



Rhododendron News

Portland Chapter | American Rhododendron Society

Volume XVI, No 11 December 2022

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

Meetings

3rd Thursdays,
September-May
Reedwood Friends Church
2901 SE Steele Street
Portland 97202

Meetings start at 7 PM with a social half-hour preceding the main meeting. We clean up and exit by 9:30 PM.

And if you want, meet at Woodstock Wine and Deli at 5pm for an informal happy hour meal!

Table of Contents

President's Letter	1
Review of November 17 Meeting	3
December 15 Holiday Potluck Dinner Meeting	3
ARS Dues Reminder	3
Amazon Smile and Target	3
2023 ARS Membership Renewal.....	4
Calendar.....	5
New RN Item: RN-Profiles	5
December's 2022 Haiku	5
ARS Chapter Information.....	6
Go Fund Me Campaign for Van Veen Heritage Site.....	7
From the RN Editor	8
My Hummingbird.....	9
The Dirt on Houseplants and Hanging Baskets	10
Portland Chapter.....	11

President's Letter

December 2022

By Steve Hopkins

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We have survived Thanksgiving and are now looking forward to Christmas and the New Year celebrations that go with those holidays and all the other holidays that are celebrated during these times. I hope that all of you are having a continuing wonderful time during this holiday season.

While you are thinking about your New Year's resolutions, please consider spending a little more time on some Chapter activities as one of those resolutions. We need volunteers to help keep the Chapter running at a high level of efficiency. We have openings and opportunities in many areas of our Chapter responsibilities. We need help working in the gardens, contributing an article to this monthly newsletter, working at a plant sale, giving someone a ride to a Chapter meeting, or helping at one or both Shows in April or May. We have an opportunity for all members, young and older. In fact, a brand-new young member, Evelyn Kritler, just recently volunteered to be our Membership Committee Chair. If you are not sure what you would like to do or what is available just ask me or one of the Board members. We appreciate your consideration.

There always will be a lot of support for you from some of the other volunteers and members of the Chapter. But we need more volunteers, we need more people involved. I can guarantee that you will get much more out of it than you put in. We need some new ideas and fresh enthusiasm and many of you have the qualities we need to accomplish the tasks at hand. It doesn't take money, just some time.

Submit materials for Rhododendron News

- Email your stories, pictures and articles to mgdibblee@me.com
- Deadline: last Friday of each month
- Place picture information in filename plant name, date/place & photographer.
- Submit pictures separately from text
- Picture size 300 dpi resolution, dimensions 1440x1080 px
- If you create the story online (e.g., GoogleDocs) email me the URL

Please give this some thought. Everyone's efforts are appreciated and I don't want to forget to thank all of our members and current volunteers, committee members, Board members, and others who spend some of their valuable time with us.

If you need a last-minute gift item, please consider a membership in the Rhododendron Society. I became a member through a gift from a long-time member at the time, Leona Carty, and I will be forever grateful to her. That gift has lasted for over 20 years now, and it gets better every year. Please give Evelyn Kritler ekritler@gmail.com a call 503-686-1870 and she will fix you up with the membership materials.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the December meeting Christmas celebration. Bring a dish, share a few slides or thumb drives, visit with the members, and just have a great time. There will be more information on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

Steve Hopkins, your President of the Chapter



Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana* 1876) Wild rose on Willamette View Campus River Walk (Dibblee). Nootka roses are wild or species roses named after an island off Vancouver, Canada. Nootka roses grow only in climates with 270 frost-free days (USA zones 7b-8b); they are found in sunny, well-drained locations; and they grow upright 3-6 ft with stiff, erect stems, up to 10' with graceful arching canes (photo).

Review of November 17 Meeting

The November 17 meeting featured Bob and Gretchen O'Brien, who took us on a visual tour featuring fall color in our Pacific Northwest. The O'Briens own [River Rock Nursery](#) outside of Carver. They displayed live plants and lots of photos that showed many beautiful plants that excel with great fall foliage. Everyone found a few that they would like to include in our own gardens. It was a beautiful and fun tour! Thank you Bob and Gretchen for a great evening!

