

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- June, 2013 - No Regular meeting
- June 20, 2013
Annual Picnic & Dead-Heading Party.
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
5:30 PM Meet at Cool House
6:30 PM Potluck Supper
- June, 2013
NO Board Meeting
- July, 2013 - No Regular Meeting and No Newsletter

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



June Picnic (Also Known As The Deadheading Party)

By Maria Stewart

On the third Thursday of June, which is June 20th, you are all invited to gather at the Cool House at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden for our June Picnic. It is a potluck supper, so please bring your favorite entrée, salad or dessert. Coffee, paper plates and plastic silverware will be supplied. We will gather between 5:30 and 6:00 PM at eat at 6:30 PM.

Those of us who want to deadhead some rhododendrons in the garden can do so, but if you feel like walking around and enjoying the Garden, please do that. Many of you work so hard in the Garden during the Wednesday work days, I propose that this gathering does not need to be another work session.

So, come and enjoy the Garden, the food and the companionship of your fellow rhododendron friends on June 20th. See you there!

**** Smith Garden Soiree ****

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Join us on Thursday, August 15th, to celebrate the beauty of the Smith Garden.

Bring your favorite potluck dish and join in an enjoyable meal with the members of the Portland Chapter, the Tualatin Valley Chapter and the Willamette Chapter. Dinner time is 6:00 PM and if you wish to walk through the garden, come a little earlier. Help is always appreciated at 5:30 PM, also, to set up the tables. The address is: 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, Oregon. Driving directions will be included in the August Portland Chapter newsletter, and are in the May issue of *Rhododendron News*, in the article on the Smith Garden open hours. Pictures below are of the 2011 Soiree.



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 August, 2013:

June, 2013 - No regular meeting

June 20, 2013

Annual picnic and dead-heading party,

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

5:30 PM Meet at Cool House

6:30 PM Potluck supper

June , 2013

No Board Meeting

July, 2013 - No regular meeting and, no newsletter

July , 2013

No Board Meeting

August, 2013 - No regular meeting

August 15, 2013

Smith Garden Summer Soiree

5:30 PM Meet at Smith Garden

6:00 PM Potluck supper

August , 2013

No Board Meeting

September 19, 2013

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Speaker: TBA

September 24, 2013

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Each day's offering
What the day before even
failed to suggest

Leaves of the cherry --
Capturing the sun; twisting
in an evening breeze

A morning's amble
above an interweaving
of tree cast shadows

Holes in the shadows
opening, closing -- who knows
the way of the sun

The twisted maple
The camellia and its stone
-- partners in shadow

By Peter Kendall

Show and Tell

Please remember to bring a show and tell item from your garden to our meetings. 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

Congratulations on a very successful Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale! Thank you for the beautiful trusses that you carefully brought to the Show. They brightened up the Cool House with their array of colors. Thank you for all the hard work in hauling and selling the rhododendrons at the Plant Sale. The selection of plants and the salesmanship were outstanding. Thank you for the setting up and tearing down of the Show. We had great teamwork that made the jobs go quickly. Thank you, Linda Rungay, Show Chair; Mike Domaschofsky, Plant Sale Co-Chair; Bob MacArthur, Plant Sale Co-Chair; and Ann Clack, Trophy Chair, for your positive leadership. You lead by example and we appreciate you!

During our May Banquet and Awards Meeting, we honored three of our members for their many years of service to the Chapter. Ann Clack received a President's Award for her dedicated service in organizing, acquiring and displaying our Show trophies and in organizing the judging during the shows. Barbra MacArthur received a President's Award for her dedication service to hospitality during our monthly meetings. Carol McCarthy was presented with the Chapter's highest award, the Bronze Medal. Carol has faithfully recorded our board meeting minutes and has been a very valuable board member for many years. Thank you all for your willingness to contribute your time and energy for the good of our Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society.

Maria Stewart presents Carol McCarthy with the Bronze Medal citation (below).



