



# Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2010

### Meeting Time/Place

January 21 — 7:00 pm  
N. Bend Housing Authority  
1700 Monroe Street  
North Bend

### Pre Meeting Dinner 5:00 pm

Tai Dynasty—5:00 pm  
1388 Virginia, North Bend

RSVP to Jan Lee—  
fogline1@verizon.net or call  
267-4176

### Refreshments

Refreshments will be provided by Joan and Bill Russell

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## January Program

# Rhody 202

Mike Bones, President of the Siuslaw Chapter, Florence, OR will present a talk on Rhody 202. This is an expansion and more in-depth seminar that follow Rhody 101. You can look forward to an evening of learning and having fun at the same time.

## President's Message

*Liz Hultin*

It was so good to see so many of you at Bob and Marjene's for the Christmas pot luck. Good company and good food. Their home was beautifully decorated and they were the perfect hosts as always. Thank you both very much.

It is now time to wish you all a Happy New Year. This time of year on the Southern Oregon Coast always seems to me to be the time to welcome the beginning of the plant year as well, even though winter has officially just begun. The blooming of Christmas Cheer, a harbinger in my yard, is a harbinger of things to come although this year with the warm fall, if we had not had that period of hard freeze, the rhododendrons that re-

bloom in the fall might have still been in bloom when Christmas Cheer began its show. I wander around the yard to see what is soon to be in bloom and what may not have made it through the freeze. It is interesting to note the microclimates. There are daffodils budded in one area, while the same variety is not far out of the ground in another. I keep reminding myself that more harsh weather may yet come.

This is also the time of year for the arrival of seed catalogs. Considerations of new varieties versus old standbys. Is that new squash variety really that much better than the variety I have been planting for the last 5 years, or is it just hyperbole? Have you ever wondered just who writes

the descriptions in plant catalogs? Who comes up with the names?

I received an invitation to pass on to all of you from the Eugene ARS Chapter. They are combining their January meeting with the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the University of Oregon Agate Hall. Admission is \$6.00. The Hardy Plant Groups guest speaker will be Steve Hootman, co-director and curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Gardens in Federal Way, WA. He will present "Plant Exploration in the Himalayas".

See you at our next meeting January 21.

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## November Recap

*Ann Drake*

Robert Vandervelden, owner of Robert Vandervelden Living Waters Aqua Scapes presented an interesting program on creating unusual water features. He uses upwelling bogs for biological filtration in water features. He illustrated the use of plants, the kind of pumps and construction materials used in creating beautiful landscape ponds with slides of completed projects. A lively question and answer period followed. One weekend in May a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity is held showing many of the water features created.

## Ann's Corner

*Ann Drake*

It is chilly today and I am reading garden books. Last week Coquille Library had their annual book sale. Lots of garden books!! Was surprised. I purchased "Miniatures and Bonsai", a Time Life book. The bonsai one is a gift for Pete Baumer who is enthusiastic about this subject and secured our program on bonsai. The other one is "The Complete Book of Terrarium Gardening" by Jack Kramer. I am again going to try a terrarium mostly because someone gave me a large wine jug several years ago and I couldn't bear to throw it out. My favorite gardening magazine came in the mail: "The Garden" the publication that accompanies a Royal Horti-

cultural Society membership. This month's issue has a photo of a new *R. edgeworthii* hybrid from the Logan Botanic Garden in Dumfries and Galloway. 'Logan Delight' has flowers with a bright red calyx and 'Logan Surprise' has white blooms. Plants are not yet available. Also a tulip called 'Ice Cream' that is raspberry red with a topping of white petals. We had a membership in 1981 because we were planning on a trip to England and wanted to go to the Chelsea Flower Show. We renewed it again and have enjoyed it ever since. In fact, every copy is saved to be reread every now and then. Once in a while I will give a few away. The photography is beautiful and there is usually some

information I can use. Sometimes I find articles that can be included in our newsletter. Last year the subscription was \$65 but that includes entrance to the flower shows and many gardens. We also receive The Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group published by the Society. It includes a seed list which was fun.

