

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- December 19, 2013  
Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner with Decorated Tables and Lots of Food!  
6:30 PM set-up  
7:00 PM dining  
**Program: Members' slides and digital images**
- No December Board Meeting - Happy Holidays!
- January 16, 2014  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM social time  
7:30 PM meeting  
Program: TBA
- January 21, 2014  
Board Meeting

## 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



## **It's Time to Celebrate the Holiday Season! Please Join Us at the Portland Chapter Holiday Party and Potluck Supper, December 19, 2013. Location: All Saints Episcopal Church, S.E. 40th and Woodstock.**

**Gathering and set-up time is 6:30 PM;  
Dining commences at 7:00 PM**

Once again, it is time for our traditional holiday party and potluck supper, and you are invited! Please bring a favorite dish to share, and invite a friend or two if you wish; guests are always welcome. And, please remember to bring one or two small (inexpensive) wrapped gifts for our door prize festivities; we want everyone attending to receive a gift!

Table decorators: Can't remember if you signed up to decorate a table? Do you want to help decorate a table? Please contact Barbara MacArthur, e-mail [ltemacret1@aol.com](mailto:ltemacret1@aol.com) or telephone 360-256-2522, for assistance with those questions.

Program: Slides and digital images, shown by our members ( up to 15 slides per person ) of plants, gardens, travels and memories. We have asked a few members to bring their slide projectors and we will have a laptop with a digital projector. If you need additional equipment, please bring your own or contact Brenda Ziegler at 503-314-5834 or email [bzgift@aol.com](mailto:bzgift@aol.com), to see if she can help locate the equipment you need.



R. haematodes. Exhibitor Peter Kendall. Photo courtesy Ann Clack.

## 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, 2014:

**December 19, 2013**

**Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner with Decorated Tables and Lots of Food!**

**6:30 PM set-up**

**7:00 PM dining**

**Program: Traditional showing of members' slides and digital images**

**No December Board Meeting - Happy Holidays!**

**January 16, 2014**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 PM social time**

**7:30 PM meeting**

**Program: TBA**

**January 21, 2014**

**Board Meeting**

**7:30 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

**February 20, 2014**

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 PM social time**

**7:30 PM meeting**

**Program: TBA**

**Companion Plant Auction**

**February 25, 2014**

**Board Meeting**

**7:30 PM**

**Van Veen Nursery**

## Haiku

Azure autumn skies  
One after the other -- the  
tumbling maple leaves

An autumn nightfall  
The clatter of falling leaves  
breaking the silence

The sun breaking through  
The wind picking up -- leaves  
this way and that

The light rain ceasing  
Wind and sun nudging fall leaves  
in spindrift patterns

Sunlit autumn haze  
A breezeless morning; the call  
of southbound sandhills

By Peter Kendall

## Question of the Month

What process makes the leaves of rhododendrons roll up during freezing weather? We know that the plant is conserving moisture by reducing the exposed area of the leaves, thus reducing the amount of transpiration that takes place. But *how* does that process happen? Wilbur Bluhm will help us to answer those questions at our December meeting and Holiday Party. If you cannot wait until then to find out, there is an article about this process in the Fall 2013 *ARS Journal* on page 196. The author is Rajeev Arora of Iowa State University.

## A Night in the Nursery

By Maria and Mike Stewart

'Twas a night in the nursery,  
when all through the cold,  
Rhododendrons were shivering,  
their leaves in a roll.

Some greenhouses were packed  
with field plants freshly dug,  
To save the H-3s in a  
place that was snug.

The propane tanks would be filled  
the next morning at 4:00,  
We would stay up all night  
and greet the truck at our door.

And Maria in her ski hat  
and Mike in his cap,  
Knew there was *no* settling down  
for a long winter's nap.

When off in the distance  
there arose a loud "Boom!"  
We knew there was trouble  
that must be fixed soon.

Away to Greenhouse Seven  
we flew in a flash.  
A thermal coupler might fix it  
or put out more cash.

In the dark of the night  
there's a hissing of gas.  
It has to be fixed  
before there's a blast!

The sound of the gas leak  
is making me crawl.  
Back away, back away,  
back away all!

At 3:00 in the morning,  
emotions run high,  
Under the pure black expanse  
of a starlit sky.

Wrenches twisting and turning,  
cold steel leaves a sting.  
"A *bigger* hammer, Mike says,  
Will fix this \_\_\_\_\_ thing!"

As we walk toward the house  
thinking, "All is now done...  
but what is that light?  
Could it be the rising sun?"

Another day in the nursery  
with many a surprise,  
Keeps us young ( or maybe old ),  
One may surmise.

The weather prediction says,  
"More of the same."  
Will we yet see St. Nicholas  
and call him by name?

