

Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2010



Meeting Time/Place

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

Pre Meeting Dinner 5:00 pm

Coach House
604 6th Ave, Coos Bay

RSVP to Jan Lee—
fogline1@frontier.com or call
541-267-4176

Meeting Refreshments:

Ann Drake and Marjene MacIntyre

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October Program

Seeking the endangered coastal Lily—plant hunting in our own back yard.

The speaker will be Madeleine Vander Heyden, USFS, Coastal Program Coordinator

President's Message

Ray Lee

Summer Picnic - Summer is such a fun part of the year even though not many Rhodies are in bloom. Thank you to Jack & Wanda for hosting the chapter's summer picnic. I especially liked the tree stumps carved into interesting figures & the owl house atop a 20' tall stump left while removing trees to allow more light to get in for the Rhodies to set buds.

Bloom Season - Jan & I have used the summer to continue our quest for Rhodies that bloom well before or after the traditional bloom season of April & May. Our Peter Faulk & Snow Lady both bloom in early March. We went to the ARS web site & printed out a list of all plants in their database that bloom very early (VE) & very late (VL). This gave us a starting point for our search. We got a list of plants available from Thompson's Nursery from Pete Baumer in preparation for our Chapter's April show & sale. We ordered a VL blooming Arthur Osborne,

Whitney's Late Orange & Good News. On the VE side we got a magnificum, Christmas Cheer & Cornubia. The Arthur Osborne & Whitney's Late Orange both bloomed nicely in mid June so we will continue looking for ones that bloom later.

Our trip to Port Townsend, WA for the Wooden Boat Show took us right through Brinnon, WA where Whitney Gardens is located. We went through their catalog in preparation for a stop on our way to the boat show in early September. We looked at a lot of plants & came back with a VL Blanc Mange & the VE Nobleanum Venustum, Bric-A-Brac & Choremia. These are currently all planted except the Blanc Mange which eventually will need so much room that I'm re-thinking its planting spot. **Cutting Party** - As always, the cutting party at Ann Drake's home was a big success even though it drizzled on us a bit. Many thanks are due to Ann for opening her beautiful home & gardens to us & generously sharing cut-

tings of her own plants, too. Using Ann's list & map of plants in her garden & finding several VE & VL matches from Greer's Guidebook I was able to take three VE cuttings each of Noyo Dream & VL Twilight Pink. Michael Drake told me the Twilight Pink is the latest one that blooms in Ann's garden. I also couldn't resist cuttings from Trude Webster & Grand Slam as they sound like outstanding plants from the description in Greer's Guidebook. Now I just need some plants to bloom in July, August, September, January & February. Do any of you have ideas for those months? We still have some room left.

Meetings - Please mark the third Thursday each month on your calendar & take the time to come to our meetings. Bob MacIntyre & Ann Drake have always found interesting programs to help us better understand & enjoy our gardens. This month the meeting is on the 21st. See you there, Ray.

Chapter Web Page

Ray Lee

Web site – Hey, out there! Does everyone know that we have a website for the Southwestern Oregon Chapter? Put together by Bill Russell with some help from Ray Lee, it is in its infancy & is a little sparse right now. There is information about our chapter and some photos. If any members would like to contribute ideas or would like to share photos to post to

the website, it would certainly be appreciated. What would you like to see incorporated to the website? Please visit at <http://www.sworegon-ars.org/> & email ideas to Bill Russell at billruss@mycomspan.com.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake



Our feature rhododendron this October is *r. auriculatum*. The selection was prompted by a question by Ray Lee, our new president. At the propagating party he mentioned that he was looking for late and early bloomers to provide more color in the year. *R. auriculatum* is quite late. The bloom is a beautiful funnel shaped white fragrant bloomer with a greenish blotch. The rather loose truss has 6 to 18 flowers. It is hardy and will soon become a tree.

