

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

**May 12 –13, 2018**  
**Mother's Day Show & Sale 9:00 AM - 5:00PM**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Show opens at noon on Saturday.**

**May 17, 2018**  
**Annual Awards Banquet**  
**Set up, social 6:30 PM**  
**Dinner 7:00 PM**  
**Awards presentation**  
**Speaker: Dennis O'Malley**  
**Topic: "The State of the Chapter"**

## 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



## May Meeting

### Caroline Enns and Steve Hall

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 17, 2018 from 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM. This is a potluck supper. Main dishes will be provided; please bring your favorite salads and desserts to share. Set up starting at 6:30 PM, dinner commencing at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome! It is a warm and convivial occasion, celebrating the membership and winding down from the completion of our year's labors with the Mother's Day Flower Show and Plant Sale.

**Awards:** The winners from the Mother's Day Show and any awards from the Chapter will be announced. The presentation of some awards may be postponed until September because a number of members will be absent, attending the international ARS convention in Germany.

**Speaker:** Dennis O'Malley, on "The State of the Chapter"

In 2008, Dennis O'Malley was looking for a deciduous azalea to replace one he had killed, perhaps R. 'Golden Eagle'. He happened upon an online reference to Van Veen Nursery, which was unknown to him and surprisingly close to where he lives. He called. Kathy Van Veen said she didn't have R. 'Golden Eagle' but invited him over anyway. Over a delightful few hours of conversation, he received Kathy's grand tour of the Nursery and the family history of the Van Veens. Dennis was immediately hooked and joined the Portland Chapter of the ARS that afternoon.

Ten years later, his two-year term as Chapter President is coming to a close. He has graciously agreed to briefly review "The State of the Chapter" at the May meeting. In keeping with the full banquet and awards program that is traditional for May, he promises to keep it short.

## 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:

**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, Awards presentation  
Speaker: Dennis O'Malley  
Topic: "The State of the Chapter"**

**June, 2018**

**No regular meeting**

**June 23, 2018**

**Summer Solstice Potluck at Mike  
and Maria Stewart's home  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**July, 2018**

**No regular meeting**

**August, 2018**

**No regular meeting**

**August 16, 2018**

**Smith Garden Soiree  
Set up 5:30 PM  
Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM**

## Haiku

Early morning frost  
The sky about to show  
its clarity

Streaming sunlight  
defining the vase in the  
room without light

The first plum blossom  
to strike the ground—its detail unleashed  
this sun-filled day

Peter Kendall



Photo courtesy Ali Sarlak

## President's Message for May:

As this goes to print, we are gearing up for the Mother's Day Flower Show and Plant Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on May 12th - May 13th. As always, there is a ton of work to do. Please be generous with your volunteer time. My understanding is that there is a particular need for people to help with set-up, both of the Plant Sale and of the Flower Show, on the preceding Friday, May 11th. So if you are looking for a rewarding return on the investment of your efforts, that may be the way to go,

After a brief respite to collapse and recover, we will promptly be convening to celebrate our efforts and the conclusion of our gardening year at the Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 17th. Awards for trophy winners at the Flower Show will be presented, though some other awards may be postponed until September due to the number of people who are going to Germany for the ARS convention. Please see the accompanying article on the setup and potluck dinner. ( I solemnly promise to have the hook out, so that our scheduled speaker does not interfere with your enjoyment of the evening by overstaying his welcome.)

## Sunshine Reports

A couple of weeks ago we visited Herb and Edie Spady for a fun evening and dinner with their neighbors. They were in good spirits but their activities are limited. They keep busy with a few fun things and medical appointments. Calls are much appreciated.

Dot Dunstan was able to join us at the Early Show thanks to her daughter Donna. She even brought a few trusses from her garden to show off. She is really looking good and very active. She is having a new fence installed as people seem to think they can roam her garden at will.

Don and Dorothy Patrick are doing well and are enjoying spoiling their "four-legged kid", Emma. They keep busy with a few fun activities, shopping and medical appointments.

Dick has been exchanging emails with E. White Smith over the past several weeks. He is now in an assisted living facility in Tacoma and complains about their garden but they won't let him work in it. Health problems limit his activities but he does visit the Species Foundation on a regular basis. He was pleased that the Foundation gave his Vireya collection a good home.

It has been good to see Peter Kendall at the meetings and dinner. His entry in the Early Show won best Azalea. Good work, Peter.

Submitted by Karen Cavender

## April Meeting Report:

### 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.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden: Volunteers are needed to help with set-up for the Mother's Day Flower Show and Plant Sale on Friday, May 11th. Please contact Dan McLaughlin at dvmclau@comcast.net or csrgvol@gmail.com or Dick Cavender at red@redsrhodies.com.

### Business Meeting:

Mike Stewart, head of the Committee on Nominations, submitted the following nominees 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 voted and approved these nominations at the Annual Business Meeting at the Chapter meeting in April.

