



Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 6

February 2025

Issue 2

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Willamette Chapter Meetings

Our regular chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May, excluding December. We meet at La Margarita Restaurant and Grill, 545 Ferry St. SE, in downtown Salem for dinner at 5:00 pm, the meeting begins at 6:30 pm, and the speaker and program at 7:00 pm. Our meetings are in person unless otherwise stated. Meeting information will be sent to members via email and available in this newsletter. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Events in 2025

Dates provided by PCARS (see rhodies.org for more details)

Mondays, March 1 st & 15 th	9am-3pm	Smith Garden Workdays
Weekend, April 5 th -6 th	All Day	Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden (CSRG) Early Show
Weekends, April 5 th -May 18 th	10am-4pm	Smith Garden Open Days
Weekend, May 10 th -11 th	All Day	CSRG Mother's Day Show and Sale
ARS Convention, Emerging Trends in Rhododendrons, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, June 5 th -8 th		

Notes from the Editor

Please email articles and announcements for the next newsletter issue to me, Carol McCarthy, at carolmcc.rhodies@gmail.com by the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Out of respect for privacy, in the future I would like to have your permission to publish photos of you in this newsletter. Please email me if it is OK to publish your photo here. Thanks.

Announcement

All of our members may order plants out of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) catalog, which Keith White will forward to all of our members once it is available. We can have all orders go through Keith. He could pick up the plants at the RSBG or have them shipped to him and then distribute the plants to ordering members at the following WCARS chapter meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Speaker: Mike Stewart
Topic: Deciduous Azaleas of America

The Appalachian Mountains offer one of the most diverse selections of native plants anywhere in the world. Mike will show pictures of this beautiful area along with the 18 species of azaleas that grow from the Canadian border to Florida along the mountain range. America's deciduous azaleas have some of the most brilliant colors in the genus Rhododendron with the added advantage of fragrance in many of them.

Come learn, enjoy, and savor the treasures of the Appalachian Mountains' deciduous azaleas.



President's Report by Dana Malby

Happy February!
Happy Grounds Hog's Day!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Happy President's Day!

It was a cold and dry and frosty January. Maybe February will be a warmer, wetter month. Spring is around the corner. Perennial flowers are popping up their heads, in my garden and yard.

Daffodils and a sea of blue grape hyacinths are making their appearance for another year. I have had the opportunity to prune and spray my fruit trees in the garden. It is almost dry enough to turn over the soil in the garden!

I am looking forward to our guest speaker for February, Mike Stewart. His program will be on America's beautiful native azaleas. Hope to see our fellow members and guests at our next meeting on February 12th at 5 pm for dinner at La Margarita in Salem. I personally stopped by the third week in January to book our next three meetings at La Margarita.



Minutes from the January 8, 2025 Meeting by Mary Crofts

President Dana Malby opened our first meeting of the New Year... time for another round or two of Lindor chocolates, thanks to Susan Doellinger. This is getting to be a habit and a wonderfully sweet one at that.

Treasurer Adele O'Neal gave the good news that after paying our membership dues to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG), we are still in the red with \$2,185.49 in checking and \$2,419.58 in savings. The new budget was presented as reported in last month's newsletter. After some discussion, a vote was taken and the budget passed unanimously.

Steve Hootman from the RSBG will be presenting a webinar on January 16th, 2025 at 6 pm. The price to attend is lower for members. More information can be found on their web site. The webinar is one way that the RSBG can generate income without having to pay speakers' travel expenses.

Newsletter Editor Carol McCarthy asked us all to consider writing articles for the same. She especially likes photos to accompany the articles. For the February issue, Carol is interested in including photos of flowers that are blooming now in winter.

Mary Ellen Ramseyer mails the newsletter to Karen Cavender and also to Fred, the former WCARS president. Since Fred lives nearby, she sometimes delivers his copy in person. Mary Ellen asked for people to let her know of any other members who would like to receive the newsletter by mail.

Anne Gross visited Karen at her retirement home. She also visited with Tom and Jane, from the Smith Garden, at their new retirement place.

There was some discussion about the Smith Garden Clean-Up Days that are coming up in March to prepare for the Open Garden Days that start in April and continue through May. The Smith Garden schedule is listed on the first page of this newsletter.

June 6th is the Nova Scotia conference. Several members are planning on attending.

Jim, the President of the Salem Hardy Plant Society, attended the meeting and invited us to attend their meetings since rhododendrons are hardy plants. They meet at Mission Mill Dye House for part of the year and then go nursery hopping and visit open gardens when the weather warms up.

Ali Sarlak and Keith White brought four plants for door prizes that were given to the lucky winning ticket holders.

