

rhododendron news

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society Volume LXVIII $N^{o}5$ May 2024

Meetings

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

Next Meeting May 16, 2024

Potluck Banquet—bring your favorite potluck item. Program: Norm Jacobs from Arbutus Garden Arts will talk about differences in landscaping in Japan.

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

Unless there's a special potluck Banquet like this month, if you want, meet at Woodstock Wine and Deli (SE Woodstock at 42nd Ave.) at 5pm for an informal happy hour meal!

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President's Letter

May is Rhododendron time, no bones about it. This is what we wait all year for in this part of the world. Just glance outside and take a moment to absorb the beauty of these great plants that we all love and enjoy. Although we have Rhodies

May 16 Meeting Award Banquet Potluck Bring salad, main dish, or dessert PCARS will supply utensils, water, plates.

blooming all year long, this is the time that we get the most bang for your buck.

Speaking of blooming Rhodies, we hope **people will bring some trusses to the Mother's Day** show this year, May 11-12. Depending on when you read this, the Mother's Day Show may be over, so I hope that you got a Ribbon for your entries. Ann Clack does a spectacular job of putting together the prizes for best of the best in many categories that win the fantastic prizes.

Our Mother's Day Show also has a plant sale for you to buy a Rhodie that you probably won't find in your local Garden Center. The Show is a great event that attracts our members and the citizens of Portland.

There are lots of activities this time of year that you can attend and enjoy. We have work parties that you can join. You also can sign up for working at Smith Garden collecting entrance fees and selling plants to the visitors. I want to remind everyone that we are short on Volunteers and we need you to help us fill the vacancies.

Enjoy this wonderful Month of May while the blooms last. Check out the <u>Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden</u> and the Smith Garden for an opportunity to see them at their finest.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Chapter Meeting on May 16th.

Steve Hopkins Steve Hopkins, President PCARS

Maria Stewart's Celebration of Life
Family and friends will gather
at the Stewart Garden (Dover Nursery)
at 11am on July 6, 2024 to celebrate Maria's life.
Please join us for this time of reflection and companionship.
Lunch will be served following the ceremony.

Van Veen Garden & Nursery

Van Veen Heritage Garden & Nursery History

Learn about Van Veen Heritage Garden in this <u>podcast</u> produced by the American Rhododendron Society's (ARS) Next Generation Program Podcasts and facilitated by Van Veen Heritage Garden President Mike Stewart. Taken from the ARS <u>website</u>, this podcast provides history and background of this urban rhododendron oasis in Portland OR. Included in this podcast episode are six subsections including

- · **Propagation**
- Garden facts
- · Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
- · Garden Time videos
- · GoFundMe donation appeal
- · Rhodies.org

Mike Stewart's YouTube videos from TV series "Garden Time"

YouTube video: Van Veen Rhododendron Propigation on Garden Time with Mike Stewart
YouTube video: Van Veen Rhododendron Heritage Garden on Garden Time with Mike Stewart



The new greenhouse: This page, the new greenhouse was delivered to Van Veen Nursery Wednesday, April 24. The custom-made structure will be assembled in the next few weeks.

Facing page, photos from Van Veen Heritage Garden and Nursery 4/29/24. Many more photos online. Photos by Martha Dibblee.







Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Early Show

"Viewer's Choice" April 13-14, 2024

This year's early show was different than shows of past years. Instead of having a judged show, it was decided that we would have a display instead. Six Portland Chapter ARS (PCARS) members brought a total of 78 trusses for display.

The public was given a chance to vote on their favorite, and as you can imagine, their choices were quite varied. Having them vote was such a good idea! It really involved them in the plants that were in the showroom and made them slow down long enough to really look at them. Once they slowed down the questions started to flow as well. We had a trophy for the winner of the popular vote. Joanne Turner's 'Vibrant Violet' spray captured the most popular votes.

Since the weather was nice there were lots of people and the room rarely was empty. PCARS printed 450 ballots and they were almost all gone by the end of the day. Many good conversations happened around the displays that were up for Smith garden, Van Veen Heritage Garden, and Vireyas.

We had one blooming Vireya from Van Veen nursery. Many people were impressed by that type of bloom and they learned a lot. We had brochures available for the care of Vireyas as well as information about Van Veen Heritage Garden.

The plant sale and a variety of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG) gifts were offered outside, manned by the garden staff. All in all it was a great day!





