

Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

MAY 2011



Meeting Time/Place

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

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Plank House
The Mill Casino
North Bend

RSVP to Jan Lee—

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

Meeting Refreshments:

Bill & Joan Russell

May Board Meeting

No Board meeting this month

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May Program

Our May meeting will be a business meeting as well as a program by Alton Dohner on deer repellants.

President's Message

Ray Lee

Flower Show – What a great turnout we had for our annual Flower Show and Plant Sale. Not only did most of our members come to help but the rhododendron loving public showed up to buy our plants to take home for their gardens. Thank you, Pete Baumer for your excellent leadership in making this event so successful. The weather made it especially difficult to get a large number of trusses for the show. Gene Cockeram and Ron and Cheryl Prchal from the Siuslaw Chapter helped make our show a success with all the trusses they brought from their gardens. I believe Gene brought 70 plus and Ron and Cheryl brought 20 plus trusses. Many of the tables would have been very sparse without their support. Thank you everyone who brought trusses as we need everyone's help to make it a nice show for the public.

Part of the May meeting will be discussing what we did successfully at the show as well as what we can do to improve future shows. The last few years have seen us struggle to get enough trusses for our April Show. Should we consider moving the show two weeks later to get more of our flowers in bloom?

May Elections – We only have one Board position up for re-election. Dan Nickell has been a Director At Large for the last two years. He has agreed to be nominated and will be up for election to another two year term.

Shore Acres Mother's Day Sunday – This Rhody Sunday Event has been fun for our Chapter members for quite some time now. This is a good time to bring trusses to show to the public and talk about our favorite plant. We will be at the Garden House from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM. Please bring trusses, your sack lunch and enthusiasm to talk to people who want to know more about rhododendrons.

Rhododendron Festival in Florence – May 21st and 22nd should be on your calendar for the Siuslaw Chapter's biggest show of the year. Jan and I always find trusses at the show that we decide we want in our garden. We enter trusses each year and have even won a few ribbons at the show. Most of all we enjoy the parade at noon on Sunday. What a special weekend on the Oregon Coast! I hope many of you will take advantage of the Festival to have a good time.

Hinsdale Garden open house – May 25th from 10 AM until 3 PM is the open house at Hinsdale Garden. This will be a special time to see the old rhododendrons in bloom. We will also discuss at the regular May 19th meeting whether to make this a day of visiting gardens in bloom. We could perhaps start out with a garden visit in the Coos Bay area before continuing on to Hinsdale. If we bring sack lunches we could stop somewhere between Reedsport and Florence for lunch. We then would go on north to visit a garden in the Florence area before returning home.

See you at Mother's Day Sunday, Shore Acres or May 19th at the regular monthly meeting.

And the winners are . . .

Class	Name	Won by	Trophy Donor
Best Species Azalea	Luteum	Liz Hultin	Coos Grange
Best Evergreen Azalea	Pink	Gene Cockeram	Liz Hultin
Best In Show Azalea	Pink	Gene Cockeram	Ann Drake
Best Lepidote Rhody	Razorbill	Alice Blomquist	Schroeder's
Best Species Rhody	r. johnstoneanum	Gene Cockeram	Sven Blomquist
Best Species Spray	Primuliflorum	Ron Prchal	Ray & Jan Lee
Best Elepidote	Unknown	Don Chance	Farr's Hardware
Best White	Exbury Calstocker	Gene Cockeram	Pete Baumer
Best Pink/Rose	Williamsianum Seedling	Larry Jensen	Bob MacIntyre
Best Red	Red Majesty	Norah Roadman	Elf Nursery
Best Lavender/Purple	Dan's Early Purple	Karen Cyris	Ciccarelli's
Best Yellow/Orange	Chipper	Liz Hultin	Mary Jo Jamsgard
Best Tricolor	Unique Buttery Cream	Jack Hackett	Pete Baumer
Best r. maddenii	Cowbell	Liz Hultin	Agri Tech
Best Spray	Inkspots	Gene Cockeram	Hilltop House
Best Truss in Show			
	r. johnstoneanum	Gene Cockeram	
Sweepstakes (total of all ribbon awards)		Gene Cockeram	



