

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

**January 17, 2019**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Social time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**February 21, 2019**  
**Regular meeting plus**  
**Companion Plant**  
**Auction**  
**Social time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**March 21, 2019**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Social time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**

## 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



## JANUARY 2019 PROGRAM

**By Steve McCormick**

Fast away the old year passes! We're into a new year and looking forward to our first meeting of the Portland Chapter on January 17<sup>th</sup>, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd. We'll start at 7pm, as usual, and hope you might consider joining some of the members at the Woodstock Wine & Deli (across the street) at 5pm at the regular (optional) get-together for a little libation or sandwich prior.

Continuing our excellent lineup of speakers for the 2018-2019 season, we welcome Jason Martinez, the Horticulturist who cares for the Rhododendron, Mediterranean, and Ancient Plant Gardens at the Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Jason will share some of the garden's current developments and highlight some of the rhododendron specimens that make the garden unique. He'll show some of the changes and additions to the Rhododendron Garden as a whole, and he'll conclude with photos of Rhododendron Country that have inspired him over the years, contributing to his understanding of how to care for them as well as expressing his admiration for the genus Rhododendron.

Jason is a native Californian, Born at Fort Ord in Monterey County. He went to high school in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada where he studied Fire Science. His love for the outdoors and travel opportunities led him to the US Forest Service for 4 years, followed by a move to San Francisco to pursue a career with SF Fire. He started gardening and decided to start his own landscaping business. In 2005, he was hired by the SF Recreation and Parks Department and landed a position at Strybing Arboretum, now SF Botanical Garden. Jason enjoys studying the flora and fauna of specific regions and has had the opportunity to travel to China, Sikkim, and Costa Rica in search of plants.

Our meeting is open to members and non-members alike. Bring a friend and get them excited about rhododendrons with this excellent talk. As always, we encourage you to take this opportunity to get to know the members better, share stories, enjoy treats, and go home being more informed plant people.

## 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 March, 2019:

**January 17, 2019**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: Rhododendrons in the SF Botanical Garden**

**Speaker: Jason Martinez, Horticulturalist with the Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco Botanical Garden**

**February 21 - 24, 2019**

**Spring Home & Garden Show**

**Portland Expo Center**

**Set-up Wednesday 2/20/19, 10:00 AM,**

**Take-down Monday 2/25/2019, 10:00 AM**

**February 21, 2019**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: "Form Plus Function; Building Better Adapted Rhododendrons"**

**Speaker: Steve Krebs, Director, David G. Leach Research Station  
\*\*\*\*\*And\*\*\*\*\***

**Our Companion Plant Auction**

**March 21, 2019**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: "Rhododendrons on the Edges"**

**Speaker: Steve Hootman, RSBG**

## Haiku

The rippling shadows  
rippling from nowhere from  
who knows where

A low slung sun  
casting shadows and sun in  
so many places

Rhythms of the koi  
passing and surpassing  
one another

Slowly shedding its  
leaves as well as its color  
the reluctant maple

The foggy morning  
concealing sun and shadow  
and all directions



Jason Martinez, Horticulturalist with SF Botanic Garden, our January speaker.

## December President's Letter

By Caroline Enns

This year's Winter Solstice Party was a grand success. Seven tables dressed to the nines, a cast of old friends and a few new, more than enough presents to go around, and a potluck dinner of delectables that we consumed almost completely.

Our program featured six presentations:

Josef Judy, with help from Moe Billingsly, both from AmeriCorps in Vancouver. Mr. Judy is a public space steward, whose responsibilities include the Cy Ward Garden at SE St. James and 54<sup>th</sup>. Our senior members remember Cy, who received our Chapter's bronze medal in 1978. Cy sold and hybridized rhododendrons at his nursery just down the street from the Garden in his name. The garden is reasonably small, and emphasizes rhododendrons, which Mr. Judy considers outside his expertise. He is seeking volunteers to help maintain the Garden both at a work-party on 12 January (<https://www.cityofvancouver.us/cmo/webform/volunteer-cy-ward-rhododendron-garden-beautification-project>) and in the longer term.

Paul Rogers won the award for the most concise presentation with his single slide of a quintet of volunteers at the Jenkins Estate just the other day when his beard had not yet acquired its distinguished grey.

Luurt Nieuwenhuis presented pictures taken in his garden that featured a range of scales, from interesting foliage to virtually microscopic images of insects, fungi, and molds. Luurt has explained the magic he performs to obtain his resolution, which remains beyond most of us. We still marvel at the clarity and interesting features of his pictures.

Dick Cavender featured *R. occidentale*, but emphasized features that most of us hadn't seen before. He included one flower that looks nothing like a rhododendron, and two distinctly short clones – Miniskirts and another that hasn't been named, even informally – that he is working on propagating.

Ann and Ray Clack presented jumpers – the horses, not the dresses – and mustangs – the cars, not the horses – and their collection of big-leafed rhododendrons that they have grown from seed and recently planted out. We're all hoping for success, and cuttings.

Steve McCormick and John Stephens finished the evening with a review of the ARS Convention in Europe last summer. They reminded those of us who made the trip what a great conference it was, and educated us on where all those bus rides had taken us.

