

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

Calendar

**April 6 - 7, 2019:
Early Show and Sale
Crystal Springs Rhodo-
dendron Garden
and
First Open Days, Smith
Garden**

**PLEASE NOTE:
APRIL MEETING
DATE CHANGED TO
THURSDAY, APRIL
25, 2019**

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 2019 PROGRAM

By Steve McCormick

As the rhododendron bloom begins to take on its full glory for the 2019 season, we feature the return of an internationally recognized authority on the genus and one of the most notable experts on rhododendrons in the region—Harold Greer. Harold's Greer Gardens is now a collection of Harold's favorite rhododendrons in the setting of a magnificent new adult community, The Springs at Greer Gardens in Eugene, where he and his wife Nancy have a splendid new home. Harold will share with us "The Early Days: The History of Greer Gardens."

Greer Gardens has been involved in rhododendrons for more than 60 years. The Gardens started as a hobby of Harold Greer's father, Edgar, whose death in 1972 was the impetus for Harold to make a business of a hobby, and history tells the rest. The Garden grew into an internationally known mail-order nursery, with up to 40 employees shipping plants worldwide. Harold will show the development from the early days of the business on a small city lot to its eventual 14 acres. He will include many founders of the American Rhododendron Society who were friends and mentors in those early days, including Ted Van Veen and John Henny, first president of the ARS. His program leads nicely into the ARS District 4 theme for the 75th Anniversary Convention: *2020 Vision--Looking Forward, Reflecting Back.*

Harold Greer had already been awarded two Bronze medals when he became the youngest person ever to receive a Gold Medal from the ARS. He was the youngest member to serve as president of the Society and served on the Board of Directors for over 25 years. He was the organizing founder of the Western Regional Conferences some 39 years ago. He is recognized internationally for his expertise concerning rhododendrons, for his books on the subject, for his plants, and for his service and dedication to rhododendrons. He is an accomplished photographer whose pictures have been published widely, including on the cover of *Smithsonian Magazine*. The combination of his extensive knowledge, his excellent illustrations, and his warm and engaging style invariably make for informative and enjoyable presentations. We hope you can attend.

PLEASE NOTE: OUR *APRIL* MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019, ONE WEEK LATER THAN IT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED.

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, 2019:

April 6th-7th, 2019:

Early Show and Sale at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

April 6th & 7th, 2019:

First Open Days, Smith Garden

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF APRIL MEETING DATE TO THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 :

April 25, 2019

Annual Business Meeting

Program: "The Early Days: the History of Greer Gardens"

Speaker: Harold Greer

Followed by our Annual Hybrid Rhododendron Auction!

April 26-27, 2019

RSBG Symposium

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, WA

See "Upcoming Events" at rhodygarden.org

May 11-12, 2019

**Mothers' Day Show and Sale
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

May 16, 2019

Awards Banquet

Program: "Helping People Grow Beautiful and Healthy Gardens - Organically"

Speaker: Gisele Schoniger, Kellogg Garden Products (Gardner and Bloome)

Haiku

A trajectory
of robins tracing, a veil
of dappled cloud

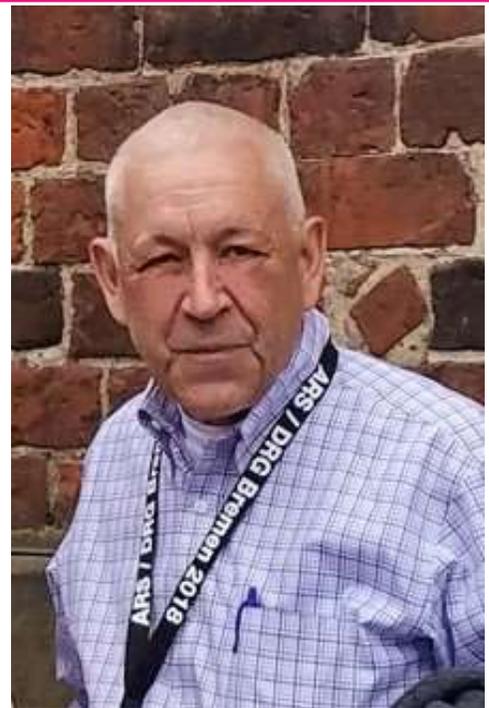
Streaming sunlight
defining the vase in the
room without light

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

Stitching up the sky
this warm March day, call
of the hummingbird

Slipping between plum
blossoms and magnolias in
the flash of an eye

By Peter Kendall



Harold Greer, our April speaker

Who needs sleep? President's Message for April

By Caroline Enns

The old maxim has it that every presentation should begin with a joke, even one as lame as this: Partner A sends partner B into the garden to get some anemone flowers to brighten the house. Partner B returns with an armful of ferns. When asked "What happened to the anemones?", you all know the response: "With fronds like this, who needs anemones?"

