



Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 5

January 2023

Issue 1



Willamette Chapter ARS
Rhododendron Hillside Garden
Bush Pasture Park

CHAPTER MEETINGS: Our current chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. Due to Covid 19, our meeting may be in person or via Zoom. Meeting information will be sent to members via email and available in this newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until more permanent plans are made.

CHAPTER MEETING January 11, 2023



Speaker: *Delen Kitchen,*
Director of Operations for the
Oregon Garden
Title: *The Oregon Garden:*
25 Years in the Making

Social Time: 6:30pm Meeting and Program: 7:00pm

Join via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86361278221>

*Every year you
make a
resolution to
change yourself.*

*This year make
a resolution to
be yourself*

Unknown



*Approach the
New Year with
resolve to find
the
opportunities
hidden in each
new day*

*Michael
Josephson*

December Potluck 2022

The day was sunny and mild, There was a crackling fire in the fireplace, the Christmas music was playing and there was a festive atmosphere inside. The Redgate wine was flowing, the main course food was delicious and the desserts were many and delectable!

The following are pictures taken at the potluck illustrating the great time we had! I apologize for the lack of people pictures. I thought I took at least one or two of everyone but it appears I have only a few and they don't include all those in attendance. I guess I got my talking with everyone confused with taking a picture. Next year I'm going to do one of those "group pictures" we all hate just to make sure...



No need to identify the participants as you know who you are.



Great food, Great wine, Great friends



It's evident from all the smiles that we were happy to see one another and catch up.



Photo by Ali Sarlak



Dana's delicious Prime Rib, numerous tasty dishes to accompany it and delectable desserts! If you went away hungry it was your own fault.



Roger and Gary listen intently, as Keith closes his eyes to concentrate on what he is saying.



**A picture of the picture taker taking pictures.
Photo by Ali Sarlak**

WCARS Board Meeting December 17, 2022

At the December 17th Annual Christmas Potluck, we held a meeting of the WCARS Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors consists of the WCARS officers and three Board *"members at large".

Present were: President Dana Malby, Secretary Mary Crofts, Treasurer Adele O'Neal, Program Director, Keith White and two of the three *Board Members at Large, Susan Doellinger and Ali Sarlak. *Board Member Bill Vagt was not available.

NOTE: Adele O'Neal was elected Treasurer at the monthly October meeting. Due to the death of *Tom Bailey, Ali Sarlak stepped forward at the November meeting and volunteered to take his place.

The purpose of this meeting was twofold. First was to elect *Ali Sarlak as a Board Member at Large to fill the vacancy left by the death of *Tom Bailey. The second was to affirm the vote taken at our February 2022 Board meeting electing Dana Malby, President. Bill Vagt and Susan Doellinger were present at that meeting. Tom Bailey had already passed away.

Several members moved simultaneously to nominate *Ali, as a Board Member at Large. And several members spoke at once to second the motion. All present voted "Aye" and thus, *Ali was affirmed as the new Board member.

Keith White moved and *Susan Doellinger seconded a motion that Dana Malby be elected President. All present unanimously voted "Aye" and Dana was affirmed as President of the WCARS Chapter.

For good measure, we voted again to affirm Adele O'Neal as our treasurer. Keith White made the motion, and it was seconded by several in the group. This vote was unanimous.

Having completed these tasks, the Board adjourned to the good friends, fun, and food of the Potluck.

Mary Crofts - WCARS Secretary

* Denotes a Board Member at Large



Rhododendron 'New Hope'
for a New Year and New Beginnings
photo by Chris Anderson



*When there is hope
In the heart,
A smile can be found
On the face.*

~ Sri Chinmoy ~

January Program



**Speaker: *Delen Kitchen,*
Director of Operations for
the Oregon Garden**

**Topic: *The Oregon Garden*
25 Years in the Making**

January 11, 2023 6:30 Social 7:00 Program

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86361278221>

Meeting ID: 863 6127 8221

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,86361278221# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Please join us in January for a very informative program presented by Delen Kitchen, Director of Operations for the Oregon Garden. As the garden celebrates it's 25th Anniversary since groundbreaking, Delen will outline the history of the Garden and the challenges faced along the way, as well as highlight their recent successes and where they hope to grow as they look to the future.

