

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

May 11-12, 2019
Mother's Day Show & Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

May 16, 2019
Awards Banquet
Set-up 6:30 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
Speaker: Gisele Schoniger
Program: "Helping People Grow Beautiful & Healthy Gardens... Organically"

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



MAY 2019 PROGRAM

By Steve McCormick

For the final meeting of the 2018-2019 season, on Thursday, May 16, we welcome members to our annual Awards Banquet. We'll be announcing the winners of the Mother's Day Show and other chapter awards. Main dishes will be provided, and we ask that you contribute your favorite side dish or dessert to enhance the table. Set-up will begin at 6:30pm and dinner at 7. This year has seen an especially festive series of meetings, so this event should be well-attended. We hope you'll share the occasion with your fellow members. And, as always, you're welcome to bring guests.

Not the least of attractions for this end-of-year celebration, you'll enjoy meeting our special guest speaker, Gisele Schoniger, with her talk "Helping People Grow Beautiful & Healthy Gardens – Organically." G, as she prefers to be called, is the Organic Gardening Educator for Kellogg Garden Products (Gardner & Bloome), and travels the territory speaking to groups on organics and soil health. She earned her degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, has owned an Interiorscape company, worked for the State Department of Agriculture, practiced as a horticultural therapist with senior citizens, and launched an outstanding sales career by helping establish top-selling organic gardening products. In her 34 years in the Garden Industry, Gisele has accumulated a wide range of experience and knowledge. Some of us had the opportunity to meet Gisele at the 2017 international ARS convention in Eureka and loved her articulate and enthusiastic approach to the subject.

As G puts it, her talk will address *how humus, humor, & humility can save the human race and grow great rhodies, too*. What is "healthy" soil and how do you know if you have it? Gisele will speak on the power of organics in your garden and refresh our understanding of the basics of how to build and nurture healthy soil -- soil prep, fertility, mulching, and how to feed the biological system for maximum results. It's always good information to have and to refresh our own knowledge of how our gardens work.

Our members of the Portland chapter, and Associates from others, are an amazing group. Please take a break from your gardens and join us for this final frolic at Rhododendron peak bloom time.

(Editor's note: Mike and Maria Stewart are taking a break from hosting the Summer Solstice Potluck this year. If anyone else wants to host it this year, they are welcome to do so.)

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, 2019:

May 4th, 2019

Volunteers Needed! To help pot up 200 rhododendrons at Crystal Springs R.G. Starting around 10:00 AM, in preparation for the Mother's Day Show and Sale

May 11-12, 2019

**Mothers' Day Show and Sale
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

Please see page 6 for details!

May 16, 2019

Awards Banquet

Set up 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

Program: "Helping People Grow Beautiful and Healthy Gardens - Organically"

Speaker: Gisele Schoniger, Kellogg Garden Products (Gardner and Bloome)

May 19, 2019

Final Open Day at Smith Garden

June, 2019

No regular meeting

July, 2019

No regular meeting

No newsletter

Enjoy your vacation!

August 15, 2019

"Summer Soiree"

Potluck Dinner at Smith Garden

Haiku

The sun at will
through the fluctuating branches
— incipient spring

Last spring's ferns prepared
for their resurgence despite
their ragged garb

A congregation
of maples awaiting
the warmth of the spring sun

By Peter Kendall



Gisele Schoniger, our speaker for the May meeting.

President's Message for May

By Caroline Enns

May is a glorious time of year. The rhododendrons are nearly at their peak. The days are getting longer, we are seeing a bit of sun and the **Mother's Day Sale** at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is upon us (**May 11th & 12th**). The Mother's Day sale is an opportunity to volunteer, meet other enthusiasts and to showcase the blooms in your garden by displaying them in the Cool House. We want to fill the Cool House with blooms, blooms and more blooms to highlight the beauty and diversity of rhododendrons. Bring your blossoms either Friday evening 6-8:00 pm or Saturday morning, 7-9:30 am.

We will also celebrate the Chapter's progress and efforts for the year at our annual **Awards Banquet** on Thursday, **May 16th**, where the trophy winners for the flower show will be presented along with other Portland Chapter Awards. See the accompanying article for details concerning the banquet and speaker.

PS: The Portland Bureau of Transportation has denied our request for a temporary permit allowing parking on SE 28th Avenue on Mother's Day weekend. Vehicles parking on SE 28th Ave. risk being ticketed. Reed College will graciously allow parking in their West parking lot (entrance across SE 28th Ave. from CSRG) and in their North parking lot (entrance on SE Steele St. near its intersection with SE 33rd Ave.) To facilitate the use of Reed's North parking lot, we have made arrangements with Blue Star Transportation to provide shuttle service between Reed's North parking lot and CSRG between approximately 10:00 am and 5:45 pm on Saturday and Sunday, May 11th and 12th, 2019.

Dennis O'Malley

Coming Attraction:

The ARS 75th Anniversary Conference is barely one year away and is fast approaching. This is an opportunity not to be missed, to showcase our corner of Region 4 and our beautiful gardens and their rhododendrons and meet with rhododendron enthusiasts from all over the world.

