



Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 5

February 2023

Issue 2



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. 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.

CHAPTER MEETING February 8, 2023



Speaker: *Brandon Baker,*
Executive Director of
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
Title: *CSRG - A Sanctuary of*
Tranquil Beauty for the Wellbeing of All

Social Time: 6:30pm

Meeting and Program: 7:00pm

Join via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87228663339>



January Minutes



**Mary Crofts
Secretary
January 11, 2023**

Well...this month we had no business to take care of before our speaker took over. Attendance was small this evening, so we chit-chatted for about half an hour. The weather was the main topic. It was unpleasant for most of us. The Doellingers were stuck at the Portland airport, waiting for the weather to turn safe enough for their plane to fly South.

Plants in various yards died and needed to be removed. But the work force to do that was sparse.

The speaker for our January Zoom Meeting was Delen Kitchen. She is the Director of Operations for the Oregon Garden. This is her dream job, literally.

Delen's parents also contributed to her desire to do the work that she does. She grew up in Portland and when the Oregon Garden opened in Silverton, she went with them at least once for every season.

Delen graduated from college at Arizona State University with a BS Degree in Urban Horticulture. And she has worked at every stage of "the-production-to-public" pipeline.

When she's not nurturing the Oregon Garden's plants, she's caring for her plants at home. Her personal collection consists of the following: *Acanthus sennii*, a native to Ethiopia, it's tall with spiny leaves and orange flowers; *Rostrinucula dependens* which is a form of the butterfly bush, growing 3-6 feet both tall and wide with lavender-pink drooping flowers and *Hedychium coccineum* "Tara", which can grow from 6-8 feet tall with blue-green stems and leaves and fragrant orange-red flowers.



Acanthus sennii
Photo by Dancing Oaks Nursery



Rostrinucula dependens
Photos by Caroliniana Nurseries and
Dancing Oaks Nursery



Hedychium coccineum
Photo by Gardenia Creating Gardens

The idea for the Oregon Garden started to bloom in the 1940's when the Oregon Association of Nurseries wanted some way to display their plants for people to buy. The garden opened officially in 2001, but had problems "keeping afloat" financially. It went into receivership in 2005 and Moonstone Hotel Properties took over management in 2006. By 2020 Moonstone was losing money on the garden and management went back to the Oregon Garden Foundation. That year saw more challenges to the Garden. The Beechy Creek forest fire caused a temporary shut-down and the Covid threat also reduced the number of visitors in the last few years.

In spite of challenges, the Oregon Garden keeps on growing. There is now a Medicinal Garden featuring plants found in our state that keep you well. The childrens' area has added a train and a Hobbit House. The Conifer Garden is reknown for all the beautiful and unusual trees found there. And the Water Garden provides a safe haven for all the wild life that live in it.

The Oregon Garden received 50,000 guests locally and world-wide this past year. Volunteers marked 6,000 hours of service and it was the garden's 25th anniversary.

Special plans are coming up. One is the restoration of the "fire-safe house". Money has been donated to help get rid of the invasive plants and plans are to renew "the barn dance". Some one asked about the Frank Lloyd Wright House which sits along the side of one of the parking lots and appears to be part of the Garden. Delen said it was financed by the Gordon House Conservancy, which is a different group than the Foundation that runs the garden but they work together. Of course, volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

To keep up with events in the Garden, check the [website](#) or sign up for emails, or check [Facebook](#)...or all of these. Of course, Delen had many photographs, all of them beautiful, to accent her talk. And we thank her for sharing them with us.

There being no further business, our program Chair and Zoom Master, Keith White, turned off all the cameras !! If there was anything else said or mentioned, your Secretary certainly couldn't see/hear it.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Crofts - Secretary- WCARS.



The Hobbit House in the Children's Garden



The Conifer Garden





President's Report

Happy Groundhog Day!

I'm just waiting for Punxsutawney Phil to say Hi!

It has been fun looking at all the wonderful garden seed catalogs and dreaming about what I will be planting in my garden later this year. As I am writing this before we hear Phil's prediction for hopefully an early Spring, I don't know how soon I will be able to plant the latest and greatest varieties of vegetable seeds!

