

# Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

[WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/](http://WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/)

NOVEMBER 2011



## Meeting Time/Place

November 17 —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:

Robin Hansen

## November Board

### Meeting

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

### President:

Ray Lee—541-267-4176,  
flyfishr@frontier.com

### V-P:

Ann Drake - 541-396-2718  
rhodyduck@yahoo.com

### Secretary:

Pete Baumer - 541-396-3528  
cbaumer1@frontier.com

### Treasurer:

Jan Lee  
fogline1@frontier.com

### Newsletter:

Author - Ann Drake  
Publisher/Distribution

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## November Program

Dick Cavendar will bring us up to date on the western native deciduous azalea including Rh. Occidentale.

## President's Message

Ray Lee

**M**ike Stewart's Dwarf rhody show – What a great variety of small rhodies Mike & Maria propagate at their nursery. The slide show was excellent with Mike's easy going presentation style. More exciting was that Mike brought eleven dwarf rhodies for our auction. Pete and I were concerned about so many plants as we've only auctioned off five or six before. We finally decided to do all of them until people quit bidding. Wow! Every one sold with most going for \$20 or more. Thank you, Mike, for the nice fund raiser for our Chapter.

**Transplant rhododendrons** – Jan and I have friends who filled their yard up with rhodies and Camellias twenty years ago when they bought their new house. Two of the rhodies were being crowded by three Camellias so they offered the rhodies to me on one condition – Jan wasn't allowed to help with the transplant. Our friend can't remember their names or even their



Rhody in Ray's garden

rated at .6 gallons per hour each, providing nice fresh water. This should minimize having to replace plants that have died during our dry summers. The drip irrigation system has been provided by BLM to help improve the garden.

**Cuttings** – There are still eight cuttings in

my mini greenhouse that are green and appear to be alive under the grow light in the garage. I was sitting next to Mike Stewart at dinner before the last meeting and told him that most or all of my cuttings have died the last few years. I then asked how he did with cuttings – his reply was that they do 40,000 cuttings per year and have been doing it for the last 35 years. Certainly they have mastered the trick to keep them alive. I'll keep trying.

**Next meeting** – November 17<sup>th</sup> is our next meeting. Please come join us to talk about our favorite garden plant, the rhododendron.

**Hinsdale work party** – Gordon Wylie met several volunteers at the Hinsdale garden with a truck load of Evergreen Azaleas and one big rhododendron. The azaleas were replacements for plants that had died before the drip irrigation system was installed. All of the rhododendrons and azaleas now have at least two drip emitters

color so we will be surprised next April or May. Each rhody is about 6' in diameter with one at 6' tall and the other 7' tall. One afternoon, three men and a big trailer and we now have two new big rhodies added to our garden.

## Ann's Corner

*Ann Drake*

What an informative program Mike Stewart had for us at the October meeting. Dwarf rhododendrons are something we are all looking for. There was a good selection of hybrids and species and he connected the species to the hybrids. Quite a few of Cox's 'birds' were in the program: Chikor, Curlew, Wren, Egret, Wigeon, and Ptarmigan. They have been a little hard to grow for me. He said to add some pumice to the bark and to plant them high, reminding us that these rhododendrons grow in a high altitude with not a lot of topsoil. Incidentally, he says that he uses fresh bark because it doesn't grow moss.

There were almost 100 slides in the program and a plus was the handout with the names of the plants in the program. Another big plus was the large group of plants he gave us to auction off. Included in the program were some beautiful slides of landscapes of China which put us in the environment of many of these lovely examples of the little gems we have in our gardens. Thank you very much Mike and please come again.

Robin Hansen brought some cuttings of one of Peter Cox's 'birds' Ptarmigan to the cutting party. She had planted it in a trough and it thrived. Trough plants usually have more of a gritty soil and one of the advantages of troughs is that the drainage is good. They are usually

placed on some bricks or blocks which helps. There is a small Carmen in a trough in my garden. Here is another thought: we had tried to grow *R. proteoides* a couple of times and promptly lost it. I broke down and bought another at the conference in Florence. I remembered someone had told me that Cecil Smith's plant was in a stump so Michael found a small stump and put it in the garden. *Proteoides* is doing fine and bloomed. There is no dieback and lots of new growth.

