

SUMMER 2016

Vol. 41, No. 2

RHODODENDRON SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Executive Director's Report

Steve Hootman, Executive Director & Curator

Having enjoyed every spring blooming season here at the RSBG since 1992, I feel somewhat qualified to state with no hesitation that this past spring was the longest and most floriferous in the history of the Garden. This is due to several factors, primary among them the continuing maturation of the collection (many species grown from seed can take years or even decades to flower!); the recent and ongoing opening and thinning of the canopy in the Garden is providing more sunlight to the plants which increases flower bud formation; the weather last summer during bud formation when the plants were stressed from the record-setting long, hot and dry summer (stress will also increase flowering); and the weather throughout this spring when we had constant mild temperatures and not a single hard frost once the blooming season kicked off in early January. Overall, it was a remarkable season of color with many species remaining in flower for five or even six weeks. As you can imagine, the overlapping of early spring bloomers with mid and even late season bloomers resulted in some unplanned for, very "unusual" color combinations that we have never before seen - and hope not to see again for some time!

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our spring Garden Campaign and GiveBig fund-raising events. Your generous support is vital and helps us to keep up our terrific momentum. It was great to see so many of you at our recent first annual Rhododendron Species Symposium. We all enjoyed our time together socially and in the Garden studying our favorite genus. The event was capped off with a terrific lecture and special video provided by Peter and Ken Cox - a night to remember. We hope to see even more of you at next year's Symposium on April 7-8, when we will have Dr. Hartwig Schepker of the Bremen Rhododendron Garden as our featured speaker.

If you have the chance, be sure to stop in and see the newly installed interpretive panels in the Visitor Center Shop designed by our own

Visitor Center Coordinator - Pat Whempner. The placement of these educational and beautifully illustrated panels is the first phase of the transitioning of the Garden Gift Shop into the RSBG Visitor Center. We are phasing out the selling of most gifts and related items and will instead be focusing upon materials directly related to our organization and our sister groups (Pacific Bonsai Museum and the Hardy Fern Foundation). This includes things like our own logo wear and coffee mugs, our Yearbooks, plants, etc. The extra space will be utilized for interpretation and education. All of this is a part of our new focus on interpreting this tremendous collection and world-class garden that we have spent the last fifty years developing.

We are thrilled to have long-time board member Ian Walker taking on the tremendously important task of grant writing. As always, we have several projects that require funding and Ian has already spent a great deal of time in putting the necessary background material together. One of our primary fund-raising goals will be for the new interpretive program that I have already briefly discussed.

We welcome Chanelle Mikel to the organization as our new Office and Visitor Center Assistant. Chanelle has done a tremendous job for us and has even mastered the intricate and mystical minutiae of our plant distribution program.



Volunteer Canfield Smith with *R. ochraceum*

Photo: Katie Swickard

Rhododendron Species Symposium

Katie Swickard, Program & Outreach Manager

Plan now to join us in 2017 as Dr. Hartwig Schepker, the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park in Germany will be the featured speaker for the Symposium on April 7th to the 9th.

The Field Laboratory Horticulture Classes, the lively discussion at the Species Symposium, and the in absentia presentation by Peter Cox were all highlights at the first annual Rhododendron Species Symposium held on May 20th and 21st.

It was a diverse group that attended, from those who have been members of the RSF since the early days to several that were new members, as well as some non-members. The group included 19% local folks, 45% in-state but from more than 50 miles away, 19% from out of state and Canada was well represented with 17%.

After the very positive RSF Annual Business Meeting on Saturday morning, Mike Stewart moderated the Species Symposium with Steve Hootman, Dennis Bottemiller and Elaine Sedlack fielding questions from the audience. This was the perfect preface to the in-the-field horticulture classes that were then led in the Garden. Comments were that this was a very effective learning experience even for long-time rhododendron aficionados.

Steve Hootman presented Peter Cox's digital production covering the entirety of his decades-long career as one of the foremost plant hunters in the modern era. A delightful video tour with both Peter and Ken Cox in Glendock Gardens, Scotland closed the evening.