Views of guests contemplating the "best entry". Both photos by Evelyn Kritler.



Joanne Turner showing guest a fragrant entry. Photo by Ann Clack.



Peter Kendall and Joanne Turner enjoying the event. Photo by Ann Clack.



"Selfie" by Evelyn Kritler of She and Ann Clack.



Dennis O'Malley's entry *R. augustinii* 'Cerulean Mist'. Photo by Joanne Turner.



R. davidsonianum entry by Evelyn Kritler. Photo by Joanne Turner.

more on next pages



Van Veen Nursery Vireya display. Photo by Joanne Turner.



Smith Garden and Van Veen Heritage Garden display. Photo by Joanne Turner.



2024 Mother's Day Show & Sale



Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden 5801 SE 28th Ave, Portland, OR 97202

Saturday & Sunday May 11-12

Sale Hours: 10am to 5pm (9am open for Annual Passholders on Saturday) **Show Hours**: 12pm to 5pm Saturday, 10am to 5pm Sunday

SALE INFORMATION

- · Sale location: back service lot near the Exhibit Hall and Meadow lawn.
- Early access to the sale for Friends of Crystal Springs begins 9am on Saturday, May 11. Please show your pass at the gatehouse for entry.
- This year's sale will consist of mostly #1 and #2 size plants (1 gallon and 2 gallon).
 There will not be any mature specimens on sale this year.

SHOW INFORMATION

- Bring your trusses and sprays to display and compete for prizes! Enter your unknown truss or spray too!
- Bring entries for the show to the Exhibit Hall starting at 7:00am on Saturday, May
 11. If you have an armload of trusses/sprays or smaller, please use the main gate to enter.
- If you are bringing a larger number of entries, you may use the back service road to deliver your trusses and sprays. Please email us (<u>info@crystalspringsgardenp-dx.org</u>) for more information.
- The show will open to the public at 12pm on Saturday, May 11 after judging has been completed.
- · Tagged Plant Sale, Plant Show
- The Crystal Springs Mother's Day Rhododendron Show is a decades-long tradition that celebrates and awards excellence in rhododendron cultivation.

2024 May Haiku

Slipping into fullness once more midnight moon

To the fountain a scattering of songbirds as quick a departure

Not a breath of wind last night's maple having moved not at all.

-Peter Kendall

A Rhody Reminder...

Did you know? One of the benefits of your Portland Chapter ARS membership is waived admission at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden!

Simply share your name at the gate and mention that you are an ARS member.

Your PCARS membership admits you and a guest on each visit.

Hope this reminder gives you another reason to get out of the house, take a walk (don't forget your raincoat and Wellingtons!), and enjoy this special garden in our City!

Classified

Send classified notices to Paul Rogers pgr97007@gmail.com

Ron Mapes writes: I am shutting down my modest personal Rhody nursery and have a substantial collection of 1 gallon and up used pots They are all or part available for free to anyone that needs them and can they can haul away all that they can use. I can be contacted at my email: ronsrhody@coho.net

Van Veen Heritage Garden & Nursery Workday

May 18 at 9am is the next Van Veen workday.

Besides your appropriate work clothing make sure you wear sturdy shoes and bring leather gloves if you have them. Work will continue until early afternoon.

Van Veen address: 4201 SE Franklin St, Portland, OR 97206

PCARS Program Interest Survey

An <u>interest survey</u> has been created on Google Workspace that will help inform PCARS Board Members about member preferences for meeting program topics for future PCARS meetings. The PCARS Board is working to set up a speaker schedule for the next 2 years and would like input from members. We ask that you complete the online <u>survey</u> to provide member preferences. Created on behalf of Board Member loanne Turner and PCARS Board.

Upcoming Events

By Ann Clack

Smith Garden Open Days run through May 19.

Mother's day weekend show and sale May 11-12. Looks like the weather will be wonderful! The Mother's Day show is our opportunity to educate the public about rhododendrons.

- · Consider bringing a leaf display showing different sizes of leaves with and without indumentum
- How about a display on common leaf problems and how to treat them
- How about a poster on CSRG history! We can advertise the upcoming 75th Anniversary next year!

Let's get back to basics and become a learning event for the public! So ... bring in your flowers and displays and just have fun. Your flowers need to be in place inside the cool house by 9am, Saturday May 11th.

If you have questions about Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, email info@crystalspringsgarden-pdx.org or phone (503) 267-7509.