We have copies of Rhododendron Journals dating back to 1962 and sometimes I will grab 2 or 3 of them to read. They make good references. If I hunt hard enough I can usually find any information I want. Then come the seed catalogs. Fun to do on a dark day especially if you have poison oak as I do right now. It helps quell the itching.

This has been a hard winter on everything in the garden. Time will tell what the losses are. *R. protistum* is a casualty of split bark. It was hardy to 20 deg. It was special purchase by Tom that made me take a close look in the checkbook! *Forsterianum* has been struggling so there will be a spot for something else there. Then we have a glimpse of what is blooming: *viburnum Bodenense*. The foliage is

terrible but it has a lovely fragrance. The witch hazel is a vibrant yellow. The *daphne marginata* is getting ready to open. There are two azaleas with pink blooms and the rosemary grevillea is another pink bloom. There are two cuttings of this that are doing well so maybe they can be shared this year. The winter camellia blooms then freezes then blooms again. Hope springs eternal though!! I found some of Tom's seed in

the freezer when cleaning it. No date on the plastic baggy but it is Hinsdale decorum (with a question mark) x Amber Gem. It is from our first visit to the Hinsdale estate 1994 or before. Bob MacIntyre gave me some of his seed planting medium in a couple of plastic containers and guess what--- there are little seedlings coming up. Now if I can just keep them going. Things are looking up.

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## In Memoriam—Merle Sanders

*Ann Drake*

The rhododendron community lost a good friend and member in the death of Merle Sanders of Roseburg. Some of you will remember him with his tongue in cheek way of including a slide of the little worm with the lunch box in his programs. Some of us have some of his crosses in our gardens. His Belva's Joy was very nice. Royal Ruffles was a favorite of mine. Mrs. Murple's Purple really was a vibrant purple. Dreamy Creamy, Gentle Giant, and Raspberry & Custard were also hybridized by Merle.

When visiting our chapter he always stopped by the house and I cooked dinner for he and Tom. He preferred that to a restaurant. Pie was a favorite with Merle and he always had a second piece before driving home. He would never be persuaded to stay the night no matter how rainy. His comment was he had never spent a night away from Belva his wife. I always remembered this. He will be missed.

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## Across the Kitchen Table

*Bob MacIntyre*

**W**ell, it's a new year and let's hope we have a healthy, joyful and a happy new year in the garden. Our December started with very cold weather with prolonged freezing. Once again, like last year, look for drying, shriveling leaves which may indicate bark split with damage. By gently grasping on the affected stump or branch you may find an area where the bark has lifted on the Cambrian layer beneath. The damage has been done, but do not pull the plant out as some may produce new growth from the root ball beneath the soil level. Wait until July to pull the plant out if there are no signs of life.

Our program for this month will be Mike Bones, President of Siuslaw Chapter in Florence, OR. The program will be Rhody 202. This talk is a more in depth discussion of rhody culture including disease control, planting and plant diagnosis for diseases.

Remember February is the 1st time to fertilize the rhodys. President's day starts our 3 times per year application program. This year try to add a small amount of dolomite lime to your fertilizer.

If you have any questions, please bring them up at the meeting, especially with Mike Bone's talk.

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## What's Coming To The Plant Auction

*Ann Drake*

A new feature in the newsletter is What's Coming to the Plant Auction so members will know ahead of time what the selections will be.

1. R. Pandorri—a red that fades to orange with a dark blotch
2. Lofthouse Legacy—yellow & pink picotee with orange and red flare
3. Mango Tango—mango colored flower with large truss

4. Evelyn—a pink that is good for deep shaded location—A show winner for the Baumers.

This is a chance to add something special to your collection so come with some money in your pocket.

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## Future Events

February 18—regular meeting

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

Oct 8—10, 2010 Western Regional Conference, Florence, OR