

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- Nov. 30—Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery
- Dec. 16—Christmas Party!
Program: Slides by members
POT LUCK DINNER
Gift Raffle
Gather at 6:30 PM,
Eat at 7:00 PM
- Dec. 21—Board Meeting?
- Jan. 20—Chapter meeting
Speaker: E. White Smith
Topic: Vireyas
- Jan. 25—Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery

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



Let's Be Merry Christmas Party!

By Maria Stewart

Join the festivities on December 16th for our annual potluck Christmas party. Gathering time is 6:30 PM, just in time to decorate the round tables. If you are on Barb MacArthur's list to decorate a table, we're counting on you to enthrall us with your creations. We hope the weather will be more kind leading up to the party, for our potentially natural centerpieces...

We will eat at 7:00 PM. Please bring your favorite entrée, salad, vegetable or dessert to share. In the past, the variety of food has been outstanding! The usual coffee and tea will be made for you and plates, cups and silverware will be supplied. Traditionally, we share our photos and they are projected on the screen. We will have a laptop and projector available or you can bring your

own. If your slides are in a carousel, please bring your own projector. From sunsets to mailboxes and everything in between, it will be fun to share our interests. We will have a gift raffle, too. Please, everyone, bring one small (inexpensive) wrapped gift and we'll draw numbers to see what you get to take home. All in all, this party has everything, so don't miss it!

Newsletter Notice:

If you told John Welsh that you wish to receive your newsletter by e-mail, we will start sending it to you by e-mail this month. We will use the e-mail address that you indicated recently on your dues envelope.

Those members who wish to have a paper copy will still receive their newsletter in that form.

Thank you for helping to save paper and printing costs. Those savings will be used in other beneficial ways to help reach the goals of our chapter

Thank you,
Maria Stewart

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.

Meeting Calendar through (Continued) May, 2011:

Nov. 30 - Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery

Dec. 16 - Christmas Party!
Program: Slides by members
POT LUCK DINNER
Gift raffle
Gather at 6:30 PM
Eat at 7:00 PM

Dec. 21 — Board Meeting?

Jan. 20 - Chapter Meeting
Speaker: E. White Smith
Topic: Vireya Rhododendrons

Jan. 25 - Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery

Feb. 17 - Chapter Meeting
Speaker: Steve Vinisky
Topic: Daffodil growing in the PNW
Plant auction: companion plants

Feb, 22 - Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery

Mar. 17 - Chapter Meeting
Speaker: Kathy Van Veen
Topic: Rhododendron names

Mar. 22 - Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery

April 2-3: Early Show
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

April 21 - Annual Meeting
Chapter Elections
Speaker: Jack Olson

Topic: Truss Selection
Plant Auction: Hybrid Rhododendrons

April 26 - Board Meeting
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery

May 7-8: Mothers' Day Show and Plant Sale
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

May 11-15: National Convention
Heathman Lodge
Vancouver, WA

May 19 - Awards Banquet
Dinner, Awards

May 24—Board Meeting?

Haiku

By Peter Kendall

A light autumn wind
The rain-dampened leaves moving
So reluctantly.

Wind through the treetops
All at once, a whirl of leaves
Through a gray cast sky.

A blustery dawn
A good measure of autumn
Having blown away.

The leaf in that gust
Finding its anchor back up
In its tree.

This autumn morning
A moment's shifting colors
A hummingbird's dash.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden News

By: Carol Barrett

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Maintenance Committee met on Nov. 4th, 2010. On this special date we celebrated Ted Van Veen's birthday with cake and goodies. This Committee meets quarterly, bringing together all groups involved in the Garden: Parks, Garden Co-chairs, Friends of Crystal Springs and both the Event and Volunteer Coordinators. Typically members comment on progress made and future plans. Areas of overlap are discussed. Minutes of meetings are posted in the Cool House.

Highlights of the Nov. 4th meeting: Soil improvement and replanting in the Stairs project; Egan Azalea Garden extension; planting of the Japanese umbrella pine donated by Steve Hopkins; HPSO Grant provided bed improvement below the Gate House; beaver-killed Sorbus replaced; stone bench

ARS Western Regional Fall Conference 2010, Part II: Seed Propagation

By: Irving G. Snyder, Jr.

