

Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/



MARCH 2011



Meeting Time/Place

March 17 —7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Benetti's
260 S. Broadway
Coos Bay

RSVP to Jan Lee—

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

Meeting Refreshments:

Robin Hansen
Lee Vincent

March Board Meeting

March 9th, 9:00 am
Minute Café, Bandon

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March Program

Our speaker will be Steve Langenstein from the BLM. Steve is known within the BLM as “the bat-man”. He closely followed the bat population at Hinsdale House which houses 7 of the 10 species of bats found in Oregon. Several of the species are found on the endangered list.

President's Message

Ray Lee

Thank you, Dave Eckerdt for your fine slide show on New Zealand gardens at our February meeting. It reminded me that Jan & I have talked about visiting other gardens along the Oregon coast but have only gone to a few. We're always driving up or down the coast or I-5 on our way to somewhere else. Sure, we've gone to Azalea Park in Brookings for the Azalea Festival & Shore Acres here in Coos Bay. We even stopped at Hendricks Park in Eugene one day after a doctor's appointment. No flowers were blooming & we haven't been back. The showy months for rhododendron lovers are April & May so it's about time to plan this year's adventures. All we have to do is pack the trailer & set aside a couple of days around each location to see the rhododendrons & take some pictures. These gardens & more are also on our website <http://www.sworegon-ars.org/gardens.html> Here are some of the gardens on our list to visit:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden – Portland - http://www.rhodies.org/xtal/csg_index.htm

Crystal Springs has thousands of species & hybrid rhododendrons & azaleas. The garden was established in 1950 & is about five acres mostly surrounded by water. The Portland Chapter ARS holds a two day flower show at the garden on Mother's Day weekend. The peak bloom time of flowers in the garden is during the weekend of the show.

Cecil & Mollie Smith Garden – St. Paul - <http://www.smithgarden.org/smithgarden.org/Welcome.html>

The woodland garden is about three acres and is open on Saturdays & Sundays in April & May. There are over 500 rhododendrons all tagged for easy identification.

The Oregon Garden – Silverton - <http://www.oregongarden.org/>

It's difficult to tell from the website how many rhododendrons are located in this garden. The bloom time chart shows rhodies blooming in April which is probably safe anywhere along the Oregon coast. The rest of the site shows a huge variety of plants & flowers so this should be a must visit in April.

Hendricks Park – Eugene - <http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=677&PageID=1569>

President's Message (cont'd)

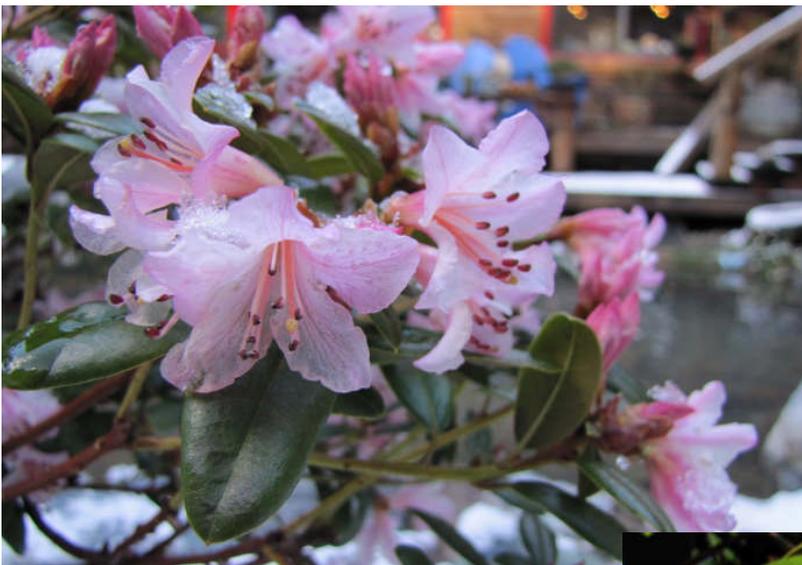
Ray Lee

The park was founded in 1951 through the joint efforts of the American Rhododendron Society and the Eugene Parks Department & is Eugene's oldest city park. There are over six thousand varieties of rhododendrons and other ornamental plants in a 12 acre garden display.

Gerdemann Garden – Yachats - <http://gerdemanngarden.org/>

The garden was started in 1981 when the Gerdemanns moved to Yachats where they purchased an acre and began developing a botanical garden. Today their project is a 3.5 acre botanical garden that is protected by a permanent easement. Tours of this outstanding rhododendron garden are available by appointment only.

Our Chapter's rhododendron show & sale has been moved to April 16th & 17th as Pony Village Mall is closed on Easter so this is the last meeting before our show. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, Ray.



Pink Showflake

Photo by Ray Lee taken in Baumer garden



Christmas Cheer

Photo by Ray Lee taken in Baumer garden

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

February Recap

Dave Eckerdt gave us a wonderful tour of the gardens of New Zealand at our last meeting. We traveled the entire coastline of both the North and South islands of this beautiful country. Along with rhododendrons there are a variety of exotic plants that are native only to that part of the world. Dave is a member of the Willamette Chapter as well as the president of the Hardy Plant Society. Some of the rhododendrons featured on slides were Floral Dance, Lemon Lodge, Ivan D. Wood, and a number of vireyas. Kiwi Magic and Rubicon are rhododendrons from New Zealand that are favorites in our own gardens. He also went home with Vixen, a Thompson cross I believe, one of our auction plants. Thanks Dave.

A copy of our 2011 membership list was included in the newsletter mailing last month. Now we are putting together a packet for new members joining our group. Information about activities of the chapter along with a copy of the last newsletter and other items will be included.



