

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

November 15, 2017
Dormancy Luncheon
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
November 16, 2017
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: James Cassidy, Dept. of Horticulture, OSU
Topic: "Soil: what it is and how it works"

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



November Program

By Caroline Enns and Steve Hall

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

Our November meeting will feature James Cassidy, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University, speaking on “**Soil: what it is and how it works.**”

Most people have only a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. James Cassidy will discuss the fundamentals that all of us should know. His talk will include what nutrients are, how soil stores water and nutrients, and the reason that we and our rhododendrons are alive.

James Cassidy comes from a decidedly non-traditional background. His 30 years in the music industry included co-founding the band Information Society (InSoc), for whom he played bass and keyboards from the early 1980's to 1992. He then diverted to fisheries science, earning degrees at Mt. Hood Community College and Oregon State University, followed by his master's degree in crop and soil science at OSU. He has now been an Instructor of Soil Science at OSU for over 12 years. His dynamic presentations and passion for soil have made his introductory class heavily subscribed, with over 200 students enrolled each term. He is also the faculty advisor for the wildly popular OSU Organic Growers Club. At the beginning of its 17th season, more than 300 student volunteers run a farm that cultivates over 50 different fruits and vegetables.

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 December, 2017:

November 15, 2017

(Date is confirmed)

**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"**

December 21, 2017

**Holiday Party and Potluck Supper
with Decorated Tables and Gift
Exchange**

**Social time, set-up, decorate tables
6:30 pm**

Dinner 7:00 pm

**Program: Slides and Digital Images
shown by members and/or their
guests**

****December's newsletter might
feature haiku from Peter
Kendall. Peter has started
writing haiku again.****



The Umpqua river at the Hinsdale Garden just east of Reedsport, OR.

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 November:

November is a month that I particularly enjoy in the garden. There is time to reflect on what worked well in the past year and still time to try and fix those things that did not work so well. There are still enough sunny days to take on a good-sized project before the rain drives us inside to the fireplace.

My wife often refers to November at our house as “the fall rhododendron migration.” Those new small rhododendrons that I shoehorned into what seemed appropriate spots a couple years ago need to pick up their feet and move to more appropriate locations. When your garden is a typical 50 x 100 city lot in Portland, that in turn often means displacing some older residents. Parting with established plants is difficult, but I have recently learned to enjoy making gifts of them, particularly to neighbors whose yards allow visitation rights.

If your enthusiasm is rhododendrons, you are in luck at migration time. Shallow root systems make for easy relocations and November is a good time to get the travelers reestablished in their new locations. Last fall, I dug up two rhododendrons that were over 8 feet tall and had been in the yard when we moved into the house 32 years ago. Not my favorites, each had migrated around the yard at least once before. Luckily I was able to find good adoptive homes for them, which was satisfying.

Over time, I have had to curb my tendency to seek better spots and perfect settings. “Wouldn't this look perfect next to that?” and “Wouldn't this look better over there?” have given way to a general axiom that a good plant, happy in its current location, should not be moved without a very good reason.

One advantage of rhododendron migration is improved drainage. As I have learned more, each year's migrants get planted higher and higher, with more drainage material underneath. The advantages become apparent, especially in hot summers when lots of water is necessary for survival.

That leads me to a recommendation for our November program, in which James Cassidy of the OSU Horticulture Department will address Soil and the nutrients and water resources it provides. More information on that program appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope to see you there and hope you are enjoying your November in the garden as much as I am.

Dennis O'Malley

Please Join the Portland ARS Chapter for Our
Holiday Party and Potluck Supper
Thursday, December 21, 2017

Location: All Saints Episcopal Church

SE 40th and SE Woodstock, Portland OR

6:30 PM: Social Hour, Set-up/Decorate the Tables

7:00 PM: Dinner

**It is time for our traditional fun and fabulous Holiday Party and
Potluck! YOU ARE ALL INVITED!**

Bring your favorite dish to share AND Invite a friend or two!

Guests are always welcome.

Plates, plasticware, and napkins will be provided.

Also, please bring one or more gifts (inexpensive) to share.

It is more fun when they are wrapped.

**This is our biggest door prize festivity of the year! Our goal is that
everyone receives a gift.**

Thank you to our Table Decorators. It is always fun to see your creations.

OUR TRADITIONAL PROGRAM is 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 slide projector, please bring your own, or let us know what you need

Hinsdale Garden Report

From Gordon Wylie

A brief report of the meeting at the garden on Monday, October 2nd.

Jennie Sperling and Steve Samuels, along with this year's summer intern, Sophia, were present when I arrived a little before 10:00 am. Jennie is a botanist with the BLM, and has been in charge of caring for the garden the last number of years. That includes personal work, though she has other duties with the Agency, together with supervising groups such as the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and other BLM staff, keeping the temporary watering system going and tree work, such as the canopy thinning and clean-up done in the garden's trees this season by the BLM 'climbing crew'. Steve, though fully retired, continues in much of the same efforts he did before retirement, but as a volunteer. That includes long-range planning, signs and maps for open garden days explaining garden aspects for visitors, and gps documentation and updating of the plant and tree collection, and more. Sue Martino, President of the local Friends group was also there, and I delivered another fifty plants to her courtesy of Terry Henderson for their fund-raising efforts next year. Sue stayed on throughout the day, adding thoughts and comments from her group's perspective.

