

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

August 15, 2019:
Smith Garden Soiree
Potluck Supper
5:30 pm set up
6:00 pm dinner

August 25, 2019:
Oxbow Pointe Summer
Party
Starts at noon
Potluck at 1:00 pm

September 19, 2019
Chapter meeting and
Annual Cuttings
Exchange

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



President's Message August 2019

By the time this reaches you, the hot days of August will be upon us. The early summer has been kind, with mild temperatures, a bit of rain, and no smoke. I hope we will be spared record temperatures in August and September, let alone the effects of fires.

Summer Events:

August 15th: Smith Garden Soiree. This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy the form of the garden under a full moon, and to talk with old friends and meet new ones. Members from the Portland, Tualatin Valley and Willamette Chapters of the ARS and their friends are welcome. The party starts at 5:30 PM with dinner at six. Bring your favorite side dish to share. (Directions are on the front page of the June, 2019 newsletter. Ed.)

August 25th: Oxbow Pointe Summer Party. Courtesy of two past presidents, Steve Hopkins and Brenda Ziegler. The festivities begin at noon and the potluck at 1:00 PM. Bring your favorite side dish to share. The address is: 4450 SE Oxbow Parkway. Gresham, Oregon. Directions: <http://www.rhodies.org/OXBOWPOINTE.pdf> . Please RSVP by August 21 at 503 314 5834, BZgift@aol.com or stevehopkins@prodigy.net. And please remember: unlike last year, dancing on the tables is not allowed.

September 19th: Our next Chapter Meeting. The first in an outstanding line-up of speakers for the coming year will be Tim Walsh from the Eureka Chapter. We will also have our Annual Cuttings Exchange. The Chapter's collective gardens feature a wealth of plants, including many that are not commonly available. Every month, Maria Stewart features another gorgeous specimen in our newsletter; our sales rarely carry them, but surely we have them in our gardens. Unlike your grandmother's prized recipe, which you swore to keep secret until your dying day, plants should be shared. There is no better way to ensure the survival of their lineage than by distribution. Jay Lunn has provided pointers, posted on our website at http://www.rhodies.org/chapter/pdx_activities_detailed.htm-cutting, on providing cuttings for the exchange. Be sure to include your name on your label so that recipients know whom to thank. Remember that donors get first pick. And bear in mind that Van Veen Nursery will root cuttings for a ridiculously low price. Bring your finest, and reap the rewards.

Caroline Enns

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 October, 2019**

**August 15, 2019:
Smith Garden "Summer Soiree"
Potluck Dinner at Smith Garden**

5:30 pm set-up

6:00 pm dinner

August 25, 2019

**Oxbow Pointe Summer Party
Steve Hopkins & Brenda Ziegler,
Hosting Their Summer Party in
Gresham**

**Begins at Noon, Potluck at 1:00
pm**

September 12, 2019

**An Evening in the Garden
Crystal Springs Rhododendron
Garden**

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

September 19, 2019:

**Regular meeting plus our Annual
Cuttings Exchange**

Social Time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

**Speaker: Tim Walsh, Eureka
Chapter, ARS**

October 17, 2019:

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

**Speaker: Jeanine Smith, Seattle
Chapter, ARS**

**Plus, our annual Species Auction
and, Halloween treats; Halloween
costumes if you dare**

Haiku

In the morning light
the yellow rose opening
to impermanence

That silent moment
The leaf of the maple
has begun to move

Accepting the shift
that light and soundlessness
brings to the morning

In the playfulness
of morning breezes, the sense
of their transition

Sweep of the songbirds
from one tree to another
to eternity

By Peter Kendall



A nice, cool, damp spring morning at Smith Garden; photograph by Ray Clack. Just the thing for a warm August evening!

To Our ARS Portland Chapter Members and Other Plant Lovers

You Are Invited!!



