

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- Feb. 6 — Information Outreach 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
**All's Garden Centers**
- Feb. 17 — Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: Steve Vinisky  
Topic: Daffodil growing in The PNW  
Plant Auction: Companion Plants
- Feb. 22 — Board Meeting 7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery
- Feb. 23-27 — Rhododendron Display and Information Outreach  
Contact: Mike Domaschofsky for hours  
Expo Center
- Mar. 8 — Pick up plants at Thompsons  
All day trip to Waldport  
And back

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## Noteworthy Narcissus

By Maria Stewart

The speaker for our February meeting is Steve Vinisky, proprietor of Cherry Creek Daffodils, located in Sherwood, Oregon. He is an internationally known daffodil hybridizer, daffodil judge and acknowledged expert in daffodils and many other bulbs. Steve is one of the very few Americans to have judged daffodil shows in Holland, Ireland, and England, as well as across the United States. His exciting new daffodil creations include Standard Daffodils, Intermediate Daffodils and Miniature Daffodils, as well as many seed-raised rare species Narcissus. He has created, registered and introduced over 60 daffodil introductions to date.

He will discuss how best to grow them in our superb bulb climate here in the Pacific Northwest. Steve will take us on a spectacular photographic guided tour of Narcissus species in their wild habitat. Included will be a brief visit to the Floriade, Dutch bulb fields and the Keukenhof garden in Holland. You will hear about some interesting connections and cross-overs with notable Rhododendron hybridizing 'greats' who also had an abiding and passionate love of daffodils. Daffodils do make excellent companion plants for Rhododendrons and Camellias. They are ideal floral 'bridges' that thrive in the sunny spaces in many Rhododendron plantings.

Steve will bring some very special, unusual, rare, truly sensational potted daffodil bulbs that will be available to us. He is also donating some special miniature and species Narcissus for our plant drawing. Our Portland Chapter members will also get "first crack" at this year's selections of blooming size, seed-raised strains of Primula from legendary Barnhaven Primroses. Choice, rare, impossible-to-find color strains that will "knock your socks off!"

Don't dare to miss the February meeting!

## 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.

## Meeting Calendar through May, 2011:

**Feb. 6— Information Outreach  
1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Al's Garden Centers**

**Feb. 17 - Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: Steve Vinisky  
Topic: Daffodil growing in the PNW  
Plant auction: companion plants**

**Feb, 22 - Board Meeting  
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**Feb. 23-27 Rhododendron Display and Information Outreach  
Contact: Mike Domaschofsky for hours  
Expo Center**

**Mar. 8— Pick up plants from Thompsons  
All day trip to Waldport and back**

**Mar. 17 - Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: Kathy Van Veen  
Topic: Rhododendron names**

**Mar. 19— Chinese Garden Plant Sale at the Lan Su Garden  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
NW Natural parking lot just north of the Chinese Garden**

**Mar. 22 - Board Meeting  
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**April 2-3: Early Show  
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden  
2 day plant sale !!!**

**April 21 - Annual Meeting**

**Chapter Elections  
Speaker: Jack Olson  
Topic: Truss Selection  
Plant Auction: Hybrid Rhododendrons**

**April 23— Japanese Garden Plant Sale  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
At the garden in Washington Park**

**April 26 - Board Meeting  
7:30 PM, Van Veen Nursery**

**May 7-8: Mothers' Day Show and Plant Sale  
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**May 11-15: National Convention  
Heathman Lodge  
Vancouver, WA**

**May 19 - Awards Banquet  
Dinner, Awards**

**May 24—Board Meeting?**

## Haiku

Perched so discretely -  
Trees in winter silhouette  
On a distant ridge

Through limbs of the oak,  
Through occluding cloud, the push  
Of the winter's sun

By Peter Kendall

## Other News Shorts:

Please note that there will be a **2-day plant sale at the Early Show on April 2-3 this year.**

**Siuslaw ARS Rhody Early Show dates moved up to April 9 and 10, 2011, per Bill Hennig, Chapter President.**

**We have just learned that Sig Berthelsdorf died January 31 at the age of 99 1/2 years.**

**Our events coordinator for Crystal Springs, Rita Knapp, is ill. Rachael Maloney has agreed to assume her duties.**

## January Jewels

**By: Maria Stewart**

It was January 20th, and it seemed to be a day like any other ordinary January day. That is, until you stepped inside our Portland Chapter meeting hall and were greeted by smiling faces and a fragrant, multi-colored bouquet of vireya rhododendron flowers from the Bovees Nursery, and then the day became special. You see, **E. White Smith** gave us a fascinating talk about vireyas that night. Showing slide after slide of the range of colors and beautifully shaped corollas that vireyas display, E. White enticed us to fall in love with them. Yes, vireyas need protection from cold in the winter, but he encouraged us to grow them. He also showed us the correct mix in which to grow them. E. White was ably assisted by **Lucie Sorensen-Smith**, who added many pertinent points to the talk. E. White included photos of the brand-new Rutherford Conservatory at the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden, where many vireyas now find a perfect environment in which to thrive. It should be noted that E. White and the Bovees Nursery contributed much to the success of the new Conservatory with their time and their plants.

