

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 2

Issue 8

CHAPTER MEETING November 11, 2020

Speaker - Gisele Schoniger, Organic Gardening Educator
Kellogg Garden Products

Join via Zoom Conference at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85728483907>

Socializing begins at 6:30, followed by the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm

Watch your email for the link for the scheduled Zoom practices at 7:00PM on Monday, November 9 and Tuesday, November 10



Turn your speaker up and Click on the following link for a Thanksgiving Surprise (I hope it works!)

https://www.americangreetings.com/pickup?rr=y&m=&token=rd63165f0-eda6-4704-9d28-23d51b4c5761&utm_medium=pickup&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=receiver

October Minutes

Mary Crofts - Secretary October 14, 2020

Before I start the minutes, I want to apologize for them. They're very incomplete. Like last month, no one could hear me although I could hear everyone. And my computer kept losing its internet connection, so one minute I'd be attending the meeting and the next, I wouldn't. As a result I missed a lot of the program and other things as well. Our esteemed Editor-In-Chief, Mary Ellen Ramseyer, has my permission to amend these minutes in any way she chooses...not that she'd need my permission, as she's the Chief.

Since we can't "meet and eat" together any longer, the Zoom party started a half hour early so people could get dressed, finish their supper, find something to drink, eat their own cookies and so forth, all the while chatting with each other until 7:15 when finally Wally Reed, who is still our President-For-Life both really and virtually, reminded us why we were all Zoomed in to begin with. Indirectly, Wally reminded us to **PAY OUR DUES**. Dana Malby, Treasurer, agreed and said that more of our Associate Members had turned in their dues than "Regular" Members. The next newsletter will have something you can print out to help move dues-paying along. October 24th (the second Saturday from today) is a Smith Garden Work Party. It will be a time for cleaning up the garden and also a time to actually "hang out" with our rhody friends in "real life" and not virtually. Bring your gardening tools, your masks, and your own lunch. Coffee, etc will be available. No mention was made of drinks other than coffee so I'm going to assume you can bring what ever suits you.

Wally is still trying to work out how we can have our annual Christmas Potluck. We can wear our masks, of course. But if we have the potluck at Wally's house, as usual, it would be hard to stay 6 feet apart. He suggested we could open all the windows and wear our coats to make up for not being "socially responsible". Wally is also going to try to do an e-mail regarding each meeting.... and then zippo...my internet was gone. I called Mary Ellen who somehow got me hooked onto Keith White's screen so I could at least see the program, which had already started.

Our program was a continuation of Nancy Chase's tour of the Connie Hansen Garden in Lincoln City. Last month we had Part One of the program, featuring Nancy's beautiful photos of the Garden from January through May. So tonight started Part Two with June's flowers, and I missed all of those, as my computer started working again by August. I did get to see the very last July flower, which was a sort of Raggedy Ann daisy...thin, yellow petals dropping down around a sunflower-like center. It was fun to look at...pretty in a weird sort of way.

August featured various clematis types and butterfly bushes. Also hydrangeas and the "heather garden" again. The "garden" had bloomed all summer and in August looked as fresh as it had in the spring with all the various colors and shapes. Oriental lilies were also featured and Keith remarked that gophers love them. But the flower that really perked up my ears was a red rhody in full bloom: R. Good News. And this is in August! But I have to remember that this Garden is on the coast where it's cooler than here in the Valley, and may be why it could bloom so late in the season.

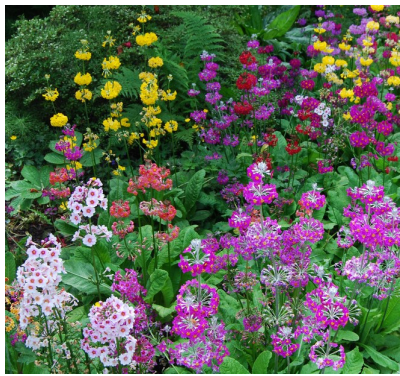
September had an assortment of ground covers, larkspur, viburnum, zinnias, and Japanese anemones. Especially beautiful was a large "mound" or "bush" of honeysuckle. It looked like it was growing and blooming closely over the top of something else. (If Keith can remember what I'm talking about, he could provide the information....I assume he still reads the minutes. But one never knows...) Clematis was also blooming in October, and although some had "gone to seed", the pods or what ever were almost as beautiful as the flowers. And then it was good-bye to the internet again. By the time I finally got "hooked back up" to the internet, the Program was over, so I don't know what was blooming the rest of October on. We were on to other stuff.

Wally was proposing we have a Board Meeting...something we were going to have way back whenever but couldn't because of Covid-19. He pointed out that the Board Meeting usually consisted of the Board and anyone else who wanted to show up. So he proposed that if we have a Board meeting that everyone who tuned in tonight be invited. Tomorrow night is the Portland Chapter's meeting, via Zoom, of course. Anyway, we are all invited to Zoom ourselves in, if so wish. Wally also reported that the City of Salem is now helping buy plants for the Hillside Garden. This will help considerably with the expansion of the Garden, which until now contained donated plants. Volunteers are needed to get the Garden "ready" for winter. And my internet disappeared yet again, but since we were doing more social-type talking, I disappeared as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Crofts - Secretary- WCARS



**August
Heather Garden**



**June
Candelabra Primroses**



**July
Inula Magnifica**



**October
Schitzostylus**



**September
Viburnum**



**August
Oriental Lily**



**November
Parrotia Persica
Leaves**



**December
Azalea**

November Program and Speaker:

Our November speaker is Gisele Schoniger, Organic Gardening Educator at Kellogg Garden Products. She was supposed to speak at our Chapter Meeting this past April. When Covid occurred, we rescheduled her for November. Now we have changed her November talk from "in the person" to a Zoom Conference.

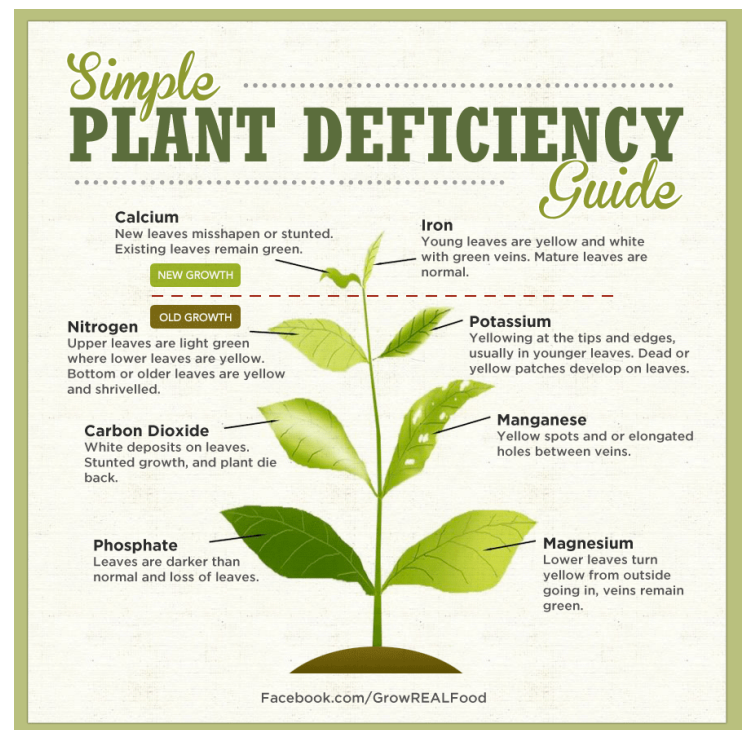
Gisele is very energetic and upbeat and I'm excited to hear what she has to say. You can view some of her YouTube videos and see for yourself. The following is a description of how she describes her program, which is titled: **Rhody Revival; Restore, Revive and Regenerate: Building Healthy Soils Organically.**

Soil is a complex ecosystem, which supports all life on earth. But what is "good" soil and how do you know if you have it? Learn the basics of how to restore, revive and regenerate your garden beds and grow healthy soil, grow regal rhodies and enjoy bodacious blooms using natural and organic materials. We'll talk about the benefits of organics versus synthetics and the impact on your soil, overall growth, and a possible hybrid option.

Our meeting is Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00pm and the Zoom link to join is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85728483907>

The following is a picture from Gisele's Facebook page that I thought was interesting:





Let's Grow Together

www.kelloggarden.com • facebook.com/Kellogg.Garden.Products • facebook.com/gardner.bloome

Gisele "G" Schoniger

Organic Gardening Educator
at Kellogg Garden Products



In her 35+ years in the Garden Industry, Gisele has accumulated a wide range of experience and knowledge. She earned her degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. She has owned an Interior-scape company, worked for the State Department of Agriculture, practiced as a horticultural therapist with senior citizens and launched an outstanding sales career by helping establish top-selling organic gardening products.