Rhododendron ochraceum, SW China, SEH#080, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, 26 April 2024 Photo by M. Dibblee.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden is located at 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland, Oregon.

Van Veen workday May 18 Meet at 9am for another much-appreciated workday. Besides your appropriate work clothing make sure you wear sturdy shoes and bring leather gloves if you have them. Work will continue until early afternoon. Van Veen address: 4201 SE Franklin St, Portland, OR 97206

May 16 PCARS Monthly Meeting

By Ray Clack, Program Chair

The **May 16th meeting** features Norm Jacobs from Arbutus Garden Arts. Norm presented a program to our group a few years ago. He will talk about differences in landscaping in Japan. Norm writes:

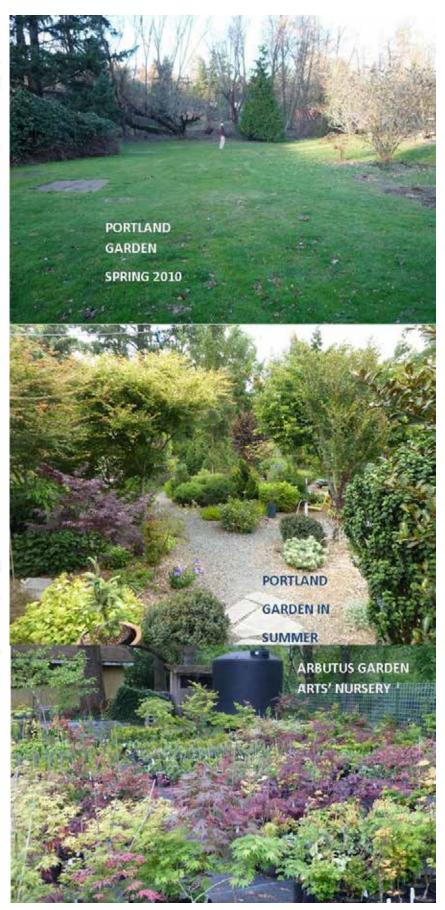
I've always been attracted to Japanese gardens, which I quickly discovered are inseparable from Japanese culture. Over decades as a gardener/nurseryman, I've had formal training in design, pruning technique, and a millenium of tradition in plant selection. Last fall Deb and I spent several weeks of cultural immersion in central Honshu, from Kyoto to Kanazawa and the villages between—an experience I hope to share. I will bring a few plants to offer, and perhaps door-prizes if you do that.

Norm's horticultural bio

I began gardening under my grandmother's tutelage in New Jersey sometime around age 6 - trimming boxwood, pruning roses, and tending the vegetable garden. We moved to California's Bay Area when I was in high school, where I landscaped the tract house lot: fruit trees, berries, rhubarb, and a vegetable garden in the back yard, and a very conventional ornamental front yard. But the treasures were the three mature apricot trees that the developer left intact! College was math/physics at Berkeley, but fledgling programs for public "pension" gardens drew my involvement, as well as Alice Waters' first "edible classroom" a few blocks from where I lived. At the time my focus was on edibles, but exploring the UC Botanical Garden became one of my getaways.

A few years after college, I met Deb - a botany grad from UC Santa Barbara. That we would garden was a foregone conclusion, and partnering in Arbutus Garden Arts has been a natural outcome. We moved onto 20 acres of bare land in Yamhill in the early 1980s, where we immediately began a garden under a canopy of Quercus garryana with limited water and low-fertility low water retention soil. Beginning in 2010 we began to develop a new garden in Portland with more sun and alluvial soil, moving ourselves and our nursery in mid-2015. Deb has retained an eclectic taste in plants, while my interest has been drawn to Asian plants, gardens, and garden design in which I've taken formal training.

Woodland gardens are our focus, as we've found the assembly of over-story, mid-story, and understory to benefit the plants and ourselves with reduced stress and labor. Working from full sun at the fringes to deep dry shade in the depths allows us the full range of plants we like. As a nursery, we specialize in Japanese maples, dwarf conifers, Epimedium, and are flirting with woodland (species) peonies, all of which are propagated and grown right here from plants which have performed well in our garden.



Past Meeting 4/18/24

By Ray Clack



April 18th Lynda Miller talked to the group about iris hybridization. She has been hybridizing Iris for years. She described the process and showed many examples of her work.

