

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 4

May 2022

Issue 5



Willamette Chapter ARS
Rhododendron Hillside Garden
Bush Pasture Park

CHAPTER MEETINGS: Due to Covid-19, our current chapter meetings are held online via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. The Zoom link is sent via email and listed in the newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until in-person meetings can safely be resumed.



CHAPTER MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

Potluck and Plant Auction at the home of
Roger and Karen Landers

WCARS Members and Associate Members Invited!

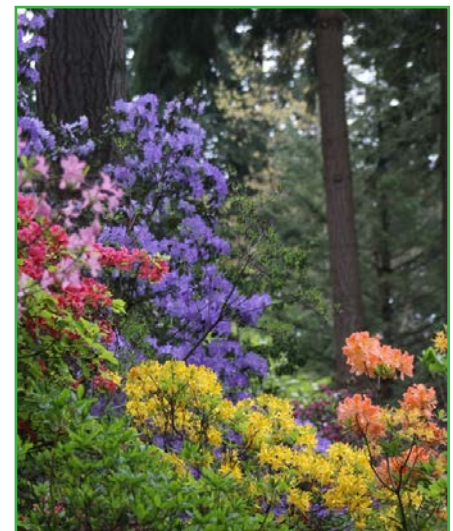


Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

HELLO MAY!



It's About Bloomin' Time



Rhododendron Species BG

April Minutes



Mary Crofts Secretary April 13, 2022

We zoomed open this evening with an announcement from Keith White (our guy who has a hand in every Chapter pie) that Mike Stewart is looking for someone to manage Smith Garden. Tom Gressler, our current caretaker for Smith, is having health problems which makes taking care of the Garden more difficult. Someone amidst the various on-screen viewers suggested Tom adopt a couple of high school boys with muscles. There are many rhodies in bloom now even though we've had some very nasty weather this past winter and spring. Anne Gross commented that Smith Garden is in a sort of microclimate that allows the rhodies to bloom earlier than elsewhere, and the bloom is just in time for the up-coming Convention. Anne also said more volunteers are needed to "man" the Garden during the tour times

We then hopped right into our evening's talk, by Steve McCormick and John Stevens on the Rhododendrons of Southern Chile. Both gentlemen are very active in the ARS. John is the current ARS Western Regional VP and Steve is the President and the Newsletter Editor of the Portland ARS Chapter. Both also have degrees in fields other than flowers. One studied business and the other studied music. But when they retired, they knew they wanted to garden. They didn't start out just gardening in the backyard of a house in a city somewhere. Instead, they scouted for property and ended up purchasing land on the Washington beach "branch" called Long Island. It turned out to be an excellent buy. The 5 acres they bought were that of Harold Clarke, the third President of the ARS. Over the years they've had the property, Steve and John have been able to integrate the existing plants (including rhodies, of course) with other plants collected

from Victoria BC to Eureka, CA

Steve and John have always been interested in South America and what rhodies, if any, could grow there. Their research led them to Southern Chile which has a climate similar to ours. So in November 2015 they flew to Puerto Varas to see what they could see. The climate did feel like home but the architecture was very different. The Germans who originally came over from Europe built their houses in a style that is very recognizable. Since it was Spring in Chile, the rhodies were in full bloom and well displayed. They also found that the farther south they went, the more German was spoken.

They also found rhody "relatives" there; Ericaceae and about 396 species of Asteraceas. Although the length of Chile is about the same as the width of the USA, the rainfall amount is almost the same. Chile also has a variety of climates like we do: desert, mountains (Andes), ocean coast and, unlike us, fjords or glaciers. The rhododendrons and azaleas (sorry Herb) are treasured there.

When the European explorers came to South America, they brought with them botonists - types as well, to check out the local greenery. One of those was Charles Darwin. He was a friend of James Hooker as well as of Marianne North, who did superb paintings of the rhodies they saw there. By the late 1800s the Germans were moving to Chile "by the dozens". They also brought with them a desire to learn more about their new country and started collections of species. They developed estate gardens and started hybridizing their floral finds. Some of the major parks/estates developed were Pumalin Park in Puerto Varas and Virero e Manzane nursery.