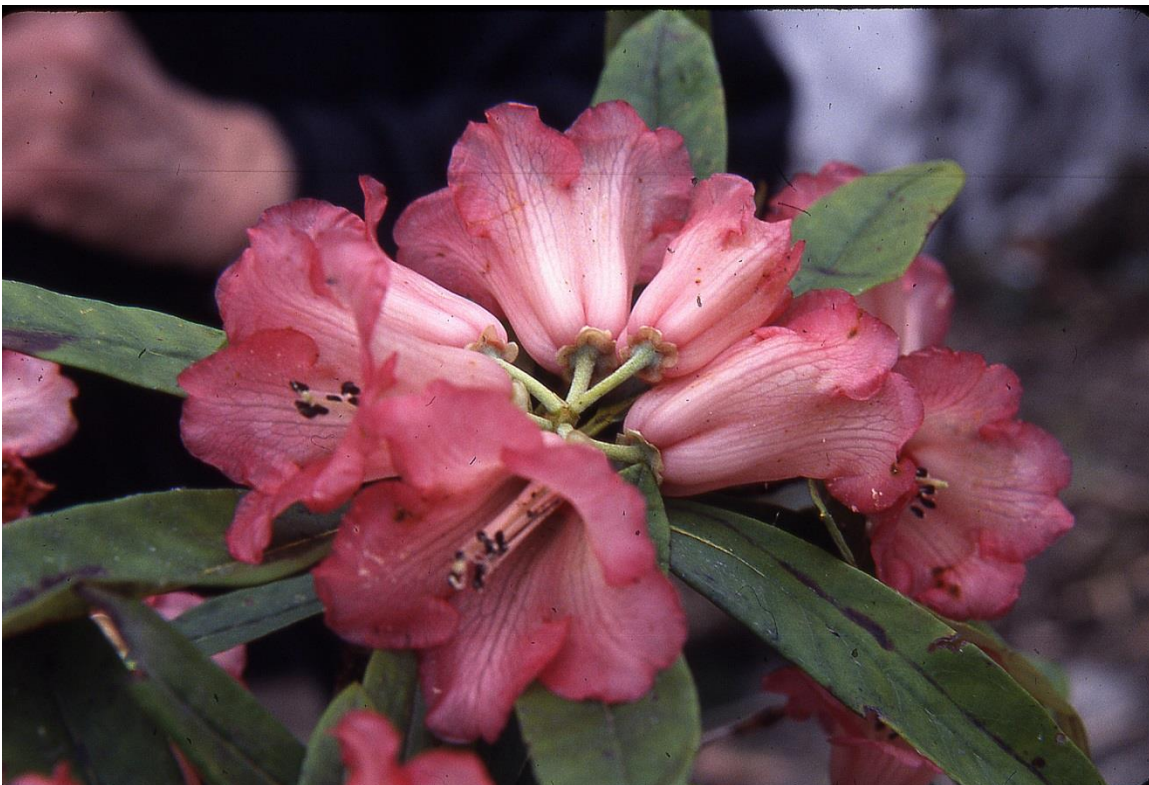
Our speaker, Keith White, needs no introduction to us. He's been the central figure in our chapter almost from its start. Part of his contribution to the world of rhodies is the many trips he's taken to China and Tibet and to the awesome Himalayan Mountains looking for new species and for seeds to grow new plants to share with the world. Since it's not an easy matter to show us all the discoveries he and his fellow plant hunter found, Keith treated us with his photography skills. Tonight's presentation was situated in the Three Rivers section of Yunnan Province. And as usual, it was a great talk. You just had to be there because it's hard to describe Keith's style.

Sincerely,
Mary Crofts - Secretary- WCARS

Keith White's Yunnan Presentation Photos



Jinfoshan (shan = mountain) known as Jade Dragon Mountain, framed by *R yunnanense*



R neuriflorum, light shade form



R megacalyx: Fragrant and beautiful. One of the Maddenias (subtropical rhododendrons). We passed through this zone going up every mountain, on our way to higher elevations. This way we saw many of the species in subsection Maddenia.



Keith admiring R megacalyx



R. Sinogrande with Wang (5-26-05)



Group Photo

Rhododendron 'Prism'
Article and Photo by Jack Olsen



Rhododendron 'Prism'

My friend Nolan Blansit was a member of the Rhody society here in Eugene. Our chapter was invited to a barbecue at his home in East London road. There I spotted three plants from the same cross (R. Nancy Evans x R. Tamarindos). I asked Nolan if he would be interested in selling one of the plants. He said he did not want to sell them at that time.

About a month or so later Nolan hurt his back, and wanted to sell some plants so he could pay the bills. I went to his place, and asked how much he would sell the purple flowered plant for. I bought it for fifty dollars.

The plants flowers were unlike any I had ever seen. Later I purchased even more of his flowers. I asked if it was okay to register his flower. He said it was fine, so I did. I wanted to call it R. Kaleidoscope but it was not accepted. My backup name was R. Prism which I like much better.

As of this writing, I have registered ten rhododendrons, four of which are mine and six from others, all posthumously registered. I have Prisms I can sell. It can also be purchased through Rocky Knoll Farm. I have made many crosses with Prism.

The Oregon Garden Resort Article and Photos by Ali Sarlak

I am always looking for interesting places in nature and public gardens to visit and share with our rhodie society members and at the same time to hopefully contribute something interesting to some of us.