Plan now to join us April 7 to 9, 2017 as Dr. Hartwig Schepker, the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park in Germany will be the featured speaker for the Symposium. Watch for the upcoming announcement of our new event hotel.

Photo: Harold Greer



Joe Ronsley was named Editor Emeritus in recognition of his many years coordinating and editing the Yearbook.

Volunteer Corner

Katie Swickard, Program & Outreach Manager

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold and we are very fortunate to have a wonderful gold supply!

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold and we are very fortunate to have a wonderful gold supply! Thanks to the multitude of hours donated by our dedicated volunteers, the Rhody Garden moves forward in top form!

Each year at the RSF Annual Meeting we announce the top contributors in our Volunteer Recognition Program for the past year. Last year 46 volunteers contributed a total of 5,534 hours, with over 19 volunteers giving at least 100 hours.

Photo: Grace Pham



Volunteers enjoy occasional lunchtime "Brown Bag Presentations."

Our top contributors for 2015 are:

Four Hundred Club (contribute a minimum of 400 hours in one year): Vicky Kostakis and Deena Henkins.

Three Hundred Club (contribute a minimum of 300 hours in one year): Rollo Adams, Winnie Adams, Kurt Laidlaw and Paul Thompson.

Two Hundred Club (contribute a minimum of 200 hours in one year): Margo Steinman and Clarice Clark.

The gift of time is a treasurable thing and we highly treasure the generosity of our volunteers.

Learn more about volunteering, and download an application form: <http://rhodygarden.org/cms/volunteer/>

International World of Ferns

Jo Laskowski, Hardy Fern Foundation Curator

Did you know that fern spores have been recovered from the upper atmosphere in samples collected by airplanes and weather balloons? You might say ferns are pretty international in their travels. Consequently they inhabit a lot of diverse environments around the world, and have inspired an international interest in them.

The Pacific Northwest is home to an international organization – the Hardy Fern Foundation – that specializes in the study, propagation, and dissemination of information about garden-worthy, hardy ferns. This small non-profit is supported by a dedicated membership, some 10% of whom are international. Why should this interest you? This mighty little outfit has put together and maintains an amazing structure in the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. It's called a stumpery, and summertime is a great time to come and see this oddity!

The purpose of the original stumpery, created in 1856 in England, was to use up waste piles of tree roots and trunks left over from land clearing on rural estates. The stumps and root balls were artfully stacked, the gaps packed with soil, and ferns tucked into every available niche. Over time the established ferns arched and spread and softened the outlines of the rough, raw wood. The stumpery appeared right on the

cue of the Victorian fern craze, so it wasn't long before they were gracing the landscape all over England.

In 2009, the Hardy Fern Foundation revived the concept, and created and dedicated its Victorian Stumpery within the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. Now any visitor to the RSBG has the bonus opportunity to see and experience it. For the dedicated pteridophile any time of year in the Stumpery is enchanting. Winter finds evergreen ferns standing, and the decorative stalks of fronds that held spore earlier in the season—of interest very much like the seed heads of sedums or ornamental grasses. The drama of unfurling croziers unreels over several months in the spring and early summer, with silver- and copper-colored fiddleheads performing their ancient, sinuous expansion. The lush magnificence of everything in summer frond is almost sinful, but fall soon follows, leaving a trail of senescence to the lone evergreen sentinels of winter again.

So please come—come through the gate and follow the path to the Stumpery, and catch the lush summer celebration in life as only ferns in full frond so beautifully manifest. <http://www.hardyferns.org/>



Dicksonia antarctica (Australian tree fern) was recently added to the Victorian Stumpery.

Photo: Jo Laskowski



The Victorian Stumpery overflows with a delightful combination of ferns, rhododendrons and companion plants.

Did you know that fern spores have been recovered from the upper atmosphere in samples collected by airplanes and weather balloons?



Marjorie and Jodie help with the Seed and Pollen Program.