Gordon Wylie, an ARS member for over 30 years and a former President of ARS, had a stimulating presentation at the Western Regional on growing Rhododendrons from seed. I have always viewed growing Rhododendrons from seed as a task better left to the long-time Rhododendron expert hybridizers. To my surprise, Gordon made it sound quite simple, and each session attendee left the meeting with a plastic container planted with seed from a newly-created hybrid. With minimal attention, I found my seeds have sprouted now, two weeks later. Following are some seed propagation basics in a hand-out from Gordon.

1. Rule one is careful hygiene. A weak solution of household bleach applied to tools and containers is your best friend.
2. Sow seed on the surface of the medium and never cover with more medium.
3. The seed container should be a closed environment, but with drainage, providing essentially 100% humidity.

In Wildlife Viewing Area to be repaired; Iris eradication started; repaving in front of Cool House; Parks has supervised several ACS (Alternative Community Service) and CRCI (Columbia River Correctional Institution) work crews. Visitors: Gate receipts and head count are close to last year despite the cool spring and closure of SE 28th. Ernie Metcalfe's 700 slides have been put on DVD. Parks requirements for the eventual replacement of the Exhibition Hall (Cool House).

Other News Shorts:

Siuslaw ARS Rhody Early Show dates moved up to April 9 and 10, 2011, per Bill Hennig, Chapter President.

4. Bottom heat of 70-75 degrees F. probably aids/speeds germination but is not a necessity. However, the container should not be in a cold situation, such as outdoors, or an unheated space in the winter.
5. Never allow sunlight to reach the container. Artificial lights 4"-6" overhead, though, will assist initial growth.
6. Begin gradually exposing the seedlings to air when cotyledons (first pair of juvenile leaves) appear. Don't forget to keep seedlings watered after air exposure begins. Gentle misting is the best method.
7. Misting every 10 to 14 days with a weak 25%-50% solution of liquid fertilizer after the first true leaves (second pair) appear will assist initial growth.
8. Prick out (using a sharpened pencil) individual plants to a growing container after two or more sets of true leaves appear. Careful, delicate handling is needed at this stage. Timing isn't critical as plants may be kept almost indefinitely in the germination container so long as moisture is supplied consistently.
9. The next transplant can be to individual containers and outdoors if you have a protected spot such as a cold frame when frost is possible. After further growth, the plants may be treated the same as young plants from a nursery.
10. Enjoy your creations and anticipate the flowers.

(Continued on page 4)

November Meeting Highlights

By Maria Stewart

The weather was a bit threatening, but a great group of members came to hear the program and visit with friends. It was good to visit with **Katherine Gartner** and **Dennis O'Malley** whom we have not seen for a while. We hope that they join us for more meetings this year

Mike Stewart gave a pep talk about preparing for the National Convention in May, 2011. ARS District 4 is hosting the convention, so all the chapters of the District are involved. Mike told us of the many volunteers needed to fill certain jobs, such as bus captains for the tour buses, helping to decorate banquet tables, working at the plant sale, helping stuff the individualized packets for attendees and setting up the luncheon at Crystal Springs. There will be more opportunities than those for volunteering, so please stay tuned!

The deadline for membership dues is December 1st. After the deadline, you risk not receiving your Winter Journal. Send your dues to **Dick Cavender**.

Past President, **Kath Collier**, gave a thought-provoking talk about "Companion Plants for the Rhododendron Enthusiast". She encouraged us to think about how companion plants can enhance the garden design, increase year-round interest, improve the health of the garden and complement our rhododendrons. During the last segment of her talk, Kath had us playing her 'Jeopardy' game with plant groups as the categories. What a fun way to conclude her talk!

Thank you to **Donna Sell** for her delicious cookies. Many thanks to **Barb MacArthur** for all the work she does every month to keep us happy with coffee and treats.

ARS Western Regional Part II, continued:

In addition to these basics, there were a couple of other things that impressed me. After six months in a warm environment, the plants grown from seed were about the same size as plants grown from cuttings. The growing container for the little seedlings coming from the germination container, is nothing more than a plastic flat to hold 4" pots, with a newspaper lining and filled with bark mulch. The seedlings at this stage are planted about 3" apart, in a hole dibbled with the same pencil you used to separate the seedlings coming from the germination container. Finally, the germination medium in the original container is about an inch and a half of perlite in the bottom with about an inch of wet, coarse peat on top. The seeds are just sprinkled across the top of the peat moss.

