



Rhododendron News

Portland Chapter | American Rhododendron Society

Volume XVII, No 1 January 2023

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 through 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 Message for January 2023	1
PCARS 2022	2
Holiday Party.....	2
Calendar.....	3
Seeking RN-Profiles.....	3
January 2023 Haiku.....	3
ARS Chapter Information.....	4
Amazon Smile and Target	4
ARS Dues Reminder	4
2023 ARS Membership Renewal.....	5
Our Unique Gem	6
Pictures.....	9
Hot Peppers! From Seed to Salsa.....	10
Portland Chapter.....	11

President's Message for January 2023

By Steve Hopkins, President of the Chapter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

All of us that came to the December Chapter Meeting Christmas Party had a great time. We didn't have a large crowd but everyone there were enjoying getting to know each better. The potluck meal was excellent. The balance of main course, side dishes, and desserts could not have been balanced any better. The gift exchange garnered great prizes for everyone. No one was disappointed. Brenda brought a few extra gifts so everyone went home happy.

Now that we are in the New Year, we will need to get busy planning our times for the coming shows and sales. We will need some help so just let us know if you would like to participate. If we don't get enough volunteers, we will start calling and asking you to help us.

I look forward to seeing all of you on January 19th, 2023, for our Chapter meeting at Reedwood Friends Church located at 2901 SE Steele Street in Portland, Oregon. Bring a friend, we would like to meet them and introduce them to our wonderful opportunities.

—Steve Hopkins, President



© Rhodo-Blossom-Standing-Out (Brandon Baker)

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



PCARS 2022 Holiday Party



Delicious Potluck lineup



Evelyn and Martha



Sparrow tree ornaments

Calendar

Portland Chapter Meetings

Reedwood Friends Church

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

January 19, 2023

Regular Chapter Meeting

Program: 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**

June

Enjoy the Summer!

Seeking 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

January 2023 Haiku

One half of the trees
snow covered, the other half
waiting its turn

Intermittent snow
struggling to keep up with
the temperature

Dash of the hummingbird
almost an apparition
in today's snow

-Peter K—Peter Kendall



A gaggle of geese crossed the driveway in front of me here at Willamette View as I was driving into the garage; as I sat waiting “patiently” for them to cross, I observed this laggard that had the neck of a goose but wing feathers of a Mallard!

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 <https://victoriarhodo.ca/>; access all District 1 (BC) chapter websites at <http://www.rhodos.ca/chapters.html>.

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

Other Notices

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/> (Harriet Ottaviano at Hbjotto90740@yahoo.com). [Press release for February event on page 9.](#)

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.

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/>

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.

ARS DUES REMINDER

The ARS membership renewal cycle has completed for 2023. Thank you to everyone who renewed for 2023. We look forward to having you join us in the new year!

If you have not renewed for 2023, this is your last chance! Fill out the form on the next page, which you can print and mail. You also can 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.



**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**

Our Unique Gem

By Brandon Baker

Director, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Communities connected to plants and nature live happier, healthier lives. At its core, that's what the Rhododendron Society is - a community connected by the common affinity for Rhododendrons. The joy and rejuvenating recreation this community provides improves all of our lives.

As you all well know, one of the fruits of this community's work is a 9.5 acre gem known as Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. This treasured public garden provides a space for the larger community to come and experience the beauty and diversity of this beloved genus;

a space to celebrate important life moments like weddings, graduations and memorials; a space to find quiet contemplation; a space to move their bodies and feel the calming effects of being surrounded by natural beauty.

The year 2020 will forever be etched into our collective memory for a number of reasons we need not rehash here. For the American Rhododendron Society and the Portland Chapter, one bright spot that may have flown under the radar was that 2020 marked 70 years of faithful stewardship of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in southeast Portland.

