. 'Old Copper' are contributed by the R. 'Fabia Group' at 50% of the genes. And notice how R. griersonianum adds strong color to all five of the hybrids, also.

'Autumn Gold' = R. fortunei ssp. discolor X R. 'Fabia Group'

'Evening Glow' = R. fortunei ssp. discolor X R. 'Fabia Group'

'Old Copper' = R. 'Vulcan' X R. 'Fabia Group'

('Vulcan' = R. 'Mars' x R. griersonianum) X ('Fabia Group' = R. dichroanthum x R. griersonianum )

Here is more about R. 'Autumn Gold', R. 'Evening Glow' and R. 'Old Copper':

They are elepidotes...

Flowers: 'Autumn Gold' is salmon orange with a deeper-colored center. 'Evening Glow' is medium yellow and 'Old Copper' is orange. They all bloom late May into June..

Foliage: All have medium green, pointed leaves, and usually are quite dense when well grown.

Height in 10 years: 5 feet.

Structure: upright. Hardiness: -5 degrees F. Siting in your garden: They like filtered sun, but not too much shade or they will not bloom well.



R. 'Old Copper' Photographer Garth Wedemire

## 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



Storm damage at Crystal Springs.

Photographer: Arturo Ceballos, ARS Staff Gardener

## Coming Events:

### Eureka Convention:

Registration form and schedule for the Annual Convention in Eureka, California are now available in the new *ARS Journal* Winter edition, Vol. 71, Number 1, pages 28 - 32.

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

## January Meeting notes:

The snow and ice melted just in time for our January meeting. We heard a preliminary damage report for Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden from Arturo Ceballos, ARS Staff Gardener at Crystal Springs, who had 28 cell phone photographs of areas he was able to access when the snow and wind stopped. City Parks crews closed and secured the garden in the interest of public safety while they went to work clearing paths and removing the damaged parts of shrubs and trees.

Dick Cavender reported on the Smith Garden; basically no serious damage there because the Garden was out of the path of the worst of the storm. That said, the Smith Garden crew have been busy cleaning up and looking forward to the planned Work Day, March 25th. No shortage of work to do at either garden!

Our speaker, Norm Jacobs, Arbutus Garden Arts, gave a most interesting presentation on Japanese maples. I had not realized that our native Vine Maple, *Acer circinatum*, is closely related to the several species of Japanese maples and has hybridized with one or more of those species in a nursery environment. Norm and his wife, Deb Zaveson, design and construct woodland gardens, with an over-story, mid-story, under-story and ground-cover tier to create the natural structure of a woodland. Japanese maples can be used for all 4 tiers although Norm and Deb use a broader range of plants, including rhododendrons and perennials in their designs.

Q & A following Norm's presentation:

In terms of caring for Japanese maples, Norm recommends mulch in place of fertilizer in the garden. Full sun here in the Willamette Valley is too hot for most Japanese maples; if we plant Japanese maples in full sun here, they must have regular watering during summer. Pruning: no more than 10-12% of live wood in a 12-month period. Unstable variegation in a Japanese maple? Run it through the chipper! Norm explained that he had been using a slow-release, 16-8-8 fertilizer on Japanese maples in containers, but the manufacturer had gone out of business, with the result that Norm was having to research alternatives that wouldn't burn or kill the maples in his nursery. "Don't over-fertilize!" Good advice from our speaker!

On a different note, Ray Clack brought a small pot of newly-germinated rhododendron seedlings and seed samples from the ARS Seed Exchange to show us. It's that time of year; the ARS Seed Exchange opened January 10th and the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden also has seeds. You can go to the main web page for the ARS or the RSBG and access the seed exchange seedlist from there. For *Vireya* rhododendron seed, go to [www.vireya.net](http://www.vireya.net).



Florida Chapter American Rhododendron Society Humboldt Chapter American Rhododendron Society

*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 per night per room plus tax. 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 Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue Friday and Saturday. Visitors can walk to the conference center, take the shuttle or drive; abundant parking is available at the center.

For many ARS members, seeing the 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.



**THE CARSON MANSION**

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



*Rhododendron occidentale*



**HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN**



**SINGING TREE GARDENS**

More information at [www.eurekaRhody.org](http://www.eurekaRhody.org)



## ARS Seed Exchange is Open for Business

By Steve Hall

Surely at this dark time of year, there is nothing more invigorating than germinating seeds. The annual seed exchange run by the ARS (<http://rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm>) opened on January 10. The RSBG also has seed available from their collection (<http://rhodygarden.org/cms/current-catalog/>). (If you are interested in Vireya, tropical and subtropical rhododendrons, there is a separate website, [www.vireya.net](http://www.vireya.net) for Vireya seed. Ed.)

As you know, if kept warm and moist, rhododendron seeds germinate willingly. A 2.5"x2.5" banded pot occupies very little space on the kitchen counter, and can contain two zillion future plants. Advice is available in several places: Ray Clack has been growing plants from seeds for several years and has lots of good advice; Dave Goheen's Rhododendron ABC's include entries on growing from seeds, Rhododendron ABC's numbers 12 and 13, available on the Chapter website; the ARS website also has a sheet that includes information on growing from seed; Peter Cox, "Growing Rhododendron Species from Seeds" in *Rhododendron Species* (the RSBG's annual periodical) Vol. 12: 29-33, 2017.

We all know several benefits of growing these plants from seeds:

discovery: every seed yields a new plant with a new mix of genetic material unknown previously to nature;  
multitude: a small packet of seeds can yield plants too numerous to count, enough to provide an endless supply of door-prizes at the Chapter meetings even after you have selected the best plants for yourself;  
cost: rather than tens of dollars, the cost per plant, grown from seeds can be pennies or less.

Peter Cox's article now provides one additional advantage of which many were unaware: longevity.

"Growing rhododendrons from seeds to maturity is the greatest of fun and I thoroughly recommend it for those who have not tried it. I am certain the anticipation of waiting for the first flowers, or even just great mature foliage, prolongs one's life."

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

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(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**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Co--Chairs:  
**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522  
**ltcmacret1@aol.com**  
**Dan McLaughlin**,  
**dvmclau@comcast.net**  
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Gatehouse:  
**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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