

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

- Mar. 8— Pick up plants at 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 Nsy.
- April 2-3—Early Show
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
2-day Plant Sale!

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



What's In A Name?

By Maria Stewart

The other day, when looking up a plant description in *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, I just happened to see R. 'Kathy Van Veen' listed. Reading on, the description said that R. 'Kathy Van Veen' is a sport of R. 'Jean Marie de Montague'. Now, we all know that the person this rhododendron is named after *is* a good sport, but to see that confirmed in print was exciting! Furthermore, she is rated at 4/4/4 for flower, form and performance!

What's in a name? Kathy Van Veen, the real person, will tell us the stories behind many famous rhododendron names when she speaks to us on **March 17th**. Think of the names of the rhododendrons in your own garden. Do you have a R. 'Gomer Waterer', a R. 'Mrs. Furnivall' or a R. 'Nancy Evans'? Why were those names chosen and what are the stories that go with the giving of the names?

Kathy is the third generation proprietor of Van Veen Nursery, a 4-acre rhododendron and azalea nursery in the middle of the SE Portland residential area, very close to downtown. Kathy says her family nursery was there before the city limits of Portland were. The city limits used to be at SE 39th Avenue and a stream once ran down SE Franklin Street past the present entrance gate.

Today, the nursery specializes in growing liners and rooted cuttings. People from all over the United States and Canada send their cuttings to be rooted by Kathy. She is well known for being able to root every rhododendron under the sun.

Kathy served as our chapter President for three years and is a Bronze Medal recipient. She currently chairs the Friends of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and serves on the Board.

During the ARS Convention in May of this year, Kathy invites you to visit the nursery, not only to see the many rhododendrons, but also to see their crepe myrtles which are designated as Portland Heritage Trees.

See you at the March 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 Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden May, 2011:

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Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
2 day plant sale !!!**

April 9-10 Siuslaw Chapter Early Show

**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

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

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

May 24—Board Meeting?

Haiku

Thru gaps in the hills,
Those roiling clouds on the move
re-casting sun

Winter cumulus
in a brilliant light, from one
Form to another

The epitome
Of perpetual motion...
Ruby-crowned kinglet

By Peter Kendall

Other News Shorts:

The Board meeting in February was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Ernie Metcalfe's wife, Evelyn, passed away recently. Her service was held on February 19th.

We have recently learned that Elsie Watson passed away February 14th. She was a founding member of the Seattle Rhododendron Society.

The March newsletter of the Willamette Chapter of the ARS is available at: <http://arswillamette.org/current.htm>

February 17th Meeting Highlights

By: Maria Stewart

Steve Vinisky, our speaker, and the proprietor of Cherry Creek Daffodils, captured our attention with beautiful photos of wild daffodils growing in and on rocks, with very little soil. "Daffodil" is the English name, and Narcissus the Latin name for these wonderful plants. Most of the species daffodils come from stony, rocky habitats in the mountains of Spain and Portugal. They are covered by snow for long periods of time in the winter and have the classic 'Mediterranean' warm, dry summers. Steve pointed out that inland region from Roseburg, Oregon north to British Columbia is one of the finest climates for bulbs in the world. Daffodils need full sun, well-drained soil, a wet fall through spring, and a warm, dry summer. When we plant our daffodils in our mostly clay soils directly, we are subjecting them to unfavorable conditions. It is important to improve the drainage and aeration of the soil for daffodils, just as it is for rhododendrons.

Steve also gave us insight in the daffodil market place. The Dutch grow millions of a few varieties and they do not hybridize daffodils. Steve grows many cultivars and hybridizes daffodils. It takes 30-40 years for a new variety to get into the big markets, primarily because daffodils can not be propagated by tissue culture and natural increase is slow. From seed, it takes 5 to 7 years to raise a daffodil to blooming size and another 5 years to build up a modest surplus of a given plant. Steve's passion, then, is to grow and sell as many Miniature, Intermediate and Standard Daffodils, along with species Narcissus as he can fit into his nursery. To date, Steve has created, registered and introduced over 60 daffodils.

Steve also handed out a very useful cultural primer entitled 'Frequently Asked Daffodil Questions' to help us succeed with our daffodils. Thank you, Steve, for a wonderful program!

Chapter President Mike Domaschofsky reviewed the events approaching us in the next few weeks. 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 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

Meeting Highlights, cont'd.

By Maria Stewart

International Convention will be held during the week of May 11-15. We will finally relax with our May Banquet on the 19th.

Both Smith Garden's Dorothy Patrick and Crystal Springs R.G.'s Bob MacArthur asked for volunteers to work in those two gardens and passed around sign-up sheets. Most importantly, please just show up Saturday March 12th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Smith Garden for the work party, and volunteers are needed from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM to staff the gate house. See the article on Crystal Springs R. G. in this issue.