Seed and Pollen Program Update

Clarice Clark, Volunteer

This has been a great bloom and pollen year with a relatively mild winter. I have concentrated my efforts on finding and collecting the newest additions to the RSBG collection, and especially those grown from seed collected by Steve Hootman. With the help of two other dedicated volunteers, Marjorie Livingston and Jodie Walker, we are able to collect, package, catalog and fill orders for pollen and seed, and mail them all over the world.

This was the first year that some new plants have produced enough flowers so that I was able to make the chromosomes available for your pollen orders!

I have not had the necessary time to devote to the production of seed. The order form on the website is current – there will be no new 2016 seed; however, seed from other years will still be available.



R. hodgsonii 527sd1997



R. falconeri ssp. *falconeri*
1999/629 SEH #524



R. arboreum ssp. *cinnamomeum*
1999/627 SEH#512



R. citriniflorum var.
horaeum

RSBG CALENDAR 2016

Third Thursday Garden Mingle

Free for the general public
Monthly through September 4-7pm

Evening in the Garden

Members and their guests only
August 6, 5-8:30pm

Foliage Festival & Plant Sale

October 15-22, 10am-4pm
Sat. 15 Opening Day Sale with Dan Hinkley's Plant Selections
Sun. 16 Fall for Maples
Mon. 17 Monday Open
Fri. 21 Fall for Bonsai
Sun. 22 Fall for Ferns

RSF Fall Board Meeting

November 19, 1 – 3pm

Volunteer Holiday Party

December 2, noon – 2pm

"It's Aloha Time"

Evening in the Garden 2016

Katie Swickard, Program & Outreach Manager

Dining al fresco in the summer time lends a party-like atmosphere to friendly gatherings. And the RSBG's "Evening in the Garden" is no exception. The party starts when you walk onto the Conservatory Terrace, surrounded by beautiful plantings, the air fragrant with flowers and the mouth-watering scents of the impending dinner.

Pac Island Grill will be preparing a delicious tropical dinner spread featuring Loli Loli chicken, slow smoked Kalua pork and pineapple fried rice. The famous dessert buffet will be going tropical as well.

Grab your glass of wine or bottle of beer and head out on a garden tour led by staff, offering new insights into the world of plants thriving in the Garden. Another highlight for many is the live auction for choice, rare plants. The "Live Auction

for Intern Funding" is a vital resource for the RSBG Summer Intern Program. Plan to bid often and bid well!

The Evening in the Garden is held annually to celebrate our wonderful members and volunteers, who are the very heart of our organization. It is a highlight of the year and we hope to see you here. Registration is required and is open only to members, volunteers and their guests.

Please register early for this popular event as space is limited and we often sell out. Deadline to register is July 29th. Phone reservation can be made Tuesday through Sunday at 253-838-4646 x. 140 (Visitor Center Shop). This event is not open to the general public, non-members must be guests of members, volunteers or staff.



EVENING IN THE GARDEN

SATURDAY, AUG. 6TH

REGISTRATION FORM

NOTE: Admission can NOT be sold at the door - *Reservations must be made!*

Reserve # _____ ticket(s) at \$35 each member Sub-Total \$ _____

Member's Names: _____

Reserve # _____ ticket(s) at \$40 each non-member guest Sub-Total \$ _____

Guest's Names: _____

Vegetarian meal(s)? _____ Grand Total: \$ _____

Method of Payment: _____ Cash _____ Check (US Funds) _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Account Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ V Number: _____ (3 digits over signature on back of card)

Signature: _____

Please return : Scan and email to: Info@RhodyGarden.org or Fax: 253-838-4686 or Mail to: PO Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98063

Contributions - Thank You! (2/1/16 to 5/31/16)

Brian Adams
AmazonSmile Foundation
Jeffery Bell
Debra Brammer
Walt Brooks
Joan Buhler
Karen Chraska
Anthony D. Clayton
Patrick & Jean Cummins
S.E. Davies
J.M. Davis
Yasuyuki Doi
Rodolfo Don
Richard A. Flavell
Barbara Gamrath
Adrian Gilmore
Harold Greer
Venessa J. Harold
IBM International Founda-
tion
Lynne Johnson
Janice Joseph
Will & Winona Knudsen
David Mandel
Juliana Medeiros
Carol Morrison
S. Nelson-Benway
Shuichi Niihara
Jack Olson
Rosemary J. Read
Yin Chun Shen