In Memoriam: Charles M. Knapp**From The Oregonian Newspaper**

The Rev. Charles M. Knapp, a retired clergyman and lifelong advocate for peace and social justice, died April 19, 2013, aged 91 years. A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Charles was a conscientious objector to World War II. After a distinguished career serving in the Congregational UCC Church and as Co-Director of the Menucha Retreat & Conference Center in Corbett, Charles also worked for Floating Point Systems (1980's) and then at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden until 2010. He and his wife, Rita, together envisioned and inaugurated the Creative Arts Community at Menucha and went on to co-found Portland PFLAG.

For a more detailed biography of his life please visit: www.alternativesoundpdx.com/charlesknapp.html

In Memoriam: Jason Ashford**From Wally Reed, President, Willamette Chapter ARS**

Jason Ashford passed away May 28, 2013. He had been a life member of ARS and a Willamette Chapter Member since our Chapter's founding in 1978. He will be very much missed. Jason's many contributions to our Chapter and other rhody-related activities included: Vice President 1993-1995; President 1995-1999; Board Member 1983-1991; Chapter Librarian 1981-1985; Research Leader 1982; Chapter Truss Show Chair 1984; Chapter program presenter; Host and Chef of May potluck & plant auction 10 - 15 times; Cecil & Molly Smith Garden Maintenance Chair 1984; Second recipient of WCARS Bronze Medal in 1990; member of many Siskiyou Treks; propagator and contributor to Chapter plant sales; and many, many other unreported contributions to our success.

Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights: May 21, 2013**By Maria Stewart**

We discussed the successful Mother's Day Weekend Show and Plant Sale. We will discuss the publicity for next year's shows and plant sales in more detail in January or February of 2014. We voted to downsize the large tent next year because the additional space was not used this year. We discussed using a credit card machine at the gatehouse to process admissions. We also discussed the addition of mini programs to our regular meetings. That has been a topic of discussion at previous board meetings. Brenda will be in charge of those programs.

The end-of-the-year party (also known as the Summer Picnic and Dead-heading Party) will be held at the cool house at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on June 20th. It is a potluck supper and the gathering time is 5:30 PM with supper at 6:30 PM.

Author! Author!

Longtime ARS member and nurseryman Larry Landauer has published a book: [Can They Do This To Me?](#)

Highlights of the May 16, 2013 Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

A wonderful banquet, awards and applause, and a fun presentation on digital photography of rhododendrons - we had a great meeting May 16th, and everyone went home with a rhododendron!

In addition to their awards for photography, Irv and Jan Snyder collected three awards at the Mother's Day Show for rhododendron trusses they entered. Their talk at our May 16th Awards Banquet covered the basics of digital photography. Although the Snyders rate digital above the now-endangered film technology, digital has its own limitations. Successful digital photography requires lots of practice, which means taking a lot of photographs and keeping track of camera settings; taking lots of pictures means *always* having spare, fully-charged batteries for your camera, and, spare unused memory cards or sticks. That said, digital offers greater freedom and lower costs for the photographer, compared to film. When it comes to the composition of an image, we can consider the purpose of the photograph to help us sort through the many possibilities digital technology offers us.

We heard good reports on the Mother's Day Sale; Mike Domaschofsky also told us of the proposal to close part of S.E. 28th Ave. for the Mother's Day Show & Sale in 2014. Ongoing talks include Portland Parks Dept., Portland Police Dept., Reed College and bicyclists' groups, in addition to the Portland Chapter of the A.R.S. The closure would be from S.E. Woodstock north along S.E. 28th Ave., distance to be determined, with local access for Reed College, businesses and residences that would be affected by the closure. The goal is to improve public safety and the Mother's Day Show and Sale experience for all participants.

The Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

September 27-29, 2013

At the Best Western Agate Beach Hotel in Newport, Oregon

The Chapters of Portland, Tualatin, Willamette, Siuslaw, Southwestern and Eugene invite you to attend this excellent conference.

