

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- **December 15, 2011**
Christmas Party
6:30 PM set-up,
7:00 PM eating time
Program: slides
shown by members,
decorated tables, and
lots of potluck food!
- **January 19, 2012**
Regular meeting
7:00 PM social time
7:30 PM meeting
Program: Dealing with
Rhododendron Pests
- **January 24, 2012**
Board meeting
7:30 PM
Van Veen Nursery

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



It's Time to Celebrate the Season!

At the Portland Chapter Christmas Party

December 15th, 2011

All Saints Episcopal Church

SE 40th and Woodstock

Gathering and set-up time is 6:30 PM.

Dining commences at 7:00 PM.

It's potluck and we are so lucky to have excellent cooks in our Chapter.

Bring some of your favorite photos to share. A laptop, a digital projector and a slide projector will be provided.

Bring an inexpensive gift for the gift exchange.

Table decorators:

Dorothy and Don Patrick

Peter Kendall

Loni and John Welsh

Maria and Mike Stewart

Ann and Ray Clack

Karen and Dick Cavender

Barb and Bob MacArthur

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 February, 2012:

December 15, 2011

Christmas Party

7:00 PM

**Program: Slides by members
Decorated tables, lots of food!**

January 19, 2012

Regular meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Program: Dealing with Rhododendron Pests

January 24, 2012

Board meeting, 7:30PM

Van Veen Nursery

February 16, 2012

Regular meeting

7:00 PM social time

7:30 PM meeting

Speaker: Diana Reeck

Topic: Companions for your Rhododendrons

Plants for sale from Collector's Nursery

February 21, 2012

Board meeting

7:30 PM

Van Veen Nursery

February 22-26, 2012

Home and Garden Show at the Expo

March 15, 2012

Regular meeting

Speaker: Steve Hootman

**Topic: Species Rhododendrons
Companion Plant Auction**

Haiku

With nary a nod.
to leaves about to turn, the
scampering squirrel

Down the winding path
The parting woods- - the maple
Such calligraphy!

The fall rains have folded
In and out among the clouds
- - a full moon lifting

Yesterday nothing
Today - clusters of toadstools
What is one to think?

A breaking of dawn
Swells of ground fog playing peek
- a - boo with the sun

October's promise
Winds funneling east - - colors
the edge of Van Gogh

By Peter Kendall



Blockbuster Speakers — 3 more in a row!

Plan ahead, bring a friend, enjoy the presentations of these three fantastic speakers.

Diana Reeck, Collector's Nursery, February 16, 2012

Steve Hootman, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, March 15, 2012

Harold Greer, Greer Gardens, April 19, 2012

Memories of the November 17th Meeting

By Maria Stewart

WOW! Peter Kendall's talk about the exemplary gardens of the Kerr family treated us to his photographs showing the beauty of their design and the thoughtfulness that went into the plant selection in the gardens. We are fortunate to have the Kerr gardens so close to us in Portland. As Peter's program progressed, we became aware of the effects of each season on the gardens. It was interesting to see how a well-designed garden takes on a different personality during each season.

Most amazing, however, is Peter's ability to recognize hundreds of plants by their full botanical names. He pointed out that the Jane Kerr Platt garden features many magnificent trees, such as *Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Pendulum', *Sciadopitys verticillata*, *Magnolia*, *Davidia involucrata*, *Styrax*, *Stewartia* and *Oxydendrum arboreum*, among others too numerous to mention here. Anchoring the understory of those trees are many carefully selected species rhododendrons. Along with the rhododendrons are other large shrubs such as *Enkianthus*, *Corylopsis*, *Disanthus cercidifolius* and *Hamamelis*.

Thank you, Peter, for giving us such an enjoyable tour through the seasons in the Kerr gardens.

Welcome to Wendy Erosky and Lois Freeborn who became members during the meeting!

Crystal Springs Dormancy Luncheon

By Tom Hoffman

On the morning of November 2nd, we awoke to clear skies and a light frost. Driving to Crystal Springs, we found the Willamette River and Crystal Springs wreathed in fog. The bridges at Crystal Springs were white with frost, a light breeze blowing wisps of fog about, the lake steaming in the chill air. At the south end of the low bridge, almost hidden in the fog, was Bob MacArthur with his camera, very intent on something in the lake. That something turned out to be the 3 large resident otters, all very curious and focused on Bob, from a distance of a few yards offshore. Truly a magical scene and a wonderful beginning to our day.

Portland Parks provided the main course of locally barbecued meats for our luncheon, we brought side dishes and desserts and enjoyed a fine meal in good company. Our tables were decorated with original framed photographs made by Pat Frobes and whimsical found-object animal sculptures made by Betsy Soifer, for the occasion.

Several Portland Parks employees spoke of their appreciation of all the work the Crystal Springs volunteers have done in the past year; Crystal Springs could not exist without the public-private partnership we have developed. Many volunteers were recognized for their long hours and hard work in the garden and we had a fun raffle. As always, the most coveted prize was a pickup load of fresh mulch!

By the time the Dormancy Luncheon wound up, the sun had burned through the fog, leaving us to go forth into a beautiful autumn afternoon with our new treasures.

“Appalachian Spring” ARS and ASA Convention May 4 - 7, 2012

The American Rhododendron Society and the American Azalea Society are jointly holding an International Convention May 4 - 7, 2012 in Asheville, North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Convention is being hosted by the Southeastern Chapter, ARS and Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, under the theme “Appalachian Spring”.

