

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

**Calendar
April and May 2020
Smith Garden Open
Days: Cancelled**

**April 29 - May 3, 2020
ARS Spring Interna-
tional Convention:
Postponed to 2022**

**May 1 - 10, 2020
Mother's Day Online
Rhododendron Sale**

**May 21, 2020
Chapter meeting :
Cancelled
Election : Vote by
mail, email or tele-
phone**

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



Election in the Time of Pestilence

In the April newsletter, the Nominations Committee submitted the following nominations for positions on the Chapter's Board of Directors:

Officers:

Vice President	Gretchen O'Brien
Treasurer	Dick Cavender
Secretary	Steve Hopkins

Elected Directors

David Anderson
Ann Clack
Ray Clack
Bob O'Brien
Dennis O'Malley

At the time that this newsletter goes to press, no one has submitted additional nominations. Any nominations submitted before May 21st, when we would have held the next Chapter Meeting and the election, will be disseminated to the members by email.

After May 21st, please vote for or against the nominees. You may vote for or against individual nominees, or for the slate recommended by the Nominations Committee as a block. Please submit your votes to Steve Hall, the Head of the Nominations Committee, by any medium, including:

email:	sbh@ohsu.edu;
regular mail:	4960 SW Hewett, Portland, OR 97221;
telephone:	503-292-1925, and leave a message, including your name and phone number.

Expect an acknowledgement that you have transmitted your vote successfully.

Voting will terminate at 5 PM on June 7. So vote early, but not more than once.

Steve Hall

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, 2020

April 29 - May 3, 2020

ARS 75th Anniversary

Spring Convention: ~~Postponed & Rescheduled: April 27 - May 1, 2022~~

May 9th & 10th, 2020

Mother's Day Show and Sale

Crystal Springs Rhododendron

Garden: ~~Show cancelled. Sale now being held online~~

May 21, 2020

Regular meeting

Speaker: Jack Olson

**Program: "Rhododendron Trivia"
~~Cancelled~~**

June, July, August 2020 Chapter activities : subject to the Governor's Executive Order(s) and the advice of the Oregon Health Dept. regarding meetings and group activities.

River Otters (*Lutra canadensis*) at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Smart phone image by a member of the work day volunteers at the Garden. ----->

Haiku

Sound of the fountain
and its accompanying breeze —
a cutting spring chill

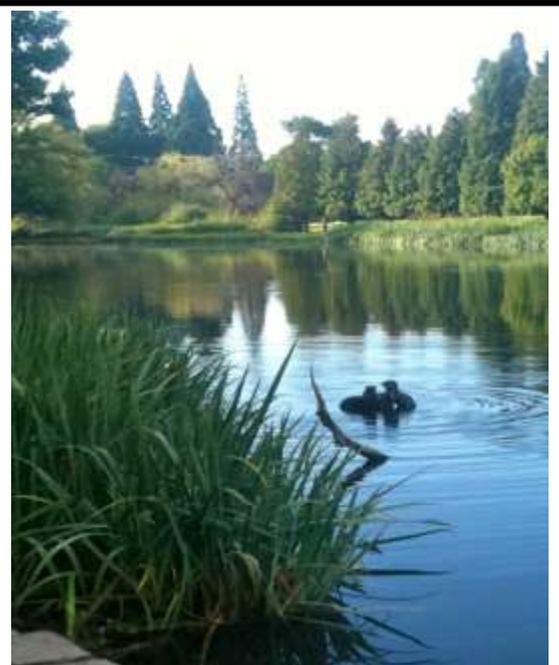
Casting one's eye through
the gnarled Pieris —
a distant rhodie

Two currants and
a single hummingbird
all in the same space

In the garden niche
alerted to the perfume
of the viburnum

Sun dappled water
— its gentle reflection
beyond the pond

By Peter Kendall



President's Message: Reflections on Isolation

What a different world we live in from just a few months ago, and how rapidly we changed from then to now. A month and a half into the state of emergency caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, social gatherings, hand-shakes, and hugs seem so distant. But other creatures are going on with their existence, oblivious to our plight. An early spring has given way to continued mild weather. The rain continues and the spring display is unusually lush. The rhododendrons are in peak bloom. Along with the camellias, magnolias, cherries, and dogwoods, this spring features a particularly opulent display. The primulas, bunchberry, and sorrel are providing a blooming understory. Rabbits abound, and on the morning walk out to get the newspaper, the birds are deafening. The deer graze contently on the Trillium ovatum, the Erythronium dens-canis and R. macabeum. With the exception of the deer, all of this uplifts our spirits. There is hope that humans, too, will blossom again.