December 15 Holiday Potluck Dinner Meeting

Dinner provided by "All of You" will be at 6:00 pm at the Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele St, Portland, OR 97202. Brenda Ziegler and Caroline Enns will bring the main course(s). They suggest that others bring their choice of sides or dessert, enough to serve 7-10 people. We will supply plates and plastic ware. The church does not allow alcohol, so bring your own drinks. We will supply water and coffee. Please RSVP to pcarseditor@gmail.com. Bring a gift for the gift exchange (\$15 limit) and bring table decorations if you want.

Bring some of your favorite photos to share with the group. Pictures can be flowers, vacations, special events from the past year, your choice ! This always is an interesting display! Computer thumb drives or CDs with photos are easiest to project with our club laptop. If you have slides, we will plan on having a projector available too. If you will need a slide projector please note on your [RSVP](#).

ARS DUES REMINDER

The ARS membership renewal cycle has begun for 2023. If you are expiring in 2022, you already have received a letter and stamped envelope to return the form that arrived in a second mailing. A copy of the form is on the [next page](#) in this newsletter, which you can print and mail.

You also have the option to pay your dues online. Open the home page of the www.arsoffice.org website using any internet browser. Click on the "On-line Renewal of ARS Membership Dues" link located in the blue-colored "Members" column. Login with your last name and Member Number. Payment can be made by credit or debit card or via a personal PayPal account. The same online system can be used to make various donations to the ARS and Portland Chapter funds.

Amazon Smile and Target

Amazon.ARSStore.org

Target.ARSStore.org



Use these links for the ARS affiliate store of your choice, AmazonSmile or Target. Target has an online store similar to Amazon, but Target is a much stronger supporter of the ARS. You also have the option of picking items up and returning them at a nearby store with no charge for shipping.



**American
Rhododendron Society**
Members Worldwide

Portland Chapter
Founded 1955
www.rhodies.org

2023 ARS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME:		SECOND NAME: (in same household, if applicable):	
ADDRESS:			CITY:
STATE/PROVINCE:	ZIP/POSTAL CODE:	COUNTRY:	
E-MAIL:		PHONE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you want your email and phone information to be excluded from the roster.			

Membership Category (check one)		Yearly Dues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular (1-2 persons in same household): See list of full benefits at: www.rhodies.org/chapter/pdx_membership.htm	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial & Corporate: Growers receive full-page ad on ARS website; Annual listing in ARS Journal; 5% discount on current ARS Journal advertising rates.	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining: Extra \$35 helps support the ARS mission and goals; Annual listing in the ARS Journal.	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsoring: Supports the ARS mission and goals; Annual listing in the ARS Journal.	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (please include proof if over 18): All regular benefits including an electronic version of the ARS Journal.	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Membership -- Single:	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Membership -- Family:	\$1,500

Enter Yearly Dues Amount: \$_____ x Number of Years: _____ = Total Dues: \$_____

<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer to receive printed color copies of the chapter's newsletter, <i>Rhododendron News</i> , by mail.	\$44
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to the Portland Chapter General Fund	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to the ARS General Fund:	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Honor or remember someone with a donation to the ARS Endowment Fund Name (optional)	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to the ARS Research Foundation	\$_____
TOTAL US \$ ENCLOSED:		\$_____

Make your check payable to the ARS Portland Chapter and send to:
Or make your online payment at arsoffice.org/renewal/renew.asp (over)

***Thank you for your continuing membership in the
Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society***

**Jim Peters, Treasurer
ARS Portland Chapter
3339 Tempest Drive
Lake Oswego, OR 97035-1942**

Calendar

Portland Chapter Meetings

Reedwood Friends Church

2901 SE Steele St, Portland, OR 97202
Social time 6:30 pm; Meeting 7:00 pm

PCARS Holiday Potluck

Thursday December 15, 2022

[Go to page 3](#) for more information

Regular Chapter Meeting

January 19, 2023
TBD

February-March

Biennial member handbook

March

Nominating Committee presents
slate of candidates

April

Early Show at Crystal Springs
Rhododendron Garden
Spring Sales and Shows
First full weekend in April
Saturday morning Judged competition

