

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

June: No Regular Meeting

June 24, 2017
Potluck Supper at Mike and Maria Stewart's home, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

July: No Regular Meeting and no newsletter

August: No Regular Meeting

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



An Eventful Summer Ahead

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is now on its Summer Schedule for the months of June, July and August. There are no regular meetings scheduled. Instead there are other events, such as the Summer Solstice Potluck at Mike and Maria Stewart's home June 24th and the Smith Garden Soiree August 17th. Brenda Ziegler and Steve Hopkins are planning a party for August 27th. And there will be a total eclipse of the sun on August 21st beginning around 10:15 am; McMinnville and Woodburn are near the northern limit of seeing the full eclipse from the Willamette Valley; Corvallis and Sweet Home are near the southern limit.

Summer, the season to water. And deadhead and prune. And go after the weeds. It's a wonderful opportunity to get re-acquainted with our own gardens. We think we have everything squared away and yet, comes summer, we find that our irrigation system leaks, or a valve is broken, or, well, the list goes on and on. Our Chapter now has a Facebook page, which is a really good place to turn for advice, practical know-how and encouragement. And in the meantime we can get some much-needed exercise, hauling hoses and sprinklers and watering wands from point A to point B and on to yet other points in our gardens. May your pumps never fail nor your wells run dry! Those of us on city water wish we had wells, too.

Missing the camaraderie of working with other volunteers? Work days at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden are ongoing through the summer. Volunteers usually meet in the Cool House / Exhibit Hall at Crystal Springs at 9:00 am on Wednesdays, and at the Smith Garden main house between 8:00am and 9:00 am on Mondays. Please check with csrgvol@gmail.com for information about time and dates for volunteering at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and Tom Gressler, tgressler@gmail.com for information about volunteering at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden.

The Editor

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 September, 2017:

June, 2017: No Regular Meeting

June 24, 2017

Summer Solstice Potluck

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Mike and Maria Stewart's Home

42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd.,

Sandy, Oregon

**July, 2017: No Regular Meeting
and no newsletter**

August: No Regular Meeting

August 17, 2017

Smith Garden Soiree

August 21, 2017

Total eclipse of the sun

August 27, 2017

Brenda Ziegler and Steve Hopkins' Summer Party

September 21, 2017

Regular Meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

**Speaker and Program TBA
Cuttings Exchange**



R. benhallii (M. ciliicalyx)

Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

Looking Ahead:

October 14, 2017

Smith Garden Fall Work Day

Start between 8:00 and 9:00 am,

**Lunch will be served; please bring
your favorite hand tools and gloves.**

Opposite page: *R. 'Songbird'*

Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart

President's Message for June

Thanks to All of Our Excellent Volunteers

To continue the theme of our May Awards Banquet, the Portland Chapter needs to fall down on its knees and give thanks for all of the wonderful volunteers who have made this year possible and successful. As I look back on all of the activities of the past year, I am amazed at how our members step up time after time to get things done and meet the challenges that arise. Ice storms topple trees at Crystal Springs? Wind blows maple tree over at the Smith Garden just prior to opening? Kathy Van Veen's illness leaves ten or twenty shoes to fill? The Mother's Day Sale adds Membership activities and Mini-Seminars to an already packed weekend?

In each case, people step up and what needs to get done gets done, most often by members taking the initiative themselves and not waiting for someone else to organize or direct. I will make no effort to thank everyone by name. There are too many activities and too many people working behind the scenes to have any hope of doing justice to everyone. But your fellow members know who you are, and your fellow members and I recognize and appreciate your efforts.

I hope that the Awards Banquet was the beginning of a chance for our overworked volunteers to relax a bit and begin to recharge our batteries. Some respite has definitely been earned. It is time to get back out into our own gardens and enjoy the summer hiatus from monthly organized Chapter activities. Another opportunity described elsewhere in this newsletter is the Stewart's upcoming Solstice party. I hope to see you there and hope that we can all return in the fall, refreshed and reinvigorated.

Dennis O'Malley





R. viscosum , the “Swamp Honeysuckle”

Photo courtesy of Hank Helm

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

As Sweet As Its Name “Swamp Honeysuckle”: *R. viscosum*

By Maria Stewart

When June approaches, we look forward to smelling the sweet fragrance of *R. viscosum* and for that reason, we planted it close by a walkway. We can easily say that it is one of our favorite deciduous azaleas among the fifteen American azalea species. Plant explorers recognized the value of *R. viscosum* and it was the first American azalea grown in England in 1680 from seed collected by John Bannister, an English missionary. This species played an important role during the early 1800's in the hybridizing of the Ghent azaleas in Belgium, the *Ornatum* and *Viscosepalum* Hybrids by J.R. Gowen and the Anthony Waterer hybrids in England. The early hybrids were consolidated and called the Ghent-type hybrids, some of which are *R. 'Daviesii'*, *R. 'Altaclarensis'* and *R. 'Narcissiflora'*, a *Rustica Floro Pleno* Hybrid. In 1870, the Waterers started improving the Ghent-type azaleas by crossing them with *R. molle* from Asia and other species from North America such as *R. calendulaceum* to produce large flowers with great color and substance. These hybrids became the Knap Hill azaleas named after their nursery. In 1922, Lionel de Rothschild of Exbury acquired several Knap Hill seedlings. Among them was *R. 'George Reynolds'*, a parent of *R. 'Hotspur'* which was introduced in 1934. As much more hybridizing continued at Exbury and around the world, the Knap Hill (Exbury) group developed into the largest number of cultivars with the greatest range of colors. There are five sub-groups of the Knap Hill azaleas: the Knap Hill, the Slocock, the Ilam of New Zealand, the Exbury and the Windsor. Ultimately, *R. viscosum* had a great influence on the history of deciduous azalea hybridization that continues to this day!