"Like" me at
[Facebook.com/4GreenerLiving](https://www.facebook.com/4GreenerLiving)
"Follow" me at
[Twitter.com/4GreenerLiving](https://twitter.com/4GreenerLiving)
"Subscribe" to me at
[YouTube.com/4GreenerLiving](https://www.youtube.com/4GreenerLiving)

Passion, Purpose, Pioneer

Gisele will share her wealth of gardening wisdom as an educator to the industry and consumers across the West. Her workshops are upbeat, educational and entertaining.

Rhody Revival Restore, Revive & Regenerate: Building Healthy Soils Organically

If you've heard that a successful garden starts with good soil, you've been given good advice! Soil is a complex ecosystem, which supports all life on earth. But what is "good" soil and how do you know if you have it? Learn the basics of how to restore, revive and regenerate your garden beds and grow healthy soil, grow regal rhodies and enjoy bodacious blooms using natural and organic materials. We'll talk about the benefits of organics versus synthetics and the impact on your soil, overall growth, and a possible hybrid option.



O. Howard Hinsdale Garden

Many thanks to Gordon Wylie for submitting this update on the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden for our newsletter:

Though it often feels as though we've been in lockdown all year...or more, 2020 began pretty much as any other year for the first two or three months. Early flowers, including magnolia bloom spotted as we slowed while driving by Hinsdale Garden mid-February, was a friendly reminder of winter drawing to a close. And of many more gardens and flowers to be enjoyed in the weeks and months ahead.

In mid-March, as we were about to deliver a pickup load of plants to the Reedsport Friends of Hinsdale Garden to sell during hosted open garden days, the Bureau of Land Management cancelled the first scheduled date—April 11. A few days later, the Bureau announced the remaining two hosted days in May had been eliminated. We protested full cancellation as premature but, as we know now, the folks at BLM correctly anticipated rapidly growing restrictions brought about by the now familiar, and definitely unwelcome, Covid 19.

So how did the garden do during this decidedly different year? Let's take a look.

Early bad news was abrupt failure of the footbridge providing access between the main garden and its eastern portion. Some problems with that bridge were noticed and repaired last year. Further interim fixes were expected to maintain use at least through this year while planning for a replacement. But defects accelerated rapidly, mandating immediate removal for safety reasons; this action also saved permanent footings for potential use with a new bridge. Funding for a replacement is a priority request this year, the Bureau goal being a new bridge in place in 2021.

Among good news was completion of underground main lines through the entire garden for the automated irrigation system. A building housing the water intake from Reedsport, outgoing lines to irrigation zones, the master control and related equipment now stands at a central point. BLM Botanist Jennie Sperling and this year's summer intern, Jordan Mao, have been busy fine tuning the amount of water supplied to all the plants and trees throughout the garden. This project, spurred in part by an ARS Endowment Fund grant, is a significant improvement over temporary measures used since renovation began more than ten years ago.

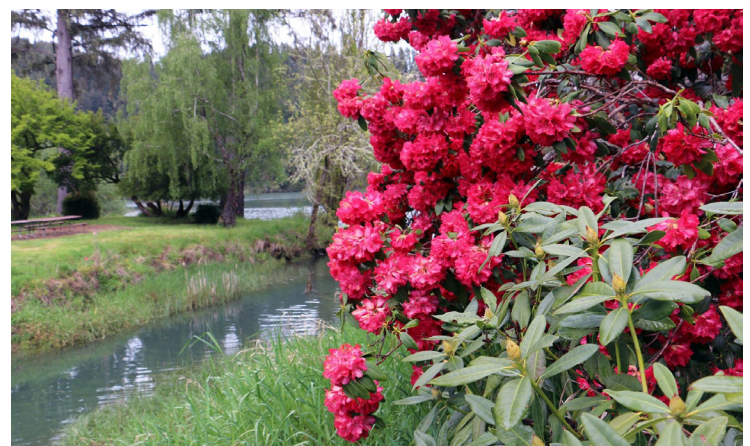
Another improvement is structure for permanent information signs near where the Hinsdale home once stood. This is funded through a donation from the Reedsport Friends group derived from plant sales and donations on hosted open garden days. During a mid-October visit, we also saw a good number of (air layer propagated) recently planted rhododendroclones, and the garden overall was looking good.