May

May 13-14 Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

New RN Item: RN-Profiles

A member has suggested that RN create a page showcasing one or more members, their hobbies or something unique about them that most don't know about. If you're interested in submitting a RN-Profile email PCARSeditor@gmail.com

December's 2022 Haiku

The surreal shadows
of the arborvitae hedge
frozen in time

Before the first bird
rays of the sun casting
the first light

Near and far
a palette of fall color
outstripping the eye

Half way through December
Bellowing with abandon
—sun struck thunderheads

Crossed by light cloud
brushed by a maple branch
December's full moon

So dark, so early
approaching winter solstice
and the holidays

—Peter Kendall



Watercolor by Merilee Mannen 'Fallleaf' '06

ARS Chapter Information

Ed: [All Chapter newsletters are kept online.](#)

Tualatin Chapter <http://tualatinvalleyars.org/tualatinvalleyars.org/Welcome.html>

Eugene Chapter <http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org/>

Willamette Chapter <http://www.arswillamette.com/calendar/s>

Siuslaw Chapter Sandi Jensen sfuchsia@gmail.com 'Macrophyllum'

Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter Lois Blackmore www.vicrhodo.ca. Their November newsletter has stories entitled "All you need to know about Rhododendrons on two Pages" and "A Brief History Of Hybrid Rhododendrons In England". There's a story about Mad Honey (do you know what [Mad Honey](#) is? More on Mad Honey below) and hybridizing featuring the Barlup Rhododendrons in the Jim Barlup Legacy Garden. In all... an interesting publication. And the December newsletter has some fun games along with an articles on Rhododendron Leaf Spot and 'Legends, Stories, And Beliefs Behind Christmas Plants'. Take a look!

Humboldt Botanical Garden Nelda Palmer <npalmer@humboldt1.com> sends the link below, which has [an astonishingly beautiful picture](#) taken at 'All Happy Now' at [Humboldt Botanical Garden](#) (7707 Tompkins Hill Rd, Eureka, CA 95503). Be sure to read how it was made, too!

Washington County Master Gardeners <http://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org/> or email Harriet Ottaviano at Hbjotto90740@yahoo.com.

American Rhododendron Society Chapters <https://www.rhododendron.org/locations.htm>

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden rhodygarden.org. Their [seasonal website September through November](#) provides nine popular fall plants. And there still is time to [buy a paver](#) to honor the Rutherford Conservatory.

Other Plant Societies

North American Rock Garden Society <https://www.nargs.org/>

Penstemon Society <https://penstemons.org/>

Hardy Plant Society of Oregon <https://www.hardyplantsociety.org/>

Eriogonum Society <https://erigonum.org/>

More on Mad Honey below ...

<https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2018/ra/c8ra01924j>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3404272/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/neuroscience/grayanotoxin>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grayanotoxin>

<https://bestmadhoney.com/>

<https://bigthink.com/health/mad-honey/>

<https://matadornetwork.com/read/mad-honey/>

<https://modernfarmer.com/2014/09/strange-history-hallucinogenic-mad-honey/>

<https://psychedelicspotlight.com/whats-the-deal-with-mad-honey/>

<https://www.inverse.com/mind-body/what-is-mad-honey>

Go Fund Me Campaign for Van Veen Heritage Site

Extracted from email from Dave Banks, ARS Treasurer
Rhodo-Notes October 2022 (10/8/22)



Dave writes: You've probably participated in **GoFundMe** fundraisers in the past. This one is a little closer to home.

Kathy Van Veen bequeathed her 3rd generation nursery and garden to the ARS Portland Chapter. This is a rare four-acre oasis of horticulture and beauty deep within a Portland city neighborhood.