Classification: Subgenus *Pentanthera*; Section *Pentanthera*; Subsection *Pentanthera*

Distribution in the wild: From southern Maine, down the East Coast to Florida, along the Gulf Coast to Mississippi; also found 400 miles inland at some high-elevation areas in the southern Appalachians; also found west of the Mississippi River, in Missouri, eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma and northern Louisiana. It is North America's most variable species depending on where it grows in the wild, from damp ditches to swampy margins to sandy fields to dry ridges.

About its name: it means “sticky” which refers to its sticky glandular tube and stem hairs. The hairs are so sticky that flying insects are easily caught on them.

Flowers: white, rarely pink, with slender tubes; flowers open after leaves; fragrant; June through September.

Leaves: Shape varies from small and narrow to large and rounded; color varies from gray-green to glossy dark green to glaucous gray-green to blue-green; can be rough or smooth to the touch.

Structure: Low-growing, high elevation type is *montanum* group. Low elevation type is low-growing also and named *aemulans* group. The dwarf type is *coryi* group. The other 2 types are *oblongifolium* group and *serrulatum* group. Our plant is 3 feet high and 5 feet wide in 20 years.

Hardiness: -15 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: filtered sunlight would be ideal.



Top left: Tom Gressler and Jane Mays, President's Award

Top right: Betsy Soifer, Bronze Medal

Lower left: Dan McLaughlin, Bronze Medal

Photographs courtesy Brenda Ziegler and Steve Hopkins.



Highlights of the May Awards Banquet

First and foremost, the May Awards Banquet was fun. The atmosphere was relaxed, comfortable, warm and welcoming. A big “Thank You!” to all for your hard work at Crystal Springs and the Smith Garden this spring; the Early Show and Sale and the Mother’s Day Show & Sale were well-received and saw large increases in Garden visitors, despite the weather and limitations on parking.

We are blessed with a number of good cooks in our Chapter and our caterer. Thank you for a wonderful meal.

After dining we watched our members’ slide and digital image presentations. Mike and Maria Stewart began the presentations with a video remembrance of Kathy Van Veen which was very moving. The members’ presentations were moved to the May meeting this year because of the cancellation of the traditional Winter Solstice due to wintry weather in December.

Here on these two pages are images from the May Awards Banquet, courtesy of Brenda Ziegler and Steve Hopkins.

The Editor

A Round Table of Rhododendron Enthusiasts, May Awards Banquet



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*.



Smith Garden Soiree'

Thursday, August 17th, 2017

Join us on Thursday, August 17th, to celebrate the beauty of Smith Garden. Bring your favorite potluck dish and join in an enjoyable meal with members of the Portland Chapter, the Tualatin Valley Chapter and the Willamette Chapter. Dinner time is 6:00 pm and if you wish to walk through the Garden, come a little earlier. Help is always appreciated at 5:30 pm, also, to set up the tables. See you there!

The address is: 5055 Raybell Road NE,
St. Paul, Oregon

Directions:

From Portland:

Take I-5 south to Exit 278 (Donald Exit).

Go west (right) at exit onto Ehlen Road for 7 miles to the intersection with Hwy 219.

Turn right onto Hwy 219 and proceed for 3/4 mile and look for blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Follow Heirloom Roses sign going left onto Champoeg Road.

Go straight onto Raybell Road at the dairy barn where Champoeg Road turns right.

Smith Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/2 mile on right.

Parking and entrance are just past the house with the Garden address.

From 99W:

Go north or south on 99W to Newberg.

Turn south onto Hwy 219 just north of downtown Newberg.

Go south for 3 miles to the Willamette River bridge. At less than 1/2 mile past the river, look for blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Follow Heirloom Roses sign right onto Champoeg Road.

Go straight onto Raybell Road at dairy barn where Champoeg Road turns right.

Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/2 mile on right.

Parking and entrance are just past the house with the Garden address.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

PO Box 86424,
Portland, OR 97286-0424
ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for
meeting cancellations due
to weather

Web: www.rhodies.org

Post Master: Time sensitive
mail; please deliver before
June 15, 2017

U.S. Postal Service statement of
Ownership, Management, and Cir-
culation (as per 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Publication Title: *Rhododendron News*
Total number of copies mailed per is-
sue: **225**
Owner: **Portland Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**,
PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-
0424

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

Co--Chairs:
Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522
lcmacret1@aol.com
Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Tours/Volunteering:
csrgvol@gmail.com
Gatehouse:
Tom Hoffman, 503-452-0975
Rose Kress, 971-239-9016
Friends of Crystal Springs:
Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Events:
Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: Open

Newsletter, membership, and
ownership: The Portland Chapter is
a local Chapter of the American Rho-
dodendron Society. Combined annual
dues to both the national society and
local chapter are \$40. Membership
benefits include nine or more newslet-
ters, discounts, and activities.

Rhododendron News is mailed by first
class postage (permit #1134, Port-
land). Photographs and images may
only be reproduced with permission
from the owner.

Articles: Deadline is the board meet-
ing. Send materials to newsletter edi-
tor, at: **tjhoffman56@yahoo.com**, or
via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place,
Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-
rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-
7565.

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

Membershi p Updates: John
Stephens & Stephen McCor-
mi ck, Membershi p Co-Chai rs, e-
-mai l :
j.d.stephens@outlook.com
ssmccormick@outlook.com