

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

**September 20, 2018**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Social time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**Speaker: Bruce Palmer**  
**Topic: "What's in a Name II?"**  
**Followed by our annual exchange of rhododendron cuttings!**

**September 22, 2018**  
**Summer ends and Fall begins**

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## September Program and Cutting Exchange

By Steve McCormick

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its September meeting on Thursday, **September 20, 2018**, from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM, at our regular meeting place, All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon. Our 2018—2019 season offers a lineup of excellent guest speakers, starting with Bruce Palmer, presenting “What’s in a Name II?”

Bruce began his career as a science and math teacher at Ferndale High School in Humboldt County, California, in 1960. In 1968, he started the biology program at the University of Hawaii’s new Maui Community College and retired, in 1993, as Chief Academic Officer of the college, moving back to Humboldt County with his wife, Nelda. Bruce is an active member of the Eureka Chapter of the ARS and volunteers at the Humboldt Botanical Garden. He writes a column on biological terms for the Eureka Chapter’s monthly newsletter as well as quarterly articles for both the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* and the *Botanical Guardian* of the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Bruce was awarded the American Rhododendron Society’s Gold Medal in 2015.

Bruce’s program will begin with a brief history of plant classification, beginning in 1300 BCE and ending with the modern system of classification. Bruce will consider the characteristics of the Ericaceae family, members of the family, the origin of the name *Rhododendron*, characteristics of the genus, and finally, subgenera in the genus.

Our annual cutting exchange will follow the presentation. This is an opportunity to share cuttings of your favorite rhododendrons with fellow members. Rare species and hybrids are encouraged, although more common types that do well for you are also desirable. We welcome your contributions. For guidance in taking cuttings, you may refer to: <https://www.rhododendron.org/v48n4p201.htm>. ( see also the President’s Message in this issue. Ed.)

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

## 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 November, 2018:

**September 20, 2018**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: "What's in a Name II"**

**Speaker: Bruce Palmer**

**\*\*\*\*\*and our\*\*\*\*\***

**Annual Cuttings Exchange**

**September 22, 2018**

**Autumn Begins**

**October 13, 2018**

**Smith Garden**

**Fall Work Day**

**Start: 8:00 AM, Rain or Shine**

**Lunch provided!**

**October 18, 2018**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: "Deerly Missed, a Pan-gram Garden"**

**Speaker: Dave Eckerdt**

**\*\*\*\*\*and our \*\*\*\*\***

**Annual Rhododendron Species Auction !**

**November 15, 2018**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: " The Preservation of Fire: Teaching the Japanese Garden Tradition in the 21st Century"**

**Speaker: Kristin Faurest**

## Haiku

This evening's towhee  
bouncing about, taking in  
the world of its choosing

The bubbling fountain  
The darting chickadee; once more  
in the pond's reflections

No more chickadee  
The bubbling fountain has only  
its own reflections

Flashes of sunlight  
The definition of the  
maple's shadow

In shadow, each leaf  
awaiting its turn in the path  
of the sun

Peter Kendall

## We missed the Perseid Meteor Shower!

(August 12 - 13, 2018 ( Night )  
Midnight to dawn.)

We did not see any meteors , thanks to heavy smoke from wildfires blanketing our region.

## President's Message for September: New Beginnings

### By Caroline Enns

Entering the last weekend in August, the skies are cloudy, the temperatures cooler, and rain is in the offing. The season of hauling hoses is waning. The second period of active gardening is upon us. Many of your colleagues feel that fall is the best time for planting. Time to move out all those seedlings and cuttings that you have nurtured through the past year, and get them in the ground.

Speaking of cuttings, our meeting in September on the 20th features the Cutting Exchange! Here is your chance to impress your fellow members with the interesting plants in your garden without having to acknowledge that you do have a few weeds. The Chapter's website ([www.rhodies.org/chapter/pdx\\_activities\\_detailed.htm#cutting](http://www.rhodies.org/chapter/pdx_activities_detailed.htm#cutting)) provides Jay Lunn's full guidance, but here are a few highpoints to remember:

The more interesting and unusual, the better, but don't be shy. Someone else may cherish good performers that you have considered common.

No lacebug

Lateral stems without buds are best.

If possible, collect cuttings in the cool of the day and keep well hydrated.

Ziploc bags work well; at least three cuttings per bag.

Include a tag with your name and the name of the plant.

Last year produced a great turnout, featuring a table covered with material. Plenty of cuttings for everyone. And don't forget, for those with limited space, for a small price, Van Veen Nursery will root them for you.

The highlight of the September meeting will be this month's speaker. Bruce Palmer is widely known for the quality and educational value of his presentations on rhododendrons, which earned him the Society's gold medal in 2015. His topic, "What's in a Name II" promises to bring insight into how all of these plants relate to each other. We have been working towards recruiting him to speak to the Chapter for several years. On the list of luminaries that Steve McCormick has arranged for the coming year, Bruce promises to be a standout.