Check with me next spring on the progress of the seedlings!

Hinsdale Garden Report

By: Gordon Wylie

Larry the Cable Guy's "Git 'er done!" perfectly describes the attitude of twenty enthusiastic District 4 ARS members gathered recently for a late fall planting of Rhododendrons along the lower Umpqua River. The weather proved ideal, serving up a rain-free and temperatures in the mid-fifties day for 'just right' warmth from our labors. Plus a ready appetite for the goodies and visiting that followed.

This garden of about five acres, located on the south bank of the river opposite the popular Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, was built around the Hinsdale family home some sixty years ago. O. Howard Hinsdale went to extraordinary lengths in accumulating what is likely the first large private collection of rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest. A fine assortment of magnolias, many now large trees, and camellias complemented the rhododendrons, while a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees provided overhead protection. Beginning in 1955 the family offered open garden days, and by three years later the annual events were featured in a Roseburg newspaper as hundreds of visitors enjoyed the explosion of bloom.

By century's end the property had passed into the hands of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and, following an outside assessment incorrectly concluding the garden did not represent any particular style, little or no care found the garden invaded with undesirable growth and in decline. Nevertheless, a solid foundation of established trees and many mature rhododendrons persisted and, with input from ARS members over the past eight years, the BLM reversed its earlier position and is actively supporting refurbishment. An important part of the restoration is replacing rhododendrons lost from the original planting, and in 2008 our Society Board approved a grant of \$3,000.00 from the ARS Endowment Fund to purchase replacement plants for those lost from the garden.

Members planted the first group of those replacements in the fall of 2009 and all appear to be doing well in their new environment. A year later it was time to tackle the second round of plants purchased with grant funds. So in mid-November members arrived at the garden to apply shovels and their expertise in settling over thirty plants in the ground. They include ten different named cultivars of the *Loderi grex*, probably the largest such collection in a single North American garden, and are arranged as a mass planting to provide a stunning display of color and scent. Among the others are both lepidote and elepidote species, with a number of big leaf examples such as *falconerii*, *rex ssp fictolacteum* and *sinogrande*.

Several staff members of the BLM Umpqua Field Office were on hand at the planting party, and in a later e-mail Assistant Manager Glenn Harkleroad summarized: "...a good time for all involved. This partnership seems to be on really solid footing with interested and active membership involvement." We are delighted to have this recognition of the members' participation in the garden's restoration. Each of you is due a real 'pat on the back' for generous hours of work and expert advice which, coupled with the ARS endowment funds, has the project well on its way to success.

We're now in the final stages of acquiring evergreen and deciduous azalea replacements with the remaining grant funds, and tentatively plan for planting them early next spring. Be on the lookout for more information about planting and garden visits to be circulated among our chapters as next season approaches.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

PO Box 86424,
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
December 13, 2010

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1134

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: *Mike Domaschofsky*
Vice President: *Maria Stewart*
Past President: *Kath Collier*
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Thru June 30, 2011) **Steve Hopkins,**
Brenda Ziegler, Donna Sell, Ray
Clack, and Carol Barrett.
(Thru June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,**
Dave Collier, Kathy Van Veen, Mike
Stewart, and Steve Kaminski

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chairs:

Bob MacArthur, 360-256-2522, and
Donna Giguere, 503-777-1177

Tours:

Barbara Keller, 503-775-5205

Gatehouse:

Rose Kress, 503-654-4318

Friends:

Kathy Van Veen, 503-777-1734

Events: **Rita Knapp**, 503-256-2483

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Chair: **Ginny Mapes**, 503-647-2896

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 non-
-profit class postage (permit #1134,
Portland). Photographs and images

may only be reproduced with permis-
sion from the owner.

Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
Kathy Van Veen, veteran Proofread-
er, at: (email) [vanveennursery@ hot-
mail.com](mailto:vanveennursery@hotmail.com) or via mail to: 4201 SE
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,
newsletter editor, at: [l.hemingway@
comcast.net](mailto:l.hemingway@comcast.net), or via mail to: 4765 SW
38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-
rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-
7565.

Website: www.rhodies.org; web
master: **Steve Kaminski**

Membershi p Updates: John
Wel sh, Membershi p Chair, e-
mai l: jlwelsh26@yahoo.com;
503-663-6987

