



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

FEBRUARY 2014

February Program—Mike Stewart

Mike will be speaking about species rhododendrons and their journey to the west—where they were found and who brought them here.

Meeting Time/Place

February 20 —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

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Liz Hultin & Ann Toth

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Marjene MacIntyre

President's Message

Liz Hultin

The SW Oregon Chapter Board met Saturday, February 2, and came to several decisions. Marjene has located the form we need to use to apply for Oregon tax exempt status. She volunteered to fill out the form and submit it, but money needs to accompany the application. The federal government doesn't charge an annual fee, but the state of Oregon does. The board agreed to pay that fee.

Two decisions were made in regard to the up coming show. Pete had suggested at the last meeting that our members prepare and serve lunch to the judges in an attempt to break even or maybe make money on our show. The board discussed the logistics of serving lunch and concluded that we would purchase lunch for the judges and their guest, if any, rather than try to do it ourselves. (Pete warned me that he has assigned everyone a job at the show without including lunch preparations.) We will increase the prices of the plants we sell to cover the estimated cost of the lunch. It was also decided not to have a raffle, but to give every show visitor a ticket for a drawing to be held at the end of the show for a plant. No shipping charges will be provided but I offered to make a sincere attempt to deliver the plant to the winner. Must remember to make "we do not ship" sign.

The weather continues to be weird. Having picked several dozen daffodils to take to friends who had just gotten out of the hospital, and it not even February yet, I just could not stand looking at all the dead, straggly plants in my yard any longer. All the time reminding myself that the dead tops provide some protection against cold, I cut away. I even weeded and pruned. Now I am watching the weather reports predicting cold and hoping for warm rain instead.

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February Program

Mike Stewart

Rhododendron Species Foundation	President
American Rhododendron Society	Past President
Oregon Association of Nurseries	
Served on:	Board of Directors
	Long Range Planning Committee
	Industry New Technology Research Group

My wife, Maria and I own the Dover Nursery east of Sandy, Oregon. This is a second generation nursery that specializes in rhododendrons, with an emphasis on species, plants with outstanding foliage, and rare and hard to find varieties. We propagate over 600 different rhododendron cultivars each year and another 100 varieties of deciduous azaleas including the several cultivars of the NW native occidentale and several eastern native azaleas. Our operation covers about 30 acres of field grown rhododendrons and approximately 2 acres of greenhouses where we grow many of the small and sward varieties.

Our travels include many of the fine gardens of Great Britain and Europe. We recently spent 5 weeks in SW China (Yunnan, Sichuan, eastern Tibet) with the Rhododendron Species Foundation searching for new species of rhododendrons. My talk will center around the discovery of species rhododendrons, where they were discovered, and the plant hunters who discovered them.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

THE GARDENER'S CREED

I want it.
 I want it all.
 I want it now.
 If it will not grow in my zone or is prohibitively expensive, I want it most of all.
 I am perfectly willing to forego any necessities of life such as food for my children in order to have it.
 I recognize my horticultural dependency.
 I recognize your horticultural dependency.
 I will willingly aid and abet your dependency, as you will mine.
 This makes us infinitely happy.
 Any money saved by virtue of comparison shopping equals found money and therefore it is not counted as spending.
 If I have planted everything that I have already purchased I must immediately buy more plants.
 *At this point, it is customary to recite your Visa number from Memory.

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Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden

Celebrates 50 years

April 24th, 25th, 26th

As we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington, I am humbled by the reality of how much has been accomplished these last 50 years. These accomplishments, of course, are only due to the efforts by you, the members and supporters and staffs of this great organization. Fifty years sounds like a lot of time, but that time is dwarfed by how much you have gotten done. From the beginning organizational meetings in 1962-64, to the first steps in collecting and propagating the original mother plants, to the maturing garden that you see today, those so distant beginnings have turned into a beautiful reality. The efforts of many very devoted people have left their mark on this garden and organization, and ultimately have left a significant contribution to the rhododendron world.

As the current President of the RSF, I wish to invite all of you to our celebration. Registration information is available on the RSBG website, www.RhodyGarden.org. Early bird registration ends March 1st and all registrations must be in by April 14th. Speakers include David Chamberlain, Douglas Justice, Steve Hootman, and Harold Greer.

There will be guided tours through the RSF Botanical Garden as well as other gardens in the local area. Those who will gather at the RSF to celebrate will come together as friends to reminisce, and to raise a glass in honor of all who have contributed through the years. If you are unable to attend, please take a moment the next time you are enjoying the beauty of your own garden, and the special species rhododendrons that you so cherish, to remember the many efforts and sacrifices through history that were given in the name of making species rhododendrons available for all of us to enjoy. Celebrate the beauty of those rhododendrons, and celebrate the day that the Rhododendron Species Foundation was born.

As in any healthy, living, growing organization, the RSF is in a constant state of evolution. Yes, the RSF has many new ambitions, and the culmination of those ambitions will be realized only with your continuing support. We are working hard to develop new methods of reaching out to further strengthen and grow our membership, and to find additional ways to meet the demand for needed funds so that we may accomplish the next 50 years of dreams for the RSF. This is an exciting time for the Rhododendron Species Foundation, as we not only celebrate each of you, but as we work towards the bright future for which you have laid such a solid foundation to build upon. Among the several presentations given during the "celebration event", you will hear about some of the plans for the future, and you will be amazed and enthused by what the future holds for the RSF. Our task is large, but with continued resolve, and your help, we will build upon that foundation to accomplish the goals that we have planned for the future.

With my deepest gratitude and best wishes to all of you, the Rhododendron Species Foundation members and supporters, I look forward to meeting each of you at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.



Mike Stewart , RSF President



Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

1. **Small plant of the month** – calostotum (species) 2' -5' midseason Saucer shaped flowers are a rich purple w/ crimson spots. With aromatic leaves and the lower surface densely covered w/ cinnamon colored scales.
2. **Noyo Snow (white)** 3' midseason yak x arboreum The buds will be purplish pink and open to a pale purplish pink at the edge. The flowers will fade to a yellowish white on opening.
3. **Orange plant of the month** – “Avery” a Thompson cross named for Michelle and Pat’s daughter. Mauna Loa x Unique Marmalade – looks like a frilled Orange Cameo with a darker center.
4. **Surprise plant of the month** – N.E. x Ring of fire 4' midseason this is a Merle Sanders plant and it is yellow.



Christmas Cheer—photos courtesy of Ray Lee

Future Events

- 2014 February 20—Regular Meeting—Mike Stewart, speaker
 March 20—Regular Meeting
 May 15-18, International Convention, Cleveland, OH
 Sept. 26-28, Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA
- 2015 ARS Annual Convention—70th Anniversary—May 6-10
 Sidney, BC Canada
- 2016 ARS/ASA Annual Convention, April 20-24
 Williamsburg, VA

