



Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 5

March 2024

Issue 3



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 at a local Salem restaurant. Gather for dinner at 5:00pm, meeting begins at 6:00pm, and the speaker and program at 6:30pm. Our meetings will be in person unless otherwise stated. Meeting information will be sent to members via email and available in this newsletter.

CHAPTER MEETING March 13, 2024



Speaker: *Kathy Lintault*
Title: *Amazing Australia: Fascinating Gardens, Striking Landscapes and Iconic Animals*

Dinner at 5:00pm at La Margarita Restaurant and Grill, 545 Ferry St. SE, in downtown Salem. The program begins at 6:30pm. Complete details on Page

Daylight Savings Time

In spring when maple buds are red,
We turn the clock an hour ahead;
Which means, each April that
arrives,
We lose an hour out of our lives.

Who cares? When autumn birds in
flocks
Fly southward, back we turn the
clocks,
And so regain a lovely thing
That missing hour we lost in spring.

Phyllis McGinley



“Despite the forecast,
live like it’s spring.”

– LILLY PULTZER



February Minutes

February 14, 2024

We met at 5 pm at La Margarita in Salem for our supper and a lot of great visiting. There were plenty of both with room enough for eating a chocolate truffle (or two or three) brought in a basket by Mary Ellen Ramseyer. We also spent some time checking out the various plants brought by Bill Vagt and Anne Gross to auction off or to raffle away. Both brought plants that bloom this time of the year and at the same time, are not the usual suspects. This fall it was apparent that we did not have a system for assuring our members were wearing name tags. So we took a lesson from the Portland chapter. Susan Doellinger, our Greeter, is now in charge of our name tags. Susan will hand out the name tags to members as they arrive and collect the name tags as members leave. That way they will not get forgotten at home or in the glove box.

President Dana Malby called the meeting to order with Treasurer Adele O'Neal being first. All was good with the financial report. We discussed the possibility of being a part of the annual Yard, Garden and Home Show held in March. A sign-up sheet for those who would be able to "man" the booth was passed around. Later we will email an interactive sign up sheet. (ed. Keith says that these little stints are fun.) Dana is making up a list of possible nurseries where we could purchase plants that we could later sell at the Show. Someone suggested we make up flyers with the rhododendrons we have for sale as well as our web site. It was also suggested we make a video of rhodie pics to run like a loop at our booth.

The Hillside Garden needs a Spring cleanup. Brian Smith, horticulturist for City of Salem and in charge of garden volunteers, will meet with Dana and Keith on March 13th to walk through the garden and discuss projects to be done by our group.

The wording for tags to go in plants is complete. They will be 1"X 6" plastic spikes that say, "The Willamette Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society recommends this nursery. Please join us for fun, food, flowers, facts and fellowship. Programs and events throughout the year. website: arswillamette.com"

In April and May the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden will be open for weekend visits by the outside world. The Portland Chapter has 3 big events in April and May to staff with volunteers from their chapter. Those being, the Van Veen Heritage Garden booth at Hortlandia, on Sat/Sun April 6th and 7th, their Early Show on April 13th and their May 11th and 12th Mother's Day Show. So, it is critical for our members to sign up to be garden hosts on those three weekends. Also remember that members of the Portland Chapter volunteer on Crystal Springs Garden and Van Veen Nursery work days. So, it is up to our members to understand this and pitch in heartily to host the Smith Garden. A sign-up list will be presented.

Before Keith's talk, plants were auctioned and/or raffled. The tiny narcissus went to Karen Landers for \$20 and Keith got the cream deciduous hellebore for \$25...money well spent, since the money from auctioned plants is needed for our near "bare cupboard" treasury. The raffled plants went to Paul Doellinger, Adele O'Neal and Anne Gross.

Time for Keith White's talk. Let's shorten this... If you've had the pleasure of being one of his patients or also one of his rhody-friends, then he needs no real introduction except to say you've truly met a man who knows a lot about rhododendrons....He's been a rhody fan since medical school days' frequently visiting Crystal Springs and when returning from Alaska, he was mentored in "rhodothink" by some of the "greats" of the rhododendron world. He's been on several botanical expeditions to China and Tibet as well as Sikkim. All have been led by notables such as Britt Smith, Ken and Peter Cox or Steve Hootman of the RSBG (he's on their board of directors and heads their photography committee). He's an excellent photographer and a really good speaker, so it's hard to write about something that's so beautiful to listen to and watch. It's really a case of "you just gotta be there". Keith had been to Sikkim in 1992 with a group

lead by Britt Smith and in a 2015 (23 years later) expedition led by Steve Hootman, Curator and Director of the RSBG. Both of the Sikkim expeditions covered most of the same ground with some of the same Sikkimese staff who were present in 1992. Although all expeditions centered on genus *Rhododendron*, there was botanizing directed on many other genera at a wide range of altitudes.

