

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

January 16, 2020
Regular meeting
Social time 7:00 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm
Speaker: Charles H. Muller, PhD; 2nd Vice President, RSF
Program: "Sikkim Himalaya Re-visited: Family, Friends and Rhododendrons 1943-2015"

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



JANUARY 2020 PROGRAM

Happy New Year—and new decade! You're invited to the first 2020 meeting of the Portland Chapter on January 16th, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd. Getting back in the swing, we welcome guest speaker Chip Muller. His talk: *Sikkim Himalaya Revisited: Family, Friends and Rhododendrons 1943-2015*.

Chip has a distinguished background as a leader in the Rhododendron world. He is currently in his second term as President of the Seattle Rhododendron Society (ARS Seattle Chapter), has served many terms on the Board of Directors and as Vice President, President and Program Chair. He chaired the Chapter's May Rhododendron Show, Species Study Group and Early Rhododendron Show, and was Chair of the 1999 ARS Annual Convention. Chip edited and published the chapter's newsletter for four years and was awarded the Bronze Medal for Seattle in 1997. He also serves as Second Vice President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and is a member of their Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Photography Committee.

Chip has a long relationship with mountains, mountain people and plants. He has hiked, climbed or trekked in the major ranges in the U.S., the Alps, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and the Himalayas. Chip's father, George, was president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the ARS and traveled in India, China and Sikkim in the early 1940s, returning to those areas with Chip and daughter (Sue Muller Hacking) up to his 83rd year. Chip's own enthusiasm for collecting species dates to his first plant exploration trip in the Himalaya in 1986 with his father and Warren Berg. He has sought and photographed rhododendrons in Western China (1986, 2006), Tibet (1986, 1995), Sikkim (1992, 2015), Nepal (1992, 1995, 1999) and Japan (2001)--adventures that were shared through articles in the ARS Journal and slide presentations.

Chip has been an avid photographer for over 45 years, specializing in nature and travel, including Hawaii, Scotland, England, France, the Austrian and Swiss Alps, East Africa, South Africa, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. He and his wife, Angela Ginorio, tend their wooded city garden of rhododendrons and companion plants. Favorites include Meconopsis, Primula, Arisaema, and "almost any Himalayan perennial, shrub or tree." In his professional life, Chip is a reproductive biologist on the faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine. He received degrees and training at University of Colorado in Boulder, University of California in Berkeley, and The University of Texas at Austin.

We'll start at 7pm, as usual, and hope you might consider joining some of the members across the street at the Woodstock Wine & Deli any time after 5. This is our regular optional get-together for a little libation or sandwich prior. Join us—bring a friend—this promises to be a great meeting!

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 March, 2020

January 16, 2020

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

**Speaker: Charles H. Muller, PhD;
2nd Vice President, RSF**

Program: "Sikkim Himalaya Re-visited: Family, Friends and Rhododendrons 1943-2015"

February 14, 2020

Valentine's Day

February 20, 2020

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

**Speaker: Bob Zimmerman,
Chimacum Woods**

**Program: "Arunachal Pradesh,
Wilderness Untouched (with Rhododendrons)" and, our annual Companion Plant Auction and Treats for the Sweet Potluck!**

March 19, 2020

Regular meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm

**Speaker: Glen Jamieson, Editor,
JARS**

Program: "Highlights of the Danish/Swedish/German 2018 Tours"

March 21, 2020

**Spring Work Day,
Smith Garden**

Haiku

Cast from the shore pine
such a singular shadow
from a low-slung sun

The lingering leaf
continuing to linger 'til
its brush with the wind

Those cold gusts of wind
The feeling of the cold, colder
than expected

Branch of the maple
—its thrust of last spring revealed
in its nakedness

November sundown
Sliver of a moon — recast
of sublimity

By Peter Kendall



Charles H. Muller, PhD, our speaker for the January 16, 2020 meeting.

President's Message for January, 2020

Let there be Light

The days are getting longer. The earliest daffodils are starting to push up out of the ground. The sasanqua camellias are blooming. The hellebores are poised. Most of the seeds are ordered from the various seed exchanges. The Spring catalogs are much anticipated. With a surge in energy and spirits maybe the winter cleanup will get done before more bulb shoots appear. Weeds never sleep.

By Caroline Enns

December Meeting Highlights

Who knows if all the stockings had yet been hung by the chimney with care!?! We do know a festive group of ARS members gathered in great holiday style to celebrate the Winter Solstice with our annual potluck. The yummy treats on display, accompanying the glazed hams, featured the always sought-after stuffed mushrooms reliably contributed by Karen Cavender and an amazing dark chocolate coconut confection, a traditional family concoction from past president Dennis O'Malley. Plus: three—count 'em--three different versions of lemon bars and way too many other delicious side dishes and desserts to mention. The jolly table decorations made it an even more memorable occasion.

Our annual pictorial reminiscences included brief and colorful presentations from Joanne Turner, Loni Welsh, Ann and Ray Clack, David Anderson, Paul Rogers, Dick Cavender, and Ali Sarlak (Eugene Chapter) who frequently makes the trip up from Corvallis. How will we ever forget the photo of Karen Cavender up to her ears in bubble bath in the tub at the Cavenders' hotel suite in Vancouver following their visit to Parksville for the ARS Fall conference!?!

