

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **March 21, 2013**  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM social time  
7:30 PM meeting  
Speaker: Kathy Van Veen, Van Veen Nursery  
**Program: "How to Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle in the Nursery Business"**
- **March 23, 2013**  
Smith Garden Work Party
- **March 26, 2013**  
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 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## Our March Speaker

**By Brenda Ziegler**

Kathy Van Veen is a very active member of our Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. She is a Chapter Bronze Medal Winner and is also a recipient of a National Gold Medal, which she won in 2011. The Gold Medal is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the American Rhododendron Society.

Kathy is the 3rd generation of the Van Veen family to run their nursery. Kathy's program will cover the history of the Van Veen Nursery, and how they are 'green' having always believed in and practiced "reduce, re-use, and recycle" even before it became common practice.

To give you a preview, Van Veen Nursery began in Portland, Oregon in 1926 and was founded by Kathy's grandfather, Theodore Van Veen (1881-1961). He was an immigrant from Arnhem, Holland. Upon Van's death in 1961, Kathy's dad, Ted Van Veen (1916-2003), left his career at IBM and took over the nursery. Kathy's dad wrote and published the first definitive illustrated rhododendron book, "Rhododendrons in America" in 1969. That book was so well-received that it was translated into Japanese. In an early ARS newsletter article, Ted Van Veen reminisced about his youth at the Van Veen Nursery, saying "There is no record, but the year had to be prior to 1932 when we received a shipment of budded stock plants from Cottage Gardens Nursery in Eureka, California. They came up the coast by boat, and were packed in coffin-like boxes with excelsior to hold the plants in place. Among the plants were some of 'Pink Pearl', which are now giant plants, still at our nursery. I often think of the thousands of cuttings clipped from these plants over a period exceeding 50 years. And then I consider the possible tens of thousands of additional cuttings taken from that original stock, and so on down through many generations. I find it hard to believe our nation isn't literally covered by 'Pink Pearl'."

Kathy has worked in the nursery "forever!" 2013 marks her 51st straight year making rhododendron cuttings. That is quite amazing, as Kathy does not look a day over 39 and is still as active as a teenager!

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## 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 March, 2013:

**March 21, 2013**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 PM social time**

**7:30 PM meeting**

**Program: "How to Reduce, Re-use and Recycle in the Nursery Business"**

**Speaker: Kathy Van Veen, Van Veen Nursery**

**March 23, 2013**

**Smith Garden Work Party**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, weather permitting**

**March 26, 2013**

**Board Meeting**

**7:30 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**April 6, 7, 2013**

**Early Show and Plant Sale, in conjunction with the Daffodil Society**

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**April 13,14, 2013**

**Siuslaw Chapter Early Show  
Florence, Oregon**

**April 18, 2013**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 PM social time**

**7:30 PM meeting**

**Program: TBA**

**April 23, 2013**

**Board Meeting**

**7:30 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

## Haiku

A lingering frost  
From dawn to dusk, winter's sun  
too little, too late

A morning's hoarfrost  
A winter night's fog recast  
in sunstruck shadow

Those nameless raindrops --  
in patterns of sound that seem  
to repeat themselves

With the first raindrops  
the curbside puddle, a tempest  
in its own fashion

In and out of banks  
of fog; the patter of rain  
The blackness of night

By Peter Kendall

## Show and Tell

Please remember to bring a show and tell item from your garden to the meeting. We are establishing a new tradition, sharing information about our rhododendron companion plants with our fellow members. What's in your garden? Or greenhouse, for that matter, sharing space with vireyas and other tender rhododendrons, perhaps ?

## From the President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

With great appreciation, I want to thank all the people who helped make our rhododendron display garden at the Home and Garden Show a big success. The show was held at the Expo Center during February 20-24. The garden was artfully designed by Mike Domaschofsky. A team of Ray Clack, J.R. Krueger, Bob MacArthur, Barb MacArthur, Dave Collier, Mike Stewart stacked the retaining block walls with such vigor that the designer was pleased that we built the walls so quickly. Then Dick Cavender dumped load after load of mulch with the Bobcat inside those walls until the garden space was filled. Now, the fun part was "planting" the vireyas that E. White Smith and Lucie Sorenson loaned to us, the large R. sinogrande that Mike and Maria loaned, and the rhododendrons purchased from Terry Henderson's Log Cabin Nursery, Dover Nursery and Thompson's Nursery.

The resulting display was wonderful. We heard from show visitors to our show "garden" that they were amazed by the diversity of rhododendrons. From the tiny leaves of R. saluenense to the huge leaves of R. sinogrande and every shape and color of leaves in between, the foliage alone was impressive. But then, there were also rhododendrons in bloom and one vireya whose fragrance drew appreciative visitors closer.