Delen is a Portland, Oregon native who graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. in Urban Horticulture. She is interested in plant / person interactions and has worked at every stage of the production-to-public pipeline, including for a wholesale grower, distributor, retail nursery and landscape designer. Her true passion has always been for public gardens, and she has pursued that passion working for The Oregon Garden, an 80-acre botanical garden in Silverton, Oregon, for the past 8 years. She considers her current role as the Garden's Director of Operations her dream job, having grown up visiting the Garden with her family. She enjoys collecting rare and unusual plants both professionally and personally - some of her favorite recent acquisitions include *Acanthus sennii*, *Rostrinucula dependens* and *Hedychium 'Tara.'*





President's Report

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday with family and friends!

Our December potluck at Redgate Winery was fun! Lots of conversation and camaraderie. And lots of great food! Thank you everyone for bringing something yummy to share.

I'm looking forward to the next few months of club activities, meetings and speakers. We will be checking in with the First Methodist Church to see if we can begin meeting in person in 2023. Until then, we will meet on Zoom, which is not all bad...I get to wear my slippers to the meeting!

As the weather gets better and we begin working in our own yards, we will be planning club events like working in Smith Garden, the Truss Show and possibly attending the ARS Fall Western Regional Conference in Florence, Oregon. October 19 - 23, 2023.

Enjoy the rain, sun, snow whatever we get - remember this is Oregon! And watch out for branches and downed power lines! Looking forward to seeing you in January 2023!

Dana Malby - WCARS President

I'll Huff and Puff and Blow the Tree Down

Dana's last remarks provided the perfect segway into what happened at our house this past week.

Our "lawn guy", Marcus, came to blow leaves this past week and discovered one of our fir

trees (the middle tree) was leaning toward our garage and the ground beneath it was "heaving upward"!!



Not sure that this picture adequately displays the leaning of the tree. And of course, you can't see the upward direction of the roots below.

He immediately reported it and we connected with R&R Tree Service, who came the next morning and cut the tree down.



Two hours later we had this nice stack of wood and a fair amount of wood chips to add to our pile.



We are extremely grateful to Marcus! The cost of taking the tree down is far less than the cost of repairs if it fell. We do not need the wood and offered it to Marcus but he declined. So if any of **you would like free fire wood, please call Keith at 503-559-5796** by the middle of the month. You will have to split it but the price is right.



Georgia with Azaleas on my Mind

The 2023 ARS/ASA Joint Convention, "Georgia with Azaleas on my Mind" is being held in Atlanta, Georgia Wednesday, April 19 to Sunday, April 23.

Leave the snow behind. Spring will be in the air. Your friends will be there. You will have much to see. Interesting presentations are planned. A plant sale full of hard-to-obtain azaleas and rhododendrons awaits. Beyond the convention, Atlanta and Georgia have much to see and do.

The first thing you will notice about Atlanta is it is green. It has the largest tree canopy of all large US cities with an amazing 47% coverage.

It is a city of parks. They love flowers here. The native azalea is the state wildflower, and Georgia is proud to have 12 species of azaleas growing naturally within the state, more than any other state.

There is an excellent [video](#) describing the convention, some tours, attractions and the sights and sounds of Atlanta. I strongly encourage you to watch it.

Click [here](#) for more information on registration, schedule, hotel reservations, tours, etc.

Kick the winter doldrums goodbye and start planning a trip to sunny Atlanta! I hope to see you there.



Rhododendron prunifolium

**Photo credit:
Charles Andrews**

R. luteum is the Flower for January



Prized for its sweet fragrance and bold splashes of color in spring, *Rhododendron luteum*, commonly known as Pontic Azalea, is a striking, bushy, medium-sized deciduous Azalea. Its large floral trusses produce a magnificent display with their 7 to 17 funnel-shaped, bright golden-yellow flowers, up to 2 in wide (5cm), with a darker yellow blotch. From late spring to early summer, the air around the flowers is delightfully scented, making this Azalea a valuable addition near a patio and around the home. Equally attractive, the deciduous foliage of oblong to oblanceolate, mid-green leaves turns eye-catching shades of brilliant orange, yellow and red in the fall. This upright, spreading and deciduous shrub is native to Eastern Europe (Poland and the Balkans), southern Russia, and the Caucasus and is the parent of many cultivars and hybrids, including many of the famous Ghent Azaleas.

