

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

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"**

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



March Program

By Caroline Enns & Steve Hall

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

Our speaker for the March program will be Richard Murcott, whose program is entitled "East Coast Rhododendrons: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

We are excited to bring Richard Murcott to Portland and pleased to present you with an opportunity to hear him speak. Those of our members who have heard his programs describe them as among the best they have ever heard. You can also check out his website and his articles in the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society. This is a highlight program that should not be missed. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dick Murcott has been involved with rhododendrons since 1962 when he joined the New York Chapter of the ARS. He became friends with Sid Burns, then the Chapter President, who showed him how to root rhododendrons, how to make crosses and how to grow seed. Dick started hybridizing in 1964 and has never stopped. He is also an enthusiastic propagator, contributing his plants to Chapter sales and using them as gifts. He gardens on three acres in East Norwich, NY, a suburb of New York City rated as climatic zone 7b. In addition to rhododendrons, he grows, exhibits, and judges chrysanthemums. He speaks frequently about rhododendrons to garden clubs, ARS chapters, and national and regional ARS meetings. He maintains an informative website, and has published several articles in the ARS Quarterly Bulletin.

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

All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 S.E. 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 May, 2017:

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"

March 25, 2017

Spring Work Day

Cecil and Molly Smith Garden

St. Paul, Oregon

8:00 AM—Early Afternoon

April 1st - April 2nd, 2017

Rhododendron and Daffodil Show

9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (See page 4)

April 20, 2017

Annual Meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker: Ned Brockenbrough

Program: "Adventures in Hybridizing" and,

Rhododendron Hybrid Auction!

May 18, 2017

Awards Banquet and Gift Exchange

Set Up 6:30 PM

Dining 7:00 PM

Program: Members' Slides and Digital Images



Cecil and Molly Smith Garden

Looking Ahead:

March 20, 2017

Vernal Equinox: Spring Begins in the Northern Hemisphere

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 or on the web at EurekaRhody.org

It's Time to Register! The ARS Journal, Winter 2017, Vol. 71 No. 1, has a registration form (p.32) with more information, pages 28-32.

President's Message for March

By Dennis O'Malley

Focus on the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden

This month I want to focus attention on upcoming events at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, which is located at 5055 Raybell Road, St. Paul, Oregon 97137. As most of you know, this garden was established by Cecil and Molly Smith in the early 1950's and contains many rare species grown by Cecil Smith from seeds imported from China and cuttings from England, as well as hybrids that Cecil himself developed.

It is a three-acre natural woodland garden world-renowned for its collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons. It contains more than 600 rhododendrons and azaleas, as well as choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers and bulbs. The garden has been featured in Horticulture magazine and on several television programs.

The garden was purchased by the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1983 and we manage and maintain it along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters. Admission is free for ARS members, with a modest admission fee of \$3.00 for the general public.

This year the garden will be open from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays during the blooming season, from April 1—May 21, 2017.

In preparation for that blooming season, the garden will be holding its annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, March 25th, 2017 from 8:00 AM to early afternoon, with lunch for the volunteers afterward (potluck additions encouraged!) As you may recall, the Smith Garden Fall Work Day had to be cancelled due to predicted bad weather and high winds. While the Smith Garden came through recent snow and wind events in relatively good shape, there is work to be done and our efforts are needed to ready the garden for its upcoming visitors.

Due to its more rural location and more limited open hours, the Smith Garden does not have as many regular maintenance volunteers as Crystal Springs. The Portland Chapter really needs to step up and turn out in good numbers on March 25th for this work day. At our March 16th meeting, we will explore the possibility of gathering for breakfast and then carpooling out to the Garden. Many hands make light work, and good company will make both the drive out and the work once we get there enjoyable.

For those new members who may not have visited before, this would be a great opportunity to get acquainted with our own gem, the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden. It is truly a wonderful place to spend a Saturday morning. And please remember, once it is ready for visitors, volunteers will be needed to staff those open weekends, so please generously add your names when the sign-up schedules are circulated.

Many thanks to Roger Lintault for sharing information and photographs for this message.