OXBOW POINTE

Summer Party 2019

When: **Sunday, August 25th, 2019**

Time: Party starts at noon; 1 P.M. Potluck

Potluck: Main course of salmon will be provided
Bring your favorite side dish to share

Beverages: We will provide soda pop and water
Bring your own alcohol

Utensils: We will provide plasticware, plates, etc.

Where: *Steve and Brenda's Home*

4450 SE Oxbow Parkway, Gresham, OR 97080

(We do not receive any mail at this address)

Please refer to mapquest.com or GPS

If lost, Call 503-663-1500

Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 21st to 503.314.5834

or by email to bzgift@aol.com or stevehopkins@prodigy.net

If you prefer mail: 1490 NE Village Street, Fairview, OR 97024

Well-behaved children accompanied by responsible adults are welcome.

**Please come to enjoy the Food, the View,
the Garden, and the Fellowship**

Garden Tour available after lunch



We hope you can join us!



White-flowered Rhododendron (*Rhododendron albiflorum*)– our other Rhododendron.

During Summer 2019 I found *Rhododendron albiflorum* growing on ridgetops on the north-west side of Mount Hood generally above 4200-4300' elevation. It is not infrequently found growing next to Pacific Rhododendron (*R macrophyllum*) which is abundant in this area. Plants growing under a mixed coniferous forest cover of *Pseudotsuga*, *Tsuga* spp, and *Abies* spp are taller, and longer leaved, ~3" long, than plants growing in the open. On the other hand plants growing in the open have leaves that are about 2 ¼" long, and are more "crinkly." The leaves of plants shaded by the coniferous forest canopy look to me to be somewhat similar as those of *R occidentale*.

On Jun 30, 2019 I first encountered *R albiflorum* at about 4200 feet along the Pacific Crest Trail south-east of Lolo Pass, Mt Hood National Forest. Several more plants were seen along the trail for the next mile or so until we reached the junction with the Timberline Trail, the trail that encircles Mount Hood at/near Timberline. None of the plants seen were blooming.

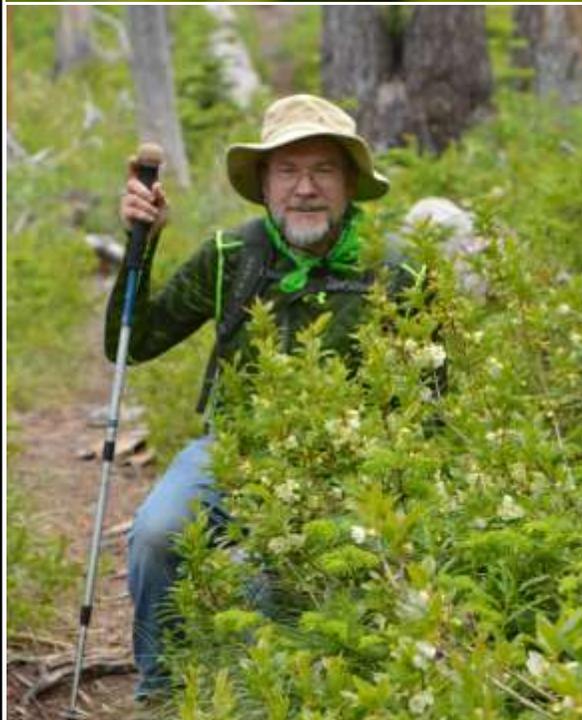
On a hike up Cathedral Ridge on the Mazama Trail, the next ridge north-east, on July 9, 2019 both *Rhododendrons* were encountered. *R macrophyllum* was the more common and sometimes, like it does elsewhere locally, forms an impenetrable thicket that would be impossible to travel through. On this date there were still some *R macrophyllum* blooming, but the peak blooming season was definitely over. The first *R albiflorum* encountered at about 4300' elevation was not blooming. However, within a few yards one was encountered that was blooming, and it was exciting to see it growing next to a blooming *R macrophyllum*! At about 4500' elevation we came around a corner in the trail and entered a swale of an acre or more in size where *R albiflorum* was the dominant shrub to the near total exclusion of all other shrubs. I believe this was able to happen because of a slight dip in the topography that allowed snowmelt and runoff to funnel through this spot allowing the soil to retain moisture longer into the normally dry summer months.

