

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 4

September 2022

Issue 6



CHAPTER MEETINGS: Our current chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. Due to Covid 19, our meeting may be in person or via Zoom. Meeting information will be sent to members via email and available in this newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until more permanent plans are made.

SPECIAL CHAPTER MEETING Wednesday, September 14, 2022 Speaker: Brian Smith, Parks Project Coordinator for the City of Salem

Title: Weed School

Photo by Monrovia

**This meeting will be outside at Bush Park with social hour and potluck from 5 - 6pm and Program starting at 6:00. Details on Page 5



Still a splash of color from one of the pots on my deck

Better Late Than Never

With our trip to Italy coming right on the heels of the ARS 2022 Convention and our May Potluck and Plant Sale, I neglected to publish a newsletter highlighting both of those events. I'm not going to elaborate on them at this late date, but I do want to share a few pictures.



Rows of colorful Gerbera Daisy's and Geraniums at Woodburn Nursery



From the Sebright Gardens



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The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden



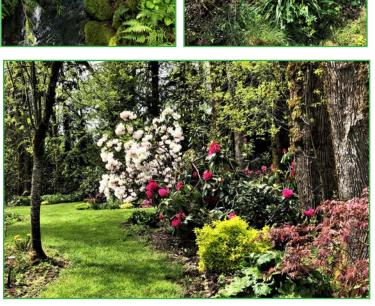
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden



Our Potluck at Karen and Roger Landers was filled with awe at their landscape and garden, great food and much social camaraderie.









Anne and Steve enjoying the scenery





Karen and Roger, hosts extraordinaire!





Above - Bill Vagt, Gloria and Ali Sarlak catching up on events

Below - Karen Cavendar and Mary Crofts resting after touring the garden



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September Program



Speaker: Brian Smith Parks Project Coordinator for the City of Salem

Topic: Weed School

Our first program this season is on common weeds and how to treat them. Brian Smith, Parks Project Coordinator and Horticulturalist, City of Salem, will be our presenter.

Time: Social hour and dinner 5-6 PM

Program: 6 – 7 PM

Format: Potluck. Attendees bring a hearty contribution or salad, and a dessert item if feeling generous.

WCARS will provide the tableware, plates, and napkins. Also, please bring your own chairs and drinks.

Brian, our presenter, will start the program by showing and discussing weeds that he has collected from Bush Park. **This is an "Audience Participation"** program. Attendees, please bring Weeds from your own gardens to discuss. Also, you may bring the chemical or tool, etc. that you use to control these weeds. (Chemicals should be in secure, leak proof containers.) Those who do not have weeds may discuss the magic they use to create this miracle.

This is a "Live Program" presented outside in the picnic area of Bush Park at the

East end of upper Lafelle Street, above the Rhododendron Hillside Garden. Weather is predicted to be warm and clear, so chance of being rained out is nil.

Why outside? Covid is still around. Though cases are frequent and not severe, it is very contagious and some people still suffer severe illness as well as "Long Covid". Medical research has shown that one's chance of contracting Covid is 19 times less likely in an outside venue than in a typical indoor location. Thus, from an infectious disease standpoint, an outdoor meeting such as this is ideal. Let's take advantage of the good weather while it lasts.

Uncle Rhody wants You to be there!

Please contact Keith White with any questions at 503-559-5796.

Keith White - WCARS Program Chairman

Biography by Brian Smith:

I have always enjoyed the outdoors and grew up in a farming community working with plants in Southeastern Oregon. Gardening in a much harsher climate than the Willamette Valley, I became very interested in native and drought tolerant plants. In high school, I had the opportunity to take horticulture classes in the school's greenhouse. I continued my education at Oregon State University earning a bachelor's degree in Horticulture. I have worked in the "green industry" for over 15 years and worked in parks for 9 years. I have worked as a Parks Project Coordinator Horticulturist for the City of Salem since January of 2019. Working with native plants continues to be my passion and I attempt to use native plants whenever appropriate.

Every year, I host two rose pruning workshops at Bush's Pasture Park: one in late winter and one mid-summer. The Monday morning rose garden volunteers assist with both workshops to teach proper rose pruning techniques and rose care.

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I lead native plant walks at Deepwood Estate during the spring. The native plant walks educate community members on native plant identification, proper locations for native plants in the home garden and landscape, and how to identify and control unwanted weeds that can outcompete the native plants.

