

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **April 14-15, 2012**
Early Show and Plant Sale with the Daffodil Society, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
See this issue for more information.
- **April 19, 2012**
Regular Meeting
Speaker: Harold Greer
Program: *Rhododendron Diversity*
Annual Meeting and hybrid auction
- **April 24, 2012**
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



April 19th is Near. Come and Hear Harold Greer!

By Mike Stewart

It is a real treat to have Harold Greer as our speaker this month. Harold is a true expert in all fields regarding rhododendrons and azaleas. He is the author of one of the most famous reference books, Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons. This excellent book is considered by many to be the bible for information about both species and hybrid rhododendrons. He has also contributed to many other publications by both writing and providing photos of rhododendrons for other authors. Harold is well known for being an excellent photographer and for developing one of the most extensive collections of photographs in existence. Along with his wife, Nancy, they own and operate Greer Gardens in Eugene. This is one of the leading and most well known mail order companies in the country and is recognized world wide as *the* place to find rhododendrons.

Harold received the coveted Gold Medal award from the American Rhododendron Society and served the Society as its International President. Among his many accomplishments, he has been a leader for many years in organizing Western Regional Conferences, as well as ARS conferences. If you have ever registered for a Conference on the West Coast, it is probable that you registered on an insert that Harold designed and wrote. He has devoted much of his life to serving the ARS in many different functions.

Harold will be speaking about ***Rhododendron Diversity***. From the tiny alpine varieties to tree rhododendrons, hardy to tropical, lepidote to elepidote, oldest to newest, Harold will give us a real insight into this extremely diverse genus.

Come join us in learning something new from this most outstanding speaker. He is one of the true giants in the rhododendron world. His book will be available and this may be your opportunity to have yours autographed.

April 19th's meeting also features our Annual Meeting when we nominate new board members and officers.

*Additionally, don't miss our **hybrid auction!** Here's an opportunity to purchase hybrids that are not usually available and to help support the Chapter's general fund. If you have a hybrid or two that need a new home, please bring them to be auctioned off.*

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 Mid-May, 2012:

April 14-15, 2012
Early Show and Sale,
Crystal Springs Rh. Garden
(With the Daffodil Society)

April 19, 2012
Regular Meeting
Speaker: Harold Greer
Program: *Rhododendron Diversity*
Annual Meeting / Hybrid Auction

April 24, 2012
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

April 28, 2012
Portland Japanese Garden Plant Sale

May 12-13, 2012
Mother's Day Weekend Show and Plant Sale
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

May 17, 2012
Annual Awards Banquet
Regular Meeting Hall
All Saints Episcopal Church
6:30 PM Set up
7:00 PM Dinner
Program: Awards and *Memories of the National Convention in Asheville*

May 22, 2012
Board Meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Winter playing out
 A tinge of warmth; the weaving
 of distant bird song

The promise of spring
 With its ups and downs, what's next
 to break into bloom

Stirring tufts of grass
 The rasp of the hummingbird
 Fretful chickadee

Winter's witherings
 Each day -- the expectation
 of the forgotten

A late winter's cast
 of a horizontal sun
 warming half a world

By Peter Kendall



Rhododendron 'Peter Bee'

March 15, 2012 Meeting Re-Cap

By Maria Stewart

We had the pleasure of hearing Steve Hootman speak about his seed collecting expedition in the autumn of 2010 to the provinces of Chongqing, Guizhou and Guangxi in southwestern China. Steve is the Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and the Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. The goal of the Foundation and the Garden is to preserve the diversity of the genus in a world class garden. That goal is being met through the efforts of Steve and the staff at the Botanical Garden and through the important expeditions that Steve makes into Asia.

Steve's photography captured the fantastic land forms of southwestern China so well that we could experience the terrain in which the rhododendron species grew. The karst formations with fairly unexplored forests on their tops were fascinating. Every direction that you looked, there were steep mountains where the rhododendrons grew. Now, that's how you get good drainage! Among the species that Steve found are *R. platypodum*; *R. wumingense*; *R. changii* and *R. rubiginosum* aff., to name only a few. Other genera of trees and shrubs, ferns and gesneriads were not ignored and are in the process of being identified also. To see more information about Steve's expeditions, go to www.rhodygarden.org.