The guys found that, in nurseries, rhododendrons were named by their color and not by the name given them when they were registered. However, once the plant is purchased for resale, the registered name is used again. Most of the nurseries in Chile are in the Lake Region. And I must add here before I forget, John and Steve had beautiful photographs to

go with their talk.

They also visited Argentina and Venezuela which I hope will be another talk. We thank Steve and John for a most interesting view-point of Chile and our favorite flower.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Crofts - Secretary - WCARS



Monkey Puzzle Tree



Embothrium coccineum-"Chilean Firebush"

Volunteer Day at the Smith Garden

Keith and I had the pleasure of volunteering at Open Garden Days at the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. The day was perfect, in the fact that there was no rain - of which we had a lot of in April. Our total of 7 visitors all arrived within 2 hours of opening in 3 different groups. We had a great time talking with them and **I would strongly encourage you to volunteer next year.** The garden is beautiful and those who come to see it are enthusiastic, interested and entertaining.

Our first couple arrived right ahead of us as they were on a mission to purchase a fairly good size plant for their yard. It turned out to be Cecil Smith's nephew, Reid Anderson and his wife Monica. He had many stories to share about growing up on the farm before the house was built and after. He eagerly admits he is not one to give a program on rhododendrons but could give a good talk about play time on the farm and in the garden.

He and Monica purchased a new home in Lake Oswego a year ago and have designated a shady area for rhododendrons. He was determined to include plants for sale from the Smith garden.

The following are Reid and Monica with their plant and a picture from the garden.



May Potluck and Plant Auction

Two years ago I issued a **WCARS Raincheck**, good for gourmet dining, delectable desserts, fine wine, tasty brews, sparkling water and a chance to sharpen your bidding skills on fantastic plants and the time has come to collect! The long-awaited WCARS May potluck and plant auction is back on the schedule for Saturday, May 14. **It takes place at the home and garden of Karen and Roger Landers and is open to WCARS members and Associate members only.** Plan to arrive at noon, **bring a dish to pass and a chair to sit in.** The potluck will take place under a covered patio, so weather is not an issue. Karen has been practicing her grilling skills, so hamburgers and hot dogs (with a plant-based option) will be provided. There will be an assortment of beverages, but please feel free to BYOB if you have a preference on drink, or if you have something special you want to share with others so they know about it as well.

You can wander the garden on foot or a tour can be provided. There is a transport vehicle (Ranger) for those who would prefer a ride through the garden rather than walking.

Remember to bring lots of cash or your checkbook, as the plant auction will begin after the potluck. The sad part is our prior auctioneer, Dick Cavender, and his primary helper, Wally Reed, are no longer with us. But our President, Dana Malby, and his primary helper, Keith White, are willing to step into those big shoes and give it their best try. A new addition this year is voting via a "secret bid" to Anne or a "live auction bid" via Mary Ellen for those who cannot be in attendance. Hopefully this will add some intrigue and excitement to the auction.

With the cost of food increasing, we want to make sure we have enough but not an over-abundance, so please RSVP to Mary Ellen if you plan to attend. Her email address:

is: ramseyer_mary@hotmail.com or you can call or text to 503-689-3733.

The address for Karen and Roger Landers is 7772 Pudding Creek Dr. S.E.

The following are 2 sets of directions:

From Mission/Highway 22:

Take Joseph St exit
Left at stop sign (Joseph St.)
Left at next stop sign (71st St.)
Take next right (Jordan St)
Turn left on 75th Ave
Right on Pudding Creek Drive

From Cordon Road:

East on Macleay Rd
Turn right on 74th
Turn left on Pudding Creek Drive

The house is towards the middle of the block and set back from the road by a long gated driveway which is across the street from the mailbox. The gate will be left open and a flag will mark the entrance. Google maps and other GPS guidance will work for their address.

Karen and Roger conservatively estimate that they can accommodate about 20 cars - half that number parallel to their driveway along one side and the rest in the area closer to the house. If folks are able and willing to carpool, that would reduce parking congestion.

For All To Whom This Applies





President's Report

Happy May Day, members!

It has been nice seeing the sun, at least a few times over the last few days! After all, April showers bring May flowers!

We have a new winner from the Truss Show! We received votes from 169 visitors and the winner is...