Caroline Enns

**Easy click-through for shopping:
crystalspringsgardenpdx.org**



**Choose which plants you want and select
a day and time you would like to pick up.**

**We are available Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Sunday from 12pm to 3pm.**

Message from the Vice President, Steve McCormick

It's painful not to be able to entice you to attend a chapter meeting with another great speaker. May was to be our last meeting of the year, before the summer break, and we were looking forward to welcoming Jack Olson from the Eugene Chapter. Again, Jack will be rescheduled to a time when we're able to be socially close again. In the meantime, please enjoy some photos of Jack's garden in Fall Creek, Oregon, which were taken on a visit there by John Stephens and myself in April of 2018. The pictures are featured in this month's "Our Gardens" supplement that will be emailed to accompany the May newsletter. The May feature, and last month's for April, are both available as 'appendices' on the chapter's website, rhodies.org (*under Our Chapter and Newsletters*). The contributions from even more members and associates from other chapters were much appreciated this time. Please consider offering a sampling of your own garden photos as we continue to share some of our own favorite plants. We will assemble another volume of them to distribute in June if we receive enough entries. Meanwhile, best wishes for your health and comfort in this tough time.

Reminder: Smith Garden Closure

In light of the order by the Governor of Oregon, the Portland Chapter Board has decided to cancel all open days at the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden until further notice. Should conditions change in the coming months, it may be possible to open the Garden at a later date.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to staff the Garden this spring.

Dick Cavender

Smith Garden Chair

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19,
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is
temporarily closed.



Temporarily Closed Until Further Notice

Thank you for your love and support of Crystal Springs
Rhododendron Garden. Safety of our visitors must always come first;
we look forward to seeing you once we are permitted to reopen.

Sincerely,

Dan McLaughlin, Chair of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

[Click here to make a gift to support the garden.](#)

A Beauty With Handsome Foliage and Impressive Trusses: *R. kesangiae*

By Maria Stewart

In the country of Bhutan in the Himalaya Mountains, surrounded by Tibet, Sikkim, and northern India, lives the large-leafed species of *R. kesangiae*. It is found in coniferous forests at elevations of 9,500 to 11,500 feet. Imagine hiking through this mountainous country and discovering the large rose-pink, purple-pink or white trusses displayed prominently among the dark green leaves of this recently described species. For years, this rhododendron was not separated from the natural hybrids of *R. hodgsonii* x *R. falconeri*. Now, it is firmly identified as a separate species because of its traits of non-peeling bark, lighter indumentum and more pink corollas. These traits are different from *R. hodgsonii* and *R. falconeri* although *R. kesangiae* hybridizes with both in the wild. Understandably, it took some time to sort out these natural hybrids and to declare that *R. kesangiae* was a separate species.

Here is more about *R. kesangiae*:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Hymenanthes *Section*: Hymenanthes *Subsection*: Grandia

Distribution in the wild: Bhutan only, at elevations of 9,500 to 11,500 feet in coniferous forests with other rhododendrons and bamboo.

Flowers: pink fading to lighter pink, purple-pink or white; 15 to 20 corollas per compact truss; blooms in late April into May.

Foliage: dark green leaves with thin, beige colored or no indumentum; up to a foot long;

Bark: fissured, but non-peeling and brown.

Structure: grows like a small tree to ten feet in 10 years; will grow to 30 feet eventually.

Hardiness: 0 degrees F.?

A place in your garden: needs shelter from strong winds to protect the leaf petioles.



R. kesangiae. Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart.

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
May 10, 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:

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: 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-
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

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Stephens & Stephen McCor-
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