



Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 6 **January 2025** Issue 1

Page(s)	Contents
1	Meeting Place and Times; Upcoming Events; Note from the Editor
2-3	Upcoming Meeting Program
3-4	President's Report
5	Treasurer's Report
6-12	Featured Article: Visiting Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden by Ali Sarlak
13	Other ARS Chapter Meeting Places and Times & Willamette Chapter ARS Awards

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		

Note from the Editor

Please consider submitting articles to be published in an upcoming newsletter. Articles about almost any topic somehow related to rhododendrons or other plants are particularly welcome. If you email your articles to me, Carol McCarthy, at carolmcc.rhodies@gmail.com by the fourth Wednesday of the month, that will give me enough time to include them in the next issue. Thanks.

Upcoming Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Speaker: Keith White
Topic: Plant Expeditions to China



Keith balancing on a ridge in Sichuan, China in 2007

His license plate says: "RHODOC"

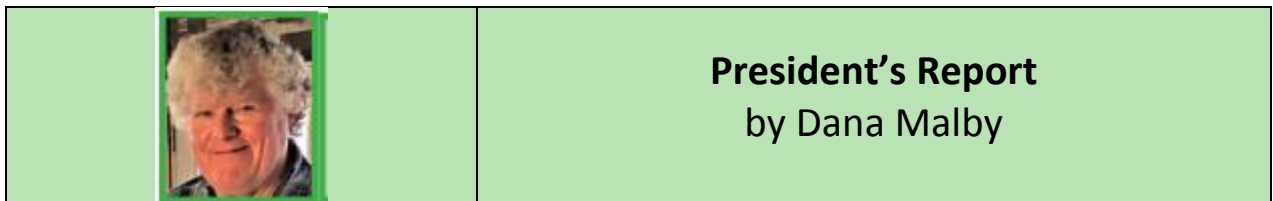
Keith White is a Family Doctor. He started gardening as his mother's "garden slave", learning a few things, but mostly appreciating the flowers. While attending medical school and family medicine specialty residency in Portland, Keith frequently visited Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. The beauty of flowers and the stature of the plants was addicting. While working for the US Forest Service in the summers, between fires, he took advantage of the opportunity to I.D. the wildflowers in and around the woods in the Detroit Ranger District and in the Columbia Gorge. When working for the US Public Health Service in SE Alaska there were lots of hikes, some through bogs called "muskegs", where Alaska wildflowers were abundant.

On returning from Alaska, Keith set up practice in Independence and Monmouth, OR. Buying a house was a green light for planting. Roses, lilacs, rhododendrons and bulbs were on the list. As a "Welcome Home" birthday gift, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law gave him a membership in Willamette Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Chapter President, Herb Spady urged Keith to join the Rhododendron Species Foundation, which he did. After a few years as chairman of the photography committee, Keith Was asked to join the Board of Directors and now the Executive Committee.

On returning from Alaska, Keith set up practice in Independence and Monmouth, OR. Buying a house was a green light for planting. Roses, lilacs, rhododendrons and bulbs were on the list. As a "Welcome Home" birthday gift, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law gave

him a membership in Willamette Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Chapter President, Herb Spady urged Keith to join the Rhododendron Species Foundation, which he did. After a few years as chairman of the photography committee, Keith Was asked to join the Board of Directors and now the Executive Committee.

Rubbing elbows with the right people got Keith into plant hunting (and flower appreciation) expeditions to Sikkim twice, and China and Tibet each four times. He has been to the U.K., Germany and Belgium on several garden tours and just wandering around a lot on his own here and in the U.K. Keith has a lot of photos from which to create programs featuring these adventures.



Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season! Hope everyone had a fun and restful time with family and friends. Happy New Year – 2025!

The club was fairly active in 2024. We had the Spring Sale and Garden Show at the Oregon State Fairgrounds March 22-24. Thanks to everyone for helping out, it was a successful plant sale to the community. We didn't gain any new members from this event, so we are going to think of some other ways to encourage people to come to at least one of our meetings to see how much fun we have! If you have any ideas, please share them with the board.

The Rhododendron Hillside Garden cleanup was April 19. We had a small group from the club, but with others who were there from the community, we were able to really make the garden beautiful!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the open garden days at Smith Garden, in April and May, to help make these days a great visitor experience!

