



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

It's Show Time!

APRIL 2011

Meeting Time/Place

No regular meeting this month.

Post Set Up Dinner

For those who are interested, after the show set up we thought we would gather for dinner at Tai's Dynasty.

April Board Meeting

April 13th, 9:00 am
Minute Café, Bandon

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President's Message

Ray Lee

The Master Gardener's Seminar at SWOCC was very well attended. Bob MacIntyre and I staffed our Chapter's information table and gave out many brochures and answered questions. The rhody seed pods and seeds that Bob brought sparked a lot of interest. We also signed up one new family member. Jim and Ellen Montalbano of Bandon purchased rhodies from one of our past shows and decided it's now time to become members and learn more about rhodies. Welcome, Jim and Ellen.

Of the classes I attended at the seminar the one on greenhouses was most informative. The recommendation for a concrete floor was stressed over and over. This makes it much easier to disinfect to stay free of bugs and disease. The importance of water and power was also high on the priority list. I know some of our members have greenhouses but probably most don't. This may be a good program for this fall when our meetings start up again.

Siuslaw Chapter – ARS is holding their early flower show and sale on April 9th and 10th at the Florence Events Center. This is a good opportunity to show some of your early flower trusses or just look for flowers you would like to have in your garden. They also have many rhodies for sale at good prices.

For our flower show and sale this year we have our own projector, screen and laptop computer to run a continuous slide show of rhododendron pictures. A generous donation from Deirdre Collins paid for the projector and screen. This helped encourage other local Chapter members to make donations that paid for our own Dell laptop. Many members have donated slides or photos of rhododendrons to use in the show. The 250 slides I have in PowerPoint will run for about an hour before they repeat. Thank you everyone who has helped make this possible. I will be watching to see how the slide show goes over with the people who come to our show and sale.

Our Chapter's rhododendron show and sale is on April 16th and 17th at Pony Village Mall. Plant delivery and setup is scheduled at 4:00 PM on April 15th. We need the help of all our members for the setup as well as the teardown on the 17th after the show closes at 4:00 PM. This is our main opportunity of the year to educate the public about our favorite flower, the rhododendron. We get together to have a fun time and the Chapter makes a few hundred dollars to help with our expenses. Your Chapter Officers and the Board appreciate all of your help in putting on this rhododendron show and sale. See you on April 15th at 4:00 PM.

March Recap

Ann Drake

Our March speaker, Steve Langenstein, wildlife biologist for BLM gave us an interesting insight on 'Bats Around Us'. We learned that there are 5 or 6 species of bats residing in the old Hinsdale house near the elk refuge on highway 138 near Reedsport. Because bats are threatened or an endangered species, the old house might be left intact on the island. In Oregon there are only insectivorous bats. They are mammals, bearing only one youngster called a 'pup. At birth the pup's birth weight is 40% of their mother's weight and they fly 9 to 21 days after birth. They can fly 20 miles a night and consume an enormous amount of insects in an evening. They rely on echolocation, sonar, and sound waves. Echolocation is used for foraging, navigation and communication. Eating insects results in guano fertilizer, which interestingly enough is the sole source for saltpeter. Because bats are on the decline their habitat must be saved. Eighty percent of the bats residing in the Hinsdale house would be lost if it is removed. Steve left us with this thought: when a bat enters your home, turn out the lights, open a window and they will leave. There is a website : batcon.org for more information.

Preparing Trusses

Ann Drake

April 16 and 17 are the dates for SWO Chapter's flower show.

Here are a few tips on submitting a winning entry.

- ✿ Pick your blooms early Saturday morning or late Friday evening.
- ✿ Put the bloom with a good stem immediately in a pop can half-filled with water.
- ✿ Flowers in the truss should be open without blemishes or missing flowers. A single row of leaves should surround the bloom without spots or notches from bugs. Cutting the leaves is not allowed.
- ✿ Wiping the foliage with water is allowed but no polishing with wax or oil.
- ✿ You must have had the plant in your garden for 6 months prior to the show.
- ✿ Only one spray of a variety is allowed.

Entry tags will be available and someone will help if needed you get your bloom into the right class. **It is important to groom your entries before you come to the show.** 7 to 9 a.m. It is a busy time. The judges will be ready at 9:00. We always have a good time and this is an opportunity to see and learn about other members plants.

SW Oregon Rhododendron Show

April 16 & 17, 2011

The rhododendrons will be blooming and it is once again time for our annual rhododendron show. We will once again be hosting a judged show.

Important Message #1

We will need everyone's help on Friday, April 15th, setting up for the show. **Set up will begin at 4:00 pm.** We will be setting up in the same area as last year. We will need help setting up tables, display racks and transporting plants from the parking lot.

Important Message #2

Saturday morning, April 16, is a very important day. Blooms start arriving at 7:00 am and will be received until 9:00 am. We will need help with classifying, placing blooms in the racks, hospitality, plant sales, clerking, ribbons, and taking care of the main table. Once judging starts we will need a group of members to provide security so people do not get in the way of the judging. We will be selling plants during the judging. As you can tell there is a job for everyone.

Important Message #3

As usual we need people during the day to man the front table, handing out brochures, signing up new members, selling raffle tickets for the door prize, and checking tubes for water. We hope to be open to the public from 11:30 am to 4:00 or 5:00 pm on Saturday. On Sunday we will open the doors at 12:00 and close at 4:00 pm. Our final task is the clean up, we need to take down the racks, clean the floors, with lots of help we will be done quickly.