As for the events of the past month, the Smith Garden Soiree was a great success. Tom Gressler and Jane Mays hosted an evening of relaxed conversation and eatables ranging from cheese appetizers to calorific desserts and everything in between. Tom led a tour of the garden to point out areas that have lost plants over the past few years, and to solicit suggestions for replacements. In some cases, the losses opened a view, providing an area that only needs ground cover. Other regions generated suggestions for replacement rhododendrons. The aim is to have the Smith Garden looking its best for the International Rhododendron Conference in 2020.

## President's Message for September

( continued from page 3 )

The Conference will be held at the Heathman Resort just across the Columbia River April 29 - May 3. It celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the ARS, which started in Portland! The organizing committee, consisting of representatives from each local chapter, has been hard at work planning the schedule. They are now beginning to recruit volunteers for specific tasks. Have no fear; there will be opportunities to participate for all.

The 'end of summer' celebration with Steve Hopkins and Brenda Ziegler as hosts was a great treat at the end of a long hot summer. Not only was the food delicious, but seeing and talking to people who came from afar just to participate in this festive occasion was gratifying.

## Sunshine Report

**By Karen Cavender**

A little update on members we don't see very often.

We visited Don & Dorothy Patrick on the 23rd. Dorothy fell about 10 days ago and broke her left leg in two places. She is now recuperating with skilled nursing at Marques in Wilsonville. She expects to be there for as long as a month. She is doing physical therapy and progressing well with a walker and wheelchair. Don is also having some problems and moving slowly so he is in the assisted living center at Marques. They do get to spend most of the day with each other. Hopefully they will be home in a few weeks.

I talked with Edie and Herb Spady the day after the Smith Garden potluck. They both have numerous doctor appointments but they seem to be in control. They are getting a few cleanup projects done in their garden and have done a number of fun things with their family.

I made connections with Dot Dunstan on the 24th. She was just getting home from lunch with her daughter and granddaughter. Her little dog and Talking Books keep her happy. She has a worker as well as her daughter to help keep track of the garden. Lately she has been busy moving hoses and sprinklers trying to keep up with watering. Doctor appointments and health issues keep her somewhat restricted so she stays close to home.

## Bremen Conference Photos

By Dick Cavender

We were unable to attend the Convention in Germany this past May. However the Convention website now has lots of photos available. To date there are five contributors and more people are invited to send photos. There are several hundred photos and it is a good way to spend a smoky afternoon. The internet address is: <http://ars2018.org/photos.php>  
You will see a number of familiar faces.



The 2018 International Convention: Photograph of the Denmark / Sweden group visiting Sofiero Castle taken by Torsten Bynke, from ARS2018.org website, under “Photos “ tab.

*Hundreds* of photographs of the Convention, field trips and blooming rhododendrons? What a great way for members to share their photographs! Instructions on how to do that are on the website.

Sofiero Castle is located in Helsingborg Municipality, Sweden.

## A Collector's Prize: The Diminutive *R. proteoides*

By Maria Stewart

If one of your goals is to grow rhododendrons with fine foliage, Subsection Taliensia is the subsection in which to look. Most members of Taliensia are very hardy and the greater part of them have silvery, white, or reddish-brown indumentum on their leaves. You may even consider growing some of the Taliensia for their foliage *alone* because the flowers may take quite a few years to appear. Such is the case with *R. proteoides*. It is shy to flower. However, its fuzzy and reddish-brown new growth decorates this rhododendron as wonderfully as the flowers will do. When the foliage matures, the small leaves turn to a deep green color on top with thick brown indumentum underneath. Furthermore, these attractive leaves form on a densely compact habit. Now, all you have to do is find a special place in your garden where the drainage is excellent so your *R. proteoides* can grow slowly more beautiful for many years to come.

Here is more about *R. proteoides*:

Classification of *R. proteoides*: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthus *Section*: Hymenanthus *Subsection*: Taliensia

About the name: "resembling a Protea" (A Protea is a South African plant.).

Distribution in the wild: SE Tibet, NW Yunnan and SW Sichuan at 12,000 to 15,000 feet on very steep hillsides, rocks and cliffs. It lives above *R. roxieanum* in the same area.

Flowers: Corollas are white to creamy pale pink with spots; about one inch long; 5 to 10 corollas in a compact truss.

Leaves: Dark green on top with thick reddish-brown indumentum beneath; the length varies from about one to two inches; elliptic in shape.

Structure: grows very slowly and compactly to one foot high and wide..

Hardiness: - 10 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: likes excellent drainage; could be a rock garden plant if protected from the afternoon sun.



*R. proteoides* foliage, photo courtesy Jens Birk.



*R. proteoides* flowers, photo courtesy J. Anderson

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
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Vice President: *Steve McCormick*  
Past President: *Dennis O'Malley*  
Secretary: *Steve Hopkins*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

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**((Through June 30, 2019) ,  
David Anderson, Steve Hall, Steve  
McCormick, John Stephens, Maria  
Stewart  
(Through June 30, 2020)**

Ann Clack, Ray Clack, Betsy Soifer,  
Mike Stewart, Joanne Turner

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:

**Dan McLaughlin,**  
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Tours/Volunteering:  
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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 Rhododendron Society. Combined annual  
dues to both the national society and  
local chapter are \$40. Membership  
benefits include nine or more newslet-  
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