Keith White with Yedoense from his yard

Even though the Truss Show was kind of a last minute affair, it went together surprisingly well. Thank you to Anne for getting trusses from Smith Garden and to Keith for all his entries. The Show was well attended and people were definitely interested in what we had to show. I want to thank the members who helped with the set up/tear down and show hours – Anne Gross, Adele O’Neal, Bill Vagt, Mary Ellen Ramseyer and Keith White (and me, of course!). We had the show set up in record time – one hour, even in the rain, to set up the canopies and truss show boxes. The tear down was just as fast, one hour to get it all back in my pickup to take back to store everything until next year.

I want to welcome new members – Becky and Jennifer Delurey. We also have two new associate from the Siuslaw Club, Juan & Javier Perez. We are happy you have joined and are looking forward to meeting you and encourage your participation in upcoming meetings and social events.

The financial report for March is attached, but a quick summary is that as of March 31, we have \$903.24 in our checking account and \$3,317.99 in our business account (wow, we earned 6¢ in interest!)

Also, because the 2020-0221 Annual Financial report was not sent out to the membership, it is attached also. If you have questions about it, please let me know.

Hope to see you at the National Convention, May 4-8 in Vancouver, Washington!

Dana Malby - WCARS President

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Financials March 2022

Beginning Balances - March 1, 2022

Business Membership Account		\$3,317.93
Checking Account	\$853.24	

INCOME

Membership dues	\$50.00	
Donation to Chapter	\$0.00	
Business Membership Account Interest		\$0.06
Truss Show	\$0.00	
Misc. Meeting Auction	\$0.00	
Plant Sales	\$0.00	

TOTAL INCOME	\$50.00	\$0.06
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EXPENSES

Dues Paid to National	\$0.00
Speaker expenses	\$0.00
Rent to church	\$0.00
Newsletter expenses	\$0.00
Zoom Membership	\$0.00
Liability insurance	\$0.00
Membership RSF	\$0.00
Donations to RSF	\$0.00
Memorial donations, RSF, ARS	\$0.00
Donations ARS General Fund	\$0.00
Donations, ARS Research Fund	\$0.00
December Potluck	\$0.00
May Potluck	\$0.00
Summer Potluck	\$0.00
Coffee for Meetings	\$0.00
Awards	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Postage for Renewal Notices	\$0.00
Truss Show Expenses	\$0.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00
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NET (Income Less Expenses) \$50.00 \$0.60

Ending Balances - March 31, 2022

Business Membership **\$3,317.99**
Checking **\$903.24**

**Willamette Chapter American
Rhododendron Society
Annual Financials**

September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021

Beginning Balances - September 1, 2020

Business Membership Account **\$3,316.93**
Checking Account **\$2,153.39**

INCOME

Membership dues \$905.00
Donation to Chapter \$ 0.00
Business Membership Account Interest \$0.67
Truss Show \$ 0.00
Misc. Meeting Auction \$ 0.00
Plant Sales \$ 0.00

TOTAL INCOME \$905.00 \$0.67

EXPENSES

Dues Paid to National \$539.00
Speaker expenses \$400.00
Rent to church \$ 0.00
Newsletter expenses \$ 0.00
Zoom Membership \$149.90
Liability insurance \$ 75.00
Membership RSF \$100.00
Donations to RSF \$400.00
Memorial donations, RSF, ARS \$0.00
Donations ARS General Fund \$0.00
Donations, ARS Research Fund \$0.00
December Potluck \$ 0.00
May Potluck \$ 0.00
Summer Potluck \$ 0.00
Coffee for Meetings \$ 0.00
Awards \$ 0.00
Office Supplies \$ 0.00
Postage for Renewal Notices \$6.70
Truss Show Expenses \$ 0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,670.60 \$0.00

NET (Income Less Expenses) -\$765.60 \$0.67

Ending Balances - August 31, 2021

Business Membership **\$3,317.60**
Checking **\$1,387.79**

Remarks from the Newsletter Editor - A BIG Thank You to our President, Dana Malby, as the Truss Show would not have been the success it was without him. He was there every single minute from set up to tear down.

I wish I had taken a picture of his truck loaded with the tents, tables, chairs, truss show stands, beer bottles, etc. It definitely looked like something out of the "Ma and Pa Kettle" movies.