The residents of Salem have a strong connection to their neighborhood parks and natural areas. I work with many different volunteer groups from the community to help maintain parks. Community involvement is essential to a having a successful parks program. Volunteers help prune roses, clear invasive blackberries and ivy, plant trees, shrubs, annual flowers, spread mulch, maintain trails, and keep planting beds free of unwanted weeds.

Some Weeds I Personally Know



Public Enemy #1 - A type of geranium



Public Enemy #2 - Deep roots, grows anywhere, pushes out the lawn grass

R ferrugineum The Alpine Rose



Photo taken by Keith White on our hike in the Dolomites of Italy (Italian Alps)





Public Enemy #1 - Leafy, fern-like, grows on red stems with shallow central roots. Forms dense colonies. Grows on any open spot.

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It has been a busy summer for me and I hope it has been a good one for you as well.

Adele and I attended the 75-year national ARS convention in Vancouver, Washington. It was well attended by our local chapter.

I came down with Covid the last day of the convention. My doctor prescribed some medicine for Covid. I survived with minimum symptoms.

I missed the potluck at Rodger and Karen Landers due to the Covid.

Adele and I attended the memorial services for Wally and Kathy Reed on May 22. It was nice to see all the people from our chapter to honor Wally and Kathy.

In July, Adele and I went on a trip of a lifetime to Europe. We were in Europe for 3 weeks. There were many highlights in each major city. After the tour we attended a Horticultural Expo in Amsterdam that happens once every 10 years. We spent 3 days, using the local train and trams to attend the event. After the trip I attended a car show and a few days later I contracted Covid for the second time. I was too late to use medicine prescribed for Covid and I survived with minimal symptoms.

I decided to install a sprinkler system in my front yard before my trip to Europe. It is one of those things you try to engineer and your calculation's are not quite correct and after you have it in, it performs poorly. Oh well back to the drawing board. Where I used to work, we said cut and divide to find the problem. When I got back, I had to install less sprinklers on each line with more automatic valves. It was nice to see all the people in attendance at the Smith Garden Soiree. This is the first time I attended this event. There are so many new faces I have yet to meet.

I was able to dust off the Z06 corvette earlier in the day and attended two events prior to the Soiree; one was PDX coffee at Langer Farms in Sherwood and the Willamette Valley Corvette Club potluck in Brooks in the afternoon.

Last week Adele and I went to Ilani Casino in Ridgefield, Washington to listen to a Rock and Roll band that only has one founding member left and he is the drummer. The band is called The Guess Who. This reminds me of a song by them called Rain Dance. The way this summer has been so dry and hot, as a group we all need to do a rain dance like the native Americans did.

I am going on Rail trip this September, so I will miss the September Chapter meeting.

I inquired about the use of the United Methodist Church on State St. in Salem. They will get back to me about their protocols for meeting in person.

It would be nice to get back to meeting in person, but with Covid still so transmissible, meeting either outdoors or via Zoom seems more practical.

I hope to see you at the October meeting.

Dana Malby - WCARS President

Floriade Expo 2022

I had the privilege to attend Floriade Expo 2022 this summer. I planned a trip to Europe before the pandemic, but when Adele and I were able to go, it was the same year as the Floriade, so we planned to stay three extra days in Amsterdam after our European Tour! Floriade Expo 2022 was held in the town of Almere, about 30km north of Amsterdam.

The Floriade Expo showcases the search for clean air, clean water and clean soil with the main theme about the sustainable growth and development of a livable city. Four sustainability themes play an important role: green, food, health and energy.

Greening the city - Greenery is a crucial part of a livable city. Vertical gardens incorporated into buildings and creative green structures make cities more attractive and resilient. Floriade Expo 2022 is a green arboretum that you can discover as a living catalogue of trees and plants. Each species has a demonstrable function in the green city of the future.

Feeding the city - Food production is changing in the countryside and making its way to the city, with an eye for sufficient, safe, affordable, and healthy food. Floriade Expo 2022 shows solutions in the fields of experimental agriculture, artificially produced food, nutrition and health, and sustainable agriculture.

Healthy cities - Feeling good and actively participating in society: healthy food and a healthy living environment play an important role. Floriade Expo 2022 showcases the search for clean air, clean water and clean soil that helps us feel as physically and mentally fit as possible.

