

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- October 12, 2013
'Parke Diem' Group
Project,
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden,
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- October 17, 2013
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Speaker: Dick Cavender
Program: Rhododendron occidentale, The Outlaw Species & Species auction!
- October 22, 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 40th and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



October Program: Rhododendron occidentale, The Outlaw Species

By Brenda Ziegler and Dick Cavender

Like many Westerners, *Rhododendron occidentale* is fiercely independent. It takes great delight in confounding taxonomists because it simply does not obey the rules! Taxonomists expect species to be fairly uniform but *R. occidentale* is extremely variable throughout a very large range of habitats. Many of the forms found in the wild were once thought to be hybrids but further studies have found that they are in fact all one species. Flower size varies from about an inch in diameter to over 3 inches. Flower shape varies from tubular to funnel-shaped. Petals may be broad or narrow, with edges which can range from smooth to very frilly. Flower color varies from almost pure white to almost entirely wine-colored. Some plants have a wine-colored flare on the top petal while others have a bright yellow flare and that yellow may extend to other petals or the entire flower. Flowers are often asymmetrical with different markings on either side of the flower. Flowers are normally 5-petaled but as many as 8 petals have been found as well as double flowers. Leaf shape is fairly consistent but may be smooth and shiny or furry. The one consistent thing is *R. occidentale*'s great fragrance.

Dick will show us some of the variability of *R. occidentale* throughout its range and will show and tell us why you really need to have a number of these fine plants in your garden. He will conclude with a few photos of the Eastern U.S. native azaleas.

About our speaker: Dick is the owner of Red's Rhodies Nursery in Sherwood, Oregon where he specializes in *Rhododendron occidentale*. Dick has been an avid collector, hybridizer and grower of *R. occidentale* for 45 years. He is the breeder of *R. occidentale* 'Frank Mossman'. Dick freely admits Red's Rhodies is a hobby that got severely out of control.

Dick has been an American Rhododendron Society member since 1969, and is also a life member of the Portland Chapter, an Associate member of the Tualatin, Willamette, Hawaii and Eugene Chapters. He is the current Treasurer and Past President of the Portland Chapter, as well as Past Director of District 4, Oregon State. Dick is the holder of the Silver Medal from the American Rhododendron Society and the Bronze Medal from the Portland Chapter.

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 November, 2013:

October 12, 2013

'Parke Diem' Work Party

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

October 17, 2013

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Speaker: Dick Cavender

Program: Rhododendron occidentale, The Outlaw Species

--and--

Rhododendron Species Auction!

October 22, 2013

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

November 21, 2013

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: The Smith Garden

Speakers: Herb Spady, Ginny Mapes, Tom Gressler, Don and

Dorothy Patrick

November 26, 2013

Board Meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

Haiku

Not a breath of wind
A sliver of sunlit moon
A cloudless summer's dusk

An August evening
Through the blinds, warmth of the sun
A cast of shadows

With the setting sun
a rising moon brushed by trees
from a nearby ridge

High in the maple
the spider's orb -- back and forth
in a gentle breeze

A summer's demise
Once again visited by --
thunder and lightning

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

By Maria Stewart

The weather outside was stormy, but inside the hotel, the atmosphere was warmed by the many activities of the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference, September 27-29th, in Newport, Oregon. As soon as you entered the lobby, you were surrounded by the plant sale, organized by Terry Henderson. There were rhododendrons and companion plants everywhere! Downstairs, you were warmly greeted by John and Loni Welsh at the registration table and you were invited to play the "name game" during the course of the conference. In the same room, the silent auction, organized by Bob and Marjene MacIntyre, enticed you to bid on the many items including large baskets of regional foods and gifts and a table full of special rhododendrons donated by District 4 chapter members.

And still there was more to see in the registration room. Rhododendron photos entered by our members were displayed beautifully there. Dave and Pat Eckerdt organized and ran the photo display and contest. They even brought in professional photographers to do the judging. This year, for the first time, there was the innovation of a digital display of photographs.