David Short
Bettie Snoey
Karen Swenson
The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Gerald J. Throop
Claudia Tidball
Shannon Toal
Pat Whittaker

Spring Garden Campaign

Allan Anderson
Paul Anderson
Robert A. Bartlett Jr.
Buchholz & Buchholz Nursery
Edward & Carolyn Cale
Richard Campbell
Richard Cavender
Susan Clark
Douglas Crane
Philippe de Spoelberch
Robert Franz
Herman Gehnrich
William & Lillian Greer
Kenneth W. Gross
Hans Hasche-Kluender
Anita Lockhart
Robert MacIntyre
David R. Morel
Garraatt R. Richardson

Ann D. Robbins
Charles Sale & Margaret
Charlton
Donald Selcer
Beverly Smith
Canfield Smith
David L. Smith
E. White Smith & Lucie
Sorensen-Smith
W.A. Stipe
Karen Swenson
Diane & Paul Thompson
Scott VanGerpen
Ian Walker
Carol Wall

Intern Program

ARS Juan De Fuca
ARS Olympic Peninsula
ARS Komo Kulshan Chapter
WSNLA

GiveBig

Sten Beckman
Earl Ecklund
Nancy Evans
Scott Finrock
Mollie Groendyke
Henry & Jacquelyn Helm
Ted Hewitt

Rick Hlavka
Avis Jobrack
Barry Kast
Maryfrances Lignana
Katherine & Roger Lintault
Ramona Machulak
Keith Maw
John & Renee Parker
James Pellicer
Steven Randolph
Michael Rusch
Mildred Russell
Stephanie Shadbolt
Jeanine Smith
Margaret Soderstrom
Ramona Soule
Fred & Ann Whitney
John A. Wott

In Memory of Joyce Anderson

ARS Olympic Peninsula
Chapter

Legacy Circle Members

Anne Guelker
Deena Henkins
Donald King
Peter Norris
Ian Walker
Keith White

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The RSBG Newsletter is published in spring, summer and fall by the Rhododendron Species Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Submissions are due by the first of the month, 8 weeks before publication.

Email submissions to
newsletter editor
katie@rhodygarden.org.

RhodyGarden.org

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Executive Committee

President: Michael Stewart
1st Vice President: Sean Rafferty
2nd Vice President: Joshua
Green, III
Treasurer: Bob Gust
Secretary: Deena Henkins
Members at Large:
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Joseph Ronsley
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Immediate Past President:
Charles Muller

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Hartwig Schepker
Elaine Sedlack
Don Smart
Diane Thompson
Paul Thompson
Ian Walker
Tim Walsh
Garth Wedemire
Keith White
Fred Whitney
Martin Wilke

Board of Directors (Honorary)

George Weyerhaeuser
Peter Cox
Robert Franz
Honore Hacanson
Patricia McDowell
June Sinclair
Herbert Spady

Welcome New Members (2/1/16 to 5/31/16)