Energizing the city - Sustainable energy solutions are indispensable- especially now that we need more and more energy with a growing population. Sustainability lies in green energy sources, energy-efficient systems, closed cycles, and self-sufficient living. Floriade Expo 2022 introduces you to new sustainable inventions for generating, storing, and saving energy.

Did I mention it was a really **COOL** Expo!?!

The following photographs from Floriade and captions are by Adele O'Neal.



Plants on the side of the building when you first enter the grounds



Brightly colored flowers!



Oh look, a Rhododendron!

Dana Malby



Artwork made from chicken wire



More beautiful flowers!

So many beautiful flowers -Dahlias!



These statues were really impressive - see how tall they are compared to the gentleman standing next to them? They look like they are made of metal, I'll get a closer look.....

Definitely welded bees!



ARS & WCARS Membership Renewal for 2023

Dana Malby continues to be our Chapter Treasurer until a new one is elected. He will be sending out membership renewals in the mail this month. Your renewal information will include a listing of the types of memberships available and a self-addressed stamped envelope for easy return. All you need to do is write a check to the: **Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society (NOT WCARS)** and send it in the stamped envelope to Dana.

If you do not receive an envelope from Dana but would like to renew as a Member or Associate Member, please indicate your designation and 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

Member Renewal for 1 or 2 people at the same address: \$40 Associate Renewal: \$10 (Must have a Home Membership in another chapter)

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Oh What A Night Smith Garden Soiree

It was a beautiful evening for a potluck gathering and more members than usual took advantage of it. Those in attendance were glad to reunite, socialize and eat fantastic food. Even though there wasn't much blooming, the garden was beautiful and the caretaking work done by Tom Gressler and Jane Mays was evident.

Karen Cavendar announced that there will be a bench made in honor of her husband Dick, that will be placed in the garden at some point in the future.

What was most evident to me was the camaraderie shared and a genuine feeling of joy at being together again.

The following are a few photos I took in between bites of delicious food and great conversation. I thought I had a photo of each of our members but it appears I missed several of them. Obviously I was having just as good a time as everyone else and neglecting my duties as newsletter editor.



Gordon Wylie with Steve Krasik in the background



Adele O'Neal & Dana Malby at their 2nd potluck of the day



Roger Lintault in deep conversation with Mike and Maria Stewart





Beautiful flower arrangements adorned the tables.

Anne Gross and Steve Krasik



Karen Cavendar in the foreground and Ali Sarlak and Roger Lintault in the background

Medicos Weed Hillside Rhododendron Garden

I have long been a member of the Board of Directors of the Marion-Polk County Medical Society. At a board meeting this spring the board agreed that we should involve our members in a public service project. Many ideas were put forward. But my suggestion that we do work in the Bush Park Rhododendron Hillside Garden was the favorite.

On the afternoon of July 14th Harvey Gail (MP-CMS Executive Director), Brian Smith (Parks Project Coordinator and Horticulturalist, City of Salem), Mary Ellen, me and the MPCMS right-hand secretary did a walk through of the garden and made plans for the event.

At 5:30 PM, Thursday August 25th, 12 medical professionals as well as our director, Harvey Gail, converged on the garden lawn, near the home shared by Hillside Garden founders, Wally and Kathy Reed. * There we met Amy, our work coordinator from the Parks Department. She brought clippers et al tools to aid us in our work. We all commenced (including Amy) to remove weeds from the bottom left side of the garden, towards the top, for two hours, with a brief sandwich break during the work. We had a great time socializing, meeting new friends and renewing old friendships while everybody (even some of the member's children) worked together removing weeds.

When we were done, it was an impressive site. Certain areas were gone through with surgical precision, removing undesirables from amongst valuable plants (such as a stand of exotic milkweed) which were left untouched. At the end, we had a pile of weeds that must have weighed at least a ton. We were all very impressed with the results of our work. Some of us hung on to chat and make plans to get together again.

In all, this was a very successful event. Per-

haps our local Willamette Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society can consider a fun time to do the same. At our program on Sept 14th in which Brian Smith, the same Parks Project Coordinator and Horticulturist for the City of Salem, will preside over and teach the "Weed School" program, we could discuss this possibility.(MPCMS members who would like to attend this event are invited. Email me, rhodoc@msn.com for details.) Gone is the corps of garden maintainers lead by Wally and Kathy Reed and Tom Bailey, amongst others. I should say that a group of soccer players had volunteered to pick up our weed piles and spread chips on needy areas. But there is still a lot yet to be done.