In addition to the beautiful plants, Dick Cavender created a display board to help home gardeners identify the lace bug, and Mike Domaschofsky had a sampling of products to help with eradication of the pest.

A big thank you goes to the members who interacted with the public during the show by talking about rhododendrons and about the American Rhododendron Society. All these people took at least one shift during the show: Anne Gross, Paul Rogers, Brenda Ziegler, Steve Hopkins, Paul Wilkins, Martha Howerton, J.R. Krueger, Abby Krueger, Kath Collier, Dave Collier, Betsy Soifer, Tom Hoffman, Erlee Pennington, Joanne Turner, Maria Stewart, Bud Bowen, Keith White, Erin White, Otis Tallan, Joan Tallan, Ray Clack, Ann Clack, Gary Schultz, Carol Howard, Steve Hall, Caroline Enns, Bob MacArthur, Barb MacArthur, Mike Domaschofsky, Dick Cavender, Karen Cavender, Steve Kaminski and Donna Sell.

Without a doubt, Mike Domaschofsky and Dick Cavender were the masterminds and tireless workers who made this project a reality. Dick Cavender kept asking for shift-takers until his clipboard was almost full and then put in extra time himself. A special thank you to the two of you!

( Continued from page 1 )

Kathy is a graduate of the University of Washington with degrees in Oceanography and Geology. Her graduate PhD program was in Quaternary Paleoecology ( i.e. fossil pollen in sediment cores from oceans and lakes.)

Kathy grew up with the ARS and as mentioned has been very involved with our Chapter. She has held many positions and wears many "hats". She is a past President and is very involved with Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, serving as liason with the Friends of Crystal Springs R.G.

This will be a great program to bring a guest to hear Kathy speak.

## Crystal Springs News:

Students from the Portland Waldorf School, who volunteered at CSRG on January 21, 2013 as their community service activity for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Donna Giguere directed the students in various planting and clean-up jobs.

Photo courtesy Christopher Zinn, Portland Waldorf School.

We thank you!



## Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights: February 26, 2013

**By Maria Stewart**

After a short discussion, the document concerning the number of events and the location of the events at CSRG that the board will allow during the events season was passed. It will now be attached to the Event Coordinator's position description document and will be included in the Chapter's policies of the board. A proposal was made to hire a full-time gatehouse assistant from March 1st until Labor Day. Discussion followed about being able to afford the second position and about the positives of having two people in the gatehouse. The proposal was passed.

We made plans for banners for the Early Show and the Mother's Day Show. We carried on a conversation about increasing membership in our chapter. Some ideas are: Advertise our meetings by e-mail; notify people about our shows and sales by e-mail; put notices of shows, sales and meetings in the Friends newsletters; bring a friend to a meeting; send our meeting notices out to other plant societies; revive our new member packets; use our website to get people's attention.

## Highlights of the February 21, 2013 Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We were fortunate to hear E. White Smith speak to us about the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden and the new Rutherford Conservatory at our February meeting. As one of the very first volunteers at the RSBG, E. White has been an active contributor to the Garden for many years, most recently donating established vireyas to create the 'backbone' of the plantings in the new Rutherford Conservatory there. His slides were a visual tour of the construction of the Conservatory and subsequent plantings; the Conservatory is now a very modern, automated greenhouse and is named after E. White's late friend, Fran Rutherford, who published "The Vireya Vine" newsletter with him.

E. White shared his experience growing vireyas; his potting mix is seedling-grade orchid bark, coarse peat moss and coarse perlite; interestingly, vireyas, many being epiphytes, enjoy a pinch of ground dolomite in their mix. Fertilizers could be an 'Osmocote'-type slow release, 'Miracle-Gro' soluble rhododendron, camellia, azalea fertilizer ( 30-10-10 ) or an organic blend of alfalfa and canola meal, buffered with a pinch of dolomite. Coir, chopped coconut husks, has not given good results, possibly due to sea-salt contamination. Another curious aspect of vireyas is the fact that they are happier when root-bound in pots; that is due to the intense root competition in their native habitat in the forest edge. Many types of orchids can be grown in a greenhouse with vireyas, as well.

Our traditional "Sweets for the sweet" Valentine's Day remembrance saw us confronting too many sweet temptations. Our traditional companion plant auction presented a parallel hazard, however, both were for a good cause! Our thanks to all !

## 2013 Rhododendron Events Near and Far

April 6-7 Portland Chapter Early Show and Plant Sale with the Daffodil Society, CSRG

April 13-14 Siuslaw Chapter Early Show

April 20-21 International Rhododendron Species Conservation Conference, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

April 27 Eugene Chapter Spring Show and Awards Banquet

April 27-28 Tualatin Valley Chapter Plant Sale

April 27-28 Southwest Show and Sale

May 1-5 ARS Annual Convention, Sea-Tac Airport, Seattle, WA  
( Early registration for the convention has been extended to March 31st.)

