

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

May 13-14, 2017

Mother's Day Show
and Sale

9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Flower Show Opens at
Noon on Saturday,

May 13, 2017

May 18, 2017

**Awards Banquet and
Gift Exchange**

Set-up 6:30 PM

Dining 7:00 PM

Program: Members'

Slides and Digital Im-
ages

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



May Awards Banquet and Gift Exchange

By Dennis O'Malley

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its May meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2017 from 6:30 PM—9:00 PM.

Awards Banquet: Our May meeting will consist of the annual Awards Banquet, followed by a presentation by the members of their favorite photographs of the past year. Set up for the banquet will start at 6:30 PM, with the banquet dinner at 7:00 PM. Some main dishes will be catered, but the banquet is essentially potluck, so everyone should bring favorite main and side dishes and desserts. Awards presentations will follow the banquet. This is an excellent chance to relax and unwind with friends after our spring labors and the Mother's Day Flower Show and Sale the weekend before.

Members Presentations: The Members' presentation of the year's favorite photographs has been shifted to the Awards Banquet due to the weather-related cancellation of the Winter Solstice Party. Our traditional program consists of slides and digital images shown by our members and/or their guests. We recommend no more than 12 slides per person. These slides can be of plants, gardens, travels, and memories you would like to share. We will have a laptop with a digital projector. If you need a projector for traditional slides, please bring your own, or let us know, and we will do our best to provide one.

Gift Exchange: Please feel free to bring in your wrapped gifts, in all their out-of-season glory, to exchange at this time if you wish. (Some editing for perishables would be in order, however.)

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

Meeting place: 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:

May 11, 2017

Memorial Service for Kathy Van Veen

10:00 AM

St. Ignatius Catholic Church

3400 SE 43rd Ave.

Portland, Oregon

May 13-14, 2017

Mother's Day Show and Sale

9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Flower Show Opens at Noon on

Saturday, May 13, 2017

May 18, 2017

Awards Banquet and Gift Exchange

Set Up 6:30 PM

Dining 7:00 PM

Program: Members' Slides and Digital Images

This meeting offers the opportunity to carry out our winter holiday gift exchange and showing of members' photography, which was canceled due to bad weather.



Cecil and Molly Smith Garden

Looking Ahead:

June 24, 2017

Summer Solstice Potluck

1:00 to 4:00 PM

Mike and Maria Stewart's Home

42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd.,

Sandy, Oregon

In Memory of Kathy Van Veen

By Dennis O'Malley

As I am sure most of you know from our prior email to the membership, our dear friend, mentor and colleague Kathy Van Veen passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 8:30 pm. I understand that she was resting peacefully at home, and was very appreciative of all of the care and support she received, including the visits, meals, cards and photos she received from all of you.

It is difficult to write anything about Kathy that does her justice. She was, of course, a world-renowned expert at propagating rhododendrons. She assisted hybridizers, nurseries, and hobbyists from all over the country and indeed all over the world in propagating their favorite varieties and their new introductions. Like her father Ted Van Veen before her, Kathy in 2011 received the ARS Gold Medal, the highest award given by the ARS to individuals for their extraordinary service at the national and international level. Her citation for the Gold Medal memorably described her skill at propagating rhododendron cuttings as reaching the level where she could get a lead pencil to form roots.

Kathy was and is irreplaceable. The time and energy that Kathy gave to the Portland Chapter of the ARS and to the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden cannot be measured. She administered and wrote newsletters for the Friends of Crystal Springs. She handled our bank deposits, wrote our checks, fielded our phone calls, received our mail and edited our newsletter. Even we did not know or understand all the things she did for us until she became ill last fall. When I took office last fall, the question was constantly asked: "Who takes care of this?" The answer was almost always "Kathy Van Veen". It now takes five or ten of us to do all of the things Kathy used to do. (All of the people who have stepped up to try and fill the void deserve our thanks and gratitude.)

On a more personal note, Kathy Van Veen is the reason that I am a member of the ARS and the Portland Chapter. Some years ago I wandered into Van Veen Nursery on a Saturday morning looking for a particular deciduous azalea. Kathy and I talked for over two hours. It was immediately apparent that Kathy was someone special, one of a kind. Her passion for rhododendrons and for the three-generation history of her nursery was contagious and inspiring. I promptly became a member and have been ever since. So I have Kathy to thank personally not only for all she gave, but for all the friendship and fellowship I have shared in the Chapter over the years since then.

I can only say that we will miss her and remember her.

There will be a memorial service for Kathy at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, located (near the nursery) at 3400 S.E. 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon, on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 10:00 am. I understand that it will include an opportunity to share your own memories of Kathy.

