



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

JANUARY 2012

January Program

To be determined

Meeting Time/Place

January 19 —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 Marjene—

marjene@hughes.net or call
541-347-7269

Meeting Refreshments:

Lee Vincent

January Board

Meeting

January 11th, 9:00 am
Minute Café, Bandon

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President's Message

Ray Lee

Annual Christmas Party – We had a great turnout for our potluck and gift exchange party. The gift exchange which allowed a person to take a gift from someone else instead of from under the tree brought a lot of laughs. I'm sure there were people who hoped someone would take their gift so they would have another chance but that's just part of the fun. Thank you, Bob and Marjene for decorating your house so nicely and hosting our Chapter party.

Blooming rhododendrons – We bought a small Christmas Cheer at our April plant sale because everyone says it blooms around January. I just looked closely at the buds and some are starting to open to a light pink. The other two plants we have

blooming are the two unknown purples we transplanted from friends the end of October. I showed a picture of the flower to Dave Collier at the Christmas party. He felt it might be Purple Lace since it has white stamens. It's still blooming slowly and the trusses are small and not very pretty. I don't think there will be any buds left to bloom in the spring. The ARS website shows Purple Lace as a late mid bloomer so we may have something else. Having both of them bloom this time of year makes me think this may be when they normally bloom.

Cuttings – There are still two cuttings in my mini greenhouse that are green and appear to be alive under the grow light in the garage. I also have three seedlings from the October 10 10 10 seminar by Gordon Wylie. They are only

about three inches tall and haven't grown much in the last three or four months. If they're all still alive by spring then outside they go. I'm learning more and more respect for people who can make a living propagating rhododendrons so we can sell a two foot tall plant at our April sale for \$15 to \$25.

Next meeting – January 19th is our next meeting. Please come join us to talk about our favorite garden plant, the rhododendron.



Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

Winter is here but we can look around the garden and see some signs of life. The extended cold doesn't seem to have frozen too many buds. Just have to remember to leave them alone for awhile just to make sure! Have a terrible time with that. There will probably be some flowers brought to the meeting. Gene Cockerum is sure to have some in Florence. Both he and Dan Bones usually bring *r.ririei*, another lovely red.

Have been questioning members here and in Eugene to learn what the favorite early bloomers are. Christmas Cheer seems to be what Eugene members like. Local temperatures make a difference.

The first one Gene mentioned was My Valentine. He received this seedling from Dr. Phetteplace in 1970. Lovely waxy red blooms. It is registered as Gene's Valentine. He said Medusa, Hansel, and a sister to Pink Ribbons also bloom early. Am sure there are more.

Mike Bones likes Christmas Cheer too. He has two, one in the front garden and one other Kathy can see from the kitchen. He said they bloomed Thanksgiving week. Seta and the PJM group are also early for him.

Harold Greer states that Lee's Scarlett is his early one. Bodega Crystal Pink and Pink Snowflakes also bring early color to his garden. He did mention that if he lived on the coast he would have Cornubia in his garden. In Ray Lee's search for notable plants last year he found a glorious Cornubia growing in Coos Bay. This plant has shown up in gardens since 1912. They make a good show early in the season.

Frances Burns lives in an area where the cold hangs on. She lives at Vida on McKenzie River highway. Her favorite early bloomer is *r. striggilosum* and its progeny: Maxine Childers and Double Winner. These are lovely early reds.

Ted Hewitt from Eugene answered my E mail from his car on his way south. He liked Christmas Cheer too. *R. cilipense* was also one he looked forward to seeing in his garden.

Bob MacIntyre always has exotic early bloomers in his garden. He likes Winter Sun which is a Bill Moyles' cross of *r.burmanicum* x *chrysodoron* raised by Dr. Gerdemann. He also likes *r.leucaspis* with its contrasting dark anthers to little white flowers. *R. mucronulatum* and *r. moupinense* are early greeters also.

My early bloomer hasn't flowered yet. It is that unnamed cross of *r. keskei* and *r. flavidum* and is bicolored yellow and pink. Usually starts in December but we had continuous freezing then. Noyo Dream is the earliest elepidote to bloom.

Hopefully this winter weather won't last too long and there will be more color out there soon.

There is an early blooming rhododendron at Muncaster Castle in the Lake District of England. This garden has been long noted for its rhododendron collection and is a favorite with visitors in the spring. It is a family tradition at the castle to have a vase of rhododendron 'Jacksonii' on the dinner table at Christmas. It was registered in 1835 by The Honorable Rev. W. Herbert of Yorkshire, England.

I am a collector of catalogs. I like to read them and sometimes find something to purchase. Peaceful valley Farm & Garden Supply located in Grass Valley, CA is a fairly new addition to my supply of catalogs. Also signed up for their E mail newsletter. So far I have learned how to make a scarecrow out of 3 bamboo poles, straw and old clothing. I also learned how to make a succulent dish garden. This month there is a video on how to take care of garden tools. The information was on cleaning and sharpening. It is better to use a vegetable oil spray as a lubricant. There was also an interesting Felco Swiss Istor Sharpener for sale. They recommended using Felco lubricant spray.



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

Here's wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

Our autumn was dry and our winter so far has been dry. Let's hope for some rain soon. Do make sure any protected plants are getting plenty of water. Some people on the west coast have had to resort to extra watering.

Have you had any early, unseasonable flowering? I've had more plants show a few early blooms that have never shown flowers this early. R. cream crest is just about in full flower—that is about two months early.

Speaking of early flowering, it won't be long before the early bloomers will start showing.

Make sure you clean up old leaves and plant debris to help prevent hiding places for insects and for slugs and snails to hide eggs.

Many times we can have periods of balmy, nice weather during January and February, but we will still get cold freezes. Make sure to protect tender plants during these

periods.

Plants that have yellowing leaves can have a dose of Epsom salts or dolomite lime without stimulating new growth. Any rains we get, even heavy mists, will wash these magnesium based products down to the roots for absorption.

We are still working on a speaker for our January program. The original speaker had to cancel so we are working on a back up plan. At present, there are several options. So, come to the meeting and be surprised.

Remember to bring up any rhody culture questions you have at the meeting.

Good gardening—Bob

Future Events

- 2012 January — TBD
- 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



Sharing Pictures



Pictures taken by Ray Lee in their yard.



Cream Crest in bloom in the MacIntyre yard.