*The Compton Family Foundation has been the instigator and funder for the establishment of the Rhododendron Hillside Garden. Without the Comptons, this beautiful garden would still be a pipe dream.

Keith White

Photos taken by Mary Ellen Ramseyer



Keith and Dr. Jay Jamieson. Hope they have lots of handwash.

Amy, our Boss from the Parks Dept.



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Ty Weber, PA, brought his 3 children for reinforcement



Keith with Harvey Gail, Executive Director of the Marion-Polk County Medical Society

Ty's youngest son, Zayne, hauling branches bigger than him









Left to Right

Kelly Jamieson Anita Lee Dr. Myron Lee



Dr. Tani Hotan and Dr. Keith Neaman

This whole group of people are awesome multi-taskers. They can talk continuously and work miracles at the same time!





The 3 pictures above are the finished product. I wish I had taken a before picture so you could really see the difference. You couldn't see the path or the logs and the field was full of weeds.

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Free Literature

As a result of being co-chairpersons managing the book sale at the May annual ARS conference in Vancouver, Mary Ellen and I have ended up with a huge surplus of donated literature that we must either give away to those interested or, very regretfully, give to the shredder. Below is a partial list of items we must give away (the items I had time to go through yesterday).

At least 2 full sets of the ARS Bulletins and Journals from 1947-2017 or 2018

Multiple old copies of Greer Gardens and Gossler Gardens catalogs (Greer's have good photos and good descriptions of many rhododendrons. They can be used as references).

Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden distribution catalogs (81-82, 82-83, 95-2005)

Edinburgh Journal of Botany (Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh) Vol 50, issues #2 and #3. #2 is "Revision of Subgenus Tsutsusi" by David Chamberlain and SK Rae. #3 is "A Revision of Section Pentanthera" by Kathleen Kron. Both of these are landmark publications.

Notes from the RBGE Vol 39 #1(2 copies) and #2. #1 is Revision of Subgenus Rhododendron, Sections Rhododendron and Pogonanthum. #2 is Revision of Subgenus Hymenanthes (elepidotes = without scales).

Notes from the RBGE Vol 43, #1 with articles titled: Distribution of Subgenus Hymenanthes, Propagation of Hardy Rhododendrons, Rhododendron Rust, Vireya Rhododendrons in Borneo, Malesian Vireya Rhododendrons-Towards an Understanding of Their Evolution, Barriers to Sexual Compatibility (Ed. I wish I had known all this when I was younger), Propagation of Section Vireya from Seed, The Rhododendron Nectary, The Ovary and Ovule...Of Rhododendron, Shoot Morphology, Registration of Rhododendron Cultivars.

Rhododendron Species (annual journal of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanic Garden) 2006-2017 full set plus multiple copies of some years.



American Rhododendron Hybrids, Author Kraxberger, Pub 1980, 11 copies

ARS 25 year Index 1947-1970 Multiple copies

ARS 10 year Index 1971-1980 Multiple copies

Dunedin Rhododendron Group (New Zealand) #10 1982, #15 1987, # 16 1988

Proceedings of The International Rhododendron Conference, Portland, Oregon May 11-14 1961

The International Rhododendron Register (1958) RHS, London

Louisiana Society of Horticultural Research "A Treatise on Native Azaleas" (of the US) Vol IV No2 80 pages

RSF Study Garden map and guide, from the 1980's

Vireya Vine 1986 – 1990 issues, softbound. E White Smith

A Study of Species for New England by The Species Study Group, Mass Chapter ARS, May 2000 Contributions Toward A Classification of Rhododendron, International Rhododendron Conference, New York Botanical Garden, 1978

Alphabetical List of Rhododendron Species, Royal Horticultural Society, London, 1981

Dwarf Conifers, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Fourth Printing Feb 1977

How To Identify Rhododendron and Azalea Problems, Washington State University, July 1984

A Contribution Towards the Standardization of Color Names, Huse + Kelly, ARS 1984

Rhododendron Notes and Records, (Journal of the RSF) April 1985

Phenology of Cultivated Rhododendrons In the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Keith Wade 1979

Plant Exploration in China (magazine with picture of EH Wilson on the front and 4 related articles inside)

Rhododendron Hybrids: A Compendium by Parent, Lansing Bulgin, 1986

Proceedings of the Fourth International Rhododendron Conference, Australian Rhododendron Society Oct 1-5 1988

Edinburgh Journal of Botany Vol 52 #1 Revision of Subgenus Pentanthera (sections Sciadorhodion, Rhodora and Viscidula) WS Judd and KA Kron 1995 (Ed.note, Vol 50 #3 mentioned above is a revision of Subgenus Pentanthera section Pentanthera by Kathleen Kron.)