Of course none of these things happen without people, and some others should be recognized. Steve Samuels, now retired archeologist with the BLM but continuing as a volunteer, brings his special expertise. City of Reedsport community support, primarily through the Friends, is headed by longtime chair Sue Martino. John Harper, BLM Recreation Planner, supports through the inevitable paper work and more. Glenn Harkleroad, Manager at the Coos Bay office (growing Hinsdale sourced plants in his home garden) is a ready advocate.

A beautiful redwood bench in memory of Bob MacIntyre has been completed. We hope virus restrictions will be in the past so as to allow its dedication in Hinsdale Garden next year.

Gordon Wylie

Photos of the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden



Botanical Gems and their Journey to Your Garden

A Zoom Conference Invite

One of the very few positives about Covid 19 is the availability of Zoom conferences and opening up programs to more people than just those meeting locally for a monthly chapter meeting. The Portland Chapter has invited us to join them on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00pm for their speaker, Mike Stewart, who will reprise the presentation he gave at the Western Regional Conference in Parksville, B.C., in September of 2019 - a talk about David Douglas, a Scottish Botanist. The Zoom link to join the conference is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83298560721?pwd=U3RiTytTbXE3ejlDRVpiR2NmMkd-2QT09>

Botanical Gems and their Journey to Your Garden

Before the early 18th century, Europeans had no knowledge of plants from North America, South America or the Himalayas. This program tells the stories of those very early explorers who broke trails into previously unknown regions of the world searching for new botanical treasures. These men and women were among the first to risk, and sometimes give their lives, in search of the botanical gems that we have in our gardens today. This chapter of the story centers around plant exploration on the North American continent with a special emphasis on the Pacific Northwest and the adventures and discoveries of the great Scottish Botanist, David Douglas. The focus will be on species rhododendrons. Mike's presentation will be complemented by many exceptional photographs of both rhododendrons in the wild and the mountainous regions in Asia where they were discovered.

About our speaker:

Mike Stewart has been an essential contributor to the world of rhododendrons for decades, having held all the most significant positions with the Society and as owner with his wife of a highly successful rhododendron nursery. Mike is a past President of the Portland Chapter of the ARS, a past President of the American Rhododendron Society and Past President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden (RSBG) in Federal Way, Washington, holder of the largest collection of species rhododendrons in the world. Mike and his wife Maria recently retired as owners of Dover Nursery, where for the past 40 years they propagated and grew over 1200 different hybrid and species rhododendrons, shipping some 40,000 plants each spring to garden centers through-

out the US and Canada. Mike has been awarded the Portland Chapter's highest award, the Bronze Medal, and received the Gold Medal from the American Rhododendron Society in 2009 for his many contributions in the areas of rhododendron cultivation, preservation, and for the information that he provides to the public. He is a talented photographer and natural speaker widely acknowledged for the quality of his presentations. Mike has spearheaded the renovation of the Van Veen Nursery, famous for its propagation, which was bequeathed to the Portland Chapter by Kathy Van Veen on her death. He has, since retirement, been expanding the already beautiful gardens and beds on the grounds of his and Maria's home on the property of the former Dover Nursery. One of the features in the expanded front garden includes a rockery that displays dwarf rhododendrons, dwarf conifers and many other slow growing alpine type plants, which they call "the arboretum." The many interesting, and sometime large, trees provide the landmarks they rely on when they're trying to locate each other in the landscape. They have also just finished a two-year project they call "the species walk," which meanders through the forested portion of the garden, displaying large-leaf species rhododendrons. The total garden now covers 5 acres. We'll be anxious to see the results of Mike and Maria's efforts when Portland hosts the 2022 ARS Spring convention and features their garden among the tours.



The Chips were A Flyin' Smith Garden Work Day

The day dawned clear and sunny as I put on my long-johns, as the temperature was predicted to be a cold 30 degrees. I was not looking forward to experiencing that "cold to the bone" feeling I would get out in the shade of the garden. Imagine my surprise when I stepped out the door and it was mildly pleasant - a mere 50 degrees. Cecil and Molly Smith were definitely looking after us! By the time Keith and I arrived at the garden, the activity was in full swing. Dick Cavendar had the chipper warmed up, Tom Gressler and Mike Stewart had chips a flyin' with their chainsaws, and many hands were making light work of the weeding and trimming needed throughout the garden. There were more people from the Portland and WCARS chapters than I imagined. I think we were all looking forward to seeing each other and conversing in person rather than via a computer screen. Our volunteer efforts 2 days a year would barely be noticeable without the year round care from Jane and Tom Gressler, Anne Gross and Dick Cavendar. Many thanks to you and my apologies to anyone I have forgotten. I will conclude with a few pictures so you can enjoy the garden as well. Unfortunately, I didn't take pictures until later in the morning, and some of the volunteers such as Anne Gross had left.



