



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



MARCH 2010

Meeting Time/Place

March 18 —7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner 5:30 pm

Tai Dynasty—5:30 pm
(Note time of 5:30 pm)
1388 Virginia, North Bend
RSVP to Wanda Hackett—
cranhill@verizon.net or call
541-347-2635

Refreshments

Refreshments will be provided by Alice Blomquist and Norah Roadman

President:

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ekhultin@verizon.net

V-P:

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March Program

Dr. Herb Spady

Dr. Herb Spady will be our March speaker. Dr. Spady is a very active member of the Willamette Chapter. He has held a number of offices in the ARS as well as having served as ARS President in the 1990's. The program will be an introduction to the Cecil & Molly Smith Garden, and include information about the involvement of the Willamette Chapter with the gardens.

President's Message

Liz Hultin

The best news, after a hospital stay, Bob is on the mend. I got a phone message from him on March 1st. He is still recovering, but is working to keep things on track with the Rhododendron Society. He has so many commitments to various groups other than our own, educating the general public about rhododendrons. We are exceedingly lucky to have him in our chapter.

The Executive Board met February 23. A nomination committee was formed consisting of Liz Hultin, Ann Drake, and Ray Lee. Jack Hackett is willing

to serve another term as treasurer if no other nominees come forth, but the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary still need people to offer to run for election. If you have an interest in serving in an office, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Liz Hultin, 541-347-3010, Ann Drake, 541-396-2718, or Ray Lee, 541-267-4176.

It was decided at the Board meeting that we would begin a fund to purchase a digital projector. The February meeting brought home to us the urgency of the need. It is estimated that the projector alone

would cost between \$500 and \$600. There is also the cost of replacement lamps which are very expensive. It was decided that two auction rhododendrons would be set aside at every meeting, the proceeds from their sale going to the projector fund. Donation would be gratefully accepted as well. Ray Lee and Jack Hackett began the fund with very generous donations.

I will try to bring some double primroses to the next meeting.

February Recap

Bob MacIntyre

Pat Osborn, of Thompson's Nursery, was our February speaker. He provided in depth information on how to improve our soil and growing conditions for Rhodys. The use of soil amendments and the use of fertilizers were well covered. He also provided us information on the use of different chemi-

cals in commercial fertilizers, as well as supplemental organic fertilizers. Pat did an excellent job of providing us with all this useful information in spite of the fact there was not a projector available. Thanks Pat for being so adaptable and educating us on the use of fertilizers and soil amendments.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

A small plant that is a frequent companion to rhododendrons is the primrose. One that is in many gardens is a small double flowered rose-violet one resembling a miniature rose. It is rather ignored but just sits there looking pretty waiting. It can appear in midwinter hiding its first blooms in foliage. Very hardy down to zone 5 the common name is Quaker Bonnet or Ladies Delight or Lilacina Plena. An heirloom plant, it dates at least to 1835 and probably originated earlier still in Ireland. These double primroses were popular in Tudor gardens. She can be grown in pots draping herself over the rim or in a rockery and will multiply in open ground giving of herself. She really welcomes spring. There will be a couple of little ones on the 'table to share' at the next meeting. Liz says she has a double yellow that spreads too.



Quaker's Bonnet Primrose

Tips From The Old Tool Shed:

If you put two cups of red cabbage in a blender and cover it with boiling distilled water and strain through a coffee filter after blending you will get a purple solution. Take a soil sample (dry) and put two tablespoons of it into 1/4 cup of the solution. If the solution remains purple, your soil is neutral. If it turns pinkish, it is acidic. If it turns blue, it is alkaline. (this tip borrowed with permission from the Eugene newsletter). OR you can purchase a pH tester from Coos Grange Supply for \$24.95.

Show Trophies

It isn't too early to be thinking about contributing a trophy or money to sponsor a trophy for our upcoming show on April 17 and 18. Ask Pete

Baumer, show chairman about this. There are 18 trophies awarded at the show as well as blue, red and white ribbons. We always have a nice selection of trophies. This encourages members from other chapters to submit entries. Florence people regularly go home with some of our trophies. Encourage your friends to bring a truss to the show. It is not necessary to know the name. In fact, this is a good way to learn the name of the flower you are growing. Rhody people are big on knowing the name and lineage of the plants they grow. It is form of genealogy really.



What's Coming To The Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

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. Chevalier Felix de Sauvage (caucasicum x hardy hybrid) 4' E - EM This hybrid will bloom early to a coral rose and each truss will be accentuated by a slash of rich dark coral in the center. This is the plant for those wanting early color and bloom that will the rain and cold. The plant at the auction is loaded with buds that are showing color.

2. Maverick (Hackmans Charmant x Recital) 3' -4' Mid The Trusses are tall and have star shaped florets with a orange blotch. This plant buds very young and buds heavy. Michelle Thompson only dislike about this plant is that it sets buds so early and so often it is hard to get cuttings. The plant for auction is small and is budded.

Plants to be auctioned for the projector fund:

1. Blunique (Blue Peter x Unique) 4' Light yellow cream flowers and have blue speckling that form a darker blotch. Buds early and often. this plant performs best in filter sun too dark shade. The shade helps it retain its color. The plant for auction is budded and has beautiful foliage, long dark leaves. This plant has the best of its parents, Uniques early color and Blue Peter's dark blotch.

2. Exbury Calstocker (Calophytum x Dr. Stocker) 6' This plant has a grand blossom, super foliage and great stature. It will be tall and will need room to grow. It has perfectly formed huge trusses that are creamy light pink with a rich red flare at each flowers center. It has large thick leaves that cloak this tree like rhododendron. It is not known to produce buds on young plants but the plant at the auction has a flower bud, very unusual for a young plant.

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