

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

**March 21, 2019**  
**Regular meeting**  
**Social time 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**Speaker: Steve Hootman, RSBG**

**April 6 - 7, 2019**  
**Early Show and Sale**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**CHANGE OF APRIL**  
**MEETING DATE TO**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL**  
**25, 2019**

## 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



## MARCH PROGRAM

By Steve McCormick

We're on a roll! The upcoming March meeting features one of the most prominent people in the world of rhododendrons. Steve Hootman will get you so excited about rhododendrons in bloom, especially early-blooming species, that you'll hardly notice the occasional frost on the buds. Steve, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, makes a welcome return with reports of his latest plant-hunting expedition and what promises to be a jaw-dropping talk called "*Rhododendron Hunting on the Edges, the search for new Rhododendron introductions in the outlying regions of south-central and eastern China*"

The RSBG maintains one of the largest collections of species rhododendrons in the world and is committed to disseminating information about them, as well as plants and seeds. Steve Hootman has become a foremost international authority on Rhododendron taxonomy and distribution. He was awarded the ARS's highest honor, the Gold Medal, in 2007 for his internationally significant work with genus Rhododendron. Steve is an intrepid plant explorer and regularly visits the more remote parts of China, Vietnam, India, Tibet, and Papua New Guinea to discover, identify, and acquire new species. He will discuss and show images of the enigmatic outlying species that occur far from the main concentration of rhododendrons in the Himalayas and western China. In addition to the amazing scenery and interesting ethnic minorities, the focus will be on some of the exciting new species that have been introduced including *R. shanii* and *R. dachengense* of Subsection Taliensia as well as many of the new Subsection Fortunea such as *platypodum*, *yuefengense*, *faithiae*, *maoerense*, and the true *cardiobasis*. We were there when Steve first gave this talk at the Bremen international conference this past May, so we know you'll find it fascinating and informative.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, the 21st, from 7-9pm, at the All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd, in Portland. Spread the word! This will be another excellent occasion to share with a friend or fellow plant-enthusiast, and we always welcome guests. You can get a head start on the socializing by joining members who assemble, starting at 5pm, at the Woodstock Wine & Deli, across the street from All Saints. We encourage you to be a part of this exciting evening, to get to know other members better, share tales of your own garden, and go home a better-informed plant person.

PLEASE NOTE: OUR APRIL MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019, ONE WEEK LATER THAN IT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED.

## 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 May, 2019:

**March 21, 2019**

**Regular meeting**

**Social time 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Program: "Rhododendron Hunting on the Edges"**

**Speaker: Steve Hootman, RSBG**

**March 23, 2019**

**Smith Garden Spring Work Day**

**Start: 8 or 9 AM, work as long as you want. Lunch will be served.**

**April 6th-7th, 2019:**

**Early Show and Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**April 6th & 7th, 2019: First Open Days, Smith Garden**

**PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF APRIL MEETING DATE TO THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 :**

**April 25, 2019**

**Annual Business Meeting**

**Program: "The Early Days: the History of Greer Gardens"**

**Speaker: Harold Greer**

**Followed by our Annual Hybrid Rhododendron Auction!**

## Haiku

The only sound  
—the gnashing of branches  
—the whistling of the wind

After a night's gusts  
a winter's morning, brushed  
only by the hawk

Shadow upon shadow  
the definition of the  
night sky

In its own way  
each tree finding its path  
to the sky

The morning dew  
has yet to dissipate  
before the sun

Peter Kendall



Steve Hootman, our March speaker

### The Call of Spring:

The time is upon us! The hibernation is over. When this newsletter reaches you, we will be just a few weeks short of the Vernal Equinox, and the official start of Spring. Our gardens are about to explode.

Flowers are surely the best part of the season, but the opportunities to learn are not far behind. The information embedded in our Chapter is one of the major reasons to belong. The knowledge of our senior members can occasionally be intimidating. “Pinch, don’t cut”, said Dave Goheen in his most authoritative, dogmatic, and slightly irritated tone. But their generosity is also legendary. “Here, take this full-grown rhododendron home with you,” said Dave Goheen to a junior member visiting his garden. For those of us charter members of the Chapter’s Brown Thumb Division, the information that the Chapter carries with it is invaluable. And access to it couldn’t be easier. All you need is proximity to the source. The cognoscenti just can’t help themselves. They just love sharing what they know.