RHODODENDRON & DAFFODIL SHOW AND SALE

AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN



SATURDAY, April 1st - SUNDAY, April 2nd, 2017
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
will host the

Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Daffodil Society's
Annual Show and Sale

The garden is located at:
5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland

Show opens at 12:00 pm on Saturday

TO ENTER YOUR OWN FLOWERS in the show bring them to the exhibit hall
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

More information: www.rhodies.org or 503 771-8386

Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

Persistent, Woolly, Plastered, Tomentose...Oh My!

By Maria Stewart

Species rhododendrons have adorned themselves with attractive indumentum through the ages for a variety of reasons. One, indumentum plays a role in protecting species from the extremes of heat and cold. Secondly, the hairs break up the flow of air across the plant surfaces thereby reducing transpiration during dry and windy weather. Additionally, insects such as the pesky lacebugs find indumentum difficult to eat, as do deer and other browsers who avoid rhododendrons with significant indumentum.

There are many elepidote species and hybrids with some amount of indumentum, so let's learn some terminology. In biology, indumentum (Latin: "garment") is a covering of trichomes (fine "hairs") on a plant. If a leaf, stem and branch surface is described as glabrous or glabrate, it is lacking hairs. If the leaf, stem or branch surface is pubescent, it has hairs. It is fairly easy to describe a glabrous surface, but the terms that have been developed for pubescent surfaces make quite a list. Here are a few:

fimbriate —fringed

hirsute —coarsely hairy R. hirsutum means "hairy"

compact—dense

cup-shaped hairs—like a daiquiri glass

discontinuous—broken up by interruptions

fuzzy—fuzzy

metallic—metallic

plastered—flattened hairs and shiny surface

persistent—upper leaf surface hairs that remain until maturity

rufous—rust-colored

strigillose—minutely strigose R. strigillosum means "with short bristles"

strigose—having straight hairs all pointing in the same direction

tomentose—covered with dense, matted, woolly hairs

woolly—woolly

There are many more names for the shapes of the hairs, such as capitellate, dendroid and ramiform, but here is an interesting fact to ponder. The hairs of indumentum are finer than human hair with some of the larger types being only 1/10th the size of a human hair.

Now that our tutorial is finished for this newsletter, please enjoy some photos of rhododendrons with indumentum. (See page 9.)

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

February Meeting Highlights

Harold Greer gave an interesting history of rhododendrons, their hybrids and the hybridizers, here on the West Coast, starting in the late 1800's. With the passage of time we have lost both plants and their hybridizers, so Greer's talk was a celebration of their lives and a reminder of how much we owe to those pioneers. It also reminds us to work to preserve their legacy if we hope to build on it.

Following Greer's presentation, we held our annual Companion Plant Auction; Dick Cavender again graciously agreed to be our auctioneer, and there were several amusing exchanges between the assembled members, Harold, and Dick.

A common theme heard at the meeting was the effect of the winter weather this year compared to last year's 'El Nino' season; next winter, polytunnels and tall cloches might be in order to get our companion plants and other container plants through the storms intact.

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.

February Spring Home & Garden Show:

Setting up the garden went well and quickly with all the willing hands! Same with take down. The bonus on Monday was the free big loads of bark. While Karen and I didn't get to the show until Sunday afternoon, it seems we had a lot of visitors! I had 150 of the promotional newsletter and was told we ran out mid-day Sunday. Great work! We also collected about 4 pages of email addresses, a record. Phil Parker with O'Loughlin said the Show had record attendance and I would agree. Great work everyone!!! We will be back again next year so save a date. Thanks! Dick Cavender

Thank you, Dick Cavender, for organizing the volunteer work that it took to build the garden, for getting members to talk to the public about rhododendrons and the ARS, and then to tear the garden down. Thank you, Mike Domaschofsky, for the many hours that you spent in the garden talking to interested attendees. A big thank you to all the members who took a shift at the garden. You must have impressed the people who talked to you, because we now have 104 email addresses of people who want information about our meetings and events. Great PR everyone! Maria Stewart





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 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.



Rhododendron occidentale



HUMBOLDT BOTANICAL GARDEN



SINGING TREE GARDENS

More information at www.eurekaRhody.org

Persistent, Woolly, Plastered, Tomentose...Oh My!



R. metternichii hybrid. Photo courtesy Mike Stewart.

R. kesangiae. Photo courtesy Jens Birck



R. pseudochrysanthum. Photo courtesy Jens Birck.

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
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:

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

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meeting. Send materials to newsletter
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