

Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

JANUARY 2014



Meeting Time/Place

January 16 —7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

La Costa
1930 Newmark St
North Bend

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Inside this issue:

President's Message

Plant Auction

Ann's Corner

Jamie Taggart

Future Events

January Program—Kath Collier All That Glitters

Kath will explore ways that light and color can be used to enhance your garden. Light and color play a key part in captivating and dazzling visitors and making your garden truly a magical place. The program features photos from recent ARS tours on both the East and West coasts. We have also thrown in a few pictures of our garden as well.

President's Message

Liz Hultin

The Bylaws committee met January 7. Alice Blomquist graciously volunteered to serve as the third committee member. The bylaws were reviewed and a few minor items and corrections were considered. The majority of work that needs to be done involves items added to the ARS bylaws this fall. We do not yet know the exact content of those articles which address conflict of interest, anti-harassment and discrimination, whistleblower procedures, and records management so it was decided to adjourn until copies of the ARS articles can be obtained.

To follow up on the saga of the Occidentale seed, it has been planted. Using a mix of 1/2 Sphagnum peat moss and 1/2 Perlite I planted the seed I collected by our Cranberry bogs and on Langlois Mountain. I filled two plastic containers that I had purchased cookies at Safeway in about two inches deep with the damp, but not wet, planting mixture and taped the lids on. The lids not only kept the moisture in, but kept the kittens out. I put the containers in the window.

It did not take long for the seed to sprout. About the only care I had to give the seedlings was a very occasional spraying with the spray bottle I use to discipline the kittens and turning the containers every day to keep the seedlings straight. If the sun was bright I dropped the window shade so the plants did not get too hot.

On January 6th I transplanted 36 of the seedlings which now had many secondary leaves. I had hesitated doing this because my greenhouse is not heated and I had no idea what winter may yet bring. The plants would have to stay in the house with the kittens who love to play in dirt. The plants are now in small pots with plastic over them to keep the moisture in and the kittens out. Lets hope it works. I gave the rest of the seedlings to Bob and Jack to transplant. It is a job I find tedious.

My hope is that I will have Occidentale to plant in my side yard which is too damp for many other plants and maybe some day I can replenish the area by the bogs where brush has crowded out many of the smaller ones. Bob suggested tht maybe we could make a project of growing Occidentale for sale at our shows.



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

A Belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Hopes are for another good year in the garden.

If you have plants that look like they didn't like the cold weather and you think they should be removed—Stop, Wait and given them time. Leave them alone until summer. It is surprising sometimes just how many “come back to life” once the weather is more conducive.

We did have several nights of light to moderate freezing in early November which may have hardened off the plants before our longer, harder frost/freeze.

One positive of this cold weather is the affect on overwintering insects and their eggs. We may see fewer bad bugs as well as slugs and snails. This cold should kill many of the eggs.

Have you checked on your cuttings you put in at the cutting party? Most of mine have new growth and will be pulled up soon. I was surprised that my cuttings of some easy to root plants did not survive. Oh well, you can't win all the time. One big first time success was the rooting of all four cuttings of *R. aola*. I have tried for 4-5 years without success.

Don't be surprised, but we could have some early blooming plants pushing flower buds soon.

Wish for RAIN. We really need it. We are very dry and have had very little so far this season. We need a lot!!

Good gardening

Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

Small Plant

Windsong— 3ft in 12 years. Jim Barlup creation from 1982. Nancy Evans x Mrs. Betty Robertson x Fred Rose

Strong yellow-green with a dark red center. Blooms mid April to early May.

New plant –

Bing Cherry 4 ft in 10 years? Dark purple-red flowers that will bloom mid season.

Racemosum (dwarf form) x *Lutescens*' the rest is unknown at this time. Nice plant to look at during the winter.



Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

Camelia sasanqua is one of the few shrubs that has been blooming since November. Showa-No-Sakae is a very versatile example of a useful shrub. It will grow as a low hedge, a sprawling groundcover or even in a hanging basket. We had planned on the one in this garden to be an espalier but we weren't schooled in accomplishing this so it is quite a large shrub always filled with blooms. The frost doesn't deter them. Even with the cold this winter she is blooming away. When one bloom is finished there is always another to take its place. They have few pests and don't require a lot of care. Plant one in November and it will be well rooted when spring begins.



They prefer the same type of soil as our rhododendrons and shallow rooted so don't plant them very deep. Take cuttings in July or August. Treat the same way as you would rhody cuttings. Take cuttings about 4" long, remove the lower leaves and use a hormone powder and plant in pots of coarse sand with a little peat added.

Jamie Taggert

Botanist **JAMIE TAGGERT** of the Linn Botanical Garden has been missing in Vietnam since October 31, 2013 when he entered the mountains on a plant hunting trip. Anyone wishing to contribute to the continuing search for his body, There's now a page at the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group website by which donations may be made--through Paypal--to the recovery effort.

<http://www.rscg.org.uk/jamie.html>



Siuslaw Chapter Meeting

Jenny Velinty

The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday January 21 at 6.30 pm for refreshments. At 7 pm we travel around the Pacific Rim and Alaska with club members to see grand scenery and wildlife. Come and enjoy a free trip.

The public is invited to come to the the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw
3996 Highway 101 in Florence. Call 541-997-7573 or go to siuslawars.org.

Future Events

- 2014 February 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

