

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

June 2018

No regular meeting

June 23, 2018
Summer Solstice Pot-luck at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and nursery
1:00pm to 4:00 pm

July 2018
Vacation!
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



Late-Breaking News from the European 2018 ARS Convention

This came to us from the European 2018 ARS Convention on May 25th, 2018. The Bremen (Germany) newspaper, the *Weser Kurier* featured Mike Stewart and John Stephens in an article on May 25th, 2018. Both Mike and John were delighted!

The headline was “ Familientreffen der ‘Rhodoholics’ aus aller Welt” In English: “ Family reunion of ‘Rhodoholics’ from all over the world” the article continued, “The International Rhododendron Conference attracts visitors from the USA, Canada, Japan and New Zealand to Bremen. For Mike Stewart from Oregon, the Rhododendron Park is a pilgrimage site. He is already for the second time in Bremen. Just now John Stephens is very enthusiastic about the upper hall of the Bremen Town Hall, which he visited this morning. The World Heritage site impressed the American from Long Beach near Washington, but then his eyes fell on some yellow Yakushmanum hybrids - and City Hall, Schnorr or Roland are forgotten. The plants want to be looked at closer. Because just for (this) Stephens has finally travelled across the Atlantic. “ The diversity here is breathtaking” says the former publishing manager as he examines the bed in the Rhododendron Park. “ I’ve never seen it like this before”.

Like him, it also happens to the other participants in the International Rhododendron Conference, which has been meeting in Bremen since Monday. Around 175 ‘Rhodoholics’, as Andre-Michael Schultz calls it, have come to Bremen from around the world. Schultz has been president on the the resident German Rhododendron Society for eight years and is thus mainly the chief organizer of the numerous excursions and the extensive lecture program. “in fact, this is basically the annual convention of the American Rhododendron Society, we just hung on our own annual convention,” he says, rejecting the role of sole host.

The fact that the Americans are meeting in Europe has to do with the somewhat idiosyncratic structure of their association. The American Society also includes the Azalea and Rhododendron associations from Canada, as well as from the Netherlands, Scotland, Denmark. Finland and Sweden. “Therefore, the friends from the USA have asked if they can not do their annual meeting with us this time”, says Schultz.

Continued on page 4

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 August, 2018:

June, 2018

No regular meeting

June 23, 2018

**Summer Solstice Potluck at Mike
and Maria Stewart's home**

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

July, 2018

No regular meeting

August, 2018

No regular meeting

August 16, 2018

Smith Garden Soiree

Set up 5:30 PM

Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM

Haiku

Capturing dew drops
the dwarf maple awaiting
the next shot of rain

A lazy spring day
The morning sun breaking through
in shafts of sunlight

The heat of the sun
The darting insects have pierced
this morning's sky

The trajectory
of the falling blossoms; one
upon the other

Twisting above the pond
the withering branch from the
withering maple

Peter Kendall



R. 'Songbird' Photo by Mike Stewart

Highlights of the May Meeting

Our May Awards Potluck was a smaller gathering than in previous years, and Chapter and President's Awards were postponed until our September meeting, because a number of members were attending the European 2018 ARS Convention in Bremen, Germany. Here is what Caroline Enns, our incoming President, writes about her predecessor, Dennis O'Malley, and his State of the Chapter talk at the May meeting: Dennis didn't use the exact phrase, but his message was that the state of the Chapter is strong. Crystal Springs is financially stable, but could use more donations to the general fund rather than restricted to a specific use. The volunteers have done a terrific job in the maintenance of the garden, which reflects its increased popularity. The spirit of volunteerism in the Portland Chapter has created a cohesive group of dedicated individuals. He additionally pointed out the willingness of the Board to meet at unusual times in cases of need and despite the large geographical distribution of its members. Discussions have frequently been intense and long, but in the end the decisions are unanimous or close to it. Dennis did not mention his own role and in particular the complexities of which he was unaware when he accepted his position. He dealt with them with equanimity and without complaint. He joins a long succession of presidents who leave the Chapter stronger through their efforts.

Dick Cavender also praised Dennis for his steady hand and calm demeanor through a period of major changes for the Chapter.

In general, garden admissions are up; weddings are up at Crystal Springs; and plant sales at both gardens are increasing. The Chapter is looking at improving PR and advertising for Smith Garden. Plant shows and sales need more volunteers to lighten the workload. More of us also need to be entering more rhododendron shows, Ann Clack's presentation on show awards and numbers of show exhibitors made that clear.