***Merry Christmas to all and to all a Happy Holiday Season !***



Ilex verticillata. Photo: Mike Stewart

## Portland Chapter Board Meeting Highlights

November 26, 2013

By Maria Stewart

We were pleased to have Betsy Redfearn, Portland Public Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor for the Southeast Zone, in attendance at our meeting. Betsy helped us to make a decision about which days at CSRG should be free days. The Board needed to make this decision because our work days at the garden are on Wednesdays, which have been free days for many years. Concerns for the safety of the public and the need, at the same time, for equipment and debris to be on the same walkways as the visiting public, precipitated this decision. We voted on the change and the motion passed to make Mondays and Tuesdays the free days and make Wednesday a paid entrance day. Betsy Redfearn will notify Portland Public Schools about the change which starts on March 1, 2014.

Donna Giguere is a dedicated Co-Chair at CSRG. She works extremely well with the volunteers and knows what the Garden needs for improvements. In her professional life, Donna is a landscape designer and she is now feeling the need to spend more time with her business. It is with a touch of regret that we accept Donna's resignation as Co-Chair. We feel fortunate, however, that she has held that position for a number of years and that CSRG has been the beneficiary of her expertise and talents.

Dick Cavender has been in contact with the Home and Garden Show organizers and Portland Chapter will have a display there in late February, 2014. Our display will promote the diversity of rhododendrons and information about caring for them.

We briefly discussed organizing a spring garden tour for our Chapter. Other important topics are the promotion of membership and the need for an updated roster.

### ***2014 A.R.S. Dues are Past Due!***

Please mail or give your dues to:

Portland Chapter Treasurer  
Dick Cavender  
15920 SW Oberst Lane  
Sherwood, OR 97140-5020

If you have not received your dues reminder in the mail or at a meeting,  
please contact:

Portland Chapter Membership Chair  
John Welsh  
37106 SE Lusted Rd  
Boring, OR 97009-9706  
jllwelsh26@yahoo.com

## November 21st Chapter meeting

By Tom Hoffman

We enjoyed an in-depth look at the history of the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, with Ginny Mapes; Herb Spady; Don and Dorothy Patrick and Tom Gressler sharing their experiences, working and living at the Garden for over 20 years. The Smith Garden is owned and operated by The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, with the assistance and hard work of volunteers and the members of the Tualatin Valley and Willamette Chapters, and others. The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden today is a wonderful testimonial to everyone involved 'behind the scenes' in making the Garden the treasure that it is. Members and volunteers propagate rhododendrons and companion plants from the Garden for sale and replacements, with the goal of maintaining the Garden for posterity and sharing the plant wealth of the Garden with gardeners and growers. For a look at this hidden jewel, please visit the website: [www.smithgarden.org](http://www.smithgarden.org). Just for fun, see what literature you can find on Joseph Rock's last plant-hunting expedition in China; many of the plants in the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden are seedlings raised from Rock's collections on that expedition, selected by Cecil Smith from seed he received from Rock. Cecil Smith also experimented successfully with the use of Douglas fir logs as 'nurse logs' for species rhododendrons, which require the fast drainage and elevated environment provided by the logs.

## The new ARS Online Store: ARSStore.org, Where every purchase benefits the ARS

From Steve Henning, ARSStore Manager

At the October 4, 2013 ARS Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized the creation of an online ARS site that would not be selling items but would link to other providers. The online store was authorized to develop a relationship with Amazon as an affiliate store. The online store was also authorized to use the ARS logo and name to sell "ARS" merchandise. Product providers accessed through the ARS online store at ARSStore.org pay referral fees directly to the ARS on sales made from ARSStore.org referrals. These fees from sales referrals go 100% directly to the ARS. ARSStore.org has no expenses, only earnings. The objective of creating the ARSStore website is to raise money for the ARS.

The store has three divisions:

**ARS Logo Merchandise:** featuring knit, woven and denim shirts, caps, visors and computer briefcases.

**Amazon Merchandise:** featuring Rhododendron & Azalea Books, Garden Books, Garden Tools and any other item sold on Amazon.

**Participating Merchants:** featuring other merchants who agree to give referral fees to the ARS for each purchase when you mention ARSStore.org.

ARSStore.org has the Main Store, a Canadian Store and a European Store. To access the stores, go to ARSStore.org and use the links from there; do not go directly to Amazon.com to start your search.

You may wonder whether non-members may use ARSStore.org; yes, most certainly!

At ARSStore.org, every purchase we make results in a contribution to the ARS at no additional cost either to us or to the ARS.



## Celebrating the Season with the Bright Red Trumpets of *Rhododendron griersonianum*

By Maria Stewart

It is fun to choose a red-blooming rhododendron to write about in December and *R. griersonianum* is an excellent choice. Its loose trusses of scarlet brightly decorate the green leaves that cover the plant. Many colorful hybrids have this species as a parent, and before *R. yakushimanum* was introduced, *R. griersonianum* was the most popular parent for hybridizing. It is a distinct species and has no close relatives.

