

Southwestern Oregon Chapter



AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Happy New Year

JANUARY 2011

Meeting Time/Place

January 20 — 7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Tai's Dynasty
1388 Virginia, North Bend

RSVP to Jan Lee—

fogline1@frontier.com or call
541-267-4176

Meeting Refreshments:

Liz Hultin and Ann Toth

January Board Meeting

January 12th, 9:00 am
Minute Café, Bandon

President:

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flyfishr@frontier.com

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WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

January Program

Pat Osborne of Thompson's Nursery. What is the leaf telling us? How to identify problems by looking at the rhododendron leaf.

President's Message

Ray Lee

BOD Meeting

— The BOD discussed putting together a slide show of Rhododendron pictures to run continuously at the April flower show. This means we need members to donate nice quality flower pictures so I can create the slide show. Lee Vincent, Dan Nickell & Wanda Hackett have volunteered some of their flower pictures. It's important to know the name of the plant the flower came from so it can be identified in the caption on the screen. I've looked through our pictures & have selected 50 that will work but we need hundreds to entertain our visitors at the show. Pictures downloaded from the Internet do not have sufficient

quality for our purpose. Please look through your pictures to see if you have some we can use. This also means we need a slide projection screen to show the pictures during the show. Your BOD has agreed to spend the \$85 for the screen. It will also be used at our regular Chapter meetings. You'll see it at our January meeting as I've already received it from Amazon.

Flower show advertising - Please save some of your wine bottles to use as advertising items for the flower show. Pete wants to get labels with our show information on them to be pasted to the bottles & distributed around the area the week before the show. We also would like to talk to Pepsi about hav-

ing them make a few banners with our show details to hang around town. Does anyone have other ideas to help advertise our show?

Grow from seeds —

The Rhody seedlings we started at the Siuslaw Western Regional Conference are still alive & doing well. Several are at least 1" tall, have a set of true leaves & will have to be replanted to small pots soon. I have been misting the plants with a very weak solution of Miracid & water but the peat moss gets dried out so I have been using a turkey baster to keep the roots wet as well. This project certainly is more successful than my cuttings as they all died.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake



Rock, Joseph Francis Charles

Date: 1926 (at age 42)

Source: Copied from original photo in Harshberger Collection, University of Pennsylvania.

HI Archives portrait no. 1

Here is some more interesting information about Dr. Joseph Rock. He moved from Vienna, Austria, escaping the priesthood requested by his parents, to the U.S. and then to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1907 because he had been diagnosed with tuberculosis. He became noted as an authority on the flora there learning to be a plant explorer while employed by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture hunting for chaulmoogra seeds the first usable cure for leprosy in Indochina, Siam and Burma. He wrote articles for the National Geographic and was an accomplished photographer. He was somewhat of an eccentric and while traveling in the jungles of China was accompanied by a cook and an assistant cook and a butler. They would go ahead and find a sheltered spot with a view, set up table and chairs on a leopard skin rug. The table would have table linens, silver and napkins. When Rock and his companions arrived the meal would be ready and served with tea and liqueurs. He also purchased a folding bathtub from Abercrombie & Fitch. While he did not collect many new species of rhodies because he was one of the last plant hunters of that era he was meticulous in what he collected. His last expedition was for the new Rhododendron Society based in Oregon. He spent 2 months in China during the time when the communists and nationalists were competing for power. He sent seeds of 163 varieties of rhododendrons to the ARS. He was in China during the Japanese bombing in 1941 and a great portion of his work was lost. He was evacuated to the U.S. in 1944 but returned

to China in 1946 and again had to flee again in 1949. He died in Hawaii in 1962.

Think I will go out in the garden and check on my lone Rock plant # 18 r. sanguineum. Maybe I will get a flower this year.

Just in case you haven't been introduced to Northwest Garden Nursery in Eugene there is a very nice website with views of a remarkable garden. A visit was made several years ago while attending a Rock Garden Society meeting. The main focus of the nursery is hellebores a very nice companion plant for a rhododendron garden. They are hardy but resent being moved or divided. The common one found is the Christmas Rose or Lenten Rose. There are many hybrids now in maroon, yellow and variegated colors. Marietta O'Byrne is a world-renowned hellebore hybridizer. Peppermint Ice is one of her creations. I received a plant of Peppermint Ice and White Spotted Lady as a birthday gift.

The open days in 2011 are:

Fri. & Sat. Feb. 19 & 20 10am to 5pm.

Fri. & Sat. Feb. 26 & 27 10am to 5pm.

The address is: Northwest Garden Nursery

86813 Central Road, Eugene, OR 97402

(541) 935-3915

I received a book for a gift this morning. A friend found a copy of the of The Rhododendron Yearbook for 1945 in an antique store right here in little old Coquille. She paid \$1.00 for it. What a find!

The Rhododendron Society had its start in Portland 66 years ago. In the list of hybrids was Ray Lee's acquisition Celeste, a rhododendron I had never heard of. Celeste is a cross of Alice X fortunei ssp. discolor. It is an old English hybrid by Waterer & Crisp in 1939 and received an A.M. award in 1944.. Ray was looking for a late blooming hybrid which it would be because discolor is blooms late.

I am having fun reading it.

Pictures shared by Ray



Celeste 100710 on new projection screen. JPG showing off the new Chapter projection screen with a picture of Celeste blooming on July 10th. This is our latest blooming rhody

Rhody seedlings 101228 1 inch tall.jpg is a pix of our best pot of seedlings grown from seeds we started at the WR Conference.



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

Our speaker for January will be Pat Osborn from Thompson's Nursery. Pat has spoken several times and has always presented great programs. His program of hands on grafting was very well received to the point we had him back 2 years later by very popular demand.

This will be a new topic for Pat. I've asked him to do a program on rhododendron leaves and to discuss what insect damage or disease a plant may have by checking the leaves. It should be very interesting.

Not much happening in the garden, but I've had a few requests by non-members about when and how to prune their overgrown plants.

With our cold weather don't be surprised if you lose buds to freeze damage, especially on the more tender plants. If you do get some freeze damage just leave everything alone until next summer, then you can prune or remove any dead branches or flower buds.

I have a least 7 plants in bloom due to alternating warm and cold weather. R. Bernice will probably be bloomed with no flowers for next spring.

Stay dry, keep warm and may we all have the best New Year ever for our gardens.

What's Coming To The Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

1. Ibex - an oldie but goody - first crossed in the 1940's by Rothschild. It will be a 5' plant and hardy to 5 degrees. It is Bright fiery red with frosted foliage on the under side. The underside is described as having cinnamon indumentums. I saw this planted in my neighbors yard. It did not get cared for and was very healthy.
2. Brigadoon x Orange Marmalade - both parents are yak crosses, and are listed to be 3' tall good to 5 degrees. Clear salmon - orange flowers. My assumption is that this is a new cross????? But then again you know what they say about assumptions!
3. Peach Charm - I received a lot of encouragement to bring this plant to auction. It has a big following of people who like it. It is a peachy - pink flower with a yellow throat and some red thrown in just to make it flashy. Sounds like a must have for any yard.



Peach Charm

Photo by Loyd Newcomb

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

Watch your journals and our chapter website for information on the conference

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