

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

**ARS Spring International Convention:
Postponed to 2022**

**Mother's Day Online Rhododendron Sale:
Continuing**

**Smith Garden Open Days: Canceled Until
Further Notice**

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden:
Closed Until Further Notice**

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



Election in the Time of Pestilence:

Voting for officers and elected directors of the Portland Chapter has concluded. We have winners! The members of PC-ARS have elected the following, without dissension:

Vice President	Gretchen O'Brien
Treasurer	Dick Cavender
Secretary	Steve Hopkins

Elected Directors:

David Anderson
Ann Clack
Ray Clack
Bob O'Brien
Dennis O'Malley

Congratulations or condolences to the elected, whichever are appropriate. And thanks to considerable fraction of our membership who took the trouble to vote, giving the elected a significant expression of support.

Steve Hall

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, 2020

ARS 75th Anniversary
Spring Convention: Postponed &
Rescheduled: April 27 - May 1, 2022

Mother's Day Rhododendron Sale:
Sale is now being held online and is
continuing

June, July, August 2020 Chapter
activities : subject to the Governor's
Executive Order(s) and the advice of
the Oregon Health Dept. regarding
meetings and group activities.

As usual, there is no July newsletter
planned at this time.

August: we do not know at this time
whether having the Summer Soiree
at Smith Garden *might* be possible or
not.

September 17, 2020 *might* be our
first regular meeting; again, we
must wait to see whether that will be
possible, under the prevailing condi-
tions, health considerations, in effect
at that time.

Haiku

A cloudless morning
A chorus of robins breaking
the silence

The soaring eagle
giving scant attention
to the mobbing crows

Across the turf, then
out of sight, up and down flight
of the butterfly

An early spring morning
Cry of the pileated
piercing the air

The passing cherry
—half of its blossoms still on the tree
—the other earth bound

By Peter Kendall

Another of the 'Bees': this is R. 'Wee
Bee'. Photographer: Mike Stewart



President's message June 2020

Volunteers: the foundation of the Portland Chapter of ARS

June marks the end of this year's newsletters and the beginning of the summer watering session. The newsletter resumes in August. Wouldn't it be nice if our meetings and the rains begin again in September? This message provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the state of the Portland Chapter of the ARS (PC-ARS). We all know the ancient Chinese curse: 'may you live in interesting times' (the attribution of this phrase is not supported by Wikipedia). The last two years has indeed been 'interesting' for our chapter. We have weathered the times with the dedication of our many volunteers. Let me acknowledge just a few here.

Dan McLaughlin, with the help of the Friends of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG), stepped up after Kathy Van Veen's untimely death to manage and improve the CSRG. Mike Stewart and his volunteers took over the revitalization and transformation of the Van Veen Heritage Garden. Between being the treasurer of the PC-ARS and running Smith Gardens, Dick Cavender has found a full-time job after retirement. Brenda Ziegler has been involved in every aspect of PC-ARS and the regional and national ARS in addition to her day job. Mike and Maria Stewart, John Stephens and Steve McCormick were instrumental in the planning of the international ARS convention, now rescheduled for 2022. Tom Hoffman and Maria Stewart publish the newsletters on a monthly basis, now with help from John Stephens and Steve McCormick in producing an appendix of photographs from our gardens. Various individuals have stepped forward to supply treats and door prizes for our meetings.

The list goes on. Anticipating the Early Show and Mother's Day sale, Dixon Custer, Ray Clack, Mike Domaschofsky and Bob O'Brien made the annual pilgrimage to Thompsons' nursery to obtain the rhododendrons. Dennis O'Malley organized the unloading, potting and inventorying of the plants. The Governor's Executive Order cancelled the Shows, but the Sales have gone on, virtually. There are still plants available (<https://www.crystalspringsgardenpdx.org/>), but the inventory is dwindling. Andrew Stern set up Zoom meetings for the Board of Directors that have been technically flawless, and the envy of the IT department of at least one major institution here in Portland.

So in this time of the pestilence, let us celebrate the positives: each other; our sharing of so many things other than the virus; all of the others who have contributed to the Chapter who I neglected to mention... and the flowers. Which have been gorgeous.