World of the Rhododendron, 1996, Scottish Rhododendron Society (a special issue done at the time when Mervyn Kessell was president, in the year the ARS Annual Conference was held in Oban, Scotland Rhododendron Species Foundation (RSF) 2013 Membership Directory

RSF Plant Distribution Catalogs 1991 – 2019 (some years are missing)

If you would like one or more of these publications, please contact me, Keith White, via email at: <u>rhodoc@msn.com</u> or by phone: 503-559-5796 or US Mail: Keith A White, 1751 Noble Fir Ln S, Salem, OR 97306



September by Helen Hunt Jackson

The goldenrod is yellow; The corn is turning brown; The trees in apple orchards With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes Are curling in the sun; In dusky pods, the milkweed Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest In every meadow-nook; And asters by the brookside Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning The grapes sweet odors rise; At noon the roads all flutter With yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather, And autumn's best of cheer

Rhododendron nakaharae is the Flower for September



Photo by Herman Van Ree

Rhodendron nakaharae (Hayata)* is a midsummer bloomer, recorded blooming from June to August. It is said that it is the only Tsutsusi (subsection with most of the evergreen azaleas) that is truly prostrate. Indeed, this is a true "Dwarf" rhododendron that stays dwarf.

Height 0.3 to 1 ft (10 - 30 cm)

Leaves monomorphic, persistent, lanceolate, elliptic or elliptic-obovate, thick.0.3 - 1.2 cm long, 2 - 5 mm broad. Upper surface dark green (some cultivars light green) hairy, lower surface pale green, hairy.

Petiole densely brown -strigose (spikey hairy)

Pedical densely adpressed-bristly

Inflorescence 1-3 flowers

Calyx outside densely strigose (spikey hairy)

Corolla funnel-shaped 2cm long, dark red or scarlet (orange – red to my eye)

Location: Taiwan, 2,000 to 2,300 m (6,557 ft to 7,541 ft)

Award of Merit in 1970 (Hydon)'Mariko', flowers red.

For us, living at 800 ft in the Willamette Valley, nakaharae blooms late July to early August. For me It is a very pleasant surprise to see these hardy little bushes blooming with moderately large (in respect to the foliage) bright red flowers in summer, when everything else rhododendron is past. R nakaharae is exposed to the harshest sun and heat in our front rock garden, with little cover, yet it seems to thrive. I have had two clones for several years. By far the best is the Mt Seven Star version = much less fragile looking with stronger stems and bigger flowers. The other is smaller in all parts, bushy and has fewer flowers. These plants are reliable bloomers and seem not to have suffered from the prolonged and severe heat.

To quote P.Cox and K.Cox (Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species) "R nakaharai is an excellent garden plant and is surprisingly hardy considering its low elevation in the wild. It has often been used as a parent in hybridizing, giving rise to a range of low, late-flowering cultivars. Introduced to the U.K. in 1957, USA , 1960. June – August [bloom time].

*Reference information for this article taken from "Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species" JFJ McQuire and MLA Robinson 2009 and from "The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species" Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox, first printed in Great Britain in 1997.

Keith White



Photo by Werner Brack

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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 <u>http://arsstore.org/</u>

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 Eugene Chapter Portland Chapter Siuslaw Chapter Tualatin Valley arswillamette.com eugene-chapter-ars.org rhodies.org siuslawars.org 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

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

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Dana Malby503-393-6463 V-President: Programs Chair: Keith White ... 503-559-5796 Treasurer: To Be Filled...... Librarian: Keith White503-559-5796 Newsletter Editor: Mary Ellen Ramseyer503-689-3733 Print. & Mail: Mary Ellen Ramseyer - 503-689-3733 Board Members: Bill Vagt503-581-8654 Susan Doellinger 503-838-4884 Position to be filled..... Greeter Susan Doellinger.....503-838-4884 Past President: Wally Reed503-588-3666 Web Site Kathy Lintault......503-434-5472

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