

# Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

APRIL 2010



## Meeting Time/Place

No Regular meeting this month. The Show takes the place of our monthly meeting.

## April Program

# It's Show Time

## President's Message

*Liz Hultin*

I have great news. Deirdre Burnett (Collins), who joined the Rhododendron Society here in the 70's and became a life time member, read the news letter Ann sent to her and saw our need for a digital projector. She decided that a donation of \$600.00 to our projector fund would be a wonderful way to memorialize a colleague of hers, H. Loring Dixon, M. D., who was responsible for introducing her to rhododendrons and the Society. This very generous donation will allow us to pay for the projector in full, with money left over to buy an extra lamp. The people who have already made donations have been contacted and they are all willing to have their dona-

tions go towards the purchase of a lap top computer.

With both a digital projector and a lap top computer we can not only make equipment available to visiting speakers, but we can develop programs of our own to take to other groups. I gave a two hour presentation about rhododendrons a few weeks ago for the Master Gardeners at the Coos Bay Library. I had several of Bob's rhododendrons, some leaf samples from my rhododendrons, a few books and catalogs, and me. I feel it would have been much more effective if I had been able to project pictures of things I was discussing. We have a number of excellent photographers

among us and people with computer skills as well. These talents and skills could be put to good use bringing knowledge about rhododendrons to others in our area. I hope we can begin work on some programs this summer.

I hope to see all of you at Pony Village Mall on the 16th. Marjene has already sent out reminders. Pete has us better organized every year. Now if we just have some good weather and no snow!.

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### Inside this issue:

- President's Message* 1
- Ann's Corner* 2
- Future Events* 3

## March Recap

*Ann Drake*

Dr. Herb Spady was our guest speaker. He is active in promoting and helping at the Cecil Smith garden. The garden is sponsored by the Society and the Portland and Willamette Chapters provide the care and upkeep of the garden. The garden encompasses 4 acres out of the 7 acres owned by Cecil Smith. Cecil joined the society in 1946, the year after it was chartered. He planted a number of trees and secured rhododendron seed from expeditions to the far east. A cross of his:

King of Shrubs x Crest was registered by Dr. Petteplace and named Cecil Smith. There are plants propagated from plants in the garden for sale at the open garden days. The garden is open every Saturday and Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>-May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am till 4pm.

The garden's address is: 5065 Raybell Road, St. Paul, Oregon. More information on the website: Cecil and Molly Smith Garden.

## Ann's Corner

*Ann Drake*

A rhododendron that is presenting her pretty face in the garden right now is Lucy Lou. Bob MacIntyre has a nice specimen. She always covers herself with blooms. Lucy Lou is a hybrid (leucaspis x ciliatum x leucaspis) created by Hjalmar Larson of the Tacoma Chapter in Washington in 1956. Snow white flowers in clusters of 3 or 4 is surrounded by lovely velvet hairy foliage. A welcome sight in early spring.

Mr. Larson became interested in rhododendrons as early as 1920 encouraged by an uncle who immigrated from Sweden. He contacted people in the area and also from around the world in countries like Japan and Sikkim and became part of several in the Tacoma area that were experimenting with rhododendrons. He started hybridizing in the 1930's. His hybrids Double Winner, Orange Marmalade, Mrs. Lamont Copeland and Malahat have made their appearance in many of our shows. He was awarded the Gold Medal from the society in 1979 for making the rhododendron a favored plant in the gardening world.

Don't forget our show date April 17 & 18. We need all hands to produce a good display. If you have not signed for a stint please call Pete Baumer at 396-3528. Our available work crew is small and help is needed. We also have a group of 6 judges to welcome, too. If you live out of the area this is a good



Lucy Lou

Photo by Eleanor Philp

time to come and meet other rhododendron friends and buy a plant or two. Help is needed on Friday evening starting at 4:00 p.m.. The tables and racks need to be set up and the plants will be arriving from Thompson's nursery. The area for the show is the same as last year and has a back entrance also. Saturday morning April 17 we will be very busy from 7:00 to 9:00 getting blooms ready for judging and all the admirers and buyers of our plants.

## It's Show Time

***Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Show***  
***April 17-18, 2010***  
***Pony Village Mall, North Bend***

**Friday, April 16th 4:00 pm — All hands are needed for set up**

**Saturday, April 17th 7:00 am — blooms start arriving**

**9:00 am — no more entries accepted—Judging begins**

**11:30 am—4 pm — Open to the public**

**Sunday, April 18th Noon—4 pm — Open to the public**

**4 pm — Clean up begins**

**If you have any questions or need further information, call Pete Baumer at 396-3528, Ann Drake at 396-2718 or Bob MacIntyre at 347-7269**

## Future Events

April 17 & 18—Southwestern Oregon Flower Show, Pony Village Mall

April 24 & 25— Siuslaw Early Show, Florence Event Center, Florence, OR

May 14-17— ARS Annual Convention, Long Island, NY

May 21 & 22—Siuslaw Late Show, Florence Event Center, Florence, OR