And with gardens such as ours, at this time of year, who needs sleep? The thermometer is stuck in the mid 50's, but the days are lengthening, the sun occasionally shines, and the plants are bursting into their full display. Of all the glorious flowers, the rhododendrons, with their gorgeous colors, enormous bouquets, and infinite variability, are surely the best. Like the pet that demands attention, our gardens demand that we be out in them.

And we are. The turn-out for the Smith Garden work-party, yet again, was terrific. The Chapters from Eugene, Willamette Valley, Tualatin Valley, and Portland were once again well represented. Bev Smith made it, once again, all the way from Medford. The Garden is looking spectacular, in great shape for the coming weekends when volunteers will greet the public. As an added treat, we benefited from the kindness of neighbors. In response to Mike Stewart's shearing of the hedge between the Smith parking lot and the adjoining property, the neighbor provided mounds of shelled walnuts. A nice topping to the main treat of contributing to an outstanding garden.

We all know that this season won't last forever. There will come a time when our gardens will again shut down. We will once again huddle with our seeds, which will represent the one active aspect of gardening. But now is the time to be out. The plants aren't sleeping, and neither should we.

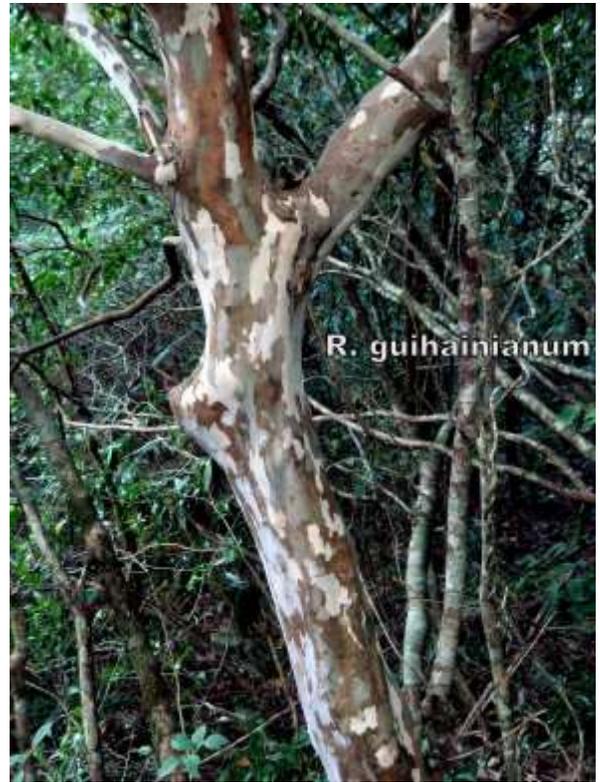


Dennis O'Malley, Steve Kaminski and Mike Stewart at the Smith Garden Work Party





Leigongping trek: terraced hillsides, managed forests.



R. guihainianum

R. guihainianum

R. jinggangshanicum



Photographs courtesy of Steve Hootman, from his talk at the March meeting.

Below: R. edgeworthii, N. Vietnam site

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

20/20
VISION



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020



MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Steve McCormick

All Saints was once again well populated by both regular members and guests alike. It was especially gratifying to see a couple of loyal members with very recent health challenges who, nevertheless, made it to the meeting. Sign-up sheets were shared around the room for volunteers to support the all-important Early Show and Mother's Day Weekend sales events: judges, classifiers, cashiers, etc.—crucial to making these annual events a success.

Our guest speaker for March, Steve Hootman, continues to demonstrate his amazing knowledge of species rhododendrons and their native environs. Steve spoke to the chapter about his most recent plant hunting expeditions on the “edges” of areas in eastern Asia, i.e. eastern and southern China and northern Vietnam, far from where the dominance of species and hunting typically occur. Many of these are rare and even endangered due to the dense populations of people in these regions and the relatively easy access to the often low mountains in which they occur. The names of the mountain ranges and individual habitats roll off Steve's tongue like our local neighborhoods might for us, e.g. Fan Jing Shan, Jinfo Shan, Leigong Shan, Daming Shan, Dayao Shan, Jinggang Shan and Fan Si Pan. Most of these mountains serve as basically biological islands as they are surrounded by hundreds of miles of low elevation land that is almost all used for agriculture. This limits the ability of many of these species to move around or to spread. What Steve's most fascinated by, as were we, is the occurrence of individual plants of species far from where they have typically been found—with no scientific explanations, only conjecture suggesting their origins. The talk was accompanied by some brilliant photography of rhododendrons like a pink *R. auriculatum*, the beautiful *R. liliiflorum* and several new species that are yet to be named or classified.

Another highlight of the evening was the remarkable spread of bakery delights prepared by John Stephens, reprising a similar display from the year prior. Labels reported names and ingredients of delicacies like Rhubarb Rye Shortbreads, No-bake Sunflower Fig Balls, and Vanilla-Allspice Thumbprints. Yum!