In 2011 the Dollar Lake fire burned through a lot of the Mount Hood Wilderness Area. This fire, like the blast zone at Mount St Helens, provides an interesting laboratory and opportunity to study ecological succession after a traumatic event. And the burned area on Mount Hood is no exception.

At about 4600' elevation the Mazama trail enters the burned zone. Trees are allowed to decay naturally and many are still standing. What is most interesting is seeing the physical differences in *R albiflorum* plants growing under the nearly closed canopy coniferous forest and in the open where they receive full exposure to the sun. *R albiflorum* is a fairly common plant in the burned area forming a shrub covering with *Menziesia ferruginea* (Rusty Menziesia), *Vaccinium*, *Xerophyllum*, and others. What was readily apparent is that the leaves are about ¾ of an inch shorter and they are, using a not-time tested scientific term, quite 'crinkly.' The plants themselves are also shorter than those growing in the forest, but that could be due to slow growth rates and the plants being only about 8 years old, and younger than those growing in the forest.

Questions arise. Is the shorter crinkly leaf a way for the plant to conserve water by reducing leaf surface area by those plants in the open? Since *R albiflorum* grows in moist areas, and along streams, will it be found at lower elevations on Mount Hood along stream banks or meadows? The two trails we encountered it along have been on ridge tops. Does it occur on the east side of Mount Hood, or in the Badger Creek Wilderness Area?

By David Anderson



Photographs courtesy of David Anderson and Andrew Stern.

Links to insect identifications:

www.inaturalist.org/observations/28580816, [28580833](http://www.inaturalist.org/observations/28580833) .

Subsection Fortunea Gives Us Another Gem: *R. glanduliferum*

By Maria Stewart

It is the middle of July and we are enjoying our hydrangeas, heathers and astilbes. But wait! Are there blooms on the *R. glanduliferum*? Yes!! As we walk closer to this eight feet tall and eight feet wide rhododendron, the white trusses with a small greenish-yellow flare in the throat of each corolla, come more into focus. Each loose truss holds four or five large funnel-campanulate corollas which are pleasantly scented. Another attractive feature of this rhododendron is its foliage. The narrow leaves are quite large measuring eight to ten inches long and are hairless on their undersides.

Here is more about *R. glanduliferum*:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthes *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Fortunea

Distribution in the wild: N.E. Yunnan at about 7,250 feet in elevation. Its habitat is threatened by logging.

History: Not introduced into cultivation until 1995, so is not well known.

Flowers: either white or pale pink corollas, each with a small greenish-yellow flare in the throat; funnel-campanulate shaped corollas with 7 to 8 lobes each; scented; 4 to 7 corollas in each loose truss; the outer surfaces of the corollas, the stamens, the ovary and the style are all glandular, thus giving this rhododendron its name.

Foliage: Only one and a half to two and a half inches wide but eight to ten inches long, these medium green leaves with their glabrous undersides, are distinctive.

Structure: a large grower; give it plenty of room.

Hardiness: still in question, but a guess is 0 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: Give it lots of room to grow. A woodland garden is a fine location.



Rhododendron glanduliferum, photograph by Mike Stewart

American Rhododendron Society

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**20/20
VISION**



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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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BOARD MEMBERS

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

(Through June 30, 2021):
**Betsy Soifer, John Stephens, Andrew
Stern, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart**

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
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tor, 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-
3522

Website: **www.rhodies.org**; web
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline
Enns**

Membership Updates: John
Stephens & Stephen McCormick,
Membership Co-Chairs
e-mail:
j.d.stephens@outlook.com
ssmccormick@outlook.com