



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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NOVEMBER 2013

November Program

Loren Russell, will be speaking on how to build a rock garden

Meeting Time/Place

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

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Plank House
Mill Casino
3201 Tremont Ave
North Bend,
(Early Bird specials
served 4-6 pm)

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Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Nov. Program</i>	2
<i>Across Kitchen Table</i>	2
<i>Thoughts from Ray</i>	3
<i>Ann's Corner</i>	4
<i>Plant Auction</i>	4

President's Message

Liz Hultin

Thank you Robin for chairing the October meeting for me with little warning or direction. Robin called to let me know that the majority attending the meeting decided that the 10th or 19th of December would work best for the Christmas potluck. I have made arrangements with the Housing Authority for the evening of December 10th. Jack Hackett has volunteered to bring the main dish. Marjene is coordinating the rest of the food. Lets hope for good weather, but bring flash lights in case.

Speaking of weather, I think our warm, sunny summer has confused a number of rhododendrons. Wandering around my yard I have counted nine that have blooms. Four of them have so many that I wonder if they will have any for the show next April. Naselle has only one truss in bloom, but it is almost perfect. Jack said he had a lot in bloom also. Maybe we could have an impromptu fall show this year.

October 27- Just got back from Langlois Mountain. Through family I have access to a ranch of about 600 acres at the top of the mountain, much of it covered with Occidentale Azaleas. Some of them must be confused too because several enormous clumps had a lot of bloom and a few others had some. Still looks like a good flower set for next year. My timing was not the best. Many of the seed pods were open and today was the wettest day we have had for several weeks. I did collect some seed pods and have put them out to dry and open. I have been surprised that there are not more seed pods for the number of blooms. That is true of both the Occidentales on the mountain and those at home. Next summer I would like to return to the mountain and wander further from the road and mark any especially nice blooms with the thought of returning in the fall and collecting seed from them.

See you at the next meeting.



November Program

Robin Hansen

Loren Russell, will be speaking on how to build a rock garden at the November 21st meeting. Always interested in plants, Loren is a self-taught and highly respected rock garden enthusiast who has been lecturing and writing in the US and elsewhere on alpine plants, rock gardening, and construction of rock gardens, bog gardens, tufa walls and alpine houses for more than 25 years. His approach to gardening can be best described as zonal denial, advanced col-lecteritis (to quote one biography), and "what will I try next". An avid hiker and world traveler, he brings a wealth of knowledge from travels in alpine habitats and experience from his own rock gardens, troughs, bog, and an alpine house and a tufa wall, which were two of his most recent efforts. He is well-known for his generous donations of wild-collected seed to various plant society exchanges and his expertise in growing the ungrowable. He is also an avid photographer and chronicler of plants and rock gardens in the wild and in gardens.

Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

As I begin writing this article, autumn seems to be quickly fading into early winter. Many trees are already bare of leaves and we've had two days of frost already. This is the earliest frost that we have seen since moving to Oregon 2002. We are also having more varieties in autumn bloom than before: Mango Tango, Nassellee, Roadside Beauty, Yellow Hammer and Tandori.

With this early onset of cold weather, you may want to take early precautions with the tender plants. This may require covering plants with protective cloth or plastics to hold in warmth. The one good thing about the colder weather is it will set the plants in an earlier winter dormancy. This will give some added protection from those surprise hard frosts that kill plants that are not hardened off.

Fall Check List

- Before mulching, clean debris from under plants to prevent hiding places for insects and slug and snails for overwintering.
- Time to check and mulch plants with 2-3 inches of material to protect root systems from freezing.
- Cut off broken branches, remove dead wood. This gives you a good opportunity to closely check the plant for any problems or damage that may cause problems later.
- Plants may still be moved and given a little fertilizing with a transplant fertilizer. Do remember to mulch the root zone heavily after moving.
- Late flowering varieties may still be propagated by cuttings. Use smaller caliber cuttings that have not hardened and turned brown.
- This is a good time to check plants for seed pods and check seed pods from any rhody crosses you may have done. The seeds can easily be sewn and will germinate well this time of year.

Thoughts from Ray

Ray Lee

Resistance is futile

Jan and I attended the cutting party at Ann Drakes in September. We only took potluck as all of the cuttings I've taken the last three years have died and been thrown away. I watched other members with smiles and hopeful faces put cuttings in the pots they had brought to the party. Our high light was lunch with all of our friends.

A few days ago I drove past Mingus Park on 10th Street in Coos Bay. There, next to the entrance, was a pink rhody just starting to bloom. I looked back in my pictures and realized I had photos of the same rhody that was in full bloom last December.



How could I resist? I want very late rhodies to bloom in our yard! We don't have any rhodies blooming in October, November or December and Thompson's doesn't have any either. I decided that it's time to get out the mini greenhouse, clippers and potting medium to see if I can get any cuttings to survive this late in October.



Here are the cuttings in potting medium waiting for light and heat to help with roots.

The cover is on the mini – greenhouse and the fluorescent light on for the next few months.

Will any survive and grow roots? This experiment of attempting to root rhodies this late may fail but previous attempts in September have failed as well. Maybe I'll get one to live so I have a rhodie to bloom very late in the year.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

The cutting party is over but I would like to finish out my only tray of cuttings and also am going to try something different. There are a number of rhody articles saved over the years in my stash and one of them is another way to do cuttings. Think it was in the Eugene newsletter; the article by Frances Burns. Thank you Frances .

Select your cuttings. Take a double sheet of newspaper; fold it in half and again in half without turning it, so it is a long strip with 4 layers. Prepare your cuttings as you usually do and dip in rooting hormone powder . Place cuttings side by side between the 4 layers of newspaper with trimmed leaves sticking out at the top and roll them up like silverware in a napkin. Put a large rubber band around the newspaper and put in a pan of water until the roll is saturated. Then put them in a sturdy plastic bag. Hang the bag in a tree. When it gets cold move them in the house hanging them on a coat hanger. Put them in the light but not sun. When rooted plant the same as other cuttings. Always put the date on your cuttings. That way you know whether you are taking them at the right time. Frances wrote that she rooted about 50% of these cuttings.

Frances Burns said she learned this method at a Tualatin chapter picnic at the home of Dr. Forrest Bump. Tom and I have visited him and he can also start *Davidia involucre* seeds! There is a large Dove tree in our garden but we haven't been able to do it. It is also called "the laundry tree" because it looks like a bunch of handkerchiefs hung to dry. (If anyone is interested in seeds there will be some at the next meeting.) Dr. Bump also has a lovely collection of *r. augustinii*.



Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

1. Orange plant of the month – Thompson cross Yo X Unique Marmalade #7 first time on the market and we are the first to have this plant.
2. Small plant of the month – Ramapo – 2', good to -20 – really like full sun to keep its form but will do well in partial sun. Pinkish – violet 1' blooms and has outstanding foliage changing through out the year. New growth will be a dusty blue.
3. New to us plant of the month – Sachet – Jim Barlup cross (1984) 4' and blooms in early May. Dosido x Yak , with White trusses that are blushed pink.



Annual Christmas Potluck

Tuesday, December 10

6:30 pm

North Bend Housing Authority

North Bend

Please note the alternate date, time and place of this year's Annual Christmas Potluck. More detailed information will be coming.

Future Events

- 2013 Nov. 21— Loren Russell on rock gardens
Dec 12 — annual holiday potluck
- 2014 May 15-18 — International Convention, Cleveland, OH
Sept. 26-28 — Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA