

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

[http://members. http://www.arswillamette.com](http://members.http://www.arswillamette.com)
ARS Home Page: <http://www.rhododendron.org>

CHAPTER MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2019

7:00 pm in the Carrier room (600 State Street entrance) of the
First Methodist Church on the corner of Church and State Streets, Salem

Speaker: Keith White
2015 Sikkim Expedition

ALL VISITORS WELCOME



Happy Thanksgiving!

NEWSLETTER

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society

Volume 15

November 13,, 2019

Issue 131

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 13,2019	Keith White	2015 Sikkim Expedition
December 8, 2019	Wally & Kathy Reed	Christmas Potluck
January , 2020		
February , 2020		
March , 2020		
April , 2020		
May , 2020		
June , 2020		

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS MINUTES OCTOBER 9, 2019

The supper crowd at The Ram is now large enough that the staff there has to lay our table out diagonally. And there's still room for more Rhodys. After stuffing ourselves silly, we were off to the Carrier Room for dessert: coffee provided by Mary Ellen and Keith White plus the ever delicious cookies thanks to Dick and Carol Lundin. Most of the cookies were made by Dick who makes a mean snickerdoodle. While we were eating, drinking and chatting, we could look through the books brought by Keith from the WCARS Library as well as some of his own that he wished to sell and then donate the money back to the chapter. So we were all having fun when our Prez-Forever, Wally Reed, started yelling at us to find our seats or else. Because we love our Prez, we sometimes obey his commands.

he first order of business was Wally's announcement that Mary Ellen Ramsayer White will be our new Newsletter Editor. Applause and some hooting (like at a football game) all around and high sighs of relief from Dick Lundin, who has been our Editor almost since our chapter began eons ago. Mary Ellen has big Editor shoes to fill (literally) so Dick will be tutoring her until she's "got it". That shouldn't be long since Mary Ellen's a sharp gal.

Next Wally introduced our guests for the evening: Craig and Logan Parker and Mary Ann

Burns.

Dick and Karen Cavender were back amongst us, so he could make an announcement (We've missed you Dick) that the Smith Garden Work Party is still "on" along with the well-provided lunch. He also let us know, in case we would like to attend, that, as part of the Portland Chapter's meeting, there will be special rhodys up for auction.

Wally reminded us to save the dates of April 30 - May 3, 2020 for the "20/20 Anniversary Conference celebrating 75 years of the ARS. There will be more details later on and our ARS Journal has information. This will have a LARGE attendance so plan to make your plans early.

Keith reported on the Parkdale Conference held recently in Vancouver B.C. The sessions this time were more "scientifically oriented" than those at past conferences, and concerned what global warming might do to our plants and what rhodys will be able to survive.

Jason Ashford's grand-daughter has donated his rhody library to our Chapter, to either include with our present library, or to sell to members or both. Keith is in charge of this and will go on line at Amazon to see what they would charge for each book. He'll then price those to sell at a reasonable cost. Last, but definitely NOT least, Wally reminded us that our dues are due. Dana Malby, Treasurer, will happily accept checks (provided they don't bounce)

and cash (which obviously won't bounce), or you can pay on-line (see your newsletter). Dana's a gentile sort of guy but he's also a BIG sort of guy, and if you have to be reminded again, you just might see a different Dana.

Keith, who wares many "hats" this evening, popped on his "Program Chair Hat", and introduced the evening's speaker, John Poole, to talk about peonies. We already know John as he and Julie are new members but they've made big way into our chapter. John actually has his hands in about everything one can think of. By profession, he's a lawyer. He's also a pianist, an orchid grower, a wood-worker, a software engineer, and a photographer,, to name a few of the things his fingers are stuck in. Almost forgot. He can cook and he can make ice-cream! The Poole's moved to Salem in 2017, bringing with them well over 100 peony plants so this is a flower he's well-acquainted with.

John's talk was fun as well as informative. He's a very creative guy and used cartoons to illustrate points he wanted to make or used them to transition from one subject to another. Since I can't type the cartoons into the minutes, I'll just stick to the information.

In 2016, the peony was the top-selling flower in the UK, and John's predicted it will be THE top flower by 2020. (Not surprising peonies are beautiful...almost as beautiful as rhodys) and that sales of peonies are "on fire".

Peonies can be grown as far North as Alaska (which a friend of mine who lives there confirmed with her row of peonies in bloom). Governor Bill Walker of that state declared July to be the National Peony Month. They're also grown in the colder climates of China and Nepal.

John followed this up with a lot of peony notes. The flower's name comes from it's healthful qualities. He showed how different countries write "peony" and how they say it...which was really entertaining as a large portion of the countries didn't pronounce "peony" anywhere even close to word. He also had a diagram showing where the difference peony species came from and your secretary's new glasses didn't help me out.

There are about 30 species of peony. Of these there are 3 types:

Herbaceous: they grow, they bloom, and they die
Tree: they take years to grow and bloom and you don't cut them down

Other (also called "Hoh": which are peonies but neither of the first two types. They were created by a Japanese gentleman during WWII and are a combination of herbaceous and tree types.

Peonies like a pretty fancy "diet": fish emulsion, oyster shells, fish bone meal, Epsom salts, and kelp meal to name a few. Not all at the same time, but in combinations. John's favorite is called "Clay Buster" with bone meal and chicken fertilizer in it. He did add that according to a Nebraska study, you don't have to have all this fancy soil, "plain soil is just as good."

John has lots of favorite peonies: Pearl Buck, Sarah Bernhard, and Lorelei (a favorite but difficult to grow) to name a very few.

His tips for getting good-blooming peonies are:
Fertilize at first bloom, again in March and again in November

Don't prune tree peonies EVER

Tree peonies like late afternoon shade and about 4 hours of sun

If you want bouquets of peonies (and who doesn't) you can do so with herbaceous plants after about 3 - 4 years. Again...tree peonies...NEVER EVER.

Peonies don't like to be moved so consider carefully where they will go in your garden.

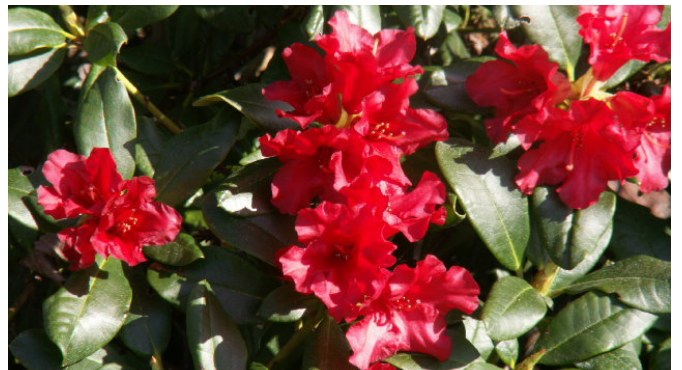
They like to be planted almost on top of the soil. Around here that would be no deeper than one inch.

Thanks again, John, for a fun and educational talk.

While we polished off the cookies and coffee, we held the raffle of one of Anne Gross', called "June Pink" And it's new home is with Susan Doellinger.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Crofts - Secretary - WCARS



American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

20/20
VISION



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020



The American Rhododendron Society celebrates its 75th Anniversary with a return to the Portland area where the Society began in 1945, to present a group of world-renowned keynote speakers and tours to the Northwest's outstanding gardens and nurseries.

The American Rhododendron Society to hold its 75th Anniversary Convention Hosted by ARS District 4, April 29-May 3, 2020, at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA. Portland, Oregon, September 19, 2019 The 2020 ARS international convention—2020 Vision, Looking Forward, Reflecting Back—will feature a renowned group of international speakers, including Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland, Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England, Jens Nielsen from Denmark, Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum, Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden, Valerie Soza from the University of Washington, and more. Garden tours will include visits to 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) and more. The convention will also feature a plant sale and a photo exhibit and contest. The American Rhododendron Society is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in, and to disseminate information about, the genus Rhododendron. The organization has a membership of some 2,500 members worldwide. The ARS was incorporated in Portland, Oregon, in January of 1945. The first annual rhododendron show was held on Park Avenue in front of the art museum in downtown Portland. 75 years later, the 2020 convention returns to the Portland area, home to many of the

major nursery suppliers in the country. To this day, Rhododendron is celebrated as a diverse and fascinating genus, with hybridizers continuing to create new crosses and plant explorers continuing to locate and identify new species. Registration for the 2020 convention will open on December 2, 2019 and will be available online at ARS75.org. Registration forms will also be available as an insert in the Fall quarterly edition of Journal American Rhododendron Society. Information on the ARS, including membership, is available at www.rhododendron.org. Steve McCormick, Publicity Committee PO Box 849 Long Beach, WA 98631 206-612-7000 ssmccormick@outlook.com

Sunday, April 26th 4:00 – 6:00 pm Registration open for Pre-Conference Tour attendees Monday, April 27th 8:30 am Pre-conference tour "Around the Sound" departure (Monday night at hotel in Kingston, WA) Tuesday, April 28th 4:00 – 8:00 pm Registration open (Photo entries accepted 5-8 PM) 9:00-9:30 pm Pre-Conference Tour returns to Heathman Lodge Wednesday, April 29th 7:00 – 8:15 am Registration open (Photo entries accepted) 7:00 – 8:15 am Breakfast Buffet 8:30 am Tour A – Crystal Springs, Japanese Garden & Lan Su Chinese Garden (2 buses) Tour B – Sebright, Smith Garden, Woodburn Nursery (4 buses) 12:00 – 7:00 pm Registration open 2:00 - 5:00 pm Plant sale open (Photo entries accepted) 5:00 pm. Dinner on your own 7:00 pm No host social 7:30 pm Welcome with speakers Mike Stewart and Harold Greer 8:30 pm. Around the World with Rhododendrons Part A – Rhododendrons in Russia – Andrey Karpov Part B – Rhododendrons in South Africa – Michael Schleyer Part C – Rhododendrons in Japan 9:30 – 10:15 pm Registration and Plant sale open (Photo entries accepted) Thursday, April 30th 7:00 am – NOON Registration open (Photo entries accepted) 7:00 – 8:15 am Breakfast Buffet 8:30 am Tour C – Iseli Nursery, Dover Nursery, Crystal Springs Lunch included Tour D – Iseli Nursery, Stewart Garden, Mt Hood and Columbia River Gorge. Lunch included 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Plant sale open 6:45 pm No host social 7:15 pm Banquet 8:15 pm Exbury Gardens – Tom Clarke

9:15 pm Glendoick Gardens – Kenneth Cox Friday, May 1st 7:00 – 8:15 am. – Breakfast Buffet 7:00 – 8:30 am – Registration open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm - Plant sale open (Photo entries accepted) Workshops – Clinics 8:30 – 9:15 am A. Rhododendrons in Bonsai pots, hands-on (#1 of 2) - Mike Bones B. Soils – Gisele Schoniger C. Camellias – Robert Herald D. The Layered Garden – Linda Derkach 9:30 – 10:15 am A. Rhododendrons in Bonsai pots, hands-on (#2 of 2) – Mike Bones B. Soils – Gisele Schoniger C. Photography – Don Hyatt D. Propagation – Dennis Bottemiller 10:30 – 11:15 am. A. Rhododendrons in Bonsai pots – Abbreviated session B. Rhododendrons in Australia – Jeff Jenkinson ?????? C. Photography – repeat of session C above – Don Hyatt D. Propagation – Dennis Bottemiller 11:15 am – 12:00 pm Break 12:00 pm Lunch at the Heathman 1:00 pm– Science of Rhododendrons Sessions Session 1 Rhododendron Genome – Valerie Soza 1:50 pm Break 2:10 pm Science of Rhododendrons Session 2 Disease Resistance in Rhododendrons – Steve Krebs 3:00 pm Break 3:10 pm Science of Rhododendrons Session 3 Rhododendron Adaptation – Juliana Medeiros 4:00 pm. Free time 4:00 - 5:00 pm Plant inspection 6:30 pm No host social 7:00 PM Banquet – Plated meal 8:00 pm Rhododendron collection at the RSBG – Steve Hootman 8:45 pm Rothschild Rhododendrons at Exbury – Lionel de Rothschild Saturday, May 2nd – Breakfast on your own 7:00 – 8:30 am Registration open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Plant sale open 8:30 – 11:30 am Rhododendron Species Foundation Annual Meeting 11:30 am – Lunch at the Heathman Lodge and "Guess the Species Game" 12:15 pm Woodland Gardens – Kenneth Cox 2:00 – 6:00 pm ARS Board meeting 2:00 – 5:00 pm Tour E Japanese Garden and Lan Su Chinese Garden 2:00 – 5:00 pm Scientific research exhibits, plant sale room 4:00 – 5:00 pm Pick up inspected plants 6:45 pm No host social 7:15 pm Banquet (Photo winners announced) 8:15 pm Awards and ARS topics 8:45 pm Keynote speaker – Jens Nielsen Sunday, May 3rd 8 – 9 am Final chance to pick up photo entries 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Plant sale open to public Rhododendrons in Cascadia, Session 1 8:30 am – New Rhodo-

dendron, development and distribution Don Wallace, program leader – New Rhododendrons Jack Olson Chris Trautmann 9:30 am Ken Webb – Propagation and Chapter distribution of plants 9:45 am – Brunch Rhododendrons in Cascadia, Session 2 10:15 a.m. – Mendocino Botanical Garden - Dennis McKiver 10:45 am – Humboldt Botanical Garden – Tim Walsh 11:15 am. – Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden – Steve Hootman 11:45 am – Final Greeting and farewell 1:30 pm – Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast Excursions.

