

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

December 20, 2018 Winter Solstice Potluck and Gift

**6:30 PM: Social hour,
set-up and decorate the
tables**

7:00 PM: Dinner

**Potluck: Bring your
favorite dish to share.**

**Gift Exchange: Bring
one or more inexpen-
sive gifts to share.**

**Program: Our mem-
bers present a program
of their own slides and
digital images.**

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



December Program

By Steve McCormick

December's meeting features our annual winter solstice potluck banquet and gift exchange. As custom has it, this is an opportunity for our regular members to step up as guest speakers for the month. In the setting of seasonal socializing, we welcome and encourage members to share a few images of their own interests, gardens, or favorite experiences from the past year (a dozen or so slides per person). And they don't necessarily need to be rhododendron-related. Luurt Nieuwenhuis, for example, expressed his interest in mycology by sharing some remarkable photos of fungi in his garden at one recent December event. We'll provide a laptop and projector for the digital images and will bring a slide projector if you request one. We would also appreciate your advance notice that you would like to have a slot in the program.

Several of us were fortunate enough to make the trek to Germany this past May for the annual international ARS convention. This unique European event consisted of a partnering of the German Rhododendron Society (Deutsche Rhododendron Gesellschaft) and the American Rhododendron Society, co-hosted in Bremen. We'll share a brief view of the conference city and garden tours with you as part of the member presentations.

The Portland meeting will be held at its usual location - All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd - on Thursday, December 20th. This meeting will start a little earlier than usual, at 6:30 PM, for set-up and socializing before the 7:00 PM dinner. Our meetings are always open to members and non-members alike. Please invite your friends to join us. Again, we encourage you to enjoy a relaxed evening of holiday cheer with your fellow rhododendron enthusiasts, share a favorite side dish for the potluck, and enjoy some member-contributed visuals.

Bremen Rhododendron Park
Photo by Steve McCormick



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 January, 2019:

December 20, 2018
**Winter Solstice Party,
 Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange**
Set-up 6:30 pm
Dining 7:00 pm
Program: Members' Presentations

December 21, 2018
**Winter begins in the northern
 hemisphere**

January 17, 2019
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM
**Program: Rhododendrons in the
 SF Botanical Garden**
**Speaker: Justin Martinez, Horti-
 culturalist with the Strybing Arbo-
 retum, San Francisco Botanical
 Garden**

February 21, 2019
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM
**Program: "Form Plus Function;
 Building Better Adapted Rhodo-
 dendrons"**
**Speaker: Steve Krebs, Director,
 David G. Leach Research Station**
 *****And*****

Our Companion Plant Auction

Haiku

Measuring the time
 it takes a raindrop to fall
 a measured distance

Catching the breeze
 the fully opened maple leaf
 ahead of itself

So small as to be
 barely visible, flowers
 of the maple

The notch in the tree
 opening and closing to
 the towhee's flutter

The upside down stone
 wending its way right side up
 indeliberately

Peter Kendall

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

20/20
 VISION



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

President's Message for December

By Caroline Enns

Let there be light.

Our gardens are shutting down. A few days before Thanksgiving, some of our Chrysanthemums persist in their fall glory, but the last of our azaleas are losing their color. *R. schlippenbachii* finished its annual second bloom at the end of September, and then its red foliage about a month ago. The rhododendron with the best fall color we've ever had, *R. cephalanthum*, featured in Maria's portrait for the October newsletter, is an even more distant memory. We killed the last of a series over a decade ago.

In this darkest season, we provide our own light. Even this year, when the quality of the presentations and attendance at our meetings have been outstanding, the Chapter's Winter Solstice Party promises to be a highlight. Every year we wonder at the thoughtfulness of the gifts that we take home, always without knowing whom to thank. Every year we hear that the dish which Karen Cavender always brings was better than ever, and always find that it is gone long before we reach it. Every year the members' presentations are engaging and entertaining. Every year only Paul Rogers manages to abide by the restriction to 12 slides, although not without serious encouragement. Every year, a good time is had by all.

There are other sources of excitement. The buds are not yet swelling, but they are there. The lists of the new year's seeds, both from the RSBG and the national ARS, are just weeks away. The cuttings obtained at the September meeting are starting to put on new growth. Not all, of course, and certainly not the 95% rate of success that Kathy achieved at the VVN just a few years ago. But enough to warm the cockles of any gardener's heart. And best of all, Dick Cavender's mantra: the first day of winter is when the days grow longer.

ARS Membership Renewals for 2019 Are Due

Thank you if you have already submitted your 2019 membership renewal. If not, please consider this note as a reminder. Renewing soon insures your receiving the Winter 2019 issue of the *ARS Journal*.

If you prefer to renew online, using a credit or debit card, please follow these steps:

Registered users can renew online at www.arsoffice.org

If you are not yet registered, go to www.arsoffice.org and submit a username and password. You will also need to provide your ARS member number. If you do not have a record of that number, call us at 206-612-7000 or email us and we will provide it.

Thank you for your support of the American Rhododendron Society and its Portland Chapter. Your membership is important to the ARS and we hope we can count on you to continue with us in the coming year.

ARS Portland Chapter Membership Co-Chairs

John Stephens (PC.ARS@outlook.com)

Steve McCormick (ssmccormick@outlook.com)

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

**20/20
VISION**



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

You're invited to the celebration!



