

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Willamette Chapter ARS Potluck - December 8, 2019

This is a reminder of the invitation to our Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society December 8, 2019 Potluck at the Reeds beginning about 12:00 Noon with feasting starting about 1:00 PM. Please bring your favorite potluck dish. The Chapter will provide the MEAT (rare, for Anne Gross, to medium rare, to done, for those that don't like a Moo) and soft drinks.

Our place is at the south end of Salem's Bush's Pasture Park with plenty of parking at the corner of Leffelle and Davidson Sts SE behind the hedges. Cross Street is the cross street off High Street or 12th Street SE in Salem.

We look forward to having fun with you that afternoon.

Kathy and Wally Reed
940 Leffelle St. SE
Salem, 97302
503-588-3666
wallacereed@comcast.net



Wally and Kathy live at 940 Leffelle St. SE in Salem. Their home faces the SE corner of Bush's Pasture Park. This is the lower portion of the park by the open fields and Phillips Softball Field. To get to their home take Cross St. which runs between 12th St. and High St. Turn on Davidson St. to the North. Should you need further directions, call 503-588-3666.

Calendar of Events

December 8, 2019	Wally & Kathy Reed	Christmas Potluck
January 8, 2020	Edmund de Rothschild	“The Glory of the Garden” BBC video
February 17, 2020	Robert Zimmerman	Arunachal Pradesh
March 11, 2020	Karen Brown	Connie Hansen Garden
April 15, 2020		
May 13, 2020		Spring Potluck & Plant Sale



Editor's Note

TRANSITION: The process of changing from one state (or person) to another. Transition – what an interesting word. It means a lot to me as I attempt to take over the WCARS newsletter from Dick Lundin – me of all people, who only identifies rhodies by the color of the flower, attempting to produce a newsletter for a subject I know very little about, following an editor that has done such a terrific job and set the standard...

That being said, I hope you will bear with me in the days ahead, as I develop my style and attempt to carry on in a fashion that Dick would approve. I look forward for your assistance, as to what you would like to see in the newsletter and in providing articles to be included. If you photograph an interesting flower (and can identify it), or read an interesting article, please let me know. Hard telling what you might see if I run out of pertinent Rhody information – might have to share a clogging step or two.

November Minutes

Mary Crofts - Secretary

November 13, 2019

All “fat and sassy”, we left the Ram where we ate ourselves silly. (At least I did. I recommend their nachos.) Prez-for-Life, Wally Reed, welcomed us all to what was sort of the White/Ramseyer Meeting. Keith White was to be our featured speaker, in addition to being our Program Chair. Mary Ellen Ramseyer, Keith’s lovely and intelligent better-half provided all the goodies and the coffee as well. One of the two of them commented later in the evening, that they’d “covered all their duty bases for the year”. So true. Mary Ellen’s refreshments were “to die for”, especially her pumpkin bread which was more like eating pudding in bread form. In addition to all that, they also provided your Secretary with the transportation for the evening as my usual “chauffeur”, Ali Sarlak, was missing from action due to a prior commitment. January 2020 it’s Kathy and Wally Reed’s turn to provide all the refreshments, with Kathy taking the lead no doubt. Kathy’s also an excellent cook and baker. Now that I think about it, we have a lot of potential bakers in our midst, and they aren’t all women.

December 8th is the date for our Christmas Potluck. Wally and Kathy have already made arrangements for the prime rib roast and the rest of us will provide the potluck dishes and the wine. And it will be at the Reed’s house as usual. Personally, I love going to their house. It’s built in the best of the craftsman-type homes, unlike the houses built now.

Wally also announced that, after 131 newsletters, Dick Lundin can finally REALLY retire. Our new newsletter editor is Mary Ellen who was trained via last month’s newsletter. December she will be flying on her own power, with Dick in the background if she needs assistance.

Be sure...REALLY SURE ... to mark your 2020 calendars as saved for the up-coming ARS 75th Anniversary celebration conference to be held in Portland. Arrangements are being made for us to stay in a Heathman Hotel in Vancouver, where they will have areas reserved just for us. This conference will be a “Biggy” so get your reservations for sessions, food and sleeping in early. The dates are April 29 to May 3rd.