The 2020 VISION website will be updated as more detail on tours, speakers, schedules, plant sales, and convention activities becomes available. Registration will open in the fall of 2019.

Important: Join this email list for alerts about convention changes and updates.

If you are interested in attending or learning more about the 2020 ARS Convention in Portland/Vancouver, please join our email list. Any important information will also be posted to ARS75.org, but those changes will go unnoticed unless you are prompted. We will alert you to new information or changes as they are made. We will try to keep messages brief.

Please fill out the form below to be added to our email list. You can unsubscribe at any time by following the directions on any of our emails. *Your email address will be kept private and not shared.*

First Name

Last Name

Email address:

Sign up

Registration will open on December 2, 2019.

WARNING

Get your annual dues in as soon as Possible to keep the wrath of the Treasure off your back.

Besides this keeps you getting the Newsletter and the journal

**WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS AWARDS ITS
BRONZE MEDAL TO KATHY AND ROGER LINTAULT – SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

Sometimes, Associate Chapter Members become the heart and soul of a Chapter. This is certainly true of how Kathy and Roger Lintault of the Portland Chapter ARS have greatly helped our Willamette Chapter ARS. Roger has steadily provided good advice, plant material for Chapter Meetings, transport for plant sales, and has represented our Chapter on the Board of the Cecil and Molly Smith Rhododendron Garden.

Kathy has served 2 years as our Willamette Chapter Program Chair, joined Roger in presenting many programs to the Chapter, created our current Chapter Web Page at www.arswillamette.com, and joined in all our Chapter's fun.

It is with very great gratitude that the Willamette Chapter ARS has awarded its Bronze Medal to Roger and Kathy Lintault: "Roger for your contribution to our Chapter in the past years having been a board member at Smith Garden, and Kathy for your two years as a program chairperson, and for your presentations at Chapter meetings. Also, for creating the web site for the Chapter. Your help at Truss shows, your support of the Chapter at annual plant auctions and for years of regularly attending Chapter meetings." [September 18, 2019](#). Salem, Oregon

**OUR NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS AND THE 2020
NEW ZEALAND RHODODENDRON ASSOCIATIONS' (NZRA) 76 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 27 TO 30TH WITH WONDERFUL TOURS AFTER. AND, JUST BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE IN TASMANIA.**

Joy and Bernie O'Keefe of Geraldine, NZ on the South Island, joined our Willamette Chapter ARS with a 2016 Membership. In late October of 2017, (spring in NZ) the Reeds and Malbys went to NZ to attend the NZRA's 73 Annual Conference in Feilding on the North Island. When we arrived at the Conference, we had barely met Joy and Bernie and knew little of their adventures. To our great surprise Joy was elected President of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association for 3 years including 2020.

Following that Conference, the Reeds visited the O'Keefes in Geraldine and toured a number of beautiful rhody gardens with them. The accompanying images are of the O'Keefe's nursery, Joy and Bernie at work, and a tiny bit of the beauty they have achieved in their garden.

Another great example of the types of gardens to be seen in NZ begins on page 181 of the current fall 2019 Journal American Rhododendron Society, "A Garden for All Seasons". Check it out.

