

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

April 7 and 8, 2018
Early Rhododendron
and Daffodil Show and
Sale, at Crystal Springs
Rhododendron Garden

April 19, 2018
Annual Business Meet-
ing

Social time 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM

Speaker: Mike Stewart,
Dover Nursery

Topic: "Dwarf Rhodo-
dendrons"

& followed by:
our annual Hybrid
Rhododendron Auc-
tion!

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



April Meeting

Caroline Enns and Steve Hall

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its April meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. There will be a brief annual business meeting, primarily to elect officers and directors, prior to the program. Our April meeting will feature our own Mike Stewart of Dover Nursery, speaking on "Dwarf Rhododendrons".

Although we continue to marvel at the wall of flowers displayed by such classic giants as 'Cynthia' and 'Pink Pearl', much interest has shifted to smaller rhododendrons. Mike Stewart will discuss these plants, including both species and the hybrids derived from them.

Mike and his wife, Maria, own Dover Nursery, where they have propagated and grown more than 1,200 different hybrid and species rhododendrons, shipping some 40,000 plants each spring to garden centers throughout the U.S. and Canada. Mike has also held just about every position relevant to rhododendrons in this country, having served as President of the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, President of the national ARS and President of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. The ARS has recognized his contributions to the cultivation and preservation of rhododendrons, and for his efforts in informing the public. He has received the ARS Bronze Medal, which is the highest award provided by a local chapter, and the ARS Gold Medal, the national society's highest honor, for his accomplishments. He is a talented photographer and natural speaker widely acknowledged for the quality of his presentations.

We will hold our annual auction of hybrid rhododendrons, following Mike Stewart's program on April 19th. If you have plants to spare, please consider donating them for the auction - you are certain to make someone happy. And don't forget your checkbook!

Free admission. Sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Location: All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, Oregon.

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.

Chapter Calendar through May, 2018:

April 7 & 8, 2018

**Early Rhododendron & Daffodil
Show & Sale**

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron
Garden**

April 19, 2018

Annual Business Meeting

Social time 7:00 pm

Meeting: 7:30 pm

**Speaker: Mike Stewart, Dover
Nursery**

Topic: "Dwarf Rhododendrons"

Followed by our

Auction of Hybrid Rhododendrons

May 12—13, 2018

Mother's Day Show & Sale

**Crystal Springs Rhododendron
Garden**

May 17, 2018

Annual Awards Banquet

Set up 6:30 pm

Potluck supper 7:00 pm

Meeting: 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dennis O'Malley

Topic: "The State of the Chapter"

June, 2018

No regular meeting

Potluck dinner

July, 2018

No regular meeting

August, 2018

Smith Garden Soiree

Haiku

Disappearing ice
The overloaded grasses
still showing their green

A winter's sun
in and out among the clouds
igniting the world

Running the gamut
between shadow and sun in
a winter's meadow

A winter's dusk
carried into the trees by
that single robin

Cold enough last night
That particular silence after the snow—
and nothing else

Peter Kendall



Photo courtesy Ali Sarlak

President's Message for April:

It seems like only last week that I wrote a column extolling the joys of getting involved in Chapter activities like the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden workday. Now I can report that my predictions were borne out and that the Smith Garden work day on March 24 was a success. We had about 17 to 20 hardy volunteers on Saturday, from many chapters and as far away as Medford. Mike Stewart and his crew had come out earlier in the week and added gravel to the paths, so the garden already looked good even before our crew dived in.

As usual, Tom and Jane had organized and earmarked the priority tasks and provided welcoming hospitality. The gatehouse was cleaned up and readied for the opening season. The rest of the crew concentrated on weeding, pruning and general clean up. Tom brought us in with a cow bell for a coffee break mid-morning, and the rest of the morning passed quickly and enjoyably. Soon we were tucking into a substantial lunch, including homemade pulled pork sandwiches and an array of desserts.

There is always more that can be done, but I thought the garden looked well-prepared for its upcoming open weekends. There were already a substantial number of things in bloom, with the colors jumping out in the garden's natural wooded setting.

There are still a number of weekends on which volunteers to staff the Smith Garden are needed. Please contact Anne Gross or Dick Cavender if you can help with that. Anyone available on the weekends that coincide with the upcoming Portland flower shows and plant sales would be especially prized, because of course I also need to pound the drum for volunteers to turn out for the Early Show and Plant Sale on the weekend of April 7th and 8th, and for the Mother's Day Flower Show and Sale on the weekend of May 12th and 13th.

For more information on those events, and on our upcoming April program featuring Mike Stewart and the annual hybrid rhododendron plant auction, see other articles in this newsletter.

Dennis O'Malley

Sunshine Reports

Had a great conversation with Edie Spady around her 80th birthday 2/21. She and Herb had visited her son in Seattle and had a great time. Not doing much active activities, watch a lot of big-screen TV. Both have health problems they are working on.

Don and Dorothy Patrick joined us for dinner and a fun evening of catch-up. They are really enjoying their new kitty cat, Ema. We wonder who is spoiling who! Their daughter, Sue, will be in town for a short time around Don's 89th birthday 3/23. Health issues up and down but under control.

Dot Dunstan was in the middle of a number of projects when we last talked. Has fence, plumbing and banking projects that her daughter is helping her with. Had a big birthday party for son not long ago. Not a lot of blooming going on yet, but still enjoying her garden.

