



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

DECEMBER 2010

Meeting Time/Place

No regular meeting

The Annual December meeting/Potluck Dinner will be held at the home of Marjene & Bob MacIntyre. (map provided on our web page) Weather permitting a lighted wreath will mark the driveway

If you have not already signed up, please contact Marjene, marjene@hughes.net or 347-7269, for your contributions to the potluck.

When: Thursday, December 9

Time: 6:00 pm

President:

Ray Lee – 541-267-4176,
flyfishr@frontier.com

V-P:

Ann Drake – 541-396-2718
rhodyduck@yahoo.com

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Jack Hackett – 541-347-2635
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Newsletter:

Author – Ann Drake
Publisher/Distribution
Marjene MacIntyre

Ham will be provided by Marjene and Bob

Please bring:

- * a dish to share*
- * your own table service*
- * beverage of choice*
- * a garden related gift for the gift exchange.*

(Bob & Marjene MacIntyre—55926 Tom Smith Rd., Bandon)

Inside this issue:

<i>Annual Pot Luck</i>	1
<i>Ann's Corner</i>	2
<i>Future Events</i>	2
<i>Hinsdale Report</i>	3
<i>Photos from Hinsdale</i>	4

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

Bill and Judy Johnson from Siuslaw Chapter were our guests at the November meeting. Bill presented a wonderful photo slideshow on four gardens in the Florence area. This show was one of the programs at the convention in October. Two members gardens were featured: Paul and Freda Ziegelmaier's lovely garden complete with resident raccoon and Jim and Sylvia Smith's garden in Mapleton were visited. Jim and Sylvia had originally had a nursery but retired and Jim continues to create lovely new rhododendrons and win trophies at shows in the area. We also visited the Hinsdale garden near Reedsport and the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve at Yachats. Dr. Gerdemann and his wife Janet have left this spot for us and other rhody enthusiasts to enjoy. The garden also contains a variety of exotic plant and trees not usually seen. Bill is a marvelous photographer and the show accompanied by music was truly a delight.

The chapter has purchased copies of Greer's booklet "Rhododendron Basics Growing Healthy Plants". Copies will be given to new members and they may also be purchased for \$3.00. Just the right size to carry in the garden with you.

The board members of Southwestern Oregon Chapter are as follows:

Pres. Ray Lee	Liz Hultin
V. Pres. Ann Drake	Sven Blomquist
Secy. Pete Baumer	Bob MacIntyre
Treas. Jack Hackett	Dan Nickell

Because there is a Rock 18 rhododendron in the garden and Ray Lee asked what is a "Rock plant" a decision was made to do a little research in those old journals. In 1948 Joseph Rock, one of the few remaining plant explorers, had been given support by the ARS in his expedition to the Yunnan Tibet frontier. He had collected a large quantity of seed, first marking the plants in the spring and going back in the autumn to get the dried specimens. In 1949 the results of his harvest was sent to George Grace in Portland. Mr. Grace was traveling to a conference in Great Britain and he delivered the seed to the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. I am not quite sure how seed got to Southwestern Oregon Chapter. There is another article about the second year care of the Rock seedlings. Lee Weltzheimier was an early member and there was a connection with Dr. Phetteplace in Eugene. Our plant came from Lois Strong another early member. Rock 18 is listed as in the Sanguineum series. Rock 18 has never bloomed, but there are 2 cuttings doing well. Next month a little history of Dr. Joseph Rock an unusual man to say the least.

Future Events

2011

- April 9-10—Siuslaw Chapter Early Show
- April 23-24—Southwestern Oregon Chapter Show
- May 11-14—ARS Annual Convention, Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA
- May 21-22—Siuslaw Chapter Show

2012

- May 4-8—ARS Annual Convention, Asheville, NC

Hinsdale Garden Report

Gordon Wylie

Larry the Cable Guy's "Git 'er done!" perfectly describes the attitude of twenty enthusiastic District 4 ARS members recently gathering for a late fall planting of rhododendrons along the lower Umpqua River. The weather proved ideal, serving up a rain free and temperatures in the mid fifties day for 'just right' warmth from our labors. Plus a ready appetite for the goodies and visiting that followed.

This garden of about five acres, located on the south bank of the river opposite the popular Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, was built around the Hinsdale family home some sixty years ago. O. Howard Hinsdale went to extraordinary lengths in accumulating what is likely the first large private collection of rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest. A fine assortment of magnolias—many now large trees—and camellias complemented the rhododendrons, while a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees provided overhead protection. Beginning in 1955 the family offered open garden days, and by three years later the annual events were featured in a Roseburg newspaper as hundreds of visitors enjoyed the explosion of bloom.

By century's end the property had passed into the hands of the US Bureau of Land Management and, following an outside assessment incorrectly concluding the garden did not represent any particular style, little or no care found the garden invaded with undesirable growth and in decline. Nevertheless, a solid foundation of established trees and many mature rhododendrons persisted and, with input from ARS members over the past eight years, the BLM reversed its earlier position and is actively supporting refurbishment. An important part of the restoration is replacing rhododendrons lost from the original planting, and in 2008 our Society Board approved a grant of \$3000 from the ARS Endowment Fund to purchase replacement plants for those lost from the garden.

Members planted the first group of those replacements in the fall of 2009 and all appear to be doing well in their new environment. A year later it was time to tackle the second round of plants purchased with grant funds. So in mid November members arrived at the garden to apply shovels and their expertise in settling over thirty plants into the ground. They include ten different named cultivars of the *Loderi* grex, probably the largest such collection in a single North American garden, and are arranged as a mass planting to provide a stunning display of color and scent. Among the others are both lepidote and elepidote species, with a number of big leaf examples such as *falconeri*, *rex ssp fictolac-teum* and *sinogrande*.

Several staff members of the BLM Umpqua Field Office were on hand at the planting party, and in a later e-mail Assistant Manager Glenn Harkleroad summarized "...a good time for all involved. This partnership seems to be on really solid footing with interested and active membership involvement." We are delighted to have this recognition of the members' participation in the garden's restoration. Each of you is due a real 'pat on the back' for generous hours of work and expert advise which, coupled with the ARS endowment funds, has the project well on its way to success.

We're now in the final stages of acquiring evergreen and deciduous azalea replacements with remaining grant funds, and tentatively plan for planting them early next spring. Be on the look out for more information about planting and garden visits to be circulated among our chapters as next season approaches.

Coupled with major investments by the BLM, the latest being a great new access road over the slough to the main garden, real progress continues toward the goal of fully re-opening the historically important and fascinating Hinsdale Garden. Our membership has a continuing part to play in reclaiming this representative from the early years of the ARS showcasing how and why rhododendrons became important garden ornamentals in the Pacific Northwest.

Hinsdale Garden Work Day

(photos courtesy of Bill Johnson)