After the program, we auctioned a great collection of companion plants with some rhododendrons finding their way into the excitement of the bidding, also. Steve brought a fine array of species to be auctioned and we are very grateful for the donation of those plants from the RSBG.

If you missed the meeting, you missed the lottery tickets that Mike Domaschofsky handed out for us to scratch off. Thank you, Mike, for the fun! And thank you, Caroline Enns, for the delicious treats, too.

A Cheerful Dwarf: Rhododendron 'Peter Bee'

By Maria Stewart

Imagine that a dwarf rhododendron grows so compactly that, after 33 years of growing, it measures only three feet high by three feet wide. Now picture bright yellow flowers completely covering this mounding rhododendron. 'Peter Bee' is a treasure to have in your garden. Thank you, Warren Berg, for hybridizing (1967), growing, naming (with Peter Cox's help), and registering (2001) this fine dwarf rhododendron. Of further historical interest is the fact that 'Peter Bee' was introduced by its namesake, Peter Cox, at Glendoick Gardens in Scotland. Here are some additional details to ponder: It is a lepidote; the parents are *R. hanceanum* Nanum Group (Cox form) X *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy'; its flowers are a vibrant yellow with a touch of green that does not take away from the brightness of the yellow; the leaves are a medium green and elliptic in shape with widely spaced scales on the undersides of the leaves; it blooms in late April into early May; depending on its placement, 'Peter Bee' should grow to about 1 1/2 feet tall by 2 feet wide in about ten years.

The Portland Chapter of the
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

PRESENTS

*The Early Bloomers
Rhododendron Show*

&

Daffodil Show

Saturday, April 14, 2012 Noon to 5:00 PM
(Show entries accepted 7:45 AM to 9:45 AM)
Sunday, April 15, 2012 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Plant sale open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days

CRYSTAL SPRINGS
RHODODENDRON GARDEN

SE 28th Ave. , North of Woodstock Blvd.

Admission free!!!

2012 HINSDALE GARDEN VISITS

By Gordon Wylie

Spring : noun: That season of the year following winter in which plants flower and begin growth.

Spring: verb: Constant, lively movement adopted by garden enthusiasts each year in an effort to view every emergent plant or tree within reach by foot, auto or other means of transport.

Here are two more dates to add to this year's calendar of delights:

Saturday, May 12

Wednesday, May 16

Starting time will be 10:00 AM on both days. The Hinsdale Garden is next to the Umpqua River, about 5 miles east of Reedsport on Highway 38.

May 12 will be this year's Public Open Garden Day, and includes a special invitation to ARS members to act as docents and ambassadors for the garden and rhododendrons - a primary goal we share. A definite plus is the opportunity to do so in a garden created during the early years of the ARS.

Visitors on the 12th will check in at the kiosk and information center for the elk viewing area west of the garden. BLM will provide shuttle service from there to and from the garden. Though the entire garden is not available to persons with disabilities, they will find much of the main garden, along with excellent perspectives of large plants in the east garden, quite visible from the driveway circling in front of the house.

Several other events clamor for gardeners' attention on the weekend, so we have arranged time the following Wednesday especially for garden enthusiasts. This date is for ARS members, their gardening friends and members of other garden groups. Folks of limited mobility may be left off at the main entrance, and parking will be in the small lot immediately east of the garden. Car-pooling is encouraged because of limited parking space.

It simply doesn't get any better than a coastal drive highlighting nature's annual renewal, coupled with your destination at a mature woodland garden on the banks of the scenic Umpqua River.

Questions: Gordon Wylie, lgwone@gmail.com or telephone: 541-895-2864.

March 20, 2012 Board Meeting Highlights

By Maria Stewart

Most of the board meeting focused on the Early Show and plant sale and the Mother's Day Show and plant sale. One decision was made to buy advertisements in the "Oregonian" *Home and Garden* section on the Saturday before the Early Show and another on the Saturday of the Early Show, with one more ad in the *Living* section of the "Oregonian" on the Friday before the Early Show. The same number of advertisements and their timing will be used for the Mother's Day weekend Show and plant sale. Brenda Ziegler and Rachael Maloney are in charge of the publicity for both shows.

At past shows, we have charged admission into the Garden. After discussion, it was decided to make admission free for the Early Show only. It is hoped that the free admission will encourage the public to venture down into the Garden to the Show and plant sale. We will return to charging admission into the Garden for the Mother's Day weekend.