To see all the information about the 2012 ARS-ASA International Convention, please go to the ARS website at rhododendron.org. There you will find a complete description of the convention and registration packet.

The Registrar is encouraging all interested parties to reserve their room at the ‘Crowne Plaza Resort’, Asheville, NC at telephone # 1-888-233-9527 right away, as rooms are going fast!

The deadline for early registration for the Convention in order to receive the early registration discount is March 1st, 2012. Full refunds for any reason will be allowed until April 15, 2012.

The Convention will open at 3:00 PM on Thursday, May 3, 2012 for registration on-site as well as plant and book sales and submitting entries for the flower and photo show.

2012 Membership dues for the Portland Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society are due now to ensure receiving the Winter 2012 ARS Journal.

Regular Membership dues are \$40.00 per year. You can write a check payable to ARS Portland Chapter and mail or give it to:

Dick Cavender — ARS Treasurer
15920 SW Oberst Lane
Sherwood, OR 97140-5020

Reminder notices are in the mail and include a convenient envelope for your remittance. Please don't delay—we don't want to lose you!

Please take a minute to make sure your address, telephone and e-mail address in the Member Phone Book for 2011 are correct; there are lines for Phone and Email on the Membership Renewal envelope, or you can e-mail any changes to: John Welsh, Membership Chair at: jlwelsh26@yahoo.com .

Membership benefits include 9 or more newsletters, 4 ARS Journals, discounts and many activities.

Board Meeting Highlights

By Maria Stewart

A proposal was discussed to create permanent name badges for our members to wear at each meeting. We talked about whether or not to put “member since....” on the badges. The discussion will continue after finding out the cost of the badges.

Our chapter needs a new Publicity Chair.

We will have the same design for our rhododendron display at the Home & Garden Show at the Expo in February as we had this last year. Mike Domaschofsky is organizing the set-up and gathering of the materials.

Other events in which the Chapter will participate are the Chinese Garden sale in March and the Japanese Garden Sale April 28th. Attending these sales is a great way to meet and talk with potential members.

Kath Collier reported some news from National. The ARS Board is sorting through the different ways that the 18-month membership is used by the Chapters. The Journal is in the process of developing an electronically-sent version for those members who wish to receive it that way. The idea of starting 2 or 3-year memberships is also being considered.

Dick Cavender pointed out that we need to advertise the dates of the International Convention in May, 2012 in our newsletter. Also, the American Azalea Society website gives lots of information, as well.

Rhododendron 'Taurus', The Christmas Tree Rhododendron



By Maria Stewart

Red buds and dark green leaves - what more do you need for celebrating Christmas? Thank you, Frank Mossman, for hybridizing, growing, naming, introducing and registering 'Taurus' for all of us to enjoy!

Here is more information about this large-growing elepidote rhododendron.

The cross: ('The Honourable Jean Marie de Montague' x strigillosum) This is the same cross as 'Grace

Seabrook', but they are not sister seedlings.

Flower color: glowing red with black freckles on the dorsal lobe; stamens, pistil and calyx are all red, too

Truss description: 16 corollas forming a large globular truss

Leaves: deep green, elliptic, pointed; held for 3 years

Bloom time: late April into May

Size in 10 years: 5 to 6 feet tall and wide

Hardiness: -5 degrees F

Interested in volunteering ?

The Portland Chapter of the ARS has numerous opportunities for volunteers to help maintain and improve rhododendron gardens in our area. We have a long-standing partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. The brand-new Cloud Forest Rhododendron Garden in Washington Park is another opportunity in urban Portland. The Smith Garden in St. Paul is a cooperative venture among the Portland, Tualatin and Willamette Chapters of the ARS. All are in need of gardeners!

Each garden is an oasis in the busy world we live in, with amazing birds and other fun wildlife-viewing, set in beautiful plantings of rhododendrons and companion plants, and all just a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of the city, yet a world removed.

Contact:

For **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**, on SE 28th just north of SE Woodstock in Portland, please contact:

Beverly Watkins, 503-244-0537, bjwats2@comcast.net;

Pat Frobes, pfrobes@me.com;

Portland Parks & Recreation Volunteer Services, Steve Pixley.
503-823-5121

For **Smith Garden**, 5065 Ray Bell Road, St. Paul, OR, please contact:

Herb Spady, 503-874-1445, gardenherb@me.com

Tom Gressler, 503-538-4769, tgressler@gmail.com

For the new **Cloud Forest Rhododendron Garden** in Washington Park, Portland, please contact:

Portland Parks & Recreation Volunteer Services, Steve Pixley, 503-823-5121

And, if everyone remembers to wear their name tags to the December meeting, you might be able to contact representatives for each of those 3 gardens, directly, in person!



Crystal Springs. Photo by Ernie Metcalfe



Smith Garden in Spring

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2012) **Ann Clack,**
Kathy Van Veen, Mike Stewart, and
Steve Kaminski
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline**
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,
Brenda Ziegler, Ray Clack and Carol
Barrett

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 Moloney, 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.

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Articles: Deadline is the chapter
meeting. Send materials to either:
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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; web
master: **Steve Kaminski**

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Welsh, Membershi p Chair, e-
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503-663-6987