

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

October 17, 2019
Regular meeting plus:
Our Annual Species
Auction!
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: Jeanine
Smith, Seattle Chapter
ARS
Program: Using Rho-
dodendrons in the
Landscape
Halloween treats & cos-
tumes welcome.

October 26, 2019
Smith Garden Work
Party

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

We're preparing for Round Two of our new 2019-2020 season, leading up to the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the ARS, hosted by the six Oregon chapters of District 4—April 29-May 3, 2020—at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver. For our October meeting, we welcome **Jeanine Smith** as our guest speaker, following an excellent presentation on the Humboldt Botanical Garden by Tim Walsh in September. Also on the agenda, Dick Cavender will host our annual Rhododendron species auction.

USING RHODODENDRONS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Jeanine joined the Seattle Rhododendron Society—the Seattle Chapter of the ARS—in 1971. She was President of the SRS from 1985-87, and again from 2017-2019. She served as ARS District 2 Director (Cascade, Pilchuck, Seattle, Whidbey Island) and as Western Regional Vice President for two years. Jeanine also served on the Meerkirk Rhododendron Gardens Board. Meerkirk is a 50+ acre garden on Whidbey Island, bequeathed to the SRS in 1979 by Ann and Max Meerkirk, who were members of the Seattle chapter and whose collection was influenced, in part, by the Rothschilds' Exbury Gardens. (Exbury will be the subject of two talks at the 2020 convention by Lionel de Rothschild and his head gardener, Tom Clarke.) Jeanine also served on the Executive Board of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. So, she really knows her rhododendrons!

Jeanine and her husband, Rex—a retired airline pilot—have spent 43 years building a large garden over their three acres in Woodinville, WA. Being especially drawn to rhododendrons, she began forays into collecting, propagating, and hybridizing, and made plant trips to Asia to see the species in the wild. Her challenge was to place them in sites in her garden that suit them, as well as integrating them with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to create a pleasing landscape. Jeanine finds it fortunate that the large genus *Rhododendron* has such a great variety of size, shape, foliage, sun tolerance, and time of flowering. Her program will demonstrate how she has used rhododendrons in the landscape in combination with other plants.

Following Jeanine's presentation, we'll have the opportunity to add some choice species to our collections with the annual Species Auction. So, remember to bring your checkbook (and maybe the cash box under your bed), and please bring some of your own plants to support the cause (in plastic bags to help keep the floor/tables clean). The more unique the better!

The October meeting will take place on Thursday the 17th from 7–9 pm, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd, in Portland. You're welcome to meet Jeanine and Rex and other members who assemble, starting at 5 pm, at the Woodstock Wine & Deli, across the street from All Saints. We encourage you to attend and consider inviting a guest who may not be fully acquainted with the wonderful world of rhododendrons. Come one come all!

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 November, 2019

October 17, 2019:

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker: Jeanine Smith, Seattle Chapter, ARS

Program: Using Rhododendrons in the Landscape

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

October 26, 2019

Smith Garden Work Party

Starting around 8:00 am, with a potluck luncheon around noon, and winding up mid-afternoon.

Directions to the Garden are on our website.

Smith Garden needs your gardening skills!

November 13, 2019

Dormancy Luncheon at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Potluck; starts at noon in the coolhouse. Don't miss it!

November 21, 2019

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

Speaker: Bill McNamara, Quarryhill Botanical Garden

Program: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: the trials and tribulations of plant hunting.

Haiku

The way the sun plays
off the tiers of leaves, kindling
the imagination

Breeze infused shadows
The wind in the sun, struggling
to keep up

The delicacy
of reflected pine needles
amid fissured bark

The edge of summer
Back and forth, darting shadows
of the dragonflies

Motionless azalea
Across the pond, the shadows
move relentlessly

By Peter Kendall



Jeanine Smith, our speaker for the October meeting.

President's Message for October, 2019

The temperature is cooling and the days are getting shorter making it harder to garden after work. The time has come to start looking at our gardens and think about what we want them to look like next year. The first meeting of the Portland Chapter of the ARS gave us both great inspiration and opportunity. The inspiration came from Tim Walsh of the Eureka chapter and his talk about the Humboldt Botanical garden. He and his wife, June, have been involved with the garden since its inception. Tim showed a series of pictures that featured the garden at the beginning, and in its current state. The landscaping included beautiful and unusual magnolias as well as rhododendrons. Especially inspiring and tantalizing were the vireyas, maddenii, and nuttallii that are outside of our climate zone in Portland. But who knows, in another 10 years, we just might be able to grow them here. Until then, you can volunteer at the Van Veen Nursery to enjoy these tender species in Portland.

The opportunity came from the cutting exchange. It was the best that I can remember. Plenty of rare and unusual cuttings were available to all. Some took advantage of the custom rooting available at Van Veen Nursery. Remember to make a wish list for next year. The chances are that one of your fellow members has the rhododendron of your dream, and is willing to share cuttings. The plethora of door prizes provided plenty of companion plants for the rhododendrons once they root.

The September meeting also gave us the opportunity to catch up on what everyone had been doing last summer. We were able to honor Anne Gross with the Bronze Medal for her many contributions to the Smith Garden for the last 20 years, her service as the head of District 4 and for her contributions to our chapter. We were delighted to see Mike Domaschofsky return after an eventful summer.