World-renowned Keynote Speakers

Kenneth Cox • Jens Nielsen • Steve Hootman
Lionel de Rothschild • Steve Krebs • Valerie Sosa

**Tours to the Northwest's
Outstanding Gardens & Nurseries**

November Meeting Highlights

By Steve McCormick

What a treat going into the holidays- another full house of ARS members, guests and friends, and a fascinating talk from our guest presenter, Dr. Kristin Faurest, Director of the International Japanese Garden Training Center at the Portland Japanese Garden. President Caroline Enns welcomed the assembly, which included several members of the local Master Gardeners group, Japanese gardening enthusiasts, who had heard that our speaker would be there to offer a focus on that topic. Caroline noted that Crystal Springs and Smith Garden are "in bed" for the winter. And the Van Veen Nursery, which recently came under the chapter's ownership, continues its improvements under the contributed supervision of "retired" nurseryman Mike Stewart. Among other items of business, it was announced that the chapter's former bookkeeper, Bruce Krohn, had recently lost his wife, Kathe, who had been battling Alzheimer's. Bruce joined our Chapter in 1987 and later volunteered to do the bookkeeping, for which the Chapter showed its appreciation, awarding him the singular Bronze Medal for 2014.

After the raffle for door prizes was complete and homemade treats were enjoyed, our guest speaker was introduced. Dr. Faurest shared photos of some of the different "garden style" areas of the eight acre Portland Japanese Garden, which anticipates 600,000 visitors in 2019. She walked us through some of the types of public lectures, programs, and garden workshops available to registrants. Dr. Faurest noted that garden docents are available to guide visitors through the garden, pointing out the culture, aesthetics and tradition of Japanese gardening. We learned why plants are not labeled: Japanese tradition means not calling attention to the individual. We were shown why a landscape may be designed to get rougher, as a destination (tea house, in this case) comes closer, so that one's attention is focused on individual footsteps, clearing the mind and cleansing the spirit before the tea ceremony. And some of us gasped to hear that, while a burst of color in an azalea path might be welcomed in one setting, the blooms from some rhododendrons might be removed if they don't lend to a singular palette of greens in another. Here's to rhododendron foliage!

2019 Spring Home & Garden Show February 21 -24 at the Portland Expo Center: Volunteers Wanted!!

Show schedule: Setup Wednesday, 2/20/2019, around 10:00 AM; Take Down Monday 2/25/2019, around 10:00 AM; Show opens at 10:00 AM, closes at 8:00 PM Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday closing at 6:00 PM.

Volunteer Opportunities: staffing our garden information table, 3 and 4 hour shifts are widely available at present. Thursday 2/21 is completely open, Friday 2/22 is completely filled, Saturday 2/23 has 4 shifts open and Sunday 2/24 has 2 shifts unfilled. Setup and takedown always need more hands.

Please see Dick Cavender at the December meeting if you are interested, or contact him at red@redsrhodies.com, telephone 503-25-6331. A sign-up sheet will be circulating at the December meeting.

A Species to Captivate Your Interest: *R. ochraceum*

By Maria Stewart

Since 2011, when I started writing articles about rhododendrons for our newsletter, I frequently chose those with red blooms for the month of December. *Rhododendron ochraceum* certainly follows that Christmas “theme”. Never heard of this one? In terms of rhododendron exploration, *R. ochraceum* is a fairly recent discovery. Steve Hootman introduced it into cultivation in 1995, with the I.D. number of SEH #080, after he and Peter Cox found it in the Jin Pin Mountains of southern Sichuan, not far from the Yangtze River. Ken Cox says that this species is one of the most important introductions in recent years.

R. ochraceum is related to *R. strigillosum*, except *R. ochraceum* has indumentum that covers the undersides of its leaves. It even resembles *R. strigillosum*. However, its leaves are smaller than *R. strigillosum* and it slowly grows into a low or medium size structure that sets it apart from its “cousin”.

Here is more about *R. ochraceum*:

Classification:: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthes *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Maculifera

Distribution in the wild: Central, Southern, SE Sichuan, and NE Yunnan at 5,500 to 10,000 feet in broadleaf forests, on cliffs and rocky slopes and in thickets along stream banks.

Flowers: tight and rounded trusses of 6 to 12 corollas; rich scarlet to dark red; has deep purple nectaries in the base of each corolla; blooms in March to April. .

Leaves: Oblanceolate and medium green with light brown indumentum that covers the undersides of the leaves. (In the Subsection Maculifera, *R. ochraceum* and *R. pachysanthum* are the only two members that have indumentum persistently covering the leaves.)

Structure: grows slowly and compactly into a low to medium height..

Hardiness: -10 to -15 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: The blooms are fairly early, so a light canopy would protect them. Otherwise, this rhododendron is hardy! .



R. ochraceum. Photo courtesy of the RSBG.

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

PO Box 86424,
Portland, OR 97286-0424
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Vice President: **Steve McCormick**
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Treasurer: **Dick Cavender**

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(Through June 30, 2019) :
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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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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
Stephens & Stephen McCor-
mi ck, Membershi p Co-Chai rs
e-mai l :
j.d.stephens@outlook.com
ssmccormick@outlook.com