We were able to complete a detailed survey through the garden, which I found to be in generally shape, excepting a couple of plant losses, and I made some suggestions for things needing attention. I was pleased to see the fairly extensive tree-pruning, pointed out by Jennie, and accomplished by a BLM crew. As you know, a mature tree collection in what is primarily a rhododendron garden, requires constant attention to keep plants in the understory in good condition. Indeed, that was one of the first major projects done at Hinsdale after the garden floor was cleared out enough to see what existed there. The work was contracted out to a commercial crew and cost a good many thousands of dollars.

John Harper, the supervising Outdoor Recreation Planner and Glen Harkleroad, Field Manager for the Umpqua Field Office, arrived at 1:00 pm as planned. We sat at one of the picnic benches talking over needs and Agency budgeting possibilities for more than an hour. Budget, at this point in time is, as I anticipated, very much up in the air, e.g., there is even some question whether they will have funds for the NYC to clear the garden for visitors next Spring as they have done for quite a number of years now. John did feel he has enough money to get the temporary line for Reedsport water from across the highway and into the garden at their power source and buried as a permanent fixture, and preparatory to installing a permanent system throughout the garden. We discussed a potential ARS Grant application at some length, but I did not feel the plans and expectations of the various parties are far enough advanced to justify an application now. However, they will make every effort to get that planning and their budget expectations advance to a point where we might apply. Certainly they understand our time constraints and lead time required for a 2018 grant payment, but we must recognize the Umpqua office does not entirely control what may occur. Bottom line, the grant remains a work in progress.

Brenda, I appreciate all your efforts to have other Oregon ARS members attend; as Anne Gross knows, no one else showed up and another ARS rep thus also remains a 'work in progress'. Thanks again. Sincerely,
Gordon Wylie.

Really? There are *Three* Rhododendrons named ‘Goldilocks’?

By Maria Stewart

In October’s newsletter, I wrote about the Three Bears: R. ‘Cinnamon Bear’, R. ‘Silver Bear’ and R. ‘Teddy Bear’ and promised that R. ‘Goldilocks’ would come along in the November issue. Well, not only does R. ‘Goldilocks’ finish the story, two other R. ‘Goldilocks’ are joining her. The small growing lepidote hybrid with dark green leaves and bright yellow flowers is the R. ‘Goldilocks’ that is most familiar to Americans. It is not registered because there is another R. ‘Goldilocks’ that was hybridized at about the same time and it *is* registered. This rhododendron is an elepidote hybrid with parentage that produces a 5 foot plant in ten years. Not to be outdone by the other two R. ‘Goldilocks’, there is also a Vireya hybrid with golden flowers and dense foliage that draws your attention. So, here is more information about these 3 rhododendrons with the same name and not much else in common:

R. ‘Goldilocks’ is a lepidote hybrid with attractive scales on the tops and undersides of its dark green leaves. It tends to grow to about two feet in ten years if it is grown in enough sun. The flowers are bright yellow and cover the plant in early May. This is the R. ‘Goldilocks’ that Americans grow most often. Its parentage is R. xanthostephanum x R. rupicola variety chryseum and the hybridizer is Howard Kerrigan. It likes good drainage and its hardiness is 0 degrees F. This rhododendron is protected from commercial propagation without permission by a U.S. Patent.

R. ‘Goldilocks’ is an elepidote hybrid which shows its 50 percent R. campylocarpum parentage with pastel yellow flowers and loose trusses of eight to ten corollas. The leaves are medium green and are somewhat larger than the species. It grows to about 5 feet in ten years. The parentage is R. ‘Dr. Stocker’ x R. campylocarpum Elatum Group and it was hybridized by M. Haworth-Booth of Surrey, England in 1974. As for hardiness, an estimate of 0 degrees F. is only a guess based on R. campylocarpum’s hardiness.

R. ‘Goldilocks’ is a lepidote hybrid Vireya with rich yellow and yellow-orange tubular funnel-shaped corollas. The flowers are further enhanced with dense, dark green foliage. The parentage is R. christinae x R. macgregoriae. This Vireya was hybridized by B. Clancy and registered by G.L.S. Snell. During the summer, your containerized Vireyas can live outside, but they will need greenhouse or indoor protection during the winter in the Pacific Northwest.

October Meeting Highlights

First, we enjoyed a fun and educational program by Maria Stewart on rhododendron foliage and indumentum in particular, illustrated with a great collection of photographs and guaranteed to inspire: “I want one of those!”

Second, we had our annual species rhododendron auction. Dick Cavender was our auctioneer. Thank you Mr. Cavender and thanks to our donors! Your editor confesses to acquiring R. lutescens ‘FCC form’ - just in case something happens to his neighbor’s plant, of course. Important to have a backup, right?

Third, we had an enjoyable evening with our members and guests, and maybe that’s the most important thing about our meetings.



R. 'Goldilocks' Photographer: Dick Cavender



R. 'Goldilocks' Photographer: unknown



Hybrid Vireya R. 'Goldilocks' Photographer unknown.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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Vice President: *Caroline Enns*
Past President: *Brenda Ziegler*
Secretary: *Steve Hopkins*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

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(Through June 30, 2018), **Ann Clack,**
Ray Clack, Betsy Soifer, Mike Stew-
art, Joanne Turner
(Through June 30, 2019) **Steve Hall,**
Steve McCormick, John Stephens,
Maria Stewart, Bill Zanze

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

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Rose Kress, 971-239-9016
Friends of Crystal Springs:
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Events:
Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: Open

Newsletter, membership, and
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