May 11-12 Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale, CSRG

## Volunteer Opportunities At The Smith Garden

By Dorothy Patrick

Hello everyone!

Now is the time of year that I start recruiting volunteers to work at the Smith Garden open garden days, selling plants and/or taking admissions. Shifts are 5 hours, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on a Saturday or a Sunday in April or May, beginning Saturday, April 6th and running through Sunday, May 19th, 2013. The garden is only open a total of 14 days out of the year. We need only 2 people per day, minimum, although Don and I prefer 4 people, as we really enjoy visiting with another person or couple. The sign-up sheet will be at the February meeting, but you can call me, e-mail me or snail-mail me: 'phone: 503-625-6584; e-mail: dpscopy@starband.net; mail: 24031 S.W. Morgan Lane, Sherwood, OR 97140

...and don't forget to save Saturday, March 23, 2013 for the Smith Garden Work Day!

Many thanks!

## R. 'Freckled Friend' Displays Fascinating Flowers and Foliage

By Maria Stewart

Some names that are given to rhododendrons aptly describe their namesake plants. R. 'Freckled Friend' is an excellent name for the plant it describes. The light pink flowers are covered inside and out with deep pink freckles. The foliage show strongly the R. bureavii parentage with its dark green leaves covered underneath with wooly indumentum.

Here is more about a rhododendron that you may want to call a "friend":

The cross: (Fabia x thomsonii) X ( smirnowii x bureavii)

Origin: It came from Halfdan Lem through Jim Elliott.

Height in 10 years: 4 feet

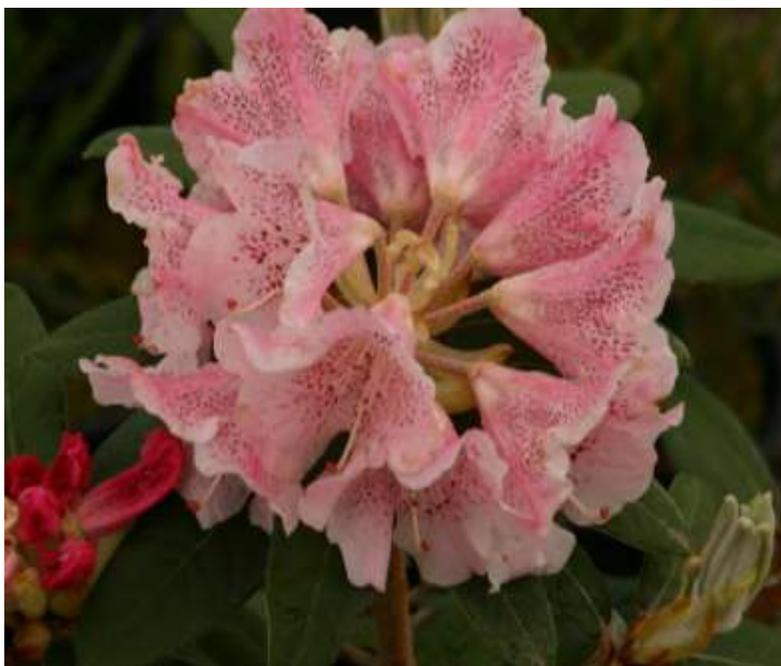
Hardiness: -5 degrees F.

Bloom time: May

Placement in your garden: light shade

Culture: needs good drainage

Photo: Mike Stewart



*The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society  
And the Daffodil Society Present Two Shows in One*

*The Early Bloomers*

**RHODODENDRON SHOW**

**AND**

**DAFFODIL SHOW**

**And Plant Sale ( Open 9 to 5 both days )**

**April 6th and 7th, 2013**

**Saturday Show Time**

**Noon to 5 P.M.**

**Sunday Show Time**

**9 A.M. to 5 P.M.**

***CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN***

***S.E. 28th Avenue, North of Woodstock Blvd.***

***Bring your trusses on Saturday to the Exhibit Hall to be entered from 8 to 9:45 A.M. Judging from 10 A.M. to Noon.***

***Show opens at noon on Saturday.***

***Plant sale is open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. both days.***

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
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Web: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: *Maria Stewart*  
Vice President: *Brenda Ziegler*  
Past President: *Mike Domaschofsky*  
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2014) **Ann Clack,**  
**Ray Clack, Bud Bowen, Kathy Van**  
**Veen, , and Betsy Soifer**  
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline**  
**Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,**  
**Mike Stewart, Dave Collier**

GARDEN INFO:  
Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:  
**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522  
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

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