John Albers	Betty Goetz	Lurene Muckley
Tiffany Allesina	Kristin Gomez	Marne Nelson
Adam & Shannon Andrews	Meredith Griffith	Bill Norman
Charlotte Archer	Pegi Groundwater	James Olson
Michelle Armenta	Linda Gruen	Sheila Otto
Jamie Ashton	Cindy & Dave Hackett	Chris Pallis
Mary Austin-Keller	Karin Harder	Nancy Paris
Pat Bergford	Bill Harvey	Robert Pearce
Rita & John Birlson	Marlyn Heintzelman	Bev Perry
Mary Blockberger	Jane Herrera	Jill Petersen
Melissa & John Borbridge	Xuilan Hu	Marcus Phelps-Munson
Denise Borte	Sara Imbruglio	Lydia Pozzato
Lauryn Boston	Michael Jao	Sara Rabin
Harold Boyd	Brett & Shona Jarboe	Analee Reutlinger
Ann Brock	Avis Jobrack	Alice Richter
Allison Brown	Ann Johnson	Kyla Robbins
Tracy J. Brown	Deborah Johnson	Mark Romelli
Brent Burkett	Jenny Johnson	Tammy Romero
Marcia Caretti	Stephen & Lori Jordan	Rebecca Ross
Susan Carpenter	Steven Kaczmarck	Ann Rushing
Bill Carrick	Elizabeth Kari	Lisa Mane Salva
Martin Carson	Amy Katsouris	Sok Seah
Angela Caster	Carole Kellerman	Sinh Simmons
Jane Chaney	Young-Mi Kim	Tyler Slaeker
Robyn Cloughley	Caroline & Don Kinghorn	Larry Smallwood
Maryann Cole-Abernathy	Karin Kravitz	Shelley Smithwick
David & Kathleen & Thomas Collier	Paul Kronst	Kristina Sontag
Linda Corolline	Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation	Diane Sorenson
Chi Craig	Brett & Carol Larson	Cathy Spiker
Michael & Kathy Crowley	Jasmine Layman	Sue Ellen Staggs
Mark & Maggie Dahl	Nicole Ledford	Deana Stedman
Paul Davis	Alice Lee	Edy Strand
Brent & Kelly DeMoss	Frederick & Belinda Leggitt	Jennifer Strand
Chris Diggs	Michael Maki	Ben & Andrea Streissguth
Tanya & Al Dodson	Wallis Maret	Lani Su
Carol & Frank Duke	Fernando & Maggie Martos	Tina Thomas
Irene Bergman Dye	Susan McClure	Karin Tigges
John Eastlake	Caroline McKallor	Tom Torp
Jane Ely	Robert F. & Katherine McLean	Charlie Torres
Janet Englund	Michael & Tanya McLeod	Meagan Turner
Max Feingold	Juliana Medeiros	Ronald Ungewitter
Martin Felix	Justin & Sarah Meier	Todd Waetzig
Maureen Fitzgerald	Dan & Sheri Merkle	Judy Wagner
Debbie & Jim Fuchs	Anna Miller	Joy Wannamaker
Henri Galibert	Kevin Miller	Judith Warren
Barbara Gamrath	Stewart Milne	Nancy Webber
Suzanne Gaudreault	Theresa intzer	Susan Weber
Gale Gauf	Connie Mitzelfelt	Chris Wetmore
Karen Geiger	Pierre & Jonikka Mollinets	Karen Wheeler
Judith Gervais	Laura Morrison	Kim Wilkerson
Judy Gilbert	Jan & Randy Mote	Giai Yen
David Ginsberg	Nixon & Cordula Mote	Ed Ziolkowski

Permanent IRA Charitable Contribution Act of 2015

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to make permanent the exclusion from gross income of distributions from individual retirement accounts made for charitable purposes.

An IRA owner, age 70½ or over, can directly transfer, tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charity. To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity. Distributed amounts may be excluded from the IRA owner's income – resulting in lower taxable income for the IRA owner. However, if the IRA owner excludes the distribution from income, no deduction, such as a charitable contribution deduction on Schedule A, may be taken for the distributed amount.

Amounts transferred to a charity from an IRA are counted in determining whether the owner has met the IRA's required minimum distribution. For more information: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/tax-free-transfers-to-charity-renewed-for-ira-owners-70-and-one-half-or-older-rollovers-this-month-can-still-count-for-2014>

RHODODENDRON SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN

P.O. Box 3798
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Where the Wild Things Grow!

Photo: Pat Whempner



The “Gift Shop” has become the Visitor Center

Pat Whempner
Visitor Center Coordinator

Our new interpretive panels give a quick illustrated introduction to the mission of the Garden. They tell the exciting story of the purpose and adventure of the collecting trips, and illustrate the diversity of the Genus *Rhododendron*. They clearly illustrate that the Garden is “Where the Wild Things Grow!”

Drop in and have a look. This is just the beginning of future plans to help connect our visitors to the true meaning and depth of significance of our amazing Garden.

Stories abound! We look forward to more opportunities to tell them.

Two of the five new interpretive panels installed in the Visitor Center.