Looking for the Loquacious

This year's Mother's Day Sale will feature workshops held at regular intervals on both days to address the two questions that our customers ask most frequently:

How to Plant a Rhododendron

How to Prune a Rhododendron

We tentatively plan to hold these sessions hourly in alternating sequence. That schedule will require 14 authorities to hold forth on those two subjects.

We are looking for volunteers. Here is a chance to impress your friends and intimidate all others with your knowledge of these important topics. For those who would claim ignorance, opportunities abound to remedy that issue:

How to Plant: 1. flyer from Chapter's website <http://www.rhodies.org> 2. Dave Goheen's ABC's from the Chapter's website; 3. Hank Shannon's video that Dick Murcott showed at the March meeting (Contact our Vice President, Caroline Enns, for a copy.)

How to Prune: 1. Flyer from Chapter's website; 2. Dave Goheen's ABC's from the Chapter's website.

And when all else fails, attend one of the earlier sessions, speak with authority at your own workshop, and defer to more senior members if you feel uncomfortable in answering specific questions.

The sign-up sheet for the Mother's Day Sale that will circulate at the April Chapter Meeting will include the workshops. Don't be shy, or be shy, but sign up anyway. You will be impressed by how much more you know than the general public, and by how grateful they will be for your shared knowledge.

We Have a Facebook Page !

Are you on Facebook? Did you know that our Chapter has a group page? We welcome you to join our group. It's easy. Go to your Facebook page. In the search bar at the top of the page, type in American Rhododendron Society—Portland Chapter. Click on the title in the results list (it should be listed first). On our group page on the top picture, click on the button that says "Join"! That's it. The administrators of the site will approve your request! David Anderson is working to make sure we have some great content on the page, so come back and visit it often.

Ann Clack

Wonderful Hybrids from Ben Lancaster: R. 'Bluette', R. 'Snow Lady', R. 'Vulcan's Flame' and R. 'Yaku Sunrise'

By Maria Stewart

Do you know that Ben Lancaster was a Charter Member of the American Rhododendron Society? Ben and his wife, Rose, lived in Camas, Washington and eventually their granddaughter, Ellen, joined the Portland Chapter in 2007. Occasionally, Ellen attends our events. Ben caught a case of "rhododendronitis" in about 1937 while recovering from an accident, and for 33 years after that, his attention was focused on the genus. He created at least 36 hybrids and just possibly you may have a Lancaster hybrid in your garden. Ben based his hybridizing on planning the objectives of each cross. He used parents that have positive attributes such as cold and heat tolerance, good form, good foliage and rooting ability. Among his hybrids, you will see his use of *R. williamsianum* and *R. yakushmanum* that produced excellent garden sized plants. Hybridizing to get late bloomers, using the fragrance of *R. occidentale* and creating large-leaf hybrids with *R. macabeum* were other goals that intrigued Ben Lancaster.

Here are some details about 'Bluette', 'Snow Lady', 'Vulcan's Flame' and 'Yaku Sunrise':

'Bluette' (*R. augustinii* x *R. impeditum*) a lepidote dwarf about 3 feet high in 10 years; light blue trusses; leaves are medium green on dense, interwoven branches; hardiness of -5 degrees F.; try filtered sun for best performance.

(Lancaster, 1958)

'Snow Lady' (*R. leucaspis* x *R. ciliatum*) a lepidote growing to about 30 inches in 10 years; snow white trusses; leaves are medium green and covered with noticeable hairs; hardiness of -5 degrees F. But you should plant it where there is protection from frost to save the early blooms.

(Lancaster, 1958) P.A., 1955

'Vulcan's Flame' (*R. griersonianum* x 'Mars') This is the reverse cross of 'Vulcan'. Ben found merit in making reverse crosses because the seed parent is important in creating plants with good form and growth habit. Glowing red trusses; an elepidote growing to about 5 feet in 10 years; dark green pointed leaves with red stems; hardiness of -15 degrees F.; blooms in late May into June.

(Lancaster before 1955)

'Yaku Sunrise' ('Vulcan's Flame' x *R. yakushmanum* 'Koichiro Wada') an elepidote growing to about 3 feet tall and wide in 10 years; pink with a subtle blend of peach and deeper pink on the outside of the petals; deep green leaves are recurved slightly; hardiness of -10 degrees F.; blooms in May.