We also need bus tour hosts and photographers to accompany each bus tour at the Convention. You get to take the tour for free, and meet wonderful people from all over the world.

Signup sheets were everywhere!

Ray Clack announced that we're invited to take a field trip to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in April. Stay tuned for the date of the trip.

There were lots of goodies brought by members to satisfy our cravings for sweets and celebrate Valentine's Day. Was this not our third annual "Sweets for the Sweet"? Thank you to everyone who brought treats.

Arnie and Michelle, new members, attended this meeting. WELCOME!

Thank you, **E. White Smith and Lucie Sorensen-Smith**, for your donations of *Podocarpus nivalis* and *Vaccinium 'Cinderella'* for door prizes. They are generous gifts.

Valentine's Day Un-Massacre at the National Arboretum

The National Arboretum website has announced the suspension of plans to destroy the azalea, boxwood and other collections. Web address: <http://www.usna.gov/>.

The National Arboretum also set up a 'Collections Comments Form' for feedback: <http://www.usna.gov/collectionscomments.html>.

Then, the NBC TV station in Washington, DC announced "Anonymous Donor Saves the Azaleas". Apparently someone gave Friends Of the National Arboretum a million dollars to set up an endowment for the azaleas and boxwood collections.

So far, we have reason for hope that the collections will be safe!

A Poem for our newsletter:

Night Editor

The night was dark and the hour already late.
A cone of yellow light flooded the desktop
And illuminated the manuscript.

The Night Editor sipped strong coffee
And paused in her careful audit to regard
Rhododendrons rustling outside in the breeze.

They beckoned! In an hour
Or two, with deadline met,

She would walk out into
the deep hues that precede
The morning light.

By W. Kielhorn

In Memoriam: Siegfried Berthelsdorf

Dr. Siegfried Berthelsdorf died peacefully at his Portland home January 31, 2011. He was 99. Siegfried was born in Shannon County, MO to Richard and Amalia Berthelsdorf, German immigrants who homesteaded in Klamath Falls, where he grew up. Playing trombone in a dance band to support himself, he graduated from the University of Oregon (Bachelor of Arts with Phi Beta Kappa 1934, Master of Arts and Doctor of Medicine 1939) and continued studies in psychiatry in New York City, graduating from the New York Psychoanalytic Institute in 1952. He was a former U.S. Army Air Corps major, having served as neuropsychiatrist and flight surgeon from 1943 to 1946. While stationed in Tampa, FL, he met and married Mildred Friedrich. After several years in New York City, the couple and their three children moved to Portland in 1953, where Siegfried began private practice as the first psychoanalyst in Oregon. He was a founding member of the Oregon Psychoanalytic Foundation and a training and supervising analyst with the Seattle Psychoanalytic Institute. Active throughout his life as a psychotherapist, consultant, teacher and mentor with numerous organizations in the field of mental health in Portland, he, along with Mildred, was also a contributor to the development of Portland's cultural growth, serving on the boards of the Portland Opera Association, Portland Chamber Orchestra and American Rhododendron Society (Portland Chapter). As both volunteer and professional, he received many awards and citations for his valuable work. Some of his happiest times were spent working his farm near McMinnville, which he purchased in 1962, fulfilling a lifelong dream. Predeceased in 2005 by Mildred, his wife of 60 years and his sister, Gretchen, he leaves his children, Richard, Victor and Dianne; five grandchildren; sister, Lydia; three nephews and a niece; and his dear friend, companion and caretaker, Felicia Wirtz. We are left with a multitude of loving memories and a sense of great loss. The family thanks Dr. Steven Freer for his kindness, respect and compassion for Siegfried, and we particularly thank the faithful friends who visited him over his last five years. Our gratitude to Felicia is boundless. A private memorial is planned. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Siegfried's memory to the Boverman Endowment Fund at the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center, 503-229-0175 or the Berthelsdorf Memorial Trophy Fund at the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, in care of Ann Clack, 503-656-3891.

Crystal Springs News

Volunteers tougher or better-informed? Crystal Springs Wednesday volunteers go dormant from after the Dormancy Luncheon in mid-November until mid-February. Around 1995, it snowed on starting day. Two hearty volunteers showed up: Beverly Watkins and Dan Beasley. On opening day February 16, 2011 it also snowed, but there were eight ardent workers in attendance. Pat Frobes, our new e-mail/electronic Volunteer Coordinator, had notified sixty-five volunteers. Are today's volunteers tougher or better-informed? Please join us any Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM as we spruce up the garden for the early show in April, our peak bloom on Mother's Day and the International convention's visit on May 13th.

For information please contact Volunteer Coordinators Linda O'Toole, 503-659-5309 and/or Pat Frobes, CSRGvol@me.com

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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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

(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 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
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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@
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7565.

Website: www.rhodies.org; web
master: **Steve Kaminski**

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Wel sh, Membershi p Chair, e-
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