I have contacted the church several times to see if we can start meeting in person. I will step up my efforts to reach someone to find out about that.

We need to start thinking about the Friends of Mission Street plant sale, usually the third week in April, where we have our truss show. I haven't seen any dates listed anywhere on their webpage or on Facebook, so will contact the group to see when they are planning this event.

For January, it has been a bit sunny, and maybe a bit cooler, but has been nice to be able to go work out in the yard a little. Much more to come as the weather warms up!

Hope everyone is having a good month, happy Valentine's Day to everyone!

Dana Malby - WCARS President



R. 'St. Valentine', a vireya cross

Photo by Christofer Fairweather

February Program



**Speaker: *Brandon Baker*,
Executive Director of Crystal
Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**Topic: *CSRG - A Sanctuary
of Tranquil Beauty for the
Wellbeing of All***

February 8, 2023 6:30 Social 7:00 Program

Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87228663339>

Meeting ID: 872 2866 3339
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,87228663339# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Crystal Springs Executive Director Brandon Baker shares an overview and recent updates to this storied public rhododendron garden in Portland. Established in 1950 as a partnership between the ARS and Portland's Parks Bureau, this hidden gem is stepping into the spotlight and reminding the public of the beauty and utility of rhododendrons in the landscape.

Brandon Baker is the first professional Director of Crystal Springs in its 73 year history. Grateful to be building on decades of high quality volunteer direction, Brandon is focused on building the garden's capacity to provide excellent educational and wellness programming in this beautiful urban greenspace.

Previous to Crystal Springs, Brandon served as the first Executive Director of the Hellenic-American Cultural Center & Museum and in

several leadership roles at Portland Japanese Garden including Membership Manager. He has degrees in Media Communication (BA) and Spiritual Formation (MA) from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon and has been working in Nonprofits for over 15 years. In his freetime, Brandon tends to his own small garden in southeast Portland and enjoys active recreation with his spouse, five year old, and their 9 year old labrador 'puppy'.

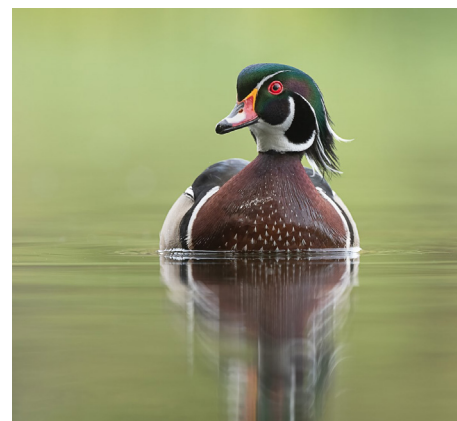
The following photos depicting the beauty of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden were submitted by Brandon Baker.



In the Spring



Autumn Time



**Drake
Wood Duck**

Volunteers Do Not Necessarily Have the Time; They Have the



Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for the money, it's not for fame.

It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman.

It's just to lend a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not medals won with pride.

It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's that feeling that you've been a part.

Of helping others far and near,

that makes you be a Volunteer!

Author Unknown

Organizations could not survive without the help of volunteers. They are the lifeblood that keep the wheels turning and get the work done. Volunteers come with a multitude of skillsets that insure all the required activities and functions and the mission and purpose of the organization are accomplished. No matter what your limitation, there is most likely some way you can volunteer.

So I know you are wondering, "What is this all About"? Well, you are being presented with a couple of prime opportunities to volunteer!

The Smith Garden Spring Work Party

will be on Saturday, March 18. The Party commences at 8:30am and goes until 3:00pm. 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 en-

vironment. The Smith Garden will provide light snack food and drinks. 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.

Editorial Note: I'm especially glad to see it's called a Work Party, as a party implies great fun, camaraderie, laughter, good times and leaves you with a feeling that you want to go back again!



Your Second opportunity to volunteer will be at **The Smith Garden Open Garden Days** which take 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. Details have yet to be worked out and will be provided as soon as they are available. Think about which weekend days you would like to volunteer and be ready to sign up when the information is available.

Below are a few spring beauties taken in March 2 years ago.



What Will Happen to Our Gardens When We Leave?