It took us just a little more than an hour to set up and the "saving grace" that made it such a breeze was that Dana filled all the truss bottles with water at home - this is always a chore. There is no water source down on the Derby Track so we would have had to take them up to the Bush House to fill.

In the newsletter article from our last truss show in 2019, it took us 4 hours to set up and there were 8 people involved. Definitely the change to the Pop-up tents and the filled bottles was instrumental.

Three visitors to our show joined us the following weekend on our "road trip" to Eugene - Becky, Emily and Chas. Becky and her daughter are now new members and Emily and Chas plan to join.

Some pictures of the show taken by Dana and myself.



**The set up crew:
Bill, Adele and
Dana**



Set Up Complete



I think Dana's been here too long



Sadly, these bottles were filled with water, not their original brew.

Hillside Rhododendron Garden

While walking to the Truss Show on Saturday morning, I took a stroll through the Hillside Rhododendron Garden. Many of the plants were in bloom and the following pictures are a few of the highlights.



Wally & Kathy Reed Memorial

Dear Reed Family and Friends,

On March 1st, our beloved Dad, Wally Reed passed away peacefully. He had been struggling with heart failure for the prior 4 months. To the end of his life, he was a much fun loving, teaching, and warm guy. He truly appreciated everyone he's met along his life's way and wanted his friends to know that they have all done good things and were loved.

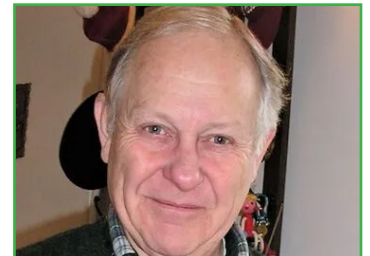
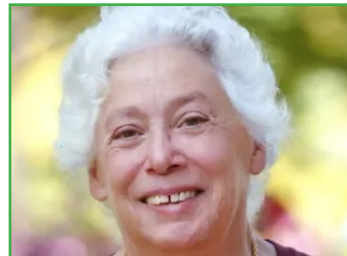
We will be having a memorial service for both Wally and Kathy (who passed away on July 9, 2020) on **Sunday May 22, 11am-2pm, in Salem in front of their home at 940 Leffelle St SE Salem Oregon, 97302.** [Map link.](#) Please see the flyer below for more information. Feel free to share this information with others who may want to attend.

Feel free to reach out to my brother Jim or myself if you have any questions or just want to reminisce.

Jim Reed 541-556-2085
Lynn Reed 206-850-7055

Our love to you all and we look forward to connecting with everyone one.

Lynn and Jim Reed



Editor's Note: If you plan to attend, please bring a chair to sit in and a dish to pass for the potluck. We may need to help with set up and tear down so please let me know if you are available to assist. I will be the liaison with Lynn. **Mary Ellen Ramseyer: 503-689-3733 for text or phone or ramseyer_mary@hotmail for email.**



*Please Join us in a celebration of life for
Kathrine & Wallace Reed*

**Sunday May 22nd
11:00 - 2:00**

**940 Leffelle St SE
Salem Oregon, 97302**

We will be meeting in Bush Pasture Park directly in front of their house in Salem on Sunday May 22nd at 11:00 to share memories, love, and appreciation for everything Kathy and Wally have done. After the ceremony in the park we will assemble at the house to enjoy food and drink.

Questions?

Jim 541.556.2085

Lynn 206.850.7055





Road Trip!

On Saturday April 23rd our chapter had our second face-to-face event since early 2020. The first was the truss show April 15th and 16th at Bush Park, with the plant show of The Friends of Bush Park. This went smashingly well. We gained four new members. On the next Saturday we did our road trip to Eugene.