Photo by Garth Wedemire

Rhododendron Rubicon

Our featured rhododendron Rubicon is a hybrid from New Zealand. It is a gorgeous red and has been blooming for a couple of weeks. It has a long bloom period. The cross is Noyo Chief x Kilimanjaro, a dense truss of 17 or 18 bell shaped flowers. It has a compact habit and is probably the best red to date. There will be trusses of Rubicon in our show as well as other shows in the district. Judges like Rubicon. Thank you New Zealand.

I am standing out in the snow and ice mourning the blooms on a plant that was blooming for the first time, I think. Purchased at the last conference in Newport-it is R.W. Rye, a cross of r. chrysodoron x johnstone-anum. I think it's named for the gardener. It is a nice compact well behaved plant, primrose yellow in pendulous trusses of 4 flowers. It is supposed to be hardy to 10 degrees and blooms in March but blooms a little earlier than that here. Was so surprised to see it at the conference. We had lost a plant some years ago. On one of our visits to Scotland in the late '90's we visited Castle Kennedy where there was a greenhouse with a number of tender maddenii's.

Lord Stair is listed as the hybridizer. I don't know which one. There were several. The species chrysodoron itself came from Lord Stair's garden and he gave it to the Royal Botanic Garden. The cross R.W. Rye was made in 1938 and registered in 1951. Unfortunately we lost all the slides of this visit with a camera that malfunctioned. Especially wanted these slides because a Florence chapter member, Henry McKenney, was related to a Lord Stair and we were going to surprise him. I do actually have 2 cuttings that are doing well. Harold Greer says it propagates quite well. Chrysomanicum is another chrysodoron cross. I think you can figure out what the other plant is.

MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL SEMINAR

Fertilize your Mind garden seminar hosted by the Coos County Master Gardener Association will be held on March 26 at the SWOCC Campus in Coos Bay. The events will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a presentation "From Garden to Kitchen" by Vern Nelson. After a break the classes will resume and end at 4:00 p.m. There will be three different sessions of classes during the day covering a variety of subjects such as greenhouses, fruit trees, floral arranging, herbs, etc. Mr. Nelson will speak on "Espaliers, Fruiting Walls and Belgian Fences" at one of the sessions. The cost for the all day event is \$25.00. Some of our own members will be in attendance at the rhododendron information table. A rhododendron will be donated for the auction held during a break at about 2:00 p.m. Registration received by March 21st will be confirmed by returned mail. This is a worthwhile event and gets better every year. For more information please call (541) 572-5263

Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

How about the weather this February/March? Our children and 3 grandchildren were here and we had 2-3 inches of snow. A real snowman with a carrot nose, charcoal eyes, twig arms and First Officer's flight cap took shape in our backyard followed by an old fashioned snow ball fight. All the while R. Bernice (still blooming), Bodega Chrystal pink and Pink Snow Flakes (real name) were blooming. Most blooms were frozen out or badly damaged. Oh well, that's rhody culture with early bloomers on the Oregon coast. It is nice to see color return to the yard again.

Remember, end of February and it's time to start fertilizing. This is a great time with rains for about another 4-6 weeks possibly to feed the plants roots systems. Check carefully for slugs and snails as they are active and seem very hungry. Follow your regular abatement program to decrease the damage, especially if you grow companion plants like hosta.

If you haven't started spring garden clean-up, do it now to get the accumulated debris from under rhodys to de-

crease potential hiding places for weevils, slugs and snails or for weeds to germinate.

For those of you with blooming plants, tell us what you have in your yard that is putting on its spring show. Does anyone have a rhody blooming early, ie not its normal time slot? If so, tell us what you have.

Have you lost a "must have" rhody due to early frost? If so, don't pull the plant out yet. I have a small plant of Gorii That was killed by the frost in late Nov. 2009. I never removed the plant last year and forgot about it. This year it is showing new growth from the base after 18-20 months as a dead stick. You never know what surprises Mother Nature has in store.

Those of you who enjoy reading about favorite plants should consider joining the RHS (Royal Horticulture Society). They publish a quarterly newsletter that is quite informative along with a seed list. If you are interested, ask Ann Drake or myself for more information.

See you Thursday when we learn about our local bats.

Siuslaw Chapter Early Show

Early Flower Show and Plant Sale and Bonsai Show.

at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. Florence. 541-997-1994.

Saturday April 9 from 1 to 5 pm

Sunday April 10 from 10 to 5 pm

Flower and Bonsai shows are open to the public. There is No Charge.

Plant Sales open to the public will be held on the south side the Events Center on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.

The public can bring azalea and rhododendron flower trusses to the Events Center on Saturday April 9 from 7 to 9 am to be judged for ribbons and trophies.

The flower truss must come from a plant that the owner has grown for at least six months.

The Siuslaw Chapter meets every third Tuesday at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996, N Highway 101, Florence at 6.30 pm and program at 7 pm.

Visit www.siuslawars.org for more information.

What's Coming To The Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

1. **Papaya Punch** - Hotei x Brandt's Tropicana 4' EM The buds on this plant are a mixture of yellow and pink with the flowers being a yellow with a pale orange-yellow edging. Red spotting in the throat adds to its beauty. This is a spreading plant.
2. **Galileo** - it is a dark claret red and was used as a cross to create black widow. It has been in our yard for the 3 years, has survived the 12 degree cold and the 100 plus heat. This year it is covered with buds.
3. **Siuslaw Pioneer** - Large warm yellow to orange flowers. Candy and I have been growing this plant in a pot for the last two years. It is a big grower and has fantastic color. A must have plant for its truss.
4. **Super Flimmer** - Lilac - pink flowers with variegated leaves 5' -15 degrees ML - Thompson's has been limiting buyers to one plant.

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

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