

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

October 14, 2017
Smith Garden Work
Day
October 19, 2017
Regular Meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: Maria Stewart
of Dover Nursery
**Topic: "Indumentum:
Persistent, Plastered,
Woolly, Tomentose"**
Followed by our Spe-
cies 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 40th and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



October Program and Species Auction

By Caroline Enns and Steve Hall

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its October Meeting on Thursday, **October 19, 2017**, from 7:00 pm—9:00 pm.

Our October meeting will feature our own Maria Stewart of Dover Nursery, exploring one of the wonders of rhododendron foliage.

Maria Stewart will explore the wonderful world of indumentum displayed on rhododendron foliage. Species rhododendrons have adorned themselves with attractive indumentum through the ages. Some hybrids have inherited these *trichomes*, which is the botanical term for these fine hairs. Maria will use photos and commentary to explain how nature has provided protection for rhododendrons that, at the same time, adds to their beauty.

Maria first encountered her love of plants in her grandmother's flower garden. She has nurtured students as a teacher in elementary school for 31 years and plants for her entire life. She is co-owner of the Dover Nursery in Sandy, which grows over 1,000 varieties of rhododendrons to supply garden centers and landscape companies. She has made numerous contributions to the ARS. Since she joined the Portland Chapter in 1980, she has held almost every position available, including two years as President. She has participated in organizing several Western Regional Conferences. She was Co-Chair of the 50th Anniversary Convention in 1995, and is now planning the 75th Anniversary Convention for 2020.

Following Maria's presentation, we will hold our **Auction of Species Rhododendrons!**

This is a great opportunity to purchase some choice plants - bring your check-books! We will also need plants; please donate those extras that are taking up space in your shade house or greenhouse - it's for a good cause! Please remember to put the pots in plastic bags so we can keep our auctioneer and meeting hall clean.

Our meeting is open to members and non-members alike; please invite your friends to join us.

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

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 November, 2017:

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: Maria Stewart, Dover
Nursery**

**Topic: "Indumentum: Persistent,
Plastered, Woolly, Tomentose"**
Followed by the Chapter's annual
Rhododendron Species Auction!
All accompanied by Halloween
treats and/or costumes

November 15, 2017

(Date is tentative)

Dormancy Luncheon
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron
Garden**

November 16, 2017

Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
**Speaker: James Cassidy, OSU,
Dept. of Horticulture**
**Topic: "Soil: what it is and how it
works"**



The Rutherford Conservatory at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, Washington. For the latest on the RSBG, see the Summer 2017 RSBG Newsletter, available online at:

info@rhodygarden.org

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 Nether-
lands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden
and Finland.

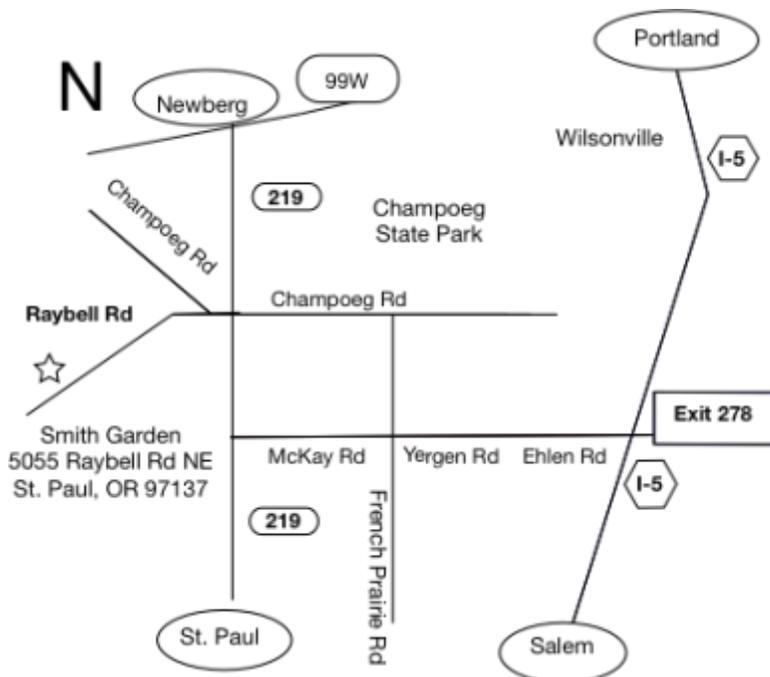
President’s Message for October: Smith Garden Fall Work Party