Keith's photos showed both the "same" and "different", especially in the monasteries. Of course, the rhodys stole the show...they were blooming as if each day was a special day for them. The explorers spent many hours going up and down "roads" or "trails" made by man and beast over many, many years until the dirt would have been more like rock. Some were roads or trails that looked like a road or a trail...wide, sort of solid. Others were trails that literally clung on the side of a steep cliff. No railings either. They found 36 species of rhodies in the three treks through rhody rich areas of Sikkim. (amongst the species observed were *R. arboreum*, *fulgens*, *dalhousii* *barbatum*, *hodgsonii*, *campanulatum*, *cam-pylocarpum*, *thomsonii*, *nivale*, *niveum* – the royal flower of Sikkim, *anthopogon*, *glaucophyllum*, *triflorum* *lepidotum*, *setosum*, etc., and on the plethora of other genera). There was a lot about Sikkimese history, religion, lifestyle, and food. Some plants were tiny-wee and some were huge trees. Some were surviving with nothing but a dead "parent" tree...a younger rhody but the same species as the one they were growing on and that one was dead. And other of his photos showed the vast beauty of the land, especially my favorite showing a row of white mountains behind a dense fog bank and that was behind a row of blooming rhodies.

When Keith had finished his talk (no idea what time it was and anyway, who cared what time it was), Susan got all our badges and we drifted away into the rain.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Crofts - Secretary

The following photos from the expedition were taken by Keith White.



Top L: *R. walichii*

Top R: *R. concinnum* var
Blandfordifolium

Bottom L: *Meconopsis*
simplicifolia

Bottom M: *Enkianthus*
deflexus

Bottom R: Giant Buddha
at Ravangla





Mt Pandim and Abies Densa with *R. thomsonii* in the foreground



Pleione hookerana



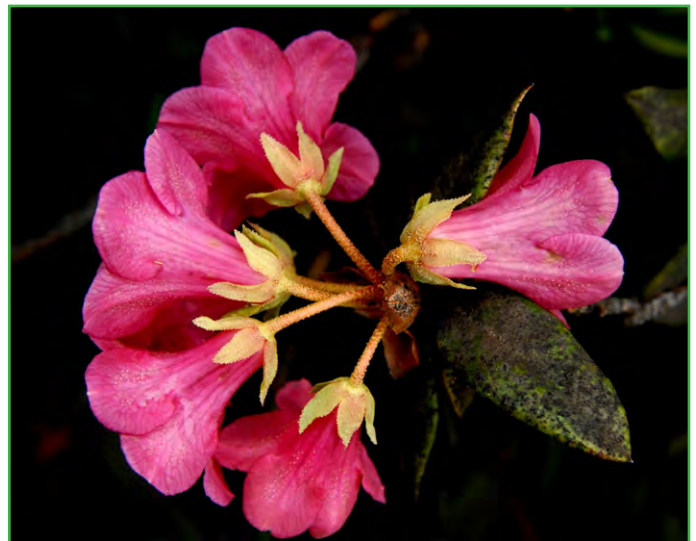
Hibiscus at Orchid Retreat



R campylocarpum



Dragon at Yaktse



R glaucophyllum

March Program



Speaker: Kathy Lintault

Topic: *Amazing Australia: Fascinating Gardens, Striking Landscapes and Iconic Animals*

March 13, 2024 Dinner: 5:00pm Meeting: 6:00pm Program: 6:30pm
La Margarita Restaurant and Grill

Let's venture down under to discover stunning gardens and landscapes where you can be startled by kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and more. Kathy Lintault will describe her recent travels from beautiful Sydney with its epic harbor to colorful Melbourne with cafés galore to the tantalizing island almost at the end of the world, Tasmania.