In case you don't recognize this masked beauty, it's Kathy Lintault



Those clippers are almost as tall as Ali



Dick Cavendar and George Davies running the chipper. Both still had all their fingers at the end of the morning. George was visiting Wally Reed from Massachusetts



Wally's looking pretty satisfied with what he and his daughter Lynn Reed have accomplished with those clippers.



R. hanceanum

I caught Bill Vagt just as he was leaving. He collected a nice rhodie for his morning's hard work.





Tom Gressler knows how to operate a rake and a chainsaw



Keith sprucing up Bob Grasing's bench. Now that I know he can operate a paint brush - I have some home projects in mind...



Jane Gressler and Karen Cavendar - 2 more Beauties in the garden



Something tells me Roger Lintault has had a lot of practice using those hand clippers

R 'Corona' x degronianum ssp yakushmanum



November Color in South Salem

The following pictures are a few things that are in bloom or in color in our yard on November 1, 2020.



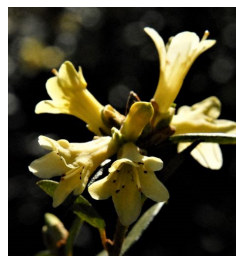
R cerasinum

Parrotia persica



Blueberry

R eastmanii



R Yellow Hammer

An Encore for Kathy Reed Salem's Bush's Pasture Park Rhododendron Hillside

On November 3rd 2020, a large number of Encore Azaleas were planted on the Rhododendron Hillside in Bush's Pasture Park, Salem, Oregon in honor of Kathy Reed near the Hillside's north overlook. This wonderful planting was arranged by Tom Beatty, retired Bush Park Horticultural Technician, Brian Smith who replaced Tom, and the City of Salem's Parks Operations Division.

In about 2013, Wilbur Bluhm arranged the first planting of Encore Azaleas which bloomed marvelously Spring and Fall and early Winter adding early and late color to the Hillside. This Fall 2020 planting included a row in front of the Northern Overlook Bench, and the rest scattered in groups throughout the Hillside's field of view to the south. About 5 different varieties from Alpha Nursery in Salem are currently in bloom, and will be much more mature plants next Fall. Great thanks to the City of Salem, Tom Beatty and Brian Smith of the Parks Operations Division. Kathy would be delighted.



For me, the last picture says it all. I can picture Kathy planting those azaleas. This is a job well done for a remarkable lady!

December WCARS Program

To be determined at our November Zoom Conference Meeting

Potluck vs Program vs ??

Dues Are Still Due and We Are Way Behind

The following is a message I received earlier this week from Dana Malby, our Treasurer, regarding Membership Dues:

I only have 6 checks for regular membership, two with paypal. I have received 6 regular associate members.

I had one phone call from a member where to send the check.

So I have to say that is pretty sad news and I don't have the answer to light a fire under those who have yet to renew their membership and pay. We are searching for solutions. If you have one, please submit to Wally via email or bring it up during the business portion of the meeting on November 11.

If paying your dues has just been an oversight, please submit your check as directed:

Please Note: IF USING A CHECK, our Maps Credit Union is now requiring that our Chapter's FULL name, "Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society", NOT WCARS, be written on the check or they won't be able to accept it. Please write really small if you can.

Please Note: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS CAN ONLY renew through Dana Malby by cash or check, So, please get out your pen and check book and USPS mail.

Regular Membership in ARS and

Willamette Chapter ARS.....\$40
Associate Membership WCARS
(Must have a Home Chapter memship).....\$10

Please write a check to **Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society, NOT WCARS** for the appropriate amount and mail to:

Willamette Chapter ARS
C/O Dana Malby, Treasurer
3910 Brooks Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303-4024

There is more detail regarding paying online or via mail in our October newsletter on pages 6 & 7 at:

<http://www.arswillamette.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/October-2020.pdf>

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. Wally Reed - President

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
Suislaw Chapter	No current website
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 Wermlinger	2013
Dick and Carol Lundin	2019
Mary B. Crofts	2019
Roger and Kathy Lintault	2019

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