You will experience a wide selection of clinics on Saturday and Sunday mornings and two banquets with evening speakers from different corners of the world.

18 speakers ---- a big plant sale ---- lower room prices than in 2007!

Start planning now to attend this great conference in your own backyard.

Look for registration details in the next ARS Journal.

The beautiful Pacific Ocean beckons to you in the warm days of September.



R. 'Starlight'



Ernie Metcalfe

A Charmer: *Rhododendron pendulum*

By Maria Stewart

Here is a species rhododendron that grows happily in a hanging basket or on a rotting stump or log. In the wilds of Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet, it can be found growing in the trees like orchids do, hence it can be epiphytic. *R. pendulum* needs very fast drainage and wants its roots to stay cool. Your other challenge is its hardiness, which is only + 10 degrees F. But, this plant's requirements seem to fade off into the distance when you see it. Its little oval leaves are covered with white hairs and the overall visual effect is quite attractive. Some growers would not care if *R. pendulum* never bloomed, because the foliage is so decorative.

More information about *R. pendulum*:
 Distribution: Eastern Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Southern Tibet at 7,500 to 12,000 feet; epiphytic or growing on steep slopes or cliffs.

Taxonomy: Subgenus: *Rhododendron*

Section: *Rhododendron*

Subsection: *Edgeworthia*

It is a lepidote. The oval leaves are densely covered with beige woolly indumentum underneath and white to light beige tomentum on top.

Form: It grows densely and its branches trail downward.

Height in 10 years: Perhaps 1.5 feet tall, but much wider than tall.



Ernie Metcalfe - An Appreciation

By Kathy Van Veen and 'Casparina'

Ernie Metcalfe died the other day, Sunday, May 26, 2013, just as he was about to sit down with the morning newspaper. And that was sad. But when you think about it, he had it pretty good.

Here he was, a World War II Air Force vet stationed in the South Pacific, checking out Memorial Day weekend. The night before, he had sent out to his friends a couple of patriotic email videos, and, to me, at least because I have birds, a great video featuring a cockatoo dancing gangnam style. Daughter Sue said they really enjoyed that one.

A Portland Chapter member since 1976, Ernie was always there; always helping at shows and sales, and auctions; fixing things at the garden; refurbishing benches. Lately he had been the caretaker of the Donor Wall, which sometimes gives us fits when the wood swells from moisture in the air and adding new names has to wait weeks for dry weather. He refinished the whole display, piece by piece, a couple years ago. That was after a hawk decided to use the light above the wall as a good place to devour its prey.

He took photos of all the major projects in the garden. Ask him about history and he knew it. He retired as Captain after 40 years with the Beaverton Fire Department; the first 14 years of that were when it was still all volunteer. He recorded the fire department's history in photographs as well, and his reminiscences were written up last year in a book about Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue.

His rhododendron society contributions were noticed as far back as 1990, when the Portland Chapter awarded him the Bronze Medal. He didn't slow down a bit after that. In fact, this year he was at our two shows setting up and filling bottles as usual. He entered plants in the Mother's Day Show, including his azalea, R. 'Starlight', to my mind the prettiest azalea ever. I am forever beholden to him for the plant of 'Starlight' he gave me some years back.

He was at the Crystal Springs Garden work party the Wednesday before he passed and at the end of the year banquet the week before. Even with a whole string of serious ailments he never quit; not when his wife Evelyn was sick for so many years, not with himself.

Personally, he helped me this January when my cockatiel 'Casparina' became seriously ill. We went to the Avian Medical Center in Lake Oswego several times, That is where Sue worked some years ago, so Ernie and Dr. Marli Lintner had a nice reunion. It took six weeks, but 'Casparina' is alive and well today.

Thanks, Partner. You did good.

A celebration of Ernie Metcalfe's life will be held on: Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 11:00 AM, at the Sunset Presbyterian Church, 14986 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, Oregon 97229.

Photography credits: top left, page 6: R. 'Starlight' by Ernie Metcalfe; top right, page 6: Jaime Valdez .

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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

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