

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

October 13, 2018
Smith Garden Work Party
8:00 AM 'til early afternoon; coffee, snacks and lunch will be provided

October 18, 2018
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM
Speaker: Dave Eckerdt
Topic: "Deerly Missed: A Pangram Garden"
Followed by our annual Rhododendron Species Auction!

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 and Species Auction

By Steve McCormick

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its next meeting on Thursday, **October 18, 2018**, from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM, at our regular meeting place, All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon. As usual, members and guests have the option of getting together, earlier, at the Woodstock Deli, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Our October meeting will feature Dave Eckerdt, member of the Willamette Chapter and gardener extraordinaire, presenting: "*Deerly Missed: A Pangram Garden*." Dave explains that a pangram is a single sentence that makes sense, has as few letters as possible, and uses each letter of the alphabet at least once, e.g. "A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." His two-acre "pangram" garden represents a collection of plants with at least one genus beginning with each letter of the alphabet. He promises to include visits from some critters, plus art and hardscape that contribute to the beauty of the garden they have named 'Deerly Missed'. It's a plant-collector's paradise. Don't miss it!

Dave and Pat Eckerdt live in Salem in a home begun in 1891. Their ever-changing garden is some twenty-five years old and has become a regular stop for touring garden groups. Dave's writing and photography have been included in several horticulture publications including the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. Dave is currently president of the Salem Hardy Plant Society.

Also on the agenda, Dick Cavender will once again host our annual *Rhododendron* species auction. And, perhaps most importantly, members and guests will get to know each other better, share stories, enjoy treats, and go home being more informed plant people.

Our meeting is open to members and non-members alike. Please invite your friends to join us.

Dave Eckerdt
Our speaker
for the October
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.

Chapter Calendar through November, 2018:

October 13, 2018

Smith Garden

Fall Work Day

Start: 8:00 AM, Rain or Shine

Lunch provided!

October 18, 2018

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Program: "Deerly Missed, a Pan-gram Garden"

Speaker: Dave Eckerdt

*******and our *******

Annual Rhododendron Species Auction !

October 19-20, 2018

ARS Fall Conference

Chattanooga, TN

Hosted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter

November 15, 2018

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Program: "The Preservation of Fire: Teaching the Japanese Garden Tradition in the 21st Century"

Speaker: Kristin Faurest

Haiku

From wind to no wind
the fickle maple, at it
once more

The garden's entrance
The subtle fragrance
of the gardenia

The weather worn boat
From gentle waters, the heat
of high noon

Slashes of sunlight
The gnarl of the pine, revealing
its essence

A breeze through the trees
—the fluctuating shadows
repeating themselves

Peter Kendall



President's Message for October

By Caroline Enns

Kathy Van Veen's bequest:

Before Kathy Van Veen died, she requested that the Van Veen Nursery and its library be given to the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. She made the bequest with the provision that the Nursery would be used in perpetuity for public education about and propagation of rhododendrons and azaleas. Although Kathy's will gave the Board of Directors 90 days after her death to decide if we would accept the bequest, working out the transfer of ownership with Kathy's trustee has taken significantly longer.

The transfer is now complete. We are quite excited about the opportunities that this gift will contribute to our chapter and the ARS as a whole. The Nursery will retain its name and purpose of propagating rhododendrons from cuttings for the immediate future. We envision propagation of plants for both the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, as well as for our members and for commercial sales. The October meeting of the Chapter will feature a ten-minute presentation on the bequest.

Work Party:

The Smith Garden work party will be held Saturday, October 13th. The work will start at 8:00 AM. There will be coffee, so come as bleary-eyed as you wish. The Garden will also provide snacks and lunch. The party will provide the opportunity to see the Garden in the fall, and help prepare the Garden for the 75th Anniversary ARS convention, which will be held in Portland in 2020. Both the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden and Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden will be featured sights during the convention.

October Meeting:

Don't forget to bring Halloween treats to the October 18th meeting. Karen Hanson guarantees that those in costume, with name tags, will get triple tickets for door prizes.

(PS: Don't forget your checkbook! Ed.)

(PPS: Why not create your own, personal 'want list' for the species auction? Our website, www.rhodies.org, has a list of all the rhodies about which Maria Stewart has written for this newsletter. Pulling up those articles, and going through back issues of the *Journal*, will provide a lot of 'inside information' on choice species, which just might turn up on the auction block. Who knows, you could get lucky! Ed.)

September Meeting Highlights

By Steve McCormick

The new season of speaker presentations got off to an enthusiastic start with excellent attendance and an informative talk by Bruce Palmer, ARS Gold Medal winner and member of the Eureka Chapter. Bruce's *What's in a Name* discussed the history of plant taxonomy in the Ericaceae family and, specifically, the characteristics of the genus *Rhododendron* (from the Greek "rose tree"), starting with the pre-Linnaeus era (prior to 1700) up through the current DNA revelations being made by Ben Hall and his researchers at the University of Washington. Bruce made a challenging topic understandable and logical. One of his two handouts was a reprint of a 2005 *Systematic Botany* article, prepared by Ben Hall and associates from the UW Dept. of Biology, proposing modifications in *Rhododendron* classification.

