



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

OCTOBER 2012

October Program

Our first program this year will feature Mike Stewart of Dover Nursery in Sandy, OR. Mike has been very popular the past few years on the speaker circuit around the country. Mike has been active in the ARS serving time as Director of District #4, Western Regional Vice-President and ARS President.

Meeting Time/Place

Oct. 18 —7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Puerto Vallarta
230 S. 2nd
Coos Bay

RSVP to Marjene MacIntyre
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541-347-7269

Meeting Refreshments:

Marjene MacIntyre

October Board Meeting

October 13
Minute Café, Bandon

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Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Ann's Corner</i>	2
<i>Across the Kitchen Table</i>	3
<i>Our Members</i>	4
<i>Plants for Auction</i>	5
<i>BOD Meeting Minutes</i>	6

President's Message

Ray Lee

President's Corner

Summer Picnic - Summer is such a fun part of the year. We get to wear shorts, tee shirts and eat outside. Thank you to Jack & Wanda for hosting the Chapter's summer picnic. I especially appreciate all of the extra effort Jack put into having tarps up so we could get in out of the rain. I think this year was the best turnout I've seen in the years we've been coming to enjoy your hospitality. Excellent ribs!! Thank you.

Cutting Party - The cutting party at Ann Drake's home was a big success. Many thanks are due to Ann for opening her beautiful home & gardens to us & generously sharing cuttings of her own plants, too. Michael put in a lot of effort getting the yard in shape for Chapter members to enjoy. Thank you, Michael. Next year I'll call a month earlier to offer assistance in yard cleanup for the cutting party. I took cuttings of VL Twilight Pink in 2011 and 2010 but none survived either year. I took three cuttings again this year. Maybe the third time's the charm. Michael also showed me the VL Biscuit Box x R. discolor that bloomed even later than Twilight Pink. This is the first time it's bloomed so he hadn't realized it was such a late bloomer. Three cuttings of that are in my mini greenhouse now as well.

Bandon Park project - Pete and I met with three Bandon City Parks Department employees to discuss a Chapter project to put rhododendrons in 11th Street park. The area is across the street south of the playground and east of the Park host motorhome. The Parks department will put in a couple of truckloads of topsoil then Chapter volunteers will plant about a dozen rhodies and put down bark. The project time frame is the end of October or first half of November. The Parks Department will install drip irrigation before next summer to help the plants stay alive. Bob and Liz are donating larger rhodies from their yards. Loyd Fellows, who owns property on Morrison Road, has also agreed to donate several macrophyllum from his wooded property. We'll need volunteers to help with the transplanting.

Bushier plants -I wrote about our Sausalito and all of its single buds in last May's newsletter. I snipped off all of the singles in mid-April and waited for the response. By mid-June the new growth was a couple of inches long. Three of the branches put out five new buds each and by mid-July the leaves were all fully grown. All of the branches put out at least one new bud so the plant wasn't harmed at all. I'll do it again this year.

Next meeting - October 18th is our next meeting. I hope to see you there to talk more about our Bandon Park project.





This Sausalito branch had one bud that I broke off on April 17th. Here are the five buds the plant grew back by mid-July.
Ray Lee



These are the same five buds shown in the close-up above. This is far fuller than it would have been if I had left just the one bud it produced on its own.—Ray Lee

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

Even with these warm days of early fall the rhododendrons are preparing for the winter. Lots of yellow dying leaves. This is a natural condition. Rhododendrons use old leaves as food storage sites. As the nutrients are used in the growth process, the old leaves fall off. The plant will hold leaves usually for their third flush or year depending on the plant. You will notice the distance between flushes of growth. If you are interested in plants fully clothed in foliage look for those retaining their leaves for 3 years. Sometimes this information is included in the plant description.

Check your plants condition by counting the flushes of growth. Three flushes of growth means the plant is in good condition. Two flushes of growth the plant needs some food. One flush of growth the plant is very hungry. Of course with the current dry conditions watering is essential.



Else Frye is one of those rhododendrons you “must have” the minute you smell that fragrance when walking in the garden. She is surprisingly hardy enduring at least 30 winters in this garden. She is named for Mrs. Else M. Frye a long ago nursery person in Seattle. The cross is *r. ciliicalyx* X ? by John Bowman a Northern California nurseryman in 1963. She is easy to propagate. I have read that you should plant something fragrant by your front door. How about Elsie Frye. She might get a little lanky but a trellis might work.

Photo by Ken Gibson.

Taken in private garden on Vancouver Island, BC



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

Well, summer's done and It's time to get back to our rhody meetings. Hope to have interesting programs and a variety of discussions on many topics for the next 9 months.

We did start the year with our annual cutting party at the Drake's home followed by a great potluck. Our numbers were slightly less but those who stuck cuttings had plenty to choose from. One courageous soul even tried his hand at grafting "again".

Marjene and I went to the Fall Western Regional Conference in Nanaimo, BC. The weather and the scenery were wonderful. The conference included tours of private gardens and Milner Gardens – voted one of the ten best public gardens in Canada. Milner Gardens is 28 hectares (70 acres) of unspoiled natural beauty perched on the edge of an oceanside bluff overlooking the Strait of Georgia, which included 4 hectares (10 acres) of woodland gardens lined with rhododendron, cyclamen and trilliums, old growth Douglas firs and cedars. Each garden we toured is different in its own way and a joy to visit.