Here are more characteristics of this important species:

Flowers: loose trusses of about 12 corollas, ranging from bright geranium scarlet to bright rose. The corollas have long tubes tapering to funnels and are about 3 inches long. It blooms in June.

Leaves: narrow, lance-shaped and about 8 inches long; undersides are covered with whitish, loose and wooly indumentum.

Structure: 3 to 4 feet in 10 years. It is a spreading plant.

Hardiness: + 10 degrees F.

Location in your garden: not very hardy; some protection is desirable.

Native to: Western Yunnan, Northern Burma at 7,000 to 9,000 feet altitude.

Named after R.C. Grierson, a friend of George Forrest. It was introduced from 1917 to 1931.



Photo courtesy of Harold Greer.

## An Update on the 2014 Post-ARS Convention Tour to Northern Europe

### From Bill Heller

To bring down the cost of the tour of Northern Europe, a few days have been cut from the end of the tour, and tour participants will now arrange their own flights to the tour departure hub, either Newark or New York. **We would like to have Registrations and Deposits by December 12, 2013 so we can lock in our price and arrange for an airline. Contact Bill Heller at: [william.r.heller@boeing.com](mailto:william.r.heller@boeing.com).** We will settle on the departure hub when we know how many have registered. The cost of the tour has been lowered to \$3,975.00 for Double Occupancy rooms and \$4,400.00 for Single Rooms; this price is based on present exchange rates and fees and will be verified when we pay our deposit to the Coachline and Airline.

Tour dates: departing Tuesday, May 20, 2014, travelling to Saturday, May 31, 2014, arriving back in the U.S. on Sunday, June 1, 2014.

Accommodations: The Tour will still provide nice clean hotels for all of the nights which will include breakfast each morning and 4 dinners. So, for all but 4 of the nights, Tour members are free to choose among the restaurants available outside the hotel or the hotel restaurant for dinner. This generates another substantial cost saving.

### Itinerary:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| May 20 Tuesday Depart for Hamburg, Germany   | May 27 Tuesday cont'd: in Fuhen. Then on to Copenhagen where will stay for the remainder of the tour, making day trips out to gardens in the area.  |
| May 21 Wednesday Arrive Hamburg around noon<br>Lunch along the way, take Coach to Oldenburg, Germany for 3 nights.   | May 28 Wednesday To G.I. Koegegaard's Manor House in Koege, site of the Danish Display Garden; then to the Hansen 'Large Garden' just outside Nakskov.                                    |
| May 22 Thursday To Westerstede for the Rhodo 2014 Exhibition   | May 29 Thursday Svend Hansen's 'Kaernehuset Nursery & Gardens' with the largest plantings from Svend's seed collections from China in the 1990's; Frederikborg Castle and baroque garden. |
| May 23 Friday Hobbie Rhododendron Garden & Scholsspark in Lutetsburg   | May 30 Friday Travel north out of Copenhagen to see Nivaagaard, an Art Museum, where Svend Hansen has done the bulk of the planting; then on to the Lehmann summer Garden in Hornbaek.    |
| May 24 Saturday Brun's Nursery; Bad Zwischenahn in Gristede; Bremen Rhododendron Park & Botanic Garden. Travel to Hamburg and stay in hotel in Hamburg     | May 31 Saturday To Rosenborg Castle and Gardens, then back to the Lehmann's Garden in Copenhagen and Depart early evening from Copenhagen.  |
| May 25 Sunday Hachmann's Nursery, 'Planten und Blomen' in Hamburg and Hamburg Botanical Gardens. Travel into Denmark and stay in Sonderborg for one night. |   |
| May 26 Monday To the Froloch garden in Sonderborg; the Hojgaard garden in Skarbakp, then to the Askjaer garden in Spottrup. Stay in Viborg one night.      |   |
| May 27 Tuesday 'Rhododendron Haven' by the Jorgensens in Tarring; the Halse garden   |   |

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  
December 11, 2013

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: *Maria Stewart*  
Vice President: *Brenda Ziegler*  
Past President: *Mike Domaschofsky*  
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2014) **Ann Clack,  
Ray Clack, Bud Bowen, Kathy Van  
Veen, and Betsy Soifer**  
(Through June 30, 2015) **Caroline  
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins, Bill  
Zanze, Dave Collier**

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:

**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522

Tours/Volunteering:

**csrgvol@me.com**

Gatehouse:

**Tom Hoffman**, 503-452-0975

**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.

*Rhododendron News* is mailed by first  
class postage (permit #1134, Port-  
land). Photographs and images may

only be reproduced with permission  
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** or via mail to: 4201 SE  
Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,  
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,  
newsletter editor, at: **tjhoffman56@  
yahoo.com**, 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  
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline  
Enns**

Membershi p Updates: John  
Welsh, Membershi p Chair, e-  
mai l: **j l wel sh26@yahoo.com**;  
503-663-6987