

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

November 15, 2018
Regular Meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: Dr. Kristin Faurest
Topic: “ The Preservation of Fire: Teaching the Japanese Gardening Tradition in the 21st Century”

(See page 2 for coming events through January 2019)

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 Steve McCormick

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its next meeting on Thursday, **November 15, 2018**, from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM, at our regular meeting place, All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon. Continuing our excellent lineup of speakers for our 2018–2019 season, we welcome Dr. Kristin Faurest, with her talk, “*The Preservation of Fire: Teaching the Japanese Gardening Tradition in the 21st Century*”

Dr. Faurest is the Director of the International Japanese Garden Training Center at the Portland Japanese Garden. She has an extensive background in landscape design, fundraising, and project management. She completed her landscape architecture studies at Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary, and was given a special jury award as the Landscape Architect of the Year there in 2016. She also worked and studied at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, where she studied at the School of Horticulture and helped maintain the garden’s Japanese landscape. While managing her own design firm for thirteen years - designing educational gardens, private urban gardens and corporate landscapes - she taught Master of Landscape Architecture candidates at the University of Applied Sciences in Nürtingen-Geislingen, Germany. With extensive international teaching and research experience focusing on the connection between culture and landscape, Dr. Faurest has published widely in journals and is the author, co-author or editor of several books, including, most recently, *Community-Built: Art, Construction, Preservation and Place* (Routledge, 2017). She joined the Portland Japanese Garden in 2016, and, in 2018, the Training Center received the American Public Gardens Association Award for Program Excellence.

Dr. Faurest will discuss the question of how to interpret something ancient and specific to one country - the art of the Japanese garden - to learners outside of Japan in the 21st century. Using some of the Garden’s recent developments as a context, Dr. Faurest will explain how the design and maintenance principles of this ancient art form are powerfully relevant in the here and now. And, of course, she’ll highlight the Garden’s rhodies and azaleas. As Kristin describes it, the “fire” in the title of her talk, refers to tradition being the preservation of fire rather than the tending of ashes - summarizing the Learning Center’s goal

(Continued on page 3)

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 January, 2019:

November 15, 2018

Regular meeting

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Program: “ The Preservation of Fire: Teaching the Japanese Garden Tradition in the 21st Century”
Speaker: Dr. Kristin Faurest, PhD

December 20, 2018

Winter Solstice Party,

Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange

Set-up 6:30 pm

Dining 7:00 pm

Program: Members’ Presentations

December 21, 2018

Winter begins in the northern hemisphere

January 17, 2019

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Program: Rhododendrons in the SF Botanical Garden
Speaker: Justin Martinez, Horticulturalist with the Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco Botanical Garden

Haiku

In miniature
trees in the garden, assuming
their character

Those motionless leaves
suddenly awakening
in the slightest breeze

Flit of the butterfly
through a tattoo of shadow
—a remnant spider’s web

Distant sounds of traffic
In the stillness of the garden
— the rekindled soul

Breaking the surface
of the noiseless pond, the koi
and its companions

Peter Kendall



Dr. Kristin Faurest, our speaker for the November meeting.

President's Message 'All the leaves are brown and the sky is blue'

By Caroline Enns

The fall work party at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden was an unprecedented success. On a spectacularly beautiful day, the turnout of members from the distant chapters was immense. The Portland Chapter as well as the other chapters were all well-represented. Better still, the work accomplished was commendable. Mike Stewart brought seven 5-foot tall rhododendrons that filled gaps in the Garden identified at the Smith Garden Soiree. Joanne Turner, Dave Anderson, and Ron Mapes contributed companion plants. The weeds that remained at the end of the day are the ones that we actually like or that we were too sore to pull. And in the process, a good time was had by all.

Work party awards:

- Longest distance travelled to reach the garden: Bev Smith, from Medford
- Best-looking companion: Bev Smith (for the dog, not her husband)
- Most garden debris delivered to the compost pile: Ali Sarlak
- Most diverse set of weeds removed: Joanne Turner
- Best operation of a rented chipper: Dick Cavender
- Most and largest holes dug, including one that remains unused: Steve Kaminski
- Most fervent declaration that she was not the Decider: Anne Gross
- Best salmon dip at lunch: Keith White
- Best story, for those of us who hadn't heard it, about CPR on a squirrel: Mike Stewart
- Best Dance on a tabletop without a glass of wine: Karen Hanson
- Best pictures of work in progress: David Anderson and Andrew Stern
- Best organization of lunch: Karen Cavender
- Best hosts: Tom and Jane
- Best advice to Tom and Jane on how to tell time: When Mickey's big hand...

Congratulations to all who attended the affair!

November Meeting, continued

of perpetuating the legacy of Japanese gardens in the 21st century. They're currently accepting applications for the 2019 seminars in case her talk inspires you to participate.

Our meeting is open to members and non-members alike. Please invite your friends to join us. As usual, members and guests have the option of getting together, prior to the meeting, at the Woodstock Wine & Deli (on Woodstock, directly across the street from All Saints), from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. And, again, we encourage you to take this opportunity to get to know one another better, share stories, enjoy treats, and go home being more informed plant people.

Smith Garden Work Day

By Dick Cavender

Many thanks to everyone who did all the tremendous work on October 13 at the Smith Garden. The Garden looks great. A special thanks to Mike Stewart for the large rhodies, and the 'slaves' who dug the big holes in which to plant them. Joanne Turner and Ron Mapes contributed companion plants to fill in several areas.

Tom and Jane are delighted and want to add their thanks for the good cheer, hard work and friendship.

Hope to see everyone again in March for the Spring cleanup.

(We needed several more wheelbarrows! Ed.)

