

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

January 18, 2018
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: Wally Reed,
Willamette Chapter
ARS
**Program: "Mapping
Your Garden"**

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



January Meeting

Caroline Enns and Steve Hall

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its first meeting of the New Year on Thursday, January 18, 2018 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Our January meeting will feature Wally Reed, President of the Willamette Chapter of the ARS, speaking on "Mapping Your Garden."

Any of our more experienced members will tell you that the best place to start a garden is with a good map. Wally Reed agrees, and elaborates. Regardless of your level of experience, you have to know first what to map. The raw land, or the previous user's plant layout, most often defines what you have to work with in making a garden. Producing a map at any stage of your garden's evolution—before you start, during its development, when you think you're done, as well as whenever change occurs— involves the same procedures, but with much more data and data-revisions as time proceeds.

Wally brings particular expertise to this subject. We all know him as President for Life of the Willamette Chapter-ARS, and a major force in the development of the Rhododendron Hillside in Bush's Pasture Park, across the street from his home in Salem. Before moving to Salem, he enjoyed a long career conducting research and teaching at the Environmental Sciences Department of the University of Virginia. His research focused on the management of land use and air quality, but also on geographic information systems. He is unusually well-qualified to discuss an issue that is fundamental for anyone seriously interested in gardening.

Free! Sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Location: All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon.

Please bring a friend; guests and nonmembers are welcome to attend.

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.

Chapter Calendar through March, 2018:

January 18, 2018

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker: Wally Reed, Willamette Chapter, ARS

Program: "Mapping Your Garden"

February 7, 2018

**First Garden work day at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
Weather permitting!**

February 15, 2018

Regular meeting and Companion Plant Auction

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker: Loren Russell, OSU

Topic: "Kalmiopsis - Lilla Leach's 'Azalea' "

Following the Speaker, we will hold our annual Companion Plant Auction and, in honor of Valentine's Day, our 'Treats for the Sweet' Potluck as well

February 21-26, 2018

**Spring Home & Garden Show
Portland Expo Center
Volunteers needed!**

****Calendar continues****

Haiku

A winter stirs

Edging the limbs of the trees
the cast of the sun

Where do they come from
those winds, from the east, on the cusp
of winter

Wind in the corner
A congregation of leaves
about to break up

Every so often
in the old tree, the tinkle
of chimes

Wind in the maple
The way of the clouds—one
after the other

Peter Kendall

Calendar:

March 15, 2018

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting: 7:30 pm

Speaker: John Weagle, Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society / Atlantic Chapter, ARS

March 24, 2018

Smith Garden Spring Work Day

Start 8:00 - 9:00 am

Finish mid-afternoon

Lunch will be served!

President's Message for January:

I was delayed a bit in writing this month's President's Message, with the result that Mike Bones' column for the January Siuslaw Chapter newsletter arrived prior to this writing. He describes a mild winter at the coast, resulting in "...grape hyacinths blooming, daffodils up and winter Daphne (having) started its great fragrance."

It is not good to be jealous of the good fortune of others. Our time will come, I remind myself, (though my winter Daphne's time may have run out, judging by its appearance yesterday.) One can even hope that our holiday ice may have knocked the azalea lacebug for a loop, as seems to have happened in this area last year.

All in all, bud formation looks good around the yard (though garden maintenance looks bad.) I am cautiously optimistic as we look forward to the spring and the height of the rhododendron year. Our main season will be upon us shortly and it is time to gear up for our main activities. The turning of the new year gives us hope and much to look forward to, both in our gardens and in our rhododendron society events.

Please come join us for the January meeting, and welcome Willamette Chapter President Wally Reed, whose program on garden mapping is described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dennis O'Malley

Coming Events: Help Wanted!

February 21-26, 2018

Spring Home & Garden Show, Portland Expo Center, Marine Drive, Portland

The Society will have a booth and garden at the Spring Home and Garden Show. We need people to set up the garden, staff the booth, and take down the garden. Garden setup will be on Wednesday, 2/21/2018 and take down on Monday, 2/26/2018. Bring your truck or trailer on Monday and take home a free load of mulch. We will need several willing workers to stack the wall, move bark and install plants. Booth shifts will be 3 or 4 hours and I hope to have 2 people in the booth per shift. This will allow you to take turns looking at the show during your shift. Dick Cavender will have a sign-up sheet at the January and February meetings. Our staff will receive free admission: just go to the 'will call' desk and get your hand stamped. General admission to the show is \$10.00, so this will be a bargain. On site parking is \$8.00. Sorry I can't do anything about that, however, MAX does run out to the Expo Center.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, hand out information and sign up new members. No experience necessary!