There is a hybrid Royston's Reverie in this garden and it has just finished blooming. It is a cross between *r.*

auriculatum and *Fabia*, an unusual shade of yellow with red tinges on the edge of the bloom. A small plant was purchased in Canada at one of the conventions. The plant came from the Greig nursery in B.C. They also made another 2 or 3 crosses using this species. There is also a cross of *Leo X r. auriculatum* in the garden which has not begun blooming yet. Several members of the Siuslaw Chapter have a hybrid called Polar Bear. Both Rothchild, Crosfield, and Stevenson all from the United Kingdom used *r. auriculatum* in hybridizing.

One of the highlights of the picnic was the awarding of Bronze Medals to 3 of our members. Pete and Candy Baumer were both awarded medals for their continuous leadership in the flower show. It just gets better and better. The purchasing of the plants for the show and also those for the auctions held every meeting takes a lot of effort and travel in itself. Marjene MacIntyre was the recipient of the other medal. She quietly goes about creating the newsletter and other notices to members. She is also a warm hostess to several speakers and flower judges, opening she and Bob's home to all. It was nice to be able to honor these members in appreciation.

Ann's Corner (cont'd)

Ann Drake



Michael assisting Ray Lee take a cutting from Grand Slam

The rhododendron propagating session in September was attended by 22 people. This included 4 guests 2 of which have joined the chapter. We welcome Elmo and Nancy Santos as new members. Even a drizzle all day long did not stop members from wandering around the garden peering under plants for name tags. Thanks goes to Pete Baumer for providing the potting mix and Bob acting as instructor and also members who brought cuttings to share and potluck fare. Alice Blomquist won the door prize Silver Skies. Now we need to follow up and see how many new plants we created.

Hinsdale Update

Gordon Wylie

The most dramatic recent change first encountered at Hinsdale, particularly for those who have been there in the past, will be the entry road spanning the slough into the main garden. In the past this has been spoken of as the “new bridge”, though as constructed it is really much more than a bridge. Large culverts were placed to maintain the water flow, followed with a rock and gravel overlay, then final paving to the level of the highway and existing driveway leading into the garden and toward the house. The end results makes the property a much more obvious and visible destination point, and will at the same time greatly enhance access for personnel and equipment to aid continued work in the garden. Less visible is reme-

diation required by the new access carried out on the route of the slough around the east bank portion of the garden. Among other things, these substantial investments further affirm the Bureau of Land Management’s long-term commitment to reclaiming and maintaining a garden significant to the history of rhododendrons as garden ornamentals in Oregon.

A planting day for the species and azaleas before winter closes in, or maybe two days, will be announced later. Members will have another opportunity to add their special expertise to the garden’s restoration, to enjoy the garden, see progress first hand, and to share the special camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts.

What's Coming To The Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

This month's plant auction will be a surprise, so come to meeting and be surprised.

Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

Well, It's October and the best time to plant all those new plants still sitting in pots. Be sure to tease those circling roots out and open up the root ball. Add a very small amount of fertilizer to the hole before putting the plant in. Do not fertilize heavily or even normally at this time so as to prevent further soft wood growth that will be killed by early frosts. Remember to follow our planting guidelines and leave at least one inch or more of the original root ball above the soil line. The addition of a very small amount of magnesium will help with root growth.

A common concern this time of year are discolored leaves that drop from larger plants. Do not worry, these are older leaves that are being shed after this years growth has matured. If however, the plant seems to be distressed, take the leaves to a reputable nursery or to the rhody meetings. Maybe someone will have an answer.

Check your plants snail and/or slug damage and be sure to clean up under the plant to rid the area of hiding places. If we have a normal temperature fall and winter with few light frost, snail and slug eggs can over winter in the debris beneath the plant and easily hatch into many small problems in the spring.

This is the time of year to gather the seed pods and dry them out in an out of the way place. A warm wide shelf is ideal. When the seed pods dry, shake out and clear the seeds. Follow the procedures discussed at several chapter meetings on growing from seed. If in doubt, as those who have grown plants from seed for help.

Let's all hope for a good bud set and big healthy trusses next spring with no hail storms when plants are blooming.

Future Events

2010

November 18—regular meeting
December—Christmas pot luck and gift exchange

2011

May 11-14—ARS Annual Convention, Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA

2012

May 4-8—ARS Annual Convention, Asheville, NC
Sept. 21-23—Western Regional, Coast Bastion Inn, Nanaimo, BC