Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Overview

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, located between Seattle and Tacoma, is a 22-acre woodland garden that is home to the largest collection of Rhododendron species in the world. With a Victorian stumpery, Rutherford Conservatory, pond garden, extensive fern collection, rock garden, and more, visitors will experience a diverse botanical collection in a Pacific Northwest forest setting. The garden is home to beautiful companion plants, including the famous Himalayan Blue Poppies, Camellias, Magnolias, Japanese maples, and many rare plants.

The Visitor Center features interpretive information about the garden and a year-round nursery with plants that have been propagated and cultivated in on-site production greenhouses.

Quick Facts

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<td>Year Established</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<td>Opened to public</td>
<td>1980</td>
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<td>Annual Attendance</td>
<td>28,000</td>
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<td>Acreage</td>
<td>22 acres with 13 features</td>
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<td>R. species in collection</td>
<td>700+</td>
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<td>Members</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Operating Hours</td>
<td>Tue-Sun from 10 am-4 pm</td>
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<td>Adult Admission</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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Mission Statement The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and distribution of Rhododendron species.

PROGRAMMING & MISSION STATEMENT

As a living museum, the RSBG conserves and shares its international collection with both the scientific community and the general public. Known worldwide for the garden’s contributions to scholarship and research, the RSBG’s educational and scientific offerings include an annual Rhododendron species symposium, workshops, annual community festivals, seed and pollen shipment, live plant distributions, selections of rare and ornamental plants, and a biannual catalog with up-to-the-minute findings.

Staff

Steve Hootman  Executive Director & Curator
Grace Pham  Chief Business Officer
Atsuko Gibson  Nursery Manager & Assistant Curator
Dennis Bottemiller  Rutherford Conservatory Curator
Emily Joseph  Assistant Nursery Manager
Will Clausen  Horticulturist & Assistant Curator
Adam Duell  Assistant Horticulturist
Matt Hougton  Assistant Gardener
Amy Greenwold  Visitor Services Representative
Natalie Ries  Marketing & Outreach Manager
Janey O'Neil  Administrative Assistant

Media Inquiries: Natalie Ries; natalie@rhodygarden.org; (253) 345-2515
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden throughout the seasons.

- Late spring blooms
- *Rhododendron macgregoriae*
- Polystichum setiferum in the fall
- *R. orbiculare* overlooking meadow
- Himalayan Blue Poppy
- Rutherford Conservatory in the fall
- Pond in Rutherford Conservatory
- Plant Sales Nursery
- Cardiocrinum giganteum
- Aerial view of Rutherford Conservatory
- Rutherford Conservatory
Brief History

The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1964 by Pacific Northwest members of the American Rhododendron Society in order to secure the finest authentic forms of *Rhododendron* species and to develop a comprehensive collection of this plant genus. Because of the destruction of *Rhododendron* habitats in many areas of the world, conservation has become of primary importance in recent years. This concern led to the formation of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and has guided its activities.

Video: A day at the Garden

Press Coverage

Awards & Accolades

1996 Educational Exhibit Award of Merit - Northwest Flower & Garden Show
2003 Exceptional Educational Exhibit Award of Merit - Northwest Flower & Garden Show
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Logo Usage Green
2023 Events

Pop-up Plant Vendor Weekends!
Saturday-Sunday; April 1-2, 15-16, 22-23
May 6-7, 27-28
10 am – 4 pm
Throughout April & May, the garden will host featured vendor weekends in partnership with local nurseries. You’ll have an opportunity to buy from boutique and wholesale vendors, providing a unique selection that you won’t find anywhere else.

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Mother’s Day Weekend
Saturday-Sunday; May 13-14
10 am – 4 pm
Celebrate mom with a beautiful outing to the Rhody Garden! Explore 13 garden features, experience the garden at peak bloom, and picnic on our patio with delicious eats from a local food truck.

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Blue Poppy Day
Saturday, May 20
10 am – 4 pm
The mystical Himalayan blue poppy, Meconopsis, will grace us with its ethereal beauty once again. Celebrate these fabulous flowers and enjoy a feast for your eyes. Walk through a meadow glowing with blooming blue poppies or stroll along the ADA accessible path through the blue poppy glade. There are two fields of poppies to enjoy and explore!

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Rhododendron Species Symposium
Friday-Saturday; June 9-10
12 am – 12 pm
RSBG is reimagining the Symposium for 2023. Stay tuned for details on the new and improved version.

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Evening in the Garden
Saturday, July 29, 2023
5 – 8:30 pm
RSBG is reimagining Evening in the Garden for 2023. Stay tuned for details on the new and improved version.

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Fall Foliage Festival
Saturday-Sunday; October 21-22
10 am – 4 pm
Celebrate autumn at our Fall Foliage Festival that features tours, plant talks, and plant sales.

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Member Appreciation Day
Sunday; September 17
10 am – 4 pm
Membership makes us grow and thrive! As a way of thanking our loyal Members for their continued support, we invite you to join us for our Member Appreciation Day, featuring discounts on plants, delicious food, garden tours, activities for kids, and silent auction.

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