The ARS Convention, held in Bellingham, Washington on May 2-5, was attended by several members. The President had a session and asked all the clubs present to share ideas for building clubs, which gave everyone some new ideas, which we will be trying.

The May potluck, held at Thuy and Dale Chrestenson's home on May 11, was well attended and lots of fun! In addition to great food and a plant sale, there was lots of conversation. We awarded a Bronze Award to Mary Ellen Ramseyer and Keith White for their ongoing support for the club.

The Smith Garden Soiree was on August 17. A few of the club members attended, thank you for helping with the clean up! There is a new caretaker (Sanda Koesel Chanda) now living in the house; she will help with the routine maintenance, but we will continue to help the Portland chapter with the major work and clean ups.

We partnered up with the Portland Chapter in September for the plant sale for the Hardy Plant Society of Salem, which was held at Sebright Gardens in Brooks. It was a successful sale, thank you to everyone who participated!

And our last event of 2024 was the December potluck at Red Gate Winery! I was a little late getting there, but hopefully everyone had lots of fun talking with each other! I know I had a great time and of course, as always, the food was FANTASTIC!

Want to thank Ali Sarlak for organizing the wonderful programs we have had this year! Looking forward to many more. Also, a big thank you to Carol McCarthy for taking over the newsletter – this is no small feat and you have done a great job!



Photos provided by Mary Ellen Ramseyer

Treasurer's Report
 Draft Budget Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024
 by Adele O'Neal

DRAFT WCARS Budget September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025	
REVENUE	
Membership dues received (17 x \$40)	\$680.00
Associate member dues received (4 x \$10)	\$40.00
Donations to Chapter	\$35.00
Truss Show	\$0.00
Plant Auctions (HPS; Yard and Garden; Meetings)	\$1,500.00
Savings account interest	\$0.48
Credit from ARS (payment via Paypal)	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$2,255.48
EXPENSES	
Dues remitted to National (17 x \$30)	\$510.00
Speaker expenses (Honorarium - \$400; Meals - 7x30=\$210)	\$610.00
Newsletter expenses	\$0.00
Website (2 year subscription)	\$276.34
Zoom Membership	\$0.00
Liability insurance	\$51.00
Membership RSF, due December	\$100.00
Donations, RSF	\$0.00
Memorial donations, RSF, ARS	\$0.00
Donations ARS General Fund	\$0.00
Donations, ARS Research Fund	\$0.00
December Dinner Potluck - Redgate	\$0.00
December Dinner Potluck - Main Dish	\$100.00
May Potluck and Plant Auction	\$50.00
Summer Potluck	\$0.00
Awards (2 Bronze)	\$55.25
Supplies	\$25.00
Postage	\$25.00
Truss show expenses - plants, etc.	\$0.00
Plant Auction expenses	\$200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,002.59
NET (REVENUE LESS EXPENSES)	\$252.89

Visiting Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Article and Photos by Ali Sarlak

For years, I have made it a tradition to allow myself extra time to visit the nearby Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden whenever I go to the rhodie society meeting in Portland. On November 21st, I attended the meeting and, as usual, I stopped by to see the garden beforehand.

I found the garden gate closed that day. I mentioned to the lady at the kiosk that I am member of the rhodie society and I asked her if I could quickly take some garden photos. "Sure," she said and, being the pleasant person that as she is, she allowed me to go in. I found out at the meeting her name is Helen. Thank you Helen for your service to our gardeners and nature lovers!!

I wish that all of us, somehow or other, would be able to visit this sacred place often. It is a place of beauty, education, plants, ideas, inspiration, and serenity. It allows us to get close to our souls and to nature. There are lakes that provide a 360-degree view of the garden. When you are there, all your worries disappear and refreshing thoughts come to into your mind.

The garden is beautiful in every season: In the spring, there are all the early-blooming bulbs, and then later on, it is heaven with so many rhododendrons of all shades, colors, blooms and textures. Of course, in the summer you see all the roses and the special summer-blooming trees beside the lake create a soothing and refreshing atmosphere with all sorts of waterfalls. It is a paradise for birds. Certainly, this garden is the best investment Portland ever made for itself and for the surrounding communities!!!













<p style="text-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 style="text-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 style="text-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 style="text-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
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																																			