The meeting began with the traditional social time, giving members a chance to meet guests and get re-acquainted after the summer break, followed by chapter business notes from President Caroline Enns and our annual cuttings exchange. Members who brought cuttings had first choice of a wide variety of types and forms of rhododendrons, while other members were able to scoop up the unclaimed cuttings after the talk. Karen Hanson greeted members at the door, which, by the new church policy, must remain locked if not attended (if you come late, ring the bell!). Joanne Turner arranged for the usual complement of door prizes, and our hard-working hospitality crew provided treats and coffee, featuring amazing home-made goodies by Caroline and others. Bronze medals were awarded to past President, Dennis O'Malley and to John Stephens and Steve McCormick.

Memorial Service for Don Patrick

By Dick and Karen Cavender

Long-time member of the Portland, Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, Don Patrick, passed away peacefully the evening of September 28, 2018. He was surrounded by his wife Dorothy and their children.

Don and Dorothy attended meetings at all three chapters until they could no longer drive after dark. Both Don and Dorothy were dedicated volunteers at Smith Garden, staffing both the gatehouse and plant sale area. Dorothy also handled depositing the proceeds of both. Don and Dorothy were both awarded the Bronze Medal by the Portland Chapter in 1995 for their many years of service.

We had the pleasure of joining Don and Dorothy for dinner to celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary in July. Don was 89 last March.

A memorial service for Don Patrick will be held on Thursday, October 4th at 11:00 AM at Wilhelm's Portland Memorial. The service will be followed by a reception.

Wilhelm's Portland Memorial is located at 6705 SE 14th Avenue in Portland. The building is located on the north corner of SE 13th & Bybee with the entrance on SE 14th.

Smith Garden Fall Work Day: Directions to the Garden

From Portland:

Take I-5 south to Exit 278 (Donald exit)

Go West (right) at exit, onto Ehlen Road for 7 miles, to the junction with Hwy 219.

Turn right onto Hwy 219 for 3/4 mile and look for blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Follow Heirloom Roses sign, turning left onto Champoeg Road,

Go straight onto Raybell Road at dairy barn where Champoeg Road turns to the right.

Smith Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/2 mile on right side of Raybell Road.NE

Parking and entrance are just past the house with the garden address.

From 99W:

Go north or south on 99W to Newberg.

Turn south onto Hwy 219 just north of downtown Newberg.

Go south for 3 miles to the Willamette River bridge and cross the river.

At less than 1/2 mile past the river, look for blue Heirloom Roses sign.

Follow Heirloom Roses sign and turn right onto Champoeg Road.

Go straight onto Raybell Road at dairy barn, where Champoeg Road turns to the right.

Smith Garden is at 5055 Raybell Road NE, about 1/2 mile on right side of Raybell Road NE.

Parking and entrance are just past the house with the garden address.



Autumn Color

Parrotia persica

Deciduous companion plants for rhododendrons, with good autumn color.

Ilex verticillata

Both photographs by Mike Stewart



Another Section Pogonanthum Gem: *R. cephalanthum*

By Maria Stewart

You will have to forgive me for writing about another species from the Pogonanthum Section, especially when *R. anthopogon* was featured in January's newsletter. At least I gave you a break of a few months from reading about their distinctive daphne-like flowers and their small, densely scaly and aromatic leaves. Although the flowers will intrigue you and the dark green leaves will draw your attention, these lovely dwarfs has certain requirements: perfect drainage, cool roots, very little fertilizer and soil with a near neutral pH. Think about alpine plants living in scree with mist floating all around them. Achieving that niche in your garden will be a challenge well worth exploring!

Here is more about *R. cephalanthum*:

Classification:: *Subgenus*: Rhododendron *Section*: Pogonanthum

About the name: "with flowers in a head"

Distribution in the wild: Yunnan, Szechwan, SE Tibet, North Burma (Myanmar) and Arunachal Pradesh at 9,000 to 16,000 feet in elevation; found on rocky slopes, cliffs and on limestone.

Flowers: 5 to 10 corollas per truss formed in a daphne-like head; each corolla has a narrow tube with spreading lobes; pale pink to rose colored; ssp. *Platyphyllum* has white flowers; the Nmaiense Group has cream to pale yellow flowers and the *Crebreflorum* Group has pink flowers.

Leaves: Dark green with many scales beneath and some forms have scales on the top surfaces, also; strongly scented; elliptic or oblong-elliptic .

Structure: The *Crebreflorum* Group is the smallest growing and almost prostrate; the other forms can grow to 2 feet in ten years. The best forms are tightly compact.

Hardiness: - 5 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: needs excellent drainage; cool roots, very little fertilizer and soil with a pH near neutral.

Guide to the photographs on page 7:

- (1) *R. cephalanthum* ssp. *cephalanthum* (Hans Eiberg)
- (2) *R. cephalanthum* ssp. *cephalanthum* *Crebreflorum* Group (J. Birck)
- (3) *R. cephalanthum* ssp. *platyphyllum* (Danish Chapter)
- (4) *R. cephalanthum* ssp. *cephalanthum* *Nmaiense* Group (Hans Eiberg)

(1)



(4)



(2)



(3)



Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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phens, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart**
(Through June 30, 2020):
**David Anderson Ann Clack, Ray Clack,
Joanne Turner, Brenda Ziegler**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:

Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Tours/Volunteering:
csrgvol@gmail.com

Gatehouse:

Stephanie Kress, 503-267-7509
Friends of Crystal Springs:

Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Events:

Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Chair: Open

Newsletter, membership, and
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dues to both the national society and
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