Lynda Miller is the owner of Miller's Manor Garden in Canby along with Roger & Nathan Miller, her husband and son. Iris isn't the only plant they grow! The nursery is full of fuchsias, witchhazels, hostas, and so much more. Lynda's plant knowledge is vast and varied. Listening to her always is fun and informative.

From the <u>website</u>, Miller's Manor Gardens is a small retail and wholesale nursery with extensive display gardens. Gardens showcase numerous genera of rare and unusual miniature and dwarf conifers, hardy fuchsias, rock garden and alpine plants, iris, and various other perennials for sun and shade.

Open by appoinment.

Hybrid Auction

Photos by Martha Dibblee







Festivo

Dan's Early Purple Seedling submitted by Paul Rogers.

Activities of the Portland Chapter ARS

2024-2025 Calendar of Events

DATE	PORTLAND CHAPTER	VAN VEEN HERITAGE GARDEN	SMITH GARDEN	CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN	OTHER EVENTS
Saturday-Sunday May 11-12			Open Days	Mother's Day Show & Plant Sale	
Thursday May 16	Potluck Banquet— bring one item, salad, main dish, or dessert Awards Program: Norm Jacobs Japanese Maples				
Saturday May 18		Workday			
Saturday-Sunday May 18-19			Open Days		
Saturday-Sunday May 25-26			CLOSED Memorial Day		
June-July Summer break					
Saturday August 17 (tentative)			Soirée		
Thursday September 19	Regular Meeting Cutting Exchange				
Friday & Saturday September 27-28				Plant Sale	
Thursday October 17	Regular Meeting Species auction				
Saturday October 26			Workday		
November				Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	
Thursday November 21	Regular Meeting Program: Scott Burns Missoula Floods				
Thursday December 19	Holiday Party Potluck Program: TBD				
Thursday January 16	Regular Meeting Program: TBD				
Thursday February 20	Regular Meeting Companion plant auction Program: TBD				
Saturday March 15		Workday			
Thursday March 20	Regular Meeting Program: TBD				
April 5-6				Early Show & Sale	
Thursday April 17	Annual Meeting Hybrid rhody auction				
May 10-11				Mother's Day Show & Sale	
Thursday May 15	Awards Banquet				

Rhododendron Eye Candy

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Federal Way WA

Photos by Martha Dibblee

On Friday 26 April five of us braved rain showers and downpours to view the spectacular display of rhododendron at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG). These are only a very few photos—there are many more photos online. After visiting RSBG, Joanne Turner, Mike D. and Ray Clack visited Lakewold Gardens a short distance from RSBG. Joanne wrote that it was "a really neat historical home with grounds that had Rhodies; about as big as Crystal Springs." And from Willamette Chapter newsletter editor Mary Ellen Ramseyer, page 5, a third garden in Federal Way WA is PowellsWood garden, a 3-acre cultivated English-style garden connected to a 37-acre nature preserve, just 10 minutes from RSBG.











Open Days at Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Each Saturday and Sunday during spring blooming two Willamette or Portland Chapter members host Open Days at Smith Garden, this year through May 19. All but one of these host positions is filled but we need ONE more person to help on Saturday May 11. If you are not helping with the Mother's Day show at CSRG it would be wonderful if you could work along with Martha D that Saturday. Sign up to work at Smith Garden on the May 11 Open Day.

Taken from the <u>ARS blog</u>, Ginny Mapes <u>provides an overview</u> of this woodland garden. In addition, <u>Peter Kendall</u> has written a comprehensive history of Smith Garden, first published in <u>Pacific Horticulture</u> (Summer 1994) and subsequently adapted in <u>JARS v9n1</u>. There are <u>many more pictures online</u> and Joanne Turner also has posted photos on the <u>Smith Garden Facebook page</u>.



Rhododendron and Glowing Ferns, Smith Garden, 27 April 2024. Photo by Joanne Turner.