Karen Cavender

March Meeting Report:

John Weagle transported us to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the opposite side of the continent at a latitude just south of Portland. In their cool, marine climate, which rarely gets above 80 degrees F. or below 25 degrees F., John has been hybridizing rhododendrons and azaleas since the 1970's. He has focused on producing plants that are hardy, but that also have the colorful flowers and interesting foliage that the 'ironclad' rhododendrons have lacked. He showed us how to produce hardy, large-leafed plants with peach, yellow and red flowers. His hybridizing efforts earned him the Leslie Hancock Award and the Hybridizer's Award of the Rhododendron Society of Canada.

In addition to John's presentation, our meeting featured the following:

Treats: Karen Hanson and Joanne Turner provided a multitude of delicious home-made items;

Door Prizes: This increasingly robust feature of our meetings achieved a new level this month, with more prizes than tickets issued to a good turn-out of members. Everyone went home a winner. Contributors included Joanne Turner, Ray Clack, Paul Rogers, Betsy Soifer, Dick Cavender and Dennis O'Malley.

Volunteer opportunities:

Smith Garden: Volunteers are needed for open days at the Smith Garden, which will include every Saturday and Sunday in April, extending through May 21st. If you can help, please contact Dick Cavender at red@redsrhodies.com.

Early Show: Opportunities remain open to participate in the Early Show on April 7-8. Please contact either of the co-chairs of the Show: Caroline Enns (ennsca@gmail.com) or Joanne Turner (jjnlt@aol.com)

Nominations to elected positions: Mike Stewart, head of the Committee on Nominations, submitted the following for two-year terms:

President—Caroline Enns

Vice President—Steve McCormick

Members of the Board of Directors for 6/2018 - 6/2020:

David Anderson

Ann Clack

Ray Clack

Joanne Turner

Brenda Ziegler

No nominations were submitted from the floor. We will vote on these nominations at the Annual Business Meeting when the Chapter meets in April.

RHODODENDRON & DAFFODIL SHOW AND SALE
AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN



SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH - SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN

will host the

Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society and the Daffodil Society

Joint Annual Early Show & Sale

The Garden is located at:

5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland, OR

Free Admission

Sale starts at 9:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday

Show opens at 12:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday

TO ENTER YOUR OWN FLOWERS IN THE SHOW, please bring them to the Exhibit Hall, 6:00PM - 8:00 PM Friday evening or 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday morning. For more information: www.crystalspringsgarden.org or 503-771-8386

Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society

Tiny Leaves With Flowers Many Times Larger: *R. calostrotum* subspecies *keleticum* Radicans Group

By Maria Stewart

If you have an affection for small-growing rhododendrons, Subsection *Saluenensia* is an excellent subsection to explore. The only two species in this subsection are *R. calostrotum* and *R. saluenense*. However, within their subspecies, cultivars and Groups, there are differences such as the height of growth ranging from prostrate to erect and the colors of the corollas ranging from pink to purple-crimson. *R. radicans* is a favorite of ours for its dense, prostrate form with tiny, deep green leaves that slowly creeps over the contours of the ground and any object it encounters. Attractive deep purple-red, open-faced, and many times larger than the leaves, the solitary flowers stand *above* the leaves supported by their pedicels. This rhododendron easily wins a place in a sunny part of your garden.

Here is more about *R. calostrotum* ssp. *keleticum* Radicans Group:

Classification: *Subgenus*: *Rhododendron* (*lepidotes*) *Section*: *Rhododendron* (most *lepidotes*)
Subsection: *Saluenensia* *Species*: *R. calostrotum* *Subspecies*: *R. keleticum*
Group: Radicans Group

Distribution in the wild: N.W. Yunnan and S.E. Tibet at 11,000 to 15,000 feet elevation..

About the name: It translates into “rooting” which the branches do to creep along the ground..

Flowers: deep purple-red; open-faced like pansies and held above the leaves on their pedicels.

Leaves: dark green; only 1/4 to 1/2 inch long; lance-shaped; dense, reddish brown scales underneath.

Structure: prostrate; grows only 3 to 5 inches tall;; spreads slowly and indefinitely.

Hardiness: -10 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: likes sun and excellent drainage.



R. calostrotum ssp. *keleticum* Radicans Group

Photo courtesy Peter Norris, from *hirsutum* website

Mother's Day Rhododendron Show and Sale Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden



(Photograph courtesy Jay Lunn, Flower Judging, Mother's Day Show 2014)

Saturday, May 12th and Sunday, May 13th, Mother's Day, 2018

Sale: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Both Days

Show Opens at 12:00 Noon, Saturday to Allow Time For Judging.

To enter, bring your rhododendron trusses to the Exhibit Hall

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday night or 7:00 AM– 9:30 AM Saturday.

Questions about rhododendron care and culture? Ask ARS members, and visit the Master Gardeners' booth at the sale.

Pick-Up / Drop-Off: loading zone at the sale on S.E. 28th Ave.

More information: www.rhodies.org or 503 771-8386

Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: *Dennis O'Malley*
Vice President: *Caroline Enns*
Past President: *Brenda Ziegler*
Secretary: *Steve Hopkins*
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2018), **Ann Clack,**
Ray Clack, Betsy Soifer, Mike Stew-
art, Joanne Turner
(Through June 30, 2019) **Steve Hall,**
Steve McCormick, John Stephens,
Maria Stewart, (Open)

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:

Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net
Tours/Volunteering:
csrgvol@gmail.com
Gatehouse:

Rose Kress, 971-239-9016
Friends of Crystal Springs:

Dan McLaughlin,
dvmclau@comcast.net

Events:

Rachael Moloney, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

Chair: Open

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-
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ing. Send materials to newsletter edi-
tor, 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**; web
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline
Enns**

Membershi p Updates: John
Stephens & Stephen McCor-
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