Gardening and travel are two exciting parts of Kathy's life. Her enthusiasm for rhododendrons, camellias, Japanese maples, and bamboos can run wild in her large garden outside McMinnville, along with heaths and heathers, roses, and xeriscape perennials. In her earlier life, Kathy was an art librarian, so her love of art and design has now become part of enjoying her garden. Experiencing Europe, Asia, and North America refreshes her ideas about gardening. She often has traveled on Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) tours—this adventure in Australia and Tasmania being one of them. Kathy is a member of the Willamette, Portland, and Scottish Chapters of the ARS. She also is a past president of the Oregon Camellia Society and edits its website as well as the Willamette Chapter ARS website.

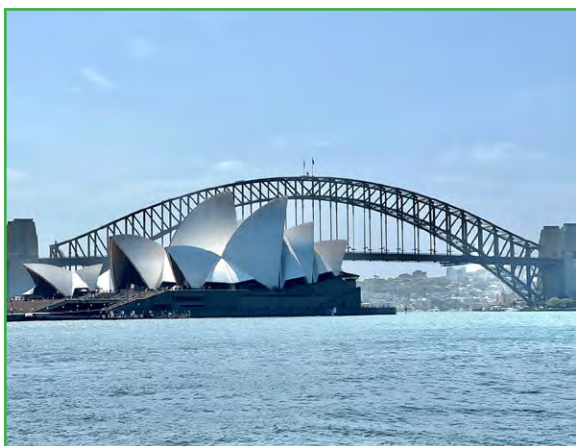
The following pictures, taken by Kathy, are an enticement of what is to come in her program.



Rhododendron 'Sunset Fantasy' in Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney



Kathy Feeding a Kangaroo



Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge



Rainbow Lorakeet Parrot - one of many astonishing birds.



Protea in Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

Future Programs

April 10, 2024

Will Clausen,
Horticulturist and
Assistant Curator

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

May 2024
Date to be determined

Home of Thuy and
Dale Chrestensen

May Potluck

Your Help is Greatly Needed Opportunities to Volunteer!!

The Smith Garden Spring Work Party will be on Saturday, **March 2**. The Party commences at 8:00am. Arrive whenever you can and work as long as you want. You might want to bring your favorite hand tools and gloves to provide a more productive work environment. Coffee and water will be provided. Bring your own lunch and snacks. There is work for all skill levels and numerous teachers to assist and provide instruction and guidance. Your assistance is greatly needed to spruce up the garden for the Open Garden Days in April and May. Click [here](#) if you need the address or a map for directions.

The Smith Garden Open Garden Days This takes place on Saturdays and Sundays during the months of April and May. The garden is in full bloom and open to visitors to experience it's beauty, tranquility and peacefulness and to purchase rhododendrons for their own gardens. The Portland Chapter works with us to provide volunteers but they have other events on April 6, 7, and 13 and Mother's Day weekend, May 11 and 12. Please consider those days first to volunteer. Each day requires 2 people - one to be at the "Gatehouse" to welcome visitors and collect money and another to sell plants. The weekend of May 4 - 5 is the ARS Convention in Bellingham, so keep that in mind if you plan to attend.

Once you sign up, just exit out and your information will be saved. Instructions for those hosting will be provided at a later date.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BCn9kJ-H1t9zvF-BvlzOP8aAXS5J5EasOBJgcM-LxngE/edit#gid=0>

The following photos taken by Evelyn Krittler are just a glimpse at what you will see when you volunteer.



WCARS Chapter Event

Salem Yard, Garden and Home Show

March 22 - 24, 2024

Experience the excitement and feel the energy of over 10,000 people visiting our WCARS Chapter booth at the Salem Yard, Garden and Home Show, March 22 - 24, 2024 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. This will be a new venture for our chapter, giving us the opportunity to share our love of rhododendrons, provide information and education and sell some plants. And the best part is that it's indoors, unlike the truss shows of the past - and you get to see what all the other vendors have to offer.

In order to make this successful, **we need your help**. Please volunteer and sign up to "man the booth".

If you like using Google Docs, click on the link to go directly to the sign up sheet. We need at least 2 people per shift. Once you have signed up, exit out and the information will be saved.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nyruUUhoTh574Axe--8mkYev0Gj-IQUk/edit>

If you prefer not to use Goggle Docs, please send an email to Dana Malby at tdsamal@msn.com with the time you would like to work.