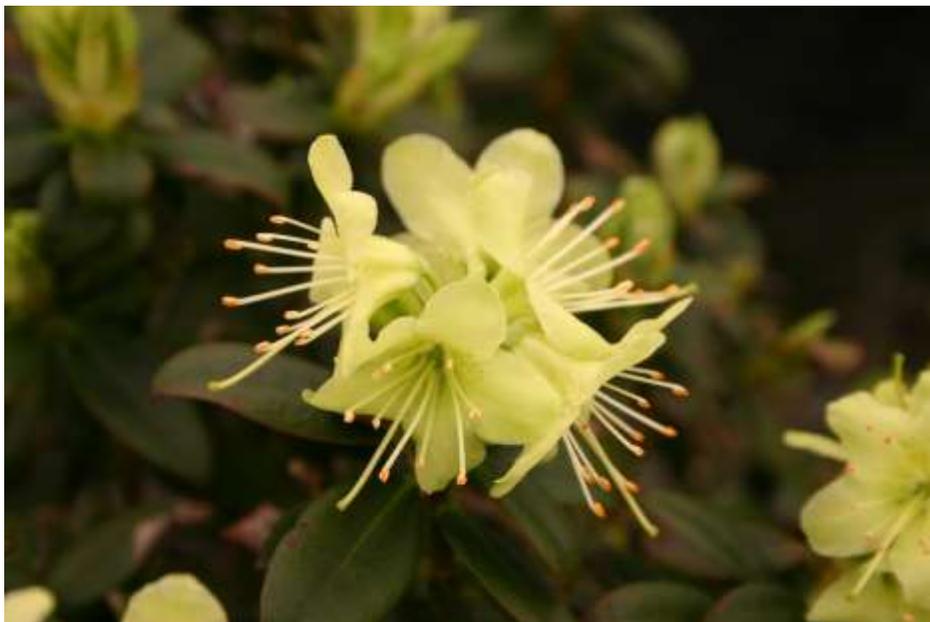
June's Message from the Vice President:

Members,

Just a note to let you that I'm here in the background, thinking ARS all the time and so anxious to get rolling again with meetings, speakers, conventions, and all! The PC-ARS board will be considering online meetings and other options if we're unable to resume our regular in-person get-togethers come September. Staying in touch with each other is so important in keeping our passions alive. Happily, some of you are contributing monthly to the photo assemblies we're posting and distributing with the monthly newsletter. The June supplement will accompany this newsletter and will also be posted online as the "appendix" at the chapter's newsletter page: http://rhodies.org/newsletter/news_index.htm. These are trying times. As I write this, we're experiencing what feels like a winter storm on the coast – lots of rain and high winds. Always looking for that coming ray of sunshine that will brighten the future. Best wishes to you all.

Steve McCormick

R. 'Princess Anne'. Photographer: Mike Stewart



A Dwarf That Brightens Up Your Day: R. 'Patty Bee'

By Maria Stewart

We certainly are fortunate that Warren Berg hybridized dwarfs such as R. 'Wee Bee' and R. 'Patty Bee' and semi-dwarfs such as R. 'Peter Bee' and R. 'June Bee'. For this article, it is R. 'Patty Bee's' turn to be in the spotlight. Here is a dwarf that will densely cover itself with attractive leaves and clear yellow flowers. Nestled in your rock garden or decorating a border are choices that you will have to make because R. 'Patty Bee' will be happy in several places in your garden. It likes bright light which helps it to grow compactly. Because of its parentage, it will grow wider than tall. R. 'Patty Bee' is an award winner and one of the best dwarf yellows.

Here is more about this special dwarf:

Hybridized by Warren Berg in 1970 and registered in 1977.

It is a lepidote. This means that the undersides of its leaves have scales.

Parentage: R. keiskei 'Yaku Fairy' x R. fletcherianum

The small leaves cover the many branches and are a healthy color of green.

The flowers are a clear yellow without any markings and are abundant. It blooms in April in the PNW, so it may need some frost protection. However, the plant, during winter, is hardy to -10 degrees F.

Structure: It grows wider than tall to about 20 inches wide in 10 years.

Placement in your garden: It likes well-drained soil and plenty of light.

R. 'Patty Bee'. Photographer: Mike Stewart.



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, 2020):
David Anderson, Ann Clack, Ray Clack,
Joanne Turner, Brenda Ziegler

(Through June 30, 2021):
Betsy Soifer, John Stephens, Andrew
Stern, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden
Chair:
Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Volunteering:

csrgvol@gmail.com

Gatehouse: Tours, Photoshoots:

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Events:

Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: **Dick Cavender**

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ters, discounts, and activities.

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