

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

August: No Regular Meeting

August 17, 2017
Smith Garden Soiree
Setup 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm

August 27, 2017
Steve and Brenda's
Summer Party
Starts at Noon,
Dinner at 1:00 pm

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



President's Message for August:

Summer Feels Too Short

Summer felt longer when I was a kid. Perhaps it is just that when I was a child, I didn't have papers (newsletters) due in June and August.

In reality, of course, summer will stretch on long into what would have been fall in the Midwest where I grew up. Nonetheless, it is time to turn our attentions to the signs of the approaching Rhododendron Society year. The first herald is the approach of the Smith Garden Soiree, being held as usual on the third Thursday in August, which this year is Thursday, August 17th. The Soiree is described in more detail in this newsletter, but setup is scheduled for 5:30 pm, with potluck dinner to follow at 6:00 pm. In past years, it has been an occasion for a relaxing walk through the garden and good conversation over a shared meal with our friends from the Portland, Tualatin Valley, and Willamette Chapters. Other friends are very welcome.

The second harbinger of the new Rhododendron season is Steve & Brenda's 2017 Summer Party, which this year will be on Sunday, August 27th, starting at Noon, with Salmon and additional potluck at 1:00 pm. Remember to RSVP by Wednesday, August 23rd, so Steve can figure out how much salmon he will be working his magic on. An invitation appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Nor is it too early to start looking forward to the first program of the new year. Our program on September 21st will feature one of our favorite speakers, Dennis Bottemiller, describing tricks for propagating difficult rhododendrons, together with the Chapter cutting exchange. More on the details in our September newsletter.

But even without all the signs and expectations, admit it. You are starting to look forward to talking with your Rhododendron Society friends about the effect of the winter freeze on the timing of the azalea lacebug hatch and about how your improved drainage allowed you to water freely and assist your prize rhododendrons in getting through our current heat wave. One of the many blessings of our group is that there is always something to look forward to in the garden.

I hope to see you at one of our August events.

Dennis O'Malley

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:

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: Dennis Bottemiller

Topic: Propagating difficult Rhododendrons

Cutting Exchange

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

October 19, 2017

Regular Meeting

Social Time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker: TBA

***Species Auction!* and,**

Halloween treats/costumes



Frequent visitor to Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

Photograph courtesy of Richard Larson.

Looking Ahead:

ARS 2018 European Convention

Full details at: <http://ARS2018.org>

Registration for ARS-members only will begin September 1st and extend until November 15th

Main convention May 20-27, 2018 in Bremen, Germany, with pre- and post- convention tours to the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

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 the 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 and turn right onto Champoeg Road.

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

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

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

September Cutting Exchange:

The September meeting features not only the welcome back after the doldrums of summer, but also the excitement of the annual Cutting Exchange. The Chapter's website, www.rhodies.org, features details, but the basic rules are:

- Rare plants are preferable, but common types that propagate well are also desirable;
- Cuttings fare best when collected in the cool of the day close to the meeting;
- Lateral buds without developing flower buds;
- Cut the stem as long as possible;
- Keep the cuttings hydrated in a zip-lock bag;
- At least three cuttings per bag, if possible;
- Include a tag with the name of the plant and your name;
- Refrigerate;
- No lace bug.

Special requests:

- Chemainus
- fletcherianum 'Yellow Bunting'
- flinckii
- impeditum Litangense group
- Vireya: christii, celebicum, curviflorum
- yak cross: 'Chelsea Seventy'

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

To Our ARS Portland Chapter Members and Other Plant Lovers

You Are Invited!!



OXBOW POINTE

Summer Party 2017

When: **Sunday, August 27th, 2017**

Time: Party starts at noon; 1 P.M. Potluck

Potluck: Main course of salmon will be provided
Bring your favorite side dish to share

Beverages: We will provide soda pop and water
Bring your own alcohol

Utensils: We will provide plasticware, plates, etc.

Where: *Steve and Brenda's Home*

4450 SE Oxbow Parkway, Gresham, OR 97080

(We do not receive any mail at this address)

Please refer to mapquest.com or GPS

If lost, Call 503-663-1500

Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 23rd to 503.314.5834

or by email to bzgift@aol.com or stevehopkins@prodigy.net

If you prefer mail: 1490 NE Village Street, Fairview, OR 97024

Well-behaved children accompanied by responsible adults are welcome.

**Please come to enjoy the Food, the View,
the Garden, and the Fellowship**

Garden Tour available after lunch



We hope you can join us!



R. arborescens x R. prunifolium = A Late Summer Bloomer

By Maria Stewart

A rhododendron that is blooming in August? With all this hot weather? And it still catches your eye with its beauty? The genus *Rhododendron* never ceases to amaze us with its diversity and in this case, we see a pleasing extension of the blooming season. Appropriately, this deciduous azalea is named ‘August Sunrise’ and its hybridization is credited to Fred Galle of Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. These special gardens were created to protect American species azaleas, certainly a group of rhododendrons to treasure.

To explain the summer blooming of ‘August Sunrise’, let’s first talk about *R. prunifolium*, which blooms from July to September. Called the ‘Plumleaf Azalea’, it has orange-red to red flowers, smooth leaves and stems and dark green leaves. The traits of this species are stable because of its late blooming time. Growing quite tall, up to 20 feet or more, *prunifolium* likes cool places along creeks and in ravines. It is found in a very small range covering only eleven counties along the Alabama-Georgia border.

Now *R. arborescens* has fragrant white flowers, often with yellow blotches and prominent red pistils and stamens. Called the “Sweet Azalea”, it blooms from May to August. The leaves are smooth to semi-glossy and vary from medium green to dark green with glaucous undersides. Growing to fifteen feet and very stoloniferous, *R. arborescens* is one of North America’s most recognizable species. However, there is another form of *R. arborescens* named *variety georgiana* that grows in the low elevations of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. It blooms in August and September instead of May to August like its cousin in the highlands, Its leaves are not glaucous and this variety is not stoloniferous, although its flowers are white with the distinctive red pistils and stamens. The interesting trait in common with *R. prunifolium* is the location of *R. arborescens* var, *georgiana* causing botanists to explain the pink or salmon shades of a few *R. prunifolium* to close encounters between to two species. That is why *R. ‘August Sunrise’* is listed as a possible open-pollinated hybrid on the website *hirsutum*.

Here is more information about *R. ‘August Sunrise’*:

Classification: Subgenus *Pentanthera*; Section *Pentanthera*

It is an elepidote.

Flowers: medium pink with a gold blotch that combines with the pink to look slightly tangerine; five petals with five long red stamens; mildly fragrant,

Foliage: medium green and semi-glossy; smooth surfaces; deciduous.

Height in 10 years: 5 to 8 feet, growing upright and bushy.

Hardiness: -10 to -15 degrees F.

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

Source: Dick Cavender grew the plants of ‘August Sunrise’ that we received from Fran and Ed Egan.



R. 'August Sunrise'. Photographer Mike Stewart



R. prunifolium. Photographer John R. French



R. arborescens. Photographer Tjis Huisman

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

Co--Chairs:
Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522
ltcmacret1@aol.com
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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-
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dues to both the national society and
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ters, discounts, and activities.

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via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place,
Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-
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Website: **www.rhodies.org**; web
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