(Lancaster registered 1966)



R. 'Bluette'

R. 'Yaku Sunrise'



Photographers:

Odo Tschetsh is the photographer of R. 'Bluette'

Mike Stewart is the photographer of R. 'Snow Lady'

Garth Wedemire is the photographer of R. 'Yaku Sunrise'

Coen Zonneveld is the photographer of R. 'Vulcan's Flame'

R. 'Snow Lady'



R. 'Vulcan's Flame'





Kathy Van Veen at the Early Show and Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden 2014 ?



Kathy Van Veen and Rose Kress enjoying a summer potluck at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden 2012

Highlights of the April Meeting

Our April meeting was quite busy: we held our annual meeting and voted in a slate of new board members, listened to an interesting and informative speaker and held our annual auction of rhododendron hybrids, all in just a few evening hours on Thursday, April 20th, 2017.

Our speaker was Ned Brockenbrough, and his program was entitled “Adventures in Hybridizing”. You might have noticed that Ned has a different philosophy with regard to the use of colchicine to induce polyploidy in rhododendron hybrids, compared with our March speaker, Richard Murcott, who has moved away from using colchicine in his breeding program. Another clear difference is their geographic location: Richard Murcott lives in East Norwich, New York, and Ned Brockenbrough lives in Seattle, Washington. Both have 50 years or more of experience hybridizing and growing rhododendrons, with the goal of creating superior plants for their environment. Here again, science applied to horticulture, with beautiful results. For those of us on the west coast of the country, Ned’s hybrids R. ‘Paprika Spice’ and the R. ‘Horizon’ Series are very popular. And who knew that our much-loved early red, R. ‘Taurus’ is hardy enough to survive on the east coast of the country? (Richard Murcott).

Speaking of beautiful results, our auction of hybrid rhododendrons was as lively as ever, with both the digital projector and photographs used to show us the plants in bloom, a clear case of technology in the service of “rhododendronitis”.

Our program and speakers committee deserves a big “Thank you!” for your efforts on our behalf and a really makes-you-think series of speakers.

The editor

You Are Invited to a Summer Solstice Potluck!

Mark Saturday, June 24th, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on your calendars to celebrate the fourth annual solstice party at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and nursery. **Portland Chapter members and members of all the chapters in District 4 are invited.** Gathering time is 1:00 PM followed by meal time at 1:30 PM. We will supply the meat entrée, beverages, plates, cups and utensils. Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert to round out the meal.

You are also welcome to walk through our nursery and garden after the meal. The rhododendrons and companion plants are labeled and we enjoy talking about our plants, too. Our home and Dover Nursery is located 5 miles southeast of the town of Sandy. We have plenty of indoor space for eating, so if the weather is rainy, don't let that keep you from joining in the fun. We are looking forward to having you as our guests on June 24th! *Please RSVP to 503-668-3522, so we can plan food and seating.*

Directions to Mike and Maria's home 42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd. Sandy, Oregon

From the last signal light in the city of Sandy, take U.S. 26 east out of town, for 2 miles.

Exit right onto Firwood Road. The landmark at this exit is a gas station/store combination called Shorty's. Go 3/4 of a mile on Firwood Road, and then turn right at the 4-way intersection at the top of the hill. There is a Dover Nursery sign on a utility pole pointing right at this intersection. There is also a Dover Community Church sign pointing right at this intersection. This right turn will keep you on Firwood Road.

Go 2 1/2 miles further on Firwood Road until you get to a 4-way stop at the intersection of Wildcat Mountain Drive and Firwood Road. Cross over Wildcat Mountain Drive and take the middle road which is Kleinsmith Road. It goes slightly to the left and down the hill. There is also a sign pointing to the Dover Nursery at this intersection. Our home and nursery is 8 tenths of a mile more on Kleinsmith Rd., on the left side, across from the Dover Community Church.

Mike and Maria Stewart in the poly house at Dover Nursery with *R. sinogrande*.



2017 MOTHER'S DAY SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 13th

SUNDAY, MAY 14th

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SHOW OPENS

at Noon

SATURDAY

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN
will be at peak bloom time. Come and join us to view the garden.

There is a **JUDGED FLOWER SHOW** in the Exhibit Hall
and a big **PLANT SALE** in the front parking lot.

COMPETITION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.
TO ENTER YOUR OWN RHODODENDRON TRUSSES IN THE SHOW,
bring them to the Exhibit Hall
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

The garden is located at: **5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland**
across from Reed College.

Questions about rhododendron care and culture?
Ask the **MASTER GARDENERS** who will have a table in the sale yard.

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

Presented by
The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
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, Joanne
Turner**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

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Gatehouse:
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Friends of Crystal Springs:
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Events:
Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

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

Newsletter, membership, and
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Delivery: Questions should be di-
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7565.

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

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