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

**20/20
VISION**



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

Handsome Foliage and Classic Flowers: *R. yuefengense*

By Maria Stewart

Here is a new species whose foliage and flowers complement each other beautifully. The combination of *Rhododendron yuefengense*'s thick, rounded leaves and its white to light pink trusses are a fine example of nature's artistry. Adding to the fascination with this rhododendron is its compact form and its striking blue-green new growth. Will you have to be patient to acquire your own? Maybe. Contact The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, an excellent resource to ask about finding this very special species.

Here is more information about *R. yuefengense*:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthes *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Fortunea

Distribution in the wild: Guangxi Province in China, which is near Vietnam. Elevation: 1,800 to 2,100 feet.

Flowers: free-flowering and begins blooming at a young age; 5 to 10 white to light pink bell-shaped corollas form a loose truss; blooms in early June.

Leaves: thick and rounded leaves with very attractive blue-green new growth; an outstanding foliage plant!

Structure: compact and dense; low growing and wider than tall; about 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide in 10 years.

Hardiness: best suited for temperate climates; reports say that it has survived in sheltered areas on the East Coast; hardiness has not been clearly determined, but -5 degrees F. has been suggested.

Siting in your garden: morning sun is fine or very light shade all day.



R. yuefengense, photo courtesy of the RSBG

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Steve McCormick

Well, what can we say? The April meeting was another record-breaker in terms of attendance. And it was another wonderful group of ARS members, associates, and guests. Clarke Isaacson brought some of his wife's baked goodies for treats, and Joanne Turner and Betsy Soifer provided the usual complement of green and growing door prizes for the raffle, which also included a dozen copies of our guest speaker's best-selling *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons : Species and Hybrids*—a hot item!

Yes, that Harold Greer—was our special guest speaker for the April meeting, accompanied by his wife and life partner, Nancy. As we have reported, Harold has had a remarkable career, which includes winning multiple ARS awards as well as leading the organization, typically as its youngest member ever to do so, in various offices. Harold presented a remarkable “autobiography” detailing his Eugene nursery's inception and transformations, including its latest incarnation as an adult community—an upscale destination for retirees who have the privilege of living amongst some of Harold's favorite rhododendrons. Harold shared historic and dramatic weather events, worldwide destinations for his plants, and shipping photos of some rhododendrons as big as trees carefully packaged onto the beds of trucks. For years, Greer set up an ever-expanding display garden in the center court of the nearby mall. It was amazing to see a well-chronicled history in photos of one of the genus' most notable experts.

In the lead-up to the talk, Caroline Enns presented the annual President's Awards – to Dennis O'Malley, Ray Clack and Betsy Soifer—in honor of their valuable service as members of the arbitration committee necessary to settle the Van Veen estate's bequest of the nursery to the Portland Chapter. They handled this crucial process in the absence of other key board members attending the international ARS convention in Bremen.

Concluding the evening, the Portland chapter held its annual Rhododendron Hybrid auction, which generated important funds for chapter expenses. A variety of plants were offered, including some rare ones. One of the high bids was generated by R. 'Odorum'—a cross of R. ponticum and R. nudiflorum, one of the oldest registered azaleodendrons, a Thompson hybrid from 1875(!)—taken home by Ron Mapes. Thanks to all the successful bidders!

The Woodstock Wine & Deli provided the evening's usual garrulous warm-up, with Harold & Nancy, members and guests stretching the socializing time ahead of the meeting.



Here, from left to right, are the President's Award winners: Ray Clack, Dennis O'Malley, and Betsy Soifer. Presenting the awards is our President, Caroline Enns. Ann Clack is the photographer.

2019 MOTHER'S DAY RHODODENDRON SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 11th

SUNDAY, MAY 12th

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SHOW OPENS

at Noon

SATURDAY

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN
5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland

will be at peak bloom time. Come and join us to view the garden.

THE SHOW: a judged flower show in the Exhibit Hall.
TO ENTER, BRING YOUR RHODODENDRON TRUSSES TO THE EXHIBIT HALL:
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

THE SALE: in the front parking lot.
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE GARDEN

PLEASE NOTE:
Parking in Reed's West Lot, across SE 28th from Crystal Springs
No Parking Along SE 28th.

More information: www.rhodies.org or 503 771-8386

Presented by
The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

April 2019 Meeting Highlights II: Nominations

At our April meeting, Steve Hall announced the nominations for the Board of Directors positions that will be subject to a vote at our May meeting. They are: Mike Stewart, Maria Stewart, Betsy Soifer, John Stephens and Andrew Stern. They would serve a two-year term, beginning July 1, 2019.

Steve McCormick

Photographs of Harold Greer's hybrids from his presentation:



R. 'Very Berry'

R. 'Platinum Pearl'



R. 'Trude Webster'

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: **Caroline Enns**
Vice President: **Steve McCormick**
Past President: **Dennis O'Malley**
Secretary: **Steve Hopkins**
Treasurer: **Dick Cavender**

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2019) :
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
Chair:
Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Volunteering:

csrgvol@gmail.com

Gatehouse: Tours, Photoshoots:

gatehousecsrg@gmail.com

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.

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tor, at: **tjhoffman56@vahoo.com**, or
via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place,
Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-

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3522

Website: **www.rhodies.org**; web
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Enns**

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