And the best way to rub shoulders with your colleagues is to participate in the Chapter’s many Spring activities. There are numerous opportunities at both of our two gardens. The Work Party at the Smith Garden comes first, on March 23. The volunteers who are again meeting at Crystal Springs on Wednesdays make the Garden more delightful every time we visit. You can host the Smith Garden every weekend day from April 6 to May 19. The Early and Mothers’ Day Sales and Shows have opportunities for all levels of expertise. Participation in these several events is collegial, satisfying, and inspirational for what can be done on your balcony or estate. And these activities are informative. Where else could you learn how to perform CPR on a squirrel? By Caroline Enns

## Spring Home & Garden Show 2019

### Dick Cavender Reports:

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to staff our garden at the show. I hope you were able to enjoy the show as well as attending to duties. I have had one very complimentary message regarding their interactions with our staff.

We did collect about 30 email addresses that I will be forwarding to the three Chapters. Hope we can get a few new attendees at our meeting. A few new members would be nice as well.

Great job!

Thanks,

Dick

**RHODODENDRON &  
DAFFODIL SHOW AND SALE**  
AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN



**SATURDAY, April 6<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**  
**5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland**

will host the

**Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Daffodil Society's**  
**Annual Show and Sale**

**THE SHOW:** a judged flower show in the Exhibit Hall.

**TO ENTER, BRING YOUR RHODODENDRON TRUSSES TO THE EXHIBIT HALL:**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday.

**THE SALE:** in the parking lot beyond the Exhibit Hall  
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE GARDEN

More information: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org) or 503 771-8386

**Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society**

**American Rhododendron Society**

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**20/20**  
**VISION**



*Looking forward, reflecting back*

**Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020**

**Smith Garden 2019 Schedule**

Spring Work Party: March 23, 2019

Garden Opens: April 6, 2019

Garden Closes: May 19, 2019

Summer Soiree: August 15, 2019

Fall Work Party: October 12, 2019

Lots of opportunities! Please volunteer!

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

By Steve McCormick

We experienced record attendance again for the February meeting, which featured the annual companion plant auction and a fascinating talk by our guest speaker, Steve Krebs, Director of the David G. Leach Research Station, a 30-acre facility operated by Holden Forests and Gardens, in Madison, Ohio. Steve is currently the ARS Eastern Regional VP.

Steve's talk *Form Plus Function: Building Better Adapted Rhododendrons* delved into the "resistance" theme with an in-depth look at the root rot pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Its presence can be confirmed by DNA testing, and its symptoms are probably familiar to us all – drooping leaves, brown dead roots, and girdled bark around crown of the plant. Steve is using the Taiwanese species *R. hyperythrum* to transfer both disease resistance and heat tolerance into a new breed of rhododendrons. The first commercial introduction, trade named Splendor™, was completed in 2018. As part of the Southgate™ collection, Splendor™ and its companion rhododendrons have a unique ability to grow in Gulf South climates as well as the more traditional northern regions of cultivation. In addition, Steve has been trialing a German proprietary rootstock called INKARHO™ that was developed for higher pH tolerance. In the course of the Ohio field evaluations, it was discovered that INKARHO™ is also resistant to root rot disease. This trait will increase the adaptability of INKARHO™ to a range of challenging soil conditions. The overall goal: to produce commercial rhododendrons that are more vigorous as well as more resistant to root rot, extreme temps, and alkaline pH. Let's cheer them on!

The companion plant auction, perhaps fueled by the energy from Valentine sweets, was spirited and competitive. Some of the stars of the show: maples *Acer palmatum* 'Aka shigitatsu sawa' and 'Tamukeyama' (Steve Hopkins wins) and *Acer palmatum* 'Beni otake' (Ron Mapes win). Some rare contributions from Dick Cavender: his 'Double Dig 12' – the only tetraploid *R. occidentale* (Dan McLaughlin victory) and 'Frilly star' (David Anderson's score). The evening began with a crowd at the Woodstock Deli and ended with a satisfied contingent of rhodophile members and friends.



*Phytophthora cinnamomi*



A typical victim



Rhododendron 'Splendor'(TM)

Photos by S. Krebs

## Smith Garden Open Days & Work Party

By Anne Gross and Dick Cavender

We are amazed at how quickly the open garden season is approaching for Smith Garden. We have only one meeting left before our first open weekend on April 6th and 7th. So, this is the time of year that we start begging for volunteers to work at the Smith Garden on open garden days selling plants and/or taking admissions. It is only for 5 hours, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on a Saturday or Sunday in April or May. It is easy. The plants usually sell themselves. And there is a copy of Greer's Guide for back-up. We are open to the public only 14 days out of 365. Please help us out and volunteer.

For the open days, we need the following: April 7th, 2 people. That is our Early Show & Sale. For April 20th, we have one possible and need one more person. For April 28th, we need 2 people, May 11th & 12th, Mother's Day weekend, 2 people each day, preferably from another Chapter. May 18th & 19th, 2 people each day.