Brenda will find out the banner rates for the Early Show because of the change of dates for the Early Show needs to be seen by the public. We also hope to put a smaller banner at the intersection of SE Woodstock Blvd. and SE 28th Avenue, also.

The CSRG restrooms are supposed to be open for both shows and will possibly be closed in late May, according to the City.

Parking for the Early Show is not the concern that parking for the Mother's Day weekend will be. A parking lot at 28th and SE Steele will help offset the lack of parking spaces at Reed College while the College is using their lot for construction during the Mother's Day Show.

Maria Stewart showed an example of a membership card that Loni Welsh created. After discussion, it was decided to ask Loni to make membership cards for our members.

Crystal Springs News

By Tom Hoffman

The storms this winter have taken a toll on the garden. Last month a large Douglas fir came down across the peninsula from south to north, smashing through several large old rhodies. At this time, the paths on the peninsula have been cleared, with the remains of the tree and rhody debris still on the ground. We hope to have more of it cleaned up before the Early Show. A number of the big-leaf maple snags around the garden have added to the destruction, dropping limbs into the beds. So, there's no shortage of clean-up work to be done. A 'witch's broom' was found in the debris of the fallen Douglas fir; a piece was taken to Van Veen Nursery and Kathy Van Veen has stuck a good number of cuttings from it. Here's hoping it roots, is a stable mutation, and stays dwarf. If it passes muster, we could have a contest to name it!

Speaking of the Early Show and Sale coming up April 14th and 15th, CSRG volunteers have been potting up rhodies for the sale and getting the plants organized. Hundreds of choice plants are now ready for new homes.
Continued on the next page

Smith Garden News

By Dorothy Patrick

Saturday, March 24th, was a beautiful day for the work party. The sun was shining, temperature up in the 60's. Karen Cavender and I spent most of our time in the "kitchen". Actually, the garage, stirring the Best BBQ in the West Bean Chili and the Butternut squash soup and setting out the rest of the goodies for lunch. As Tom Gressler said, "real ham" for the "you make it sandwiches" and all the condiments. Then there was potato salad, macaroni salad and a veggie tray. Cookies for dessert. Nobody went home hungry! Tom Gressler was our 'go to' coffee man. Tom and Jane also did the set up and take down of the tables and chairs.

I did take time for a walk through the garden in the afternoon. It looks gorgeous! The paths have all been re-graveled. We do have a number of rhodies starting to bloom. However, the bloom seems to be later, owing to the cold weather. A few more days like Saturday would be most welcome and the garden would bust its buttons.

The garden was in fairly good condition, with the pruning and old fern foliage removal done by the work party and also a new layer of duff put down here and there as needed.

I would like to remind everyone that although there is a \$3.00 charge for visitors to the garden, there is no charge for ARS members. So please, everyone, come and visit our garden. It belongs to all of us.

Crystal Springs News

Continued

Thank you all for your hard work and perseverance on that big job.

Wildlife: Crystal Springs is a birder's paradise. From black and yellow Townsend's Warblers working the flower spikes on Mahonia japonica in February, to Golden-Crowned Kinglets and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets investigating the moss and lichens on deciduous shrubs and Red-Winged Blackbirds staking out the low bridge in March, to Violet-Green Swallows skimming the lake this past week and hummingbirds working the red-flowering currant and clumps of blooming Pulmonaria, there's always something new to discover. Interestingly, the Wood Ducks at Crystal Springs are a major success story for the garden and internationally famous among birders and photographers.

Admission to the garden is free to Rhododendron Society members, and admission for the general public is free Tuesdays and Wednesdays and all week before 10:00AM and after 6:00PM. Other times, \$3.00 per person.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

PO Box 86424,
Portland, OR 97286-0424
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,**
Kathy Van Veen, Mike Stewart, and
Steve Kaminski
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline**
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,
Brenda Ziegler, Ray Clack

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chairs:

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

Tours/Volunteering:

csrgvol@me.com

Gatehouse:

Rose Kress, 503-654-4318

Friends:

Kathy Van Veen, 503-777-1734

Events:

Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

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

Newsletter, membership, and
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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
Kathy Van Veen, veteran Proofread-
er, at: (email) **vanveennursery@ hot-
mail.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, 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
Welsh, Membershi p Chair, e-
mail: **j.l.welsh26@yahoo.com**;
503-663-6987