Hours are 11:00 AM - 8:00PM Thursday - Saturday and 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sunday.

For the best selection of time and day, call Dick Cavender at 503-625-6331 or email him at:

red@redsrhodies.com

December Meeting Report:

The Winter Solstice Party:

Mother Nature smiled on the Winter Solstice Party this year. Warnings of freezing fog proved wrong. We had a great turnout. Thanks to Ann, Barbara, Dan, Karen, Kathy and Tom for hosting decorated tables. The potluck dinner included a plethora of food with a specialty of wonderful desserts. Paul Rogers educated us on the pigmentation of rhododendron blooms. Dick Cavender showed slides from their trip to South Africa, and of his favorite, *R. occidentale*. There were more presents than recipients. A good time was had by all.

The gift-giving continues at the January meeting where all the excess presents will be given away as door prizes. Come wearing your name tags to earn two chances to win the lovely gifts.

Smith Garden Spring Work Day: Volunteers Needed!

It is getting to be that time of year when we start thinking about work days and open garden days at Smith Garden.

This year's Smith Garden Spring Work Day is March 24, 2018. We will start around 8:00 am or 9:00 am, or whenever you can manage, and work as long as you want. Bring gloves and your favorite hand tools. There are chores for all skill levels. Lunch will be served. We would really appreciate all the help we can get. I will be doing my sun dance but this will be a rain or shine event, so come prepared. It is also a good opportunity to visit the garden. If anyone would like more information, give me a call at 503-625-6331. Directions to the Smith Garden can be found at www.rhodies.org.

Dick Cavender

More Opportunities to Volunteer:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden work days will start February 7, 2018, weather permitting. We meet in the Cool House, near the service yard, south end of the garden, between 8:30 am and 9:00 am and work until noon every Wednesday until mid-November. For more information about volunteering at Crystal Springs, please email csrgvol@gmail.com. Directions to the garden: www.rhodies.org. The #19 Woodstock/Glisan TriMet bus has stops close to the garden. Garden address: 5801 SE 28th Ave, Portland, OR 97202.



Wood Ducks at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (photo by Donna Giguere).

Smith Garden in spring



Spring Home and Garden Show 2015 (photo by Dick Cavender)

A Species from Higher Altitudes: *R. anthopogon*

By Maria Stewart

Do you enjoy the challenge of growing a rhododendron in your garden that always prefers cool, moist weather, is sensitive to fertilizer and wants a less acid soil than most other rhododendrons? If you are so inclined, *R. anthopogon* presents that challenge. To grow it successfully, is to imitate the environment of its origin.

On the other hand, the merits of this dwarf include flowers that have been compared to tissue paper and leaves that are covered with scales both on the tops and the bottoms of the leaves. When we saw it growing at about 12,000 feet in Sikkim, we noticed that tissue paper “look” that set it apart from other dwarfs in the area. Other features include stamens and a style that are hidden in the throat of each small corolla and leaves that are very aromatic when touched.

Here is more about *R. anthopogon*:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Rhododendron *Section*: Pogonanthum

The *Section* Pogonanthum also includes these dwarfs to consider growing: *R. cephalanthum*, *R. collettianum*, *R. kongboense*, *R. laudandum*, *R. primuliflorum*, *R. sargentianum* *R. trichostomum*.

Distribution in the wild: Eastern Nepal through Bhutan to South and S.E. Tibet at 9,000 to 16,000 feet elevation and found on open ground or rocks.

About the name: translates into “with bearded flowers” because the throats of the corollas have a ring of hairs in them.

Flowers: white, pale yellow, pink to deep rose; tubular with flaring lobes; is shy to flower even after several years; blooms in April.

Leaves: very aromatic, elliptic or oval shaped; dark green and scaly, or not scaly, on top and thick, reddish-brown overlapping scales on the bottoms.

Subspecies of this species: *Ssp. hypenanthum* which is found west of *R. anthopogon*, has smaller leaves and flowers at a young age.

Structure: about two feet in height; fairly compact.

Hardiness: -5 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: needs sun, but needs cool and moist conditions; needs fast drainage.

R. anthopogon:



R. anthopogon, photograph by Hank Helm, taken at the RSBG. Courtesy hirsutum website.



R. anthopogon, photograph by Mike Stewart.

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*
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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, (Open)

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

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Rose Kress, 971-239-9016
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Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: Open

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Delivery: Questions should be di-
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