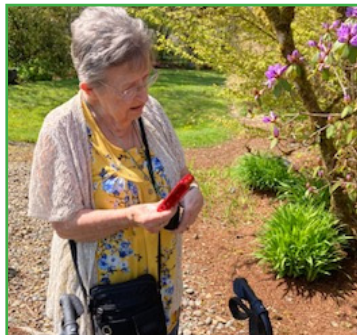
We met in front of Wally and Kathy Reed's house in the south Bush Park parking area. From there we travelled to the Gossler Farm Nursery in Springfield. Present were new members Chas Schmid and Emily Braithwaite, both research botanists at Oregon State University. Also Becky Delury, recently moved to a property in Salem on Mill Creek, Bill Vagt, Anne Gross, Paul and Susan Doellenger and two of their friends, Mary Crofts, and Mary Ellen and I. The weather was clear and sunny. Roger Gossler, who with brother Eric, manages the Nursery was a great informative and friendly tour guide. He led our group on a historical – botanical journey through the property. The Gossler family established the farm in the 1960's. There were many grand old specimens. From the early days it was onward and upward. Magnolias and Rhododendrons were blooming, but these were but a small part. Gossler's is famous for growing the best of the usual and the best of the rare and unusual in many genera. After the tour we enjoyed walking through the numerous hoop houses, salivating over the great variety of wonderful plants, some of which rode home with us.



By this time, we were all getting hungry. We travelled the hills and dales south to Rocky Knoll Farm at Little Fall Creek, the farm and garden of Jack Olson. Jack provided us the exceptional setting to have lunch on his patio surrounded by his beautiful garden and pond. Jack was a great host. He gave us the history of his place and alluded to his many skills—First as a teacher, then a summer menial worker to earn money to buy his dream property, working his way up to be a certified pipefitter! Jack taught us about hybridizing and about the great hybridizers he knew at his end of the Willamette Valley. He is carrying on with the hybrids that they created, as well as his own. He took us around the huge periphery of his garden where he has his up and coming species and hybrids He showed us the many species of exotic Podophyllums (commonly called "May Apples") and araseamas (look it up in Wikipedia) that he is growing from seed. Jack showed us the restored classic cars he has. We ended up staying longer than we had budgeted because of Jack's fascinating, educational journey that he gave us.



This photo by Paul Doellenger



In Memorium Dr. Thomas Bailey

Dr Tom Bailey

It was three days ago, the morning of his passing, Friday April 29th that we learned of the death of WCARS Charter Member, Tom Bailey. Tom had been fighting leukemia for the past 2+ years. Two weeks ago, he spent time in the hospital with pneumonia, recovering only 30% of his respiratory function. At this point Tom decided it was time to stop the chemotherapy and transfusions. He enjoyed his last several days visiting with friends and family. He passed away quietly.

For many years I had known Tom as a colleague physician. I a Family Doctor and he a Urologist, were able to exchange patients and he conferred much knowledge of his specialty on me. Tom was definitely a gentleman and a scholar. He is survived by his wife, Brada.

More details about Tom will be available once a formal obituary is available.

Keith White

Tom volunteered many hours helping Wally Reed with the Hillside garden. The following picture is a tribute to his work.



Picture from the Rhododendron Hillside Garden, Bush Pasture Park, 2020

Last was Hendricks Park in Eugene. Here is the Eugene equivalent of Crystal Springs in Portland. This 12 acre rhododendron garden, established in the 1950's, is beautifully landscaped and maintained. Clearly such a very popular place that one had to be very innovative in order to park a car. Here there were many mature specimens that would give one the full range of the life of an elepidote rhododendron. We strolled around marveling at the big floriferous rhodys and the companion plantings of iris, daffodil, lepidote rhodies, lawns and ornamental trees. I think most of us were too burned out by the preceding visits to Gossler's and Jack Olson to take full advantage of the opportunity.



From here we split up going our separate ways towards home. Mary Ellen, Mary Crofts and I refreshed ourselves with a hardy early dinner at the very nice and capacious Hop Valley Pub and Brewery that is next to I-5, just north of Springfield. For me, a hop garden worthy of a long stop.

Keith White

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
The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, OR

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Third Thursday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR

SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday from Oct 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

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER

First Tuesday from Sept to April (except for Jan) at 6:45pm
Washington County Fire District 2, 31370 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Willamette Chapter arswillamette.com
Eugene Chapter eugene-chapter-ars.org
Portland Chapter rhodies.org
Siuslaw Chapter siuslawars.org
Tualatin Valley tualatinvalleyars.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 Werminger	2013
Dick and Carol Lundin	2019
Mary B. Crofts	2019
Roger and Kathy Lintault	2019

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS

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