Keith asked us to consider making new name tags on “lanyards”, with them being turned in to someone at the end of each meeting and that someone bringing them back the next meeting So be sure to consider it.

There being no further announcements from either Wally or Dick Cavender (what’s with Dick? That’s two meetings in a row with no announcements from Red), on to our evening’s speaker, Keith White, who didn’t introduce himself because if you don’t know who he is by now, then crawl out from under your rock and “get with it”. So I’ll say a few for him. Keith is a retired General Practitioner, having made most of his practice in Monmouth-Independence. He was my doctor for at least 30 years as well as for my mom and my daughters. He’s a VERY good doctor and his retirement has to have left a big hole in the profession that can’t be filled as doctors like Keith just don’t come along easily. He’s been Oregon’s GP of the Year, served on the state Medical Board and taught at OHSU, for a few of his “extra time” accomplishments. For our ARS Chapter, he’s been a #1 Go-To guy. He’s been Secretary for our Chapter and has served as Program Chair several times. He volunteers for just about every event that needs help, i.e. the Plant Auction with the Bush House bunch, and guiding people on the Open Garden weekends at Smith Garden. And judging from the photos he showed in his talk, he also looks pretty good in a pair of khaki shorts.

Keith’s talk and slides concerned his various travels in Sikkim and the surrounding areas doing Rhody Hunting. I’m not sure if his more recent trips included seed-hunting but as I remember his earlier ones were as he mentioned one time about coming home with seeds in the cuffs of his pants. Travelling in those areas can be quite tough. Part of the time the hunters walked on trails that could come close to cliffs and very deep falls. Part of the time they were able to go from site to site via big cars built for rough usage, for example, one area where a landslide blocked a road so no cars could go through. So they had to get out and walk across the rubble. Rhody-hunting is not for those out of shape, physically. Hunters could go uphill a mile, then downhill a mile, then uphill again, but if measured they wouldn’t have gone two miles. It would instead be one. And all of this while heading “up” all along.

He had about 320 slides to show us, so he didn’t linger long at each picture, but stopped if someone asked him a question. His photos were outstanding as he’s a really good photographer as well as a doctor. (He can cook too...) Really, all the rhody-hunters were photog-

raphers “hunting” with their cameras. And on these trips, it meant more than just rhodys. The scenery was gorgeous. The Himalayan Mountains were spectacular. They wandered through little valleys as well as mountains, some with little villages and some without. For instance, at about 12,000 feet up, there was a little store that sold travelers things like pop and candy bars. Some rhodys were on rocks and IN rocks; other grew ON trees. Some were small enough you could walk on them and some were literally trees.

There were all sorts of flowers in all sorts of colors: rhodys, of course, both species and natural hybrids. There were also begonias, primroses, orchids, peonies, and various “members” of the gaultheria and arisaema families. Sikkim and surrounds looked like a huge flower garden.

Sikkim is a Buddhist kingdom and as such, has very many monasteries all through it. Right about in the middle of Keith’s talk, he showed us slides of the Singalila National Park, close to India. It featured a HUGE figure of the Buddha and sat up on a hill so you walked up to it, literally. It’s a museum devoted to the life of Buddha depicted in large paintings. Absolutely beautiful. While visitors (looking like mostly European or American) listened to lamas chanting through loud speakers. It was a very interesting program and I’d love to see more of Keith’s slides/photos as I know I’ll never be able to travel in that part of the world (even if I had the money). I didn’t get the names of very many of the rhodys or other flowers, so all I can say, if you weren’t there, you missed a beautiful trip.

Since no one brought anything to raffle, we adjourned and went back to devouring cookies and cake and coffee while chatting and/or looking through the newest installment of books Keith brought from the WCARS Library. (He’s also our new Librarian....)