### EXCHANGE TABLE

Don't forget to bring something for the exchange table. Plants, bulbs, seeds, herbs etc. A loaf of home-made bread? Years ago Jan Kelly brought that and also some fresh eggs. Cheryl Prchal brought some plant starts in October but everyone else forgot.

It has been a while since the cutting party. It would be nice to know how your efforts are doing. I have lost some and there are some that are still green but haven't rooted yet. Curious-- how long can a cutting stay green without rooting? I do know that the cuttings that Larry Jensen brings do well. There are some cuttings of *r. callimorphum* I took at the cutting party last year that are still green but don't have any new growth. Anybody have an answer or an opinion? At least I am finally learning to put the date on the plant labels!



Planting at Hinsdale—Jack Hackett, Gene Cockeram, Steve Samuels (BLM) and Gordon Wylie

## Across the Kitchen Table

*Bob MacIntyre*

I've heard positive reports about the October meeting Mike Stewart presented information on dwarf rhododendrons and brought about a dozen dwarf plants that were auctioned off.

Our November program will be Dick Cavendar. He will bring us up to date with the latest information on our western native deciduous azalea *Rh. Occidentale*. This should be very interesting as some of our members have shown increased interest in this species.

Our trip east to the Eastern Regional Conference went very well. The weather was warm with fall color just about a week or two behind, but still a lot of bright reds, oranges and yellows. A very nice show by Mother Nature.

There were approximately 92 people in attendance at the conference. The evening speakers included Elizabeth Mundy, owner of Acer Acres that we visited on Saturday, and Tim and June Walsh of the Eureka Chapter on "Highlights of West Coast Gardens with an Emphasis on the New Humboldt Botanical Garden. Saturday was a tour of Ginter Botanical Garden and Acer Acres. The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is on property that was once owned by Patrick Henry. It was purchased by Lewis Ginter in 1884 and now consists of more than 50 acres of gardens. As always the conference provides time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and see beautiful gardens. You can't help but come home with lots of enthusiasm and new ideas.

The board meeting went well with many issues discussed and resolved. We do have two recurrent issues whose outcome will again be addressed at the spring conference in Asheville, NC in May: membership and the wording on the grant to the National Arboretum to save the Glendate Azalea exhibit. For those who are interested in more detail, the Secretary's meeting notes can be found on the ARS website.

Meanwhile, back home we are continuing work on our yard with more work on the pond, waterfall and dry creek bed. Large rhodys are being moved to the south side of the dry creek bed.

Fall garden chores we need to consider include, clean up debris from under plants to prevent hiding places for insects, slugs and snails. Remember to mulch new plants put in this year but keep well away from the main stem leaving at least 10-12 inch radius. No fertilizer is needed until February or later depending on the weather.

It isn't too late to put in late flowering cuttings. This is a good time to sow rhody seed to try and develop the next outstanding hybrid plant. Don't forget deer repellent even though it's cold outside. Deer will still eat the small tender growth from last year, especially on dwarf plants and evergreen azaleas.

Good gardening, - Bob

## Hybridizing for Beginners

*Don Wallace*

Tuesday November 15 the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society meets at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101 in Florence at 6.30 pm for refreshments followed by a presentation on 'Hybridizing for Beginners' by noted hybridizer Don Wallace of Singing Trees Nursery in McKinleyville, California. Don develops new hybrid rhododendrons featuring fragrance and color combinations. He will show his new plants and help gardeners be successful when propagating for special color combinations, bloom shape and plant vigor. Plants from his new collection will be available for sale. Don't miss this opportunity to get a new hybrid rhododendron planted this year.

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## Plant Auction

*Pete Baumer*

November's Plant Auction will include:



Else Frye

Photo by Eleanor Philp



Hallelujah

Photo by Roland Kersten

And a few surprises.

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## Future Events

2011

December—Christmas Party

2012

January — Pat Osborn (tentative) Species Rhododendrons

February —Kath Collier—Azaleas

March —Marie Woodward—Dahlias

April —Jim Smith, Show Preparation and Judging

April—Southwestern Oregon Flower Show

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

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