The evening began, as usual, with a crossword puzzle-like group of tables assembled at the Woodstock Wine & Deli to accommodate the congregation of members and guests who began the socializing at 5pm ahead of the meeting. Altogether, it was another great ARS Portland Chapter affair.

More photographs from Steve Hootman: *R. platypodum*

R. liliiflorum



T. fortunei



Smith Garden Open Days

By Anne Gross and Dick Cavender

We are amazed at how quickly the open garden season is approaching for Smith Garden. Our first open weekend is on April 6th and 7th. So, this is the time of year that we start begging for volunteers to work at the Smith Garden on open garden days selling plants and/or taking admissions. It is only for 5 hours, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on a Saturday or Sunday in April or May. It is easy. The plants usually sell themselves. And there is a copy of Greer's Guide for back-up. We are open to the public only 14 days out of 365. Please help us out and volunteer.

For the open days, we need the following: For April 20th (Willamette Chapter Show day) we have one possible and need one more person. For April 28th (Hardy Plant Sale), we need 2 people and for May 19th, 1 person.

We only need 2 people a day minimum, but 4 people is nice as it is a good time to enjoy visiting with another person or couple. Sometimes it is so busy you hardly have time to visit, but talking with customers is fun also and you might talk them into joining the rhododendron society. Again, it is only for 5 hours, not including travel time. Bring a sack lunch or cookies to munch on and enjoy the day. The garden is gorgeous in the spring.

Please email Anne Gross agross@teleport.com or Dick Cavender red@redsrhodies.com, 'phone 503-625-6331 if you can help out. If anyone would like more information, please give Dick Cavender a call at 503-625-6331. [Directions can be found at www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org). The garden address is: 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, Oregon.

Thank you!

(Smith Garden Work Party photographs on page 3 by David Anderson)



R. mucronulatum, 2 views.

Photographs: Mike Stewart.



A Late Winter Treat: *R. mucronulatum*

By Maria Stewart

Just when you think that Spring will never come, out pops *R. mucronulatum* with its bright flowers first and its leaves unfolding after the flowers are spent. Yes, it is deciduous, however, *R. mucronulatum*'s light brown bark is smooth and does not collect moss in partial shade. An added feature that makes this rhododendron a three season performer is the autumn colors of its leaves. They turn shades of red, orange and yellow before they fall. Our favorites are *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' because of its clear pink flower color and the dwarf forms such as 'Crater's Edge'.

Here is more about *R. mucronulatum* and its other forms:

Classification: *Subgenus*: Rhododendron *Section*: Rhododendron *Subsection*: Rhodorastra

The forms: Var. *Taquettii* and 'Crater's Edge' are dwarfs. 'Cornell Pink', 'Pink Panther', 'Storr's Pink' and 'Bright Pink' are upright growers.

About the name: "with a small point"

Distribution in the wild: E. Siberia, Hubei and Shandong in China, Mongolia, Korea and Japan at 1,000 to 5,500 feet

Flowers: single flowers bloom from multiple buds; colors range from rosy-purple to rose-pink to white; corollas are widely funnel-shaped and about one inch across. Depending on your climate, *R. mucronulatum* can bloom anytime from February through March.

Leaves: deciduous; medium to light green; usually pointed on both ends; thin texture with a few hairs on the top surface and scales on the undersides.

Structures: upright growers will reach 5 to 6 feet in 10 years; dwarfs are much slower growing; if your upright *R. mucronulatum* is too open-growing, pruning will help.

Hardiness: -15 degrees F. but some frost protection might be necessary.

Siting in your garden: As noted, a frost-protected area might be necessary. Ours is doing well at the edge of a wooded area but has enough sun to bloom there. (See photos.)

2019 MOTHER'S DAY RHODODENDRON SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 11th

SUNDAY, MAY 12th

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

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

Presented by
The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society



The Philadelphia Story 2019

Rhododendrons In America's Garden Capital

Reminders

Registration is now open for *The Philadelphia Story*
ARS 2019 International Convention
May 15-19, 2019
Register at: ars2019.org

Registration is now open for the
RBSG Symposium
April 26-27
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Federal Way, WA
See "Upcoming Events" at rhodygarden.org



2019 Rhododendron Species Symposium
April 26 & 27



Portland Chapter of
the American
Rhododendron
Society

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Phone: 503-777-1734 for
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2019) :
Steve Hall, Betsy Soifer, John Ste-
phens, Maria Stewart, Mike Stewart
(Through June 30, 2020):
David Anderson Ann Clack, Ray Clack,
Joanne Turner, Brenda Ziegler

GARDEN INFO:

Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden
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dvmclau@comcast.net
Volunteering:

csrgvol@gmail.com

Gatehouse: Tours, Photoshoots:

gatehousecsrg@gmail.com

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-
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dues to both the national society and
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benefits include nine or more newslet-
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