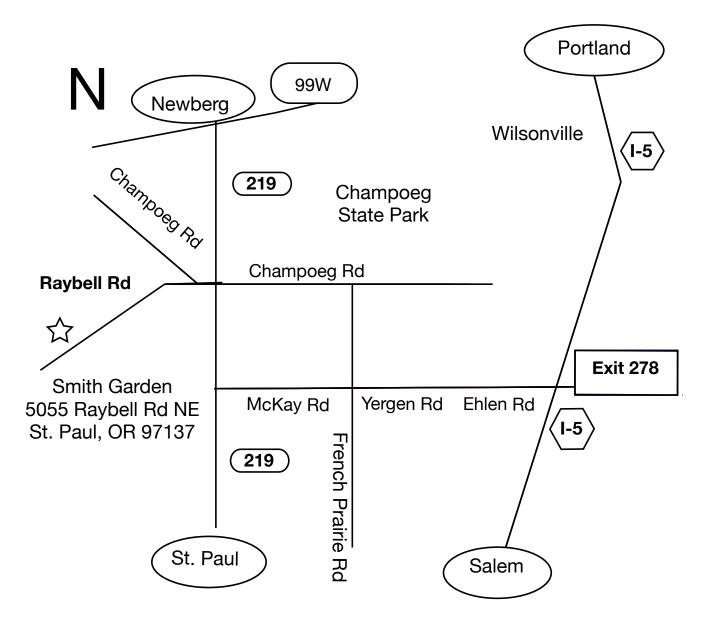
Above and below, Smith Garden 28 April 2024. Photo by Martha Dibblee.

Getting to Smith Garden

Smith Garden is located at **5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, Oregon 97137.** Parking and entrance are just past the house. There are two entrances; the first entrance is to the private driveway and garage area; enter at the second entrance, which has a "Garden Open" sign at the left side of the entrance. Proceed to the green guard house where volunteers will collect your \$3 entrance fee and answer questions.

If you are the volunteer host for the day, you already have been provided with a procedure while you're there, but be sure to walk around this wonderful Garden while you're there. There likely will be limited sales but there still are a few plants that are for sale.

Enjoy!



Resources

Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Newsletter Archive

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Smith Garden (website under construction) address: 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, OR 97137

Peter Kendall's article "The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden" in <u>JARS v49n1</u>. This article adapted from the original in *Pacific Horticulture* Summer 1994 documents the origin of Smith Garden, why and how it was selected and why its location is key to its success.

Van Veen Heritage Garden & Nursery

YouTube video: Van Veen Rhododendron Propigation on Garden Time with Mike Stewart

YouTube video: Van Veen Rhododendron Heritage Garden on Garden Time with Mike Stewart

Oregon ARS Chapters

- Portland
- Eugene
- Willamette
- Siuslaw
- Tualatin

Read about the rhododendron <u>root weevil</u> in the <u>Siuslaw Chapter</u> newsletter 'Macrophyllum'.

Other ARS chapter news

- Mt Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society Qualicum Beach, BC Rhodovine newsletter Linda Derkach is President of ARS.
- Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter (Lois Blackmore); access all District 1 (BC) chapter websites.

American Rhododendron Society Chapters

e-IARS available online

Other news

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Plant Catalog and order form. Contact Grace Pham for more information.

Danish Chapter of the ARS

Humboldt Botanical Garden

Washington County Master Gardeners (Harriet Ottaviano)

North American Rock Garden Society

Penstemon Society

Hardy Plant Society of Oregon

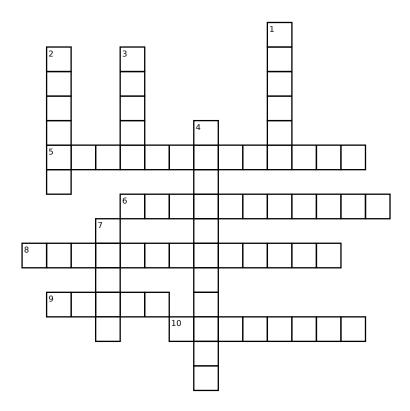
Eriogonum Society

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

The Crossword Project

Awhile back there was mention of a rhodie crossword puzzle book. The rhodie crossword puzzle book is copyright so it can't be copied but there's an online crossword puzzle generator app that's available. Using this app and our resources (Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, ARS resources) the following crossword puzzle was created. Answer sheet on next page.

The Crossword Project #2



Down:

- 1. Another word for determinate inflorescence.
- 2. In rhododendron, the flower stalk.
- An arrangement of rhododendron flowers that consist of a number of short flower stalks.
- 4. Plants whose inflorescence has the oldest flower at the top of the main axis or rachis.
- 7. In botany, a classificatory rank between family and species.