I have reached a certain age when I'm debating whether I should (eventually) reside in a retirement home—and this has caused me to consider the fate of my garden. Endowed gardens will endure, although in different hands they, too, will change. But what happens to our respectable, unendowed plots of land that we call "gardens?"

Gardens have a habit of disappearing. Nature never gives up, tastes change, babies arrive, and suddenly comes the recognition that gardens take too much work.

Think about Malmaison, the Empress Josephine's famous garden. This garden was famous for more than its roses: It served as a botanical park for scientific experimentation. The lady amassed collections of rare plants from all over. At a time when roses were relatively unfashionable, she sought to gather a specimen of every rose variety then in existence—in all, she collected over 250 varieties. Upon her death the garden fell into rapid decline. Today the Malmaison garden is no more. Sadly, I fear this will happen to our gardens.

There are many reasons for this decline. Ours is a fast-growing area where land suddenly becomes too valuable to sustain an acre garden. Gardens can also be costly to maintain.

We have to lug in mulch, spread topsoil and compost, and then there is the constant weeding required. Plants cost money and then there is the added cost of watering. With more people moving into the area, the demand for water grows, and with that demand comes a higher price.

Now none of this is bad—we simply have to face the situation head on. A friend of mine had an extensive garden that her builder plowed under when he bought the house from her. Why? He wasn't anti-garden, he simply explained that it's easier to sell a house with turf than it was with a significant garden. Of course she was heartbroken—but the house did sell quickly.

There are those who do not gasp with delight at the first sighting of a *Camellia sasanqua* in bloom, just as there are people who don't appreciate the first spring rose. Maintaining a garden requires dedicated commitment. Nature works against us, sending us innumerable weeds and catastrophic climate conditions—think of those droughts and floods we have experienced in the last decade alone.

The sad fact is that some people want the house but not the garden. There are those who love the idea of a garden but life has a habit of getting in the way. Babies and gardens don't mix: Both are time-consuming, both are demanding. Sooner or later, something gives way and usually it's the garden. Society deems that it is preferable to give up the garden before giving away the baby.

Tastes change. I describe my garden as "organized chaos." Gardens reflect our personalities and the sad fact is that some want more organization than I deem to be desirable. We all like different colors. I dislike the color orange in the garden but my replacement might prefer it to the pinks I tend to favor.

And this is the point I'm trying to make: Future gardeners will change your garden. Just be thankful that they want to garden. Some will prefer turf, an incomprehensible predilec-

tion for those of us who relish every perennial.

We regard our gardens as our babies—but there is a difference. We can and must at some point let go of the garden, recognizing it is no longer ours, but we never give up on the baby, even when that baby has college age children. This is the pattern we call life.

I have permission to share this article from the Triangle Gardener magazine written by Kit Flynn. After joining the Durham County Extension Master Gardeners in 2003, Kit Flynn now has emeritus status. She also writes gardening articles for the Durham County Extension Master Gardener newsletter, an online magazine "Senior Correspondent," and "The Absentee Gardeners" column for "The Blowing Rocket" with Lise Jenkins.



Rhododendron 'Love Poem'
Photo by Carl Adam Lehmann

Rhododendron

Soft petals of white,
Such delicate embrace,
Sweet Rhododendron,
You fill my garden space.
A picture of beauty,
In full bloom you stand,
The bees just adore you,
Your looking so grand,
The sun shines upon you,
Nature divine,
A true masterpiece,
In this garden of mine.

Jayne Davies

Scott's Valentine is the Flower for February



Photo by Don Wallace

Predominant Flower Color: Pink

Flower/Truss Description: Flower tubular funnel-shaped, 2.5" across, broadly-pointed lobes, flat margins, pink shading lighter at center, some lobes darker. Lax truss holds 4 flowers

Fragrant: Yes

Bloom Time: Very Early

Foliage / Habit Description: Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, 3" long, strong green colored, red new growth. Dense, mounding plant habit.

Height: 3 feet in 10 years.

Cold Hardiness Temp: 15°F (-9°C)

Parentage: (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent)
(johnstoneanum x veichianum Cubittii Group) x (moupinense x Rose Scott)

Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L): L

Hybridized or Selected by: Scott

Registration Reference: not registered

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.

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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