As you walked toward the rooms where the talks were given, there was Siuslaw Chapter's rhododendron foliage display covering an entire wall. It was an outstanding display of many beautiful rhododendrons chosen for their interesting foliage characteristics. Speaking of talks, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, on both Saturday and Sunday, a wide variety of subjects were covered, from controlling moles, to how to start rhododendron seedlings, to garden photography, to making compost tea, to identifying large-leaf rhododendrons. It was difficult to choose a favorite talk, sometimes, when there were four talks all going at the same time and then changing after each 45-minute session. During the evening banquets on Friday and Saturday, we were treated to more expansive talks covering the theme of the Conference, "Around the World with Friends and Rhododendrons." All told, the Conference was greatly illuminated by nineteen different speakers!

A regional conference takes many helpful members to make it successful and all of Oregon's District 4 was involved. Besides the organizers I have already mentioned, we could not have put on this conference without Wally Reed, who coordinated the moderators *and* put together local self-guided garden tours complete with brochures; Steve Krasik, who deftly handled all the laptop, projector and microphone set-ups for our speakers; Linda Rumgay and her sisters, who created and placed the unique and beautiful centerpieces on our tables for both the Friday and Saturday night banquets; Bill and Sandy Hennig, who accumulated the many door prizes; Kath Collier, who created our website; Ted Hewitt, who we can count on to take care of our finances; Anne Gross, who organized the raffle; Don Wallace, who coordinated the Hybridizers Forum; Harold Greer and Mike Stewart, who chaired the Conference; and Nancy Greer and Maria Stewart, who coordinated the Conference. There were many more helping hands who volunteered on the spot to carry plants in and out of the sales area; to sell raffle tickets (ask Irv Snyder about his sales tactic); to explain the "name game" to members at the registrar's table (Joanne Turner); to offer brochures about local attractions at the hospitality table; and I am sure there were many other acts of kindness and help that I missed seeing. Congratulations, District 4 members, on a great Western Regional Rhododendron Conference!

Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights

By Maria Stewart

September 24, 2013

There will be an event called 'Parke Diem' on October 12th, 2013 at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and also at many other parks in Portland. The event, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Saturday, is designed to encourage volunteers to work in the parks. The Crystal Springs 'Parke Diem' work party is being coordinated by Michael Bybee.

The painting and repairs at the Smith Garden house are completed. Dick Cavender hired the contractor and supervised the work. The project greatly improved the feeling that the house is an integral part of the Garden.

We reviewed the summer season at CSRG. We now have posted rules for the Garden. The wedding season went well. During the spring, gatehouse receipts were up substantially because of the warm weather.

We are considering acquiring a new sound system for our meetings; Ray Clack is gathering information on various available systems.

Remembering Ernie Metcalfe

By Maria Stewart and the Board

There are many people who have contributed to Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, but there was one of us who came to be known as the epitome of a benefactor to Crystal Springs. Ernie Metcalfe became the "Face of the Garden" for the many projects he completed there. He was a tireless worker and exceptionally generous with his time.

In memory of Ernie and his numerous contributions to Crystal Springs, we wish to honor him by placing his name on the donor wall at the entrance to the Garden. Our thoughts are that he should be recognized for spending so much of his time and effort in building a beautiful garden for all of us to enjoy.

If you wish to contribute to the engraving of Ernie's name for placement on the donor wall, please send your donation to: Kathy Van Veen, P.O. Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286.

This appeal has been generated by the Portland Chapter Board. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Rita Knapp

We have just received news that Rita Knapp passed away on October 3, 2013. She was the Events Coordinator at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden for many years.

‘Parke Diem’ at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on October 12th

By Maria Stewart

The Portland Parks Foundation and Portland Parks and Recreation invite you to be a part of a citywide focus on volunteerism in the city parks called ‘Parke Diem’ on Saturday, October 12th.

The Portland Chapter of the ARS will participate in this focus by inviting volunteers to work in the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on that day. Other city parks will be part of the focus on October 11th, as well. The goals of these two days are (1) raising awareness of the park system’s needs, (2) boosting the participation in volunteer projects citywide, and (3) building public support for public funding of the park system.