Alpines not in Paradise

Keith White - November 30, 2019

How to grow (surviving) alpines in our “Mediterranean” climate had eluded me until a few years ago. In front of our house, under a Japanese maple we have the perfect little raised rock garden bed. In the shade of that maple I have grown *R. sargentianum*, *calostrotum*, *impeditum*, *hanceanum nanum*, *keiskii* ‘Yaku Fairy’ *foresstii* ‘repens’, many *campylogynim* and a host of other high altitude little rhododendrons. Emphasis on the past tense. These plants may do well for a few years until they are killed by the intense summer heat generated by the southwest facing bed situated next to a cement driveway. This is despite careful automatic watering and misting. *Requescat in pacem*: may they rest in pieces on the chipper pile



Front rock garden. Good times.



Bad times after the summer “toasting season”

So I decided that it was time for a change of habitat. Behind my garage there is an area that gets good morning sun but is shaded from noon on until the last daylight rays hit it. There I recreated alpine conditions sans the heat and intense solar radiation.



Removing the sod



After planting, perfect drainage with this soil mix



Lining the areas with vertical slates to make a slightly raised bed



Too much success. Need to separate, thin and replant this winter.



Creating alpine soil conditions with 2/3 inorganics (washed quarter ten rock and pumice) 1/3 commercial potting soil with some native dirt, which repopulates the mix with normal soil organisms.

These are not exactly native alpine conditions. In the high mountains of the Himalayas and Southwestern China these plants are exposed to direct sunlight some of the time....In the spring usually until the rising afternoon mists shield and water them. In their summer they get clouds and monsoon rains whereas here it is the hot, dry season. We somewhat recreate the monsoon by dry season irrigation. In their winter native habitat some of these plants may be covered by snow or be out in the open....most are very cold hardy.

Change of Date for February Meeting

Dear WCARS Folks:

Our February WCARS Chapter Meeting will be on the third Monday evening, February 17th 2020, at the home of Kathy and Wally Reed. The monthly meeting date and place is changed because our featured speaker, Robert Zimmerman, is also speaking that week to the Siuslaw, Eugene and Portland Chapters of ARS on Tues. Wed. and Thurs so for convenience, the Monday date just seemed to fall into place. Robert Zimmerman and his wife, Beth Orling, will be staying with Keith and Mary Ellen over the weekend of Feb. 16th, so we will take advantage of his presence on Monday, Feb. 17th.

The plan is to hold both the pre-Chapter Meeting dinner and the talk at Wally & Kathy Reeds beginning at 5:00 PM, with the talk beginning at 7:00 PM as usual. **We have yet to determine if the dinner will be a potluck or provided by Kathy and I, but would like your RSVP for the dinner as soon as possible as that will help us decide.** Please BYOB for libations. The menu is yet to be determined.

Also, please RSVP if you plan to attend the talk only so that we can arrange the right number of chairs for the event. It will be a fun event. We hope to hear from you and welcome you 5:00 or 7:00 PM on Monday, Feb. 17th 2020.

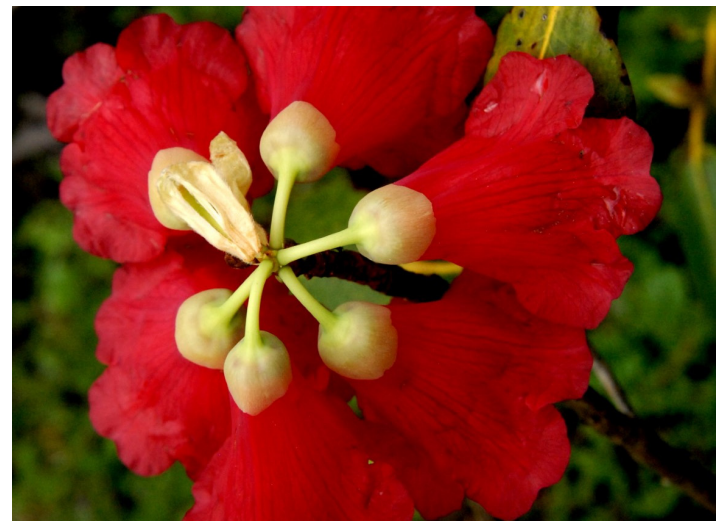
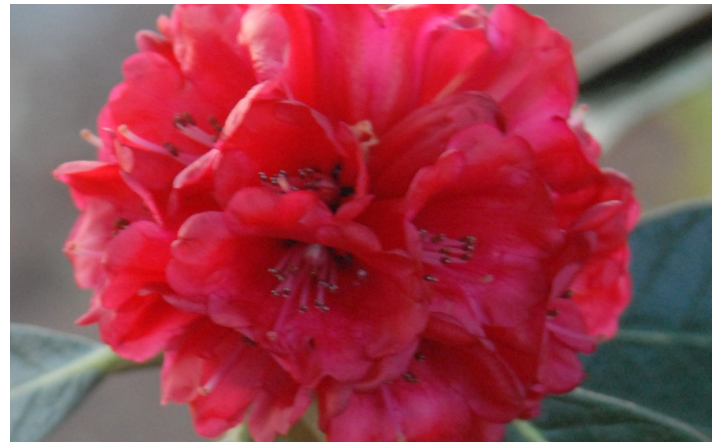
Kathy and Wally Reed