Important Message #4

We need everyone to enter trusses and or trusses from your friends and neighbors.

Remember to groom trusses in advance, fill out your plant tags before you arrive and to make this task even easier use your pre-made address labels.

Remember to encourage your friends and neighbors that everyone can enter blooms, the more blooms the better the show. If you have any questions call Pete Baumer at 396-3528, Ann Drake at 396-2718 or Ray Lee at 267-4176.

Trophies

It isn't too early to be thinking about contributing a trophy or money to sponsor a trophy for our upcoming show. 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. Please contact Pete Baumer if you can help with a trophy.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

What a cold spring! There is definitely a lack of blooming flowers in the garden. One hardy one hanging in there through snow and rain is Noyo Dream. Blooms keep coming. It is such a bright color shining through the gloom. The cross is yakushmanum x arboreum. The flower is rosy red and gradually becomes a soft but still bright pink. The foliage shows the yak indumentum and the plant is a nice shape keeping itself together where you planted it. The hybridizer is Bill Moyles of Oakland, CA. It was grown and named in Fort Bragg, the home of many of my favorite plants.

Mr. Moyles also created Noyo Snow which is a light pink turning white. The foliage lacks the indumentum of Noyo Dream but is every bit as lovely. She blooms later in the spring. A nice addition to the garden.



Noyo Dream

Photo by Don Wallace

Singing Tree Gardens, McKinleyville, CA

Ray, our president, has had his eye out for “notable plants” blooming in the area. Red seems to be the predominate color right now. My daughter said I should take a look at a red one near the Red Lion. I have noticed it for a good many years but never thought to identify it. While looking through Greer’s guidebook I jotted down the names of vigorous early blooming reds and came up with this list. Because it is so early and a hybrid it must have r. arboreum as one of the parents. Because it is so large and the Red Lion has been a fixture for a long time, it isn’t a recent hybrid. The rhododendron handbook lists Cornubia as blooming in late winter! Sounds about right without seeing the foliage. It was registered as a hybrid around 1912. There are more early reds. David, Earl of Athone, Bibiani, and Gill’s Crimson. Gill’s Crimson is in this garden and is about 25ft. tall and just about ready to open.

Welcome New Members

Welcome new members Jim & Ellen Montalbano. Please add their information to your membership list.

Jim & Ellen Montalbano
 P.O. Box 1862
 Bandon, OR 97411
 541-347-1368
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Jim and Ellen signed up as new members at the Master Gardeners Seminar.

Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

As I write this the sun is out with a light to medium north wind. It should be warm, it's early spring, but it's sure cold out in that wind. No self-respecting vegetable seed or plant is going to want to do anything outside now.

Rhodies that should be flowering are still in tight bud stage. Eve. R. Taurus hasn't started to show color. The only thing I have in bloom are the small lepidote hybrids and species. My R. Lutescens both had nice lowering but with our winds and the large amount of hail, almost all of the flowers have been knocked off.

Many plants re going to be very late this year, at least in my yard. I hope many of yours have a more normal year. Other wise our early shows could be a little on the skimpy side.

I have noticed a lot of snail and slug damage already, so keep baiting for these problem pests. There are many bits on the market so get some advice from your local nursery or Coos Grange.

I have noticed signs of deer in the yard and chased a couple of yearling out last night. The maples are leafing out and small plants are pushing new growth—great deer food. It is time to start using deer repellent.

Hey folks—It's Show Time. The Siuslaw Chapter's show is April 9th & 10th and ours is the following weekend—16th and 17th.

Those who attended our last meeting enjoyed a very interesting and educational program. Those who were unable to come missed a good program. No formal meeting in April since our show setup is the next night.

For those who missed the February fertilizing date, start again in mid-May as our next date will be Memorial Day. Remember to put your fertilizer at the drip line. Just what/where the drip line is was a common question at the Rhody Culture talk at Hen-nick's and at the Master Gardener seminar. The drip line is the area directly located under the outer circumference of the plant's branches. This is where the tiny rootlets are located that take up water for the plant. Plants should be watered here, not by the base of the trunk, or they may develop root rot.



Monstroseanum

Photo by Ray Lee

From the garden of Bob MacIntyre

From the garden of Bob MacIntyre. This was planted in 2004 & this is the first time it has bloomed. There is only this one bud on the whole 6' + plant. Large leaf plants sometimes take many years to bloom.

Garden Tour

A tour of the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve, Yachats, OR is planned for

Tuesday, April 19

We will meet in the Coos Bay Safeway parking lot at 9:00 am and carpool from there. For those planning on joining us from Florence, we will meet you at the True Value parking lot along 126 in front of Subway

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marjene MacIntyre (Marjene@hughes.net or 541-347-7269). It is important to know who is attending so no one gets left behind.



Snow Lady

Photo by Ray Lee

From the garden of Jan & Ray Lee

Future Events

2011

April 9-10—Siuslaw Chapter Early Show

April 16—Eugene Show, Mookies NW Grill, Springfield www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

April 16-17—Southwestern Oregon Chapter Show

April 19—Garden tour to Gerdemann Botanic Preserve

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

<http://www.ars2011convention.com/>

May 21-22—Siuslaw Chapter Show

2012

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

Sept. 21-23—Western Regional, Coast Bastion Inn, Nanaimo, BC