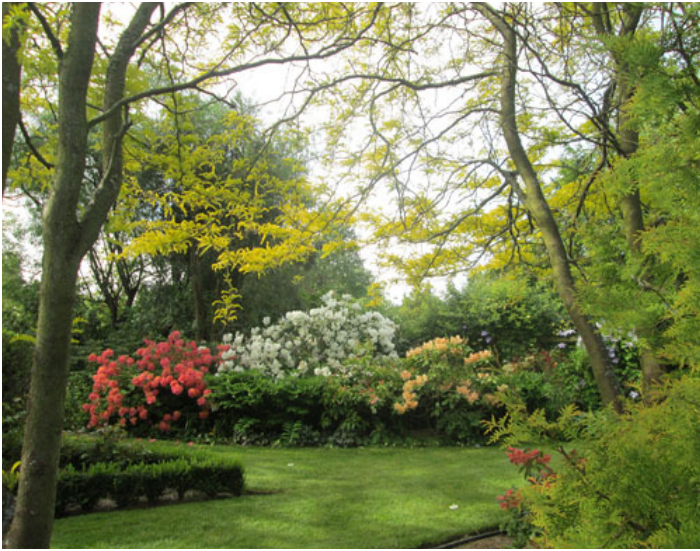
The 76th Annual New Zealand Rhododendron Association Conference will be held on the South Island near where the O'Keefe's live. Joy and Bernie are helping organizing the October 27 to 30th 2020 Annual NZRA Conference to be held in Timaru, NZ on the east coast of the Canterbury district of the South Island (with lovely beaches as well as rhodies).

Please see the NZRA website at www.rhododendron.org.nz under the Menu, Conference, and Timaru Conference 2020 Preliminary Information. Specific details of the Conference and registration will be forthcoming.

SAVE THE DATES

The AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE IN TASMANIA Joy O'Keefe writes: This follows on after the NZ Conference so your members may be interested in attending both. I haven't the exact dates for the Australian Conference at this stage but I know people will have plenty of time to do our Post Conference tour before flying to Australia for their conference.





2015 Sikkim Expedition

My first plant hunting expedition was to Sikkim (once a small Tibetan Buddhist kingdom) situated in the Himalayas between Nepal and Bhutan. I went with Britt Smith., the person who opened up the US – Sikkim friendship) in 1992. Along on that expedition were fellow Willamette Chapter members Herb Spady, Bob Grasing and Sharon Leopold.

Since then I had been to China four times and Tibet four times on plant hunting expeditions led by Ken Cox, Steve Hootman and Ian Sinclair. In 2015 Steve presented me the opportunity to revisit Sikkim 23 years after my first visit.

Some things about this trip were much better. This time we stayed in each of the three areas of Sikkim we visited much longer and took more days to carefully examine the flora in each area: Katchandzonga National Park, North Sikkim in the Yumthang River Valley and on the trail that follows up the Singhalila Ridge on the border of Sikkim and Nepal. A number of things had changed: For the bad - Gangtok, the

capitol, was much more populated, with many new residents all over the country from the hot plains of India and Nepal, next door. The old capitol and other towns and villages had lost some of their old more primitive charm. Also, the predominant religion was now Hindu instead of Buddhist and the predominant ethnic background was Nepali and Indian, rather than Tibetan.

For the better: Katchandzonga, named after the 3rd highest peak in the world, had become a national park and reserve. All villagers and other residents had been cleared out. Only a few park staff and support people and a few vendors were allowed to live there. There was no more hunting or yak grazing allowed. The native birds and animals were returning, including a troop of Hanuman (a Hindu god) monkeys that we watched for an hour.

The same guide, Thupten, that we had 23 years ago accompanied us this time, along with Neelim, a man of encyclopedic knowledge. We found 30 some species of rhodies along with countless beautiful species of other genera.. We saw how a massive landslide caused by a mountain cracking in half dammed up the Yumthang River and destroyed the entire valley. We visited the Institute of Tibetology in Gangtok and the Giant Buddha in interior Sikkim that was dedicated by the Dalai Lama a few years earlier. .

This is just a brief description. I wrote an article for the 2016 Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanic Garden that is much more detailed.

At our November meeting I will share the photos and story of this expedition.

Keith White End of the season for this beauty



**ONLINE SHOPPING AND THE ARS STORE
A REMINDER TO HELP FUND THE ARS**

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 County
Fire District 2 31370 NW Commercial Street
North Plains, OR 97133

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Arswillamette.org
eugene-chapter-ars.org
rhodies.org (Portland)
siuslawars.org
sworegonars.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/>



Marly Hedges

Predominant Flower Color: Purple, White

Flower/Truss Description: Flower openly funnel-shaped, frilly, 4" across, white edged with reddish-purple, purple-red dorsal blotch, reverse reddish-purple.

Ball shaped trusses.

Fragrant: No

Bloom Time: Midseason

Foliage Description / Plant Habit: Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 6½" long, held 3 years. Upright, well-branched shrub.

Height: 5 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: -10°F (-23°C)

Parentage (Seed Parent x Pollen

Parent): Anna x Purple Splendour

Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L): E

Hybridized or Selected by: Watson

Willamette Chapter Officers

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