Name the 3 Species Rhododendrons on this page - Answers on the last page of the newsletter

Smith Garden Fall Work Party Was Fun

The Smith Garden Work Party on Saturday, October 16th, 2019 was a great success. There were a large number of volunteers from the Portland Chapter of ARS, and for once, the Willamette Chapter ARS volunteers were outnumbered. The goodies were good. Much of the work was weeding and cutting down perennials, but some large trees were downed as well. No chips were generated, so Mr. Cavender found other things to do. We will likely need a couple Spring 2020 work parties to make sure the Smith Garden is shining for the 2020 ARS 75th Anniversary Conference in Portland. Save the end of April 2020 for the fun.



Name the 3 Species Rhododendrons on this page - Answers on the last page of the newsletter

The American Rhododendron Society 75th Anniversary Convention



**April 29-May 3, 2020, Hosted by ARS District 4
Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA**

20/20 Vision will include these international speakers and more:

- **Kenneth Cox** from Glendoick in Scotland
- **Lionel de Rothschild** from Exbury in England
- **Jens Nielsen**, plant explorer from Denmark
- **Steve Krebs** and **Juliana Medeiros** from the Holden Arboretum
- **Steve Hootman** from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Garden tours will include:

- Crystal Springs Botanical Garden
- Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
- Portland Japanese Garden
- Lan Su Chinese Garden
- Iseli Nursery
- Woodburn Nursery
- The Stewart Garden (formerly Dover Nursery)
- Sebright Gardens

- **Around the Sound** [pre-tour](#)
- **Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast Excursion** [post-tour](#) including members' gardens

Plus plant sale, photo contest, poster session, special clinics, plus:

ars75.org

Registration Now Open!

Identify the Rhododendron Species

Answers:

First Column Page 6: R Strigillosum

Top Picture on the 2nd Column Page 6 - R
Mallotum

Bottom Picture on the 2nd Column Page 6 - R
Thomsonii

If you disagree, please connect with Keith
White to discuss!

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 very wide range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee of 4% to 25% 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. Wally Reed - President

MONTHLY EVENTS

EUGENE CHAPTER

The Springs at Greer Gardens 1280 Goodpasture
Island

Rd. Eugene, OR Third Wednesday Oct to May at 7:30
pm

SIUSLAW CHAPTER

First Presbyterian Church 3996 Highway 101,
Florence, OR

Third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

PORTLAND CHAPTER

All Saints Episcopal Church

4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR

Third Thursday, and the program begins at 7 pm.

SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday of the month 7:00pm

Willamette Heritage Center

1313 Mill Street SE Salem, Or. 97301

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER

First Tuesday of the month at 7 pm Washington Coun-
ty

Fire District 2 31370 NW Commercial Street

North Plains, OR 97133

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Arswillamette.com

eugene-chapter-ars.org

rhodies.org (Portland)

siuslawars.org

tuatitinvalleyars.org

All other web sites can be found on

rhododendron.org

Under chapters under web sites

All ARS Bulletins are

now available on line at:

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

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Informational Websites

WCARS: <http://arswillamette.com>

ARS Home Page: <http://www.rhododendron.org>