Program: Mike Stewart, "Dwarf Rhododendrons, Nature's Carpet"

We traveled from above the Arctic Circle and in Russia, Lapland, Canada and Alaska to see carpets of *R. lapponicum* and *R. camtschaticum* and then to Europe to appreciate acres of *R. ferrugineum* in the Pyrenees and *R. hirsutum* in South Central Europe all in one evening. Mike Stewart's stunning photographs also showed us the high elevations of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Burma (Myanmar), Yunnan, Tibet and China to see a host of small rhododendrons living in impossible locations. In Japan we saw *R. keiskei*, *R. quinquefolium* and the most recently classified rhododendron, *R. benhallii*. Mike also showed us the wonderful hybrids that emanated from these species. It was an enchanting presentation. And, Mike prepared a handout of species definitions, in the order they appeared in the program and had a really useful cultural suggestion regarding using these dwarf rhodies in rock gardens in full sun: mist them. In the wild, at a wide range of elevations, clouds and fog sweep over the mountains every afternoon, cooling the plants and the environment and then move on. So a mist system on a timer might just be the way to keep these plants alive in summer here.

# 2018 MOTHER'S DAY RHODODENDRON SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY, MAY 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SHOW OPENS

at Noon

SATURDAY

**CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN**  
**5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland**

will be at peak bloom time. Come and join us to view the garden.

**THE SHOW:** a judged flower show in the Exhibit Hall.  
**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.

**THE SALE:** in the front parking lot..  
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE GARDEN

**PARKING:** in permitted space along 28th;  
at the NE corner of SE 28th & Steele.

**PICK-UP / DROP-OFF:** loading zone at the sale

More information: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org) or 503 771-8386

Presented by  
**The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society**

## A Treat From Subsection Triflora: *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons'

By Maria Stewart

When the month of April arrives, our gardens show us that Spring is really here and if the winter has been kind to our rhododendrons, our reward is a bounty of blooms. One such reward is an upright grower with clouds of pink flowers, *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons'. This named form is one of four that have been selected from the species *R. davidsonianum*. The other forms are the 'FCC' form, 'Serenade', and 'Caerhays'. The trait that separates 'Ruth Lyons' from the other forms is its clear, medium pink flowers. Other forms of *R. davidsonianum* may be spotted red and the color range is from very light pink to pink to light purplish rose.

Here is more about *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons':

Classification: *Subgenus*: *Rhododendron* *Section*: *Rhododendron* *Subsection*: *Triflora* .

*Species*: *R. davidsonianum*

Distribution in the wild: Szechwan and Yunnan at 6,000 to 11,500 feet elevation..

About its name: named after Dr. W.H. Davidson who was part of a Friends Mission in China.

Additionally, Ruth and Marshall Lyons were early rhododendron people in Eugene.

James Barto, the earliest well-known rhododendron hybridizer in Oregon, gave this form of *R. davidsonianum* the name of Ruth Lyons.

Flowers: clear, medium pink; corollas are about 2 inches across; long white anthers extend beyond the corollas; may be a polyploid..

Foliage: fairly narrow and about 2 and one half inches long; dark green with a few scales on top and dense scales on the undersides.

Structure: upright growing and somewhat open, but still a handsome plant, especially when in bloom. It is hard to see the leaves then, because the flowers are so abundant..

Hardiness rating: 0 degrees F.

Siting in your garden: likes both sun and filtered sunlight.

## You Are Invited to a Summer Solstice Potluck!

Please mark Saturday, June 23rd, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, on your calendars to celebrate the fifth annual solstice party at Mike and Maria Stewart's home and nursery. **Portland Chapter members and members of all the chapters in District 4 are invited.** Gathering time is 1:00 pm followed by meal time at 1:30 pm. We will supply the meat entrée, beverages, plates, cups and utensils. Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert to round out the meal.

You are also welcome to walk through our nursery and garden after the meal. The rhododendrons and companion plants are labeled and we enjoy talking about our plants, too. Our home and Dover Nursery is located 5 miles southeast of the town of Sandy. We have plenty of indoor space for eating, so if the weather is rainy, don't let that keep you from joining in the fun. We are looking forward to having you as our guests on June 23rd! ***Please RSVP to 503-668-3522, so we can plan food and seating.***

Directions to Mike and Maria's home 42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd. Sandy, OR

From the last signal light in the city of Sandy, take U.S. 26 east out of town, for 2 miles .

Exit right onto Firwood Road. The landmark at this exit is a gas station/store combination called Shorty's. Go 3/4 of a mile on Firwood Road, and then turn right at the 4-way intersection at the top of the hill. There is a Dover Nursery sign on a utility pole, pointing right at this intersection. There is also a Dover Community Church sign pointing right, at this intersection. This right turn will keep you on Firwood Road.

Go 2 1/2 miles further on Firwood Road until you get to a 4-way stop at the intersection of Wildcat Mountain Drive and Firwood Road. Cross over Wildcat Mt. Drive and take the middle road, which is Kleinsmith Road. It goes slightly to the left and down the hill. There is also a sign pointing to the Dover Nursery at this intersection. Our home and nursery is 8 tenths of a mile more on Kleinsmith Rd., on the left side, across from the Dover Community Church.



R. davidsonianum 'Ruth Lyons'

Photographs by Mike Stewart

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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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  
May 9, 2018

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: *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:  
**Stephanie Kress, 503-267-7509**  
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-  
ters, discounts, and activities.

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class postage (permit #1134, Port-  
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Articles: Deadline is the board meet-  
ing. Send materials to newsletter edi-  
tor, at: **[tjhoffman56@yahoo.com](mailto:tjhoffman56@yahoo.com)**, or  
via mail to: 4765 SW 38th Place,  
Portland, OR 97221

Delivery: Questions should be di-  
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7565.

Website: **[www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org)**; web  
masters: **Steve Hall and Caroline  
Enns**

Membershi p Updates: John  
Stephens & Stephen McCor-  
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