Best Species—Primuluflorum



Best Spray—Inkspots

All photos courtesy of Ray Lee



Best Pink Azalea—Unknown



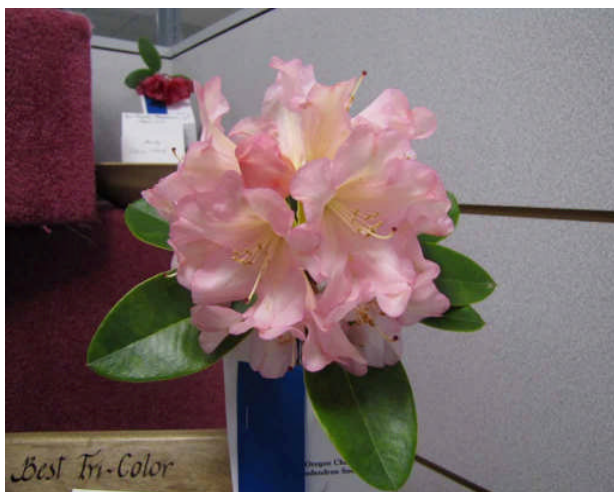
Best of Show—johnstoneanum



Best Red—Red Majesty



Best yellow/orange—Skipper



Best Tricolor—Unique Buttery Cream



Best White—Exbury calstocker

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

Despite the weather there were rhododendrons aplenty at our show. Every year is different. The cold weather had held back some of the varieties we usually see but that just meant we had some early things that we usually don't see at the show. Red seems to be a predominate color at this time of year. I know Candy Baumer always allows plenty of room for reds this time of year in the racks. Gill's Crimson was lovely in my garden but it is 25ft. tall and would require a very long ladder to reach over top of a lathed area so I just admired it from afar. It is a 1918 introduction from Cornwall England. Norah Roadman's Red Majesty was majestic! Liz Hultin's Chipper was nice. It is a new one from Thompson's Nursery. Best of Show was r. johnstoneanum, a spray brought by the winner Gene Cockram. A perfect selection. Am looking forward to next year. Thank you Pete Baumer for masterful leadership!

We received a letter from Steve Langenstein who gave the presentation on bats. He had a few corrections to the article in the newsletter. The bats in the Hinsdale house are mostly common species which are regularly seen in healthy numbers. The Fringed Myotis is a special status species but is not Threatened or Endangered but there is special concern by the state of Oregon and BLM. The BLM is still assessing whether to remove the house or let it slowly and safely degrade naturally. Also Bat guano is used more recently for the growth of unique fungi used to produce chemicals for medicines and the treatment of industrial waste. Thank you Steve for reading our newsletter. It was a very interesting program.

The visit to the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve in Yachats was most enjoyable and inspired our awe of a dedicated couple: Jim & Janice Gerdemann. There was a group of nine that spent at least 2 ½ hours with Jerry and Kathleen Sand, the new owners and caretakers of the garden in a lush flowering paradise. Along with unusual rhododendrons and swaths of wildflowers such trilliums and erythroniums, there were New Zealand tree ferns, Chilean Flame Trees, Telopea, bananas and the Himalayan lily cardiocrinum growing under large Sitka spruce and western hemlocks. This lily can grow up to 8 feet tall with 12 blossoms along its stem. It takes from 5 to 7 years to bloom. The plants grow rapidly and the ones we saw will probably bloom in June. They come up from seed dropped by a blooming plant. A discovery showed that a plant is growing right were Jim's ashes were strewn! The unusual rhododendron r.genesterianum was blooming as well as many tender maddenis. We have been enjoying the blooming and fragrance of Coastal Spice one of Jim's hybrids at our house. It is quite hardy because of Jim's practice of planting tender hybrid maddenis crosses he made out in the open continually keeping the survivors of harsh winters until he came up with one we can grow out in the weather. He has practiced this with vireyas also and we viewed some lovely ones. If you cannot visit in person please visit the very interesting website: Gerdemann Botanical Preserve. We thank Jerry and Kathleen for their efforts in the garden and a wonderful tour. Those of you that did not go missed an inspiring experience.

Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

Well, it's the end of our year and our final 2010-11 meeting. This is our general meeting including election of officers.

We have asked Alton Dohner to give his program on deer repellants which is the best I have heard anyone present.

When is this rain going to stop? Garden soils are soggy and not easily worked.

The February fertilizing is already showing with much healthier new growth.

The garden is blooming heavily now with many species and hybrids putting on a great show. Both R. Elsie Frye and r. taggianum, var. Del James are putting on the best display ever. R. Jim Drewry is coming into full bloom and is very pretty. Most things are about 3 weeks later than normal and some still have not opened.

New growth is starting on the early flowering varieties, so watch closely for slugs, snails, and insect damage, and start your usual treatment program to prevent such damage. Both Ortho and Spectracide have some newer products on the market that I'm going to try. Our next fertilizer time will start at the end of the month. You might try some dolomite lime with your standard fertilizer. Our heavy early spring rain will have washed the potassium, calcium and magnesium through the root system quickly.

One quick comment about our Gerdemann Garden tour. What a treat with two great guides and very gracious hosts. Thank you to Jerry and Kathleen Sand. Those of you who didn't go really missed a great day in a very unusual garden.

Hope to see you at the summer picnic.

Hinsdale Open House

Gordon Wylie

This year's time to enjoy a leisurely visit strolling through the garden will be **Wednesday, May 25**. The garden will be open by 10:00 that morning and will remain open as far into the afternoon as necessary to accommodate all ARS members and their friends stopping at the most scenic sight on the lower Umpqua River. While in the area, visitors will also be able to view the resident Roosevelt Elk herd on the opposite side of Highway 38.

I have confirmed with the BLM that passengers may be left off at the new bridge and entrance to the main garden. Drivers should then proceed to the parking area reached by a short single lane road immediately east of the garden. This road meets the highway where the guardrail starting back at the garden entrance ends. There is a walkway between the parking area and the main garden inside the guardrail, and the eastern part of the garden is accessed in a pleasant stroll from the parking area along the south bank of the Umpqua River.

We have a busy month ahead with flower shows, the ARS Convention and all the other garden related activities May always brings. Take a day off toward the end of the month for a drive to the coast to enjoy Spring continuing to unfold, as well as all the treats in the Hinsdale Garden. Camaraderie with fellow enthusiasts is also sure to be freely available.

What's Coming To The Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

Coming to the auction: the last of the plants for our meeting

1. Rockhill Sunday Sunrise (Yellow Rolls Royce x Skipper) 5' This an upright growing plant that is primrose yellow w/ a red blotch. We have this plant growing in the yard, easy to grow likes sun, shade and is nice on the eyes. It is now in full bloom.
2. Wings of Gold (Nancy Evans x (Darigold x Lacamus Spice) x Golden Anniversary # 2) 4' Golden yellow w/ red throat. Currently has large flower buds that are ready to burst with color. This a Thompson Nursery original.
3. Exbury Calstocker (calophytum x Dr. Stocker) 6' This plant is for those who have room to grow a large plant. Grand blossoms that are creamy light pink with a rich red flare. It is a tree like Rhody. You have to be patient with this plant because it takes time before it blooms. I started with this plant in a morning sun spot and have since moved it to full sun. It likes this spot best. It produces some of the largest new growth of any plant that I have seen. Over time it will need room to grow.
4. Many Moons - (Nancy Evans x Rockhill Ivory Ruffles) 4' This is another Thompson Nursery cross. Sunny bright yellow trusses with wavy edges. Also has a calyx almost as big as the flower. Upright grower a must have plant for all yards. It is in full bloom right now. In our yard it bloom the first year we had the plant and has covered itself with blooms ever since.

Galileo will be the door prize - It is a dark Claret Red

Future Events

2011

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

May 21-22—Siuslaw Chapter Show

If you will be attending the Siuslaw Show, please be aware anyone wanting to drop off trusses for the show must use the road off 101 just south of Safeway. Please drive carefully when delivering trusses as people will be running around and cars will be wanting to turn around to leave the area.

July 3 —Southwestern Oregon Chapter summer picnic

October 21-23—ARS Eastern Regional Conference, Richmond, VA

2012

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

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