The Cecil & Molly Smith Garden is once again having its fall work party, scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. If memory serves (and it sometimes doesn’t these days), the 2016 fall work party was cancelled due to predictions of high winds. So this will be the first fall work party in two years. We will be putting things in order and preparing the garden for the upcoming winter season. As the website announcement says, many hands make light work. The work will start around 8:00 am. Coffee, snacks and a good lunch will be provided. Tom and Jane will have things organized for us I am sure. Traffic should be light on a Saturday, so the trip out should be an enjoyable drive. The Garden itself should be beautiful as fall starts to settle in. So please join friends and ARS members not only from the Portland Chapter, but from the Tualatin Valley and Willamette Chapters as well as other volunteers in supporting this woodland gem of a garden.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find an announcement of our upcoming October program. Our own Maria Stewart will be speaking on the wonders of indumentum and rhododendron foliage. I am sure that the photography will enhance the experience for all, from novice to old hand.

I would also like to report that for last month’s propagation program, we were joined by a number of members of the Hardy Plant Society, the Rock Garden Society, and the Master Gardeners, which was a lot of fun. I hope that trend continues. Please invite friends and guests. Be on the lookout for new faces at our meeting and make them feel warmly welcome, as you usually do. Don’t forget to bring potluck Halloween treats.

Dennis O’Malley



Map to the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Driving directions to the Garden on next page —>

Driving Directions to Cecil & Molly Smith Garden:

The Garden is located at 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, Oregon 97137, 0.7 mile west of Hwy. 219 between St. Paul and Newberg.

From Hwy 219,

Turn west on Champoeg Road NE (look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign)

At the Y, continue straight ahead onto Raybell Road NE to the Garden

Parking and entrance are on the right just past the house.

Mapquest or GPS address: Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

5055 Raybell Road NE

St. Paul, OR 97137

From I-5 north or southbound, take Exit 278 - Donald Exit

Turn left under overpass onto Ehlen Road from I-5 northbound, or, turn right onto Ehlen Road from I-5 southbound. Ehlen Road becomes Yergen Road and then McKay Road, as shown on the map. Drive 7 miles to the Hwy. 219 intersection.

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

Turn left (west) onto Champoeg Road NE

Drive straight ahead onto Raybell Road NE—at the Y—(Champoeg Road NE bears right.)

Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/4 mile on the right.

Parking and entrance are just past the house.

From Hwy. 99W, exit onto Hwy. 219, heading south

Cross the Willamette River on Hwy. 219 and look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign at the Champoeg Road NE intersection

Turn right (west) onto Champoeg Road NE and follow the directions above, continuing straight onto Raybell Road NE at the Y where Champoeg Road NE bears right

The Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE

Parking and entrance are just past the house.

September Meeting

We started off with a great presentation by Dennis Bottemiller on rooting ‘difficult’ rhododendrons, a sequel to his previous program on the methods and science involved in rooting ‘not so difficult’ rhododendron cuttings. Once again Dennis brought a checklist, now expanded to 2 pages, to assist us. Thank you, Dennis!

Cutting exchange: cuttings of a lot of really desirable species and hybrids were donated this year. In keeping with the theme of difficult rhododendrons (?), *R. roxieanum* var. *oreonastes* was spotted in among the other rhododendrons on offer; the not so difficult included at least 3 hybrid Vireyas. Thanks to everyone who brought cuttings and good luck getting your choices to root!



Hinsdale Garden News

From Steve McCormick

Greetings.