The garden was established in 1950 in partnership with the Portland Parks & Recreation bureau to be a rhododendron test garden. Over



An undated photo of volunteers planting a large rhododendron in what would become the Jane R. Martin Memorial Garden (L to R: Unknown, Ruth Hansen, Ted Hansen, Howard Slonecker). Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart/Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (Brandon Baker)

the years the form of the garden shifted to being a woodland rhododendron display garden and many faithful hands have contributed to the incredible beauty and design of this beloved public garden.

In the 1990s, the Chapter established a master plan for the garden with the Parks Bureau that included a seven-point mission statement of 141 words. Perhaps finding this statement a bit cumbersome, we revised the statement again sometime thereafter to be a much tighter 56 words.

Earlier this year, the Chapter Board formed an ad hoc committee to work on updated mission and vision statements for our work at Crystal Springs. In May, a survey was sent out via email to members of the chapter and the Friends of Crystal Springs to learn more about why this garden is important to those who love it so well.

The results of this survey gave the committee a clear sense of the importance of the garden to this Society and to the people of Portland. What followed were three brainstorming sessions that brought forth new mission and vision statements for Crystal Springs that were approved by the full board in October.

The mission of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is to inspire joy, curiosity and replenishment within a serene rhododendron garden.

We envision Crystal Springs as a sanctuary of tranquil beauty for the wellbeing of all.



Winter Fog at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (Brandon Baker 12/5/21)

These statements may be ‘new’, but the work and sentiment they outline are a continuation of the Rhododendron Society’s decades of hard work, dedication of time and financial resources, and the creative act of crafting a beautiful greenspace for the benefit of the public.

In 2023, we look forward to resuming a full schedule of rhododendron shows and sales with both the Early Show and the Mother’s Day Show. One of our goals is to add public education programs at the garden to generate renewed interest in preparing sprays and trusses for these annual shows. I can’t wait to see what these shows have in store this year.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is an incredible asset to the city, the region, and visitors from all over the world. This past year, we welcomed over 90,000 visitors to the garden and anticipate over 100,000 will visit this year. What an incredible impact the Portland Chapter has on the community through this garden. I am grateful for the generous and ongoing support of Portland Chapter members and the Friends of the garden. Without you, this garden would not be the wonderful place that it is.



Volunteer Dennis O’Malley (Brandon Baker November 2021)



Pictures

Above and right, patterns of ice accumulating on grasses next to the pond in the garden of member Evelyn Kritler (the former garden of Ernie Metcalfe) during our most recent weather event. (Evelyn Kritler). Above right, member Merilee Mannen used watercolor to create the sunflower. (Merilee Mannen)



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Harriet Ottaviano

WCMGA Publicity Chair

Hbjotto90740@yahoo.com

213-999-1189



Free Webinar on Zoom: Registration Required

Hot Peppers! From Seed to Salsa

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

7-8 p.m.

Washington County Master Gardener Association invites you to a free webinar with Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes, OSU Extension Open Campus & Juntos Coordinator for Washington County. **Hot Peppers! From seed to salsa** will provide information about the planting and growing process of peppers, and how it relates to Latin culture. Ezequiel will focus on tips to effectively grow peppers, including the pinching process, when to plant your peppers outdoors, and how to use peppers in the kitchen.

Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes immigrated to the United States as a child alongside his parents from Michoacan, Mexico. He grew up in Cornelius, Oregon, which he still calls home. Ezequiel currently works with Latino families and students in Washington County to help prepare them for life after high school.

His love for gardening was passed down to him by his parents. His father was a farmer in Mexico, while his mother worked for 30 years in a plant nursery. Ezequiel says he has grown almost everything you can think of including peppers, limes, tomatoes, cherries, figs, and peaches.

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. *The 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 Kritler 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: Evelyn Kritler
Contact: ekritler@gmail.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. Contact Maria Stewart (503) 668-3522 for print edition.

Editor: Martha Dibblee mgdibblee@me.com

Masthead: Merilee Mannen

Website www.rhodies.org

Webmaster: Andrew Stern

Van Veen Nursery and 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

Contact: agross@teleport.com; smithgarden.org



[Portland Chapter Rhododendron Society & Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden All-ARS Facebook Page](#)