On Christmas Eve 2024, I booked a room for Gloria, my wife, and me at the Oregon Garden Resort to see the Christmas lights. At the same time, we made plans to hike at Silver Falls. The day was a light rainy one but as usual the sounds of beautiful waterfalls and the old growth trees covered with all shades of lichens got our attention; i.e., the rain did not spoil our hike. We hiked the upper rim trail and it was an easy hike and we could often hear the waterfalls. While hiking, I was looking to see if there were many fungi. There were a few and I will include a couple photos of them.

But now back to the resort. We first walked around the resort and admired the all season landscape: All together, there were 10 types of camellias in bloom. This was Dec 24! A few other bushes that got my attention were Beauty Berry with its lovely berries and crab apple varieties with outstanding red berries.

I tell you, the resort and the Oregon gardens are treasures, if you ask me. I am always happy to visit a place like it. Generally, the resort's Silver Christmas Market is open from Nov 21st through Dec 31st, except for Nov. 24th, 25th, and 27th. There are over a thousand lights on display and it is one of best show places to experience during the Christmas and the New Year.







Photos taken by Bill Vagt on January 18th 2025



Snow Drops



Edgeworthia Chrysanthum (Chinese Paper Bush)



Iris unguicularis



Iris unguicularis



Bergenia



Hellebore



Camellia



Cyclamen

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Photos by Keith White



Acer griseum (paperbark maple)



ariseama fruit (seeds)



R 'Tuba' in conservatory



Pond Garden

Winter Photos by Ali Sarlak







<p align="center">MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS</p> <p>EUGENE CHAPTER Third Wednesday from Oct. to March at 7:30 pm</p> <p>PORTLAND CHAPTER Third Thursday from Sept. to May at 7:00 pm, Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele Street, Portland, OR</p> <p>SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY First Tuesday from Sept. to May at 7:00 pm Dye House at Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR</p> <p>SUISLAW CHAPTER Third Tuesday at 7:00pm First Presbyterian Church, 3996 Highway 101, Florence, OR</p>	<p align="center">WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS AWARDS HISTORY</p> <p>GOLD 1991-Herb Spady 2001-Betty Spady</p> <p>SILVER 2003-Richard “Dick” Cavendar</p> <p>BRONZE 1987-June Brennan 1990-Jason Ashford 1991-Constance Hansen 1991-Betty Spady 1997-Bob Grasing 2002-Sharon Leopold 2006-Wilbur Bluhm 2006-Chuck and Maxine Dehn 2007-Keith White 2008-Helen Malby 2009-Anne Gross 2011-Dick and Carol Lundin 2012-Wally and Kathy Reed 2013-Syd and Don Wermlinger 2019-Dick and Carol Lundin 2019-Mary B. Crofts 2019-Roger and Kathy Lintault 2024-Mary Ellen Ramseyer 2024-Keith White</p>																																				
<p align="center">DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES</p> <p>Willamette Chapter: arswillamette.com Eugene Chapter: eugene-chapter-ars.org Portland Chapter : rhodies.org Siuslaw Chapter: siuslawars.org</p> <p>All other web sites can be found on rhododendron.org Under “chapters” under web sites.</p> <p>ARS BULLETINS are available online at: http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/</p>	<p align="center">WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>President:</td> <td>Dana Malby</td> <td>(503) 480-9807</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President:</td> <td>Vacant</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programs Chair</td> <td>Ali Sarlak</td> <td>(541) 758-9190</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary:</td> <td>Mary Crofts</td> <td>(503) 838-4122</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer:</td> <td>Adele O’Neal</td> <td>(971) 570-0237</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Librarian:</td> <td>Keith White</td> <td>(503) 559-5796</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter:</td> <td>Carol McCarthy</td> <td>(541) 286-4262</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Print & Mail:</td> <td>Mary Ellen Ramseyer</td> <td>(503) 689-3733</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Board Members:</td> <td>Susan Doellinger</td> <td>(503) 838-4884</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Keith White</td> <td>(503) 559-5796</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greeter:</td> <td>Susan Doellinger</td> <td>(503) 838-4884</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Web Site:</td> <td>Kathy Lintault</td> <td>(503) 434-5472</td> </tr> </table>	President:	Dana Malby	(503) 480-9807	Vice President:	Vacant		Programs Chair	Ali Sarlak	(541) 758-9190	Secretary:	Mary Crofts	(503) 838-4122	Treasurer:	Adele O’Neal	(971) 570-0237	Librarian:	Keith White	(503) 559-5796	Newsletter:	Carol McCarthy	(541) 286-4262	Print & Mail:	Mary Ellen Ramseyer	(503) 689-3733	Board Members:	Susan Doellinger	(503) 838-4884		Keith White	(503) 559-5796	Greeter:	Susan Doellinger	(503) 838-4884	Web Site:	Kathy Lintault	(503) 434-5472
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