October offers an equally exciting agenda and a 'trick or treat' potluck. Bring your favorite treats and your best costume. Rumor has it that Karen Hanson will give an extra ticket for the raffle to those appropriately attired. See you then.

Caroline Enns

Anne Gross accepting the Bronze Medal award from Portland Chapter President, Caroline Enns.

Photo : Steve McCormick



A Compact and Floriferous Beauty: R. 'Morning Bells'

By Maria Stewart

What do you get when you cross two compact-growing and floriferous species such as *R. williamsianum* and *R. yakushimanum* with each other? When Ben Lancaster made this cross, he created a wonderfully rounded plant that covers itself with pastel pink "bells". Mike and I called the plant by its cross name for many years and then gave it the name of *R. 'Morning Bells'*. The name just seemed to make sense.

Here is more about *R. 'Morning Bells'*:

Parentage: *R. williamsianum* x *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* (probably the K. Wada form)

Hybridized by: Ben Lancaster

Its name: As described above, Mike and I used the cross name for this plant for many years before deciding to name it.

Flowers: pastel pink bells, four to seven corollas in a lax truss; when the flower buds start to show color in the Spring, they are deep pink. (See photo.)

Foliage: rounded (ovate) and deep green leaves; there is a thin layer of beige indumentum on the undersides of the leaves. The mid vein shows handsomely on each leaf, In the Fall and Winter, the red bud scales contrast beautifully with the leaves.

Structure: forms a compact and mounding plant and grows to 3 feet high and wide in 10 years.

Hardiness: -5 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: more sun than shade is better for a more compact plant.

Photo: Mike Stewart



SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We're off and running! An enthusiastic group of Portland Chapter members and rhododendron enthusiasts gathered on September 19 to greet old friends and make new ones as the 2019-2020 season kicked off. The Woodstock Wine & Deli provided the evening's usual friendly warm-up, with guest speaker Tim Walsh and his wife June (Membership Chair of the ARS), members, and guests stretching the socializing time ahead of the meeting. The doors at All Saints then opened, Barbara MacArthur manned the coffee machines, some excellent sweets were sampled, and the front tables quickly filled with cuttings galore for the annual exchange.

Tim provided a wonderful before-and-after perspective of the Humboldt Botanical Garden outside Eureka, CA, founded in 1991, with Tim as one of its leaders. The Garden's original volunteers budgeted a landscape designer to lay out the plans of their 44.5 acres with some well-planned hardscape "bones" to be filled in with a variety of plants happy to thrive in the combination of Mediterranean and Pacific Marine climates. Tim's photos well depicted the broad views and individual plant beauty.

In the lead-up to the talk, Caroline Enns presented a Bronze Medal to Anne Gross, member of the Willamette Chapter and frequent guest at Portland meetings with fellow member, Steve Krasik. Anne was acknowledged for her amazing and steadfast dedication to the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden. Along with head gardeners, Tom Gressler and Jane Mays, and Dick Cavender, Portland Chapter Treasurer, Anne volunteers precious hours to help maintain the grounds, host open-garden weekends, and support the rhododendron culture there.

Concluding the evening, the Portland chapter held its annual Cuttings Exchange. The more cuttings that were contributed by individuals, the more those individuals could take with them. Most bagged their choices for delivery, with Mike and Maria Stewart's help, to Van Veen Nursery, where 3rd generation former owner, Kathy Van Veen, was known to be able to root a pencil(!). Cuttings come from all over the country to be rooted at Van Veen, now owned by the Portland Chapter, which makes it an easy process for local rhododendron lovers to be given back nicely rooted plants for their own gardens.

Steve McCormick

The American Rhododendron Society to hold its 75th Anniversary Convention

Hosted by ARS District 4, April 29-May 3, 2020,
at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA.

The 2020 ARS international convention—*2020 Vision, Looking Forward, Reflecting Back*—will feature a renowned group of international speakers, including Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland, Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England, Jens Nielsen from Denmark, Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum, Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden, Valerie Soza from the University of Washington, and more. Garden tours will include visits to Crystal Springs Botanical Garden, Cecil & Molly Smith Garden, Portland Japanese Garden, Lan Su Chinese Garden, Iseli Nursery, and Woodburn Nursery. The convention will also feature a plant sale and a photo exhibit and contest.

The American Rhododendron Society is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in, and to disseminate information about, the genus *Rhododendron*. The organization has a membership of some 2,500 members worldwide. The ARS was incorporated in Portland, Oregon, in January of 1945. The first annual rhododendron show was held on Park Avenue in front of the art museum in downtown Portland. 75 years later, the 2020 convention returns to the Portland area, home to many of the major nursery suppliers in the country. To this day, *Rhododendron* is celebrated as a diverse and fascinating genus, with hybridizers continuing to create new crosses and plant explorers continuing to locate and identify new species.

Registration for the 2020 convention will open on December 2, 2019 and will be available online at ARS75.org. Registration forms will also be available as an insert in the Fall quarterly edition of *Journal American Rhododendron Society*. Information on the ARS, including membership, is available at www.rhododendron.org.

Steve McCormick, Publicity Committee

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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 Soza

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Portland Chapter of
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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, 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:

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Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: Dick Cavender

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