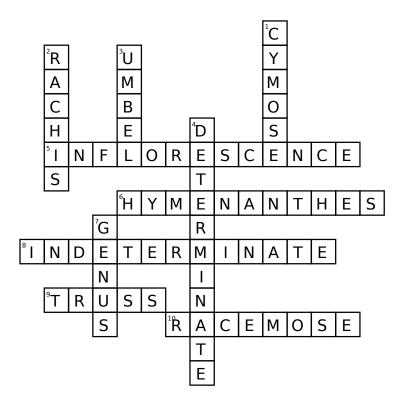
Across:

- 5. The arrangement of the flowers on a plant.
- An elepidote subgenus of rhododendron whose members bear their flowers in clusters at the ends of branches.
- 8. Plants whose inflorescence has the youngest bud at the top of the main axis.
- 9. Horticultural term for the flower cluster of a rhododendron.
- 10. Another word for indeterminate inflorescence.

If you're so inclined, send clues to <u>editor@rhodies.org</u>. Clues and answers need to be in the format: word, definition. For example:

indumentum, A woolly covering on the underside of mature leaves. tomentum, A woolly covering on the upper side of mature leaves. persistent tomentum, Type of tomentum that remains on a leaf to maturity. (2 words)

The Crossword Project #2



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- 9. Horticultural term for the flower cluster of a rhododendron.
- 10. Another word for indeterminate inflorescence.



2024 At-A-Glance

Registration Links will be released in batches.
Can't attend live? Register and receive a recording link 2 days after the session.

Scroll down to links below!

It is Not Too Late, You Can Still Register for the May Webinars!

5/1	Native	Dlonto
;)/ I	Nanve	Fiailis

5/8 Groundcovers for Un-irrigated Landscapes

5/15 Growing Tomatoes III

5/22 Growing Root Crops

5/29 Growing Cover Crops

1/10 Climate	1/17 Pruning	1/18 Pruning	1/24 Growing	1/31 Growing	2/7 Garden	ails @ cmasterga 2/8 Growing	2/14 Soil
Resilient Garden	Fruit Trees	Ornamental Trees	Fruit Trees	Blueberries	Tools	Cane Berries	Amendments
2/21 Growing Tomatoes I	2/28 Growing Early- Vegetables	3/6 Garden Design 101	3/7 Rain Garden & Bioswale	3/13 Hosting Bees (Mason & Leafcutter)	3/14 Soil & Planting	3/20 Integrated Pest Management	3/27 Climate Friendly Lawns
3/28 Growing Tomatoes II	4/3 Garden Trans- formation	4/10 Debunking Gardening Myths	4/11 Raised Bed Gardening	4/17 Plant Trial Winners	4/24 Gardening For Birds	5/1 Native Plants	5/8 Groundcovers for Un-irrigated Landscapes
5/15 Growing Tomatoes III	5/22 Growing Root Crops	5/29 Growing Cover Crops	6/5 Growing Vegetables Year-Round	6/12 Enabled Gardener	Oregon Stat Extension Master Ga	Service support of university	ration with and in f the Oregon State Extension Service Irdener™ Program.

Recordings of Previous Webinars

10-Minute University Library

Portland Chapter
The American Rhododendron Society
PO Box 86424
Portland OR 97286-0424
https://www.rhodies.org/

District 4 ARS

District Director: Jack Olson Alternate: Mike Bones

Eugene Chapter - Lorrie Zeller Portland Chapter - Steve Hopkins

Siuslaw Chapter - Day Farrald

Tualatin Valley Chapter - Ron Mapes Willamette Chapter - Dana Malby

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

Benefits include chapter meetings, quarterly issues of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society, plant sales and auctions, garden events and more. Dues: \$40 per year. Other membership options: https://www.rhodies.org/

Website

https://www.rhodies.org/ Webmaster: Vacant

Membership Chair: Vacant

Officers

President: Steve Hopkins Vice President: Ray Clack Past President: Steve McCormick Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Steve Kaminski

Board Members

John Stephens, Mike Stewart, Joanne Turner, Ann Clack, Dennis O'Malley, Karen Hanson, Donna Sell, Brenda Ziegler, Brandon Baker, CSRG Exec. Dir.

Newsletter

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editor@rhodies.org
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Rhododendron News is pub-

Van Veen Nursery & Van Veen Heritage Garden

vanveennursery@hotmail.com (503) 777-1734

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Volunteering/Tours/Photoshoots: <u>info@crystalsprings-</u>

gardenpdx.org

Director: Brandon Baker

brandon@crystalspringsgarden-

pdx.org

Operations Manager: Shannon Pinkham, shannon@crystal-springsgardenpdx.org
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