2019 Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Calendars Available Now - \$15.00 each

The 2019 calendar features rare plants, photos of plant-hunting adventures, garden landscapes and luscious macro shots of rhododendrons. All photos are courtesy of talented volunteers and staff. Order yours over the 'phone (253-838-4646) or pick one up at the RSBG Visitor Center (2525 S. 336th St., Federal Way, WA) 100% of the proceeds support conservation and education, the cornerstones of the RSBG's mission. (Currently, the RSBG Gift Shop has run out of the 2019 calendars but expects to have more soon.)

Rutherford Conservatory at the RSBG.



October Meeting Highlights

By Steve McCormick

The October meeting was attended by another large and enthusiastic group of members and guests, some of whom we hadn't seen in a while. Standout moments included Dennis O'Malley's eloquent description of the extraordinary gift from the late Kathy Van Veen to the Portland Chapter of her family's three-generation rhododendron nursery, which will now be known as the Van Veen Heritage Garden.

Dick Cavender introduced guest speaker Dave Eckhardt, former nuclear arms officer and Mandarin translator turned financial wizard. Dave spoke about the pangram garden, *Deerly Missed*, that he and his wife of 52 years, Pat, created south of Salem. Dave was inspired by the definition of pangram: a single sentence that makes sense, has as few letters as possible, yet uses each letter of the alphabet at least once. Their pangram is based on names of genera (much more challenging than one by species). Those of us who thought that A is for apple or alligator or alibi were corrected. A is for *Alangium platanifolium*. Dick noted in his introduction that Dave is a talented photographer. His pictures were exceptional, as was the variety of plants. Dave's presentation deviated from the A-B-C-...format that might be expected, and instead proceeded C-A-P-... That meant that most of us couldn't be sure that his list included the entire alphabet, but he does have an honest face. He ended with the question: why is Y last? The many genera that begin Y generally include few species and are not hardy in the Willamette Valley. But, there is one, the *Yucca*, with which Dave concluded his magnificent show.

The theme of the night was Halloween with potluck treats and a few brave souls sporting costumes, making the event even spookier. Best dressed went to David Anderson and Andrew Stern with honorable mention to Luurt Nieuwenhuis. Karen Hanson had best earrings and best ears went to Joanne Turner.

There were door prizes aplenty, which densely covered an entire table, including calendars as well as a cornucopia of plants, such as the following from Joanne Turner: *Schizostylis coccinea* 'Oregon Sunset' (Kaffir Lily), *Gaultheria procumbens* (wintergreen), *Cyclamen coum*, *Campanula* 'La Belle', *Perovskia*, dwarf form (Russian Sage), *Astilbe*, miniature form, ground cover, *Phygelius* 'Lemon spritzer' (Cape Fuchsia) and *Iris* (Spanish blue iris). That last item stimulated a debate between Joanne and Paul Rogers concerning the difference between blue and purple that remained unresolved.

Dick Cavender concluded the evening by auctioning off a plentiful supply of species, provided by Jay Lunn, the Clacks, Maria Stewart and Joanne Turner. The standard bidding wars generated needed funds for the Chapter. Dot Dunstan claimed to have practiced her exceptional skills as a skill, but she went home with more plants than anyone else, suggesting either that she really was interested in the plants rather than driving up the price, or that her talents as a skill are limited.

Hardy and Showy: *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* ‘Chinese Silver’

By Maria Stewart

If you are looking for a rhododendron species with hardiness, beautiful foliage and excellent flowers, a selected form of *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* named ‘Chinese Silver’ may interest you. This form is easier to grow than the other forms of *R. argyrophyllum* and eventually becomes a small tree. The leaves are dark green on top and the indumentum on the undersides of the leaves is compacted into a silvery covering. Becoming free-flowering at maturity, ‘Chinese Silver’ covers itself with large, clear pink blooms.

Here is more about *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* ‘Chinese Silver’:

Classification:: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthes *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Argyrophylla

About the name: “with silver leaves”

Distribution in the wild: Guizhou and Fan-jin-shan at 7,500 feet.

Other forms of *R. argyrophyllum*: Ssp. *argyrophyllum* is found in Szechwan and NE Yunnan at 6,500 to 12,750 feet.

Ssp. *hypoglaucom* is found in E. Szechwan and W. Hubei at 5,000 to 9,000 feet. Ssp. *omeiense* is found in C. Szechwan and Emei Shan at 6,000 feet. There is debate about *R. pingianum*.

Should it be classified with *R. argyrophyllum*?

Flowers: 4 to 12 corollas in a truss and each is about 2 inches across; larger corollas than the other subspecies; clear pink to lilac purple.

Leaves: about 7 inches long; elliptic; dark green on top and a silvery covering on the undersides.

Ssp. *hypoglaucom* has glaucous undersides. Ssp. *argyrophyllum* has a thin indumentum of white to fawn-colored indumentum and Ssp. *omeiense* is similar to Ssp. *argyrophyllum*. (Some experts consider ssp. *omeiense* to belong in Ssp. *argyrophyllum*.)

Structure: 10 feet at maturity; becomes a rounded shrub or small tree.

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: makes a great woodland plant with enough light to produce the flowers.

Guide to the photographs on page 7:

- (1) *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* ‘Chinese Silver’ - flower
- (2) *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* ‘Chinese Silver’ - leaves
- (3) *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* ‘Chinese Silver’ - trusses

Photographs courtesy OSU, College of Ag. Sciences, Dept. of Horticulture.

(1)



(2)



(3)



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
November 8, 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

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**Steve Hall, Betsy Soifer, John Ste-
phens, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart**
(Through June 30, 2020):
**David Anderson Ann Clack, Ray Clack,
Joanne Turner, Brenda Ziegler**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

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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-
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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