Thanks to everyone who brought food for the potluck! We are blessed with many good cooks among our members, and dinner was delicious.

Mike and Maria Stewart, host and hostess of the 2018 Summer Solstice Potluck, June 23rd from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their home and nursery - invitation and directions on page 7.



News from Bremen, continued

One reason for the request is also the rhododendron park in Bremen, in whose founding his company in the 30's was significantly involved. The 40 hectare (hectare is approx. 2.47 acres) site is a kind of pilgrimage site in the global community of rhododendron fans.

“Those who love and appreciate these plants must have been here once”, says Mike Stewart of Oregon. It is already his second visit to Bremen. This week, however, is only one stop on a trip to Europe, which will take him to other gardens in Scandinavia over the next two weeks.

“They are really crazy” says Hartwig Schepker. The director of the Rhododendron Park, has just led about 30 guests of the conference through the garden. Because the flower lovers from overseas - including visitors from New Zealand and Japan are among them - have the park director with many detail issues for this and those subspecies from the large family of rhododendron plants, heavily used. And not always the expert can provide the answers, because hardly anyone can have all kinds and varieties in mind. “The park is basically a living museum, with breeds and crosses from two centuries” he says. The bottom line is over 650 wild species and about 3500 so-called hybrids, so hybrids in the garden. “Some fashion brands from 100 years ago are no longer outside this park today,” says Schepker.

For most conference visitors, this diversity is an important part of the fascination this plant exerts on them. And the variety wants to be photographed and documented, especially with the current flowers in many species. Every plant that Schepker draws attention to in his guidance is photographed, and what he does not mention is in demand.. “The roughly 20 worldwide rhododendron companies, like numerous plants, are also somewhat hybrid,” Schultz explains the composition of the audience.

Professionals such as tree nursery operators, park directors and scientifically working botanists have also found their way to Bremen as pure lovers and hobby gardeners, which includes Stephens.

However, he takes care of around two heactares of land in Long Beach, an order of magnitude that goes well beyond the average German garden. The dimensions of the rhododendron park are therefore not just for him to marvel at. “You can also be well inspired here for new plant arrangements,” he sums up his visit.

Who these plants loves and appreciates must have been here”

Cheers, Steve Henning

Translated from the German by Steve Henning



Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
Approximately 5 acres in area



The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden
Approximately 3 acres in area

A Standout Dwarf for Foliage and Flowers: *R. lepidostylum*

By Maria Stewart

When you think of colors that complement each other, do blue and yellow come to mind? If they do, then possibly you will be attracted to *R. lepidostylum*'s foliage and flowers. Its young leaves are unusually blue and glaucous. Two rhododendron experts have described this species as the most blue and one of the finest of all dwarf rhododendrons. Its flowers, although somewhat hidden under the leaves, are bright yellow. Furthermore, this dwarf is compact and grows wider than tall. The overall effect is striking because *R. lepidostylum*'s compact structure emphasizes the color combination.

Here is more about *R. lepidostylum*:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Rhododendron *Section*: Rhododendron *Subsection*: Trichoclada

About the name: Translates into "with scaly styles". Notice that *R. lepidostylum* is classified in a subsection that means "with hairs" which its leaves certainly have. Take a close look at this plant to notice its hairs and scales.

Distribution in the wild: Yunnan, China at 10,000 to 12,000 feet elevation..

Flowers: Somewhat hidden under the leaves; about 1 inch long and wide funnel-form; 1 to 3 corollas per truss; the style that holds the pistil will have scales on it, hence its name. It will bloom in early June.

Leaves: blue and glaucous with bristles along the edges and scales on the undersides.

Structure: grows to 15 inches high in ten years and is wider than tall.

Hardiness : -5 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: likes sun and good drainage..

R. lepidostylum:

Photograph courtesy Gerdy Van der Lans



You Are Invited to a Summer Solstice Potluck!

Please mark Saturday, June 23rd, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, on your calendars to celebrate the fifth 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 23rd! ***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, OR

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 Mt. 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.

R. lepidostylum:

Photograph by Dick Cavender



Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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 9, 2018

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: *Steve Hopkins*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(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

Chair:

Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Tours/Volunteering:
csrgvol@gmail.com
Gatehouse:
Stephanie Kress, 503-267-7509
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

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Articles: Deadline is the board meet-
ing. Send materials to newsletter edi-
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Delivery: Questions should be di-
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Website: www.rhodies.org; web
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline
Enns**

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