The available times are: Friday March 22 2:00pm - 5:00pm (2 people needed)

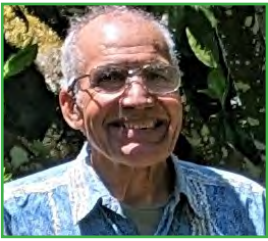
 Saturday, March 23 1:30pm - 5:00pm (2 people needed)

 Sunday, March 24 1:30pm - 5:00pm (2 people needed)

Keith and I volunteered several times for the Portland Chapter at the Portland Home and Garden Show and had a great time. Those visiting the display were interested and enthusiastic. The handouts provided most of the information needed, so it was easy for someone like me who has little knowledge of rhododendrons.

The following photos were taken by Dick Cavender at that event. We won't be making a display garden like in these photos, but it gives you a feel for what you will experience.





Trip to Hendricks Park by Ali Sarlak

Photos by Ali Sarlak



Today, the 21st of January I could hardly wait for the ice and snow to disappear so could head out to take look at the Rhododendron Park in Eugene. I wanted to see what was blooming and how badly snow and ice had damaged plants in the park. There were some downed trees and branches, but it was not as bad as what the park had experienced during past winters.

Hendricks Park sits on top of a hill in South Eugene, with the lovely residential homes surrounding it. From the park you can see great views of Eugene, especially the university area.

The park is very enjoyable: it has places to meander, and to admire very old trees, especially rhododendrons. At the same time, you can sit, relax and listen to the sounds of nature.

Hendricks Park has many sections. For example: the alpine garden is interesting with all sorts of ever-green trees and shrubs including rocks placed as points of interest. In the gardens are many paths for meandering, and admiring things from different angles as you pass.

I should mention that one beautiful specimen that I noticed (that always blooms at this time year) was a variety of witch hazel. It was so beautiful with colorful, fragrant fuzzy flowers. Witch hazel is one of the surprising high lights of the winter garden. I will include pictures. You can judge the beauty but unfortunately not the fragrance, for yourself.

One new addition placed amongst the rhododendrons is a memorial for our friend, Harold Greer, who was the author of several rhododendron books, hybridizer, nurseryman and officer of the ARS, gold medal recipient and organizer of many ARS meetings. He is missed by us all.

When near Eugene, make a point to visit Hendricks Park.

My message, if I may, to all you plant lovers, is to visit your gardens of interest in all seasons. You will see so many more and new forms and colors and surprising plants and views that you had not expected. This will make you appreciate your favorite gardens even more.





Garden Invitation

In 2019, John Poole purchased Peck Cottage at 1552 Court Street NE in Salem. Over the last 2 years he has planted **over 4000 tulip bulbs**, which provide a spectacular sight when in bloom. John has issued the following invitation for our WCARS members to visit:

WCARS members are cordially invited to attend spring at Peck Cottage. Estimated peak bloom of 4,000 tulips: 1st week of April. Contact John Poole at prestopoole@proton.me to schedule your visit.



Photo by John Poole

**Don't forget to Spring Forward on
Sunday, March 10**

Spring is in the air and it's about bloomin' time!



Happy Easter - March 31

Save the Date



RHODODENDRONS ON THE
49th PARALLEL

ARS 2024 Spring Convention
Bellingham, Washington
May 2-5, 2024



Hear interesting talks, tour private and public gardens, purchase beautiful and unusual plants, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

Visit ARS2024.org for event information regarding hotel, tours, program, speakers, etc. and to REGISTER

Highlights:

Pre-Tour: May 1: Private Gardens around Seattle

Convention: Tours * Seminars * Workshops * Banquets

Post-Tour: May 5: Gardens around Vancouver, Canada

Time to check your Passport!

Plus: Plant Sales * Auctions * Raffles * Photo Booth * Poster Session

Tours are filling up fast - Register Today

R faucium is the Flower for March



Predominant Flower Color: Pink

Flower/Truss Description: Flowers with nectar pouches are bell-shaped to 1 3/4". Campanulate, pink to white tinged pink, with purple spotting. Truss holds 5-10 flowers

Fragrant: No

Bloom Time: Early to Early Midseason

Foliage Description: Medium sized leaves are oblanceolate, with smooth tops, stalkless glands on the reverse, rounded apex, retained 2-3 years. Peeling bark.

Plant Habit: Upright shrub or small tree

Height: 6 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: 0°F (-18°C)

Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L): E

Sub Genus: Hymenanthes

Section: Ponticum

Sub Section: Thomsonia

Geographical Origin: China (S Tibet)



All photos taken by Keith White on February 18, 2024 at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington

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

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