The feature of the evening was Mike Stewart's much-anticipated update of the Van Veen Nursery. Van Veen has been through quite a transformation since the chapter's inheritance, official just a year ago, of this three-generation city garden from our revered, sadly deceased, member--Kathy Van Veen. Mike showed two new newly constructed greenhouses, revived and rebuilt beds, yearlings being developed for sale to support the thriving cuttings business, and the new collection of Vireyas gifted by the Bovees Nursery—expertly pruned and blooming already in their own dedicated house. The Van Veen Nursery is alive and well, thanks to the tireless efforts of Mike, in his (ahem) retirement, and crew.

One more tribute before we move on: thanks to the invaluable technical assistance by our other frequent visitor from afar--Steve Krasik, who is often called upon to get the slide show back on track after predictable glitches. Whew! What would we do without him!? Steve was accompanied, as usual, by partner Anne Gross, also from the Willamette Chapter and a major contributor to the Society.

Thanks to all the table hosts, chefs with their special offerings, members who trekked to All Saints on a rainy windy night, and to those who shared images of their best memories from 2019, making it a merry way to end the year. Now we move on to a new year, 2020, looking forward to the 75th anniversary convention, a great lineup of speakers into the Spring, and more time spent with our rhody friends. Cheers!

Steve McCormick

December Meeting Highlights: Images



Top row: Van Veen Nursery Volunteers, left to right: Jim Herz, Joanne Turner and Kathy Lee
2nd row: new greenhouse at Van Veen Nursery, with the nursery crew, left to right: Alvaro, Olivia and Denato.
(Mike Stewart)

More images from the December Meeting:



Top left: unnamed Vireya hybrid from the Bovees' collection at Van Veen Nursery (Mike Stewart)

Top right: *Rhododendron albiflorum* (David Anderson)

Lower left: Colorful maples in the Clack garden (Ann and Ray Clack)

Lower right: Shade cloth over Paul Roger's rhodies (Paul Rogers)

One of the Best Cameo Hybrids: R. 'Naselle'

By Maria Stewart

Imagine corollas of rose-pink with yellow centers and orange spots formed into large trusses on a nicely rounded rhododendron. This is R. 'Naselle' which is named after both a town and a river in the state of Washington. By the way, the word Naselle was derived from a Chinookan tribe named Nisal. Descriptions of R. 'Naselle' say that the new leaves are pale maroon. When they mature, the leaves are medium green and elliptic. The Award of Excellence was given to R. 'Naselle' in 1992.

Here is more about R. 'Naselle':

It is an elepidote which means that it does not have scales on the undersides of its leaves.

The cross is: ('Big Sam' x 'Lem's Cameo') in one version of the parentage. Another version is ('CIS' x unnamed hybrid) X 'Lem's Cameo'). Jim Elliot hybridized it in 1987.

The leaves are elliptic and medium green when mature. They cover the plant nicely.

Each large truss holds up to 15 beautiful corollas of rose-pink with yellow centers and orange spots. It has been described as one of the most striking of the 'Lem's Cameo' hybrids.

This hybrid is well-branched and looks rounded in shape. It will grow into a four feet high by four feet wide plant in ten years.

The hardiness is 0 to -5 degrees F.

Placement in your garden: filtered sunlight with enough sunlight to produce those wonderful blooms.



R. 'Naselle' Photograph courtesy of 'Great Plant Picks' program.

The American Rhododendron Society 75th Anniversary Convention



April 29-May 3, 2020, Hosted by ARS District 4

Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA

20/20 Vision will include these international speakers and more:

- Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland
- Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England
- Jens Nielsen, plant explorer from Denmark
- Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum
- Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Garden tours will include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Crystal Springs Botanical Garden | • Iseli Nursery |
| • Cecil & Molly Smith Garden | • Woodburn Nursery |
| • Portland Japanese Garden | • The Stewart Garden (formerly Dover Nursery) |
| • Lan Su Chinese Garden | • Sebright Gardens |

- Around the Sound [pre-tour](#)
- Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast Excursion [post-tour](#) including members' gardens

Plus plant sale, photo contest, poster session, special clinics, plus:

ars75.org

Registration Now Open!

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 503-777-1734 for
meeting cancellations due
to weather

Web: www.rhodies.org

Post Master: Time sensitive
mail; please deliver before
January 6, 2020

U.S. Postal Service statement of
Ownership, Management, and Cir-
culation (as per 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Publication Title: *Rhododendron News*
Total number of copies mailed per is-
sue: **225**

Owner: **Portland Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**,
PO Box 86424, Portland, OR 97286-
0424

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:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden
Chair:
Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Volunteering:

csrgvol@gmail.com

Gatehouse: Tours, Photoshoots:

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Stephanie Kress, 503-267-7509

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Events:

Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
Chair: Dick Cavender

Newsletter, membership, and
ownership: The Portland Chapter is
a local Chapter of the American Rho-
dodendron Society. Combined annual
dues to both the national society and
local chapter are \$40. Membership
benefits include nine or more newslet-
ters, discounts, and activities.

Rhododendron News is mailed by first
class postage (permit #1134, Port-
land). Photographs and images may
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Articles: Deadline is the board meet-
ing. Send materials to newsletter edi-
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