The annual ARS Board Meeting was held at this conference. Thanks to Don Smart, ARS President, and Kath Collier, ARS Secretary, things moved right along without getting too bogged down on any one topic. The following decisions were made at the BOD meeting:

Membership – A new class of membership "Student" was instituted. The cost of the membership will be \$10 - \$5 goes to national and \$5 stays with the local chapter. A Student member over the age of 18 must show proof of student eligibility to qualify. Student membership will receive the on-line journal only.

On-Line Quarterly Journal – An on-line version of the quarterly journal will be available some time in early November. Directions on how to subscribe to the on-line journal will be printed in the Fall 2012 ARS Journal. After a trial period of 6-9 months members will be required to make a decision to: 1) continue to receive the written journal, 2) receive the journal in an on-line only version, or 3) receive the both the written on-line journal at an additional cost.

The 2013 ARS budget was presented and thoroughly discussed. A few belt-tightening changes were made.

It is that time of year to do basic clean up to prevent hiding places for slugs, snails and insects. Mild pruning may be done to remove dead and/or broken branches as well as removing the occasional long, vigorous azalea branches that sometimes occur. This will help keep a well shaped and neat plant. Also, cut off and destroy any diseased branch you may find. It's still warm during the day and some night are still in the 50's. This means weavils may still be lurking, especially on late flowering plants. Take the actions you prefer and eradicate them.

Remember to rake up debris from under plants. With the persistent afternoon winds and no rain in sight, let's keep the watering going for now.

Our lead off speaker this season will be Mike Stewart from Dover Nursery in Sandy, OR. Mike is a very popular speaker and we are very fortunate to have him with us.

See you at the meeting.



Our Members at Work and Play

Photos Courtesy of Ray Lee



This is the west end of the Bandon City park project. Our Chapter will plant a dozen rhodies so the public can enjoy the spring colors.



Pete, Robin and Bob are busy putting cuttings in pots. Pete's trying to graft two varieties by putting one cutting into the top of another. Interesting, will it work?



Surprise, sometimes it rains the end of June. It looked like everyone was smiling and having a good time at our summer picnic even with the rain.

Plants for Auction

Pete Baumer

1. Command Performance - a cross by Jim Barlup 4' in 10 years and a midseason bloomer. Hachman's Charmant X Snow Candle - Frilled pink flower with a dark flare. This is the first time that this plant has come our way.
2. Campylogynum - 'Jade' - 2'-3' small compact with small tubular purple flowers, with a waxy bloom. Likes part shade and part sun. Great as a potted plant and or in a small garden.
3. Unique - variegated form 4', variegated creamy margins on the new growth. Same Unique flowers and plant growth. We have had this plant in our plant sale before, very different and a great foliage plant.

Thompson's nursery has sent us a list of plants available for the April show. Their plants will be 4 and 5 year old plants and there is a list of potted plants. They need our order as soon as possible. The lists are available from Pete.

Silent auction 3 books from Diane Mathis Library:

1. Rhododendrons in America by Ted Van Veen - autographed by Ted Van Veen

The feature of this book is the foot notes taken by the Mathis' on the blooming time for the rhody varieties locally. Very special book.

2. Rhododendrons of China - this book was the work of the Species foundation and the ARS- its purpose was to translate from Chinese to English a major work on Chinese Rhododendrons which included 283 illustrated species descriptions and a detailed key to the species.

3. Greer's Guidebook to available Rhododendron's - 3rd edition hard cover.

Future Events

2012

2013

April 26, 27, 28—Southwestern Oregon Chapter Annual Show

May 1—5—ARS Annual Convention, Seattle, WA

Sept. 27-29—ARS Western Regional Conference, Newport OR



Board of Directors—September Meeting Minutes

Pete Baumer

Attending:

Liz Hultin
Dan Nickel
Ray Lee
Robin Hansen
Pete Baumer
Bob MacIntyre

Treasurer's report - \$5,723.98

1 check for show judging not cleared

Membership forms have been sent out – 11 returned, Liz will compile due's on a monthly basis. We currently have a zero balance with ARS. The board gave Liz the okay to make purchases up to \$50 without board approval. Current membership is 30 regular members and 4 associate members.

Minutes were read and approved

Discussion about 2013 show date (April 26, 27, 28) includes setup date

Discussion about future board meetings. The board approved meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Minute Café in Bandon.

Discussion about Programs –

Oct—Mike Stewart
Nov—Harold Greer
Jan—Mike Bones
Feb—???
Mar—Sandy Jensen

Discussion about Bandon City Park Project – Ray and Pete meet with the Bandon City planners about the project. Liz will donate 4 plants, Bob is donating 2 and Ray with help will dig wild Rhodies. Dave Collier was checking with Mike Stewart about some large plants for the project. UPDATE Mike Stewart was contacted and is searching his nursery for plants. Robin will be the color coordinator for the project. The city planners are looking for plant groupings that will provide color spots.

The board approved a purchase of 18 plants for meeting auctions.