In order to fulfill Kathy's vision for the property, we need your help:

- To transform a part of the property into a public garden area for the enjoyment of the neighborhood, the city, and beyond.
- To provide public education about rhododendrons, especially to students at schools and colleges.
- To continue the Van Veen family's well-known custom propagation in the greenhouses--especially important for chapter plant sales
- To keep the property an oasis of green space and not a housing tract.
- To help recover from the damage wrought by the historic winter ice storm of 2021, the following summer heat wave (116 degrees), and preparing the property for winter.

Here's where to go to help: <https://gofund.me/f935c4d5> (Registered nonprofit EIN: 822476711)

To learn more about Van Veen Nursery go to <https://vanveennursery.com/about-us/>

To learn more about native rhododendrons go to the [ARS website](#).



Kathy Van Veen, son Ted Van Veen and Theodore Van Veen, Sr. (Van)

From the RN Editor

Each month I get newsletters from other ARS newsletter editors. Dana Manion (ARS.EugeneChapter@gmail.com) had an interesting article in the November 2022 newsletter about air layering.

Years ago I learned how to graft trees and make a successful air layer. I was curious about the technique for rhododendron; Dana's newsletter article authored by Emily Aune was a brief conclusion to the 2019 June Eugene Chapter ARS Newsletter article describing the Eugene Chapter's air layering project.

The Eugene Chapter (in the original story written by Emily Aune entitled *News from Hendricks Park*, June 2019 Eugene Chapter Newsletter) hosted John Hammond, president of the Scottish Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Hammond developed an air layering method for rhododendron over the years, with great success. The process takes 3 years, 2 complete growing cycles. Emily Aune's article in the Eugene November 2022 Newsletter is about the Eugene Chapter's successful air-layering experiment.

Emily's 2022 story was brief but intriguing, with pictures of 2' plants, cut from the air-lay-



Secateurs (Br) or pruning clippers
(©Screen Shot)

ered branch. I sought out more information about techniques and found the article written by Hammond (http://admin.ipps.org/uploads/61_029.pdf). In this article, written in British English, the word "secateurs" is used; these are our pruning clippers. The author emphasizes the time required—two growing seasons—during which the air-layering pouch cannot be disturbed.

Hammond includes photos and descriptions of procedures and equipment.

I'm eager to try air-layering again to learn how well this works for Rhododendron, using Hammond's very detailed instructions for air-layering. I've uploaded the [November 2022 Eugene newsletter](#) and the [Hammond paper](#) to my Google Drive for further reference. I've annotated the Hammond paper to include the URL where I found the article and the journal reference in case anyone seeks additional information. Dana's 2022 Eugene newsletter has pictures of the 3-year project showing air-layered pouches; they note that a caution sign must be obvious to avoid curious visitors from accidentally disrupting the delicate root formation process.

On another subject, another of my newsletters, [The Penstemaniac](#), offers articles many with pictures, about *Penstemon*, wildflowers that include about 250 species. It is the largest genus of flowering plants endemic to North America (Holmgren, Noel H. (1993) [1925]; Wolfe, Andrea D). *Penstemon* grow in varied environments, for example, for the southwest: alpine and subalpine, coniferous and mixed forests, primitive sedimentary to sandy soils, and grasslands. Alpine soils in the southern Rockies are different than those up north due to the age of orogeny (*Webster: the process of mountain formation especially by folding of the earth's crust*) and moisture to spur plant growth and soil formation. Forests—these are the acidic to neutral soils, thanks to pine needles. Sedimentary and sandy—these soils are highly basic and harsh and some will grow at pH of 8 to 8.5. Grasslands—where pH often is 7.5 to 8.5 and soils are sandy, clayey sands, and lean clays (Gordon, Elliott). (Elliott Gordon wrote last month's iNaturalist article in RN.) For more information about native soils, visit the free web soil survey portal [Web Soil Survey - Home \(usda.gov\)](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/soil).

