

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **April 18, 2013**  
Annual Meeting  
7:00 PM social time  
7:30 PM meeting  
Speaker: Carson Lord,  
President, OAN  
Topic: "OAN 101, and  
an Update on Legisla-  
tive Happenings"  
\*\*\*\*\*And\*\*\*\*\*  
Annual Hybrid Auction
- **April 23, 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 April Speaker

By **Brenda Ziegler**

Our speaker for our Annual Meeting on April 18th, 2013 will be Carson Lord. Carson currently serves as the President of OAN, the Oregon Association of Nurseries.

He received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City and holds an MBA from George Fox University.

Carson owns and operates Tree Frog Nursery, a wholesale nursery in Silverton, OR. Tree Frog Nursery produces container-grown grafted conifers, Japanese maples, topiaries and boxwoods. For more information, please see: <http://www.treefrogtrees.com>.

He has also served on the Board of the Oregon Garden Foundation, most recently as the Board Chair in 2011-2012.

Carson was born and raised in Silverton, OR, and lived in New York City and Portland for four years each.

He is married to Colette; they have 3 children, ages 7, 5 and 1.

I met Carson when he was living in Portland, working for Oregon Trout, a non-profit dedicated to saving trout and salmon. Oregon Trout has now merged with Freshwater Trust.

He has long been involved with non-profits and with promoting nature. When he started Tree Frog Nursery, it was a natural progression. The Oregon Garden and the OAN are fortunate to have such an ambitious member serve on their boards, and we are fortunate to have him speak to our Chapter.

Our April 18th meeting is the Annual Meeting when we vote on five new nominees for our Board, and we also have our Hybrid Rhododendron Auction.

Now that's a meeting!

## 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:

**April 13,14, 2013**

**Siuslaw Chapter Early Show  
Florence, Oregon**

**April 18, 2013**

**Annual Meeting  
7:00 PM social time  
7:30 PM meeting**

**Speaker: Carson Lord, President,  
OAN**

**Program: " OAN 101, and an Up-  
date on Legislative Happenings"  
\*\*\*\*\*And\*\*\*\*\***

**Annual Hybrid Rhododendron  
Auction**

**April 23, 2013**

**Board Meeting  
7:30 PM  
Van Veen Nursery**

**April 27, 2013**

**Eugene Chapter Spring Show and  
Awards Banquet**

**April 27-28, 2013**

**Tualatin Valley Chapter Plant Sale**

**April 27-28, 2013**

**Southwest Show and Sale**

**May 1-5, 2013**

**ARS Annual Convention  
Seattle, WA**

**May 11-12, 2013**

**Portland Chapter Mother's Day  
Show and Plant Sale  
Crystal Springs Rhododendron  
Garden**

## Haiku

A midwinter's dusk  
Mounting clouds from sun to shadow  
to oblivion

A radiant sun  
replacing a winter's rain  
The wren has returned

Long winter shadows  
The warmth of the sun; stirring  
of the tree top crow

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

Spring has sprung! There are many garden and flower show events to enjoy during April and May. Here is a list compiled by Ted Hewitt of the Eugene Chapter, and added to by Maria, that you may find enticing.

- The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden near St. Paul is open on weekends ( Saturday and Sunday ) from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM through the blooming season, April 4th through May 19th. For directions and more information see: [www.smithgarden.org](http://www.smithgarden.org)
- Saturday, April 13th - Mike Stewart will speak on the *Rhododendrons of China* at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland. 11:00 AM. 239 NW Everett Street. For more information, see: [www.portlandchinesegarden.org](http://www.portlandchinesegarden.org)
- Saturday and Sunday, April 13th-14th: Hardy Plant Society of Oregon Plant Sale at the EXPO in Portland. It's huge! Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- Saturday and Sunday, April 13th & 14th: ARS Siuslaw Chapter Early Show in Florence. For more information, see: [www.siuslawars.org](http://www.siuslawars.org)
- April 19th, 20th & 21st ( Friday, Saturday & Sunday ): ARS Willamette Chapter Truss Show and Plant Sale in conjunction with the Friends of Bush Pasture Park Plant Sale in Salem. Rhody Truss show opens on the 20th. Bush Pasture Park. Enter from High Street. *Special Event: The Opening Ceremony of the new Rhododendron Hillside, Bush's Pasture Park, just north of the intersection of Leffelle St. and Winter St., 1:30 PM on Saturday, April 20th.* For more information, see: [www.willamette.org](http://www.willamette.org)
- Friday and Saturday, April 19th and 20th: Annual Spring Sale at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA. Make a trip to see the RSBG at its peak and shop for unusual plants at the large sale!
- Saturday and Sunday, April 20th and 21st: International Rhododendron Species Conservation Conference, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.
- Saturday, April 20th: The Hinsdale Garden on the Umpqua River east of Reedsport, OR. Open garden day with a chance to learn more about the plants in the garden. 10:00 AM to mid-afternoon.
- Saturday, April 27th: ARS Eugene Chapter Spring Rhododendron Show and Banquet. Hilton Garden Inn on Gateway St. at Beltline Rd. in Springfield, OR. Show from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Banquet at 6:00 PM ( \$25.00; must RSVP) Plant Auction at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Mike Stewart on *Species Azaleas of North America*. For times and details, see: [www.eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org)
- Saturday and Sunday, April 27th & 28th: ARS Tualatin Valley Chapter Annual Plant Sale at the Hillsboro Fairgrounds. For more information, see: [www.tualatinvalleyars.org](http://www.tualatinvalleyars.org)

