

Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

FEBRUARY 2013



Meeting Time/Place

Feb. 21 —7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Coach House
604 6th Avenue
Coos Bay

*RSVP to Marjene MacIntyre
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Meeting Refreshments:

Mary Anker

February Board Meeting

February 16th, 9:00 am
Minute Café, Bandon

President:

Ray Lee — 541-267-4176,
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V-P:

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Newsletter:

Publisher/Distribution
Marjene MacIntyre

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February Program

Rhododendrons at the Golden Gate (2007 ARS Annual Convention, SF, CA) featuring Golden Gate Park, SF Botanical Garden and Japanese Tea Garden plus a half dozen private gardens in the area.

President's Message

Ray Lee

January Program – Harold Greer was amazing with his program on rhododendron diversity.

Yes, I knew about lepidote and elepidote but there is so much more about new growth and fall colors. Such a huge variety of flower colors as well. His slide of Arneson Flame made me put it on my list of plants I want in my garden. Thank you again, Harold. We appreciate you taking the time to come do a program for us.

Fertilizer – Last year at show time a lot of the leaves on our rhodies were light green towards yellow. I struggled trying to decide which trusses to cut for the Siuslaw and Southwestern Oregon flower shows. It was only after the early Siuslaw show that I realized I had forgotten to fertilize since last fall. How should I expect nice green leaves on my trusses if I haven't given the plants the food they require? This year will be different. Rhody fertilizer and Dolomite lime as recommended by Bob MacIntyre coming up this week. Maybe the leaves will look better for the show in April.

Nominating Committee – It's approaching that time again. New Officers for our Chapter will have to be elected. Pete Baumer, Secretary, and Ray Lee, President, were only elected for one year at our meeting last May. New officers will be needed for the coming year. Please consider volunteering to help keep our Chapter operating.

No Officers means we have no Chapter. I don't think any of us want that to happen.

Cutting Party results – I now have nine cuttings that are still green. This is from the original twelve I took at Ann Drake's cutting party on September 15, 2012 and the three I took at Mingus Park a few weeks ago. I continue to spray the leaves and the inside of the mini greenhouse regularly to keep the humidity high. I think a few will survive to being transplanted into bigger pots. The fall back is always to just buy big established plants at our flower show and sale in April.

Yard improvements – A few years ago Jan and I planted several Primroses in front of the house. Each year the leaves and flowers have gotten smaller and smaller. I now see that Bi-Mart has Primroses on sale for 99 cents per plant. I like the colorful leaves and winter flowers and think it's time to dig up and replace the old ones from four years ago. Perhaps I should replace them every year. The nurseries have much better results with flowers than we have had in our yard. We also have many Daffodils coming up in the yard that were planted years ago. The hillside above our driveway hasn't done well in the past. Five years ago I planted 100+ Daffodils. Last year only about three had flowers. This year I planted 150 bulbs the end of November. Seven of the Daffodils are up about 3 inches. I hope things get better than that!

Next meeting – February 21st is our next meeting. I hope to see you there to talk more about the rhododendron, my favorite flower.



Bandon City Park Project

Ray Lee

Yellow flowers in the spring are fine. We have dandelions, scotch broom and gorse. I don't know, are any of these even native? What the Southwestern Oregon Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society decided we needed was more color in Bandon City Park on 11th Street in Bandon. We've raised money from our annual flower show and plant sale each year so we could just go buy some little rhodies and in a few years we would have flowers. Our members said "No! Let's have big rhodies that will flower this next spring."



Liz and Tom Hultin donated 6 large rhodies. Tom is on the tractor. Michael Drake & Dan Nickell are unloading the rhodies.





Bob MacIntyre used his tractor to load rhodies. He donated 3 and Mike Stewart of Sandy, OR donated 6 more large rhodies.



One rhodie at a time. Michael Drake and Dave Collier position a nice big rhodie along 11th Street in the Park.



A lot of the rhodies are in the strip next to 11th Street in the Park. Now we need bark and posts to hold them in the





Michael Drake pounds the posts to anchor the rhodies against the winter winds. These aren't tumbleweeds, we want them to stay long enough to put down their own roots.



We all had a good time. Left to right – Dan Nickell, Michael Drake, Dave Collier, Mary Anker, Jack Hackett, Kath Collier, Marjene MacIntyre, Bob MacIntyre and Ray Lee.



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

Well, our chapter has been busy since the last newsletter. We got the rhody's planted at the Bandon City Park. A big **Thank You** to all those who helped plant and to those who donated plants: Mike and Maria Stewart of Dover Nursery, Liz and Tom Hultin, Jack and Wanda Hackett and Bob and Marjene MacIntyre. We had a colored front page spread in the local Bandon Western World Newspaper. Thank you Ray for the article and the pictures.

As I started to write the news section it has been a beautiful spring – dry with almost NO wind and temperatures in the 50's. We have been pruning Japanese Maples and planting fruit trees from 25 gallon pots. Thank the Lord for the small tractor I got when we moved here.

Just because we have a few nice warm January days, don't plan on it staying that way. Remember we've had snow at our April truss show and we will get more cool, maybe darn right cold, weather before the flowers start blooming in our yard. So remember, don't rush to put your tender plants outside just yet. And yes, I am speaking from experience. Vireya's do not like being left outside overnight when we have a sudden freeze.

Don't forget to start your yearly fertilizing schedule this President's Day and then again next Memorial Day. A moderate hand full of fertilizer applied at the drip zone of the plants will be sufficient. I also mix a little dolomite lime with the fertilizer as Mg is very water soluble and washed out of the root zone by winter rains.

We have a new clean-up crew consisting of three buff colored hens from our neighbors. The 3 Girls arrive every morning about 7:30 and head to the bird feeders to clean up any seed tossed on the ground, especially by the Jays. They have done a great job of cleaning up the seed and the weeds. They also go to the rhody beds and scratch and clean the debris under the plants. I am hoping for less snails and slugs this year.

If you have rooted cuttings, start to transplant into 4" pots and put them under normal light conditions. If they haven't been hardened

Plants for Auction

Pete Baumer

Coming to the auction:

1. Rosewine – 3' –10 deg. Independence day x Plum High Deep claret colored buds that open with a wavy edged flower. The bloom will have white inside with red-plum margins. The deep colors will soften to purplish pink as the bloom ages. The flowers have a green-yellow blotch.
2. Hawaiian tropic – Nassel x Unique Marmalade unable to find any information about this plant. If anyone finds the information on this plant bring it to the meeting. I believe this is the 1st time we have had this plant.
3. Killer Diller – Nancy Evans x Pumpkin Ridge – 4' 5 deg. Dan Bones creation. It is orange-yellow bi-color. It

Future Events

- 2013
- March 21—regular monthly meeting—Sandi Jensen, Hardy Fuschias
 - 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
 - Oct. 4-6—ARS Eastern Regional Conference, Dartmouth NS Canada