Looking forward, January features the ARS Seed Exchange, which opens in early January, before this newsletter reaches you. The RSBG also generally posts a new list of their seeds shortly into the new year. Given a little warmth, such as on top of your poorly insulated water-heater, rhododendrons grow easily from seeds. At this dark and dreary time of year, nothing can be more invigorating than sheets of seedlings that will grow into plants to share with your colleagues. If your ignorance intimidates you, get the seeds, and then talk with Ray.

This is also the season to give thanks. This year we had donations in memory of Don Patrick and Kathe Strongfield Krohn as well as end of the year donations to the Portland Chapter of the ARS.

## American Rhododendron Society

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

20/20  
VISION



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

### In Memoriam, Dr. Lansing W. Bulgin, 1921 - 2018

A former member of the Portland Chapter, ARS, Dr. Lansing W. Bulgin passed away December 2, 2018, age 97. In addition to his career in education, Dr. Bulgin set up a rhododendron nursery in Sherwood, Oregon, Ellanhurst Gardens, in 1975, dedicated to hybridizing, propagating and growing rhododendrons. A celebration of life is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019, 2:00 PM at Capital Manor in Salem, Oregon.

Dr. Bulgin's obituary was published in *The Statesman Journal*, Salem, Oregon on December 12, 2018 and is available online at the Statesman Journal website. ( Just type in "Statesman Journal" on your search line.)

Thanks to Anne Gross for clipping and sending us his obituary for our newsletter.



R. 'Taurus' Photo courtesy of Harold Greer.



Cy Ward, photographer unknown.



Luurt & Jeanette's Holiday Greeting

Annual Solstice Potluck, December 20, 2018



Photos by David Anderson. Pictured, left to right: 1st row, Karen Hanson, Ann Clack; 2nd row, Betsy Soifer, Steve Krasik (Willamette Chapter), Paul Rogers; 3rd row, Josef Judy (AmeriCorps guest), Joanne Turner.

## Subsection Falconera: A Group of Splendid Species

By Maria Stewart

In the words of Ken Cox: "These large-leaved species make magnificent foliage plants and are a must for every garden in moderate areas, as long as you can provide wind shelter." The members of Subsection Falconera are *R. arizelum*, *R. basicilicum*, *R. coriaceum*, *R. falconeri*, *R. galactinum*, *R. heatheriae*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. preptum*, *R. rex*, *R. rothschildii*, *R. semnoides* and *R. sinofalconeri*. For this article, I will concentrate on *R. falconeri* and its subspecies *eximium*.

*R. falconeri* has been described as one of the most magnificent of the *Rhododendron* genus. It can live for over a hundred years in your garden and its flowers will last for almost a month each year. With its trusses of up to 20 corollas and its large, dark green leaves with rust to brown indumentum underneath, *R. falconeri* grows into a strikingly large shrub or tree.

Here is more about *R. falconeri* and *R. falconeri* ssp. *eximium*:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthes *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Falconera

About the names: *R. falconeri* is named after H. Falconer and ssp. *eximium* means "excellent".

Distribution in the wild: *R. falconeri* is found in E. Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and W. Arunachal Pradesh at 9,000 to 11,000 feet in elevation. Ssp. *eximium* is found in Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh at 9,000 to 11,000 feet.

Flowers: *R. falconeri* has 12 to 20 corollas in colors of white, cream, or pale yellow with a purple basal blotch. Ssp. *eximium* has 12 to 20 corollas which open as rose-colored, then fade to creamy pink. The corollas sometimes have blotches.

Leaves: *R. falconeri*'s thick and handsome, somewhat wrinkled green leaves can be as large as 12" long by 10" wide. Their undersides are covered with attractive rusty brown indumentum. Ssp. *eximium*'s new leaves make quite a contrast with the green leaves of previous years. Their upper surfaces are covered with a semi-persistent rusty-brown indumentum and the undersides are covered with a deep cinnamon-colored indumentum.

Structure: As noted above, *R. falconeri* will grow into a large shrub or tree. Some experts say that it can grow into a tree that is 40 feet high. Ssp. *eximium* generally does not grow as large, but it is still a magnificent foliage rhododendron.

Hardiness: +10 degrees F. for both species.

Siting in your garden: They both make fantastic woodland garden plants where they are protected from the wind.

*R. falconeri* in a New Zealand garden.  
Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart.



New growth on *R. falconeri*  
ssp. *eximium*. Photo  
courtesy RSBG.



Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

PO Box 86424,  
Portland, OR 97286-0424  
ADDRESS SERVICE  
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: *Caroline Enns*  
Vice President: *Steve McCormick*  
Past President: *Dennis O'Malley*  
Secretary: *Steve Hopkins*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2019) :  
**Steve Hall, Betsy Soifer, John Ste-  
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](mailto:dvmclau@comcast.net)  
Tours/Volunteering:  
[csrgvol@gmail.com](mailto:csrgvol@gmail.com)

Gatehouse:

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

**Dan McLaughlin,**  
[dvmclau@comcast.net](mailto:dvmclau@comcast.net)  
Events:

**Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743**

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Chair: Open

Newsletter, membership, and  
ownership: The Portland Chapter is  
a local Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined annual  
dues to both the national society and  
local chapter are \$40. Membership  
benefits include nine or more newslet-  
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tor, at: [tjhoffman56@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:j.d.stephens@outlook.com)  
[ssmccormick@outlook.com](mailto:ssmccormick@outlook.com)