If you wish more information about ‘Parke Diem’, go to www.portlandparksfoundation.org , or, <http://parklandia.org/parke-diem/rhodies>

If you wish to volunteer at Crystal Springs on October 12th, please contact Pat Frobes at pfrobes@me.com and she will be glad to sign you up. Our Portland Chapter will supply water, coffee and snacks for the volunteers. See you there!

September 17th Chapter meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We enjoyed a fun and very educational presentation by Mike Stewart and Kathy Van Veen on their often differing, often similar approaches to propagating deciduous azaleas. Their talk was a preview of the seminar they were to give at the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in late September, demonstrating the various methods of propagating deciduous azaleas. Mike and Kathy discussed when they take cuttings, rooting hormones, mist systems, bottom heat, depth of propagating beds, propagating mixes, nursery growing area sanitation, record-keeping and first aid preparedness - always keep plenty of bandaids handy! We saw pictures of many outstanding azaleas and hope to acquire some of them in 2014 from Mike and Kathy’s propagating efforts.

The cuttings exchange was well-supplied with freshly cut and labeled material. Our thanks to everyone who brought cuttings for the exchange!

E. White Smith presided over the raffle and reminded us to bring plants and rhody-related items for the raffle.

Mike Domaschofsky brought up the subject of Halloween; since in October we celebrate Halloween, we might want to consider bringing Halloween treats and wearing Halloween costumes for the October meeting, that being a long-standing tradition with the Portland Chapter.

Rhododendron Species Auction

October 17th Meeting

In addition to Dick Cavender's presentation on *Rhododendron occidentale*, our October meeting features the rhododendron species auction. Please, bring some plants to auction off for the benefit of the Chapter! We will also have Halloween potluck treats, and Halloween costumes, too. So bring some of your favorite Halloween treats, dress up for Halloween if you wish and remember your checkbook!



R. hodgsonii Photo: courtesy Harold Greer



R. haematodes President's Trophy winner
Exhibitor: Peter Kendall Photo: courtesy Ann Clack

Crystal Springs News

By Tom Hoffman

The Crystal Springs R.G. Maintenance Committee met Wednesday, September 25th in the Cool House. Kathy Van Veen reported on gatehouse and garden receipts; overall those figures are much increased from 2012, attributed to better weather this spring and the admissions increase from \$3.00 to \$4.00. Pat Frobes reported that the Garden had 30+ volunteers and a total of 1700 volunteer hours, year to date. Betsy Redfearn, from Portland Parks and Recreation, reported on improving security in the Garden, scheduling downed/dangerous tree removal, and her ongoing discussions with Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, and the City Planning Department, regarding the status of the dam on Crystal Springs Lake. Betsy has worked to keep Portland ARS in the loop on those talks. Rachael Moloney reported on this year's wedding season just finished.



Smith Garden photo courtesy Don Patrick

5th International Vireya Seminar

February 21 and 22nd, 2014

Hosted by the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, www.hawaiivireyars.org

Make your winter vacation plans and join us as we learn about growing and propagating vireyas in beautiful, warm and sunny Hawai'i!

Stay at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai'i (the one with the active volcano). It's centrally located, right on the Hilo Waterfront.

The Seminar will be held at the newly renovated Nani Mau Gardens just outside of Hilo. Prepare to be amazed at this beautiful location. We have several internationally-renowned speakers lined up, and are working on some very special tours, which will provide some new experiences for our visitors.

What more could you ask for? So, instead of freezing all winter, fly on over and spend some time in Hawai'i. February is right in the middle of whale-watching season and the native birds will be getting ready to nest, so be sure to bring your binoculars.

Questions? Contact Jane Adams (jane@whitecloudnursery.com) or 1-808-345-0959

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, 2015) **Caroline
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins, Bill
Zanze, 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
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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
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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: **tjhoffman56@
yahoo.com**, 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
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline
Enns**

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