Gordon Wylie represents District 4 for the Hinsdale Garden, as its liaison to the Bureau of Land Management. He seeks to identify an Oregon ARS member to shadow him and eventually take over his role. He has scheduled a meeting for anyone interested in learning more: the meeting is scheduled for October 2nd, 2017 at the Hinsdale Garden in Reedsport, Oregon. That date will be past by the time our newsletter reaches you, so interested parties should simply contact Gordon. His email address is: lgwone@gmail.com

Updates on the Garden:

The Garden needs an underground irrigation system. Gordon is in the process of applying for an ARS Grant to cover some costs, up to \$3,000.00. Long-term needs include such items as an interpretive center, an observation deck, a permanent rest room and for ODOT to upgrade roads to accommodate the increased traffic.

Per Gordon: "Hinsdale Garden is the entity that has the Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management so all Chapters in our District 4 have a vested interest in its success"

A Trio of Bears: ‘Teddy Bear’, Cinnamon Bear’ and ‘Silver Bear’

By Maria Stewart

To make this article into a story, ‘Goldilocks’ would have to be included. However, ‘Goldilocks’ deserves her own article, therefore, November’s newsletter will feature that fine lepidote. Meanwhile, back to the bears. All three have striking indumentum of the woolly type underneath their leaves which makes you think of bear fur. And ‘Silver Bear’ has discontinuous white indumentum on the tops of its leaves which leads you to think of the color silver. You will see shared characteristics among these three rhododendrons, mainly because of their parentage. Notice that each “bear” grows with a different stature, however.

Here are descriptions of the three bears:

‘Teddy Bear’ grows wider than tall and makes a large specimen in fifteen years of 4 feet in height and 7 feet in width. Its leaves are dark green on top and have orange-brown indumentum on the undersides. The same indumentum extends down the petioles of the leaves and then down the stems. It blooms in late April into early May and the 8 to 10 corollas are light purplish pink fading to white with red spotting in the throat. Its hardiness is -5 to -10 degrees F. It appreciates filtered sunlight and good drainage. The cross is (Lem’s bureavii hybrid x *R. yakushmanum*) but the hybridizer is unknown. Briggs introduced this hybrid in 1991.

‘Cinnamon Bear’ grows a bit taller than wide in ten years to about 6 feet in height and 5 feet in width. Its leaves are dark green on top with small remnants of discontinuous fawn-colored indumentum on the previous year’s leaves. The undersides of the leaves give this rhododendron its name because the indumentum is a rich cinnamon color. Also, fawn-colored indumentum covers the petioles and the stems. It blooms in late April into early May with full trusses of about 20 white corollas. It is hardy to -5 to -10 degrees F. It appreciates filtered sunlight and good drainage. The cross is (*R. bureavii* x *R. yakushmanum* ‘Koichiro Wada’) and the hybridizer is Cecil Smith who registered it in 1989.

‘Silver Bear’ is more compact growing than the other two bears. It grows to about 3 feet tall and wide in ten years. Its leaves are dark green on top and are decorated with white discontinuous indumentum. The undersides are covered with woolly orange-brown indumentum and the indumentum covers the leaf petioles and the stems, also. It blooms in late April into early May with full trusses of white corollas. It is hardy to -5 to -10 degrees F. It also appreciates filtered sunlight and good drainage. The cross is (*R. yakushmanum* x *R. bureavii*) and the hybridizer is in question. We purchased this rhododendron from Lansing Bulgin about 25 years ago when it was simply (yak x bureavii). The hybridizer could be Cecil Smith, but that is not confirmed. We named it ‘Silver Bear’ after growing it for several years under the cross name only.



R. 'Teddy Bear'
Photo by Garth Wedemire from the
hirsutum website.



R. 'Cinnamon Bear'
Photographer unknown, courtesy
hirsutum website.



R. 'Silver Bear'
Photographer: Mike Stewart

Portland Chapter of
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Society

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(Through June 30, 2019) **Steve Hall,**
Steve McCormick, John Stephens,
Maria Stewart, Bill Zanze

GARDEN INFO:

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Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: Open

Newsletter, membership, and
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a local Chapter of the American Rho-
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dues to both the national society and
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benefits include nine or more newslet-
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