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**From The President's Corner, cont'd:**

- Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 26th - 28th: ARS Southwest Oregon Chapter Annual Flower Show and Sale at Pony Village Mall, Coos Bay, OR. For more information, see: [www.sworegonars.org](http://www.sworegonars.org)
- Wednesday, May 1st: 2013 Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden's Annual Members Meeting. Highlights include a special guided tour, catered dinner and a lecture by Don Hyatt. Members and friends of the RSBG are encouraged to register directly with the RSBG through their website: [www.rhodygarden.org](http://www.rhodygarden.org) . Cost for the entire event is \$20.00.
- Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 2nd-5th: ARS annual Convention at the SeaTac Marriott Hotel south of Seattle. For details, see the ARS Winter *Journal*.
- Saturday and Sunday, May 11th & 12th: ARS Portland Chapter Annual Mother's Day Weekend Truss Show and Plant Sale. Show opens at noon on Saturday and 10:00 AM Sunday and goes until 5:00 PM both days. Trusses are accepted on Friday from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM and on Saturday morning from 7:00 AM to 9:45 AM. Plant sale runs from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, 5801 SE 28th in Portland. For more information, see: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)
- Saturday, May 11th: ARS Eugene Chapter Plant Sale in conjunction with the WVHPG Annual Sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Saturday, May 11th: The Hinsdale Garden is open to the public, 10:00 AM to mid-afternoon.
- Saturday, May 11th: Oregon Plant Fair, sponsored by the Avid Gardeners and the Eugene Garden Club at Alton Baker Park, Eugene, OR.
- Thursday, May 16th: ARS Portland Chapter Banquet
- Saturday and Sunday, May 18th & 19th: ARS Siuslaw Chapter May Show in Florence, OR.

**Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights: March 26, 2013****By Maria Stewart**

We reviewed the Early Show and Plant Sale schedule, publicity, set-up and take-down. Continuing on from the February board meeting, we discussed ways to increase our membership and to retain our current members. To include an "Ask the Expert" or mini-program in our regular meetings was one idea, among others, that we decided would be good to reinstate. Another topic of discussion was the lace bug pest and what we could do about educating the public about that pest. We have set a goal to produce and disseminate information about lace bug. A committee was formed to investigate improving our sound system for our meetings.

## Highlights of the February 21, 2013 Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

Our speaker for the March 21st meeting was Kathy Van Veen. Her most interesting and entertaining talk, "How to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in the Nursery Business", illustrated with a wonderful collection of images of the history and the founders of Van Veen Nursery, up to the present day, was well-received by an appreciative audience. Kathy's often hilarious stories of events that have happened on the nursery grounds over the years suggest the positive role the nursery plays in the neighborhood under Kathy's guidance. Her dedication to 'green' practices is an inspiration and her talk confirmed for many of us the value of our own efforts to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" when it comes to our gardens and greenhouses.

The "Show and Tell" portion of the meeting featured 16 rhododendron trusses brought in by Peter Kendall, along with several Pulmonaria cultivars and a bouquet of Hellebore. Proud possessors of yellow-flowered Hellebore agreed to save seed for the less fortunate members present. Scilla siberica, Chionodoxa, early Narcissus for bulbs, and several early Camellia blooms were also shown.

Mike Domaschofsky reported on the Chapter's display at the EXPO, where our lace bug outreach was appreciated by the attendees, and on preparations for the Early Show and Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden April 6th & 7th.

We hope for a positive report on the Smith Garden work party on March 23rd at our April meeting. The Smith Garden team were recruiting taller members for dead-heading at the garden, at the March meeting.