My Hummingbird



Hummingbirds are very territorial and this one stays on or near my feeders during the day. I have 2 feeders but rarely are there two birds; usually only this one. During the heavy rains a couple of weeks ago this one sat on the railing in the waterfall coming from the balcony above my balcony. It appeared to enjoy the waterfall. (Dibblee)

The Dirt on Houseplants and Hanging Baskets

By Harriet Ottaviano, WCMGA Publicity Chair

Hbjotto90740@yahoo.com—213-999-1189

Free Zoom Webinar—Registration Required

Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 7 p.m.

Join the Washington County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) for a webinar on fueling our plant passions with houseplants and hanging baskets. Gardening in the Pacific Northwest's clay soils is a challenge many plant lovers would just as soon avoid. Space limitations in housing situations may make outdoor gardening difficult to impossible. While houseplants and hanging baskets may seem like entirely different gardening areas, their one major similarity is the use of potting soil. Plants in the landscape need varying amounts of water, sunlight, nutrients and care, but they aren't much different than their cousins who spend their lives never touching clay.

Master Gardener Kris LaMar's presentation will focus on the nuances in the care of "potted plants:" those which may be moved from place to place to accommodate advantages in their unique environments. It will focus on planning before planting; avoiding insects and diseases; and maximizing the power of mobility in home gardening. And it all begins with soil.

Kris LaMar trained to become an OSU Master Gardener in 2013. Her volunteer activities include answering calls in the Clackamas County Extension office, tabling at community events, assisting at schools and community gardens, and writing articles for community publications. She served as the Speakers Guild coordinator in Clackamas County for 5 years. She has been a member of the

Ask an Expert panel for the Extension Service since 2017. Kris has taught the Master Gardener class to inmates at the Coffee Creek Correctional Institution and has worked with elementary school classes, and the Oregon Food Bank's Seed to Supper program.

Kris has been an attorney in Oregon since 1973, and was a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge for 25 years, retiring in 2009.

For more information and to register, please go to <http://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org/>

The Washington County Master Gardener™ Association (WCMGA) sponsors a wide variety of gardening-related demonstrations, lectures, seminars and workshops in various Washington County Oregon locations. Most of our events are free and open to the public.

WCMGA is a 501c3 non-profit supported by hundreds of volunteers, who work to educate the public about sustainable, affordable gardening.



PORTLAND CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
PO Box 86424
PORTLAND OR 97286-0424
<https://www.rhodies.org/>

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.

Membership

Chair: Evelyn Keritler ekritler@gmail.com
Benefits include chapter meetings, quarterly issues of the Journal American Rhododendron Society, plant sales and auctions, garden events and more.

Dues: \$40 per year

[Other membership options](#)

[ARS STORE](#)

OFFICERS

President: Steve Hopkins
Vice President: Ray Clack
Past President: Steve McCormick
Secretary: Steve Hall
Treasurer: Jim Peters
Membership Co-Chairs: Steve McCormick and John Stephens
Contact: pc.ars@outlook.com

BOARD MEMBERS

John Stephens	Ann Clack
Andrew Stern	Dennis O'Malley
Maria Stewart	Caroline Enns
Mike Stewart	David Anderson
Joanne Turner (through June 30, 2023)	(through June 30, 2024)

NEWSLETTER

Rhododendron News is published monthly except July, distributed via email.

Editor: Martha Dibblee mgdibblee@me.com

Masthead: Merilee Mannen

Contact Maria Stewart (503) 668-3522 for print edition.

WEBSITE www.rhodies.org

Webmaster: Andrew Stern

VAN VEEN NURSERY & VAN VEEN HERITAGE GARDEN

vanveennursery@hotmail.com

(503) 777-1734

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN

Volunteering/Tours/Photoshoots:

info@crystalspringsgardenpdx.org

Director: Brandon Baker

brandon@crystalspringsgardenpdx.org

Operations Manager: Vacant

(503) 267-7509

Friends of Crystal Springs

[FRIENDS ANNUAL PASS](#)

Donations: [Donate](#)

CECIL & MOLLY SMITH GARDEN

Chair: Vacant

agross@teleport.com

smithgarden.org



[Portland Chapter Rhododendron Society & Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden](#)

[All-ARS Facebook Page](#)