We only need 2 people a day minimum, but 4 people is nice as it is a good time to enjoy visiting with another person or couple. Sometimes it is so busy you hardly have time to visit, but talking with customers is fun also and you might talk them into joining the rhododendron society. Again, it is only for 5 hours, not including travel time. Bring a sack lunch or cookies to munch on and enjoy the day. The garden is gorgeous in the spring.

Please email Anne Gross [agross@teleport.com](mailto:agross@teleport.com) or Dick Cavender [red@redsrhodies.com](mailto:red@redsrhodies.com), 'phone 503-625-6331.

Our Spring Work Day is March 23, 2019, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, come whenever you can manage, and work as long as you want. Bring gloves and your favorite hand tools. There are chores for all skill levels. Hot drinks and a potluck lunch will be provided. We would really appreciate all the help we can get. We will be doing our traditional sun dance, but this will be a rain or shine event, so come prepared. It is also a good opportunity to visit the garden. If anyone would like more information, please give Dick Cavender a call at 503-625-6331. [Directions can be found at www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org). The garden address is: 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, Oregon

Thank you!

Bald Eagle at Crystal Springs R.G. Photo courtesy of Richard Larson.



## R. albrechtii: A Richly Colored Beauty

By Maria Stewart

In the Subgenus Pentathera, you will find many beautiful deciduous rhododendrons. To name only a few members of this subgenus will reveal the fine merits of the entire group: *R. arborescens*, *R. luteum*, *R. occidentale*, *R. quinquefolium*, *R. schlippenbachii*, *R. vaseyi* and *R. viscosum*. Some of your favorites may be included in this classification. Growing in the wild in North America, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, China, Japan, Korea and Manchuria, they are well-suited for our Pacific Northwest gardens.

This article focuses on *R. albrechtii*, considered to be one of the best of Subgenus Pentanthera.

Classification: *Subgenus*: Pentathera *Section*: Sciadorhodium

About the name: named after Dr. Michael Albrecht, a Russian naval surgeon.

Distribution in the wild: grows at 3,300 feet in Central and Northern Japan.

Flowers: 2 to 5 corollas bloom before or with the new leaves; each corolla is very open and about 2 inches wide with a rich rose to deep rose-purple color; blooms in March to early April.

Its early blooms make a great display!

Leaves: alternating, but sometimes the terminal leaves look like whorls of 5 leaves; hairy margins on upper and lower sides of leaves.

Structure: About four feet in 10 years; grows slowly.

Hardiness: -15 degrees F., but needs frost protection for its early blooms and leaves.

Siting in your garden: Grows best in woodland conditions; prefers the *coolest area* of your garden.

*R. albrechtii*

Photo: Arboretum Mustila, Finland



*R. albrechtii*

Photo: Hirsutum



## Visiting Hinsdale Garden: Hosted Open Dates

The dates now set for this year are: April 13, April 27 and May 11. Parking will be at the Elk Viewing Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, with shuttle service to the main garden. The local Friends organization will host a greeting area in the garden, where maps and other information will be provided.

A second option is a self-guided tour. You can choose this on any day you wish throughout the year. Some cautionary remarks about this alternative: There is no public parking in the garden. Both the main entrance and an eastern entrance have locked gates, and you must walk in to the garden after parking across the highway. Be cautious of traffic in crossing, and of course respectful of any persons or crews that might be working in the garden.

Another possibility is for groups of perhaps a dozen or more, travelling by van or bus. Please contact me at 541-895-2864 or [lgwone@gmail.com](mailto:lgwone@gmail.com). We'll put something together to unlock one of those gates...and maybe even offer a guide for your tour.

Gordon Wylie

Photograph of Hinsdale Garden  
courtesy Joanne Turner.





# The Philadelphia Story 2019

## Rhododendrons In America's Garden Capital

### Reminders

Registration is now open for *The Philadelphia Story*  
ARS 2019 International Convention  
May 15-19, 2019  
Register at: [ars2019.org](http://ars2019.org)

Registration is now open for the  
RBSG Symposium  
April 26-27  
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden  
Federal Way, WA  
See "Upcoming Events" at [rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org)



Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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Phone: 503-777-1734 for  
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Web: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

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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**  
Volunteering:

**csrgvol@gmail.com**

Gatehouse: Tours, Photoshoots:

**gatehousecsrg@gmail.com**

**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  
ownership: The Portland Chapter is  
a local Chapter of the American Rho-  
dodendron Society. Combined annual  
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benefits include nine or more newslet-  
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tor, at: **tjhoffman56@vahoo.com**, or  
via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place,  
Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-

rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-  
**3522**

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masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline  
Enns**

Membershi p Updates: John  
Stephens & Stephen McCor-  
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