**Chapter President Mike Domaschofsky** gave us an overview of chapter events for the months of February through May. We are going to be very busy spreading the word about rhododendrons at several different venues and Mike asked for our participation at these events. On February 6th, we will have a table with information at Al's Garden Centers. During the days of February 23—27, we will have a display at the Expo Center where we will talk to attendees and give out information. On March 19th, we will sell rhododendrons at the Portland Chinese Garden plant sale. April 2-3 is our Early Show and Plant Sale, this year in partnership with the Daffodil Society, at Crystal Springs. Remember, this is a 2-day plant sale. Later on, on April 23rd, we will sell rhododendrons at the Japanese Garden. Of course, the month of May brings the Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale at Crystal Springs, May 7-8. This year is even more exciting because the American Rhododendron Society's 65th International Convention will be held during the week of May 11-15. We will finally relax with our May banquet on the 19th. This spring will surely be one to remember!

**Karen Cavender** brought several cards for us to sign for members in need of good cheer. (See the article in this newsletter about the life of Ed Egan.)

Thank you, **Barb MacArthur**, for the delicious treats you brought for us to enjoy.

## In Memory of Ed Egan

By Mike Stewart

Ed Egan had an intense interest in deciduous azaleas. Over many years of experimenting, trial and error, he developed a very successful method of rooting these beautiful plants. His collection was extensive, including hundreds of varieties of hybrids and many different and fine forms of all the native American species. In his always friendly and out-reaching nature, he made friends with many of the best growers and collectors throughout the country. Through these friendships, he acquired cuttings and plants that eventually culminated in one of the most complete collections in the United States. Through the years he and his wife Fran developed a wholesale nursery which supplied azaleas to retail and mail-order operations.

Ed's association with the American Rhododendron Society is probably best known for the position he held as ARS Journal editor. Under his leadership, the ARS "Bulletin" as it was known, was revamped and redesigned into the scientific Journal that it is today. Through his efforts and persistence, the Journal went to a larger format and was finally able to have color pictures as part of its regular publication. His experience as the head of the photography department at Tektronics for over 25 years added greatly to the improvement of the Journal and he is credited for its many advances. He also served the ARS as the Honors Committee Chairman and served on the Board of Directors of the Portland Chapter and on the Smith Garden Committee. Ed and Fran received Bronze Medals from the Portland Chapter, the Tualatin Valley Chapter, and the Gold Medal Award from the American Rhododendron Society, which is that Society's highest award.

Ed took a personal interest in helping sell azaleas at the annual Mothers' Day Sale at Crystal Springs Garden. He felt that there should be someone there who really knew deciduous azaleas, so that they could be properly introduced to the public. Ed spent many hours talking about and displaying his plants. By the time he got done with the "lesson", you couldn't walk away without buying one of his azaleas.

Ed also took a special interest in anyone who was interested in learning about rooting and growing azaleas. He spent many days at our nursery making sure that the lessons he taught us were followed to the 'T'. For those who listened and learned, he saved us many years of experimenting. Eventually, when he knew we had learned how to successfully root azaleas, he would make sure we were given stock plants so we could continue on our own.

In his youth, Ed was an excellent sailor, archer and trick bare-back horse rider. He and Fran met at Iowa State, where he majored in electrical engineering. He loved the outdoors and through his last week of life wanted to soak his face in the sun every chance he got. His last holidays were spent in California with the families of his two daughters, Carolyn and Sue. He died in Mt. Shasta, California where Fran will make her home.

Ed was a gentleman, and he always spoke of and treated his friends and family with great respect. Ed and Fran entertained guests in their home often. They were an extremely gracious couple. They were married for over 69 years. Ed will be missed, and remembered.

Ed and Fran Egan



New rock wall and bench  
for seating at Crystal  
Springs

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

PO Box 86424,  
Portland, OR 97286-0424  
ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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

Web: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)

Post Master: Time sensitive  
mail; please deliver before  
February 12, 2011

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: *Mike Domaschofsky*  
Vice President: *Maria Stewart*  
Past President: *Kath Collier*  
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Thru June 30, 2011) **Steve Hopkins,**  
**Brenda Ziegler, Donna Sell, Ray**  
**Clack, and Carol Barrett.**  
(Thru June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,**  
**Dave Collier, Kathy Van Veen, Mike**  
**Stewart, and Steve Kaminski**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chairs:

**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522, and  
**Donna Giguere**, 503-777-1177

Tours:

**Barbara Keller**, 503-775-5205

Gatehouse:

**Rose Kress**, 503-654-4318

Friends:

**Kathy Van Veen**, 503-777-1734

Events: **Rachael Maloney**, **503-975-  
6743**

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Chair: **Ginny Mapes**, 503-647-2896

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 non-  
-profit class postage (permit #1134,  
Portland). Photographs and images

may only be reproduced with permis-  
sion from the owner.

Articles: Deadline is the chapter  
meeting. Send materials to either:  
**Kathy Van Veen**, veteran Proofread-  
er, at: (email) [vanveennursery@ hot-  
mail.com](mailto:vanveennursery@hotmail.com) or via mail to: 4201 SE  
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,  
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,  
newsletter editor, at: [l.hemingway@  
comcast.net](mailto:l.hemingway@comcast.net), or via mail to: 4765 SW  
38th Place, Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-  
rected to: **Maria Stewart** at 503-668-  
7565.

Website: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org); web  
master: **Steve Kaminski**

Membershi p Updates: John  
Wel sh, Membershi p Chair, e-  
mai l: [jlwelsh26@yahoo.com](mailto:jlwelsh26@yahoo.com);  
503-663-6987