* Grows vigorously up to 4-5 ft. tall and wide

* This plant is easily grown in sun to part shade in moist, acidic, humusy, well-drained soils. Tolerates full sun in cool moist sites. Plant shallowly in a location protected from strong winter winds. Protect from frost to prevent damage to flowers. Mulch annually with leaf mold to retain moisture, control weeds, and cool the soil.

* Perfect for shrub borders or mixed borders, as a flowering hedge or privacy screen, foundation plantings, and shade gardens.

* Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and birds.

* Removing spent flowers promotes new growth.

* **All parts of plant are poisonous if ingested.**

* Toxic to dogs, cats and horses.



Predominant Flower Color: Yellow

Flower/Truss Description: Tubular funnel shaped, yellow with darker yellow blotch.

Fragrant: Yes

Bloom Time: Midseason to Late Midseason

Foliage / Habit Description: Leaves oblong to oblong-oblanceolate, up to 5½" long, deciduous. Upright, spreading shrub.

Deciduous or Evergreen: Deciduous

Height: 4 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: -10°F (-23°C)

Sub Genus: Pentanthera

Section: Pentanthera

Sub Section: Pentanthera

As was mentioned above, the beauty of this plant is twofold:

It's brilliant yellow color and fragrance in summer and secondly is it's brilliant shades of orange, yellow and red in the fall and winter. One of the few rhododendrons that provides needed color in summer and winter.

The following are current photos of *R. luteum* in our yard taken by Keith White.



As you can see the brilliant red color against the green background provides a pleasant background for the dullness of winter.

Information in this article provided by The American Rhododendron Society and Gardening, Creating Gardens.

For added winter color to your landscape, the following are a few pictures of what's happening in our yard. Photos are by Keith White and Mary Ellen Ramseyer.



"Chief Joseph" conifer
It's green in the summer and turns yellow in the winter



Unknown Heather

Online Shopping and the ARS Store - A Reminder to Help

Anytime you shop online for just about anything, please consider first going through the American Rhododendron Society Online Store. The ARS Online Store is reached by the link <http://arsstore.org/>

On this **site you will find** a range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee back on each sale "referred" by ARSStore.org. Just use a link from the ARS Online Store site to go to a merchant's site and buy something like you normally would. You get the same low price and help the ARS.

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

EUGENE CHAPTER

Third Wednesday from Oct to March at 7:30pm

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Third Thursday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele Street
Portland 97202

SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
Dye House at Willamette Heritage Center, 1313
Mill Street SE, Salem, OR

SUISLAW CHAPTER

Third Tuesday at 7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, 3996 Highway 101,
Florence, OR

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Willamette Chapter arswillamette.com
Eugene Chapter eugene-chapter-ars.org
Portland Chapter rhodies.org
Siuslaw Chapter siuslawars.org

All other web sites can be found on
rhododendron.org
Under "chapters" under web sites

ARS BULLETINS are available online at:
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS AWARDS HISTORY - 1978 to 2019

GOLD ---

Herb Spady	1991
Betty Spady	2001

SILVER ---

Richard "Dick" Cavendar	2003
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BRONZE ---

June Brennan	1987
Jason Ashford	1990
Constance Hansen	1991
Betty Spady	1991
Bob Grasing	1997
Sharon Leopold	2002
Wilbur Bluhm	2006
Chuck and Maxine Dehn	2006
Keith White	2007
Helen Malby	2008
Anne Gross	2009
Dick and Carol Lundin	2011
Wally and Kathy Reed	2012
Syd and Don Wermlinger	2013
Dick and Carol Lundin	2019
Mary B. Crofts	2019
Roger and Kathy Lintault	2019

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Dana Malby503-393-6463
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