## Cecil and Molly Smith Garden Open Days this Spring

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, world-renowned for its collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons, will be open during the blooming season, Saturdays and Sundays, April 6 through May 19, 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. This three-acre natural woodland setting also features choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers and bulbs, including Cyclamen, Trillium, Erythronium and Narcissus, which complement the over 600 rhododendrons and azaleas. Established in the early 1950's, the garden contains many rare species grown by Cecil Smith from seeds imported from China and cuttings from England, as well as hybrids he developed. The Portland Chapter of the ARS purchased the garden in 1983 and, along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, now manages and maintains it. A selection of plants featured in the garden is available for purchase. There is a modest entrance fee of \$3.00. Due to the sloping site, the garden is not considered handicap accessible. The garden is located at 5065 Raybell Rd., St. Paul, OR 97137, 7/10ths of a mile west of Hwy. 219 between St. Paul and Newberg. Turn west on Champoeg Rd. (look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign) and continue straight on to Raybell Rd. to the garden. Parking and entrance are on the right just past the house with the garden address. For more information, call Ginny Mapes at 503-647-2896; [www.smithgarden.org](http://www.smithgarden.org). This spring, don't miss this hidden gem which has been featured in *Horticulture* magazine.

## Hybrid Rhododendron Auction at the April 18th Annual Meeting

Be sure to bring your wish-lists, wallets and checkbooks to our April 18th Annual Meeting . In addition to our speaker and elections to our Board, we will have our annual hybrid rhododendron auction. This promises to be a lively and fun evening!

### The Lovely *Rhododendron lutescens*

By Maria Stewart

There is a rotting five-foot Douglas fir stump about 10 feet from our front room. Growing in this naturally well-drained decaying wood are wild huckleberries, salal, ferns and a *R. lutescens*; we planted the *R. lutescens* at the base of the stump about 20 years ago. Lo and behold, it grew right through the stump and now we have plants on both sides of the stump. This species grows in a willowy and upright manner and looks at home when it is winding its way among other plants. *R. lutescens* is blooming now in late March with its yellow blossoms adding cheerful color to the surrounding landscape, which consists this time of the year of mostly pink and white blooming rhododendrons. After the blooms fade, this species puts on another show of color with its distinctive reddish new growth. The vibrantly colored leaves are like a second stage of blooming!

More information about *R. lutescens*:

Distribution: West Sichuan, Northeast Yunnan, Hubei and Guizhou in China, at 1,750 - 10,500 feet altitude, in the open in a thicket or among trees

Taxonomy: Subgenus: *Rhododendron*  
Section: *Rhododendron*  
Subsection: *Triflora*

It is a lepidote with a few scales on top of the leaves; the undersides of the leaves are paler. The shape of the leaf is oblong or lanceolate. The new growth is a bright reddish bronze.

Blooms: light to deeper primrose yellow; wide, funnel-shaped; 1-3 corollas per truss.

Hardiness: +5 degrees F. Depending on the clone, the larger the flowers, the more tender the plant according to *The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species*, authored by Peter and Kenneth Cox. ( Our plant suffers somewhat during Arctic blasts; buds freeze and leaves burn, but it keeps coming back!)

Height: depends on whether it grows vertically or somewhat less vertically as it finds its way among your other plants. The books say it grows to 6 feet in 10 years.

Derivation of name: *lutescens*: becoming yellow      Photograph courtesy of Mike Stewart



## **Annual Meeting**

**Our April 18th Chapter meeting is our Annual Meeting when we vote on five new nominees for the board. Here is the slate of nominees for a two-year term that starts on July 1, 2013 and ends on June 30, 2015:**

Steve Hall  
Caroline Enns  
Steve Hopkins  
Dave Collier  
Bill Zanze

**Remaining on the board for their second year ending on June 30, 2014 are:**

Ann Clack  
Kathy Van Veen  
Bud Bowen  
Betsy Soifer  
Ray Clack

**Remaining as officers for their second year ending on June 30, 2014 are:**

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

**Remaining as Chairs of Long-Standing Committees:**

Bob MacArthur, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden  
Ginny Mapes, Cecil and Molly Smith Garden  
Kathy Van Veen, Friends of Crystal Springs  
Tom Hoffman, Editor of *Rhododendron News*  
Steve Hall and Caroline Enns, Webmasters for our website  
John Welsh, Membership

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
meeting cancellations due  
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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:  
**Tom Hoffman**, 503-452-0975  
**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  
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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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 Hall and Caroline**  
**Enns**

Membershi p Updates: John  
Wel sh, Membershi p Chair, e-  
mai l: **j l wel sh26@yahoo.com**;  
503-663-6987